

# 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

### The Mystery of Edwin Drood June 2nd to June 25th

The Mystery of Edwin Drood is an absolute pleasure to direct. We have a fantastic cast, some whom you will know and several who are new to TAG. Rehearsals have been going extremely well with moments of both hilarity and gravity.

Drood is many layered: Victorian theatre, cabaret, gender-crossing actors, slapstick farce, beautiful and varied music styles, big choreographies and high drama.

Not to be missed is the villain, John Jasper; the Opium Den owner, the Princess Puffer; the beautiful Rosa Bud; the exotic twins Helena and Neville Landless; the Chariman who pulls the Theatre Arts Guild players together, Wilhelmina Cartwright; and not to be forgotten, the idealistic Edwin Drood him (her) self.

We are all rehearsing with relish and leave the rehearsals feeling energized. We hope to leave the audience wanting more.

A shout out to our wonderful stage Amangers Shannon Nudds and Sebastien Bezeau, they never miss a beat! And, to my

assistant director, Megan Johnson, I say, "I couldn't do it without you!". Don't miss The Mystery of Edwin Drood!  
- Janice Jackson, Director

THEATRE ARTS GUILD PRESENTS  
**The Mystery of Edwin Drood**  
A "who-dunnit" musical romp through Dickens' final novel  
music, book and lyrics by **Rupert Holmes**  
by permission of TAMS-WITMARK Music Library, Inc.  
director **Janice Isabel Jackson**  
producers **Rayna Smith-Camp**  
**EmmaLeigh Rivera**  
**June 2nd - 25th, 2016**  
Tickets 902.451.1221  
www.ticketatlantic.com  
www.tagtheatre.com  
85th Anniversary  
Pond Playhouse  
6 Parkhill Rd.  
Halifax, NS.

Tickets on Sale  
May 13th!

### 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

May/June 2016 Contact

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The spring of 2016 continues to be a very busy time for TAG. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* wrapped up after four successful weeks of performances and after many wonderful reviews. Congratulations again to the cast and crew. There was a great turnout at the end of April for the announcement of the 2016/2017 season. This 86th Season offers a varied selection of plays, including a dramatic

comedy, a classic love story, a crime drama, and the always popular Pantomime. We also announced the return of "Variety Night" and the "Playwrights at TAG Festival". Start writing those one act plays for submission to the selection committee and keep your eye open for audition notices for this event. Special thanks to Esther VanGorder for her hard work in putting this new season together and also to those

who participated in the season launch festivities. Rehearsals for the 85th season finale, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, are well underway and the cast and crew are working hard to prepare for Opening Night on June 2nd. Get ready for an evening of song, dance, laughter and murder. "Off to the races!"

- Rayna Smith-Camp, President

## AUDITIONS

### The Attic, the Pearls & Three Fine Girls

#### The Attic, the Pearls & Three Fine Girls

Director: Elaine Casey

Performance Dates: **Sept 22 – Oct 15, 2016**

Auditions: **Sunday June 26, 2pm-5pm & Monday June 27, 6:30pm -9:30pm**  
at The Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd.

*The Attic, the Pearls and Three Fine Girls*, a poignant, sometimes raucous, comedy about three sisters who can't leave each other – or well enough – alone. A story of love in all its disguises: anger, jealousy, loss and joy, written collectively by Jennifer Brewin, Leah Cherniak, Ann-Marie MacDonald, Alisa Palmer and Martha Ross.

The cast calls for three women, ages roughly 30-50 depending... No preparation needed; scenes will be provided from the script.

Any questions? Call Elaine Casey at 902.431.3816 or e-mail caseyelaine55@gmail.com.



# 2016/2017 TAG SEASON

The Attic, the Pearls & Three Fine Girls

By Jennifer Brewin, Leah Cherniak, Ann-Marie MacDonald, Alisa Palmer & Martha Ross

September 22 – October 15, 2016

Directed by Elaine Casey

The Frog Prince – A Webbed Pantomime

By Cheryl Theriault & Brenda Tyedmers

November 24 – December 10, 2016

Directed by Cheryl Theriault

Pride & Prejudice

By Jane Austen; adapted by Janet Munsil

March 16 – April 8th, 2017

Directed by Gisela O'Brien

Double Indemnity

By James M. Cain. Adapted for the stage by David Pichette & R. Hamilton Wright

June 1 – 24, 2017

Directed by Nick Jupp

## BONUS FEATURES

Return of the Variety Show

Saturday, January 21, 2017

Playwrights at TAG

April 20 - 22, 2017

TAG's biennial showcase of new, one-act plays.

September 7th

7:30pm

Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd.

TAG's

Annual General Meeting

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

## DICKENS & THEATRE

### Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 62nd in a continuing series

Charles Dickens – a thespian? Indeed, though his experiences as an actor, manager, producer and playwright have long been forgotten and eclipsed by his fame as a novelist.

From his youthful years, Dickens was an enthusiastic participant in amateur performances (often held in support of charitable causes connected with hospitals or charities benefitting children). Even though titled amateur theatricals, the cast for such presentations often included professional actors and enjoyed the support of distinguished members of society (including Queen Victoria, to whom, apparently, Dickens offered some hints as to the solving of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. For some reason unknown, Her Majesty didn't pursue the offer!).

In spite of his obsession with the theatre (he made the boast that for three years, he witnessed a performance every day!), Dickens' own plays and plays in collaboration with other writers (notably Wilkie Collins, the author of *The Moonstone* and *The Woman in White*) brought him little success. On the other hand his novels, non-fiction, essays and speeches made him a celebrity and gained him great wealth.

The recent film *The Invisible Woman* (with Ralph Fiennes as the writer) begins with a

performance of Dickens' play *The Frozen Deep* (1857), a collaboration with Collins. Ellen Ternan (aged eighteen at the time)

was one of the professional actresses hired and eventually became Dickens' mistress, precipitating his separation from his wife the following year.

Even though the writer did not himself enjoy theatrical fame, the rich cavalcade of characters (Samuel Pickwick, Pip, Nell and her grandfather, Fagin, Bill Sikes and everybody's favourite Christmas curmudgeon, Ebenezer Scrooge) and incidents in his novels meant that the works were turned into plays soon after publication – though not by the author and therefore causing him great frustration! In our own time the same works have found a new audience as television presentations. (I saw a wonderful serialization of *Bleak House* (2005), starring Charles Dance, Anna Maxwell Martin and Gillian Anderson as Lady Honoria Dedlock). And the musical *Oliver!* (1960, with music and lyrics by Lionel Bart) gave us yet another perspective on this writer, who always had a great story to tell.

And now it's your turn! Dickens left us with one unfinished novel at his death in 1870 – *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. You can help complete this final work by finding out what happened to young Edwin and whose hand did the dastardly deed!

I'll take the envelope now please...And the murderer is!

- Judy Reade

### Community Notes

#### Dartmouth Players presents:

The Dining Room

Visit [www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca) or call 465-PLAY for more info

#### Bedford Players presents:

Anybody for Murder

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

### Coming Soon

#### The Attic, the Pearls & Three Fine Girls

Sept 22nd - Oct 15th

When their father dies and leaves strict instructions for a party instead of a funeral, the three Fine sisters confront their past and present differences and test the bonds of sisterhood in this bittersweet comedy..