



# CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



THE POND PLAYHOUSE  
6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX NS  
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## Next at TAG: Camelot the Panto - Nov. 29 - Dec. 15

What could be more fitting than a pantomime about the legendary Camelot. A place where myths of wizards and sorcerers were commonplace and fairytale romances were created. But unlike the original fable, this pantomime adds a few twists.

More-Dread the evil sorcerer and his wicked band of misfits have devised a scheme to kidnap Guinevere just before she's to wed Prince Arthur. Laughlot, the court jester, who wants to be a knight, lacks the courage. Will he gain his bravery in time to help Prince Arthur save Guinevere? Or will Merlin conjure a spell to save the day?

These are just a few questions that will be answered as the drawbridge is lowered into Camelot.

"There's simply not a more congenial spot for happily-ever-aftering than here in Camelot"

- Angela Butler, Director

Theatre Arts Guild presents

# Camelot the Panto

by Ben Crocker

Directed by Angela Butler  
Musical Direction by Bunny Shore  
Produced by Charles Salmon  
Stage Managed by Lorne Abramson  
Choreography by Melanie Dumaresq and Jessa Miklos

**November 29th - December 15th**  
with Five 2pm Matinees

Tickets can be purchased at all Ticket Atlantic outlets, online at [www.ticketatlantic.com](http://www.ticketatlantic.com) or by phone at 451-1221

Tickets are \$16 regular and \$13 for members, seniors and students

**THEATRE ARTS GUILD**  
Pond Playhouse  
6 Parkhill Road, Halifax  
Just off the Purcell's Cove Road  
Past the Frog Pond  
[www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com)

## Tickets on Sale Now!

### 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](http://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

Time sure flies by! We are already in "pantomime season". Theatre Arts Guild has transformed into a workshop-like environment with music and dance rehearsals in one room while the set is being built and the costumes are being prepared. Busy! Busy! Soon the cast and crew will present to audiences *Camelot the Panto*. This is sure to be a big hit!

*God of Carnage* just closed with some wonderful reviews. A thought-provoking play that has all the merits that live theatre provides. The cast and crew deserve accolades for all their hard work.

Theatre Arts Guild just held an Open House that was very well attended. The public was invited to the theatre to see what we are all about. At times, the lobby was full of people looking at our costume and prop display while the theatre studio showed off samples of our sets and a lighting demonstration.

Upstairs in Gratwick Hall, rehearsals for plays were being simulated and a Question and Answer session was created with a few directors, actors and producers. It was great opportunity TAG to meet the public in a different setting. A huge thanks to Chantelle Dooley for all her hard work in organizing this day.

The talents and skills of people never cease to amaze me. We are so fortunate at Theatre Arts Guild to have so many creative members. I want to keep building this network of volunteers so we can continue to bring more marvellous theatre to HRM.

- 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](http://tagtheatre.com) or email [seatsale@tagtheatre.com](mailto: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

## Grey Squirrel Award

Dave Seager (right), accompanied by his wife Helene (centre), is awarded the Order of the Grey Squirrel by Nick Jupp, for outstanding contribution to the theatre.



## Meet the 2012-2013 TAG Board of Directors



Welcome to the 2012-2013 Board of Directors!

From Left: Chantelle Dooley, Charles Salmon, Judy Reade, Bill VanGorder, Angela Butler, Nick Jupp, Elaine Casey, Carolyn Boyer, Rayna Smith-Camp, Darrel O'Neil.

Missing: Emily Jewer, Phillip Joy, Austin Reade, J Carruth, Valerie Dubois, Cathy McAuley

## Prize Draw!

Congratulations to Linda Slater, winner of the *God of Carnage* door prize drawn on closing night. Linda has won two tickets to TAG upcoming production *Camelot the Panto*. Enjoy the show Linda!

# Open House Brings New Faces to TAG

Did you know that in the last year, 43 people contacted TAG to volunteer? Of those 43 only 9 got involved. As Volunteer Coordinator, I have found it difficult to transition people from "I'd like to volunteer" to having them actually become a volunteer. The idea to have an Open House was discussed by Angela and Charles (President and Publicity Director), and I thought it was a perfect way to introduce people to TAG and to see what we do here.

The Open House was a huge success. We welcomed the community into our theatre but it became so much more. It became a celebration of TAG! We are familiar with coming to the theatre for a purpose (to work on a play), so it was wonderful to have the chance to chat with each other in a social setting. Not only did the public see what we do, but some of us who have been volunteering at TAG for years were also able to see the work that is done by other volunteers. One member who has been heavily involved with TAG for 6 years was surprised to learn about the process of designing lighting for a show, "I had no idea there was so much planning and so many

choices to be made. It's really amazing the amount of work and talent that goes into a production!"

