

CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre

 @TAGTheatre

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The Pond Playhouse
6 Parkhill Rd. Halifax NS
www.tagtheatre.com
(902) 477 2663



NEXT AT TAG

The Attic, the Pearls & Three Fine Girls
September 22nd to October 15th

This story springs from the creative imaginations of five women – writers, directors and actors all – via improvisation. It quickly grew into this raucous and moving comedy about three sisters who can't leave each other – or well enough – alone.

Jojo, Jayne and Jelly Fine are reunited in the old family house and must find a way to deal with the past and move ahead into the future, a challenge that tests their family bonds almost to the breaking point. Good intentions gone awry, old resentments, anger beneath a veneer of maturity – all combine to make us laugh (or cry) and perhaps recognize ourselves.

A delight to direct, *The Attic, the Pearls and Three Fine Girls* is meant to be performed in an hour and a half with no intermission. Fast and precise, the comedy never sacrifices the emotional truth of the story. My heartfelt thanks to my Fine actors, Kathryn Reeves, Chantelle Dooley and Stephanie Mason and to the unbelievably hard working and creative crew without whom we are lost!

- Elaine Casey, Director

THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD PROUDLY PRESENTS
by kind permission of Theatre Columbus,
a bittersweet comedy written collectively by
Jennifer Brewin, Leah Cherniak, Ann-Marie MacDonald,
Alisa Palmer and Martha Ross

**THE ATTIC,
THE PEARLS
& THREE
FINE GIRLS**

Director: Elaine Casey
Producer: Michele Moore
Stage Manager: Angela Butler

SEPTEMBER 22 - OCTOBER 15, 2016
Friday & Saturday at 8:00 PM | Two Sunday matinees at 2:00 PM

 **POND PLAYHOUSE**
6 Parkhill Road, Halifax, NS
Tickets: 902.451.1221
www.TicketAtlantic.com

Tickets on Sale NOW!!

TAG Ticket Prices

\$15 Members/Seniors/Students
\$18 Non-Members

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees

Buy Your Tickets

- At the 23 participating Atlantic Superstore outlets
- By Phone (902) 451 1221
- At the door (subject to availability)
- Online at www.ticketatlantic.com
- Ticket Atlantic Box Office

August/September 2016 Contact

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It certainly has been a beautiful summer and it has been another successful and enjoyable season for TAG.

We finalized the 2015/2016 season by solving the Mystery of Edwin Drood. Audiences really enjoyed voting for five potential suspects every performance and the cast certainly enjoyed rehearsing and presenting this unique show.

The upcoming season is jam packed with entertainment and events that are sure to please. The "TAG Variety Show" is back, as is "Playwrights at TAG Festival". If you have always had an idea for a play and want to put pen to paper, now is your chance to submit your work for consideration. Be sure to check our website and Facebook page for updates on all the happenings at the theatre.

My first season as President is drawing to a close. I would like to thank all those who offered their assistance and guidance to help make this a rewarding experience for me. I have learned some many valuable things during this time. I say to all those involved in the upcoming season, "Break a leg" and I look forward to another wonderful year.

- Rayna Smith-Camp, President

PREVIOUSLY @ TAG

The Mystery of Edwin Drood



The Mystery of Edwin Drood, directed by Janice Jackson, graced the TAG stage from June 2nd to 25th! The last and unfinished novel by Charles Dickens was transformed into a musical comedy. A large cast of suspects sang their way through the question of "whodunit". The fascination for both cast and audience lay in the play's unusual twist, which obligated the audience to choose the ending!

The Order of the Grey Squirrel Recipient Darrel O'Neil

The coveted Order of the Grey Squirrel was established in December, 2001 by the Board of Directors of the Theatre Arts Guild as a reward for excellence. The name was inspired by a stuffed grey squirrel that appeared on the set of almost every production during several years immediately prior to the establishment of the Award. The squirrel's antecedents are unknown, but are assumed to be impeccable as, in a truly inspirational fashion; the squirrel always performed flawlessly and left no mess.





PLAYWRIGHTS @ TAG

Playwrights @ TAG is a fun filled non-competitive festival providing members with the chance to experience and enjoy the thrill and agony of writing a script and see it performed for an audience.

No prior experience is necessary and no prizes or adjudication will occur.

This will be our third installment of Playwrights @TAG. Most of the plays presented in this unique event have gone on to perform in other festivals such as The Liverpool

International Theatre Festival and The Atlantic Fringe Festival. The purpose of everything we do at Theatre Arts Guild is to have fun. The process of Playwrights @ TAG has become a wonderful experience for everyone involved.

So, if you always wanted to try your hand at writing or have an idea for a story and want to see it on stage, don't hesitate. Give it a try!

