



CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATRE ARTS GUILD



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THE POND PLAYHOUSE - 6 PARKHILL RD. HALIFAX NOVA SCOTIA INFO@TAGTHEATRE.COM

Next at TAG - 12 Angry Men

Theatre Arts Guild presents a classic thriller *Twelve Angry Men*; directed by Angela Butler, assisted by Rayna Smith-Camp, produced by Renee Hartleib and stage managed by Barbara Hart. Originally adapted from the 1954 teleplay of the same name for CBS's Studio One anthology television series in 1957, the widely acclaimed film was released and starred Henry Fonda and Lee J. Cobb. Fifty years later the play made its debut on Broadway. Many versions of the script have been produced since but it was decided to recreate the original setting, twelve men sitting around a table in a small jury room on a hot and humid summer afternoon in the 1950's.

The story centers around twelve jurors who consist of ordinary people who must decide whether to vote the defendant as guilty or innocent. They must decide carefully though, because if they vote guilty, they might send an innocent person

to death; if they vote not guilty, they might send a murderer out on the streets. The whole plot and story is a very good look at the American justice system.

The characters are well developed and realistic. You never learn their names, but you get to see them interact together, whether they are sympathetic or stubborn, seeking justice or have no mercy. Some are passive, some are aggressive, and some are young, some are old, and some are rich, some are poor. Each juror has his own personal prejudices and opinions but now they must bring forth a verdict beyond a reasonable doubt, unanimously. One man stands alone. Can he transform the opinion of the majority?

Twelve Angry Men shows that the strength of a society resides in its average ordinary citizens. This truth is so powerfully that it forces its way into our consciousness, and ultimately our reflections on life.

Theatre Arts Guild Presents

12 ANGRY Men

by Reginald Rose

June 17 - July 3, 2010



Pond Playhouse
6 Parkhill Road

(Just past the Frog Pond off Purcell's Cove Road)

Directed by Angela Butler
Produced by Renée Hartleib

www.tagtheatre.com



Buy Your Tickets

- * Ticket Atlantic Box Office
- * Charge by Phone at (902) 451-1221
- * Online at www.ticketatlantic.com (\$4 fee per online session)
- * At the 17 participating Atlantic Superstore outlets
- * At the door (subject to availability)

Tickets on sale May 21st

Mailing Address: Theatre Arts Guild 287 Lacewood Drive Unit 103 Suite 412 Halifax N.S. B3M 3Y7

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

At the time of writing, Daniel MacIvor's *How it Works* is on stage and I must confess this is a wonderful example of the type of play I love to experience. Despite the dark undertone of abuse and drugs, the personal charisma of each character carried us through an engaging story with humour and strength. It takes a lot of moxie to get on with life when horrible experiences are pulling you down, but Mr. MacIvor's play, in director Michele Moore's hands, showed us sometimes the good guys do win.

Selecting plays for each season is an arduous task carried out by our Artistic Director, Debora Post, along with a committee of volunteers. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see the 2010/2011 season announced and it's a fine selection of humour, Christmas celebration, thrilling tension, dramatic drama and modern American introspective work. I know you are going to enjoy every

morsel, as they are all great plays.

The challenges of selecting a season are daunting. Starting with our theatre, the limited backstage space and dressing rooms make large productions almost impossible. I say almost because somehow shows such as Oklahoma and the Christmas Pantomime find amazing ways to overcome the restrictions, with the side benefit of everyone becoming extremely close friends by the end of the run.

Of course we have to consider our membership and their preferences, which is why we offer a selection plays that hopefully please most of the people most of the time. When it comes to actors, directors, designers and production crews we have every single level of experience and knowledge possible from absolutely none to retired professionals. This adds another dimension to the selection process to make sure we include a mix of complexity ensuring

room for everybody to participate.

