

CONTACT

September, 2005

www.tagtheatre.com
info@tagtheatre.com

The Official Newsletter of



Canada's oldest continually operating
community theatre. 74 years and growing!

President's Message

—Esther VanGorder, president



How can it be that it's already September and summer is nearly over? We should all take consolation in the knowledge that fall goes on forever in Nova Scotia. I hope everyone had a good summer and was able to enjoy some downtime.

There is no such thing as summer downtime at the Pond Playhouse. Although the evidence may not be visible from the outside of the building, activity is ongoing as we ended one season and

flowed seamlessly into the next.

Congratulations go out to the intrepid cast and crew of *The Hollow* who survived more than their share of trials and tribulations—not the least of which was a heat wave—but still put a wonderful show on the stage. I'm pleased to report that Michael Roche, who played Gudgeon (the butler), has recovered from the appendicitis attack that forced him off the stage for the last weekend of performances. Luckily, Mrs. Gudgeon (in the person of director Iris Paterson) was available to step in.

There is a more detailed report of the activities of the Lobby Expansion Committee later in this newsletter. I had hoped that you would be able to see physical evidence of the project by now, but unfortunately, the process of documentation of plans and obtaining the required approvals from the HRM is taking longer than we expected. However, we are still optimistic that significant progress will be made before the weather changes unfavourably.

You will already have received the official notice of the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the theatre on Monday, September 19th at 8:00pm. I encourage all members to attend and participate. Join us for the ceremonial sod turning before the beginning of the official meeting. Take this opportunity to meet and talk with your returning and outgoing board members. As a bonus, you'll be able to get a sneak peek at the set for the opening production of the 2005/06 season: Norm Foster's *The Affections of May*, opening on September 29th.

The upcoming season is our 75th Anniversary Season. It promises to be an exciting and varied collection of plays that includes something for everyone, including the always popular Pantomime—a world premiere of an original script by another one of our own, James Boyer, who is following in the footsteps of Lorne Abramson & Cheryl Theriault (*Red Riding's in the Hood* – 2004) and Jeff Pocock & The Gratwick Partnership (*Cinderella* – 2001).

Watch for 75th Anniversary events in upcoming issues of *Contact*. Oh! You want to continue receiving *Contact*? Don't forget to renew your membership, or this will be your last issue.

—Estherprezzie *

Our Next Production...



.....a comedy



Directed by Cheryl Theriault

Produced by Louise Renault
Stage Manager Patti Morse

September 29 - October 15, 2005
Sunday matinee, October 9 @ 2pm

September 29 - Opening Gala with bubbly
September 30 - \$5 night

Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill Road (off Purcell's Cove Road)

produced by special arrangement with Playwrights Guild of Canada

poster design by Todd Murchison

The box office opens September 1st for members
and September 8th for non-members.

For Reservations Call

477-2663

or visit

www.tagtheatre.com

TAG Board, 2004-2005

President	Esther VanGorder
Vice President	Nick Jupp
Secretary	Michele Moore
Past President	Frank MacLean
Treasurer	Carolyn Boyer
Artistic Director	Brenda Tyedmers
Executive Producer	Louise Renault
Technical Director	Austin Reade
Publicity Manager	Bill VanGorder
Building Manager.....	J Carruth
Props/Costume Manager....	Judy Reade
Reservations Manager	Lynn Bungay
Membership Records	Helen Goodwin
Newsletter Editor	Eric Rountree
Special Projects Manager...	Rich Knowles
Member at Large	Hugh Vincent
FOH Manager.....	open
Fund Raising Manager	open

Saraguay Club—Dinner & Theatre

The Saraguay Club and The Theatre Arts Guild offer a dinner and theatre package (\$37.00 plus tax and gratuities) on Thursday and Friday evenings during TAG's productions.

During the run of *The Affections of May*, this package will be offered on September 29th and 30th, and October 6th, 7th, 13th, and 14th. Arrive at the Saraguay at 5:30, enjoy a three-course dinner, and then travel to the Pond playhouse by 7:30 for an evening of entertainment.

To reserve this package, call TAG at 477-2663.

