

CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



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phone (902) 451-1221 or
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THE POND PLAYHOUSE - 6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX NOVA SCOTIA INFO@TAGTHEATRE.COM

NEXT AT TAG...

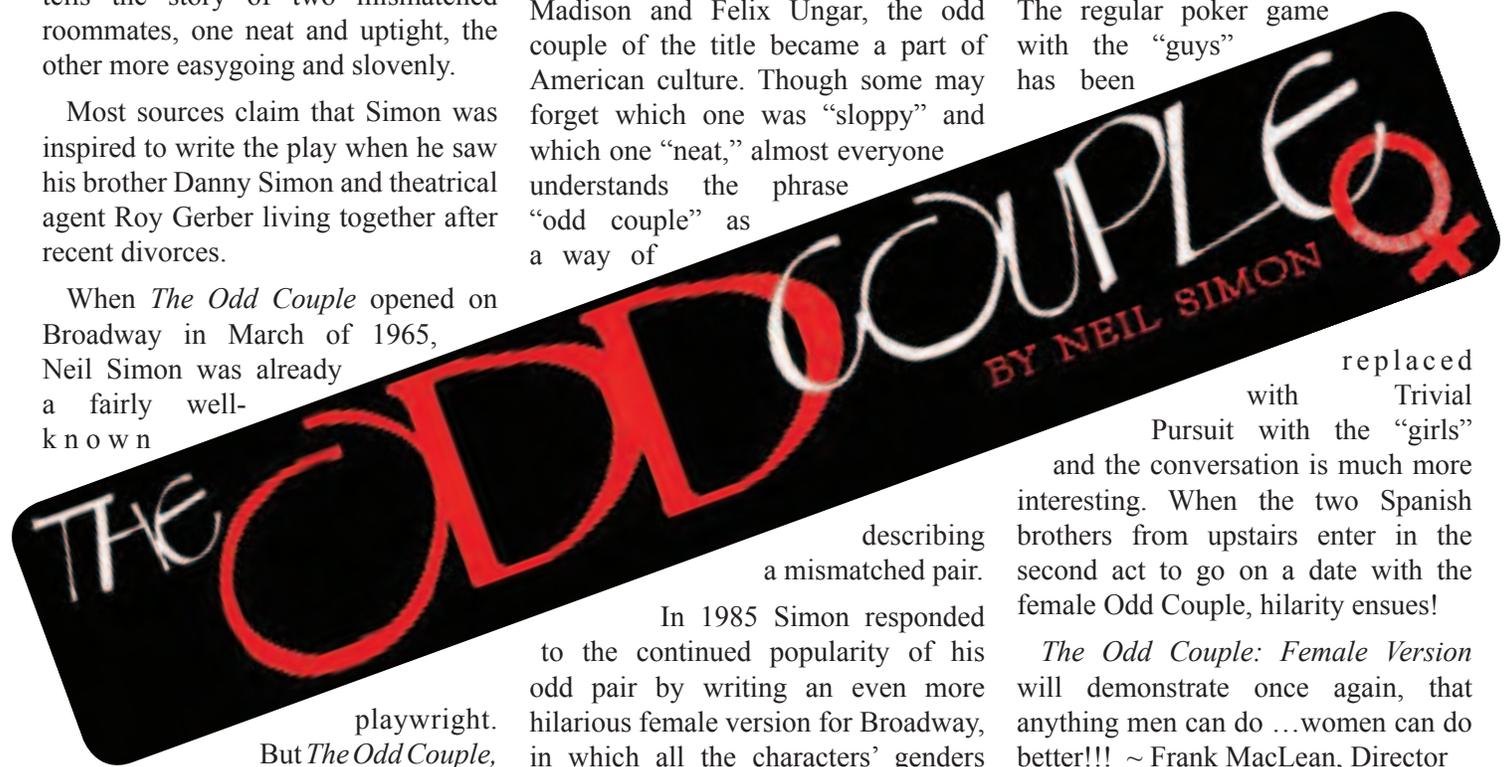
The Odd Couple by Neil Simon tells the story of two mismatched roommates, one neat and uptight, the other more easygoing and slovenly.

Most sources claim that Simon was inspired to write the play when he saw his brother Danny Simon and theatrical agent Roy Gerber living together after recent divorces.

When *The Odd Couple* opened on Broadway in March of 1965, Neil Simon was already a fairly well-known

film (1968) and then became a popular television series (1970-1975). Oscar Madison and Felix Ungar, the odd couple of the title became a part of American culture. Though some may forget which one was "sloppy" and which one "neat," almost everyone understands the phrase "odd couple" as a way of

The play touches on several issues that single professional women were confronted with during the tumultuous times in the 1980's and the gender reversal has proven very interesting. The regular poker game with the "guys" has been



playwright. But *The Odd Couple*, with its unforgettable pair of mismatched roommates, made Simon a cultural phenomenon. He became one of America's most popular commercially successful playwrights in the history of theatre.

