



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

# CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



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

## LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME, WRITTEN BY CONSTANCE COX

Announcing Arthur Savile, a "Lord" of little brain and his subtly outrageous entourage. In order to ensure a happy future for her daughter, Arthur's mother-in-law-to-be hires a palmist who makes a startling prediction that leads to a series of hilarious and murderous misadventures ...Will the impending marriage ever take place?

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, written by Constance Cox, and based on a short story by Oscar Wilde, is a satirical comedy situated in a late 19th century drawing room that will have you musing, laughing, gasping, and guessing. Lord Arthur and his partners in crime possess the typically tenuous grasp of moral sensibility so characteristic of Wilde's most memorable literary creations. These include the over zealous manservant Baines, eager to dispatch any of Arthur's targeted relatives and the enthusiastic, if less than efficient, German anarchist Winkelkopf, engaged to provide the "means" to achieve the nefarious "ends". Even Sybil Merton, his intended, once apprised of Arthur's plans eagerly encourages him in his endeavours.

Along the way you will be able to sympathize, (or not), with his intended victims and flinch from the acid pronouncements of Lady Julia Merton who would give the good Lady Bracknell a run for her money!

This is a first-class entertainment that will have you smiling and shaking your head from start to finish.

Theatre Arts Guild Presents

## Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

**April 24th – May 10th**  
6 Parkhill Road, just past the Frog Pond on Purcell's Cove Road

Written by **Constance Cox**  
Based on a short story by **Oscar Wilde**  
Directed by **Phil Reid**  
Produced by **Cathy McAuley**

Evening performances Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m.  
April 24th, 25th, 26th  
May 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 9th, 10th  
Matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Saturday May 3rd

For reservations call 477-2663 or [www.tagtheatre.com](http://www.tagtheatre.com)

The Players are Ken MacAlpine as Lord Arthur Savile, Tony Marshall as Baines, Rayna Camp-Smith as Sybil Merton, Phil Reid as Dean of Paddington, Barbara Hart as Lady Windemere, Iris Paterson as Lady Clementina, Michele Moore as Lady Julia Merton, Terry Coolen as Podgers, Chantelle Dooley as Nellie and Carey Lee as Herr Winkelkopf.

## TAG TAKES THE LOVER BY HAROLD PINTER TO LIVERPOOL

The THEATRE ARTS GUILD has entered "The Lover" by Harold Pinter into the Liverpool International Theatre Festival. Directed by Eric Rountree, The Lover stars Vanessa Walton-Bone and Phil Reid. It will play at the Astor Theatre in Liverpool, Nova Scotia in the evening of May 14th, 2008.

"The Lover" takes a distorted look at the nature of modern relationships. A long-married couple, both in "extra-curricular activities," are alarmingly upfront with each other about it. But what's really going on? Full of sharp dialogue and witty banter, "The Lover" is one of Harold Pinter's best plays - hilarious, clever and never quite what you expect.

We encourage you to attend the Festival and support our entry. This year's festival promises to be very exciting with the performances by TAG and 12 others from the province and abroad. Reservations may be made at the Astor Theatre Box Office, 59 Gorham Street, Liverpool. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone for tickets at 902.354.5250 or shop online at [www.astortheatre.ns.ca](http://www.astortheatre.ns.ca) For additional information, visit the website at [www.litf.ca](http://www.litf.ca)

### GARAGE SALE AT TAG IN SUPPORT OF THE BUILDING FUND

**SATURDAY, MAY 10TH 9A.M. - 1 PM**

**AT THE POND PLAYHOUSE,  
6 PARKHILL ROAD.**

*MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR AND  
PLAN TO ATTEND AND BRING A FRIEND.*

#### WE NEED YOUR DONATED ITEMS

To arrange to donate garage sale items, contact the TAG Garage Sale Coordinator, Lorne Abramson at

