

# CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre



@TAGTheatre



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The Pond Playhouse  
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## NEXT AT TAG

### Steel Magnolias

September 19th to October 5th

Our season opening play *Steel Magnolias* is set in a small north western Louisiana town and the beauty shop of Truvy Jones. Truvy and her new assistant Annelle Dupuy-Desoto cater to the prominent ladies of the town including Clairee Belcher, Ouiser Boudreaux, M'Lynn Eatenton and her daughter Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie. The beautiful characters are bonded by their complete knowledge of each other's husbands, children, relatives, desires and significant life events going back many generations. These strong, capable and confident women can deal with just about anything life throws at them within the narrow confines of the moral, social and geographic world in which they live. The events occurring in this play test the metal of these women to the limit as they cleverly deploy intelligence, humor and compassion to not just survive, but grow and succeed in a changing world.

*Steel Magnolias* began life in the early 1980's when friends encouraged Robert Harling (born 1951) to write about the death of his sister and soul mate Susan brought on by type one diabetes. The story grew into a play that premiered off Broadway in 1987 and following immediate success, a movie in 1989. *Steel Magnolias* has been translated into sixteen languages and is currently in production all over the world. Mr. Harling grew up in Natchitoches, Louisiana and played in a band on weekends while obtaining a law degree. He moved to New York becoming immersed in the world of theatre leading to the production of *Steel Magnolias*. He lives today in Louisiana and has enjoyed a successful career writing for the stage, television and film.

- Nick Jupp, Director

Tickets on Sale  
August 23rd

#### 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](http://www.ticketatlantic.com) (\$2 per online session)
- Ticket Atlantic Box Office

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Theatre Arts Guild finished out the last season with a completely sold out production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. What a fantastic musical with an amazing cast and crew. Bravo!

While the stage may have been quiet over the summer, there has been lots of activity happening at TAG. Our volunteers are the best! One event that occurred was the birth of a new sign! On July 25th we presented our new sign to the community. We held a small presentation with a reception for members to come out and meet those instrumental in getting

the sign completed. District 9 Councillor Linda Mosher was our special guest along with Stephen Osler, who developed the concept and coordinated the artwork and manufacture and Hugh Vincent who initiated the concept of a new sign. A special thank you went out to Doug Sinclair and 10 Penny Construction for the construction of the sign and to John Hencher who provided the designs. It was a pleasant evening

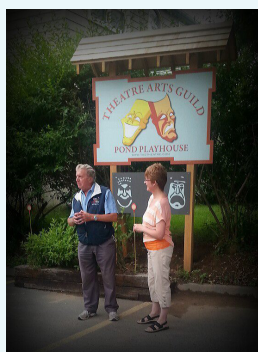
and a great occasion to celebrate!

As most of us know in theatre, a lot more happens behind the scenes. There are various projects on the go to prepare for our next season. Check out our website for more details of our new lineup of plays.

When was the last time you've been to the Pond Playhouse? Come out for a visit and be pleasantly surprised!

Be sure to attend our AGM set for September 9, 2013 at 7:30pm to hear all our news.

- Angela Butler, President



### Recent Shows at TAG

To end off the 2012/2013 season TAG presented the quirky and fun musical *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* to great success! Kate Watson from *The Coast* called it "hilarious" and "a sure thing" and Jeremy Webb of *Off the Leash* hailed the production as "buckets of fun". Congratulations to the cast and crew!



### AGM Notice

Members of the Theatre Arts Guild are invited to attend TAG's Annual General Meeting

Monday, September 9th  
7:30pm  
Gratwick Hall

Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road,  
Halifax, NS.





## AUDITION CALL

### Puss in Boots

Directed by Lorne Abramson  
Musical Direction by Bunny Shore  
Performance Dates: Nov. 28 - Dec. 14, 2013

A cast of colorful characters tell the well known tale of a boy and his cat! Come and be part of the tradition of pantomime!

Auditions are being held on **Sunday, August 25th at 1-6pm and Monday, August 26th at 6-10pm** Theatre Arts Guild, Pond Playhouse. Open to ages 16-99 for all those who enjoy singing, dancing and having fun! Casting a large cast of characters.

### Audition Requirements:

Please prepare a song of your choice  
(A Capella)

Be prepared for a cold read from the script  
and a short dance demo.

No appointment necessary.

For more information please contact  
Director Lorne Abramson  
labramson@eastlink.ca

Coming up at the end of August and early September is the 23rd annual Atlantic Fringe Festival. This year several TAG regulars are participating, including two of our playwrights from the Playwrights at TAG festival we put on in March. Here's a little taste for what to expect from these fantastic TAG members!

Check out [www.atlanticfringe.ca](http://www.atlanticfringe.ca) for dates and locations!

