



CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



THE POND PLAYHOUSE
6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX NS
INFO@TAGTHEATRE.COM

NEXT AT TAG...AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE

Join us April 13-30, 2011 for TAG's production of *An Enemy of the People*, written by Henrik Ibsen and directed by Gisela O'Brien. *An Enemy of the People* is a powerful drama and one of the most frequently performed plays by the writer widely regarded as the "father of modern drama". It speaks as strongly to today's issues as it did when it was written 150 years ago.

What happens when science is at odds with politics? When, if ever, is pollution within "acceptable limits"? And who decides? Who has a handle on the truth? The scientist? His findings might destroy a town's future. The politician? He wants to keep his job. The businessman? He just wants to make money. Does the general populace own the truth? They are notoriously fickle. The media? They're looking for a story.

Ibsen wrote this play in 1882 but the issues are eerily relevant today - Walkerton, the Oil Sands. Though he confronts his viewers with large questions of environment, economy, and human health, his genius is in the portrayal of ordinary human beings who get caught up in circumstances beyond them. Where do we stand when the truth does not make us "free", but rather fetters us to unwelcome decisions, which threaten our own moral integrity, our friendships, and our family?

~ Gisela O'Brien, Director



**Tickets on Sale
Friday, March 11, 2011
Ticket Atlantic**

Buy Your Tickets

- * At the 23 participating Atlantic Superstore outlets
- * Charge by Phone at (902) 451-1221
- * At the door (subject to availability)
- * Online at www.ticketatlantic.com (\$2 fee per online session)
- * Ticket Atlantic Box Office

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)

Mailing Address: Theatre Arts Guild 287 Lacewood rive Unit 103 Suite 412 Halifax N.S. B3M 3Y7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to spring. At least I hope that's the case as I write this in early March. Our winter play *Deathtrap* included the word "peripeteia". It's a word used in drama that means an abrupt change in events, and I sincerely hope our March weather has not decided to be overly dramatic. It's been a while since we produced a thriller and *Deathtrap* was both challenging and a lot of fun for everybody involved.

We have now completed three of our five-play season and are looking forward to Arthur Miller's adaptation of Ibsen's *Enemy of the People*. This play, originally written in Norwegian, has also been adapted for the big screen

and television. It contains the very famous line "the strongest man in the world is the man who stands most alone" which is a concept very important to the story. It's tough to swim upstream when everybody is against you, it's only the very bravest that can sustain their efforts and survive.

Work is continuing on our 80th anniversary May celebration and we hope you will come out and enjoy this musical extravaganza during its short run. We are also plodding on with design and fundraising work hoping to add a scenery workshop onto The Pond Playhouse. Some are referring to this as the RPPR (retired persons play room) but in

all seriousness, a properly laid out and equipped scenery shop will make a huge difference to TAG operations. At the moment The Pond Playhouse is a bit like a house without a kitchen, the carpentry and other work required for each set is done on the stage, in the parking lot, in borrowed spaces or member's homes. The dust, noise, paint, garbage etc. associated with set construction all wind up in the theatre, which is not a good thing. Your ideas, assistance and financial help are all welcome as this project moves forward.

~ Nick Jupp, TAG President

80 Years of Musicals! May 13-14, 2011

The Theatre Arts Guild is 80 years old and we have a special celebration planned for Friday May 13th and Saturday May 14th, at 8 pm. Mark your calendar today and then join us for the original revue - *80 Years of Musicals!*

We will be celebrating the special tunes and special shows, which have delighted our audiences over the years. Music has always played an important

part in our productions and we're taking the time to remember 'the best of the best.' Along with solo numbers from TAG's best singers, we will have excerpts from *The Boy Friend, Oklahoma, Red, Hot and Cole* and many more.

Check our website for more details later, but for the moment, please consider joining us in May for a time of fun, nostalgia and memorable music!

Bloody Great!

During February and March, audiences were kept on the edge of their seats watching TAG's production of the comedic thriller *Deathtrap*.

Kate Watson of The Coast called it "bloody good fun, with the emphasis on "bloody" and "an entertaining evening of murder and mayhem."



Valerie MacKenzie (left) and Michele Moore (right) play a scene in *Deathtrap*.

Scholarship in Costume Design

A new scholarship has been endowed for Dalhousie's Theatre Department, to be known as the 'Lyn Gratwick Theatre Arts Guild Scholarship in Costume Design.' The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student entering their fourth year of the Costume Studies program. Lyn would have approved!

Contributions to the endowment fund are welcomed and may enable the scholarship to be extended or perhaps, eventually, duplicated. Your tax deductible contribution may be made to Dalhousie University. If you would like further information, call John Gratwick at 423-1606.

Lyn Gratwick and her family moved to Halifax in 1983 which led to 25 years of costume work. Lyn designed, made, adapted, borrowed and loaned costumes - first with the Gilbert and Sullivan Society and then, for the majority of the time, with the Theatre Arts Guild. She did it all very well, and loved every moment.

AUDITION CALL

Laundry and Bourbon and Lone Star

Mix a hot Texas afternoon with bourbon and confidences and you have two funny one-act companion plays. Written by James McLure and directed by Elaine Casey (*Laundry and Bourbon*) and Bill VanGorder (*Lone Star*), the show will run June 23 - July 9, 2011.

Audition Dates & Times:

Sunday April 17, 7-9 p.m.