**[labramson@eastlink.ca](mailto:labramson@eastlink.ca)**

or leave a message on the TAG answering machine

**(902) 477-2663.**

## BIOGRAPHIES



### PHIL REID

Charley's Aunt, staged at TAG theatre, was Phil's directorial debut. He has enjoyed acting in several productions over the past 18 years at TAG, (including The Importance Of Being Earnest, Jitters, Absent Friends, Dangerous Obsession, The Lion In Winter, Best Of Friends, Enchanted April and The Lover), and at Dartmouth Players, (The Elephant Man, Last Of The Red-hot Lovers and Deathtrap.) He will be reprising the part of Richard in Pinter's The Lover when it plays as TAG's entry in the Liverpool International Theatre Festival this May.

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**AUDITION NOTICE** - The Foursome is vintage Norm Foster and looks at four old college buddies getting back together for a round of golf at a class reunion and sharing their successes and failures amidst hilarious one-upmanship, unexpected revelations and surprising role reversals. At the Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road June 26th to July 12th.

Auditions: Sunday April 27 Time: 2:00 - 5:00pm

Monday April 28 Time: 7:00 - 10:00pm

Location: TAG 6 Parkhill Road

Four roles... all males... ages ranging from 30-50. Material to read will be provided.

Contact Director: Frank MacLean 454-0417 [frankmaclean@eastlink.ca](mailto:frankmaclean@eastlink.ca)

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring to all! I know that the calendar says it's spring so I am trying to be patient until I actually have some proof!

As I am writing this, there is a hive of activity at the theatre in preparation for our annual Variety Show that is taking place tonight. This event is a favourite with TAG members as it allows some faces to grace the stage that we normally don't get the opportunity to see. It also helps us discover hidden talents of our members. Tonight the line-up includes actors performing readings, stand-up comedians, singers and some well appreciated silliness. I am a firm believer that laughter is a wonderful way to add to my enjoyment of life.....so .... If you are seated by me tonight.....I apologize in advance! I am also excited to hear John Gratwick is going to perform as his presence alone always confirms that the evening is going to be a hit.

Our fourth production, A Night in the Theatre, enjoyed a very successful run. Kudos to Nick Jupp, the director and all the cast and crew. This is the first time that the set ever involved a "revolve". It was a wonderful effect and I really enjoyed seeing the creativity of the crew when designing it and the backstage stories of things that happened during the run!

Rehearsals for our next production Lord Arthur Savile's Crime are well underway. I hear through the grapevine that the play is very funny all are enjoying the process.

We have changed the last show in the season. Instead of the Perfect Crime by Warren Manzi, we will be presenting the Foursome by Norm Foster. This decision was made to help accommodate the plans we have for our renovation to the theatre in the summer.

This summer we will be tearing out the existing seats and realigning them. This will give our patrons more comfort and leg room. Speaking as a "woman of height", I am thrilled to hear that we are finally able to do this. We will also be making the theatre more accessible to people with mobility issues.

The second stage of the summer plan is to tear out the ceiling to the roof in order to upgrade the trusses. Hopefully we will also be putting a new roof on the theatre if the funds are sufficient to allow this. If not we will have to leave it until next year and hope that the lack of insulation will not be too expensive.

As always, none of this work could be accomplished without volunteers. I am appealing to you to consider giving us a few hours of your time this summer. The work that is going to be done this summer needs many hands. There are just a few days that we will need a significant number of people to show up at the theatre to "move and tote". If you think you could offer a few hours to this project please call Bill VanGorder (Bill@MRCassociates.ca Phone (902) 454-2267. He is organizing the volunteers for our summer project.

Well that's it for this time. I'm going to clean out the basement -- Oh, that reminds me -- don't forget our garage sale on May 10th!

