

CONTACT

November, 2005

www.tagtheatre.com
info@tagtheatre.com

The Official Newsletter of



Canada's oldest continually operating
community theatre. 74 years and growing!

President's Message

—Esther VanGorder, President



Today (Oct 23rd) is a dark, dreary, wet, and windy day—signaling the true arrival of fall, I guess. Luckily, yesterday was one of those glorious autumn days that we all hope will go on forever.

I say luckily, because yesterday was work party day at the Pond Playhouse. A lot of projects were on the list to be completed, both inside and out. The volunteer workers gave the property a good clean-up (both inside and out), filling a large dumpster on site for the day. Two of the projects that were completed inside the building make for a truly happy president and will, I hope, make the theatre experience more comfortable for some of our patrons:

The first was a realignment of the first three rows of seats on house left. Two of the permanent seats in the front row have been removed and replaced with regular chairs. When we have patrons in wheelchairs, we will be able to take the chairs away and move the wheelchairs into their places. In the past, wheelchairs often ended up being almost a part of the set, which could be rather disconcerting for both audience and actors. The second two rows have been raised slightly to provide better sight lines.

The second project was the enlargement of the doorway into one of our washrooms to make it wheelchair accessible. While the size of the room remains the same, the access to it has been much improved.

Thank you to everyone who came out to help. I'm not going to list names, in case I inadvertently leave someone out—but you all know who you are.

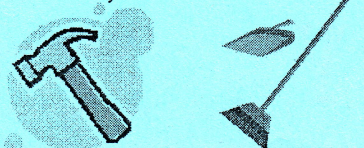
Rich Knowles, chair of the Lobby Expansion Committee, tells me that we are within a hair's breadth of being granted our construction permit by our municipal government†. I'm not sure whether the timing will permit us to start any of the work this fall, but the committee has been working hard to make sure that everything is in place to allow an early start next spring.

Don't forget to reserve your tickets early for our annual Christmas Pantomime, *Shipwreck on Fable Island*, by our own James Boyer. Rehearsals are well underway, and from everything I've heard, we're in for another excellent show.

As this will be my last column before the New Year, I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe Holiday Season.

See you at The Pond!

—Estherprezzie



†The newsletter editor will not permit the accursed three-letter acronym to appear in his publication.

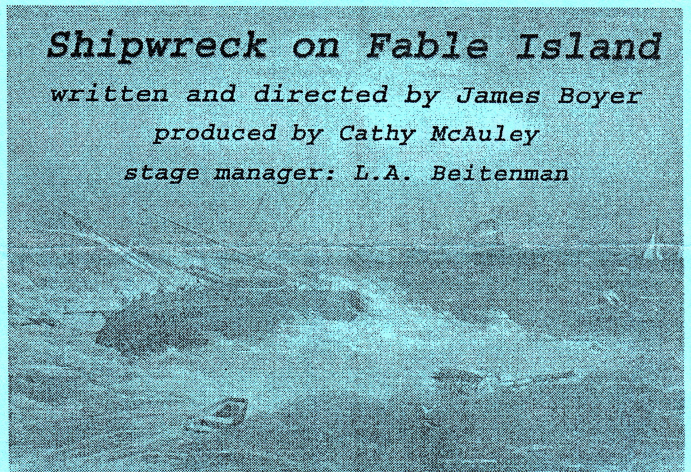
Our Next Production... TAG's Annual Holiday Pantomime

Shipwreck on Fable Island

written and directed by James Boyer

produced by Cathy McAuley

stage manager: L.A. Beitenman



Rollicking Good Fun for the Whole Family!!

December 1st to 18th, 2005

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday

Evenings at 8:00 P.M.

Saturday and Sunday

Matinées at 8:00 P.M.

Book Early to Avoid Disappointment!!

The box office opens November 3rd for members
and November 10th for non-members.

For Reservations Call

477-2663

or visit

www.tagtheatre.com

He Lights Up Our Lives...

