



# 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  
www.tagtheatre.com

February/March 2023

**UP NEXT AT TAG**

## THE GLASS MENAGERIE

Tennessee Williams

March 16th to April 1st, 2023

Director ~ Angela Butler

Producer ~ Lorne Abramson

Stage Manager ~ Rayna Smith-Camp

Technical Director ~ Bill Barnaby

Assist. Stage Manager ~ Erin Niedermayer

Memory is an illusion and the stage is an instrument to create it! The Glass Menagerie, a reflection of a time in Tom Wingfield's life when he decides to follow a dream versus continuing to support his relentless mother Amanda and Laura, his beloved sheltered sister.

The illusion is filtered with music and light to create an atmosphere where the audience is transposed.

"Time is the longest distance between two places"

Joshua Law- Tom Wingfield

Lorraine Cantwell- Amanda Wingfield

Heidi Hodgkinson- Laura Wingfield

Kyle Swanson- Jim O'Connor

**Covid Protocols:**

Masks will no longer be required but are **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** when attending performances at the Pond Playhouse. The Pond Playhouse places the audience so close to the action on stage, masking helps protect not only audience members but also the actors, who cannot wear masks when performing. By keeping them safe, we can all help prevent COVID-related performance cancellations.

If you or someone in your group are not feeling well or have tested positive for Covid, please stay home and do not come to the theatre.

THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD  
PROUDLY PRESENTS  
**THE GLASS MENAGERIE**  
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

directed by ANGELA BUTLER    produced by LORNE ABRAMSON  
stage managed by RAYNA SMITH-CAMP    technical production by BILL BARNABY

**MARCH 16 - APRIL 1, 2023**  
THE POND PLAYHOUSE    6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX, NS.  
TICKETS: [www.TICKETATLANTIC.ca](http://www.ticketatlantic.ca)  
OR 902.451.1221  
TAGTHEATRE.COM

**Tickets on sale soon at [ticketatlantic.com](http://ticketatlantic.com).**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy 2023 to all of you. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. As I write this, we are just days away from the start of February and plenty to look forward to this winter.

After a two year hiatus due to the pandemic, the much loved Pantomime returned to the TAG stage in November and December. Congratulations, and thank you, to the cast and crew of Red Riding's in the Hood. It was very disappointing that several performances had to be cancelled due to illness, but fortunately the show was able to return for the final week, and with great success. Well done!

I am enjoying a ringside seat at the rehearsals for The Glass Menagerie, by Tennessee Williams, as I have the pleasure of stage managing this production. Director Angela Butler is guiding a very talented quartet of actors through this dramatic memory play. Opening Night is just six weeks away and I know this is going to be a very special show. We hope to see you there.

The TAG Variety Show took place on January 28th. Many thanks to Deborah Pollock, Adam Norton, to all those who helped backstage and front of house, to all the wonderfully talented performers and to all those who came to support them. The 6th Biennial Playwrights Festival is the next event to showcase just how creative our members are.

As always, stay tuned for updates about when tickets will be on sale and the important news.

Rayna Smith Camp

## Newsletter Highlights

- *Up Next at TAG (front page)*
- *President's Message*
- *Movement Workshops at TAG*
- *TAG Online*
- *Volunteer Orientation Session*
- *Featured Volunteer*
- *Audition Notice*
- *Call for Submissions:  
TAG's 2023 to 2024 Season*
- *Variety Show*
- *Membership*
- *Treasurer's Note*
- *TAG Executive Board*
- *Memories of... Red Ridings in the Hood*
- *The History of TAG-  
90 Years and Counting*

## Movement Workshops at TAG

### Improvisation

Through movement we will explore awareness of ourselves, others, and the space as we become immersed in an enjoyable guided group improvisation, tuning in to and responding to the elements of space, time, and energy around us. In our exploration we will consider the Viewpoints, a system of describing and working with the elements of space and time as they relate to performance in theatre.

These include tempo, duration, repetition, spatial relationship, architecture, gesture, shape, and kinesthetic response.

Inclusivity is embraced and promoted. While these explorations engage a full use of one's physicality and cognition, all levels of experience and ability are welcome and embraced. Improvisation is, by its nature, a work of perception, impulse, response, and generosity. Diversity in participants adds to the beauty and depth of the work.

Caregivers for those with special needs must remain present in an assistance capacity.

Lisa Phinney Langley

"Participants should wear comfortable clothing, and plan to be in socks or bare feet."