#### Department of Common Sense

Written & Produced by Ryan Van Horne

Directed by Nick Jupp

Featuring: Mark Adam, Lianne Perry, Fiona Kirkpatrick Parsons, Rob McIntyre, Neil Van Horne & Fiona MacKinnon.

**Synopsis:** The government and bureaucrats are notorious for making decisions that defy logic. They can make you shake your head or seethe with anger, but it's great sport for those who love to ridicule the absurdity of it all. In *Department of Common Sense*, a straight-talking, tequila-sipping minister and two whip-smart women take on a persnickety bureaucrat in a battle of will – and wits.

#### Math for Actors

Written by Emily Snyder

Directed by Nick Jupp

Featuring: Val MacKenzie & Russell Storer

**Synopsis:** Math meets mayhem when studious Kate agrees to tutor Keith, an arrogant actor who's more interested in Kate than calculus. He shows up late, he's still in costume, and he doesn't care what the angle of inclination is. *Math for Actors* explores the relationship between art and algebra, and finds a common denominator

#### Down for the Count

Written & Directed by James Boyer

Featuring Carolyn Boyer, Elaine Casey, Helen Goodwin, & Louise Renault.

**Synopsis:** In *Down for the Count* the characters search for the true meaning of what defines a successful life. What is the meaning of friendship and is it of any value in this modern world? Vulnerable they reveal themselves in new and unexpected ways as they struggle with the death of a dear friend. Will they triumph over adversity? Certainly, it helps to have a sense of humour when life throws a curve ball in your direction.

**TAG  
at  
Fringe  
Festival**

## ENTER THE ACTRESS...

### Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary The 48th in a Continuing Series

It is the year 1660, a dreary December day in London. But though the skies may be grey, the atmosphere is not. The monarchy (in the person of Charles the Second) has been restored and the theatres (closed under the Puritan administration of Oliver Cromwell) have been reopened. Shakespeare's great tragedy, *Othello* is being presented at the Vere Street playhouse by the King's Company (manager, Sir Thomas Killigrew) and Desdemona is being played by – a woman! No more will there be the portrayal of heroines by young men and boys. The laws of the country have been changed to allow women to 'tread the boards.' Although there is agreement by historians for this momentous occasion on the play and the character, there is some confusion over the name of the actress, possibly Margaret Hughes (or Hewes), possibly Anne Marshall. There is no disagreement however on the name of the first female Juliet – Mary Saunderson – who was also the first woman to play Lady Macbeth in an English theatre.

The female presence in the theatre was quickly established. By 1664, the same Sir Thomas was able to assemble an all-female cast for *The Parson's Wedding* and the first English female playwright, Aphra Behn saw her works published and performed.

By the end of the 18th century, audiences were so supportive of women on the stage that

some actresses already had achieved 'idol' status. Sarah Siddons (1755-1831) made her reputation as a great 'tragedienne,' particularly in the roles of Desdemona, Lady Macbeth, Rosalind and Ophelia. Her portrait was painted by the foremost artists of the day.

The trend to actress as 'star,' increased in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Ellen Terry, in Britain, was made a Dame of the Order of the British Empire (Judi Dench, Diana Rigg, Helen Mirren and Maggie Smith are contemporary examples). The French actress Sarah Bernhardt traveled widely in Europe and also performed in New York. One of Bernhardt's famous roles, that of Marguerite Gautier in *La Dame aux Camélias* was later to make another actress, Greta Garbo equally famous. The Italian actress, Eleonora Duse (1858-1924) found success by starring in translations of the plays favoured by Bernhardt. Like Terry and Bernhardt, she toured widely and took on theatre ownership and management along with acting.

We have yet to perform *La Dame aux Camélias* at TAG (!), but one of the Guild's strengths over the years has been the presentation of plays which serve as showpieces for a female ensemble – *Thirteen Hands*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Waiting for the Parade*, *Belles* and *The Odd Couple (Female version)*. *Steel Magnolias* can now be added to this list, with its tale of Truvy's beauty parlour and the six women who meet there - a chronicle of life's highs and lows seen from the female perspective.

Women may have arrived late to this acting game, but they've sure made up for lost time! - Judy Reade

### Community Notes

#### Dartmouth Players presents:

Blackpool & Parrish (Nov 6th to 23rd 2013)  
Visit [www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca) or call 465-PLAY for more info

#### Bedford Players presents:

Calendar Girls (November 2013)  
Visit [www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca](http://www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca) or call 832-3300 for more info

### Coming Soon

#### Puss in Boots

(Nov 28th to Dec 14th ) A rollicking tale full of high-energy song and dance numbers. Based on a story of a young boy who loses his inheritance but is able to regain his status with the help of an unlikely hero - a cat. Directed by Lorne Abramson and Musical Direction by Bunny Shore.