

CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre



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The Pond Playhouse
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NEXT AT TAG

A Man for All Seasons

April 18th to May 4th

Why are we so fascinated with the Tudors? What is it that draws us into this era and consumes us with curiosity? Why does our imagination run riot when we think of the lusty Henry VIII and the women whom he courts and who themselves court disaster by their association with him? Why are we mesmerized by the political intrigue and deception of the Tudor toadies – men who flatter and plot for their own ends at others' expense? Whatever the attraction, we seem to delight in an age which, though far distant from our own, portrays men and women who, though costumed differently, bear strong resemblance to people of our own time. Which is exactly why we are presenting *A Man for all Seasons*.

In this particular play, we are brought face to face with those who serve the King.

Robert Bolt skilfully shows us how all roads of royal interaction lead to the Monarch and his all powerful position.

Though His Majesty makes only one appearance, it is more than apparent that his wish is their command and most of them “adapt” their thoughts, ideas, principles and beliefs to his own. Except one.

“And then there is you...”

Henry says to Sir Thomas More. Sir Thomas, who will not sign the Oath of Supremacy which will allow the King to divorce Catherine and marry Anne Boleyn, is portrayed as a man of steadfast purpose and decision, a man of moral and spiritual integrity, in short, a man who remains the same in “all seasons”. It all sounds very noble. But it is not without cost – his family, his cherished friends, the exercise of his wit, his very love of life in its many and varied forms – all are in danger of being lost. Is it worth it? One little white lie could have fixed it...

- Gisela O'Brien, Director

Tickets on Sale
March 22nd

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)

Buy Your Tickets

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

March/April 2013 Contact

Mailing Address: Theatre Arts Guild 287 Lacewood Dr. Unit 103 Suite 412 Halifax NS B3M 3Y7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Exciting times at The Theatre Arts Guild! We just finished two wonderful one act plays by Norm Foster directed by Frank MacLean, *My Narrator* and *The Death of Me*. These two comedies proved to be fun and enjoyed by everyone that attended. What a great way to get rid of those winter blues.

The new venture at the theatre is the Playwrights @ TAG

festival. An evening of shorts. Four plays, four playwrights, four very different stories; all in one night. What a great evening of entertainment! I am sure this may develop into an annual event! This is a very spectacular and long-time coming project and I am very proud to take part.

The next main-stage production is *A Man for All Seasons*, directed by Gisela

O'Brien and produced by Bill VanGorder. A rich costume drama sure to entice those interested in this period in history.

Soon to start, auditions for our last show of the season *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, a Tony Award winning musical. A superb ending to an incredible 82nd season!
- Angela Butler, President



Last weekend at TAG marked the first annual Playwright's @ TAG festival. Creators Angela Butler and Nick Jupp called for play submissions from the TAG membership after noticing how many original scripts were being submitted to the theatre without the **"It's non-competitive, non-threatening, there's no adjudication and no prizes. We're just running them for fun."** - Nick

to produce them. In the end they found four plays by four local playwrights. *Department of Common Sense* by Ryan Van Horne with cast Mark Adam, Jocelyn Covert, Callum MacLean, Emily Jewer and Jarrett Power (photo

bottom left), *Down for the Count* by James Boyer with cast Elaine Casey, Helen Goodwin and Carolyn Boyer (photo middle left),

Compassion by Dean Taylor with cast Mark Adam, Jarrett Power and Valerie Mackenzie (top left), and *Brain Teaser* by Mary Wood performed by Angela Butler

New
at
TAG

Recent
Shows
at
TAG

February and early March saw great performances of two Norm Foster classics, *My Narrator* (left)

& *The Death of Me* (right).

Congrats to the cast!



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!



AUDITION CALL

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Get out your dictionaries! Tag is auditioning for its production of the *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* on April 7 and 8. This Tony Award winning musical sings, dances, improvises, and spells its way to a champion for Putnam County.

Cast: We plan to cast all adults for this production. We are looking for 6 “kids” and 3 “adults”. The “kids” must be able to capture the awkwardness, nervousness and optimism of early adolescents. We are not looking for a particular age, but will cast a group of “kids” that convey a similar energy and look. The “adults” will look and act older.

