

# CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre

 @TAGTheatre

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The Pond Playhouse  
6 Parkhill Rd. Halifax NS  
www.tagtheatre.com  
(902) 477 2663



## NEXT AT TAG

**Panto at the OK Corral**  
November 27th to December 13th

Time to sharpen up yer spurs and mosey on down to Theatre Arts Guild to join us in this season's pantomime, PANTO AT THE OK CORRAL. Set in the west and at a time when prospecting for gold was common. Will poor Winnie Pegg keep her land or will the mean Sheriff Small Holdin' get his wish and take over the OK Corral and the town of Deadwood Gulch?

Join the cast as we boo for the meanies and cheer on the heroes in true pantomime fashion.

- Angela Butler, Director



Theatre Arts Guild presents  
**PANTO at the OK CORRAL**  
By Jim Sperinck  
NOV 27 to DEC 13, 2014  
with 5 matinees

Directed by **Angela Butler**  
Musical Direction by **Bunny Shore**  
Produced by **Bill VanGorder**  
Stage Managed by **Esther VanGorder**

Tickets can be purchased at all Ticket Atlantic outlets online at [www.ticketatlantic.com](http://www.ticketatlantic.com) or by phone 902-451-1221

  
Pond Playhouse  
6 Parkhill Road  
(at Mill's Cove Road)  
Halifax, NS  
[www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com)

**Get Your Tickets Soon!**

### TAG Ticket Prices

**\$15 Members/Seniors/Students**  
**\$18 Non-Members**

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees

### 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)
- Ticket Atlantic Box Office

November/December 2014 Contact

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Moving into our 84th's season at Theatre Arts Guild we see a lot of change within the theatre community. More and more theatre companies are developing within the HRM, giving our patrons many choices for their theatre experience. Not saying this is a bad thing for theatre but for community theatre it sometimes creates a void in our viewing audience. The challenge in theatre is always to produce plays that appeal to the masses; create a season that your patrons will not only appreciate but to rave about to others so they return to your venue again and again. But as a community theatre group we also

have to take in consideration the membership who creates the plays. Are they challenging enough for those producing the piece? Being a member of Theatre Arts Guild I have always appreciated that the group not only encouraged the "out of the box" scripts but applauded them.  
- Angela Butler, President

Recent Shows at TAG

## DOUBT A PARABLE



## NEXT AT TAG

### Death by Design

What happens when you mix the brilliant wit of Noel Coward with the intricate plotting of Agatha Christie? Set during a weekend in an English country manor in 1932, *Death by Design* is a delightful and mysterious “mash-up” of two of the greatest English writers of all time. Edward Bennett, a playwright, and his wife Sorel Bennett, an actress, flee London and head to Cookham after a disastrous opening night. But various guests arrive unexpectedly – a conservative politician, a fiery socialist, a nearsighted ingenue, a zany modern dancer – each with a long-held secret. When one of the guests is murdered, it’s left to Bridgit, the feisty Irish maid with a macabre interest in homicide, to solve the crime. *Death by Design* is more than homage – it’s a new classic.

Directed by James Boyer, the TAG production is set to hit the stage February 19th to March 7th 2015!

### Reserve Your Seat at TAG

The Theatre Arts Guild is switching to numbered seating for the 2014-15 season. The move will allow you to pick your seat when you purchase your ticket. We still offer several convenient ways to purchase tickets and if you want to attend with friends or a larger group, you can arrange to sit together – even if you don’t show up at the theatre at the same time. We think the decision is one that our patrons and members will enjoy as it removes all the uncertainty of the rush seating we have had in the past. We are also introducing a modest price increase this year, for the first time since we started our arrangement with Ticket Atlantic many years ago. General admission tickets are \$18 and tickets for members, seniors, and students are \$15. Lastly, we are pleased to announce that the \$2 fee previously added to online purchases made through Ticket Atlantic, no longer applies.