Saturday Feb 11

10:00-11:30am

Gratwick Hall

To register

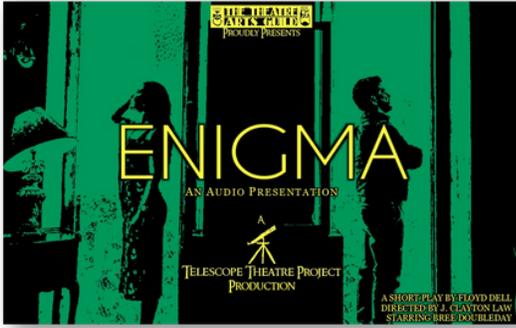
tagvolunteer@gmail.com

or contact

Lisa Phinney Langley

lisa@phin.ca





## Enigma by Floyd Dell

Produced by The Telescope Theatre Project

Directed by J. Clayton Law

They've reached the end; Paul is leaving Helen. Trying to break through his stoicism, Helen does her best to clarify why she cheated on him. Can she break through his walls and make him understand so that he doesn't walk away hating her? Can Paul feel for her situation and get her to understand that he is indeed hurt? Do they actually even know what's happening? Is her pain real? Has this relationship been transparent? It turns out to be quite the enigma.

Starring Bree Doubleday and Joshua Law

<https://taghalifax.bandcamp.com/track/enigma-by-floyd-dell>

## TAG ONLINE

### TAG Digital Content - Audio Plays

Stream TAG's digital content for free.

Also check out our video presentations

<https://tagtheatre.com/AudioPlays.html>

**Premiering**  
**February 2, 2023**

## Volunteer Orientation Session

**Saturday,**  
**March 4th**  
**10 AM - 12 PM**

**We have casual positions available for both Bar and Front of House roles at the Theatre Arts Guild! Why volunteer with us? Well, you get to hang out with some pretty amazing folks, meet the cast and crew of various performances, engage with the public, and learn more about the arts community here in Halifax!**

**Interested in learning more? Join us for an orientation session Saturday, March 4th from 10 AM - 12 PM.**

**RSVP to [tagvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:tagvolunteer@gmail.com) and we shall roll out the red carpet for your arrival!**

## FEATURED VOLUNTEER



DAVID WILLIAMS

**I'd like to say it started in community theatre back at J. L. Ilsley High School with Drama class and participating in Mark DeWolfe's the "One Scent Sale" production, however I think that period of time emphasized my lack of theatre skills, at least on the stage. In truth, there are a few contributing factors which brought me to the TAG. One, a love of live performance, two, supporting my community, and three, growing up in a household where volunteerism, and in general the theme of "if you have the capacity to help someone you should" was prevalent. Over the years I have been fortunate to give back in many areas; 17 years as an Emergency Management Lead, Restoring Family Links Caseworker, Detention Monitoring Associate and Senior Facilitator with the Canadian Red Cross, supporting sport at the 2016, 2014, and 2011 Olympics, as well as 2011 Canada Winter Games, Community Events Coordinator with the Fairview Community Association, greeter at the The Atlantic Film Festival and Doors Open Halifax, Bowl for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Canadian Cancer Society, and recently sat on the board for the Rainbow Refugee Association of Nova Scotia. It was only a matter of time before I landed at the doorway to the TAG!**

**I do find all aspects of theatre interesting. I have such great respect for those who can bring others ideas to reality. From the costumes, to set, to lights, to performers and writers. It really amazes me with every performance at the sheer volume of talent in so many areas it takes to make it happen. All that said, my soul is service delivery focussed so Front of House and Bar are where I enjoy my time the most.**

**I am fortunate to be in the Bar Manager role for a second term! This past season we expanded our liquor licence to include the outdoor seating area and added some planters and stanchions to designate the area. For now, in addition to keeping food and beverages inventory maintained, my time is focused on looking for other options to increase revenues to help ensure the TAG continues as the longest continually running community theatre in Canada!**

# AUDITION NOTICE



## ***NUNSENSE***

### ***A Musical Comedy***

***book, music and lyrics by Dan Goggin***

***presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals***

***www.concordtheatricals.com***

**Opening at Theatre Arts Guild**

**June 08 to June 24 , 2023**

**Director Jocelyn LeBlanc**

**Musical Director Ralph Walton Bone Urquhart**

**Producer Geraldine MacDonald**

**Stage Manager Eileen de Boer**

**AUDITIONS: February 26 (Sunday) and February 28 (Tuesday) 7:00pm - 9:30pm**

**REHEARSALS: Tuesday, Thursdays and Sundays evenings**

**Looking to combat those relentless winter blues? Come and audition!**  
***NUNSENSE* is a very silly musical that should have us laughing from rehearsal to stage: 5 nuns are putting on a talent show so they can bury the last 4 nuns from their convent that were accidentally poisoned by their Chef (Sister Julia, Child of God).**