The Theatre Arts Guild

Location: **Mailing Address:**

The Pond Playhouse **287 Lacewood Drive**
6 Parkhill Road **Unit 103, Suite 412**
Halifax, NS **Halifax, NS B3M 3Y7**

Telephone: (902) 477-2663

Internet: www.tagtheatre.com
 info@tagtheatre.com

TAG's 75th Season!

This season is a big one for TAG, Canada's oldest continually-running community theatre. This fall, it will have been continually running for seventy-five years. Needless to say, our artistic committee has been working especially hard this time around to ensure that we have a stellar season with something for everyone.

Here's the line-up for this upcoming landmark season:

The Affections of May

a comedy by Norm Foster
September 29th to October 15th
Director: Cheryl Theriault
Producer: Louise Renault

Shipwreck on Fable Island

a pantomime by Jamie Boyer
December 1st to December 17th
Director: Jamie Boyer

Enchanted April

by Matthew Barber,
from the novel by Elizabeth Von Arnim
February 23 to March 11
Director: Gisela O'Brien
Producer: Ann Miller

Red, Hot and Cole

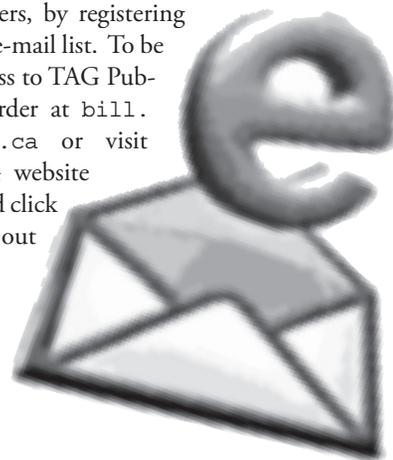
Book by James Bianchi, Muriel McAuley,
and Randy Strawderman
Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter
May 4th to May 20th
Director: Rebecca Humphreys

Dial "M" for Murder

a mystery by Frederick Knott,
Publisher, Random House, New York
July 6th to July 22nd
Director: Frank MacLean

Get Regular TAG Updates and Information

You can receive regular e-mail updates about TAG, between newsletters, by registering to be added to the TAG e-mail list. To be added, send you e-mail address to TAG Publicity Chairman Bill VanGorder at bill.vangorder@ns.sympatico.ca or visit the constantly-updated TAG website at www.tagtheatre.com and click on "Get TAG Email" and fill out the on-line form. *



Affections Info...

In Norm Foster's *The Affections Of May*, May Henning is the owner of a bed and breakfast in the town of Grogan's Cove. After being deserted by her husband Brian, who has decided that small town life is not for him, May is left to fend for herself, and she suddenly finds she is the centre of attention in this small resort town. This was the most produced play in all of Canada in 1991.

TAG's production of *The Affections of May* stars Alice Woodbury as May, Scott Murphy as Quinn, Frank MacLean as Hank, and Roy Ellis as Brian. Cheryl Theriault is directing, and Louise Renault is producing. Patti Morse is stage manager.

With a cast like this, how can we go wrong? Regular TAG attendees will remember Alice Woodbury from her performances as Daryl in *Best of Friends* and Chrissy in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, both last season. Scott Murphy first appeared on the TAG stage in *Romance with a Twist*, our 2003/2004 season opener and played Gary in *I Hate Hamlet* later that same season. Frank MacLean has appeared in numerous TAG productions over the years, most recently as Lloyd in 2003/2004's *The Wisdom of Eve* and Lee in TAG's production of *The Melville Boys* at Studio Neptune this past June. Those who venture beyond the walls of the Pond Playhouse will have seen Roy Ellis as Judas Iscariot in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at St. Matthew's this past spring.

With Cheryl Theriault at the helm, still basking in the glow of her directorial (and authorial) debut last season with *Red Riding's in the Hood* (co-directed and co-authored with Lorne Abramson), and Louise Renault furling the sails (and battening down the hatches, and hoisting the jib, and scrubbing the decks, and...) the cast and crew are in capable hands. Patti Morse is heading up that crew, returning to us as stage manager after a prolonged work-induced absence. Welcome back, Patti. (Oh, *that's* what you look like!)

Book your tickets now. This is gonna be a good'un. *

Donation Doublers!!