Important Dates:

Submission Deadline: November 30, 2016

Draft of Completed Script: February 4, 2017

Auditions & Rehearsals: To Be Determined

Production Dates: April 21 and 22, 2017

How to Submit:

WHEN: November 30th, 2016

HOW: Submit a PDF or word document to Angela Butler by email at executive-producer@tagtheatre.com

Submissions Must Include:

The theme of your play. For example: a comedy based on the challenges communicating with government, or serious drama dealing with financial stress etc.

A brief description of the key challenge in the play. For example: dealing with a failing cell phone during an emergency, or a deadline that has very serious consequences if not met etc.

A description of the character(s) involved.

An outline of a setting. For example: outside in a park or living room of parent's house.

If you happen to already have a suitable script please submit a copy.

Guidelines For Submissions:

Must be an original work, never performed on stage and practical for a stage presentation at Theatre Arts Guild

No previous writing experience required.

Collaborators that wish to enter should not exceed two writers.

Maximum run time is 30 MINUTES.

Keep characters to a maximum of 4 (doubling is okay).

Technical lights and sound MUST be basic.

Set pieces MUST be few and simple. NO LARGE SET CHANGES.

There will be TWO performances; April 21 and 22, 2017.

The Selection Process:

Producers of Playwrights @TAG will select three (3) plays from the submissions. Just like auditioning for a role in a play, you must be prepared to submit but not necessarily be chosen for production.

For more information, contact Angela Butler at executive-producer@tagtheatre.com

TAG's Annual General Meeting

September 7th at 7:30pm

All members in good standing are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Theatre Arts Guild. The current Board will present annual reports including the financial statements. Elections will take place for the 2016-2017 Board. A nominating committee will present a slate of officers. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

ONE OR MORE - COLLABORATION IN WRITING PLAYS

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 63rd in a continuing series

Opening this piece for just a second wearing my TAG Archivist hat, I have to tell you that this is a first for the Guild – a play with five authors! I was a little hesitant when reading the script therefore, wondering how seamless a play could be with five contributors to the plot and story line. Turns out, the play reads well and if you had not seen the names on the cover, it could be taken to be the work of one author.

That Jennifer Brewin, Leah Cherniak, Ann-Marie MacDonald, Alisa Palmer and Martha Ross have a good deal in common I'm sure contributes to the smooth sequence of the text. All have acting and directing experience; all have long been involved in the writing and promotion of new theatre in Canada, particularly theatre which champions women and their role in society. Leah Cherniak and Martha Ross were the co-founders of Theatre Columbus in Toronto (now Common Boots Theatre); Jennifer Brewin also has ties to this theatre. Alisa Palmer (the spouse of Ann-Marie MacDonald) is the Artistic Director of the National Theatre School of Canada (English Section). Ms. MacDonald, the only one with ties to Nova Scotia (her father is from New Waterford, her mother from Sydney) has found considerable success as an actor, playwright and novelist. TAG presented her best-known play *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* in October of 2009.

The image of the lone playwright scribbling away in a garret, or hitting the keys on a typewriter in a shabby hotel room, has faded in recent years. Gaining popularity is the collaborative approach to writing, or at least,

providing opportunities for writers to present scripts for discussion before an audience. For the audience, it's the chance to make comments or suggestions about the writing.

For the playwright, it's the chance to gauge the overall acceptance (or rejection) of his/her work and determine what characters, scenes, incidents, etc., were successful or were found confusing or unnecessary. DaPoPo Theatre in Halifax has given authors this experience in recent years through their Live-in Theatre Festival and Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre (PARC) has a similar programme in its Playwrights Cabaret series. Such opportunities are now a staple of theatre degree programmes at universities and (in keeping with our living in the computer age) there's even software for collaborating on writing a play with anyone anywhere in the world.

I'm sure by now those of you who read my notes know of my admiration for Shakespeare. So was the Bard part of a Collective? Well, not exactly, but we do know of one instance in which he contributed to the revision of a play which had already been worked on by several writers (and such revision was standard for the time – there's no copyright in existence remember!). The play was *Sir Thomas More* (c1590-1593), whose principal authors have been identified as Henry Chettle and Anthony Munday. Chettle and Munday wrote dozens of plays in collaboration with friends and other actors, as did Thomas Dekker (c.1572- c.1632), a writer featured in readings held by Villain's Theatre in Halifax. By the end of the 16th century, there were ten major theatres in London, plus dozens of smaller venues (usually in the yard of an inn) whose programmes changed weekly. Demand for new material was high (and by how many authors was not a consideration!).

Please join us as we begin our 86th season with the modern collaboration *The Attic, the Pearls & Three Fine Girls*. - Judy Reade

Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents:

Love, Loss and What I Wore
Visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY for more info

Bedford Players presents:

Aspirin & Elephants
Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more info

Coming Soon

The Frog Prince - A Webbed Pantomime

Nov 24th to Dec 5th 2016

The World Premier of TAG members, Cheryl & Brenda's second collaboration on a Panto script (*Jack & the Beans Talk*, 2007) – a hilarious redux of the traditional fairy tale. Tickets on sale October 28th 2016