**We are looking for five female-presenting actors  
( well, actors/dancers/ singers)**

**Sides will be provided at the audition, but please come prepared with one verse and one chorus of a song of your choosing.**

**Show questions? Contact Director Jocelyn LeBlanc [leblanc.jocelyn@gmail.com](mailto:leblanc.jocelyn@gmail.com)**



# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

**The Deadline has passed but  
submissions still excepted for the  
2023-2024 Theatre Arts Guild Season**

If you have a work you would like to present, please  
submit to

[artistic-director@tagtheatre.com](mailto:artistic-director@tagtheatre.com)

**ASAP**

Particular consideration will be given to submissions  
with a director already attached or to plays already in  
the public domain, but suggested plays are also  
welcome.

## Variety Show



*A wonderful  
evening  
A true variety  
of  
entertainment*

**THE THEATRE  
ARTS GUILD**  
Proudly Presents  
**THE (ALMOST) ANNUAL  
VARIETY SHOW**  
HOSTED BY ADAM NORTON  
PRODUCED BY DEBORA POLLOCK

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7:30PM  
Doors Open at 6:45PM  
Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road  
Tickets at the Door  
TAGTHEATRE.COM



*Dance, music,  
laughter,  
recitation,  
laughter,  
dance, song  
and laughter!*

*All photos were taken from the tech  
booth. Excuse the blurred details!*



## Thank You

Maddi MacKay

Phil Reid

Ralph Walton Bone Urquhart  
and Jolene Pattison

Cheryl Theriault and Brenda Tyedmers  
Sol Vromans

Louise Renault

Lisa Phinney Langley and Brian Bourne  
Noel Guscott

Jude Reade and Carolyn Boyer

Nick Jupp

Angela Butler and Bill Barnaby, Lights

Louise Renault, Sound

All Front of House Volunteers

Debora Pollock, Producer

Adam Norton, MC

# TAG MEMBERSHIP

TAG membership is the ideal way to help your community theatre thrive while developing your own theatrical skills, interests and making new friends.

As a member, you can be involved in every facet of theatre production and management, from the box office to the stage, and have an opportunity to have your voice heard at the Board level by getting involved in committees and voting at our Annual General Meeting.

**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!!**

All memberships are \$15.

Now you can join online at [tagtheatre.com/membership.html](http://tagtheatre.com/membership.html)

## TREASURER'S NOTE

We are fast approaching tax filing season for the 2022 calendar year. How you made your donation to the Theatre Arts Guild (TAG) will determine how you receive your annual tax receipt.

If your contribution was made through **CanadaHelps**, your donation receipt is available on-line. Just access your **CanadaHelps** account and print your receipt. Any issues with amounts or timing are the responsibility of **CanadaHelps**.

If your contribution was made directly to TAG via cheque, cash or PayPal, a tax receipt would have been issued at the time of the donation.

If you require a copy, please contact [treasurer@tagtheatre.com](mailto:treasurer@tagtheatre.com) for a replacement.

Donations are only receipted if we have your contact information at the time of the donation. Therefore, cash donations made to the treasure chest at the bar, while appreciated, cannot be tracked to an individual and amounts are not recorded on your tax receipts. Also note, memberships are not considered donations and will not be receipted.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to working with you throughout 2023.

Patrick Charron  
Treasurer, Theatre Arts Guild  
[treasurer@TAGTheatre.com](mailto:treasurer@TAGTheatre.com)

