

Positive atmosphere no act at local community theatre

Elaine Casey was bitten by the acting bug in high school and has never shaken it.

"For a lot of years when I was raising children and working, it was something I really enjoyed doing that was mine," she said. "It was something to do I really enjoyed that had not to do with being a mother, or a teacher, or whatever."

For Casey, acting and volunteering in community theatre is a lifetime hobby, which she has taken into her retirement.

That old Hollywood saying about good parts for older women being scarce? Well, Casey said that's true but that doesn't mean there's nothing to do. For many years Casey has been volunteering at the Theatre Arts Guild in Halifax and not just as an actor.

"There aren't as many roles

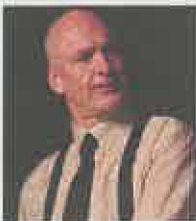
but I do other things as well: I've directed, I've stage-managed, props and backstage," she said.

But Casey said the best part is working with people of all ages and backgrounds who come together with a shared love of theatre.

"The community of people is wonderful and is important to me. Plus, it's working on a project together and making it come to life."

Fellow actor at TAG, Jonathan Tyson, finds the same thing. He acted in high school, but then dropped it until about eight years ago. Back then, Tyson was commuting back and forth to Toronto for his job with the Workers Compensation Board and took an improv class for something to do.

"That reignited my enjoy-



Jonathan Tyson



Elaine Casey

+ BACKGROUND

- Founded in 1931, the Theatre Arts Guild says it is the country's oldest community theatre with a record of continuous operation.
- It had several homes through the years until 1966 when TAG purchased a former church on Parkhill Road and named it The Pond Playhouse.

ment of being a part of a group that was performing," he said.

When he was back in Halifax for good, he found TAG and hasn't looked back.

"It's a combination of being part of a group, doing something with a group of people with a common goal of creating something," he said. "Plus, it's challenging in a lot of ways from a memory point of view, but also it's having an opportunity to play a different role to see how it feels, inhabit a different mental space."

JEN TAPLIN