After its long run on Broadway, *The Odd Couple* was turned into a successful

describing a mismatched pair. In 1985 Simon responded to the continued popularity of his odd pair by writing an even more hilarious female version for Broadway, in which all the characters' genders were reversed. This new version helped perpetuate the "odd couple" as one of the most memorable pair of characters in the history of commercial theatre.

replaced with Trivial Pursuit with the "girls" and the conversation is much more interesting. When the two Spanish brothers from upstairs enter in the second act to go on a date with the female Odd Couple, hilarity ensues!

The Odd Couple: Female Version will demonstrate once again, that anything men can do ...women can do better!!! ~ Frank MacLean, Director

Buy Your Tickets

- * At the 17 participating Atlantic Superstore outlets
- * Charge by Phone at (902) 451-1221
- * At the door (subject to availability)
- * Online at www.ticketatlantic.com (\$4 fee per online session)
- * Ticket Atlantic Box Office

**Tickets on Sale
Friday, Sept. 3, 2010**

Mailing Address: Theatre Arts Guild 287 Lacewood drive Unit 103 Suite 412 Halifax N.S. B3M 3Y7

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Welcome to our 2011 season and the 80th anniversary of The Theatre Arts Guild. What a wonderful accomplishment for a community theatre to reach its 80th milestone especially when you consider TAG relies completely on volunteer participation. Going back to 1931, volunteers in the thousands have passed the torch generation to generation keeping community theatre and the Pond Playhouse going. We owe all these people a huge debt of gratitude.

When I moved to Jollimore in 1980, the Pond Playhouse was, shall we say a "quaint" little building surrounded by a dirt parking lot and the whole place flooded three or four times a year. It was easy to understand why in the early 1960's the TAG Board named it the Pond Playhouse. Originally St Augustine's Church Hall, a small extension was added to the front of the building to

provide a tiny lobby, two washrooms and a bar. Above this extension a technical lighting and sound booth was created that could accommodate two technical operators, or three if they were very small people. Together with a storage shed and some improvements to the dressing room area the Pond Playhouse remained thus until the new lobby, technical equipment upgrades and building code compliance projects were completed over the last few years.

Although we still need a carpentry shop and additional storage facilities added to the back of the building, the Pond Playhouse is now ready to carry TAG forward to its 100th anniversary in 2031. Interest in community theatre has always been very strong in Halifax and it continues to grow. Those of us who are getting a little longer in the tooth are glad to see so many younger volunteers actively

participating and we look forward to helping them take hold of the reins and move TAG forward into the future. We have the wonderful upgraded Pond Playhouse and the participation of so many interested volunteers so let's celebrate our 80th anniversary this season and start planning for the 100th!

Elsewhere you will read about the terrific new season about to open with a great mix of comedy, pantomime, mystery and drama. We hope you will enjoy the season as much as all the people involved with the productions; and don't forget, everybody is welcome to help out at The Pond. From staffing the lobby to technical sound or lights and on to acting or directing, all are welcome to participate at TAG.

Happy 80th anniversary TAG!

~ Nick Jupp, President

12 Angry Men



Audiences were thrilled with TAG's summer production of the classic thriller *Twelve Angry Men*, directed by Angela Butler,

TAG TICKET PRICES

\$13 - Members/Seniors/Students

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees except where tickets are purchased online (online service fee - \$4 per online session)

Notice Theatre Arts Guild Annual General Meeting

Gratwick Hall
Pond Playhouse
6 Parkhill Road
Halifax NS B3P 1R2

Monday, September 13, 2010,
7:00 p.m.

**Are You On Facebook?
So is the
Theatre Arts Guild!
Join TAG on
Facebook Today!**

Community Notes

Bedford Players presents *Busybody* by Jack Popplewell. This hilarious play centers on a voluble cleaning woman who lives in the basement of the office building she cleans and one night finds a body. By the time the police arrive, there is no body and no evidence. A thousand laughs and tingles delighted London audiences. The show runs Oct. 28 - Nov. 13. Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more information.

Dartmouth Players opens their season with *Shore Leave*, a gripping one-act play by local playwright Sean Kelly, paired up with special musical entertainment. Piercing, raw, uplifting and tragic, *Shore Leave* takes a Nova Scotian myth from World War II and goes straight to the heart of the matter. The show runs September 16-25, 2010. Visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY for more information.

TAG 2010-2011 Anniversary Season

Mark your calendars!