A big "Thank You" to all who doubled their donation to expand TAG's lobby! Many of you have already taken advantage of the fact that, as an incentive to "kick-start" this Lobby Fund Drive, the Gratwick Partnership (long time TAG members John and Lyn Gratwick) have generously agreed to match all donations of \$100 or more, up to a total of \$5,000. Thanks to the generosity of the Gratwick Partnership, over \$3,500 has been donated to date.

There is still time for you to donate. The deadline for contributions is October 21st, 2005. If you wish to donate to the fund, please send your cheque to the Treasurer, made out to "Theatre Arts Guild Building Fund." You will receive a charitable donation receipt for income tax purposes (*thus allowing the federal and provincial governments to make their contribution to our new lobby!*)

We know that many of you will want to support the Gratwicks' effort on behalf of TAG.

Please send your donation of \$100 or more to:

The Theatre Arts Guild Building Fund,
c/o The Treasurer, 287 Lacewood Drive, Unit 103
Halifax, NS B3M 3Y7 *

Lobby Expansion News

—Bill VanGorder, TAG Publicity Manager

Rich Knowles and his Lobby Expansion Committee have spent a busy (and sometimes frustrating) summer working to finalize the plans for the building addition that will provide theatre patrons with a more comfortable lobby.

We are now in the final stages

of that process, and as

this newsletter

goes to press,

we are finally

able to report that

both the Province

and the City are

in support of our

work and have

given us permission

to proceed with our project as

designed. We now await the "official paperwork" that will allow us

to put our shovels in the ground. The process of receiving approvals

for our plans took much longer than any of us had imagined, but

the final outcome will be an even more practical and useful addition

than we had originally envisioned. *Special thanks must go to our volunteer architectural consultant, Monique MacEwan, for her patience and*

expertise in assisting the committee with the preparation of the plans and

proposals.

The committee met at least once a week (and often two or three

times a week) all summer to make our plans a reality. We look forward

to the "Sod Turning Ceremony" prior to the Annual General Meeting

on September 19th. Construction will then proceed throughout the

fall months with a goal of having a closed in space in which we can

continue to work after the snow flies. Because the lobby expansion

does not affect the present theatre and lobby space, construction will

continue without impacting on the current season or the comfort of

audiences attending our fall and winter productions.

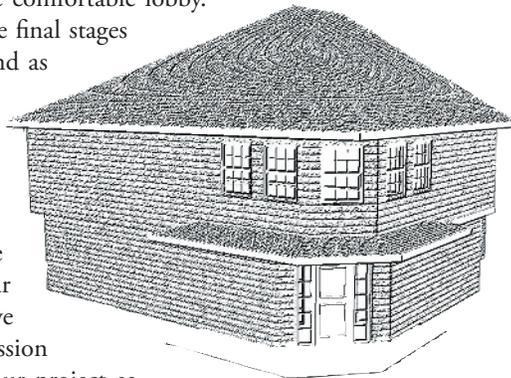
If you have any questions about the Lobby Expansion, don't

hesitate to contact any of the committee members: Rich Knowles,

chairman, Nick Jupp, Hugh Vincent, Austin Reade, Joe O'Brien, J

Carruth, John Gratwick, Carolyn Boyer, Esther VanGorder, or Bill

VanGorder. *



The AGM Approaches

You are invited to the 2005 TAG Annual General Meeting and "Sod Turning" for the new addition to the lobby area.

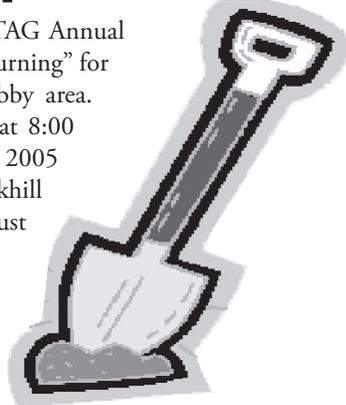
The proceedings will commence at 8:00

P.M. on Monday, September 19th, 2005

at The Pond Playhouse, 6 Parkhill

Road (left at the four-way stop just

past the Frog Pond). *



Auditions for Pantomime

Auditions for TAG's annual holiday Pantomime, *Shipwreck on Fable Island* written by James Boyer, will be held Saturday, September 10th from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, September 11th, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Parkhill United Church, just down the road from the Pond Playhouse on Parkhill Road.

