



# 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



## May/June/July 2023

## Nunsense

**A Musical Comedy by Dan Goggin**  
**June 8th to 24th, 2023**

**Director ~ Jocelyn LeBlanc**

**Musical Director ~ Ralph Walton-Bone Urquart**

**Producer ~ Geraldine McDonald**

**Stage Manager ~ Eileen de Boer**

## UP NEXT AT TAG

**DIRECTOR** Jocelyn LeBlanc  
**MUSICAL DIRECTOR**  
Ralph Walton-Bone Urquhart  
**PRODUCER** Geraldine McDonald  
**STAGE MANAGER** Eileen de Boer

**June 8-24, 2023**  
the Pond Playhouse • 6 Parkhill Rd.

**TICKETS**  
TicketAtlantic.ca • (902) 451-1221  
[tagtheatre.com](http://tagtheatre.com)

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

*Nunsense* is a comedic musical that follows the story of five nuns who find themselves in a challenging situation after the rest of their sisterhood passes away which is traced back to vichyssoise soup prepared by Sister Julia Child of God. Left with the task of managing a fundraiser to raise money for the burial of their deceased sisters, the remaining nuns, including ballet-loving Sister Leo, streetwise Sister Robert Anne, befuddled Sister Mary Amnesia, the Mother Superior Sister Mary Regina, and mistress of the novices Sister Mary Hubert, decide to stage a talent show. Throughout the show, the nuns encounter various misadventures and obstacles, all while trying to put together a successful performance. The humor in *Nunsense* stems from the catchy songs and irreverent comedy, which often pokes fun at the convent life and the characters' distinct personalities. The combination of witty dialogue, amusing situations, and light-hearted satire creates a hilarious spoof that will keep you entertained and laughing.

### Starring:

Hannah Grosvenor as Sister Leo  
Megan MacPherson as Sister Amnesia  
Kathryn Piche as Sister Robert Anne  
Heidi Turner Rhyno as Sister Hubert  
Jennifer Robbins as Reverend Mother  
With cameo appearances of Angela Butler

Tickets are selling quickly with some performances SOLD OUT, but there are still a good selection for other performances

Two Matinees at 2 pm on June 17 th and 18th at 2pm.  
Get tickets at Ticket Atlantic [www.ticketatlantic.com](http://www.ticketatlantic.com)  
or phone 902 451 1221.

Special needs and wheelchair seating in the front row is available to be booked by phone

NUNSENSE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

**Tickets on sale May 11, 2023 at [ticketatlantic.com](http://ticketatlantic.com)**

<https://ticketatlantic.venue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/SEGetEventList?groupCode=THEATRE&linkID=halifax&shopperContext=&caller=&appCode=>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is approaching, and so is the opening night of our next production, *Nunsense*. All you musical theatre fans should be looking forward to this show, as it has been seven years since TAG last staged 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

## TAG Newest Addition

**A sneak peak of our newest  
addition at TAG ~  
The Parkhill United Church Bell  
being restored ready for  
our lobby.  
The full story in our  
next newsletter!**



Rick Knowles ~ Volunteer at TAG

## Newsletter Highlights

- *Up Next at TAG (front page)*
- *President's Message*
- *TAG's Newest Addition*
- *TAG Online*
- *Volunteer Opportunities*
- *Featured Volunteer*
- *Audition Notice*
- *TAG's 2023-2024 Season*
- *Membership*
- *Coming Soon*
- *TAG Executive Board*
- *Memories of... The Glass Menagerie*
- *The History of TAG-  
90 Years and Counting*

# 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!

## Volunteer Opportunities

We are seeking volunteers interested in filling various roles for our 2023-2024 season such as stage manager, assistant stage manager, set painters, props, poster design, etc.

It takes dozens of volunteers with passion and dedication to ensure a successful theatre production. Opportunities are plenty and we are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers. Explore the many volunteer roles open to you.

