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@ tagtheatrehalifax

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✉ info@tagtheatre.com

# CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre



**The Pond Playhouse**

6 Parkhill Rd. Halifax, NS.

902 477-2663

tagtheatre.com


## May 2025

### Up Next at TAG

#### Tune in to the Mystery — Live on Stage!

Step into the golden age of radio as *Sherlock by Wireless* brings the thrilling world of old-time mystery drama to life at the Pond Playhouse. Inspired by the beloved radio series *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1939–1947), this unique theatrical experience transports you to a time when stories crackled through the speakers and imaginations ran wild.

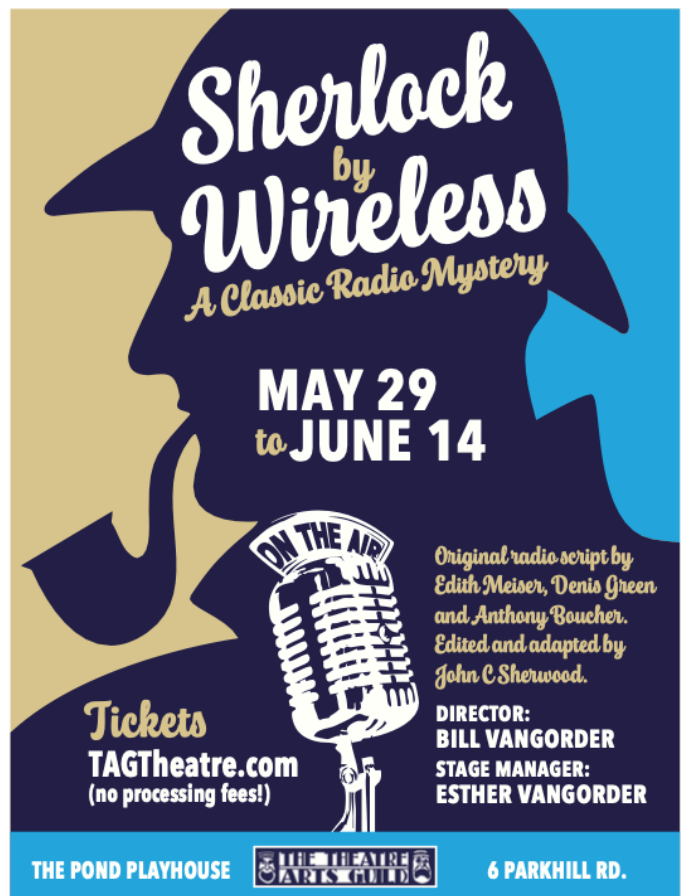
Starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce on the airwaves, the original series captivated millions. Now, Theatre Arts Guild pays tribute to that legacy with a **live reenactment** filled with rich storytelling, vintage flair, and the timeless charm of Holmes and Watson solving yet another case.

 **With live Foley sound effects performed on stage**, nostalgic storytelling, and more than a few surprises, *Sherlock by Wireless* is an evening of wit, warmth, and wireless wonder.

#### Starring:

Kate Brooks • Desarée da Cruz • Andrew Jamieson • Joshua Law • Debora Pollock • Lise Renault • Phil Reid • Jesse Robb • Michael Taylor

Tickets on sale now at [tagtheatre.com](http://tagtheatre.com).



 **Pond Playhouse – Halifax**

 **May 29 to June 14, 2025**


 **Directed by:** Bill VanGorder

 **Produced by:** Kim Charron

 **Stage Managed by:** Esther VanGorder



# Don't miss the end of TAG's 2024-2025 season!

<p><b>Sherlock by Wireless:</b> <b>A Classic Radio Mystery</b> Special Performances "live on stage" <b>May 29 - June 14, 2025</b> An original radio script by Edith Meiser, Denis Green and Anthony Boucher Edited and adapted for live performance by John C Sherwood. Directed by Bill VanGorder Stage Managed Esther VanGorder</p>		<p>Jollimore Day at the Pond Playhouse</p> <p><i>FREE!</i></p> <p>May 31, 2025</p>
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## TAG's 2025–2026 Season Launch

The 2024–2025 season has been a *huge* one for TAG!


For the first time since the 2020 pandemic shutdown, we've presented a full season of **five plays, special events** like the G&S sing-along and SpringFest, and engaging **online content**.


