

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



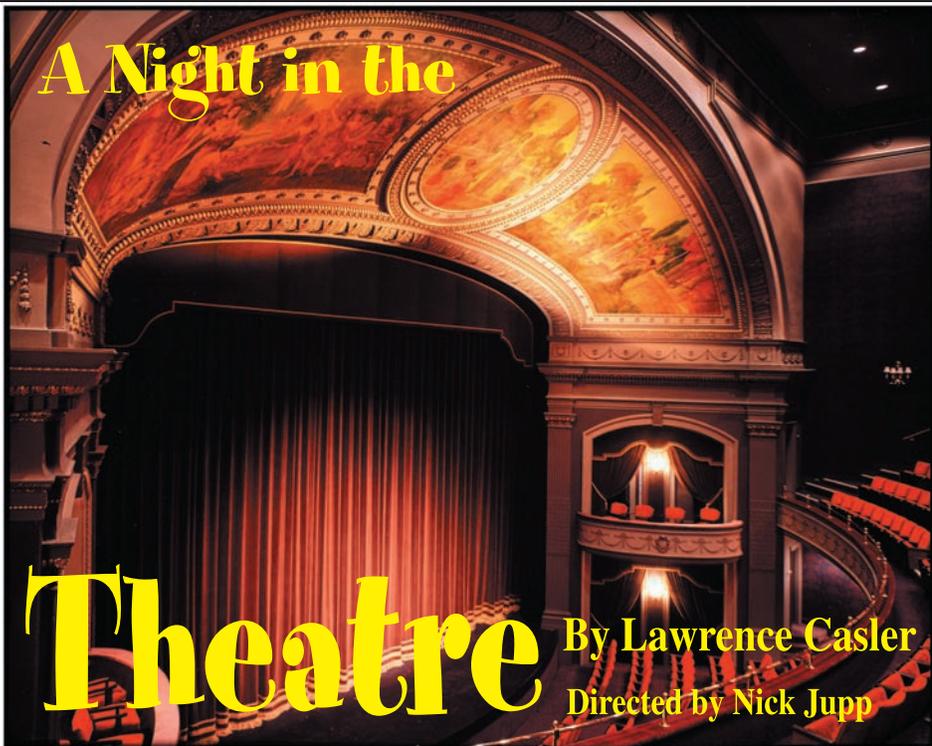
CONTACT

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



A Night in the

Theatre

By Lawrence Casler
Directed by Nick Jupp

A Night in the Theatre

by Lawrence Casler
Directed by Nick Jupp
Produced by Hugh Vincent

**February 21st to
March 8th, 2008**

Mark your calendar now
to reserve your seats
when the Box Office
Opens January 31st.

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

THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS OF
BEING A
TAG MEMBER:

A NIGHT IN THE THEATRE BY LAWRENCE CASLER

A Night in the Theatre is a modern comedy that will sweep away the winter blues and completely entertain our audiences. Walter and Donna, along with their friends Stanley and Margaret, are off to see a production of Hamlet but unfortunately none of them are really up to the task. Between this foursome, you will meet every annoying character you have ever sat close to at a theatre or cinema!

Despite their hilarious all around ignorance and best efforts to destroy the performance, a little of Hamlet does get through with surprising consequences. Perhaps even for Walter, Donna, Stanley and Margaret things just might not be the same once Mr. Shakespeare

has woven his timeless magic.

Walter is played by Frank MacLean, Donna by Valerie MacKenzie, Stanley by Scott Murphy, Margaret by Beth VanGorder and the show Director is Nick Jupp.

BOOK



TAG BOX OFFICE
477-2663

NOW

- * 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

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

AUDIO LOOP INSTALLED AT TAG

TAG is pleased to announce that, thanks to the Telephone Pioneers volunteers, and their team leader Murray Alary, we now have an "Audio Loop" installed at TAG for the hearing comfort of those patrons who use hearing aids.

Although some of the most recent hearing aids have a capacity for adjustment that make it easier for those patrons to hear the play, many patrons with older hearing aids have not been able to hear our actors easily.

Now, thanks to the free installation by the Telephone Pioneers, TAG has such an Audio Loop.

