



CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



THE POND PLAYHOUSE
6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX NS
INFO@TAGTHEATRE.COM

Next at TAG: God of Carnage Sept. 20 - Oct. 6

The Tony award winning playwright Yasmina Reza (*Art* 1998, *God of Carnage* 2009,) has delivered another riveting production which Director, Michele Moore best describes as a caustic adult comedy. In the ninety minute uninterrupted play, the audience watches as four smug, upper middle class individuals are slowly stripped of their veneer facades leaving only their raw characters.

The subjects are two sets of parents whose sons have had an altercation in Brooklyn's Cobble Hill Park that has left one of the boys injured. The parents decide to deal with this dispute as civilized individuals and come together to discuss how to best solve this quarrel. As the conversation evolves, the audience is privy to the subtle changing of emotions and alliances within the quartet. In *God of Carnage*, actors Mike Taylor, Ellen Oldford, Frank MacLean and Stephanie Mason, take on roles that allow them to rip the stuffing out of one another, stomp on their own vanity and have the time of their lives.

Warning: coarse language may be offensive to some.

The THEATRE ARTS GUILD proudly presents
The 2009 Tony Award™ Winning Caustic Adult Comedy

God of Carnage



Written by Yasmina Reza
Translation by Christopher Hampton

September 20 to
October 6, 2012

Directed by Michele Moore
Produced by Sandra Witherbee

THE POND PLAYHOUSE
6 PARKHILL ROAD
(OFF PURCELL'S COVE ROAD)
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Warning: Coarse Language Which May Be Offensive to Some



Presented with the kind permission of
Dramatists Play Service Inc.
www.dramatists.com

Tickets On Aug 22nd

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 (\$2 per online session)

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another season winds down at Theatre Arts Guild; number Eighty-One to be exact. Wow! What a milestone and what a way to bring it to a close with *The Drowsy Chaperone*; a complete sell out. A huge thank you goes out to the tremendously talented cast and hardworking crew. The show was seen by many who had never attended the theatre before and commented they will return for future productions.

At Theatre Arts Guild we strive to bring excellent theatre to HRM but we also aim to be a part of the community of Jollimore. We want to send a special thank you to our neighbours who have been exceptional. We hope to continue this cordial relationship. Please feel free to stop by for a visit.

This past season we offered four free workshops highlighting various aspects of the theatre that people felt they wanted to know more about. We hope this helped people get a better understanding of the theatre because it isn't as scary as it might seem. We are a community theatre with a broad spectrum of

areas where people can become involved. Not everyone wants to act but they may be interested in lighting or sets. It's a great place to meet new people, learn new skills and/or share old ones. Drop by, phone or email us if you are interested in volunteering.

We just launched our new season for 2012-2013. With the variety of plays selected, there will be lots of opportunities for people to become involved. And for those who just want to come and see a show, you won't be disappointed. For more information on our new season or any other area of the theatre, visit our website www.tagtheatre.com or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

It's exciting to be part of TAG as it continues to grow. The lobby is now complete with new flooring and we are working on a new air flow system for the theatre. Future projects involving dressing rooms, a scene shop and storage areas remain on our wish list. TAG is definitely an amazing place with many fabulous volunteers that make it all happen.

~ Angela Butler, President

COMMUNITY NOTES

Dartmouth Players presents *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. This award winning musical recounts the good times and the demise of the Chicken Ranch, known since the 1850s as one of the better pleasure palaces in all of Texas. The show is scheduled to run in Nov. 7-25, 2012. Call 465-PLAY or visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca for more information.

Bedford Players presents *Move Over Mrs. Markham* by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. Directed by Robin Saywood the show follows a hectic and hilarious evening when different sets of hopeful lovers all converge on the bedroom of the Markhams' supposedly empty flat. The show runs Oct. 25 - Nov. 10, 2012. Call 832-3300 for tickets and visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca for more information.

Theatre Arts Guild Annual General Meeting

The Theatre Arts Guild Annual General Meeting will be held in Gratwick Hall, Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road, Halifax, N.S. on Monday, September 10, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

All members in good standing are invited to attend the AGM. The current Board will present annual reports including the financial statements. Elections will take place for the 2012-2013 Board.

SOLD OUT SUCCESS!



TAG's final production of the 2011-2012 season was a big success. *The Drowsy Chaperone* played to sold out audiences every night!

Photo: Rehearsal fun on the set with Mike Chandler [Feldzieg] and Karen Myatt [Janet] vamping it up.

Theatre Arts Guild 2012-13 Season

Join us at the Pond Playhouse for TAG's 2012-13 Season. Mark your calendars today!

***God of Carnage* (Sep. 20 - Oct. 6, 2012)** This popular Broadway play by French playwright Yasmina Reza weaves a clever and witty story about two couples trying to resolve a problem in a civilized fashion. Add a little booze and soon tensions are running high, leading to a funny and thought-provoking war of words. Directed by Michele Moore.

***Camelot, the Panto* (Nov. 29 - Dec. 15, 2012)** This hilarious comic adventure, written by UK playwright Ben Crocker, takes you to a faraway place with knights, damsels, and a bear. Get ready to cheer and jeer! Reserve your tickets early because our popular holiday pantomime always sells out fast! Directed by Angela Butler.

***The Death of Me/My Narrator* (Feb. 14- Mar. 2, 2013)** Mixing "true to life" with "unbelievable" is what Canadian playwright Norm Foster does best; and deliver laughs! There is no better way to beat the February blues. You'll leave the theatre feeling better because you laughed and learned something about humanity, all at the same time. Directed by Frank MacLean.

