

## President's Message

--Esther VanGorder, president



The leaves are changing colour and falling, the days are getting shorter, and the temperatures are cooler. You know what that means . . . It's Panto Time!!! For the last month, the dedicated crew (including co-authors/directors Lorne Abramson & Cheryl Theriault, producer Michele Moore and stage manager Gayle Sabo and a cast of thousands) and an enthusiastic

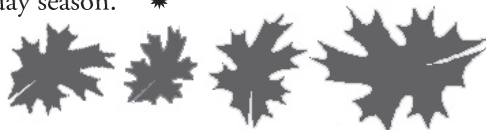
cast of goodies and baddies, both human and animal, have been rehearsing *Red Riding's in the Hood*. Remember, the Panto **ALWAYS** sells out, so book early. The box office opens November 2<sup>nd</sup> for members, so you have the advantage of booking before "everyone else" during the first week the box office is open.

Just in time for the opening of *Halo*, our new state-of-the-art lighting system was installed. Kudos to Technical Director Austin Reade for all the extra hours he put in at the theatre to accomplish that task.

The work never stops around the Pond Playhouse. On Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, a crew of fifteen spent the day painting inside and out, doing miscellaneous construction projects, and cleaning and rearranging the newly enlarged props storage area. Chef Rich Knowles provided a BBQ lunch. I won't mention any more names in case I forget someone, but you know who you are . . . Thank you to everyone who participated. It was especially nice to see some new faces wielding paint brushes and dusters.

Although we're always looking for new people to be involved in productions (there are never enough good techies), work parties like this last one are an excellent way to get involved if you can't commit the time to the run of a production. Even a few hours can make a difference. And that BBQ lunch should be all the incentive you need. Get in touch . . . 477-2553.

As I write this, Hallowe'en is only a few days away, but as this is the last newsletter before the end of the year, I will take the opportunity to wish you and yours all the best for the upcoming holiday season. \*



## Our Next Production...

### red riding's in the hood

(a not-so-traditional pantomime)

adapted, written, and directed by  
Lorne Abramson & Cheryl Theriault

produced by Michele Moore

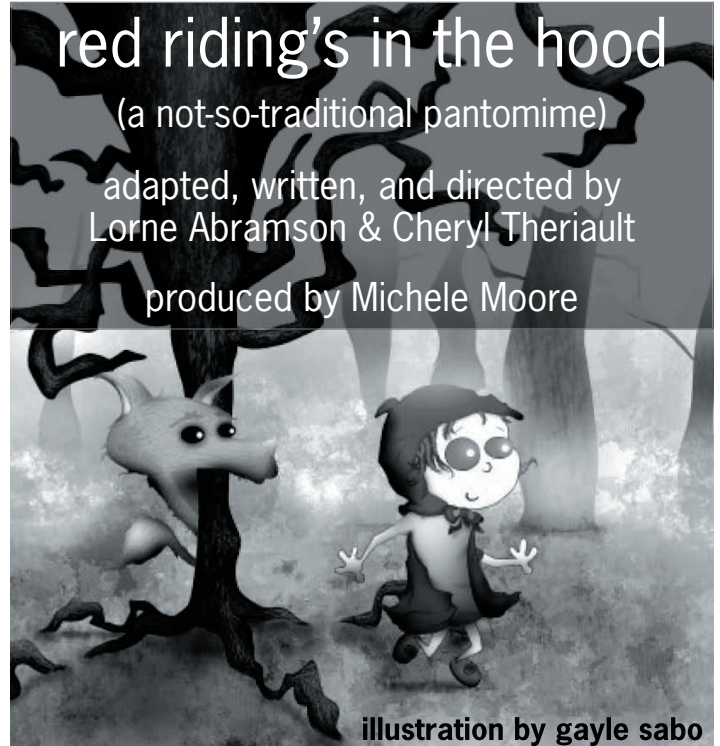


illustration by gayle sabo

december 2<sup>nd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004

thursday, friday, & saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m.  
saturday and sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.

reservations:

477-2663

## Book Early!!!

We really can't stress this enough!  
Tickets for the pantomime always sell out fast. It's our most popular production of the year.

Our box office opens November 2<sup>nd</sup> for members and November 9<sup>th</sup> for non-members.

So call today!!

