



CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



THE POND PLAYHOUSE
6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX NS
INFO@TAGTHEATRE.COM

The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes

NEXT AT TAG

The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes is a quirky mystery-comedy set in 1896 with amusing and unexpected twists that keep audiences guessing and laughing .

World-famous author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is summoned to a remote English manor to solve an inexplicable death. Much to Doyle's chagrin, the ghost of Sherlock Holmes suddenly appears to assist his creator in solving the crime. Using Victorian detective methods and his superb powers of observation and deduction, Sherlock's ghost goads his creator to rely less on emotions and more on logic to catch the culprit.

Canadian playwright David Belke, has crafted a clever who-done-it with an intriguing cast of characters, two love triangles and a wonderful séance.

The playful dialogue, expansive characters and intricate situations have been entertaining audiences across Canada and the United States since its premiere in 1992 at the Edmonton Fringe.

Tickets on Sale Now!

THE
RELUCTANT
RESURRECTION
OF
SHERLOCK
HOLMES
BY
DAVID BELKE

DIRECTED BY
RENEE HARTLEIB &
BILL VANGORDER

PRODUCED BY
ANGELA BUTLER

APRIL 19 - MAY 5 2012

Buy Your Tickets

- * At the 23 participating Atlantic Superstore outlets
- * Charge by Phone at (902) 451-1221
- * At the door (subject to availability)
- * Online at www.ticketatlantic.com (\$2 fee per online session)
- * Ticket Atlantic Box Office

TAG TICKET PRICES

\$13 - Members/Seniors/Students
\$16 - Non-members

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees except where tickets are purchased online (\$2 per online session)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is upon us, or at least we hope old man winter is finished, as we get set to complete our 81st season with *The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes* and the season musical finale *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Corker, the skilfully portrayed drama by Wendy Lill was both a challenge and rewarding venture for the talented cast and crew. Our Sunday matinee audience had an opportunity to enjoy a talk-back discussion with the author and cast which proved to be most interesting and enjoyable. A special thanks to Producer Michele Gaudet for her diligent work to make it all happen.

Just before the opening of *Corker*, we installed the much awaited carpet in the lobby. It definitely adds to the decor and makes the theatre more comfortable and complete. As we move into the next few shows we hope more and more people will venture out to our little theatre and see what all of the buzz is about.

~ Angela Butler, President

The Theatre Arts Guild is a registered Canadian charity and is operated entirely by volunteers. Support your community theatre today. All donations are tax deductible.

Email your newsletter submissions to:
newsletter@tagtheatre.com

COMMUNITY NOTES

Dartmouth Players presents *Inherit the Wind*. It's the trial of the century! A young school teacher introduces his students to the theory of evolution in defiance of his small town's laws, setting off a legal confrontation that pits science against faith and shakes the quiet southern community to its core. The show is scheduled to run April 9 to 28, 2012. Call 465-PLAY or visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca for more information.

Bedford Players presents *It's Murder in the Wings* written by Pat Cook and directed by Kim Shaw. The editor and staff of the Wings Publishing Company valiantly try to pull off a critical contract-signing party in spite of the fact that the boss has just been murdered. The party, and particularly the as-yet-unsigned contract, are crucial to saving the company and cannot be derailed by a little thing like murder! The show is scheduled for April 19 to May 5. Call 832-3300 or visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca to make a reservation.

Wild Abandon Productions presents *More Amore*. Join vocalists Stuart Hiseler and Karen Myatt as they explore the meaning and mystery of love and relationships from their usual irreverent and sometimes shocking perspectives. From Online Dating to Lifelong Marriage and everything in between (the sheets); old, new and unheard songs interwoven with the actors' true, moving, and shameless love-life stories. It's another unique cabaret experience, and a Post-Valentine's, Apres-Disney and totally Un-traditional celebration of Amore! Check it out at The Company House, 2202 Gottingen Street, March 21-23, 8pm. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.wildabandonproductions.ca for more info.



Mark Your Calendars!

The Drowsy Chaperone June 21 to July 7, 2012 - Join us at the Pond Playhouse as the internationally acclaimed and award-winning Canadian musical comes to Halifax. Hold onto your hats because you won't want to miss this show. Mark your calendar today now! Written by Bob Martin and Don McKellar and directed by Jacqui Good.

Renew Your TAG Membership!

\$15	Regular
\$25	Family
\$10	Senior (60+)
\$10	Student

Membership benefits include:
\$3 discount off admission,
newsletters and invitations
to special members-only events.
Visit www.tagtheatre.com
for more information.

Want to Volunteer?
volunteer@tagtheatre.com
for more information

Support TAG

Donations to The Theatre Arts Guild may now be made online using credit cards. Two options are provided; both provide safe and secure options for online transactions. Visit www.tagtheatre.com to make your donation today..A BIG thank you goes out to all of TAG's generous supporters!

AUDITION CALL

The Drowsy Chaperone

The Drowsy Chaperone is a gem of a musical that manages to be fresh and original while also being thoroughly nostalgic. Written by Bob Martin and Don McKellar, and directed by Jacqui Good, this delectable show will be the icing on the Theatre Arts Guild season, running at the Pond Playhouse from June 21 to July 7, 2012.

Audition Dates & Times:

Sun. March 18, 2012, 1-4 p.m.

Mon. March 19, 2012, 7-9 p.m.

Location:

Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd.
(off the Purcell's Cove Rd.)

