

THEATRE ARTS GUILD

November/December, 2017



Canada's Oldest Continually
Operating Community Theatre

The Pond Playhouse

6 Parkhill Rd. Halifax NS

www.tagtheatre.com

Facebook: TAGHalifax.com

Phone: (902) 477 2663

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CONTACT - THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD

IN THIS ISSUE

Alice in Wonderland
by Andrew O'Leary

Directors
Angela Butler &
Kelly Doney Morrison

Musical Direction and
original score by
Ralph Urquhart

Producer
Geraldine MacDonald

Stage Manager
Esther VanGorder

November 23 - December 9, 2017
14 performances with 5 matinees

Tickets available
at all Ticket Atlantic outlets

POND PLAYHOUSE
6 Parkhill Road Halifax, NS. www.ticketatlantic.com
www.tagtheatre.com

Follow *Alice* down the rabbit hole as we take you on a magical, musical journey through Wonderland. Our annual holiday Pantomime is an adaptation of a familiar tale that has all your favourite characters and some new additions. The *Queen of Hearts* has taken over Wonderland and it's up to

Alice and her new friends to stop her before the *Jabberwocky* is released and destroys everything they hold dear. Come sing along with our grinning *Cheshire Cat* as we solve wriggles with *Tweedle Dum and Dee*; groove with the *Caterpillar*; discover why the *Hatter* is so mad and much much more!

Directed by
Angela Butler
and
Kelly Doney Morrison

Original musical score and
direction by
Ralph Urquhart

NOVEMBER 23-DECEMBER 9, 2017

Mark your calendars for these very important dates because

Alice in Wonderland

is one show you won't
want to miss!

♥ **TICKETS ON SALE NOW** ♥
www.ticketatlantic.com

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AUDITIONS

Having Hope at Home

by David S. Craig

Directed by Michele Moore
Produced by Shannon Nudds

Saturday, November 4th

5:00 - 8:00 pm

Sunday, November 5th

5:00 - 8:00 pm

Three generations of one family,
with the fourth generation
imminent

Cast of 3 women and 3 men

Wisecracking grandfather

Organic growing granddaughter

Lively French Canadian son-in-law

*(or Acadian- not totally fluent
in French is fine)*

Uptight, controlling father

Ultraconservative, tailored mother

No nonsense professional mid-wife

Open audition

No preparation required

Contact Director, Michele Moore
for further information at e-mail

michmoore41@gmail.com

or 902-477-4943

PERFORMANCES

FEBRUARY 1-17, 2018

A DELIGHTFUL FAMILY COMEDY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to return for my third term as President, especially during this busy and exciting time at TAG. Welcome back to the returning Board members and welcome to those who have just joined us. We start this season with a trip into "Wonderland" with Alice and all the fantasy characters. Rehearsals are bringing out the quirky side of all the cast members and we know the finished product will be lots of fun for the audience. As always, we anticipate the tickets will disappear quickly so don't delay in reserving your seats.

*Join us at the Captain William Spry Public Library on **November 8th at 7pm**, where you will hear the inside story of the journey to present Alice in Wonderland. Meet some of the actors, watch a scene or two, talk with the directors and members of the crew. All ages are welcome.*

*We are also planning a very different event to precede the opening of the Panto; the "**Mad Hatter's Tea Party**" will be an afternoon tea, in the best of "Afternoon Tea" tradition, specifically designed to raise funds for the theatre renovations that are ongoing. Information and tickets are available through our website.*

The construction and building of the new gallery continues and it is quite amazing to see the amount of work that has gone into this project already. Although there is still much work ahead, the results will certainly impress. So many people have been involved with this project for so many months. No form of 'Thank You' can adequately express the gratitude of everyone connected with TAG.

Rayna Smith-Camp

CALL FOR DIRECTOR'S SUBMISSIONS SEASON 2018-2019

Planning for the 2018-19 Season is already underway.