***A Man for All Seasons* (Apr. 18 - May 4, 2013)** Written by Robert Bolt and loved by audiences all over the world, this classic is a rich costume drama, set in the time of King Henry VIII. This well-loved play explores moral issues of silence and consent, still relevant today. Directed by Gisela O'Brien.

***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (June 20 - July 6, 2013)** This fun and innovative musical, fresh from Broadway, has played all over the world. Joining the cast of nine, are willing audience volunteers, making each performance unique and making Spelling Bee a delightful coda to our 2012-2013 season. Music and lyrics by William Finn, book by Rachel Sheinkin, conceived by Rebecca Feldman and directed by Jolene Pattison.

Want to Volunteer?
volunteer@tagtheatre.com

AUDITION CALL Camelot the Panto

Keeping with tradition, *Camelot the Panto* is full of music, laughter and fun. There is magic and mayhem in this mixed up tale of seeking vengeance and finding true love!. Directed by Angela Butler with musical direction by Bunny Shore, choreography by Melanie Abramson, and produced by Charles Salmon, *Camelot the Panto* will run Nov. 29 - Dec. 15, 2012 (14 performances including 5 matinees).

Audition Dates & Times:

Sun. August 26, 2012, 1-5 p.m.
Mon. August 27, 2012, 7-10 p.m.

Location:

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

Cast of Characters Required: Male and female roles, ages 15 to 99, for a large cast of characters. Please visit www.tagtheatre.com for a complete description of the characters.

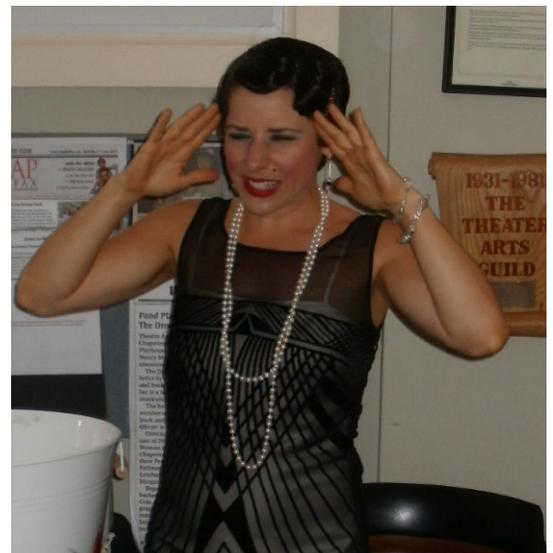
Auditions are an open call. There will be a cold read from the script. Please prepare a song of your choice (a capella). No appointments.

For more information please phone the director Angela Butler at 866-0612 or email her at rob-angela@hotmail.com.

Prize Winner

Congratulations to Donna Bonnely of Dartmouth the winner of the *Drowsy Chaperone* Door Prize drawn after the closing show.

Photo:
Actress
Lyndsay
Anderson,
who played
Kitty, the
chorus girl
with the
mind reading
act, tries to
guess the
lucky winner
before
making the
draw.



August/September 2012 CONTACT

TAKING THE MICRO VIEW - YASMINA REZA AND HER WORK

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 43rd in a continuing series...

'The theatre has a thousand faces,' I wrote recently and here we are, for the 82nd time in the history of this organization, about to experience a fresh gamut of characters, settings and stories which we hope will bring you pleasure during our 2012/2013 Season.

Some playwrights need to establish a large framework before they begin. Yasmina Reza however, takes the micro view - a small number of characters, a single set, action which is continuous. (*God of Carnage* has four characters. *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, by contrast, which is Shakespeare's smallest cast, has fourteen, plus the provision for 'citizens').

From an artistic point of view, there are problems with choosing to work on a smaller scale. Fewer characters means a better developed set of characters, born of the necessity of maintaining

the audience's interest throughout the entire piece. A single set means the clever use of the set as an extension of the action, and a performance time of ninety minutes implies some work needs to be done in finding the right pace for the dialogue. There is, however, ample proof that Ms. Reza is rising to these challenges quite nicely!



God of Carnage won a Tony Award for Best Comedy in 2009, with an Olivier Award in London (for Best New Comedy) the same year. Ms. Reza's first play, *Conversations after a Burial* (1987) won the French equivalent of those awards for Best Author. *Art* (1995), perhaps her best-known work, gained the prize also in 1995, along with Olivier and Evening Standard Awards in Britain and a Tony Award for Best Play. For someone with only seven plays to

her credit, that is quite the trophy list!

Yasmina Reza has been fortunate in working with Christopher Hampton on the English versions of her plays. (If you are confused by the name, she is French, living in Paris for most of her life, with a mother who was Hungarian and a father born in Iran). *God of Carnage* however was first presented in German in Zurich in 2006, almost two years before its French debut. That I think brings us an insight into the nature of the dramatist. To Reza, the nationality of her characters is not of concern, but their humanity and their confrontation with life's overwhelming, impressive, mediocre, sometimes downright foolish challenges.

Join us (September 20 - October 6) for TAG's first presentation by this acclaimed and much decorated writer.

~ Judy Reade

Renew Your TAG Membership!

\$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.

Join TAG on
Facebook &
Twitter!

A BIG THANK YOU
to our many
patrons and
volunteers

TAKE YOUR SEAT!

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. Your contribution is tax deductible.

- ▶ 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

Visit tagtheatre.com or email
seatsale@tagtheatre.com for more
information about this exciting fundraiser!