



CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



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

The Drowsy Chaperone: A Musical Within a Comedy

Theatre Arts Guild Presents

A Musical Within a Comedy

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

Music & Lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison

Book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar

Original Broadway production of The Drowsy Chaperone produced by Kevin McCullum, Roy Miller, Bob Boyett, Stephanie McClelland, Barbara Freitag and Jill Furman.

June 21 - July 8, 2012

POND PLAYHOUSE
6 PARKHILL ROAD
(OFF PURCELL'S COVE ROAD)
HALIFAX NS

Tickets

\$16 General Admission

\$13 Members/Seniors/Students

Available through Ticket Atlantic

- at participating Atlantic Superstore locations
- charge by phone (902) 451-1221
- Ticket Atlantic Metro Centre box office
- online www.ticketatlantic.com (\$2 fee per online session)
- at the door (subject to availability)

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th St., New York, NY 10019 Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684 www.MTIShows.com



www.tagtheatre.com

Tickets On Sale Now

The Drowsy Chaperone (June 21 to July 8) is a gem of a musical that manages to be fresh and original while also being thoroughly nostalgic. It is a homage to the golden age of musicals yet is also an affectionate spoof. The character known as 'Woman in Chair' shares her love for a long-forgotten show by putting a record ("yes, a record") on a turntable. Her humble flat is transformed into a glamorous theatrical set and a tale of comic romance unfolds. The born-in-Canada production won a number of Broadway's Tony awards, including Best Book and Best Score. It was also awarded an Olivier in England as Best New Musical.

This delectable show will be the icing on the Theatre Arts Guild season. Director Jacqui Good has recruited an amazingly talented cast to portray characters as varied as a pair of dancing gangsters, a Latin lover, a ditzzy hostess and a star who doesn't "wanna show off no more." Costumer Cathleen Niedemayer has found beautiful outfits worthy of the black and white glamour of an old Ginger and Fred movie. The audience is invited to wear black or white or glitter to fit right in!

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)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So much is happening at our little theatre, the Jewel of Jollimore. The forsythia is in bloom, the peepers are singing and we wrap up another show.

The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes by David Belke, co-directed by Renee Hartlieb and Bill VanGorder, just closed receiving rave reviews and numerous sold out performances. Bravo to the cast and crew of this clever mystery comedy for their dedication and talents.

Next on the stage, and already in full rehearsals, is *The Drowsy Chaperone*, a Canadian Tony Award winning musical. A buzz has already started on this one! Don't miss getting your tickets.

Our theatre is now offering a series of four workshops to give volunteers an overview of some of the roles available at the theatre. We hope this will encourage more people to come out, see what we are all about and become involved. There are many areas within the

theatre structure that may appeal to you. The first workshop - Producing - was a success. Please visit our website to register for the remaining free workshops.

Now that we are winding down our 2011-2012 season, we are preparing a new season for 2012-2013. An announcement will come soon! Get ready for it!

Here at Theatre Arts Guild we will continue to bring innovative and entertaining theatre to our city.

~ Angela Butler, President

COMMUNITY NOTES

Dartmouth Players presents *A Flea in Her Ear*. Raymonde suspects her husband, Victor Emmanuel, of infidelity and she turns to her best friend, Lucienne, to help her gain proof. They concoct a scheme - based on a perfumed letter - to trap him at the Hotel Coq d'Or in Montretout. However, the plan misfires. The plot is complicated by confused identities, revolving beds, a great many doors and the fact that the blockhead hotel porter, Poche, is the exact double of Victor Emmanuel. Sidesplittingly funny, this play is not to be missed! The show is scheduled to run June 13 to 30, 2012. Call 465-PLAY or visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca for more information.

AGM Notice

Notice: The Theatre Arts Guild Annual General Meeting will be held in Gratwick Hall, Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road, Halifax, N.S. on Monday, September 10, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

Dedication to Nancy Marshall

Our theatrical community recently lost one of its most vital personalities. Nancy Marshall directed musicals for over a quarter of a century in Halifax and helped develop a generation of theatre performers. The Wednesday June 27 performance of *The Drowsy Chaperone* will be dedicated to her memory. The Theatre Arts Guild invites Nancy's friends and fans to attend and to reminisce after the show.

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.

35th Atlantic Writing Competition for Unpublished Manuscripts

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia recently announced the winners of the 35th Atlantic Writing Competition for Unpublished Manuscripts which included a 3rd place win for TAG's past president Nick Jupp.

- 1st Prize: *Pump Trolley* by Rhys Bevan-John, Halifax, NS
- 2nd Prize: *The Bouquet* by Janet Godsell, Wellington, NS
- 3rd Prize: *Order in the House* by Nick Jupp, Halifax, NS

The prizes were presented in Halifax on March 26, 2012 at the Robert Merritt Awards, which recognize excellence in Nova Scotia theatre arts.