Helen Goodwin



President	Helen Goodwin
Vice-President	Tony Marshall
Past President	Deb Post
Treasurer	Phil Reid
Secretary	Cathy McAuley
Technical Director	Austin Reade
Props/Costumes Mistress	Judy Reade
Building Director	J Carruth
Executive Producer	Bill VanGorder
Artistic Director	Nick Jupp
Publicity	Mark Monk
Volunteer Coordinator	Cheryl Theriault
Archivist	Judy Reade
Webmaster	Peter McAuley
Newsletter	Terry Coolen
FOH	Louise Renault
Bar Stocking	Amal Bhattacharyya
	Bill VanGorder
Membership	Lori Scott
Capital Fundraising	Michele Moore
Voice of TAG (Phone)	Louise Renault

## BOARD 2007 - 2008

### IF YOU ARE NOT A TAG MEMBER, JOIN TODAY!

THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS OF BEING A TAG MEMBER:

- \* You receive a discount of \$3 off admission to all shows.
- \* You can book seats earlier than the general public.
- \* 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.

Yet a TAG Membership costs only \$10.00 per year. Join today by visiting:

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



Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary  
**“NOBLESSE OBLIGE”**  
 (The twenty-second in a continuing series)

Lord Arthur Savile, the principal character of our next production is certainly rich, but we shouldn't go further than this and label him as one of the 'idle rich.' Arthur, his relations and those who formed the top layer of Victorian society were hardly ever 'idle!' With a bevy of servants to attend to the frustrating, physical tasks of running a home (and usually a second home in the country for weekend stays), life was a continual round of visiting, parties, balls, soirees, exhibitions, attendance at church, more parties and more visiting.

Each of these activities had a particular set of rules attached to them, and anyone considering himself or herself to be well-bred and a contributing member of society had learned the rules early on. Arthur, we can assume, had learned the conventions from his parents, and carries on the traditions in the house in Grosvenor Square. To visit the house meant observing a whole slate of rules. Even though titled "Morning calls," such visits were to be made after lunch, preferably between one and five. Staying longer than 30 minutes was frowned upon, and conversation was to be kept light and topical – an anticipated new book, fashion trends, a new holiday destination. If another caller was announced, the first immediately left. If a group entered, the oldest person in the group, or the one with the highest social

standing, was given the best seat in the room or the seat close to the fire during the cold months. Calls could also be made in the evening, usually between eight and nine, and could extend to an hour in length.

By page 3 in the script however, one of these rules has already been broken! Arthur's fiancée, Sybil, arrives at the house alone. Even though her marriage to Arthur is only days away, etiquette demanded that Sybil be accompanied at all times by her mother. And the aftermath of this marriage? Of course – more visiting! Visits to the happy couple by those who had attended the wedding, with time for a glass of wine and another piece of wedding cake and then return visits by Arthur and Sybil to express their thanks.

Things will change slightly for Sybil however, once the ring is on her finger (and you'll have to attend the production to find out why there might be a delay in this happening!). As a married woman, she will be able to make visits on her own – to other ladies. A visit alone to a man was restricted to visits of a professional nature, a lawyer, doctor or clergyman. On any public occasion, Sybil would always be accompanied by the devoted Arthur. Devoted he may be; lucky he is not, as you will find out when you see "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime!"

Judy Reade



**COMMUNITY  
THEATRE NEWS**

**CENTRESTAGE THEATRE**

CentreStage Theatre presents Don't Dress for Dinner on Fridays and Saturdays from April 4 th to May 17 th . There will be a 2 PM matinee on Sunday, May 11 th . For reservations call (902) 678-8040 and for more information call (902) 678-3502.

**BEDFORD PLAYERS**

NO SEX PLEASE, WE'RE BRITISH by Alistair Foot and Anthony Marriott Directed by Karen Waterfield. Our spring production is the exceptional comedy 'No Sex Please, We're British!'. The play, set in sedate Windsor, England in 1973 has a cast of 11.

The production is scheduled to run from April 24th - May 10th (Thursdays to Saturdays) at All Saints Anglican Church, 1408 Bedford Highway.

<http://www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca/>

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

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