



# CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre

The Pond Playhouse

6 Parkhill Rd. Halifax, NS.

(902) 477-2663

www.tagtheatre.com



## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

### UP NEXT AT TAG

THEATRE ARTS GUILD PRESENTS

## ON A FIRST NAME BASIS

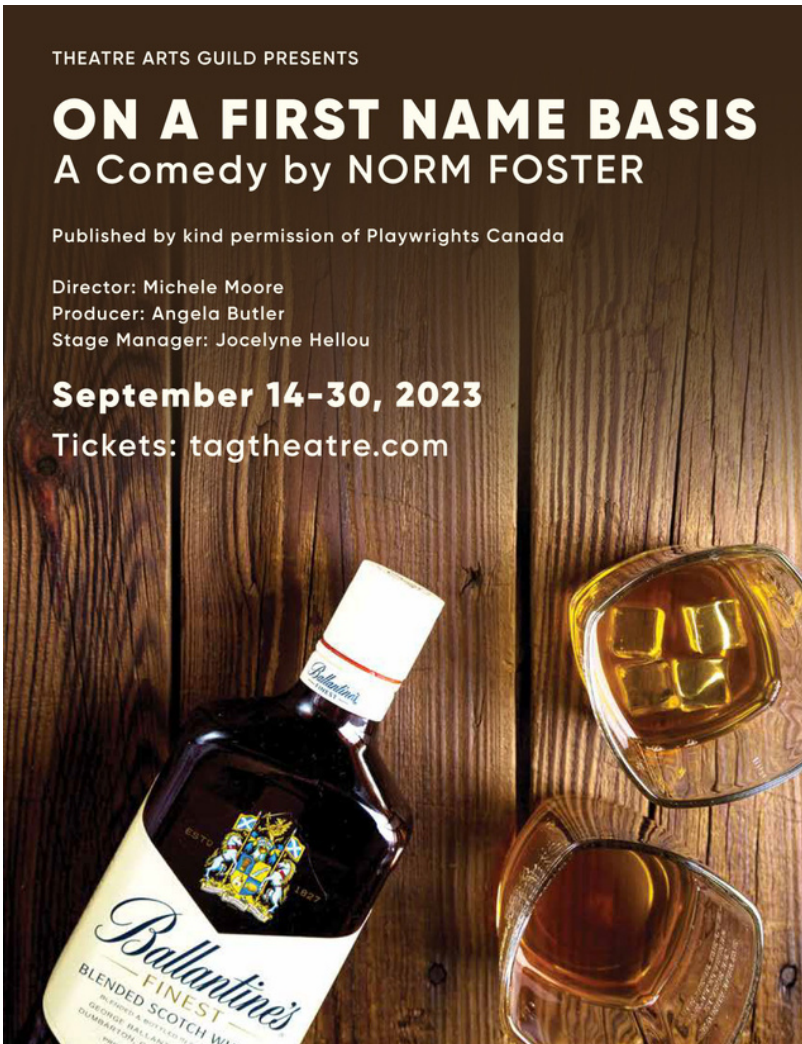
A Comedy by NORM FOSTER

Published by kind permission of Playwrights Canada

Director: Michele Moore  
Producer: Angela Butler  
Stage Manager: Jocelyne Hellou

**September 14-30, 2023**

Tickets: [tagtheatre.com](http://tagtheatre.com)



### ON A FIRST NAME BASIS

A Comedy by Norm Foster

**September 14 -30, 2023**

Director ~Michele Moore

Producer ~Angela Butler

Stage Manager ~Jocelyne Hellou

Asst. Stage Manager~ Palma Heming

David Kilbride, a mostly self-absorbed, successful spy novelist is surprised when he realizes he knows nothing about his long suffering housekeeper, Miss Hopperstaad. He decides to address this, and with the help of cognac, scotch and wine, intimacies, truths and secrets are revealed with comedy, heart and humanity.

Starring

LORRAINE CANTWELL

and

PHIL REID

**Tickets on sale now at [tagtheatre.com](http://tagtheatre.com)**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope your summer has been a safe and happy one. It's too bad the weather has not been more co-operative, but fortunately there is plenty of live theatre productions, festivals, and events to enjoy all over the province.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Nunsense, which was our final production of the season. It was TAG'S first musical since 2016, and we sold out many shows to very enthusiastic audiences. Thanks to all those who came to support the show.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM on Monday September 18th. If you have yet to renew your membership for 2023/2024, you can do so online through our website, or bring your payment to the AGM.

