

THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD IS CANADA'S OLDEST CONTINUALLY OPERATING COMMUNITY THEATRE. 76 YEARS AND GROWING.



# CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD

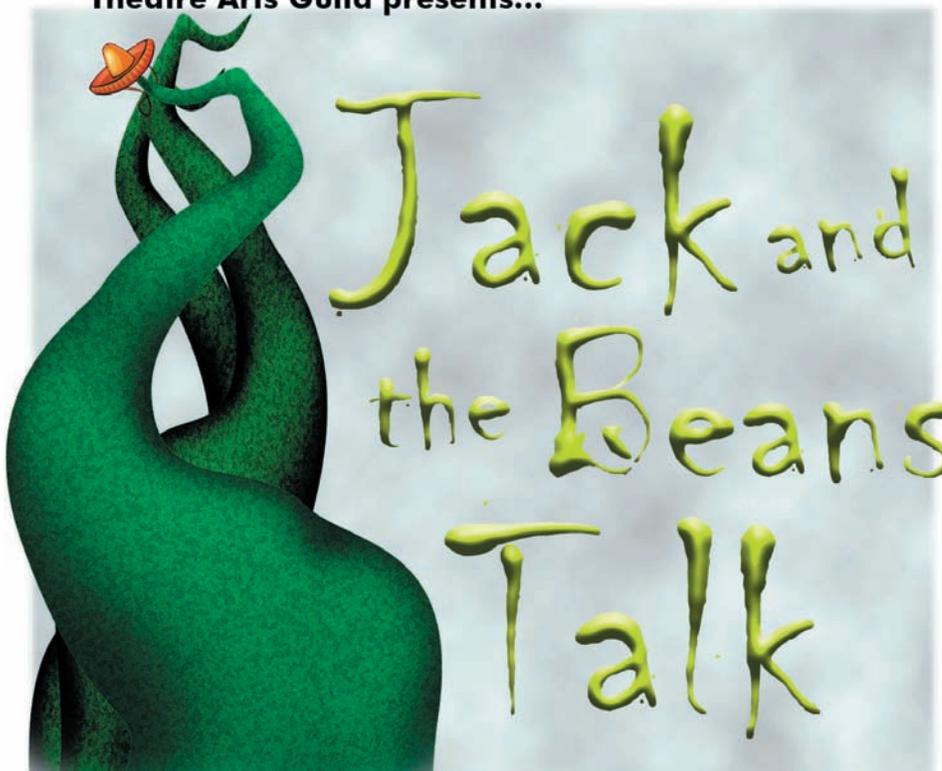


**TAG BOX OFFICE**  
**477-2663**

THE POND PLAYHOUSE 6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA WWW.TAGTHEATRE.COM INFO@TAGTHEATRE.COM

## DON'T MISS TAG'S MOST POPULAR PRODUCTION OF THE YEAR.

Theatre Arts Guild presents...



### Jack and the Beans Talk - A Genetically Modified Fairy Tale

By Brenda Tyedmers  
and Cheryl Theriault

Directed by Cheryl Theriault

Music Director – Bunny Shore

Produced by Bill VanGorder

Stage Manager - Esther VanGorder

Dec 6th to Dec. 22nd  
Thursday, Friday and  
Saturday nights at 8 pm,  
5 Matinees: Saturdays Dec 8,  
15 & 22 and Sundays Dec 9 &  
16 at 2 p.m.

Book your tickets early this show  
will **SELL OUT!**

### TAG's annual holiday family show in the pantomime tradition.

Jack and the Beans Talk: A Genetically Modified Fairy Tale -- a laugh-filled musical with gorgeous costumes to entertain the entire family.

There's a drought on, and times are tough for Jack and his ma. Lotty - the family cow, is destined for market, and not wishing to be somebody's meatloaf, she takes off for Vegas. While searching for his bovine pal, Jack befriends and brings home two dancing, singing, talking beans. Add a drop of bottled water, and hilarity sprouts, landing Jack in a cloud of corporate biotech evil.

### THE PANTOMIME A FAMILY CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Going to the Pond Playhouse annual Christmas play has been a part of my family Christmas tradition for the past 10 years. Each year, four generations of my family are fortunate enough to be able to attend the great performances that TAG puts on year after year. I have always looked forward to the afternoon at "The Pond" because of the great entertainment and all of the laughs that are guaranteed with each and every play. Every production have something that everyone can enjoy, from the jokes that only the adults get, but all the kids laugh anyway, to the colourful characters that continue to delight and

entertain my family. It is truly the best part of the Christmas season!!

