

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

Same Time Next Year

September 17th to October 10th

When I first saw this play it was in London, England in the late 70s, starring Michael Crawford and, that night, Michele Doctrice. I loved every minute of it and was left with an indelible memory.

When writing is good it lasts and this play remains a timeless classic.

I'm an incurable romantic, so when asked to direct I was delighted to accept, because, more than anything, this is a love story, albeit unusual.... but, as most of us know, love is seldom uncomplicated. It is genuinely funny, often moving, and oh....so, so, human.

Imagine a time before computers, laptops, cell phones, Ipads, Tablets, e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, all social media...when people really looked at each other and communicated...when radio was our medium – Elvis, Dylan, Biaz, Simon/Garfunkel etc. and television was only just beginning.

It's 1951 - a Country Inn in Northern California - two strangers, their eyes meet across a room - there is an indefinable attraction - and so

begins the story - a passionate weekend....each married to others and yet. They decide to meet at the same place the next year, although neither is sure if the other will show up.

The audience is invited to witness these trysts - spanning 24 years, sharing in their stories throughout the changing world of the 50's, dissident 60's and 70's, Civil Rights, Vietnam, Anti-Establishment, Feminism – all brilliantly woven together with mature comedy by a true Master of his Craft.

Come and meet Doris and George, remember that amazing era and enjoy the journey.
- Michele Moore, Director

Starring
Frank MacLean & Jocelyn LeBlanc

Tickets on Sale
NOW!

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
- Ticket Atlantic Box Office

August/September 2015 Contact

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to Theatre Arts Guild! We are celebrating a special milestone...85 years of continuous theatre in Halifax! What an achievement! To start off our new season we open with Bernard Slade's Same Time Next Year, a love story with many twists and a trip through a changing world. Looking forward to seeing this story unfold.

Because we have shortened our lineup to four mainstage plays there will be a celebration of our 85th season. STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!

On a personal note, I've been honoured with serving as the President of Theatre Arts Guild Board of Directors for the past four years. So many people have passed through the doors and

I've been blessed with meeting as many of them as I could. It has been a wonderful experience. I will announce at the AGM on September 21st that I will be stepping away from this post. I will continue to be an active member of TAG as long as they will have me. Maybe I'll still be here for the 90th season!
- Angela Butler, President

NEW

2015/2016 TAG SEASON

Same Time, Next Year By Bernard Slade

September 17 to October 10

Directed by Michele Moore

The Emperor's New Clothes By PL McQueen

November 26 to December 12

Directed by Karen Waterfield

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof By Tennessee Williams

March 31 to April 23

Directed by Angela Butler

The Mystery of Edwin Drood, (or Drood) By Rupert Holmes

June 2 to June 25

Directed by Janice Jackson

Take Your Seat

Dedicate a Seat for \$500 and take a permanent place in the history of the Pond Playhouse. Your contribution is tax deductible!

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

UPCOMING

Annual General Meeting & The Panto!

September 21st
7:30pm
Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd.

TAG's Annual General Meeting

Join us for refreshments and
information on TAG and our upcoming
season

The Emperor's New Clothes
By PL McQueen

Annual Family Pantomime

Directed by Karen Waterfield, Musical
Director Bunny Shore

A fairy tale familiar to children and adults
alike will come to life in the magic only
Pantomime can provide. The Emperor
decides to compete in a contest to become a
top model, but who will design his winning
outfit and thereby win his daughter's hand
in marriage? Full of songs, dances, and
silliness! This is always a sell out, so get
your tickets early

RECENTLY @ TAG

She Stoops to Conquer, Directed by Jolene Pattison



ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 58h in a continuing series

It's significant that we begin the 2015/2016 with a romantic comedy. This is an anniversary season for us and in May of 2016, the Theatre Arts Guild will mark 85 years in existence. Back in May of 1931, the new entity (formed from a drama group and an operetta society) decided that its initial offering would be – a romantic comedy – *The Dover Road*, by A. A. Milne. And yes, that's the same A. A. Milne whose (considerable) success as a playwright and novelist was to be ever eclipsed by his books and poems for children based on the toys belonging to his only child, Christopher Robin. I have no record of what kind of reception the Halifax audience gave *The Dover Road*, but do know that performances were given at the Garrick Theatre (now much refurbished as the Neptune Theatre).

There's more than one link between our opening piece *Same Time Next Year* and *The Dover Road*. In Bernard Slade's comedy, we meet George and Doris (both away from home and both with spouses), who begin an affair which stretches out over time. I'm not going to insert a spoiler here and tell you what the conclusion to the situation is, suffice to say it's in keeping with the times! Milne begins his play with a similar situation – Leonard (married to Eustasia), bored with the everyday responsibilities of a dutiful husband, begins an affair with Anne and one weekend, drives with her heading to France, intending to take the boat at Dover. His car breaks down however, outside the house of a mysterious Mr. Latimer. The vehicle will take some

time to repair, so they must accept Latimer's hospitality for a week. After a week, Anne decides that she could not, under any circumstances, tolerate life with Leonard and their relationship ends. Anne's growing disenchantment with her beau is amusing enough, but Milne underlines his theme by making Leonard's wife also a guest at the house, accompanied by her lover, Nicholas! However, Milne, writing in the 1920s, makes his ending conform to the mores of the time. Eustasia and Nicholas also decide they cannot bear the sight of each other (!) and order is eventually restored to the marital household.

I think, generally, when dealing with romantic comedy, we hope for a happy ending – Boy meets girl...Boy and girl fall in love...Boy and girl marry...Boy and girl receive at least three toaster ovens as wedding gifts, etc. One playwright definitely opposed to a happy ending, just for the sake of it, has also been presented at TAG, also in the same decade as *Dover Road*. The couple this time are a wretched working class girl who sells flowers outside the theatre in Covent Garden and a professor of languages. George Bernard Shaw was adamant, when producers requested that he change the ending of *Pygmalion* (played at TAG in 1938), that Eliza Doolittle does not marry Professor Henry Higgins – or at least, there's no marriage announced to the audience. To Shaw, the indicators as to Eliza's subsequent actions are in the text for the audience to draw out. The resolution to the relationship is therefore deliberately ambiguous - a slant retained in the later musical version – *My Fair Lady*.

But, enough of past conundrums. Come and enjoy *Same Time Next Year* and see how George and Doris resolve their dilemma!

- Judy Reade

Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents:

Company (October 28th to November 14th)
Visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY for more info

Bedford Players presents:

Asprin and Elephants (November 5th to 21st)
Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more info

Coming Soon

The Emperor's New Clothes

November 26th to Decemeber 12th

A fairy tale familiar to children and adults alike will come to life in the magic only Pantomime can provide. The Emperor decides to compete in a contest to become a top model, but who will design his winning outfit and thereby win his daughter's hand in marriage?
Full of songs, dances, and silliness!