



CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



THE POND PLAYHOUSE
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Next at TAG: Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star

WANTED: 1959 PINK THUNDERBIRD CONVERTIBLE!!

Well, the boys from *Lone Star* sure do but the girls from *Laundry and*

Bourbon aren't so sure. Don't miss these two hilarious companion plays by the late James McLure opening June 23, running till July 9.

In a tribute after his death from cancer last February at the early age of 59, the New York Times described our playwright, James McLure, as "a playwright whose Southern roots were reflected in the loquacious, mostly comic (but not necessarily Southern) comedies".

Lone Star, written in 1979 and *Laundry and Bourbon* written in 1980 are both set in Maynard, Texas, and both deal with the theme of "learning how disappointment shapes the face of one's entire life". They even have related characters (two men in one play and two women in the other are married). It's been 10 years since high school and they all still live in Maynard. The characters in both plays cope with their unfulfilled dreams of love, family life, freedom, and status by indulging in nostalgia and by hitting the bottle. Fortunately, they are also very funny.

Laundry and Bourbon is directed by Elaine Casey. *Lone Star* is co-directed by Bill VanGorder and Renée Hartleib.

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)

Laundry & Bourbon / Lone Star

by James McLure
June 23 - July 9



Tickets on Sale
Friday, May 27, 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the 80th Anniversary show in May followed by *Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star* in June, TAG is ending its 2011 season with a mighty crescendo! As I have commented before, TAG continues to thrive remaining totally reliant on volunteer members, cash flow from ticket sales and generous donations. It's clear the people of HRM have a genuine love of live theatre and will support TAG and participate to an enormous level. Air conditioning, stage lighting upgrades and a carpentry shop are all on the immediate wish list; let's hope they happen in the not too

distant future.

Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star are two companion one-act plays that can be staged independently or, as we have chosen, together. Two of the women in *Laundry and Bourbon* are married to men in *Lone Star* providing an interesting dramatic bridge. TAG first produced these plays ten years ago so we have another kind of anniversary; especially bearing in mind the author James McLure died of cancer in January of this year. A prolific playwright, Mr. McLure's work includes *The Day They Shot*

John Lennon. While *Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star* is set against the recently ended Vietnam War, *The Day They Shot John Lennon*, in a parallel way, deals with the significant shock and change caused by the assassination. Change is hard, significant change sometimes impossible and Mr. McLure shows us just how hard it can be in a very humorous and moving way.

Enjoy the anniversary show in May, enjoy *Laundry and Bourbon, Lone Star* in June and have a great summer.

~ Nick Jupp, President

Renew Your TAG Membership Today

Did you forget to renew your TAG membership for the current season? Renew or join as a new member during the run of the final show - *Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star* - and your membership will automatically be extended to include the 2011-12 season!

Online Donations

Donations to The Theatre Arts Guild may now be made online using credit cards. Two options are provided; both provide safe and secure options for online transactions. Visit www.tagtheatre.com to make your donation today..A BIG thank you goes out to all of TAG's generous supporters!

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 @ THE LIBRARY

We invite you to join us for the next outing of our TAG @ the Library Group. We will be paying our first visit to the Spryfield Branch Library, in the Captain William Spry Community Centre. The date is Saturday, June 25th, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Our programme will last about 30 minutes and our 'stage' will be just inside the entrance to the Library, on the ground floor. Our actors for this visit are Cathy Cameron, Lorraine Cantwell, Rick Eng, Michele Gaudet and Jonathan Tyson.

There are two pieces on the programme – the first is the

extended poem, *Two Slatterns and a King*, by Edna St. Vincent Millay, which was much enjoyed during our most recent visit to the Keshen Goodman Library. A King decides he must select a bride who is a good housekeeper. His choice is between Miss Tidy and Miss Slut. An obvious choice, you think? Well, yes, but we have to factor in the fourth character in the piece – Chance.

Our second piece will be especially for children and is an excerpt from *The Ugly Duckling*, by A.A.Milne (yes, the same author who was the inventor of Winnie the Pooh). A Prince and a Princess meet

(both disguised as their trusted servants) and, naturally, fall in love. There's just one problem – the Prince must answer a riddle before getting permission to marry the Princess and his servant, Carlo, is still dressed in the Prince's clothes!

If you've never seen a performance by this group (even if you've already seen these pieces in our visits to Keshen Goodman!), we invite you to the Halifax Public Library Branch in Spryfield on June 25th.