Submitted by Jacqueline Smith

*Jacqueline is the great-granddaughter of TAG member, Dolly Kelly. She has been attending the TAG Christmas productions with her great-grand-mother, her grandmother, Pat, her mother, Jeannette and her great-aunt, Colleen since "Beauty and the Beast" in 1997. Donald, her younger brother, joined the family in 1998 for "Snow White", and by 2005, for "Shipwreck on Fable Island", "extended" family brought the number of happy play goers to 11 !!*

Mailing Address: THEATRE ARTS GUILD 287 Lacewood Drive Unit 103, Suite 412 Halifax, NS B3M 3Y7

# TAG CAPITAL EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

The next time you attend a performance at TAG, you will enjoy the results of the 2004-2007 capital campaign that raised \$208,000.00 to create the new Reade Hall lobby and Gratwick Hall rehearsal space. A beautiful mosaic created by Brenda Tyedmers and Cheryl Theriault hangs in piece of art recognizes the generosity of contributed over \$500 to the campaign. Although we now occupy the wonder- is not finished. While we are complet- next phase of our capital campaign will to improve seating in the theatre audi- cess. We also want to raise the roof to patrons.

We will require an estimated further \$65,000 to complete the entire project. If you know of any individual or business that would be willing to make a donation, please contact our new volunteer Capital Fund Raising Chair, Michele Moore at michmoore@eastlink.ca Stay tuned for further details later this month.



A beautiful mosaic created by Brenda Tyedmers and Cheryl Theriault hangs in the Reade Hall lobby. The wonderful addition to our TAG space, our work- ing the work within the new lobby, the ful addition to our TAG space, our work- ing the work within the new lobby, the begin in earnest soon to raise funds torium for more comfort and better ac- obtain better air circulation for you, our

\$65,000 to complete the entire project. that would be willing to make a donation, tal Fund Raising Chair, Michele Moore for further details later this month.

**BOOK**  
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**NOW**

**2008/9 SEASON  
PLAY SELECTION**

**HELP US PROMOTE TAG  
MEMBERSHIP  
ENCOURAGE A FRIEND.**

You get this newsletter because you are a member of the Theatre Arts Guild. Do you know someone who is not a TAG member? Tell them what they are missing.

THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS OF BEING A TAG MEMBER:

- \* You receive a discount of \$3 off admission to all shows
- \* You learn about TAG productions and auditions before the general public
- \* You receive six informative newsletters each year,
- \* You are directly notified of upcoming auditions
- \* You can attend special members-only events.

We are beginning the process to select our 2008/9 season which opens in October next year. If any member has a favourite play they have read, or one they enjoyed elsewhere, they are welcome to suggest it for consideration. Many of our productions start life as suggestions from TAG members. Also, Directors who wish make suggestions of works they would like to direct next season are being accepted.

Nick Jupp

Yet a TAG Membership costs only \$10.00 per year. Your friends can join today if they go to:

[http://www.tagtheatre.com/join\\_tag.htm](http://www.tagtheatre.com/join_tag.htm)

TAG memberships make great holiday gifts. This year give the gift of Theatre. Memberships run from September to August so don't forget to renew your membership.

**TAKE  
NOTE**



## AUDITION NOTICE

Auditions will be held for our mid winter play, A Night in the Theatre, on December 9th and 11th at 7PM. Location, the Pond Playhouse, Parkhill Road. There are two female and two male roles, all actors are on-stage for the entire play. The characters are two couples who enjoy social times together. No preparation is required, cold readings from the script will be provided. A Night in the Theatre is a funny comedy with a strong undertone of love, trust and lust.