If you have a script that you would like to direct, please submit it to:

Esther VanGorder

Artistic Director

Submissions must include a script, notes as to how you plan to address anything 'unusual' (ie complicated sets, special effects, etc) as well as the time slot you prefer.

Musical submissions will be entertained, however, directors must include with their submissions a **guaranteed volunteer** musical director who is willing to not only work through the rehearsal period, but also to act as accompanist for all performances.

There are four time slots available:

Sept 2018, Nov-Dec 2018,

Feb 2019 and June 2019

Deadline for submissions is
January 15, 2018

Submissions can be left at the Pond Playhouse or sent by email
ArtisticDirector@TAGTheatre.com



UPDATE GALLERIES RENOVATION PROJECT

A Campaign to Raise \$50,000 to Renovate and Make Additions to The Pond Playhouse

TAG is renovating to make life better for patrons, volunteers and actors.

We must raise \$175,000 to fulfill the project that is partially financed by the Federal Government 150 Community Infrastructure Program.

We have raised \$82,000 so far so require \$93,000 through a campaign for funds from members and supporters.

The renovations are well underway as you can see from the photos. Drop by sometime during the day and see the exciting changes that are taking place.



Walls and Trusses going up!



East Gallery from the front door!



North Gallery ready for framing!



Nick and the building!

The project includes the construction of galleries along the east and north sides of the theatre.

- Doubling the size of our currently tiny dressing room
- Replacement of the small, dilapidated backstage bathroom
- Improved costume and props storage
- Actors will no longer have to travel outside the theatre to get from backstage to the lobby for entrances from that area
- Replacement of the cramped storage space behind the existing stage
- New workshop space allowing for set construction inside, rather than outside or on the stage itself.

Renovations Design/Planning

The planning and actual renovations are well underway with design from architect **Sidney P Dumaresq** (FRAIC, NSAA) and engineering from **George Brandys** (P. Eng.).

Both Mr. Dumaresq and Mr. Brandys donated their professional services to TAG, saving us tens of thousands of dollars in professional fees. Our volunteers are working on the project every day. Led by Project Chair **Nick Jupp**, they include **Austin Reade, Barry Marvel, Hugh Vincent, Joe O'Brien, Bill VanGorder** and **Phil Reid**.

Other volunteers are helping with specific projects throughout the process. They include **Angela Butler, Rayna Smith-Camp, Michele Moore, Esther VanGorder, Helen Goodwin, Valerie Dubois, Lorne Abramson, Chantelle Dooley, Rich Knowles, Tamara Smith, Alec Lynch, Kelly Doney Morrison, Valerie MacKenzie, Barb Harte, Nicole Figueira, Jennifer Robbins** and **Griffin LeBlanc**.

Renovations are always costly and we do require further funding.

Won't you consider a donation to help us complete the project?

Our fundraising committee will be contacting you soon to seek your generous involvement.

For more information on the TAG Building Campaign

contact

Rayna Smith Camp

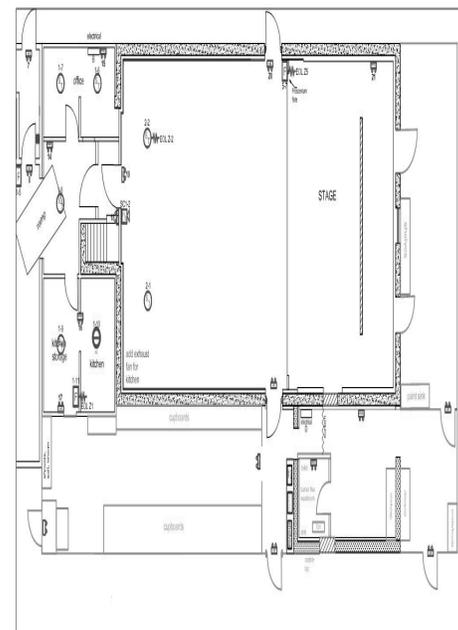
rsmithcamp@gmail.com

or

Bill VanGorder

billvangorder@eastlink.ca

The Theatre Arts Guild Expansion Plan



The North gallery (top of drawing) and East Gallery (lower right quadrant) are shown in this graphic