If you or a friend of family member uses a hearing aid, here are the instructions for use:

1. Switch your hearing aid to the telecoil position, usually marked with a T, or your audiologist might have described this to you as 'the feature to use with the phone'. You will hear a buzzing sound.
2. Turn the volume up to maximum (remember to turn it down before you switch back to the microphone!).
3. Make sure that you sit close to a wall with the loop wire embedded in it.

Thank you to Audiologist, Dr David Lyon for the above explanation. If you need more information, contact Executive Producer Bill VanGorder at Bill@MRCassociates.ca

Jack and the Beans Talk - A Genetically Modified Fairy Tale Another Big Hit For TAG!



TAKE
NOTE

AUDITION NOTICE - Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

By Constance Cox, based on a short story by Oscar Wilde.

Directed by Phil Reid Produced by Cathy McAuley

The bridegroom-to-be is asked to commit a murder before he marries, and the Butler is only too anxious to help.

Auditions will be held on Sunday Feb 24th from 1-4 pm and Monday Feb 25th from 7 – 9 pm at TAG's Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road

Looking for a cast of 10 actors - 5 male and 5 female, ranging in age from the early 20's to 60's. One of the male roles requires a German accent.

The play will run from April 24th – May 10th, 2008

For more information please contact Phil Reid at phil.reid@ns.sympatico.ca



HELP WANTED

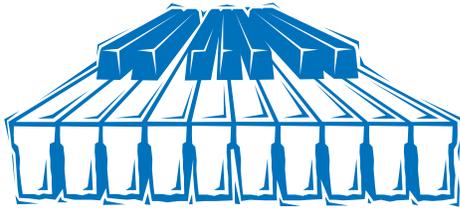
Hi There!

My name is Cheryl Theriault and I am the Volunteer Co-ordinator for the Theatre Arts Guild in Halifax. We are currently looking for persons interested in helping with our reservations, through phone and website. The Theatre Arts Guild operates through the dedication of many hard working and fun loving volunteers and we welcome all with open arms.

Please let me know if this is something you would consider doing. Any interested persons should contact me, Cheryl Theriault at

(902) 492-0838 or

stheriault@ns.sympatico.ca



TAG NEEDS A PIANO! DO YOU HAVE ONE TO DONATE? CALL 477-2663

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Meet The Swingers!!

The Swingers left gloomy England in 1971 and arrived, via South Africa and with two children in tow, at their current location just a few steps from TAG in 1985. Being long time members of TAG and following a call from Cheryl Theriault they agreed, not without trepidation, to handle TAG's Reservations, and for Office Hours and Jack and the Beans Talk they helped put more than 2000 bums in seats.

Marjorie, the voice you hear on the Reservations Line, is a homemaker who volunteers for Meals on Wheels and has delivered Books for Shut Ins for the local Library. She has an interest in local history and was one of the founding members of the Mainland South Heritage Society.

David handles the on-line bookings for TAG. His day job is a faculty member at Saint Mary's University. Neither of them has any stage experience unless you count David's appearances as Joe Cocker's drummer in the late 60's. He still has his drums and is always looking for playmates.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a great holiday season.

Our holiday family show, Jack and the Beans Talk proved to be an enormous hit, selling out for the entire run. Congratulations to all the cast and crew and of course to our very own Cheryl Theriault and Brenda Tydemers for writing such a fun and creative show!

We had a great turn-out for our annual puzzle night held on January 5th. I noticed some new faces amongst the old regulars. The puzzles were diverse and entertaining as always. I hear that John has already begun work on next year's event. I never knew that trying to make a standing structure out of one cup of kitty litter and water could be so much fun!

Our next production, A Night in the Theatre is well into rehearsals. It is a four-hander that is set in a theatre and looks like the perfect way to jolly up a cold winter's night.

Thanks to Hugh Vincent for his donation that allowed us to have some finish work done in the lobby much sooner than planned. I was in the theatre lobby today and it is looking more polished all the time.