Rehearsals: We will regularly rehearse Sunday afternoons, and Tuesday and Thursday nights. When TAG has a Sunday matinee, we will rehearse on Sunday evening. Individual music rehearsals may be arranged. This show is an ensemble piece so all cast members will be called for all regular rehearsals.

Show Dates:

Evenings: June 20th-22th, June 26th-29th &
July 3rd-6th at 8pm
Matinees: June 30th & July 7th at 2pm

“The Kids”

Olive Ostrovsky

A young newcomer to competitive spelling

William Barfée

A Putnam County Spelling Bee finalist last year

Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre

The youngest and most politically aware speller

Marcy Park

She is an over-achiever in every way

Leaf Coneybear

A homeschooler and the second runner-up in his district

Charlito “Chip” Tolentino

The returning champion

“The Adults”

Vice Principal Douglas Panch

Word Pronouncer

Rona Lisa Peretti

A former Putnam County Spelling Bee Champion and returning moderator

Mitch Mahoney

Mitch is performing community service with the Bee, and hands out juice boxes to losing students

Auditions

April 7th and 8th, 6pm to 9pm

Appointments

Encouraged but not required.
Please contact Ann Miller at 423-8429 or
millflowerhouse@ns.sympatico
to book a time.

Preparation

A song to demonstrate your vocal range and acting ability.

Be prepared to sing acapella but please bring music in case accompaniment is available. Be prepared to read scene dialogue as provided. Callbacks auditions may be required.

REVISIONIST HISTORY

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary The 46th in a Continuing Series

“Anyone can make history.” Oscar Wilde once said. “Only a great man can write it.” To which statement I would add...” but a good many playwrights think they can improve upon it!”

Caveat: In a history play, the play's the thing, not the history!

The works of our good friend in this series, William Shakespeare, make an ideal place to start our examination of the topic. Out of Shakespeare's thirty-seven plays, eleven are histories, of the early English kings and ancient Roman heroes (Coriolanus, Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra). The Bard's approach is to use a mix of elements, with adherence to the basic facts of a period or an incident, but to introduce characters and situations deemed to inject more dramatic interest. In *Macbeth*, for example, Shakespeare has Lord Duncan killed by the title character,

whereas the historical Duncan was killed in battle. At the end of the play, Macbeth himself is slain in a duel with McDuff; the real Macbeth being killed by the King of Scotland at the time, Malcolm the Third.

With such precedents, other writers of history plays have employed similar devices, with the aim of creating increased tension

and a better dramatic ambience. In *Mary Stuart* (1800) by the German author Friedrich Schiller, Mortimer, the nephew of Mary's jailer is created to provide an ally for the Queen and the opportunity for intimate conversation. Schiller also has Mary confront Queen Elizabeth (who will eventually sign her death warrant), though the two never came close to a meeting. John Osborne's strategy in *Luther* (1961) is to expand to full scenes incidents in Luther's

childhood and youth for which there is scant historical evidence. He also introduces characters out of chronological sequence, with the intention of creating highlights at particular points in the action.

I hope I'm not making you totally suspicious of the writers of history plays! There's much to be learned and appreciated in *A Man for All Seasons* by Robert Bolt, who, by the way, employs yet another device in the interests of dramatic viability. 'The Common Man' is both a

History Play: a play representing events drawn wholly or partly from recorded history

representation of the universal (= flawed) nature of human beings, being both commentator and participant (and mover of props and scenery!).

Hopefully, you will have the opportunity to experience a performance of *A Man for All Seasons*; just make sure you don't study the script for your exam on King Henry the Eighth's break with Rome in 1534!
- Judy Reade

Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents:

Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean (April 10th to 27th)
Visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY for more info

Bedford Players presents:

The Mousetrap (April 18th to May 4th)
Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more info

Coming Soon

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

(June 20-July 6 2013) This fun and innovative musical, fresh from Broadway, has played all over the world. Joining the cast of nine, are willing audience volunteers, making each performance unique and making Spelling Bee a delightful coda to our 2012-2013 season.

Directed by Jolene Pattison.