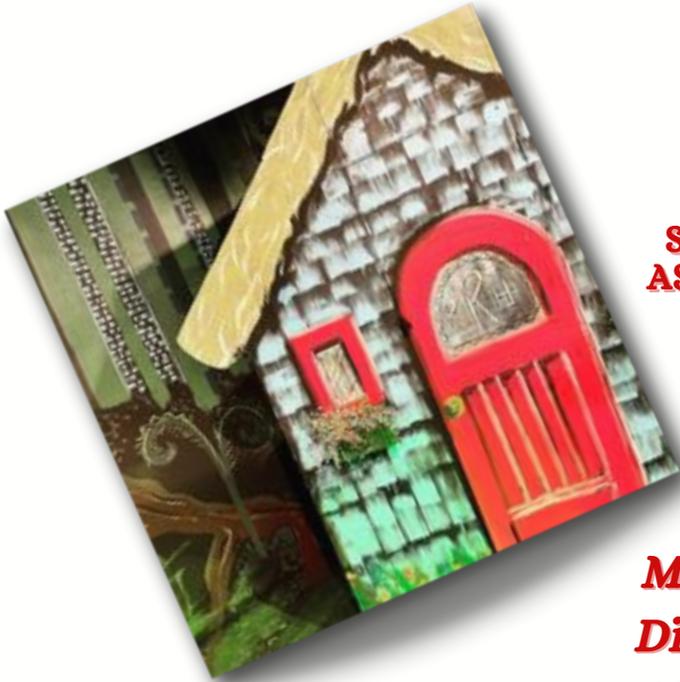
## TAG Executive Board 2023-2024

*Rayna Smith Camp- President*  
*Shannon Nudds- Vice-President and Volunteer Development*  
*Patrick Charron- Treasurer*  
*Stephanie Demedeiros Ouedraogo- Secretary*  
*Jennifer Robbins- Artistic Director*  
*Angela Butler- Executive Producer*  
*Bill Barnaby- Technical Director*  
*Bill VanGorder- Fundraising Director*  
*Vacant- Publicity and Marketing*  
*Lorne Abramson- Building Manager*  
*Valerie Dubois- Web Director and Membership*  
*Angela Butler- Newsletter Editor*  
*David Williams- Bar Manager*  
*TAG Costume and Props Team*  
*TAG Archives*  
*Michele Moore- TAG Phone Line*

# MEMORIES OF...

## RED RIDINGS IN THE HOOD

WRITTEN BY CHERYL THERIAULT  
AND LORNE ABRAMSON  
ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY  
CHERYL THERIAULT  
PRODUCER BILL VANGORDER  
STAGE MANAGER ESTHER VANGORDER  
ASST. STAGE MANAGER CATHY MCAULEY



*Musical  
Director  
Wayne  
MacIntyre  
Maria Alley,  
Musician*

### Cast of Characters

*Jolene Pattison  
Cathy Cameron  
Kaija Jussinoja  
Lise Renault  
Hannah Grosvenor  
KC Schwarz  
Skylar Sullivan  
Neil VanHorne  
Terri Coolen  
Angela Butler  
Jesse Robb  
Catherine Conrad  
Bryce Kirkham*



# THE HISTORY OF TAG:

90 Years and Counting

## Episode 10

## Rosie the Riveter, TAG-style!

The wartime poster of the buxom 'Rosie the Riveter' in her overalls and headscarf has been copied many times. America's 'Rosie' was meant to encourage women to make their contribution towards winning World War II, by taking over the jobs in factories left vacant by male workers who had joined the armed forces. A photograph in the "Vintage Nova Scotia" section of the Chronicle Herald on November the first last year highlighted how the women of Halifax, through TAG's Concert Party Guild made their own contribution, though their arm muscles were probably not as robust as Rosie's! 'We Can Do It' was Rosie's slogan, and yes, the Concert Party Guild could too.

Hugh Mills, one of TAG's co-founders and one half of the Mills Brothers department store was certainly forward-looking in the autumn of 1939 in turning Theatre Arts Guild into the Halifax Concert Party Guild, under the realization that normal theatre activities could not continue when Canada was at war. The core group of members in the Guild quickly expanded however, when the programme of concerts and entertainment that Hugh Mills was able to generate became such a success. TAG members recruited friends and friends of friends, employees of the store were pressed into service, plus anyone who could play an instrument.

When the War was over therefore, not everyone in the concert group had been associated with the original theatre organization. When the request came from the Canadian Army to travel to the recently-liberated countries of Europe to provide entertainment to the Canadian troops still stationed there, the call was answered. The cost was beyond the means of the Guild, but Hugh Mills undertook fundraising and the Chronicle Herald also provided financial support. (The name of the Concert Party Guild was adjusted to reflect this). Enough money was raised to select a group of eleven travelers, with Mr. and Mrs. Mills as leaders, plus eight performers. With only eight in the cast, I suspect that the choice of those to go abroad was determined by performers who had the most skills and could provide a varied programme. The three women in the photograph (Geneva Lockerbie, Dorie Marsh and Janet MacPherson) were part of the eight and, as far as I know, had no connection to the 'theatrical' TAG. It is humbling to remember that those in the group had spent the war years in Halifax and were now providing entertainment among the ruins of European cities. Supporting one's country in a time of crisis can take many forms. Rosie' was ready to answer the call and so was Theatre Arts Guild!