Click below for more information or email

[volunteer@tagtheatre.com](mailto:volunteer@tagtheatre.com)



FEATURED VOLUNTEER

and

"Volunteer of the Year"  
at the 2023  
U SPORTS Men's  
Basketball Championships

LORNE ABRAMSON



*My good friend from TAG, Nick Jupp asked me in 1995 if I wanted to volunteer with the Theatre as Bar Manager.*

*The rest is history.*

*I have enjoyed all aspects of the Theatre: Acting, Stage Manager, Director, Lighting and Sound Design. Of course my long involvement as Building Manager and Board member has been very rewarding. I have madly fallen in love with British Pantomime since 1999 under the tutelage of Jeffrey Pocock and Stuart Martin.*

*This year I have been involved with working in the booth especially with Angela and her family in a number of shows, Marion Bridge, Red Riding's in the Hood, The Glass Menagerie and now Nunsense.*

*Lorne Abramson*

# AUDITION NOTICE

## *On a First Name Basis*

**A Comedy by Norm Foster**

**September 14-30, 2023**

**Director Michele Moore**

**Open Auditions will be held at  
the Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road, Jollimore  
Sunday June 11 3:30pm - 6:00pm  
Monday June 12 6:30pm - 8:30pm**

**Two Experienced Actors with retentive memories**

**Male approx age 62-70 A Novelist  
Female approx age 54-62 A Housekeeper**

**No appointments or preparations are required. Script  
selections will be available to read on arrival at the theatre.**

**All inquiries can be made to the director at e-mail:  
[michmoore41@gmail.com](mailto:michmoore41@gmail.com)**



**THEATRE ARTS GUILD**  
**presents**  
**2023-2024 SEASON**

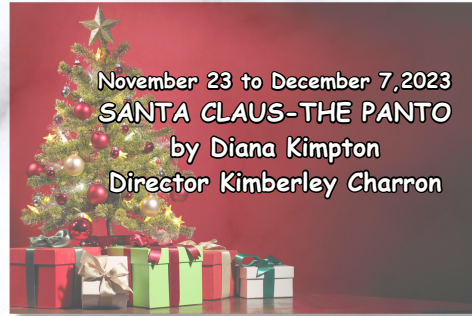
**SEASON OPENER**

**September 14-30, 2023**

***On a First Name Basis***

**A Comedy by Norm Foster**

**Director Michele Moore**

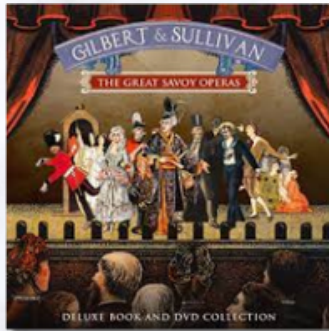


November 23 to December 7, 2023

**SANTA CLAUS-THE PANTO**

by Diana Kimpton

Director Kimberley Charron



**January 26 & 27, 2024**

**An Evening of Gilbert and Sullivan,  
the TAG Sing-Along**

**Organizer: Jolene Pattison**

**March 07-23, 2024**

**Murder Tonight**

**Directed and Written by Nick Jupp**

**Directors Showcase**

**Producer**

**Joshua Law**

April 26 &

27, 2024

**May 30 to June 15, 2024**

***Great Kettle  
for the People*** by Troy  
Ginter

**Directed by  
Tamara Smith**



# TAG MEMBERSHIP

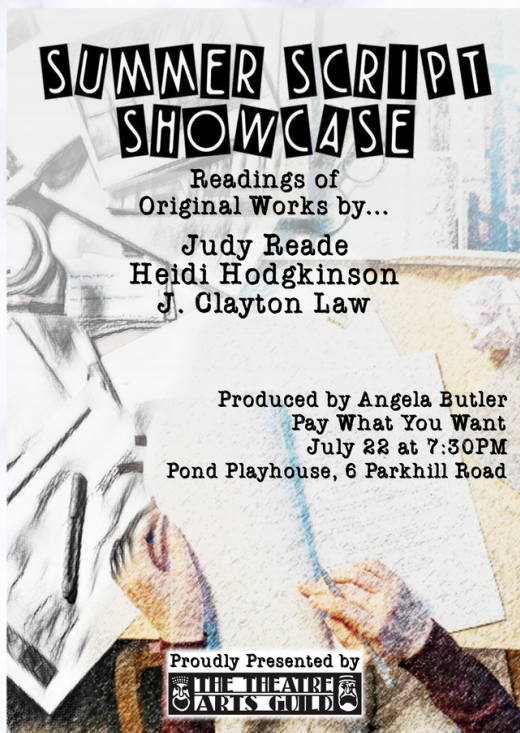
Not only do members receive a discount on tickets, but a Theatre Arts Guild membership is also the ideal way to help your community theatre thrive while developing your own theatrical skills, interests, and making new friends. All memberships are \$15. All memberships purchased June - August will be extended to include the next full season.