Congratulations to Austin Reade, who, at the Annual General Meeting on September 19th, 2005, was awarded the Order of the Grey Squirrel for 2005 in recognition of his work "above and beyond the call of duty" as Technical Director, his devotion to the control room expansion and lighting upgrade project, and all the other myriad tasks he does to keep the Pond Playhouse running smoothly. To acknowledge his long-term, unselfish commitment to the Theatre Arts Guild, Austin was unanimously voted an Honorary Life Member. *

TAG Board, 2005-2006

At the TAG Annual General Meeting on September 19th, a new slate of directors was installed into the TAG board. While many members have stayed on in their positions, there are some new faces and some changed roles.

A big welcome to the new board, and many thanks to last year's board for stellar service to the Theatre Arts Guild.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| President | Esther VanGorder |
| Vice President..... | Deborah Pollock-Post |
| Secretary | Rebecca Humphreys |
| Past President..... | Frank MacLean |
| Treasurer | Carolyn Boyer |
| Artistic Director..... | Nick Jupp |
| Executive Producer..... | Bill VanGorder |
| Technical Director..... | Austin Reade |
| Publicity Manager..... | Michele Moore |
| Building Manager | J Carruth |
| Props/Costume Manager | Judy Reade |
| Reservations Manager | Lynn Bungay |
| Membership Manager..... | Helen Goodwin |
| Newsletter Editor | Eric Rountree |
| Special Projects Manager..... | Rich Knowles |
| Member at Large..... | Hugh Vincent |
| FOH Manager | Frank MacLean |

The Theatre Arts Guild

Location: **Mailing Address:**

The Pond Playhouse *287 Lacewood Drive*
6 Parkhill Road *Unit 103, Suite 412*
Halifax, NS *Halifax, NS B3M 3Y7*

Telephone: (902) 477-2663

Internet: www.tagtheatre.com
 info@tagtheatre.com

Saraguay Club—Dinner & Theatre

The Saraguay Club and The Theatre Arts Guild will be offering a dinner and theatre package (\$37.00 plus tax and gratuities) on Thursday and Friday evenings and a brunch package for Sunday matinées.

During the run of *Shipwreck on Fable Island*, the dinner package will be offered on December 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th, and 16th. Arrive at the Saraguay at 5:30, enjoy a three-course dinner, and then travel to the Pond playhouse by 7:30 for an evening of entertainment.

The Sunday brunch package will be offered on December 4th, 11th, and 18th. Arrive at the Saraguay at 11:30, enjoy a buffet brunch, and then travel to the Pond playhouse by 1:30 for the matinée.

To reserve this package, call TAG at 477-2663.

TAG's 75th Season: Upcoming Productions

Shipwreck on Fable Island

a pantomime by James Boyer
 December 1st to December 18th
 Director: James Boyer

Enchanted April

by Matthew Barber
 from the novel by Elizabeth Von Arnim
 February 23rd to March 11th
 Director: Gisela O'Brien
 Producer: Ann Miller

Red, Hot and Cole

Book by James Bianchi, Muriel McAuley,
 and Randy Strawderman
 Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter
 May 4th to May 20th
 Director: Rebecca Humphreys

Dial "M" for Murder

a mystery by Frederick Knott
 July 6th to July 22nd
 Director: Frank MacLean

Get Regular TAG Updates and Information

You can receive regular e-mail updates about TAG, between newsletters, by registering to be added to the TAG e-mail list.

To be added, send your e-mail address to Bill VanGorder at bill.vangorder@ns.sympatico.ca or visit the constantly-updated TAG website at www.tagtheatre.com and click on "Get TAG Email" and fill out the on-line form. *

More on the Panto...