The Raise the Roof Campaign is underway. The campaign is focused on improving the seating arrangement in the theatre and removing the remaining auditorium ceiling which will improve air circulation for our audience. To this end, we have set a target of \$65,000.00, and once again we will need your generous help to achieve our goal.

My heartfelt thanks go out to David and Majorie Swinger for doing a superb job of keeping all those full houses straight for Jack and the Beans Talk and who have offered to do reservations for the fourth show of the season, Lord Arthur Savile's Crime. In the past two years we have not had a full-time reservation manager. The Board is re-thinking the position and has thought of breaking up this large responsibility amongst three to five people. The time commitment per show is up to 2 hours a day for 6 weeks. If you are interested in helping out, please give me a call at 454-0417 or email me at helengoodwin@eastlink.ca. I can guarantee you that TAG is a great place to volunteer and some fun will definitely be had if you do decide to give it a try.

As usual, I must thank all the volunteers behind the scenes for continuing to make progress on all of the tasks required to finish the new extension and to upgrade the existing theatre. Without volunteers, we would not exist and I want to thank each and every one of you for so generously offering your time, skills and knowledge to the theatre. We really are more than a sum of our individual parts.....TAG members have shown that over and over again.

Well that's it for this time.

Helen Goodwin

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary

IN CELEBRATION OF SELF

(The twenty-first in a continuing series)

What is it about playwrights! They are either devoid of invention or suffering from an extreme case of narcissism! With a whole wide world to choose from, as regards subject and focus, they choose to write about – the theatre! They make their actors portray – actors! To press the point home, they even incorporate plays within plays, and turn their actors into – the audience! Hm....

Although I've somewhat exaggerated the situation for effect, it is remarkable how often the theatre, its environs, its populace, has served as subject matter for theatrical pieces. Lawrence Casler, the author of "A Night in the Theatre" is following a long-standing tradition. Margaret, Donna, Walter and Stanley spend the play in a theatre, watching a performance of "Hamlet" (well, they try to!). Irony upon irony, Shakespeare's masterpiece itself turns inward and incorporates a play within a play. Hamlet, wishing to provoke his uncle, asks a group of strolling players to perform The Murder of Gonzago, into which is inserted text provided by the Prince. Shakespeare using this device again in "Love's Labours Lost," and most notably in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," when Bottom the Weaver and his band of country bumpkins perform the tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe for the Athenian court. There is evidence that Shakespeare took the idea for this device from "The Spanish Tragedy" by Thomas Kyd, performed in 1587. Kyd uses the device as a means whereby the principal character can gain revenge by stabbing a fellow thespian!

Apart from being used as a setting, the theatre can also be mined for a rich vein of quirky, frenetic characters and confusing situations. TAG audiences will

remember "Jitters" by David French, performed in 1991 and featuring a cast, crew, writer and director who don't exactly operate on a peaceful plane of existence! In the same vein, "Opening Night," by Norm Foster was presented in 1999, showing us the progress of a new play onstage and backstage, as Jack and Ruth Tisdale celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary in their theatre box (Jack would rather be watching the World Series!).

So, will Margaret, Donna, Walter and Stanley benefit from their evening shared with England's greatest playwright? Well, whatever happens, this is going to be a fun ride. Dear William S. would probably not be amused!

Judy Reade

BOOK
 **TAG BOX OFFICE**
477-2663
NOW



WANTED
A PIANO!
DO YOU HAVE
ONE TO DONATE?
CALL 477-2663



COMMUNITY THEATRE NEWS

DARTMOUTH PLAYERS

April 2 – 19, 2008

A CLEAN HOUSE, by Sarah Ruhl
Directed by Geoff Ball

SYNOPSIS: A captivating contemporary play, runnerup for the Pulitzer Prize, The Clean House, by Sarah Ruhl, dances cheerfully between drama and comedy, reality and fantasy, earthy details and romantic imagination. What matters more, cleaning or chemotherapy? Ice cream or illness? Apples or adultery? Can the mystery of life be solved by The Perfect Joke?

The Clean House is an intriguing theatrical experience unlike anything you've seen before! Mature subject matter.

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 cast and character descriptions are listed below.

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



TAG BOX OFFICE
477-2663

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