## TAG Board, 2004-2005

President .....	Esther VanGorder
Vice President .....	Nick Jupp
Secretary .....	Michele Moore
Past President .....	Frank MacLean
Treasurer .....	Carolyn Boyer
Artistic Director .....	Brenda Tyedmers
Executive Producer .....	Louise Renault
Technical Director .....	Austin Reade
Publicity Manager .....	Bill VanGorder
Building Manager.....	J Carruth
Props/Costume Manager....	Judy Reade
Reservations Manager .....	Lynn Bungay
Membership Records .....	Helen Goodwin
Newsletter Editor .....	Eric Rountree
Special Projects Manager...	Rich Knowles
Member at Large .....	Hugh Vincent
FOH Manager.....	open
Fund Raising Manager .....	open

## Saraguay Club—Dinner & Theatre

The Saraguay Club and The Theatre Arts Guild offer a dinner and theatre package (\$37.00 plus tax and gratuities) on Thursday and Friday evenings during TAG's productions.

During the run of the Pantomime, this package will be offered on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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

## The Theatre Arts Guild

### Location:                      Mailing Address:

<b>The Pond Playhouse</b>	<b>287 Lacewood Drive</b>
<b>6 Parkhill Road</b>	<b>Unit 103, Suite 412</b>
<b>Halifax, NS</b>	<b>Halifax, NS B3M 3Y7</b>

**Telephone:** (902) 477-2663

**Internet:** [www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com)  
[info@tagtheatre.com](mailto:info@tagtheatre.com)

## Audition Notices

### **Best of Friends**

Auditions for *Best of Friends* will be held on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at St. Augustine's Church, Purcell's Cove Road. No appointment necessary. There are four men and five women in this play. For more information, please contact director Rebecca Humphreys at 475-3310.

The performance dates for *Best of Friends* are February 24<sup>th</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

*Best of Friends*, a comedy by James Elward  
Directed by Rebecca Humphreys

This witty comedy deals hilariously with the problems caused by the unexpected return of a long absent (and famous) writer to his wife and family, accompanied by the pretty young thing he wants to marry. Complications ensue as family skeletons are exhumed and romance blossoms in unexpected places. Sure to chase your February blahs away!

### **Dancing at Lughnasa**

Auditions for *Dancing at Lughnasa* will be held on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact director Louise Renault at 477-0530 or stage manager Esther VanGorder at 453-4077.

The performance dates for *Dancing at Lughnasa* are April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

*Dancing at Lughnasa*, a drama by Brian Friel  
Directed by Louise Renault

An illegitimate son remembers the five women who raised him, his mother and four maiden aunts. He is only seven in 1936, the year his elderly uncle, a priest, returns after twenty-five years as a missionary in Uganda. Other disturbances occur that summer: The sisters acquire their first radio, whose music transforms them from correct Catholic women into shrieking, stomping banshees, and he meets his father for the first time, a charming Welsh drifter who strolls up the lane and sweeps his mother away in an elegant dance across the fields. This haunting play is Friel's tribute to the spirit and valor of the past and its people. \*



**Lest  
We  
Forget . . .**

# TAG on the Web

--Rich Knowles, TAG Webmaster

Back in 2003, the idea of a TAG website floated softly around the Pond Playhouse during a couple of monthly board meetings. At the time, there were few ideas about what to put on the website or how it would be used, but that was not enough to stop progress. [www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com) finally emerged from the TAG webmaster's computer on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

The website now sports detailed information such as TAG's production schedule, upcoming events, how to find and contact TAG, some historical notes, picture galleries of shows and events, a feedback page, and a page of useful theatre links. An important and useful feature also offered is the ability for patrons to reserve tickets for current productions.

As of 10:00 P.M., October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the site had logged 2,216 unique visitors who made a total of 3,779 visits from around the globe. Canadians provided 55.6 percent of the traffic, the U.S. 40.1 percent, Sweden 2.4 percent, Spain 1.8 percent, and the rest were from other countries and planets. Our last audience survey indicated that only about fifteen percent of TAG's patrons had visited the website.

We invite you to log on, explore the site, and reserve your seats for the pantomime. Your comments—and any articles or pictures relevant to TAG that you may wish to submit for publication on the website—are most welcome. \*



Token Hallowe'en Graphic

## Upcoming TAG Productions

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

*Red Riding's in the Hood: A Not-So-Traditional Pantomime*, a classic tale adapted and directed by Lorne Abramson & Cheryl Theriault

**February 24<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

*Best of Friends*, a comedy by James Elward  
Directed by Rebecca Humphreys

**April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Dancing at Lughnasa*, A Drama by Brian Friel  
Directed by Louise Renault

**July 7<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005**

*The Hollow*, a mystery by Agatha Christie  
Directed by Iris Paterson

## More on the Pantomime

TAG's Christmas pantomime, *Red Riding's in the Hood* (a not so traditional pantomime) is now in rehearsal at the Pond Playhouse (as you can see from the photo below). Cast and crew are working hard to bring TAG audiences a rollicking romp through a comical, musical, fantasy world.

What's it about? Well, without giving too much away . . .

