



CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



THE POND PLAYHOUSE
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Next at TAG: My Narrator & The Death of Me Feb. 14th - Mar. 2nd

Well...now that you have settled down and begun the process of paying off that big Christmas credit card bill you can rest assured that the cold winter ahead still has lots to offer. What better way to beat the February blues than to come to the Pond Playhouse and see two (that's right) two Norm Foster plays.

My Narrator

Ever hear those voices in your head telling you to do the right thing or advising you against doing the wrong thing?? What do you think would happen if those voices took on a life of their own? In Norm Foster's My Narrator the voices attempt to guide two troubled would be lovers through their sputtering relationship only to find the voices themselves becoming attracted to each other and need to manipulate their respective hosts in order to continue their celestial relationship.

The Death of Me

What if you found yourself at the desk of the Angel of Death and you weren't quite ready to cash in just yet? If the angel gave you a second chance to go back to earth and 12 hours to do something life altering... what would you do? In this play our hero finds that

daunting task more difficult than he imagined but he'll do anything to make sure his mom doesn't find him dead in his apartment after a long weekend. PHEW...

What I enjoy about Foster's work both as an actor and especially as a director is his ability to make us, the audience, see a little of ourselves in the characters and still be able to laugh at the situation.

I look forward to directing these two entertaining and enlightening one acts and I can't think of a better way to get over the February blues than to come to our warm inviting little community theatre and laugh your proverbial behinds off at Foster's genius of mixing comedy and real life situations in order to teach us all a life lesson. I assure you will leave this theatre both entertained as well as enlightened. Thanks.

- Frank MacLean, Director



Tickets on Sale Feb. 18th

TAG Ticket Prices

\$13 Members/Seniors/Students
\$16 Non-members

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees except where tickets are purchased online (\$2 per online session)

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 (\$2 per session)
- Ticket Atlantic Box Office

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

President's Message

Moving into our second part of our theatre season, we ended 2012 with another successful pantomime, Camelot the Panto. Every performance was sold out before opening. The show was enjoyed by everyone who attended and the cast and crew had a wonderful stage experience. It is always delightful to see audiences come away from a show with a smile on their faces. This show definitely put folks into the spirit of the holidays! I was so proud to be a part of this incredible production!

Theatre Arts Guild moves into the year 2013 with a new project in mind. Playwrights @ TAG is a new initiative- a fun-filled festival for members who'd like to write something and see it being performed. The idea, though new to TAG, is not unique to theatre. We hope this will encourage our membership to come out and share their talents and/or inspire new members to our theatre.

Our next production at TAG is none other than two one act plays by Canada's finest comedic playwright, Norm Foster. In the directing hands of veteran TAG member Frank MacLean, these two shows will prove to be a great way to get rid of those winter blues. Mark them on your calendars!

Theatre Arts Guild continues to become a more common place for new members. Nice to see new faces not only in the audiences but involved in productions. Welcome, to all our new volunteers. We hope you continue to support our group. Also a warm welcome back for all of our veteran supporters without whom we would not be so successful! Happy New Year everyone!

- Angela Butler, President

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!

- Celebrate a special occasion/event
- Cherish the memory of a loved one
 - Record a milestone
- Raise your company's community profile
- Show your support for the arts

Camelot the Panto a Hit!

Camelot the Panto was a huge success, selling out every show before they even opened! Audiences were in love with this hilarious show.



Camelot the Panto

Directing at TAG

Have you ever wanted to direct or produce a theatrical production?

The Artistic Committee would like to hear from persons interested in either directing or producing one of TAG's productions for the 2013/2014 season, and for future seasons.

Please contact Rayna Smith-Camp, Artistic Director, through the TAG website to express your interest. A brief summary of your past directing or producing experience would be helpful. Even if you have no prior experience, feel free to respond as TAG will provide mentors to guide you through the process.

Please leave your contact information should further information be required.

Prize Draw!

Congratulations to Lindsay Cary, winner of the *Camelot* door prize drawn on closing night. Lindsey has won a gift basket valued at \$200, including items such as a *Camelot the Panto* t-shirt and all the puppets displayed in the lobby.

TAG at the Library

It seems a little early to be thinking of Valentine's Day, but the TAG @ the Library Outreach Group will be once again visiting the Keshen Goodman Branch Library (330 Lacewood Drive) in February, to present a short programme of comedies with a theme appropriate to the season. Our date this year is Saturday, February 16th, starting at 2:30 p.m. We will be presenting two pieces – "Oh! Matilda!" by Cyril Campion and "French as She is Learnt" by E.F. Watling.

"Oh! Matilda!" introduces us to James Smith and his wife, married for twenty years. Matilda arrives home from a shopping trip stating that she is bored and tired, doesn't like the house and wants to get away. In addition, she has caught a glimpse of an old lover. South of France, here we come! The subtitle of "French as She is Learnt" is 'A glimpse of French domestic life, as gathered from school textbooks.' Madame Duhamel has a lover – Monsieur Claude Dubois. M. Dubois wonders why Madame has not answered his letters.

Monsieur Duhamel arrives home unexpectedly. Alas, M. Dubois will leave the house just as unexpectedly!

We will be making a second excursion in March, to the Woodlawn Branch in Dartmouth (31 Eisener Boulevard). On Saturday, March 23rd at 2:30 p.m., we will be presenting the two plays above, plus another piece by E.F. Watling – "All Right on the Night." This comedy details how not to present a play. The actors know their lines, but someone hasn't checked the items on the set and the person in charge of props has left most of them behind in the dressing room. The actors are left to cope, somehow.