The Odd Couple: Female Version

A comedy written by Neil Simon (Sep. 23 - Oct. 9 2010)

Beauty and the Beast

A family pantomime written by James Barry. (Dec. 2 - 18, 2010)

Deathtrap

A murderous thriller written by Ira Levin (Feb. 17 - Mar. 5, 2011)

An Enemy of the People

A powerful drama written by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Arthur Miller (Apr. 21 - May 7, 2011)

Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star

Two funny one-act companion plays written by James McLure (June 23 - July 9, 2011)

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

AUDITION CALL Beauty and The Beast by James Barry

A classic fairy tale of magic and love. All the best family pantomime traditions, music, laughter, a Dame (even a horse!) are nicely wrapped up for the holiday season.

Audition Dates & Times:

Sunday August 29, 7-9 p.m.

Monday August 30, 7-9 p.m.

Location:

Pond Playhouse

6 Parkhill Rd.

(off the Purcell's Cove Rd.)

Directed by Angela Butler, musical direction by Bunny Shore and choreography by Melanie Abramson, *Beauty and the Beast* will run December 2 -18, 2010 .

Auditions are open to all ages who enjoy singing, dancing and having fun. Casting: 3 female characters, 5 male characters and 1 Dame. Also casting a chorus of 6-8 people to create a wide range of characters.

Auditions are an open call and will consist of a cold read from the script, singing of a song, followed by a few dance steps. No appointments.

For additional information, please call Angela Butler (director) at 866-0612 or email angrob@eastlink.ca.

JOIN TAG IN CELEBRATING IT'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY!!

**Dedicate a Seat for \$500 and take a permanent place
in the history of the Pond Playhouse**

Your seat will be identified with an engraved plaque.

- ▶ Celebrate a special occasion/event
- ▶ Cherish the memory of a loved one
- ▶ Record a milestone
- ▶ Raise your company's community profile
- ▶ Show your support for the arts

Your contribution is tax deductible.

All proceeds to the TAG Capital Campaign.

**Visit www.tagtheatre.com or email seatsale@tagtheatre.com
for more information about this exciting fundraiser.!**

**60%+
SOLD!**

Renew Your TAG Membership Today!

\$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.

A Question of Gender

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 33rd in a continuing series...

One of the things that strikes me as I research material for this series is that theatrical situations, patterns and processes – those elements which we consider to be the ‘norm’ of the present-day theatrical experience – are actually fairly recent additions to the art form. The fact that our upcoming production, *The Odd Couple, Female Version*, centres on two women, their everyday lives and their adventures (and misadventures) is not a reason for raising eyebrows. But, looking at the spread of theatre history, having the roots of comedy based on the **female** experience is a recent phenomenon. I think we still tend to think of comedy as being primarily a male preserve. If I asked you to draw up a list of ten comedic actors, for example, I wonder how many names on your list would belong to women?

History is to blame for this, of course! From the founder of the art himself, the Greek actor Thespis (I

hope you’ve remembered the important date for his first piece – c.534 B.C.) to Shakespeare and beyond, it was men, men, all the way. Think of the Bard’s comedians – Bottom and his rustic band in *Midsummer Night’s Dream*; Sir John Falstaff in “The Merry Wives of Windsor”; Feste in *Twelfth Night*. The humour comes in different guises, the wit of a Court Jester, the bumbling attempts of a group of country bumpkins to present Greek tragedy, but it’s all definitely male. (Of course, Shakespeare had female characters, but theirs is the passion, the pathos and the intellect and the presenters, of course, were young men and boys). So, by the time that women are allowed their turn on the boards, the comic roles are usually well entrenched in a male version. The first female actress in England of which there is a certain record, Margaret Hughe in December of 1660, played Desdemona, in *The Moor of Venice*, an adaptation of

Othello – no laughter in that role!

Even in Italy (and later France), where women were able to pursue a career as an actress from the 16th century, in the form known as Commedia dell’Arte, the comic roles were those of the male characters – Pantalone, an old merchant with an eye for the young girls, who always falls on his back when brought bad news; Pierrot, with a sad face and downcast look and Arlecchino (or Harlequin) , who elicits laughter by carrying a stick with which to chase and strike the other characters (hence our term ‘slap stick’). Shakespeare incorporates beatings and chase sequences in his comedies and for a later day equivalent, think Laurel and Hardy, Charlie Chaplin and the Keystone Kops.

But, as the song goes...”Anything you can do...!” I’m sure our *Odd Couple* of Olive and Florence will do womenfolk proud and provide you with a lot of fun! ~ Judy Reade

NATAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE DINGLE



TAG members and friends participated in the Beach Day celebrations at the Dingle Park, as part of HRM’s Natal Day festivities.

Two groups walked the paths of the Dingle in costume, to provide ‘historical ambience’ and hand out cards listing the upcoming season’s productions.

The first group is shown before setting out - Diane Plumridge-Reid with her husband and daughter, and Cathy McAuley along with her sister-in-law and nephew, visiting from Virginia. Also taking part were Kelly Doney, Brad Morrison and Phil Reid.