As always, we love to welcome new volunteers to our theatre. If you're interested in getting involved next season but do not know where to start, please reach out to any Board Member for further information.

Tickets for the season opener, *On A First Name Basis* by Norm Foster, are on sale now via our new ticketing system. We hope to see you there!

ged a musical. If you want to kick off your summer with a great laugh, get your tickets now. They are selling fast.

I had the honour of stage managing our last production, *The Glass Menagerie*. Congratulations to the wonderful cast and crew for a successful run. Fortunately, we made it through all three weeks of shows without a single snow storm or illness derailing the performances!

Our 2023/2024 Season Launch was on Friday May 26th. It's another great lineup and I'm sure you will be impressed.

We will announce the date for our Annual General Meeting in the near future, so stay tuned for an update. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me directly.

I wish you all health, happiness and lots of sunny days ahead.

Rayna Smith-Camp  
President

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday, September 18, 2023**

**7:30 PM**

**Pond Playhouse**

**6 Parkhill Road, Halifax**



## Newsletter Highlights

- *Up Next at TAG (front page)*
- *President's Message*
- *AGM*
- *TAG Online ~ Now Featuring*
- *New Ticketing System at TAG*
- *Featured Volunteer*
- *Audition Notice*
- *Membership ~ Congratulations!*
- *Coming Soon*
- *TAG Executive Board*
- *Memories of... Nunsense*
- *The History of TAG- 90 Years and Counting*

All members in good standing are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Theatre Arts Guild. The current Executive Board will present annual reports including the financial statements. Elections will take place for the 2023-2024 Executive Board. A Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

## TAG ONLINE

TAG Digital, The Theatre Arts Guild virtual stage, started as a response to the COVID-19 lockdowns in June 2020, in collaboration with The Telescope Theatre Project. Its aim is to share new, familiar, and obscure works of poetry, prose, and plays, and provide an educational, relaxing, and creative process for participants who desire to take part in a production, but are unable to commit to the demands of a live production. Since September 2020, they have released audio and video productions, made primarily available on YouTube.

The Telescope Theatre Project was a creative, collaborative cooperative of storytelling enthusiasts, with interests in poetry, prose, and plays. Formed in 2013 by Kaylon Fraser, Melinda Antle, and Joshua Law, their ultimate goal was to explore new, familiar, and lost works, and share them with artists and audiences. Following the amalgamation with TAG in 2021, the Project dissolved, but Telescope remains as a producer within TAG.

TAG Digital welcomes your submission of poetry, prose and plays  
[https://tagtheatre.com/tag\\_digital.html](https://tagtheatre.com/tag_digital.html)

*Note: Submitted pieces must be either original work or fall within the public domain (70+ years after death of author)*

**Stream TAG's digital content for free!**

## Now Featuring

### The Open Door

An Audio Drama | RadioTAG

Unable to sleep, and the door kept open, Sir Geoffrey Transom confesses to his host's wife, Lady Gertrude Torminster, of his early departure, and of his affection for her. Rather than excusing herself and retiring to her room, she remains. Does she share his affections? Will passion win over duty?

**Starring Jonathon Tyson  
and Lorraine Cantwell**

Narration by Angela Butler  
Written by Alfred Sutro (1863 – 1933)  
Directing, Mixing by J. Clayton Law

## New Ticketing System at TAG

Due to unforeseen circumstances Theatre Arts Guild's tickets are no longer serviced by Ticket Atlantic. We are now of selling tickets through our own website... [tagtheatre.com](https://tagtheatre.com) using Simpletix, pairing with Square

### HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

- Go to Theatre Arts Guild website ~ [tagtheatre.com](https://tagtheatre.com)
- Find our current event on our home page and Click on ~ **TICKETS ON SALE NOW** button ~ NEXT
- Select a date ~ click on **TICKETS** button ~NEXT
- A floor plan of the theatre will be displayed (**STAGE** is at the top) Chose the seat you would like (**THE GREEN INDICATORS**) ~ NEXT
- Once you have chosen your seat(s) the price categories will be displayed. Chose which one you would like. Regular \$20 Seniors (60+) and Students \$18 Members \$15 ***If you are purchasing more than one seat you have to repeat this process***
- Once you have selected all seats needed - click on the **CHECKOUT NOW** button
- Next is the billing information...
- **PLEASE** indicate your first and last name, email address, phone number, postal code
- Click button if you want e-tickets sent via Text Message
- **PLEASE** indicate if you would like to be added to our email list
- Last but not least ~ How to Pay~ Credit Card or Debit Card or if you have a Square Gift Card (*available at the theatre box office*)
- The final step is to click the I agree with the **TERMS OF SERVICE** button at the end of the transaction  
**NOW YOU ARE READY TO COME SEE ONE, IF NOT ALL OF OUR FABULOUS SHOWS AT THEATRE ARTS GUILD**

Please do not be fooled by other online ticket resellers. Theatre Arts Guild (via SimpleTix) is the ONLY legitimate online seller of tickets for Pond Playhouse productions

**Note:** When purchasing tickets online, you will receive a confirmation email from [orders@SimpleTix.com](mailto:orders@SimpleTix.com). Charges will show on your credit card as "SQ\*Theatre Arts Guild"

**There are no transaction/service fees for online purchases**

## FEATURED VOLUNTEER

# Amal Bhattacharyya



*I always enjoyed volunteering, being with people and performing arts.*

*So, you can see that the Pond Playhouse turned out to be a perfect place for things I enjoy a lot!*

*My first visit there was in 1966.*

*Since then I've been a volunteer, member and patron.  
And now, I feel I've become a part of the history of TAG!*

*The area of the theatre I enjoy the most is the  
Front of the House.*

*Amal Bhattacharyya*



# AUDITION NOTICE

## Auditions for TAG's Annual Pantomime

Thursday, September 7, 7–9 pm

Sunday, September 10, 2–4:30 pm

The Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road  
in Halifax's Jollimore community  
off Purcell's Cove Rd (just past the Frog Pond)



### Santa Claus – The Panto

by Diana Kimpton

Artistic & Musical Director: Kimberly Charron

Producer: Bill VanGorder



Santa and his elves are busy preparing at the North Pole as Christmas approaches. But Beatrix the Bad Fairy, determined to ruin Christmas, kidnaps Santa. It's up to Santa's daughter Crystal, Gloria the Good Fairy, and Simon the snowman to rescue Santa and save Christmas.

**Commitment:** Show runs November 23 - December 9, 2023 with dress/tech rehearsals Nov 19–22.

Rehearsals will be on Sundays from 1-4pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9:30pm.

However, first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 13th .

**Auditions Requirements:** We are looking for people of all ages (minimum age 11), sizes, and colours who love to play, sing, and laugh.

And who will learn their lines/music. No need to prepare a monologue, at the audition you will read scenes from the script instead. And please prepare a short song of your own choice or simply be ready to sing "O Canada" for us.

For more information, contact director Kimberly Charron at [charron.k@gmail.com](mailto:charron.k@gmail.com).

# Membership

Become a TAG Member Today. A TAG membership is the ideal way to help your community theatre thrive while developing your own theatrical skills & interests and making new friends.

Join or renew your membership today.

<https://www.tagtheatre.com/membership.html>

## *Congratulations*

A huge congratulations goes out to the winner of our Membership Prize Draw - Diane Mackie. She receives two free tickets to Norm Foster's comedy, On A First Name Basis.