~ Judy Reade

May/June 2011 CONTACT

TAG Announces 2011-2012 Season

The Theatre Arts Guild is pleased to announce its 2011-2012 season. Mark your calendars!

Present Laughter (Sep. 22 - Oct. 8, 2011)
A crowd-pleasing comedy, bordering on farce, from one of the world's greatest playwrights. Written by Noel Coward and directed by Rebecca Humphreys.

Captain Hook's Revenge (Dec. 1 - 17, 2011)
A British Pantomime with slapstick, silliness, and a fairy. Oh, and don't forget the neurotic crocodile! Written by Richard Coleman and co-directed by Angela Butler and Lorne Abramson.

Corker (Feb. 16 - March 3, 2012) A family drama by Governor General-nominated local playwright Wendy Lill, which explores how society treats those on the fringes. Directed by Lorraine Cantwell.

Strangers on a Train (Apr. 19 - May 5, 2012)
Based on a novel, this intellectual thriller was the basis of the 1950's movie, directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Written by Craig Warner and co-directed by Renée Hartleib and Bill VanGorder.

The Drowsy Chaperone (June 21 - July 7, 2012) The internationally acclaimed and award-winning Canadian musical comes to Halifax. Hold onto your hats and get your seats now! Written by Bob Martin and Don McKellar and directed by Jacqui Good.

Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents *Be My Baby* a comedy by Ken Ludwig and directed by Janet Godsell. In their late middle-age, pig-headed and united in their dislike for each other, an irascible Scotsman and an uptight English woman reluctantly join forces to travel from Scotland to San Francisco to pick up a baby for their young relations. The show is scheduled for June 8-25, 2011. Call 465-PLAY or visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca for more information.

JOIN TAG IN CELEBRATING IT'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY!! Only 26 Seats Left!

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.!

An Enemy of the People

Ibsen's tale of one man's persistent pursuit of corruption and his attempt to eradicate the "spiritual poison" of society struck a chord recently with TAG's audiences. Written in 1882,

Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* remains relevant; a tale of corruption, greed and the responsibility of the press. The story seemed as if it had been ripped from the morning's headlines.



Alex McDonald, Sheila Davis, Annika Borg, Darrel O'Neil, and Mike Chandler in *An Enemy of the People*. Photo by Bruce Goodick

A SENSE OF PLACE

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 37th in a continuing series...

Looked at from one perspective, our final offering of the season, the companion plays *Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star* are well-defined examples of the literature of the American South and their author, James McLure (born in Alexandria, Louisiana), one in a long line of Southern writers, which includes Mark Twain, Erskine Caldwell, William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams and the author of *Gone with the Wind* – Margaret Mitchell. You will be able to distinguish in these one-act plays many of the themes common to Southern literature – a strong sense of place, a society built on the family and family patriarchs, use of the Southern dialect and a community composed of colourful characters, often defined by their adherence to a particular religion – Baptist in this case, though one of the female characters does admit that being Methodist is almost as good!

The setting for both pieces is the

town of Maynard, Texas, about 1974. Maynard, a town at the edge of a desert, has really nothing to recommend it. The people that live there have lived there for ever; they've known each other since childhood and though there seems

"In the South, perhaps more than any other region, we go back to our home in dreams and memories, hoping it remains what it was on a lazy, still summer's day twenty years ago" ~ Willie Morris

to be things to do, the town itself always seems the same. One of the characters however – Roy – is back from service in Vietnam and is finding it hard to adjust to civilian life in what is becoming a stifling existence. The women we meet in *Laundry and Bourbon* realize that something is amiss, but have their own way of coping (and yes, some of it comes out of a bottle!). The men deal with things differently, with an

underlying current of a hankering for simpler times and double-dates at the drive-in, showing off Roy's 1959 pink convertible. The women's afternoon of folding laundry, whilst nursing drinks, becomes a more intense evening of male bonding and aggressiveness, whilst dredging up old memories.

Though a sense of place is important in these pieces, from another perspective, 'place' takes on a different meaning in the experiences of the group. One of them has left (for Vietnam, or Bosnia, or Afghanistan – it doesn't matter) and returns, but no longer 'belongs.' Whatever anyone else thinks, life for Roy will never be the same.

~ 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)

Check out TAG's
2011-12 Season
online at
www.tagtheatre.com