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Order in the House by Nick Jupp

Director Jocelyn LeBlanc
Stage Manager Katie Allen
Sound: Esther VanGorder
Light Design: Bill Barnaby
Light Operation: Angela Butler
and Bill VanGorder



Featuring

Stuart Heisler
Debora Pollock
Lia Beveridge
Ryan VanHorne
Carolyn Boyer



A Staged Reading **Gratwick Hall** **September 28, 29** **and 30, 2017**

Nick Jupp brought us a wonderful, vivid (and more than a bit risqué) look at a modern power couple. He challenges the ideas of privacy and security, and the value of a well-timed family dinner.

All the debut performances were held in Gratwick Hall, the Pond Playhouse's rehearsal hall. This was a first for the space and was well received by all patrons who attended.



A Night at the Theatre!

POD MOVING DAY!

Over a dozen volunteers came out to TAG to help load props and set materials into a storage POD to clear the way for completing the renovations and begin building the Alice In Wonderland set.



Thank you Volunteers!
It means so much!

Join us for a **MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY**



We invite you to Theatre Arts Guild on **Saturday November 18th, 2017** for an Afternoon Tea event.

This is a fundraiser so all proceeds will go towards the new theatre addition.

Tickets will be on sale starting **Wednesday October 18th until Tuesday November 14th, 2017, at a cost of \$20.00 per person.**

Only **90 tickets** will be available for the entire event, however we can accommodate **30 persons per seating time**. You may choose from the following three times:

12:45pm to 1:45pm (30 persons)

2:00pm to 3:00pm (30 persons)

3:15pm to 4:15pm (30 persons)

Tickets can be purchased online through the TAG website by selecting your time preference and quantity of tickets. The main seating area for the tea will be in the upper level of the theatre, where there is no disabled accessibility. If you require special accessible seating, please contact Rayna Smith-Camp at president@tagtheatre.com

and it MAY be possible to accommodate a small number on the lower level.

Any donations to the Building Fund are always appreciated.

Something to Think About

To anyone who has either participated in a production, be it technically, or on stage, or as an audience member, I encourage you to think about what life might be without our community theatre on Parkhill in Jollimore.

When was the last time you got involved? We miss you. We need you.

Isn't it time to let out your "inner child" and rekindle the curiosity that made learning so exciting?

TAG is a perfect place to meet new people as you volunteer your vast talent and your precious time. You may choose to try your skills as an actor; others may wish to learn set, lighting, or sound design; sound and lighting board operation; or try their hand at Stage Managing, Directing, Producing, Costuming. This is the one place to learn on "the job" and have fun doing it.

Michele Moore

We hope you contact us: info@tagtheatre.com or leave a message on our telephone (902) 477-2663 and one of our volunteers will get in touch with you as soon as they can.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

"The theatre is the only institution in the world which has been dying for 400 years and has never succumbed. It requires tough and devoted people to keep it alive."

~ John Steinbeck

DOUBLE IDENTITY

by Judy Reade

In 2013, a detective novel *The Cuckoo's Calling* by (supposedly) first-time writer Robert Galbraith sold a decent number of copies and aroused considerable interest in this newcomer to the world of crime fiction. The *Sunday Times* newspaper took this interest further – and the suspicion of the literary staff there turned out to be justified. Experts in both Britain and America were consulted and, after online analyses were done, the secret was out – Robert Galbraith was in fact J.K. Rowling, author of the phenomenally popular Harry Potter books. Rowling had thought for some time about trying her hand at detective fiction and decided to adopt a masculine pen-name as her strategy to 'test the waters'.

