



CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



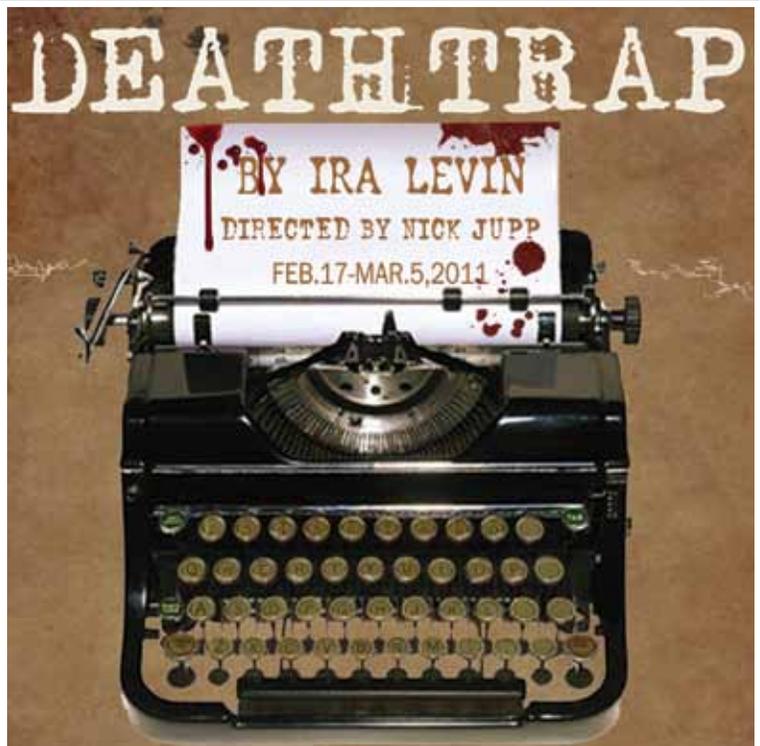
THE POND PLAYHOUSE
6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX NS
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NEXT AT TAG...

The famous author Stephen King described Ira Levin as “the Swiss watchmaker of suspense novels, he makes what the rest of us do look like cheap watches in drugstores”. Mr. Levin’s novels include *Rosemary’s Baby* (1967), *The Stepford Wives* (1972) and *The Boys from Brazil* (1975). His plays include *No Time for Sergeants* (1956), *Veronica’s Room* (1974) and of course *Deathtrap* in 1978 for which he won a Tony best play nomination.

Deathtrap is set in 1978 and you will immediately notice the costumes, set decoration and technology all screaming of a different time. Although it was not that very long ago, some things have changed dramatically (not a computer, cell phone or mention of the Internet in sight) but you will sense very quickly the ageless emotions of greed, callousness, jealousy and pride that are central to the terrible crimes that are committed.

Perhaps the word “yes” best describes this incredibly popular play that continues to run all around the world: Is there murder committed? Yes. Are there mind spinning turns in the plot? Yes. Are there weapons galore and violence? Yes. Will it be shocking? Yes. However, to the question, is there a happy ending, the answer is... come and see the play!



**Tickets on Sale
Friday, Jan. 21, 2011**

Buy Your Tickets

- * At the 23 participating Atlantic Superstore outlets
- * Charge by Phone at (902) 451-1221
- * At the door (subject to availability)
- * Online at www.ticketatlantic.com (\$2 fee per online session)
- * Ticket Atlantic Box Office

TAG TICKET PRICES

**\$13 - Members/Seniors/Students
\$16 - Non-members**

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees except where tickets are purchased online (online service fee - \$2 per online session)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2011, TAG's 80th anniversary year. At the time of writing the Gratwick Puzzle Night is just around the corner and the set for our next play, *Deathtrap*, was constructed over the holidays. There is more about *Deathtrap* elsewhere in this newsletter, but with a cast of five and five murders in the plot you might wonder what happens when the last one goes! If I said the play is a mystery; that might be a helpful clue.