For further information: Contact **Nick Jupp 477-8697** or [njupp@dymaxion.ca](mailto:njupp@dymaxion.ca)

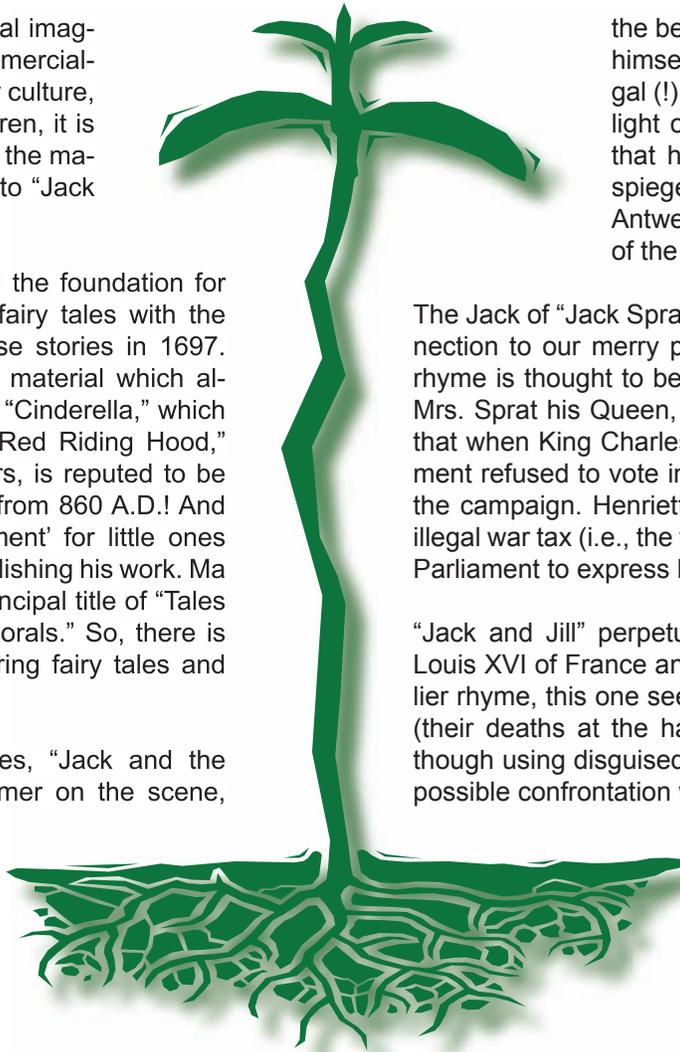
# JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

## THE MORAL ISSUES (The twentieth in a continuing series)

In a world overloaded with visual images, and with the increasing commercialization of various aspects of our culture, including those relating to children, it is easy to forget the true nature of the material which has been woven into "Jack and the Beans Talk."

Charles Perrault in France laid the foundation for our modern understanding of fairy tales with the publication of his Mother Goose stories in 1697. Yet Perrault was consolidating material which already had a venerable history. "Cinderella," which Perrault included, along with "Red Riding Hood," "Sleeping Beauty" and six others, is reputed to be Chinese in origin, and to date from 860 A.D.! And let's not forget that 'entertainment' for little ones was not M. Perrault's aim in publishing his work. Ma Mère L'Oye actually has the principal title of "Tales and Stories of the Past with Morals." So, there is a lesson to be learned in hearing fairy tales and repeating nursery rhymes.

In the chronology of fairy tales, "Jack and the Beanstalk" is a relative latecomer on the scene, and often confused with "Jack the Giant Killer." Its origin is thought to be English and the first printed edition appeared in 1807, though an earlier version entitled "The Story of Jack Spriggins and the Enchanted Bean" had appeared in the collection "Round about our Coal-Fire" at Christmastime in 1734. Jack Spriggins followed the tradition, already well-established, of trickster tales. Habitually in this genre, a somewhat stupid, but cunning young man, unattached and coming from a poor background sets out on various journeys and manages to get



the better of those in higher ranks than himself. His actions are not always legal (!), but considered to be justified, in light of the corruption and oppression that he sees around him. "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks," published in Antwerp in 1515, is a good illustration of the type.

The Jack of "Jack Sprat" and "Jack and Jill" has no connection to our merry prankster. The Jack Sprat of the rhyme is thought to be King Charles I of England, with Mrs. Sprat his Queen, Henrietta Maria. History tells us that when King Charles declared war on Spain, Parliament refused to vote in the necessary funds to finance the campaign. Henrietta's response was to impose an illegal war tax (i.e., the fat!), after the King had dissolved Parliament to express his anger.

"Jack and Jill" perpetuates another King and Queen, Louis XVI of France and Marie Antoinette. Like the earlier rhyme, this one seeks to identify an historical event (their deaths at the hands of French revolutionaries), though using disguised names and places to avoid any possible confrontation with the authorities.