Please come prepared to sing one song and to read from the script. To avoid a long wait time, call to arrange an appointment. Contact James Boyer at 479-0581.

Performance dates run December 1st, to December 17th, Thursdays through Saturday evenings, with matinees on Saturdays and Sunday afternoons.

Roles to be cast:

1. The Duke of Earl (male, age 40-50) Father to Miranda and husband of Aurora. Honest, and hard working he rules over his kingdom of Storybook Land. Life deals a heavy blow when his beautiful wife disappears.
2. Antonio Bandana (male, age 40-60) Evil deputy minister who makes a pact with the dark side. He plans to marry Miranda, the Duke's daughter, and take over Storybook Land.
3. Nurse Manly (male, age ??) Only her hairdresser knows. The Dame!
4. Ferdinand (male, age 18-25) Palace servant, Nurse Manly's adopted son and Miranda's love interest.
5. Aurora (female, age 30-50) Duchess of Storybook land, wife of Duke of Earl, sister of Emera mother nature type.
6. Emera (female, age 30- 60) Powerful, evil witch.
7. Miranda (female, age 18-25) Daughter of Aurora and love interest of Ferdinand.
8. Little Red Riding Hood / Goldilocks (female, age 18- 25, swing role)
9. Fuzzy Wuzzel (male or female) An alpha-male Wuzzel from Fable Island. Wuzzels are furry shy creatures but who have an important role to stop the evil witch Emera.
10. Sunny Wuzzel (male or female) An accident-prone Wuzzel. Fuzzy and Sunny are the Wuzzel odd couple.
11. Annie the Singing Gorilla (male or female) A physically active role.
12. Slick (male or female) Emera's son and evil accomplice.
13. Robin Hood / Dawn Cherry / Brawn MacLean / Santa. (swing roles)

Show description:

They say that the path to true love is never smooth, and this is so true in this year's Pantomime, a rollicking farce that chronicles a classic battle between the forces of good and evil. We witness the struggle of nature versus rampant overdevelopment as the quiet lives of the reclusive, mysterious furry creatures, the Wuzzels, are threatened by an evil witch and her no-good son. Storybook characters abound amidst romance, loss, betrayal, and palace intrigue, all in a romantic setting of ancient castles, high-seas adventure, and tropical islands. This panto has it all. Even a guest appearance from the infamous 'Dawn' Cherry!

This is an opportunity for you to become involved in a vibrant community theatre and a two-hundred year old British theatre tradition. Singing, dancing, romance, and comedy all work together in a wonderful tried-and-true formula that makes for heartwarming family entertainment.

For those of you who are shy about the stage, but want to be involved, crew members are also needed. You can contact Jamie Boyer at 479-0581 if you want to be part of the backstage crew. *

Silent Auction Thanks

TAG's silent auction, organized by Cheryl Theriault and held at our annual Variety Night on April 2nd, was a grand success. Cheryl and TAG would like to express their many and heartfelt thanks to the following persons and organizations, who made it all possible.

Lyn and John Gratwick
The Lung Association of Nova Scotia
Nubody's
Shoppers Drug Mart, Herring Cove
Propeller Breweries
Vanessa Walton-Bone/VMB Designs
Michelle Yorke Jewellery
Peachtree and Finch Graphic Design
Wendy MacIntosh Massage
Millflower Bed & Breakfast
Rebecca Humphreys
Charlotte MacCuish
Fabric Fusion Designs
Louise Renault
Tony and Roz Marshall
Heather Jupp
Lynn Bungay
Brenda Tyedmers
Makers of all CHEESIES everywhere!!!

Many THANKS!! from Cheryl and TAG. *

Support Our Friends

Dartmouth Players
presents
Lend Me a Tenor
November 9th to 24th 2005
Crichton Avenue Centre, Dartmouth, NS
Tickets: \$12.00 adults; \$10.00 students/seniors
For reservations call 465-PLAY (7529)
www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

All Saints Bedford Players
presents
Who's in Bed With the Butler?
October 27th to 29th 2005
All Saints Anglican Church
1608 Bedford Highway
Showtimes at 8:00 P.M.
For information call (902)832-3300