Want to Volunteer?
volunteer@tagtheatre.com

2012-13 SEASON LAUNCH

Please join Theatre Arts Guild for the official unveiling of their 2012-13 Season on Monday, June 4th (6:30-7:30 PM). Join our host CBC's Louise Renault at the Pond Playhouse (6 Parkhill Rd.) and be the first to find out what dazzling shows are in store! Meet the directors and mingle with fellow fans. There will be light snacks and cash bar. There is no cost to attend.

Free Workshop Series

TAG continues its series of free workshops to give volunteers an overview of some of the roles available at TAG. All workshops will be facilitated by Rebecca Humphreys, who has been volunteering at TAG for over 15 years. You can sign up for one or all of these courses! All workshops are held on Saturday.

- Stage Management - May 26, 2012
- Lighting - June 23, 2012
- Publicity - July 21, 2012,

Visit www.tagtheatre.com for more information. Space is limited so enroll early to reserve your spot.

How to Register:

Email workshops@tagtheatre.com or phone 902-477-2663 to register or inquire about the workshop series. Please provide your Name, Phone Number, and the course(s) you would like to register for.

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.

TAKE YOUR SEAT!

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. Your contribution is tax deductible.

- ▶ 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

Visit tagtheatre.com or email seatsale@tagtheatre.com for more information about this exciting fundraiser.!

The Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes



A 'Dress Up As Sherlock Holmes' contest was held during the April 21st performance of *The Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes*. The winner was Michael Reid. His amazing costume (including deerstalker cap) was sewn from scratch by his wife, Diane Plumridge-Reid, who also attended in full Victorian dress.

Two Sleuths: Sherlock Holmes (Kevin Pierson, Theatre Arts Guild) meets Sherlock Holmes (Mark Alberstat The Spence Munros)



May/June 2012 CONTACT

SOME YOU WIN: SOME YOU LOSE: The Fate of the Theatre Impresario

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 42nd in a continuing series...

One of the attractions for me of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, is the way in which the piece satirizes at the same time as it celebrates the unique characters, follies and foibles of an entertainment age now long past.

Mr. Feldzeig, the employer of our musical's heroine (and bride) Janet Van de Graaff, for example, is a thinly disguised model of the American Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr. (1867-1932), the archetype of the theatre impresario and the originator of the variety spectaculars known as the Ziegfeld Follies from 1907 to 1931. (Think lavish sets, huge staircases disappearing into nowhere and a bevy of feather-trimmed beauties (several of whom Mr. Ziegfeld fell in love with!). To promote his own interests, Ziegfeld built a 1,600-seat theatre in New York – a construction necessity which seems to have gripped most impresarios and been the ruination of many.

Oscar Hammerstein I (the grandfather of Oscar Hammerstein II of the Rogers and Hammerstein partnership), though principally interested in opera, built his first theatre (the Harlem Opera House) in 1889 and his eleventh in 1908. This foray into theatre ownership (and providing suitably lavish productions to fill the seats) proved to be a source of constant frustration and financial and legal problems and several of the venues were converted to cinemas or

vaudeville houses.

Richard D'Oyly Carte, the producer whose career was so interlinked with that of Sir Arthur Sullivan and Sir William Gilbert, first meet 'G. & S.' when managing the Royalty Theatre in London. As an astute judge of public taste, D'Oyly Carte realized that the comic operettas of this talented duo would fare much better if presented by themselves, rather than having to be coupled with the works of other composers or having to be presented for a limited time only before being forced to move to another theatre because of contractual obligations. He first leased the Opera Comique and then created a company solely devoted to the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. The building of the Savoy Theatre in the Strand in 1881 was the culmination of his efforts (which yielded such returns that a hotel was built next door in 1889). Carte's entrepreneurial spirit stood him in good stead and made him a wealthy individual. Ironically, a disagreement over the cost of new carpet for the Savoy led to the estrangement of all parties. After the thirteenth collaboration, *The Grand Duke*, in 1896, all went their separate ways.

The most famed impresario of the present day, Sir Cameron Mackintosh cannot best Hammerstein's total – he owns only seven London theatres! But here is a man with the golden touch –

Cats, Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables, Miss Saigon, Mary Poppins – the successes have kept on coming – testament to the ability of a man who began his career as a stagehand at the Theatre Royal and now has several productions on the boards which have been running for more than ten years.

Just in case you think that the roller-coaster ride of owning and managing a theatre is a modern problem, Mozart in the 18th century was already familiar with the situation. In his one-act opera *The Impresario* (Der Schauspieldirektor, 1786), Herr Frank is auditioning actors and singers for an upcoming touring production. Two ladies arrive to vie for the lead soprano role, as opposed to the one he was expecting. The argumentative nature of these two divas and their constant sniping drive him to distraction, to the point where he considers cancelling the tour and moving to the country to raise chickens!

I'm sure the great "Flo" Ziegfeld had days like that, and our Mr. Feldzeig certainly does. Everything works out in the end however – but you'll have to see *The Drowsy Chaperone* to find out how!

~ Judy Reade



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**No Scents
Make
Good Sense**

**A BIG THANK YOU
to our many patrons
and volunteers**

May/June 2012 CONTACT