As long as there have been writers, there have been pen-names, though the reasons for adopting an alias have been many and varied. Stephen King, a prolific author, was advised not to risk flooding the market with King titles and therefore invented Richard Bachman, only, like Ms. Rowling, to be 'outed' by a reader who recognized his style. Others had the same goal as Robert Galbraith – to make a separate persona to carry through a particular style or to launch into the literary world with a different genre. Agatha Christie, creator of Hercule Poirot, wrote romances as Mary Westmacott. Louisa May Alcott, already with some success as the author of *Little Women* (and as the person financially responsible for her family) took the name A.M. Barnard

(neither male or female, and this is deliberate) to write passionate love stories which achieved publication in the more scandalous magazines of the day and earned her more money!

Alcott's choice of a nom-de-plume which masks gender underlies a problem for female writers which persisted from the emergence of female novel writers at the end of the 1600s through to the Victorian era. Jane Austen (an adaptation of her *Pride and Prejudice* was a great success for us last season) was bold enough to mark her first published novel *Sense and Sensibility* as 'by a Lady.' It was only after her death that her readers learned her full name. The Bronte sisters, Charlotte, Emily and Anne disguised themselves as Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell and astounded their publisher later when a face-to-face meeting took place in London.

An interesting point about Louisa May Alcott, Jane Austen and the Brontes – they all began writing as children – poems, short stories and sagas of imaginary countries - as did the author of the original *Alice in Wonderland* (on which our pantomime is based). I will introduce him by his real name – Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (later the Reverend Charles), the third child in a family of eleven, whose father was an Anglican vicar. If that is a surprise to you, his profession will also be a surprise – he was a lecturer in mathematics, at Christ Church College in Oxford. His entire working life was spent at the College, from 1855 to 1898. The pen-name Lewis Carroll was not chosen for the publication of

DOUBLE IDENTITY *continued*

Alice in Wonderland – it had been chosen earlier by his publisher from a list the writer submitted when his poem entitled *Solitude* achieved publication. And Charles Dodgson, like the examples I noted above, began writing when young, with rhymes, stories, word puzzles and puppet plays to entertain his brothers and sisters. Family members also contributed to the Dodgson magazine – *Mischmasch*. The Carroll, by the way, came from the Latin translation of Charles, Carolus. Lutwidge (actually a name from his mother's side of the family) suggested a German form of Louis or Lewis.

Dodgson had already decided, when it was clear that it was possible to make a career as a writer, that there would be a definite separation between his activities as a poet and storyteller and his university career in the mathematics department. The fact that he remained at the College for forty-three years, even when *Alice in Wonderland* and its sequel *Alice through the Looking Glass* brought him into the public eye, speaks to the fact that it was an environment in which he felt comfortable. The Reverend Dodgson taught mathematics, with geometry his particular forte; he wrote mathematics textbooks and his lecturing style, according to his students, was somewhat dull! Lewis Carroll wrote about a little girl named Alice who was very curious and followed a white rabbit down a hole, thereby discovering a strange world in which humans and animals and

playing cards got wonderfully mixed up. The two personas he managed to keep apart (and had great fun in returning letters sent to Mr. Carroll at the College in Oxford!).

If I've burst a bubble in telling you about Charles Dodgson, I apologize, but I'm about to burst another one. Our image of Alice with the long blonde locks and the crisp white pinafore is not the image of Alice Liddell, daughter of the Dean of Christ Church, who first heard the story with her sisters on the 4th of July 1862, during a boating outing. The book's Alice was designed by Sir John Tenniel, a prominent book illustrator in the 1860s.

If you already know the story that has enchanted children since it was published in 1865, I hope you can now enjoy our version, which introduces some old friends and some new ones. If you don't know the original story, you are still guaranteed an afternoon or evening of fun and laughter. See you at the panto!

~ **EXPANDING YOUR
THEATRE VOCABULARY** ~
The 67th in a continuing series



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