

CONTACT

The Official Newsletter of the Theatre Arts Guild

Canada's Oldest Continually Operating Community Theatre

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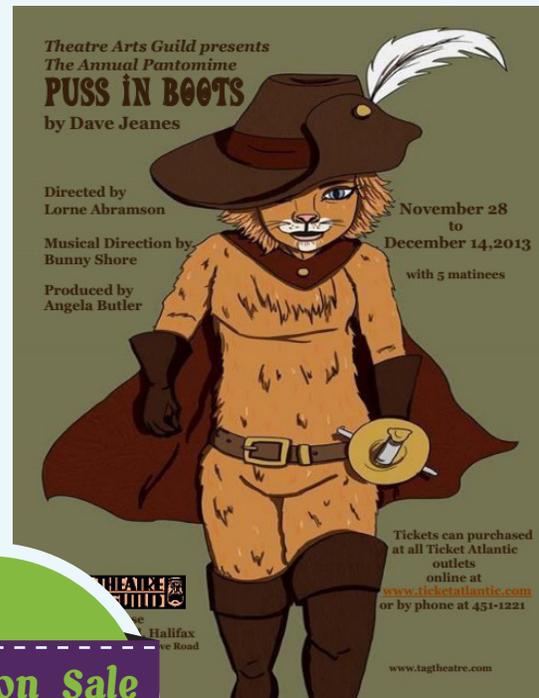
NEXT AT TAG

Puss in Boots

November 28th to December 14th

This year, the Theatre Arts Guild is offering the delightful tale of *Puss In Boots* (with a difference). The story involves some evil characters, a young man who is cheated, a romance with a Princess, two nasty older brothers, a lonely cook, a doughty Queen, and of course, a Fairy Godmother and a very magical cat named Puss. The whole family will fall in love with this play in the British Pantomime tradition. You will love the colourful costumes. You will be encouraged to cheer for the good guys/girls, boo and hiss at the bad folks, and be totally mesmerized by the lovely music and dancing of our fabulous dance group, The Cat's Meow. Oh yes and there is also a really nasty Giant. So have fun but get your tickets early. They are on sale now and will sell out very quickly!

- Lorne Abramson, Director



Tickets on Sale Now!

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
- By Phone (902) 451 1221
- At the door (subject to availability)
- Online at www.ticketatlantic.com (\$2 per online session)
- Ticket Atlantic Box Office

October/November 2013 Contact

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new season at The Theatre Arts Guild and we are off to lovely start with our opening play *Steel Magnolias*. A stunning portrayal of the lives of six women in a small southern town. The play made you laugh, cry and want to hug your kids a little tighter when you left. Wonderfully moving!

As patrons arrived at the theatre to see the first play of the season they were pleasantly surprised with the new look! Our lobby had a makeover; a mature updated look with a touch of class. What a lovely place to relax, have a fine beverage and mingle with

friends before the show and between acts. A huge thank you to Chantelle Dooley for coordinating the project along with many volunteers who helped her achieve the final look. A standing ovation to all! Now you have to come and see what the buzz is about!

As we move into the winter we prepare for the annual pantomime, *Puss in Boots*. This year is no different than any other. Tickets are now on sale and they are selling fast. So, if you plan on going, get your tickets now! Rehearsals are well under way and the panto crew are busy putting all the pieces

together.

The Theatre Arts Guild is saddened by the sudden loss of our dear friend Vanessa Walton Bone. She was an amazingly talented woman with a playful spirit. Her smile lit up a room and her humour was infectious. She graced our stage on many occasions portraying many memorable characters. We miss you Vanessa xoxo



- Angela Butler, President

Recent Shows at TAG

Starting off our 2013/2014 season at TAG was *Steel Magnolias*, the drama by Robert Harling portraying the lives six women in a small Louisiana town. The show, directed by Nick Jupp, showcased the amazing talents of some familiar and new faces at TAG, including Michele Moore, Charmaine Alma, Diane Hawco, Britney Canzi, Deborah Pollack and Caroline Khoury-Smith



AUDITION CALL

The Noble Pursuit

Directed by Frank MacLean

Performance Dates: Feb. 13 - Mar 1 2013

Auditions: November 17th & 18th, 7pm-9pm

A farcical, rapid-fire comedy set in the backbiting, back-scratching, backstabbing world of CanLit. Rumours are rife that Canada's pre-eminent man of letters, the august Noble Harmsworth, is on the verge of becoming the first Canadian winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. But if the Nobel poo-bahs want to immortalize him, why does his former friend and admirer Lyle Lemmerman want to kill him? A love struck acolyte, a nosy critic, a dyspeptic agent, a missing manuscript (and a missing author) all contribute to the twists, turns (and laughs) in this sophisticated, suspenseful comedy about literary fame, fortune and fakery. Winner of the Dave Smith Prize in Playwriting, Ottawa Valley Book Festival, 1994.