Fairy tales and nursery rhymes bring such richness into the lives of children (and adults!) and I hope you will enjoy the new perspectives which we present in "Jack and the Beans Talk." May we never be lulled into thinking that

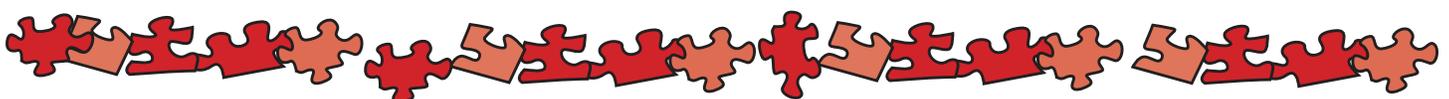
the magic began with Walt Disney! Think of Cinderella and her 9th century Prince!

Judy Reade



### GRATWICK PUZZLE NIGHT - SATURDAY JANUARY 5TH AT 7PM.

Suggested donation for the capital building fund \$15 or whatever you wish. The reservation line will be open on December 22nd. There will be a selection of exciting and fun filled puzzles to titillate the imagination, confuse the intellect and challenge everybody's ability to find "creative answers". From a selection of puzzles you can choose the ones you wish to tackle in a noncompetitive environment. Nobody has to declare their final score, it's all for fun and the good of the building fund. An exotic mystery hot dish will be served to bolster your energy level, and the bar will be opened so you can sharpen your mind.





## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My first official duty as President was extremely pleasant. I was lucky enough to perform the ribbon-cutting ceremony for our long anticipated lobby extension. I would like to thank past President Deb Post for quickly getting me up to speed on Board matters and for speaking so eloquently at the ceremony of the contributions made by John and Lyn Gratwick and Austin and Judy Reade throughout the years. The new rehearsal hall is named Gratwick Hall and the new lobby is named Reade Hall in the couples' honour. (I'm still working on John's suggestion to name one of the washrooms "Lyn's John")

In the last month I have seen the results of the incredible hard work that has, and is still being accomplished by a small core of TAG volunteers. The results of their labour exhibit how passion and hard work can deliver magnificent accomplishments. The next year will be spent discovering and developing processes to deal with the changes the growth in space has allowed us. We now are able to have one show in rehearsal while the stage is being occupied by the set of the current show. We held our first external meeting at the Theatre, an arts discussion panel hosted by Michele Raymond for local artists in the community.

Fund raising is a high priority this year as we must raise the funds necessary to obtain our permanent occupancy permit from the HRM. We have a large variety of jobs that need to be accomplished in a small time frame so please consider volunteering your time for a couple of hours. Skill with power tools or even a hammer is not required for the many tasks on our long list. If you feel you can give us an hour or two, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Cheryl Theriault at [stheriault@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:stheriault@ns.sympatico.ca).

Congratulations to Angela Butler for directing the first production of the season. Belles". This was Angela second time directing and I must congratulate her on a job well done. It was a very professional production with a fine acting cast. (I'm not just saying that because I happened to be one of the actors....honestly!) We are now in rehearsal for this years Christmas show "Jack and the Beans Talk". In past the Christmas show has always been a traditional "pantomime". Over the last few years we have switched to putting on original shows written by our own members, appealing to adults and children alike including audience participations, songs and at least one man dressed up as a dame. This has been a great crowd pleaser for years and has actually become part of many families' Christmas traditions. As a rule this show sells out quickly, so make sure you book your tickets early!

Our annual Variety Night will occur on March 29th. This is another fun evening of our membership sharing their various talents. The program will include skits, songs, readings, Bill and Esther's famous psychic show and at least one stand-up comedian. We will also have our silent auction again this year. Stay tuned for a date for our annual puzzle night. I hear John is busy working on ways to test our mental prowess even as I type these words!

All in all this is shaping up to be a very challenging and exciting year. Short term we need to make sure that our focus remains firmly on the goal of raising the funds and doing the work necessary to obtain our permanent occupancy permit so that the productions that we are so proud of can continue uninterrupted. That being said, I have seen what we are capable of when we work together and I am confident that we will rise to this year's challenges in true TAG spirit.

Helen Goodwin



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Submissions for **CONTACT** can be emailed to **TERRY COOLEN** at [trcool@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:trcool@ns.sympatico.ca)