On a financial note, the very welcome roof insulation installed last fall is paying its way with vastly reduced operating costs and TAG remains a 100% debt free organization. Building ventilation for the summer show is on everybody's mind at the moment; we presume the new insulation will keep us cooler in the summer, but we still need to find a way to change the air when ninety patrons add their personal heat to the building.

A gallant collection of volunteers continue to chip away at required TAG building and technical equipment maintenance. (This is a whole other way to enjoy hanging out at TAG) This group has their thinking caps on about ventilation and if you have spare weekday time, and would enjoy a few hours of very convivial maintenance activity, please drop an e-mail to info@tagtheatre.com and we'll connect you to this group. ~ Nick Jupp, President

How it Works at TAG



How it Works played to appreciative audiences at the Pond Playhouse during April and May. Written by Cape Breton playwright Daniel MacIvor, this witty and warm family drama was full of insights about the human condition.

With a great cast and crew and a winning script, Michele Moore's directorial debut was a big success!

Photo: Jonathan Tyson, Beth VanGorder, Connie Tremblett, and Debora Post, during rehearsal for "How it Works"

Renew Your TAG Membership TODAY

Not yet renewed your membership for the current 2009-10 season?

Renew or join as a new member, during the run of the final show - , *12 Angry Men* - and your membership will automatically be extended to include the 2010-11 season!

Want to Volunteer?
volunteer@tagtheatre.com
for more information

TAG TICKET PRICES

\$13 - Members/Seniors/Students

Note: TAG prices include all Ticket Atlantic service fees except where tickets are purchased online (online service fee - \$4 per online session)

Send your newsletter submissions to
newsletter@tagtheatre.com

Theatre Arts Guild 2010-11 Season

The Theatre Arts Guild is pleased to announce its 2010-11 Season!

The Odd Couple: Female Version; Sep. 23 - Oct. 9 2010. A side splitting hilarious comedy that proves that anything men can do women can do better! Written by Neil Simon and directed by Frank MacLean.

Beauty and the Beast; Dec. 2 - 18, 2010. All the best family pantomime traditions, music, laughter, a Dame (even a horse!) are nicely wrapped up for the holiday season. Written by James Barry and directed by Angela Butler.

Deathtrap; Feb. 17- March 5, 2011. A murderous thriller that will confound and shock audiences with it's twists and turns! Written by Ira Levin and directed by Nick Jupp.

An Enemy of the People; Apr. 21 - May 7, 2010. A powerful drama about principles and politics clashing in the pursuit of truth. Written by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by Arthur Miller and directed by Gisela O'Brien.

Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star; June 23 - July 9, 2010. Mix a hot Texas afternoon with bourbon and confidences and you have two funny one-act companion plays. Written by James McLure and directed by Elaine Casey (Laundry and Bourbon) and Bill VanGorder (Lone Star).

AUDITION CALL The Odd Couple Female Version by Neil Simon

The Odd Couple - Female Version written by Neil Simon and directed by Frank MacLean, will run from Sept. 23 to Oct. 9 2010

The show is a side splitting hilarious comedy that proves that anything men can do women can do better!

Audition Dates & Times:

Sunday July 11th, 7 pm - 9 pm

Monday July 12th, 7 pm - 9 pm.

Location: Pond Playhouse

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

There are 6 women and 2 men in the cast, with ages ranging from 25 to 55. A Spanish accent for the men would be beneficial but is not essential. Selected pieces will be made available for a cold reading. No prepared pieces are necessary.

For additional information, please call the director Frank MacLean at 454-0417 or e-mail frank.macleam@ns.sympatico.ca

Community Notes

Bedford Players presents *Busybody* by Jack Popplewell. This hilarious play centers on a voluble cleaning woman who lives in the basement of the office building she cleans and one night finds a body. By the time the police arrive, there is no body and no evidence. A thousand laughs and tingles delighted London audiences. The show runs Oct 28 - Nov 13. Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more information.