Get ready for the holiday pantomime! This year we have an original script that incorporates all the elements of the classic pantomime and is guaranteed to entertain audiences of all ages. Set in Storybook Land and Fable Island, this story is one of struggle between good and evil. When the Duke of Earl finds Storybook Land in financial difficulty, he consults with his trusted advisor, Antonio Bandanas. The furry Wuzzles are faced with the dangerous task of saving Fable Island and rescuing the storybook characters. Can they possibly defeat the evil Emera and her no-good son Slick? And do we really trust Antonio? Why is Emera so mean, anyway? What has been happening to the baby Wuzzles? Will Nurse Manly ever find true love? (And for that matter, how do you recognize true love?) Will Dawn Cherry and Brawn MacLean become drama critics? What happened to Red Riding Hood? Where on Earth is the Duchess Aurora, and why did she leave baby Miranda? The answers to all these questions and much more will be revealed! Singing, dancing, comedy, and romance all conspire to provide a delightful holiday entertainment for the whole family.

Shipwreck on Fable Island

Written and directed by James Boyer

Produced by Cathy McAuley

Stage Managed by L.A. Beitenman

December 1st - Opening Night Gala

December 2nd - \$5 Night

Shows are sold out very early for the pantomime, so book early to avoid disappointment! *

Tennis, Anyone?

TAG member seeks tennis partner

Deb Post, TAG's current vice-president, is looking for a tennis partner. Deb took up tennis in Bangladesh last year and enjoys playing on the city courts. She played frequently in Dhaka and could be called an experienced beginner. If you are interested in playing tennis with Deb, please e-mail her at:

debpost@ns.sympatico.ca *

Auction Alert!

April 1st, in combination with TAG's Variety Night, is the 2nd Annual Silent Auction Event!

Cheryl Theriault is organizing another fabulous group of luxury items for your bidding pleasure. She also happens to be looking for those items right now. If you have any products, services, or unique talents OR connections to anyone with products, services, or talents, CALL CHERYL NOW at 492-0838.

Call even if you're not sure if what you have to offer is worthy; Cheryl will probably assure you that it is. *

Artistic Committee

—Nick Jupp, Artistic Director

If you would like to join the 2006 play reading committee, please contact Nick Jupp at njupp@dymaxion.ca or 477-8697. Each season, the committee accepts submissions from members and potential directors. The plays are passed around the committee for reading and comment, a process which helps the artistic director make a final recommendation to the board for the following season.

The committee does meet occasionally to discuss the plays being read, and sometimes plays will be read through together by committee members to get a better feel for a script.

If you enjoy reading plays and discussing them with others, this committee is for you. We have several volunteers already, but more are needed. *

Audition Notice

Enchanted April

The Theatre Arts Guild announces auditions for *Enchanted April* by Matthew Barber, which will run at the Pond Playhouse from February 23rd to March 11th, 2006.

"To those who appreciate wisteria and sunshine..." director Gisela O'Brien is looking for a cast of eight, including two post-World-War-One desperate housewives, 35-45 years of age; two men of matching age, perhaps older; one woman, 20-30 years of age; one man of matching age, perhaps older; one mature woman with a matronly bent; and one mature woman with an Italian twist.

The audition will consist of a reading from the script; no other preparation is necessary. Auditions will be held as follows:

- Sunday, December 4th at St. Augustine's Church from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
- Monday, December 5th at St. Augustine's Church from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

St. Augustine's Anglican Church is located at 290 Purcell's Cove Rd.

Call-backs, if required, will be held on Tuesday, December 6th at the Pond Playhouse from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

For more information please call or e-mail Esther VanGorder, stage manager (453-4077 or esthervangorder@ns.sympatico.ca) or Gisela O'Brien, director (422-9859 or gobrien@dal.ca). *



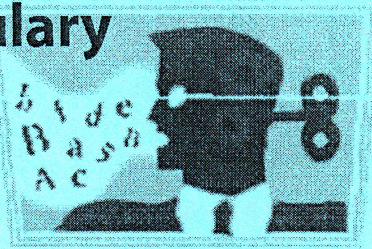
Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary

The Humble Stage Flat

(The twelfth in a continuing series)