Characters:

The play requires the following cast but the director is willing to be flexible with ages to some degree.

LYLE LEMMERMAN – a writer, mid-to-late-thirties - male

ABIGAIL BLISS – early thirties - female

NOBLE HARMSWORTH – an eminent author, ageless - male

PERCY FAWCETT – a critic, fiftyish - male

JASMINE MAXWELL – an agent, fifties - female

Auditions will be held at the theatre at **6 Parkhill Road** and are cold reads so no need to bring prepared pieces. You will be asked to read various selections from the play. Please contact the director Frank MacLean at frank.macleam@outlook.com or 430-7541 with any questions.

Take Your Seat

Dedicate a Seat for \$500 and take a permanent place in the history of the Pond Playhouse. Your contribution is tax deductible!

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

Have a suggestion for a play you would like to see on the TAG stage? Have you ever wanted to direct or produce a theatrical production? If so, the Artistic Committee would like to hear from you. Submit your suggestions via one of the following ways:

Online: www.tagtheatre.com/html/suggest_play.html

Email: artistic-director@tagtheatre.com.

Suggest
a
Play

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A DAME

Expanding Your Theatre Vocabulary The 49th in a Continuing Series

A pantomime dame, that is! Yes, we're inching our way to Christmas and preparing for that wonderfully unique entertainment – the pantomime. Our show this year is based on the fairy tale *Puss in Boots* and continues the well-established tradition of having a man portraying the principal female comic character. Brad Morrison, as Cordelia the Cook, becomes a member of a rather exclusive coterie at TAG, which includes Lorne Abramson (the Director of this year's presentation), Stuart Martin and Jeff Pocock, who introduced the pantomime into the TAG season and who had acted professionally in shows in his native England.

Use the adjective 'unique' deliberately to describe pantomime. Unlike other theatrical forms, the 'panto' is a conglomeration of elements and influences from several different sources. One of the chief influences is that of the *Commedia del Arte*, originating in Italy in the 16th century and performed by travelling groups of players. The actors took their props and costumes from town to town on a wagon and (like present-day buskers) passed the hat for contributions from the crowd at the end of performances (though some were lucky enough to be supported by wealthy patrons). The characters of the *Commedia* can be divided into

three main groups – the servants (usually the comic or clown types), the masters and the lovers. Some are still familiar to us – Arlecchino (or Harlequin), Pierrot and his girlfriend Pierrette and the pretty Colombina (Columbine). By the beginning of the 19th century, it was the fashion in Britain to incorporate a sequence featuring these characters into the plays being offered as Christmas entertainment. This sequence was called the 'Harlequinade,' and it was one of the best known clowns from the Harlequinade, Joseph Grimaldi, that we have to thank for the invention of the pantomime dame. Grimaldi was often pictured in what has become the traditional clown's costume – a brightly coloured, ridiculous outfit, often decorated with sequins, and makeup which consisted of a white base, on which were painted fantastical, geometric designs.

Grimaldi did not limit himself to clown roles, but took dramatic and comedic roles in regular plays and even Shakespeare. In 1820, he was engaged to play in *Cinderella*, in London and took the part of – no, not Cinderella's father, but her stepmother. The decision met with great approval, other theatre companies scrambled to follow suit and, as they say, the rest is history.

Come and enjoy the performance of 'Cordelia' and all the other characters in "Puss in Boots." We're proud and happy to carry on the cherished pantomime tradition.

- Judy Reade

Community Notes

Dartmouth Players presents:

Blackpool & Parrish (Nov 6th to 23rd 2013)
Visit www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca or call 465-PLAY for more info

Bedford Players presents:

Calendar Girls (November 1st to 16th 2013)
Visit www.bedfordplayers.ns.ca or call 832-3300 for more info

Coming Soon

The Stillborn Lover

(Apr 24th to May 10th) This play is an intriguing and compelling drama which explores the dark side of political intrigue. When a Canadian diplomat becomes embroiled in a mysterious murder in Russia, secret lives are revealed and integrity and loyalty are tested.
Directed by Gisela O'Brien.