Following the very successful Christmas Pantomime I am happy to report that everything at TAG is fine. The membership, the Pond

Playhouse and our equipment are in great shape and we continue to operate strongly on a debt free basis. We are very much looking forward to the anniversary show in the spring and hope you will come out and support this special event. Eighty years of continuous operation is quite an achievement for a non-profit community group and each and every one of you should be proud of your membership.

It's extremely early days, but there are a happy few contemplating the addition of a scenery (carpentry) shop behind the Pond Playhouse. Together with

the new lobby and rehearsal hall, a scenery shop would both complete a full production facility for TAG and provide a home away from home for frustrated carpenters. The idea first needs considerable planning and deliberation by your Board, so don't expect any ground breaking news very soon. In the meantime, if you have ideas about such a project, please pass them on to any TAG Board member.

Please remember during the winter show to park in the TAG or Temple parking lots. Parking on the road is restricted to the south side opposite the Pond Playhouse.

~ Nick Jupp, TAG President

Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents *Funny Money*, written by Ray Cooney and directed by Cliff Tyner, Fans of the rip-roaring, high speed, door slamming British farce, will enjoy this one! What happens when Joe-Average-Englishman opens his briefcase and discovers 1.5 million pounds inside? The show runs March 30 to April 16, 2011. Call 465-PLAY or visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca for more information.

Bedford Players presents *Marplot*, Maria Plumb and Rob Thompson's adaptation of Susanna Centlivre's classic 17th century play. Inspired by the Elizabethan age of theatre, this popular play was in productions for over 150 years, and was updated in 2003 for new audiences to enjoy! The show runs Apr. 28 to May 14, 2011. Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more information.

JOIN TAG AT THE LIBRARY

Please join us as we pay our third visit to the Keshen Goodman Branch of the Halifax Public Library System (330 Lacewood Drive, in Clayton Park). Our programme is being presented on Saturday, February 5th 2011, at 2:00 p.m. We've picked a Valentine's theme again – 'Choosing a Wife' – and will be performing two short plays. *The Proposal* is the first piece, by the great Russian playwright Anton Chekhov. The second, titled *Two Slatterns and a King* is by the American poet Edna St. Vincent Millay. In this extended poem, a mythical King must choose between two housewives for his bride. Miss Tidy is a Martha Stewart clone, with a kitchen wondrous to behold. The other is Miss Slut, whose kitchen is, well, rather a mess!

Our group of performers is Lorraine Cantwell, Rick Eng, Michele Gaudet, Rayna Smith-Camp (who also directs) and Jonathan Tyson. Judy Reade provides the introduction and connecting commentary.

There's no admission charge and plenty of parking, so hope to see you at the Library!



Our 2010 visit. Rayna Smith-Camp and Debora Pollock rehearsing before the performance.

AUDITION CALL An Enemy of the People

Written by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Arthur Miller, and directed by Gisela O'Brien, *An Enemy of the People* is a powerful drama about principles and politics clashing in the pursuit of truth. The show will run April 21 to May 7th, 2011.

Audition Dates & Times:

Sunday Jan 16, 7-9 p.m.
Monday Jan 17, 7-9 p.m.

Location:

Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Rd.
(off the Purcell's Cove Rd.)

Roles include:

- ◆ 8 men (varying ages from 23–70), representing various occupations, including "The Town Drunk"
- ◆ 2 women, (mother and daughter),
- ◆ 2 eager children (ages approx. 12-16)
- ◆ a number of townsfolk who form the audience at a public meeting.

There is something for everyone!

Cold reads from the script will be provided and appointments are not necessary. For additional information please call the director, Gisela O'Brien at 422-9859 or e-mail gobrien@dal.ca.

Pond Playhouse Transformed into a Fairy Tale Land

TAG's holiday pantomime was a huge success again this year. *Beauty and the Beast* entertained patrons of all ages.

Sold out audiences saw the Pond Playhouse stage transformed into a fairy tale land with clever sets and beautiful costumes.