**Bravo, TAG!**

But what's next? What does TAG have up its costumed sleeve?

**Find out on Sunday, June 1st at 2:00 PM!**


Join us for the big reveal of TAG's **2025–2026 Season** — a lineup of plays that span the decades from **1869 to 1988**. Expect stories filled with **laughter, love, nostalgia... and maybe even a spirit or two!**

 TAG Executive Producer Louise Renault will sit down with the directors to uncover why they chose these stories and what audiences can look forward to. Trust us — you won't want to miss it!

 **Location:** Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road, Gratwick Hall

(Please note: Gratwick Hall is on the second floor and accessible by stairs only.)

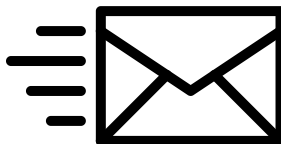
 Also livestreamed on  Theatre Arts Guild | Halifax NS and  Theatre Arts Guild TAG !

 **This is a free event!**

Come be part of the excitement and celebrate community theatre with us!

 **Auditions for the first show will happen later in June — stay tuned for details.**

We can't wait to see you at the theatre!



## TAG's Mailing List

TAG sends out regular email bulletins about productions, auditions, special events and other local community theatre news. Emails from your contacts are considered trustworthy and are less likely to be flagged as spam, ensuring they reach your inbox instead of the junk folder.

Please add [communications@tagtheatre.com](mailto:communications@tagtheatre.com) to your contact list to ensure delivery of TAG emails to your inbox.



Give the gift of theatre with TAG's e-gift cards, allowing loved ones to enjoy live performances with ease. Perfect for any occasion, these cards can be used for online and in-person ticket purchases, making every theatre visit special.

**Visit [tagtheatre.com](http://tagtheatre.com) today!**

## Cheryl

As many TAG members know, long-time member and volunteer Cheryl Joy Theriault died last month, after a brief but aggressive illness. It still feels surreal to write those words down, even now.

The first time I saw Cheryl, she was in a play during which she removed her clothes down to a slip and bra. I immediately fell in love with her courage and sense of humour. We soon became fast friends. If I remember correctly, that was the 2001 production of *Don't Dress for Dinner*.

Cheryl was a true artist, and her mediums were many. She started out as an actor at TAG and then expanded her repertoire to set decoration, set painting, writing, producing and directing. She loved it all and made deep friendships. She said TAG was a safe place for her. A place where she could try things, be herself, take hold of projects and run with them, while collaborating with others.

She was a good friend to many people, as she loved to connect with other hearts. In the last few years, Cheryl and I became active on the TAG board, and we shared the work of getting new volunteers in and refreshed that roster in a wonderful way. Cheryl was also responsible for getting local youth involved in shows, which has enriched what we do.

If you were in Cheryl's loving orbit, consider yourself lucky. She will be remembered for her sense of JOY. Many of us are still very much reeling from the shock of her loss. Please take care of yourselves and each other. And keep coming to TAG! It's a special place.

In friendship,

Louise Renault





## THE HISTORY OF TAG - Heading Towards 100 Years (1931/2031)

### Episode 20 – Literary Icons – Sherlock and Others

I am making this episode a continuation from the last one, when I asked “What makes a ‘classic’ book or play?” This time I’m asking a related question, “What makes a ‘classic’ character, an icon of the literary world, one that lasts and retains its appeal through the ages? I made my own list in response to this question and was amused at how diverse the result was – Sherlock Holmes, of course, Scrooge, Winnie-the-Pooh, Elizabeth Bennet and (since I have a special interest in the detective fiction of the Golden Age) Hercule Poirot, Lord Peter Wimsey and Doctor John Thorndyke!

Something that immediately comes to mind when I study this list is that my icons often have companions or ‘familiar,’ to use an old-fashioned term in its meaning of close friend or associate. These companions help to create a balance. Sherlock has John Watson; Eliza has Fitzwilliam D’Arcy (to me like two weights on a scale which eventually reaches equilibrium!); Winnie-the-Pooh has Christopher Robin and the forest denizens Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga, Roo and Tigger. Pooh Bear has been a favourite of mine since childhood. My parents gave me the poetry collection *Now We Are Six* on my appropriate birthday and he has stayed an icon to me on the page (though not on the screen) as a character who is achingly honest, loyal and someone who is not ashamed of indulging in his favourite snack whenever the opportunity presents itself!