Monday April 18, 7-9 p.m.

Location:

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

Roles for Laundry and Bourbon:

- Elizabeth, a strong, capable woman devoid of self-pity but with a difficult problem
- Hattie, a blowsy, brassy woman with an adage for every occasion but whose life is not as she planned
- Amy Lee, a sassy, spoiled Baptist with a nose for gossip and a country club lifestyle

Roles for Lone Star:

- Roy, a belligerent, alcoholic Vietnam veteran who can't seem to live in the present
- Ray, Roy's younger, bigger and much slower brother
- Cletis, a loser whose life seems to move forward in spite of himself

Cold reads from the script will be provided and appointments are not necessary.

For additional information, email the directors: Elaine Casey (elainecasey@eastlink.ca) for Laundry and Bourbon or Bill VanGorder (billvangorder@eastlink.ca) for Lone Star.

The Theatre Arts Guild is a registered Canadian charity and is operated entirely by volunteers. Support your community theatre today. All donations are tax deductible.

JOIN TAG IN CELEBRATING IT'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY!!

Dedicate a Seat for \$500 and take a permanent place in the history of the Pond Playhouse
Your seat will be identified with an engraved plaque.

- ▶ 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

Your contribution is tax deductible.

All proceeds to the TAG Capital Campaign.

Visit www.tagtheatre.com or email

seatsale@tagtheatre.com

for more information about
this exciting fundraiser.!

**60%+
SOLD**

Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents *Funny Money* written by Ray Cooney and directed by Cliff Tyner. *Funny Money* is a frenetically comic farce in the best British tradition. It follows the hilarious adventures of Henry Perkins, a mild-mannered accountant who accidentally picks up a briefcase full of money. The show is scheduled for March 30 to April 16, 2011. Call 465-PLAY or visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca for more information.

Bedford Players presents *Marplot*, Maria Plumb and Rob Thompson's adaptation of Susanna Centlivre's classic 17th century play. Directed by Karen Waterfield, the play is inspired by the Elizabethan age of theatre. This popular play was in productions for over 150 years, and was updated in 2003 for new audiences to enjoy. The show runs April 28 to May 14, 2011. Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more information..

March 2011 CONTACT

ROMANTICISM AND BEYOND

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 36th in a continuing series...

I have mentioned in this series before how very lucky we are in this modern age (thanks in large part to technological devices) to have access to such a broad range of artistic choices. At the press of a button, we hear the type of music we enjoy most, we watch the type of television programming and films we enjoy most, and the list goes on. We can choose whatever interests us or arouses our sympathies, whether it is from the past or the present. In previous centuries, such access and such a range of choices was not available. Artistic development relied on well-defined structures, forms and expressions which lasted decades, sometimes hundreds of years. Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) lived during a period termed the 'Late Romantic Era,' which spanned the second half of the nineteenth century. Romanticism as a movement, (that is, the attempt to introduce more emotional content and feeling and hence more power into a work) dates from the early years of the nineteenth century, and evolved

from what is called the Classical Period. Romanticism, as a genre, allowed for not only the expansion of existing forms but more personal input on the part of the creator, which, by the Late Period saw new elements being introduced.

One of these elements is termed 'Nationalism,' the use of various artistic forms to celebrate the culture of a particular country. Such forms sought to incorporate folk songs and dances, costume, and especially tales and legends defining heroes and heroines both natural and supernatural. (If anyone attended the operas presented at the Cohn by the music students of Dalhousie University recently, you will have seen a 20th century example of 'Nationalism' by the Czech composer Bohuslav Martinu. His *Comedy on the Bridge* could be set in any war-torn country, but the dance rhythms which broke out every now and then were definitely Czech!). Ibsen, as his contribution, constructed a verse play on the Norwegian folk hero *Peer Gynt* (1867), which has not found favour

among Western audiences, though the incidental music and songs by Edvard Grieg have remained popular.

With the success of some early works, Ibsen had the fortitude to introduce his own ideas and moralistic judgments into his plays – He called this "the drama of ideas," but which is described as 'Realism,' or 'Naturalism' in the shifting sands of the Late Romantic. 'Realism' is the attempt to describe people and places and actions as they are observed, rather than adhering to some prescribed formulae which cover all situations and all classes of society. (By the way, we are nowhere near the realism of the 'Kitchen Sink' dramas of the 1950s and 60s, as exemplified in the plays of John Osborne and Arnold Wesker, but it's a start!).

Putting all the labels aside, prepare to be drawn in to the life of Dr. Thomas Stockmann and the dilemma which faces him. His creator is truly one of the fathers of modern theatre. ~ Judy Reade

Renew Your TAG Membership!

\$15	Regular
\$25	Family
\$10	Senior (60+)
\$10	Student

Membership benefits include:
\$3 discount off admission,
newsletters and invitations
to special members-only events.
Visit www.tagtheatre.com
for more information.

Want to Volunteer?
volunteer@tagtheatre.com
for more information

Join TAG on
Facebook
Today!

Email your submissions to:
newsletter@tagtheatre.com

Upcoming Shows Mark Your Calendar!

Laundry and Bourbon / Lone Star - Two funny one-act companion plays written by James McLure (June 23 - July 9, 2011)

80 Years of Musicals - A celebration of TAG's 80th anniversary (May 13-14, 2011)