We welcome you to the Halifax or Dartmouth (or both!) performance. There's no admission charge and the laughs are guaranteed. The members of our cast are Cathy Cameron, Lorraine Cantwell, Rick Eng, Helen Goodwin, Debora Pollock, Rayna Smith-Camp and Jonathan Tyson.
- Judy Reade, Producer

Audition Call A Man for All Seasons

Calling all men!! This marvellous play wants you to be a part of it. We are delighted to be putting on Robert Bolt's masterpiece at TAG. The play revolves around Sir Thomas More whose loyalty to King Henry VIII was questioned when More, on point of principle, opposed the King's marriage to Anne Boleyn. The pungent personalities, the political intrigues at court, the sly sarcastic wit, the sincerity of family, the foolhardiness of the false and frivolous – it's all there and gives a lot of scope and is sure to challenge your talent.

The cast calls for 10 men and there are 3 juicy women's roles. Age ranges are from 20-50 for the women and 30-65 for the men. Come and strut your stuff. Director Gisela O'Brien is looking for people who are interested in doing historical drama and being a part of a TAG production. She would love to see you and hear you read even if you haven't been involved in theatre for a while.

If you are interested in putting on one of Roberta Palmer's velvet capes, or want to walk on Sandi Siverski's set, or want to stand in the colour of Austin Reade's lighting wizardry – then this is for you. Bill VanGorder produces, Cathy McAuley is stage-managing, Esther VanGorder is designing Sound, Roz Marshall is dressing the set.

Auditions take place at TAG's Pond Playhouse:

Monday, January 14th 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Tuesday, January 15th 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Please call Gisela at 422-9859 or e-mail her at gobrien@dal.ca if you have any questions at all or would like a copy of the script in advance.

Want to volunteer?
volunteer@tagtheatre.com

Check out TAG on Facebook and Twitter
[facebook.com/TAGHalifax](https://www.facebook.com/TAGHalifax)
[@TAGtheatre](https://twitter.com/TAGtheatre)

Make 'Em Laugh

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 45th in a continuing series...

It's something of an unwritten law that at TAG we schedule a comedy in the February/March slot. The excitement of Christmas is long past and the routine of coping with rain, snow and slush is already wearing thin. We need to laugh out loud!

Our choice this season is two one-act comedies by Norm Foster, author of 41 plays and Canada's most produced playwright. Mr. Foster is no stranger to TAG audiences, since we've presented six of his pieces since 1999—*Opening Night*; *Melville Boys*; *The Affections of May*; *Office Hours* and *Drinking Alone*. His latest play, *Hilda's Yard*, premiered at Theatre New Brunswick in October, with a TAG connection. In the cast, as Beverly, was Gordon Gammie, who, as an amateur actor appeared frequently on the TAG stage and was a Vice President of the Guild in the 1980s.

As far as the comedic form is concerned, TAG started off on the right foot, with *Dover Road* by A.A. Milne (then enjoying considerable success with his plays on the London stage. His fame as a children's author came later). And

here I have to stop and don my hat as TAG's Archivist to scan the list of productions and follow our comedic record since May of 1931. Although the early seasons were weighted heavily towards drama, mystery and thrillers, comedy has certainly held its own, and the Guild seems to have tried a bit of everything, from the classics (the 18th century staples *School for Scandal* by Richard Brinsley Sheridan and *She Stoops to Conquer* by Oliver Goldsmith, plus *The Miser*, a translation of Moliere's *L'Avare*) to the classics of more recent times, notably the works of George Bernard Shaw – *Pygmalion*, *Candida* and *The Apple Cart*. It's worth noting that *Candida* was in rehearsal on January the 25th 1959, when The Playhouse (the former College Street School) burned to the ground. Possessed obviously with a 'Never-say-die' attitude, the Guild carried on and the play was performed on the stage of St. Pat's High School, February 13th and 14th.

Harold Pinter has been a modern favourite – we've featured *Dumb Waiter*, *The Cocktail Party* and, in

2007, paired *The Lover* and *Night School*. The former (with a cast of Phil Reid and Vanessa Walton Bone) was taken to the Liverpool International Festival in 2008, winning the prize for Best Canadian Production. In addition, Vanessa was given the prize for Best Actress.

And yes, we've done those hoary old chestnuts which every amateur company tackles at some point in their history – *Lady Audley's Secret*, *Charlie's Aunt* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (three times, so far!). If there's been such a thing as a favourite author of comedies, it's been Noel Coward. We've presented *Hay Fever* twice (fifty years apart – in 1936 and 1986), *Nude with Violin* twice, *Blithe Spirit* twice and *Present Laughter* (in September 2011).

So, be prepared to continue a tradition and laugh the winter blues away with *The Death of Me* and *My Narrator*, by a man who knows comedy inside out!
-Judy Reade



Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents *Run for Your Wife*. A taxi driver gets away with having two wives in different areas of London because of his irregular working schedule. Feb. 6 - 23. Visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY for more info.

Bedford Players presents *The Mousetrap*, a famous murder mystery by Agatha Christie full of twists and turns and surprise endings, Apr. 18 - May 4. Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more info.

Mark Your Calendars

A Man for All Seasons (Apr. 18 - May 4, 2013) Written by Robert Bolt and loved by audiences all over the world, this classic is a rich costume drama, set in the time of King Henry VIII. This well-loved play explores moral issues of silence and consent, still relevant today. Directed by Gisela O'Brien.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (June 20 - July 6 2013) This fun and innovative musical, fresh from Broadway, has played all over the world. Joining the cast of nine, are willing audience volunteers, making each performance unique.