Cast of Characters Required:

- Man or Woman in Chair
- Janet Vandergraff, theatre star and bride-to-be
- Mrs. Tottendale, hostess
- Drowsy, the chaperone
- Kitty, the chorus girl
- Trix, the aviatrix
- Robert Martin, the groom
- George, the best man
- Underling, the butler
- Feldzieg, the producer
- Alphonso, the Latin lover
- Gangster 1 & 2
- a few servants and wedding guests to fill out the chorus & choreography

Visit www.tagtheatre.com for a more complete description of the characters.

Performers interested in auditioning are asked to send an email, preferably with a resume, to auditions@tagtheatre.com. You will then be sent an audition time and more information. We would like to hear you sing a prepared piece that shows your vocal range. You will also be given a scene to read. Dance experience is not required, but would be a great asset. You are advised to take a look at some of the free tap lessons available on YouTube. A few simple steps can go a long way. YouTube also has many clips from various productions of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the director at (902) 492-2686.

Corker Wraps Up



Wendy Lill's *Corker* (photo above) explored our over-burdened social service system and society's need to help and to learn from those who face great challenges. Audiences were entertained with a play that appealed to both heart and mind and those that attended the matinee had the opportunity to chat with the author and cast.

Workshop Series

TAG is offering a series of four workshops to give volunteers an overview of some of the roles available at TAG. The workshop topics were chosen by the respondents to our online survey as the top areas that they would like to learn about. All workshops will be facilitated by Rebecca Humphreys, who has been volunteering at TAG for over 15 years. You can sign up for one or all of these courses! All workshops are held on Saturday.

- Producing - April 28, 2012, (9 am - 1 pm, 4 hours)
- Stage Management - May 26, 2012, (9 am - 4 pm, with lunch break, noon to 1:00 pm – 6 hours)
- Lighting - June 23, 2012, (9 am - 4 pm, with lunch break, noon to 1:00 pm – 6 hours)
- Publicity - July 21, 2012, (9 am - 1 pm - 4 hours)

How to Register:

Space is limited so enroll early to reserve your spot. Email workshops@tagtheatre.com or phone 902-477-2663 to register or inquire about the workshop series. Please provide your Name, Phone Number, and the course(s) you would like to register for.

March/April 2012 CONTACT

FROM PAGE TO STAGE TO SCREEN: VISUALIZING SHERLOCK HOLMES

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 41st in a continuing series...

There is great excitement...The XYZ Television Company has announced that it is making a new series of programmes based on the Sherlock Holmes stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The actor chosen to play the lead is.....There are great hurrahs from some quarters..."Oh, he's exactly how I picture Sherlock Holmes." There is equal dismay from other quarters..."Who on earth recommended him for the part!"

We have a tendency, as human beings, to want to put a face to our heroes (and I should take a moment to clarify matters here). The image that comes to mind generally of the detective is not the creation of Sir Arthur, but of the artist Sidney Paget, hired by the publisher of the Strand Magazine, the source in which the short stories first appeared. Subsequent recreations on stage and screen have conformed to the Paget model and actors chosen for the role have often been selected for the physical traits first drawn by him - the thick, dark hair; the lean, intelligent face; the hooded eyes; the spare figure; the long fingers on the nervous hands.

Even though Conan Doyle often wished otherwise (he had introduced Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet*, appearing in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 and killed him off in *The Final Problem* six years later), the popularity of his detective was so great that a stage

version starring William Gillette was playing on Broadway in 1899 (ironically written by Doyle, who needed money at the time to build a new home) and a one-reel film *Sherlock Homes Baffled* was shown in 1900. The many film versions which followed introduced a notable roster of actors - John Barrymore, Raymond Massey, Basil Rathbone, Robert Stephens and recent Oscar-winner Christopher Plummer.

There is an additional element in visualizing Holmes, since an appropriate foil has to be found to play Dr. John Watson. Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce worked together on fourteen films and were thought the ideal couple, but the Granada Television series of 1984-1994 gave us Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke - my particular favourite. The fact that these roles have been attempted many times before has not deterred modern directors from tackling the characters. The current screen pairing of Robert Downey, Jr. and Jude Law has a following (and still retains Victorian London as a setting). As regards the latest television offering from the BBC (carried by PBS in North America) - Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman, living in present day London - I don't think we've seen enough episodes yet to form an opinion. I read the Sherlock Holmes canon when quite young

and for me, Jeremy Brett epitomized the emotional detachment, the heightened sensibilities and overarching intelligence of the Doyle creation. Edward Hardwicke, on the other hand, provided the down-to-earth honesty, practicality and sympathy of the family doctor.

And while we're playing favourites - David Suchet is for me the embodiment of Agatha Christie's Belgian detective, ruled by his 'little grey cells.' Only six stories by Christie remain to be filmed in the ITV series headed by Suchet and I was heartened recently to learn that the British television giant will complete these during 2012.

Having mentioned Poirot, I would be remiss not to mention Christie's other well-known sleuth, Miss Jane Marple. The field here seems to be ever-widening - Margaret Rutherford in film versions, and on television, Joan Hickson (my favourite), Geraldine McEwan and now Julia McKenzie.

There's a long history and great expectations here!

Come and watch *The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes* and see if our visualizations measure up!

~ Judy Reade



TAKE YOUR SEAT!

Dedicate a Seat for \$500 and take a permanent place in the history of the Pond Playhouse. Your contribution is tax deductible. Visit tagtheatre.com or email seatsale@tagtheatre.com for more information about this exciting fundraiser.!

**A BIG
THANK YOU**
to our many patrons
and volunteers

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**No Scents Make
Good Sense**

March/April 2012 CONTACT