It is always a pleasure to see families relaxing together and joining in the panto fun - booing the villains and cheering and the heroes and heroines.

JOIN TAG IN CELEBRATING IT'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY!!

Dedicate a Seat for \$500 and take a permanent place in the history of the Pond Playhouse
Your seat will be identified with an engraved plaque.

- ▶ Celebrate a special occasion/event
- ▶ Cherish the memory of a loved one
- ▶ Record a milestone
- ▶ Raise your company's community profile
- ▶ Show your support for the arts

60%+
SOLD

Your contribution is tax deductible.
All proceeds to the TAG Capital Campaign.

Visit www.tagtheatre.com or email
seatsale@tagtheatre.com

for more information about this exciting fundraiser.!

Scenes from TAG's holiday pantomime production of "Beauty and the Beast."



Gentlemen - Select Your Weapons!

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 35th in a continuing series...

Some men display family photos in the study, others paintings and sculpture. Not so Sidney Bruhl, the protagonist of *Deathtrap*. Sidney likes – weapons. To quote the stage directions of the author, Ira Levin, the walls of this room are home to a collection of ‘guns, handcuffs, maces, broadswords, and battle-axes.’ Some of these items are mementos of the plays Sidney has written, others are gifts from friends who know of his hobby and others are finds in antique shops. And some of them will be used in the course of the action, though which ones and for what purpose, I will certainly not divulge! The surprises in this drama are revealed as layers of onion are revealed when being prepared for a recipe, and I won’t let slip a single one!

In case you think that violence and the use of weapons in the theatre is a recent development, perhaps a look at the Bard himself, William Shakespeare, will have you change your opinion. In *Romeo and Juliet*, for example, we tend to focus

on the romantic aspects of the plot, but there are several sword fights and far fewer characters by the end of the play – Tybalt kills Mercutio and is then killed in revenge by Romeo. Romeo later murders Paris, the intended husband of Juliet. In the final scene of the play, Romeo (mistakenly thinking Juliet is dead) drinks poison. Juliet, waking from her drug-induced coma, stabs herself with Romeo’s dagger.

Hmm, a dagger. Does that ring another Shakespearean bell? Macbeth uses a dagger to kill Duncan, his rival for the kingdom and then immediately compounds his problems by accusing Duncan’s attendants and slaying them too! The body count piles up, until Macbeth dies at the hands of Macduff, who displays Macbeth’s head on a lance to the assembled army. Hamlet’s pretty handy with a blade too! Polonius is dispatched by being stabbed through a curtain and Claudius, uncle of the Prince, is another stab victim. Unfortunately, Hamlet doesn’t survive the

carnage, as he is poisoned by being nicked with a sword used by Laertes – poison smeared on the point by his uncle. If all this sounds somewhat far-fetched, in Shakespeare’s defence, the pattern of multiple deaths, by various types of weapons, was not his invention. There was intense competition between theatres in the London of Queen Elizabeth I, and (somewhat like the reality shows of today’s television) it was sometimes a case of ‘the gorier, the better,’ in order to attract an audience! Shakespeare actually borrowed elements of Hamlet from an earlier play by Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy*, written between 1582 and 1592. Kyd’s sub-title for this work is *Hieronimo is Mad Again*, which doesn’t need any explanation from me!

So, sit back – prepare to be surprised, and watch those weapons on the wall!

~ Judy Reade

Renew Your TAG Membership Today!

\$15	Regular
\$25	Family
\$10	Senior (60+)
\$10	Student

Membership benefits include:
\$3 discount off admission,
newsletters and invitations
to special members-only events.
Visit www.tagtheatre.com
for more information.

Want to Volunteer?

email

volunteer@tagtheatre.com
for more information

**Join TAG
on
Facebook
Today!**

Email your submissions to:
newsletter@tagtheatre.com

Upcoming Shows Mark your calendars!

An Enemy of the People - A powerful drama written by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Arthur Miller (Apr. 13 - 30, 2011)

Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star - Two funny one-act companion plays written by James McLure (June 23 - July 9, 2011)