—Judy Reade, Props/Wardrobe Mistress

I hope that many of you were able to enjoy *The Affections of May*, the first production of this 75th Anniversary season. As you sat in your seat at the Pond Playhouse, what you saw in front of you was that staple of the amateur and professional theatre – the *box set*, which on this occasion represented the living room of May's B & B in the small town of Grogan's Cove. The living room made up three sides of the 'box,' and you (as spectators) made up the fourth side. As to the components of the *box set*, say hello to the *stage flat*, a frame of wood covered traditionally in canvas or muslin, and fastened together with others to represent the walls, doors and windows of an interior. (If the setting had been outside, and the flats represented the open sky or a landscape, then the term *scenic flat* would be the correct one to use). The standard size for a flat is four feet by eight feet, with larger flats increasing in six-inch increments in width, and two-foot increments in height.



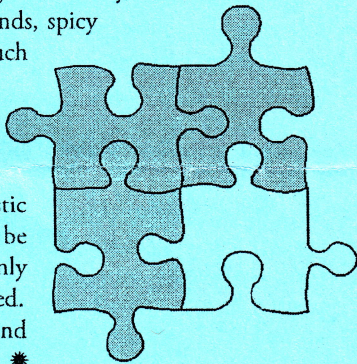
Now here's your homework vocabulary for this evening! The long, upright wooden sections of the frame are called *stiles*, and the cross members the *rails*. At the corners, the wood is joined by small triangles of thin plywood. As to attaching the canvas cover, staples or glue can be used, prior to the fabric being sized, that is coated with a thin layer of warm glue, a process which shrinks and stiffens the material to provide a good surface for painting. Flats covered with canvas are *soft flats*, whereas *hard flats* (also *Hollywood flats*) are covered with quarter-inch plywood. Hollywood flats, as the name implies, had their origin in the film industry, where a more robust flat was required, particularly for outside film sequences. Finally, to ensure stability, flats must be braced, with sometimes a sandbag or stage weight added at the base for additional steadiness. Stage weights are made of iron and look rather like bullion bars. Sandbags are more flexible and a lot less painful on the toes if you happen to collide with one backstage! *

"Puzzle Night" Returns

—John Gratwick, Puzzler Extraordinaire

The Next TAG Members' New Year's Tournament (aka "Puzzle Night") will be held on Saturday, January 7th, 2006. The format of this event will follow the same pattern as 2005's very successful and hilarious event, with completely different tasks and challenges—bridge building, digital dexterity, musical letters, strip-teasing, ropes ends, spicy smells, touchy-feelys—and much more.

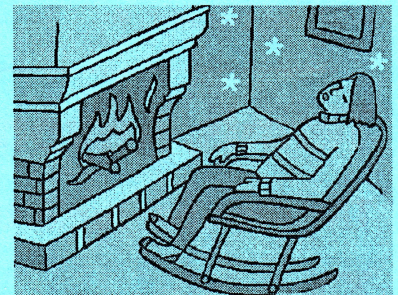
Attendance is limited, so book early (reservations will be taken from December 17th onwards). To preserve domestic harmony, teams (of 2) will be established more or less randomly after participants have arrived. Please plan to arrive at the Pond Playhouse by 7:45 at the latest. *



Reminiscences Requested

—Deb Post, Vice-President

This being TAG's 75th Anniversary season, we are planning a celebration to take place in 2006 (date to be announced). Anyone with charming, funny, poignant, or otherwise interesting reminiscences is welcome to send them in. Please submit your stories to:



E-Mail: debpost@ns.sympatico.ca
Postal Mail: Debora Post
3 Melvin Road
Halifax, NS
B3P 2H5 *

Support Our Friends

Dartmouth Players
presents
Lend Me a Tenor
November 9th to 24th 2005
Crichton Avenue Centre, Dartmouth, NS
Tickets: \$12.00 adults; \$10.00 students/seniors
For reservations call 465-PLAY (7529)
www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

CentreStage Theatre
presents
Sorry! Wrong Chimney!
November 5th to December 17th 2005
Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 P.M.
61 River Street
Kentville, Nova Scotia
For information call (902)678-8040