## Coming Soon



## TAG Executive Board 2023-2024

*Rayna Smith Camp- President*

*Shannon Nudds- Vice-President and Volunteer Development*

*Patrick Charron- Treasurer*

*Stephanie Demedeiros Ouedraogo- Secretary*

*Jennifer Robbins- Artistic Director*

*Angela Butler- Executive Producer*

*Bill Barnaby- Technical Director*

*Bill VanGorder- Fundraising Director*

*Vacant- Publicity and Marketing*

*Lorne Abramson- Building Manager*

*Valerie Dubois- Web Director and Membership*

*Angela Butler- Newsletter Editor*

*David Williams- Bar Manager*

*TAG Costume and Props Team*

*TAG Archives*

*Michele Moore- TAG Phone Line*

# ***MEMORIES OF...*** **NUNSENSE**

**Director**  
**Jocelyn LeBlanc**

**by Dan Goggin**



**Producer**  
**Geraldine MacDonald**

**Musical Director**  
**Ralph Walton Bone Urquhart**

**Stage Manager**  
**Eileen de Boer**

**Asst. Stage Manager**  
**Angela Butler**

**Chorographer**  
**Melanie Abramson**  
**Dumaresq**

**Light Design and**  
**Operator**  
**Bill VanGorder**



## **STARRING**

**Jennifer Robbins**  
**as Reverend Mother**

**Heidi Rhyno**  
**as Sister Hubert**

**Katherine Piche**  
**as Sister Robert Anne**

**Hannah Grosvenor**  
**as Sister Leo**

**Megan MacPherson**  
**as Sister Amnesia**

**Sound Operator** **Sound Designer**  
**Lorne Abramson** **Phillip Joy**

# THE HISTORY OF TAG:

90 Years and Counting

## Episode 13

## A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

I hope that, the next time you are at the Pond Playhouse you take a few minutes to look around the lobby. I know that many of our audience meet up with friends there and like to catch up on the news (!), but there are many items that you can view in this space which all help tell the story of our community theatre.

Let's start our tour on the east side of the lobby, in front of the bar. To your right you will find the latest issue of the TAG Newsletter – Contact, published with that title since TAG's founding in 1931. Next comes information on membership and the opportunity to install a plaque in the auditorium on one of the seats in honour of a friend or a loved one. Passing the main door, on the south wall are displays of posters for our current season and posters of other organizations with which we have ties. In the corner here is a recent addition to the history of Jollimore, the bell which used to belong to the Parkhill United Church (now closed). Rich Knowles worked on the bell's restoration and J Carruth made the 'clock case' frame. Then you must look up! The screen above the bell case displays both pictures and text from the production you are about to see, plus information about upcoming shows and other events which will form our 2023/2024 season. By the entrance to the washrooms is a colourful display created by Cheryl Theriault and Brenda Tyedmers (with the frame again by J Carruth) which lists financial supporters of the Guild, principally those who made possible the building of the lobby and the rehearsal hall which is above it. Now we can head down the ramp towards the theatre, with a stop on the right-hand side to look at the display board for the current production,

featuring not only the actors, but the technical personnel as well. It takes a bunch of dedicated souls to present plays to you and this is where you can identify them and their contribution.

One final stop – and the main reason for writing this issue! Just before you enter the theatre, on the west side of the lobby is a picture, a disturbing one and one that marks a black day in the history of TAG. The painter was Catherine Weld and the event depicted was on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1959. The building seen on the canvas is the fourth home of TAG, formerly the College Street School. This school, part of the Catholic school system of the time and staffed by the sisters of the Sacred Heart Convent, was replaced in 1952 by St. Francis Elementary School (now Inglis Street Elementary), at the junction of Inglis and Robie Streets. The Guild was lucky enough to secure the top floor of the now empty building, which already had a stage. The space on this upper level allowed for a refreshment area, plus storage for props, sets and costumes and an office. TAG's fortunes improved in this home – membership soared and houses were full. I don't think that the origin of the fire was ever determined, but apparently, another theatre group was renting space in the basement of the building and it was in this lower area that the fire started and quickly spread to the upper floors. All those in the building were able to escape, but the upper floors eventually collapsed. TAG's sets, props and costumes, archival material – all was lost (to the value of \$80,000). Embodying the theatre motto – "The show must go on," the play being rehearsed that night, *Candida* by George Bernard Shaw was presented nineteen days later in the auditorium of St. Patrick's High School. The loss of the College Street space proved a hard blow from which to recover. The executive of the time moved to a house close by in Victoria Street and performances continued in a variety of venues for the next few years – Queen Elizabeth II High School, Prince Arthur Junior High School in Dartmouth and the Atlantic Room of the Nova Scotian Hotel (now the Westin Hotel). The damage was done however, and the group once again faced a considerable drop in membership and financial support. It took until 1966 for a new home to be found, the former Church Hall of St. Augustine's Anglican parish, aptly renamed the Pond Playhouse!

Judy Reade, TAG's Archivist