It's a furry twist on the classic tale of Red Riding Hood that includes a garden gnome, a forgetful toad, and cheesecake! It will have kids ages 5 to 105 rolling in the aisles.

After a hurricane strikes, only the woods around Granny's house are left standing. But more than one hairy creature wants to move in, and Red and her friends must battle evil to save their forest home.



*The wolves: Gnash (Nicole MacAskill), ToeJam (Megan Johnson), Burp (puppet), and Belch (Susan Keefe) put the scare on DroolElla (Kim Parkhill).*

*Red Riding's in the Hood* is adapted, written, and directed by Lorne Abramson and Cheryl Theriault. Michele Moore is producer; Gayle Sabo is stage manager; Dave Chambers is lighting designer; Brenda Tydemers is set designer; Wayne McIntyre is musical director; and Vanessa Buhr-Rountree is vocal coach. The costumes, some snippets of which you can see in the photo at left, are being designed and implemented by Judy Reade, Marilyn Abramson, Vivien Marvel, Barb McCurdy, Betty Veinot, and Jan Weber. Deb Jewett is in charge of props, and Sandy Lund is looking after publicity. \*

# Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary

## Animals and the Pantomime Tradition

(The ninth in a continuing series)

—Judy Reade, *Props Mistress/Wardrobe Mistress*

Although the Christmas pantomime has not (yet!) become in Canada the staple holiday entertainment it is in the U.K., more and more families are coming to know and love this unique form of theatre. In Britain, the pantomime, as a distinct form, was established by the 18<sup>th</sup> century and really blossomed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As a theatrical entity, it draws elements from various dramatic and literary forms, including fairy tales, folk legends, the 16<sup>th</sup> century Harlequin tradition of the Commedia dell'Arte and even medieval mystery plays (dramatized versions of Bible stories performed during religious festivals). The actors in the latter performed on carts, which were stationed at street corners. The devil and angel characters of these plays metamorphosed into the 'Demon King' and 'Good Fairy' stereotypes of the Victorian pantomime.

Because animals are a feature of many fairy tales, and fairy tales make up one of the core components of pantomime, the form quickly developed favourites, in which animals played a major role—think "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," "Puss-in-Boots," "Dick Whittington and His Cat," "The Goose that



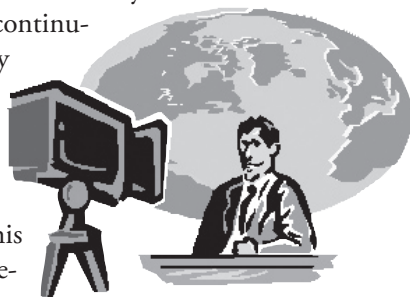
Laid the Golden Egg," and "Jack and the Beanstalk" (Jack has a cow named Daisy or Buttercup or Clarabelle!). You'll be seeing lots of animals in *Red Riding's in the Hood* and, true to tradition, it is very clear which ones have good intentions and which ones not so good. Our show also follows another tradition in that the role of Red Riding's mother will be played by a man (the theatrical term is 'Dame,' a device originating in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when a clown famous for his interpretation in the Commedia dell'Arte style decided to try the role of the mother in "Cinderella"). And the story of Red Riding Hood herself is even older, originating in a slim volume of eight stories published by Charles Perrault in France in 1697. Perrault collected and standardized existing lore, and called his volume "Stories of Older Times." But, be well assured, our pantomime does not live in the past! There are plenty of references to people, places, and events of the last year which you will readily recognize. So, here's looking forward to seeing you during the run of *Red Riding's in the Hood* when you have an opportunity to become part of a very long-standing tradition. \*

## TAG Publicity Committee

Bill VanGorder, TAG publicity director, is looking for members for TAG's new Publicity Committee. This committee will meet five to six times per year and will oversee TAG's publicity program and seek new ways

to make Canada's oldest continually-operating community theatre and its productions better known in Nova Scotia. If you are interested in becoming a member of this new committee, please e-mail Bill VanGorder at:

[bill.vangorder@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:bill.vangorder@ns.sympatico.ca). \*



## Producers Needed

TAG is looking for folks who are interested in producing. No experience necessary, but some special qualities are needed:

A desire to work with a bunch of good folks on a creative project, great organizational skills, a good sense of humour, a natural ability to lead without seeming to, (the secret is all about delegating), and, also, a desire to learn the secret workings that make TAG the wonderful place it is!!!

Interested? Contact Louise Renault, Executive Producer, at 477-0530. \*



## Support Our Friends!

### Dartmouth Players

presents

*Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii*

November 10<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>

Call 465-7592 for reservations.

### CentreStage Theatre

presents

*A Christmas Extravaganza*

November 6<sup>th</sup> to December 18<sup>th</sup>

Call (902)678-8040 for reservations.