Dartmouth Players presents *The Fantasticks*, a musical written by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt and directed by Ian MacDermid. *The Fantasticks* tells the heartfelt story of a young man and the girl next door, whose parents have built a wall to keep them apart. The youngsters nevertheless contrive to meet and fall in love. The show runs Nov. 10 - 27. Visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY or for more information.

Online Donations

The Theatre Arts Guild is pleased to announce that donations may now be made online using credit cards. Two options are provided through the TAG web site (www.tagtheatre.com): PayPal and CanadaHelps.org. Both provide safe and secure options for online payment transactions.

A BIG thank you goes out to all of TAG's generous supporters for their ongoing support!!!



Ladies and Gentlemen, Please Take Your Seats!

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

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!

55%+
SOLD!

THE DRAMA OF THE COURTROOM

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary - the 31st in a continuing series...

It is not often that a piece presented by Theatre Arts Guild makes a 'Top Ten' list! However, when The American Film Institute named its "Top 100 Films of All Time," [ten films in each of ten categories] in 2008, on the slate for courtroom dramas, and in the number two slot, was *12 Angry Men*.

Like many of the other titles on this particular list, *12 Angry Men* had not originally been conceived as a film. The writer, Reginald Rose, had written the piece for television, as an episode in an anthology series, in 1954. Rose adapted it for the stage the next year, and the film followed in 1957. There is obviously something about a courtroom setting (or in Rose's case, the bleak setting of a jury room) which makes for an ideal transition to live theatre - the sparse legal environment, the crowd of spectators, the pitting of lawyer against lawyer, the claustrophobic atmosphere as evidence replaces evidence and, overlaying everything, the knowledge that at the conclusion, someone's life may be restored to them, or taken away for ever. (Not all plays which have warranted treatment in diverse formats have seen such an easy transition as Rose's work however. *The Wisdom of*

Eve, by Mary Orr, which TAG presented in March of 2004, began life as a short story in *Cosmopolitan* magazine in May of 1946. The film of 1950, both written and directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, introduced several new characters and elements. Fortunately, Mary Orr then created a radio version and subsequently a stage version which stayed closer to her original).

The number one choice on the AFI list, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee received the film treatment early. Ms. Lee wrote her novel (still her only published novel) in 1960, with the film appearing in 1963. A play based on the work was not presented until 1990, to be performed each year in the author's home town of Monroeville, Alabama.

Considering the continuing popularity of courtroom dramas through the years and in our current media (think the Law and Order franchise!), I was surprised to find that TAG has performed very few in the last decades. *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial*, a play written by Herman Wouk and based on his novel, was presented in 1954. The action here revolves around the trail for mutiny of Steve Maryk of the Naval Reserve, who has relieved a superior

officer of duty, the captain of the U.S.S. Caine, during a typhoon. The commanding officer is insane, Maryk insists, but still steers the vessel into the storm. The ship and everyone on board survive, however, and now Maryk has to prove that he took the correct action.

In 1957 and again in 1986, TAG presented *Witness for the Prosecution*, with a script by Agatha Christie, based on a short story she had written in 1925 and only turned into a play in 1953. The 1986 version was one of the first plays I saw at TAG, and it made a big impression on me. At that time, the auditorium did not have the fixed seating we have today and the Director arranged the audience in two banks, facing one another, which made us feel like jury members and went a long way to creating the claustrophobic atmosphere! The action took place in the narrow corridor between the tiers of seating and, in the final moments of the play - Ah, no! This is one play whose ending I will not reveal, and, for that matter, I will remain tight-lipped about the conclusion of *12 Angry Men*. You must discover that for yourself! ~ Judy Reade

Renew Your TAG Membership Today!

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Renew or join as a new member, during the run of the final show
and your membership will automatically be extended to
include the 2010-11 season!

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

Membership benefits include: \$3 discount off admission,
newsletters and invitations to special members-only events

visit www.tagtheatre.com for more information

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