And why have I included Scrooge in my list – selfish, mean and a friend to no one? He’s there because Charles Dickens was writing from his own experience and knew first-hand the gulf between rich and poor in Victorian society and how money, or the lack of it, shaped the lives of the citizens of London. Scrooge, thankfully, is redeemed by seeing the effect of his behaviour on others and by the realization that a difference can be made in the lives of those around him.

Dickens, in creating Scrooge and his many other memorable characters, incorporates what he has seen and heard into his writing. Winnie-the-Pooh’s creator, A.A. Milne, transfers to the page the life of his son, Christopher Robin Milne and how Christopher’s toys take on an existence of their own. Jane Austen, a member of a large family (with seven brothers and sisters), listens and observes life going on around her, both the good and bad, the wretched and the desperate – Human beings making mistakes and being able to correct the same. Experiences, models, incidents, all providing material to be written down on the page and carried forward to posterity.

Sometimes these experiences can be pinned down to something specific. J.M. Barrie, the inventor of Peter Pan had a younger brother who was tragically killed in a skating accident. Barrie’s mother was overcome with grief and James, in his childish way and as a means of trying to help her deal with the situation, wore his brother’s clothes and copied his mannerisms. This was an attempt to keep alive, somehow, the presence of the sibling who was no more. Hence the concept of a young boy who never changes, who never grows up.

Lewis Carroll also had a young person who was the origin of the *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*. Carroll (real name the Reverend Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) was friendly with the Liddell family in Oxford, where he was a mathematics lecturer at Christ Church College. Alice’s father, with a family of ten children, was the Dean of Christ Church. Carroll enjoyed boat trips on the river with the daughters of the family and would be asked to tell stories on these occasions. The stories were not recorded, but he was asked to write down his telling of Alice’s adventures following the White Rabbit down the rabbit hole and the rest, as they say, is literary history.

Although I’ve given you some examples of how certain icons evolved, I think it’s difficult to determine just how much these circumstances or these settings have influenced the creation of what we now consider to be an icon. What is important, to me, is what the author has made of the initial material and what has the writer’s inventiveness and insight contributed to his or her creation. With this in mind, I’ve left the origins of Sherlock Holmes till the last. There is speculation that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was influenced by one of his professors at Edinburgh University, where he studied to be a doctor. Dr. Joseph Bell was renowned for his ability, in examining patients, to be able to determine not only their illness but their age, occupation, nationality, family circumstances, etc., whilst asking only a few questions. Doyle, as Bell’s clerk at the Royal Infirmary, would have had ample opportunity to study these

abilities in action. Professor Bell's powers of perception and the attention to detail are certainly to be found in Mr. Holmes. But Conan Doyle gives the character so much more – an incredible memory, concentration and the determination never to let personal feelings intrude on the task in hand, plus the portrayal of the mental anguish his lifestyle causes him. It is these qualities which make this character unique and a detective like no other.

Over the decades, since Sherlock first appeared in 1887, with many actors on television, stage and screen to choose from, who is my favourite 'tec? I have to say Jeremy Brett in the Granada television series as coming the closest to the picture I formed after reading all the Holmes novels and stories. Sorry, Benedict Cumberbatch!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at TAG's presentation of one of the most original and outstanding characters in literature – Sherlock Holmes.

Judy Reade

TAG's Archivist

## Membership Has Its Benefits

Not only do members receive a discount on tickets,  
now there is a **NEW BENEFIT** to membership.

### **EARLY ACCESS TO TICKET SALES!**

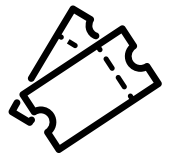
Members can choose their performance dates and seats before tickets  
are available to the public.

Membership is valid from September 1st to August 31st.

**All memberships are \$15.**

## **JOIN ONLINE TODAY!**

Visit [tagtheatre.com](http://tagtheatre.com) for more information.



It takes dozens of volunteers with passion and dedication to ensure a successful theatre production. Opportunities are plenty and we are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers. Explore the many volunteer roles open to you. For more information, email [volunteer@tagtheatre.com](mailto:volunteer@tagtheatre.com).



#### TAG Executive Board 2024-2025

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