**JOIN ONLINE TODAY!**

Visit [tagtheatre.com](http://tagtheatre.com) for more information



## 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... THE GLASS MENAGERIE**

**TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

**DIRECTOR~ ANGELA BUTLER**

**STAGE MANAGER~RAYNA SMITH-CAMP**

**PRODUCER~ LORNE ABRAMSON**

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR~ BILL BARNABY**

**ASST. STAGE MANAGER~ ERIN NIEDLMIER**



*"So beautifully cast"*

*"Outstanding! Great job all around."*



*"There were  
smiles, there  
were laughs,  
there were even  
a few tears!"*



# THE HISTORY OF TAG:

90 Years and Counting

## Episode 11

## “The Hills Are Alive!” Nuns on Stage and Screen

TAG’s upcoming presentation of *Nunsense* is a tuneful comedy about four nuns with a big problem and Bedford Players’ recent *Drinking Habit* again features nuns. Why this fascination with nuns? Why is the most popular musical of recent decades and the winner of nine Academy Awards about a nun? This question sent me on a search to see what pieces TAG had chosen in the past to portray those who wear the habit and on a broader search to find out how nuns have been portrayed on the big screen.

It seemed to me that this fascination can be divided into two streams. Either we take a secret enjoyment in seeing these women step outside their cloistered environment and commit mayhem, thereby revealing their human nature, or, on a more serious note, we see their true commitment to convent life and a willingness to make sacrifices (sometime the ultimate sacrifice), displaying in the process a deep faith and a compassion for all humankind. And being behind convent walls does not always guarantee that the sisters are shielded from the problems which beset the rest of us.

TAG’s production of *Doubt* by Patrick Shanley in 2014 serves as a good example of the stress to be found behind the walls. The Mother Superior of the Convent School is disturbed about the attention being paid by the Parish priest to one boy. The boy’s mother is anxious not to create problems which could possibly lead to her son losing his place in the private institution. Race is a factor too in this dilemma, since the boy black in a school of predominately white children. The nun’s doubt (hence the title), will not leave her. The audience travels with this religious and her community as she wrestles with the problem – loyalty to her students or loyalty to the priest who is her superior?

Wrestling with problems and the pull of the outside world are hallmarks of many of the films which feature nuns. Maria von Trapp is, after all, not suited to life in the convent, but still must leave her companions, acquire the care of seven children (and a husband!), and sing a plethora of unforgettable songs in the process!

Having to wear a habit for a role seems to have attracted some of the best actresses in the past. I am no longer youthful(!), so can remember being moved by Audrey Hepburn in *The Nun’s Story* (1959), where the problem is the sexual tension which builds up between this sister and the surgeon with whom she works in a Congolese hospital. My mother read *Black Narcissus* by Rumer Godden, made into a film in 1947 and starring Deborah Kerr. The setting is the Indian Himalayas and the story follows the unsuccessful attempts of a group of nuns to establish a school and hospital in the mountains. And on the topic of tension between a sister and a parish priest (but presented in a much lighter tone) Ingrid Bergman and Bing Crosby sparred in *Bells of St. Mary’s* (1945), with more singing obviously! For more comedic examples, we need look no further than Whoopi Goldberg’s *Sister Act* (films 1 and 2, with a third announced) and, bordering on fantasy, the *Flying Nun* series starring Sally Field from 1967-1970.

To borrow the Monty Python phrase, “And now for something completely different”. *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* (in TAG’s 1997/98 season) by Christopher Durang is definitely comedic and at the same time a bitter satire on the rigid doctrines of the Catholic Church and how such doctrines have impacted the lives of four of Sister Mary’s former students. This nun has very strong views on the world and SIN, which are expressed to her current class = the audience. Unfortunately, her former students have all transgressed in one way or another and have suffered mentally as a result of their time at the school. The resolution to this dilemma is quite unexpected and brutal. Durang, raised a Catholic, received heavy criticism for this play and there were efforts to stop performances.

The choice of *Sister Mary Ignatius* came at a period during TAG’s history when avant-garde, ‘angry’ authors, both British and American, were being highlighted. Before the Durang play, TAG had presented the first play by Wendy Wasserstein, *Uncommon Women and Other Stories* in 1987 and three of the plays by Joe Orton, a playwright considered outrageous by many at the time. If nothing else, this brief look at the world of nuns on stage and screen has certainly made me consider those who have chosen the convent life as individuals, rather than under a group heading. I hope that you can join us for a look at four of their number in *Nunsense*, which I am placing squarely on the comedy side of the equation!

Judy Reade, TAG’s Archivist

*Please note that the photograph of the young women of TAG’s Concert Party Guild which appeared in the previous episode of this column was used courtesy of the SaltWire Network.*