### Community Notes

#### Dartmouth Players presents:

Mid-Life Crisis the Musical (Nov 12th to 29th)  
Blithe Spirit (Feb 4th to 21)  
An Inspector Calls (Apr 15th to May 2nd)  
The Game’s Afoot (June 3rd to 20th)  
Visit [www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca) or call 465-PLAY for more info

#### Bedford Players presents:

Play Read: SPAMalot (Dec. 1st 2014, 7pm)  
The Fork on the Left (Mar 12th to 28th)  
The Love List (May 21st to June 6th)  
Visit [www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca](http://www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca) or call 832-3300 for more info

### Coming Soon

#### Proof by David Auburn

April 30th to May 16th 2015

The daughter of a brilliant mathematician is confronted with the task of claiming her own genius as distinct from that of her father, and defending herself against allegations of madness  
Directed by Deb Pollock

#### She Stoops to Conquer by Oliver Goldsmith

June 18th to July 5th 2015

A wealthy English countryman arranges for his daughter to meet the son of a wealthy Londoner, hoping the pair will marry. Unfortunately the young suitor is nervous around upper-class women while being far too comfortable around those who are members of the lower-class.



## FANTASY/REALITY

### Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary The 54th in a Continuing Series

**P**anto at the O.K. Corral. Hm, I wonder if you're thinking..."A pantomime and a Wild West saga? Isn't that a strange combination?" (Well, yes, but then so was the recent Harrison Ford/Daniel Craig film *Cowboys and Aliens!*). But let's look at this pairing; maybe it isn't so odd...

**P**antomime, as a theatrical genre, takes thematic material primarily from fairy tales and nursery rhymes. In Western culture, we have principally three individuals to thank for collecting and publishing these tales, many of which are centuries old – the French civil servant and writer Charles Perrault (1628-1703) and the German brothers Jacob (1785-1863) and Wilhelm Grimm (1786-1859). The Brothers Grimm had a much wider and more academic interest in tales intended for children and eventually devised a system for classifying these according to their origins in folklore. Many of the stories used for modern-day pantomimes contain elements of fantasy, i.e., events, incidents, characters which extend the normal experience - evil witches who cast spells on naughty children; ogres and giants who make their home in dismal castles; princesses who sleep for one hundred years.

**B**ut then the adventures of the 'Wild West,' or at least our understanding of the same, contain elements of fantasy too. Over time, the reality of the harsh, uncomfortable and downright dangerous trek westward across what eventually becomes the United States of America morphs into a picture which selectively highlights elements which most capture our attention – those of

adventure, excitement, anticipation, heroism. Men such as James Butler Hickok (Wild Bill Hickok), sometime farmhand, lawman, duelist, who was shot dead during a poker game at age 39 quickly gained notoriety through early newspaper accounts and cheap dime novels, which regularly used exaggeration and deception to increase readership. (Does this sound familiar? Next time you're shopping, look at the magazine stand by any supermarket checkout counter!). In no time at all, the exploits of men such as William Frederick Cody (better known as Buffalo Bill) during the frontier struggles with Native American tribes had become spectacles in his Wild West touring shows and were bringing the western experience to the folk of Britain and Europe.

**T**he elements perpetuated in written accounts are reinforced by the newly-invented movie experience. The first silent film to depict a continuous story was a western – *The Great Train Robbery* (1903). The film (ten minutes long - the current thinking was that a longer piece would be hard on the eyes!) shows a gang robbing a train and then being pursued by a posse as they ride off with their loot. Thus the myth/fantasy/stereotype of the western cowboy is well on its way!

**B**ut there are stereotypes in pantomime too and you'll find all your favourites in this year's show – in western garb, of course – the dame, the hero, the evil baron (except he's the Sheriff), the broker's men (Dumb and Dumber), who this time go by the titles Butch Casserole and the Sun-Tanned Kid.

**S**o why not come and enjoy this year's fantasy at the O.K. Corral – and you don't even need to know how to ride a horse! .  
- Judy Reade