We welcomed 40 people into the theatre that day, some who have never been to the theatre before. The goal of the day was to help potential volunteers transition from wanting to get involved to actually doing it. Sign-up sheets were available and guests were encouraged to sign-up for various roles for the next 4 shows. The sheets were filled and those people are now on their way to becoming our newest TAG volunteers!

TAG's Open House was another example of the magic that can be created by a group of dedicated volunteers. 36 members stepped up to create displays as well as share their knowledge and passion about their part in TAG. A huge thank you goes out to all of the TAG Ambassadors for coming together that day. It was a team effort, and what a team we have!

As our President, Angela Butler said, "We not only opened our doors, we welcomed the community and that is huge!"

- Chantelle Dooley

## Audition Call Death of Me/My Narrator

Mixing "truetolife" with "unbelievable" is what Canadian playwright Norm Foster does best. That and deliver laughs! These two one-act plays will be directed by Frank MacLean. Performance dates: Feb. 14 to Mar. 2, 2013.

Audition Dates & Times:  
Sunday, November 25, 2012, 7-9 p.m.  
Monday, November 26, 2012, 7-9 p.m.

Location:  
Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd.  
(off the Purcell's Cove Rd.)

Cast of Characters Required: 4 men and 4 women

No appointments or prepared monologues are necessary. You will be asked to read scenes from the play. For additional information, please call director Frank MacLean at 466-2805 or email [frank.maclean@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:frank.maclean@ns.sympatico.ca).

## God of Carnage a Success!



Actors Ellen Oldford, Michael Taylor, Stephanie Mason and Frank MacLean perform a scene from *God of Carnage*.



# One of the Great Legends

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 44th in a continuing series...

As much as one would like to think that King Arthur was an historical figure, after reading several articles in preparation for this column, the consensus would appear to be that he is a fictional creation. But, as so often happens, what begins as references in Welsh and Breton (French) sources to a mighty warrior whose speciality is dispatching fanciful monsters, takes on a life of its own, adding elements with every telling, until it is impossible to separate fiction from what may, or may not, have been a factual basis.

The earliest literary accounts place Arthur as ruling during the late 5th and early 6th centuries. Based in England, he fought against the invaders coming from Saxony. Geoffrey of Monmouth, who produces the first narrative account of Arthur's rule in *Historia Regum Britanniae* (History of the Kings of Britain), appearing in 1138, makes claims that, through his bravery and the support of his Knights, the King was able to expand

his influence to Ireland, Iceland, the Orkney Islands and even Norway. Geoffrey also introduces other characters, events and places which become standard in subsequent texts. (We're centuries away from copyright protection of course in 1138, so wholesale and partial borrowing from author to author is common!). He names Uther Pendragon as Arthur's father; the wizard Merlin; Guinevere, Arthur's Queen; the sword Excalibur and the King's final resting place, Avalon.

The Arthurian stories are just as popular in France as they are in England, since they fit well with the established literary style of romances – tales of chivalrous deeds displaying loyalty, bravery and adherence to moral and religious codes. These romances, popular during the 12th and 13th centuries, shift the attention away somewhat from Arthur and introduce the Knights Lancelot, Galahad, Gawain, and the love story of Tristan and Isolde.

With the number of tales,

and their sources, multiplying, the English writer Thomas Malory attempts to draw everything together in a single work, *Le Morte d'Arthur* (1485). As Geoffrey of Monmouth's work had served as a first benchmark, Malory's becomes the second, and then Alfred Lord Tennyson's *Idylls of the King* (1859) the third. The legend therefore, is constantly being revised, reinterpreted and expanded, with the inevitable musical (by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe) appearing in 1960.

Having taken you through Arthur's history, I now have to ask you to set all you know aside! True, our pantomime is set in Camelot, the King's principal court and true, Arthur is about to marry Guinevere, which some folk aren't happy about – but beyond that – you'll have to wait and see. And did I mention the disappearing piece of furniture - I'm sure that wasn't in anybody's version! Hope you enjoy our pantomime!

- Judy Reade

## Community Notes

**Dartmouth Players** presents *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. This award winning musical recounts the good times and the demise of the Chicken Ranch, known since the 1850s as one of the better pleasure palaces in all of Texas. Nov. 7 - 25 2012. Visit [www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca) or call 465-PLAY for more info.

**Bedford Players** presents *Move Over Mrs. Markham* by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. Directed by Robin Saywood the show follows a hectic and hilarious evening when different sets of hopeful lovers all converge on the bedroom of the Markhams' supposedly empty flat. Oct. 25 - Nov. 10, 2012. Visit [www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca](http://www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca) or call 832-3300 for more info.

## Mark Your Calendars

***The Death of Me/My Narrator*** (Feb. 14- Mar. 2, 2013) Mixing "true to life" with "unbelievable" is what Canadian playwright Norm Foster does best; and deliver laughs! There is no better way to beat the February blues. You'll leave the theatre feeling better because you laughed and learned something about humanity, all at the same time. Directed by Frank MacLean.

***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.