

Highlands Summer Festival

Scot Denton – Artistic Producer
Betty and David Mills– Executive Producers

2012 Audition Information

Colours in the Storm

Arsenic and Old Lace

Within Reach

Steel Magnolias

Thank you for your interest in the Highlands Summer Festival's Season for 2012. The Festival has just celebrated another exciting Season, which provided opportunities for many performers to appear in three productions: the musical *Anne of Green Gables*, the comedy *Looking* and the exhilarating *Educating Rita*. Over thirty skilled and dedicated individuals contributed to these productions by building sets and costumes or being part of the running crew. A good number of our actors and crew last season were new to the Festival - several of the actors appeared on stage for the first time. We invite you to consider volunteering to take part in some capacity. The upcoming season will provide many opportunities. We encourage you to audition, even if you have limited or no stage experience. We are committed to helping people develop their talents.

The mounting of a summer theatre season is an enormous amount of work. The rewards, however, are huge. Before you make a commitment, please study the contents of this package carefully. The Highlands Summer Festival is a regionally based community theatre with charitable status. We pride ourselves on producing stage work of the highest calibre. Over the last ten years we have worked hard to improve every facet of our operation. Our faithful patrons have come to expect quality programming and we are committed to delivering just that.

Should you have any questions regarding the audition process or about the Festival in general, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Betty or David Mills – Executive Producers – 705-457-1354
bettydavid.mills@gmail.com

Scot Denton – Artistic Producer
sdenton@sympatico.ca

Audition Information

We are again looking for a large number of performers for our season. **Ages listed for a character may describe performer range or character range and serve as guidelines only. The director may adjust them as required.**

Colours In The Storm by Jim Betts

Colours in the Storm is the story of Tom Thomson, one of Canada's best-loved painters. Thomson's landscapes of Algonquin Park - including "The West Wind," "The Jack Pine," and "Northern River" - are among the most famous paintings ever done in Canada. But Thomson is perhaps as famous for the controversy of his death as he is for the strength of his paintings. He died in mysterious circumstances in the waters of Canoe Lake, and in the 75 years since his death there has been endless speculation about who may have murdered him.

Cast of Characters

- 30 -40 - Tom Thomson - passionate, mercurial, and increasingly possessed by his artistic vision; 35 years old in 1912
- 25 -35 - Winnie Trainor - confident, capable and Thomson's equal in most things; a few years younger than Thomson
- 35 -45 - Martin Bletcher - quiet, emotionally repressed, but capable of anger; considers himself Thomson's rival for Winnie
- 35 -45 - Shannon Fraser - "the big Irishman"; powerful and quick to anger; jealous of and increasingly aggravated by Thomson
- 30 -40 - Annie Fraser - hard-working and good-hearted; endlessly intrigued by Thomson; comes to understand her own strengths

- 40 -mid 50's - Larry Dixon - poacher, guide and self-proclaimed "expert woods-man"; makes a mean vat of hooch
- 40's-early 50's Mark Robinson - park ranger, diarist; grows to become one of Thomson's few friends
- 20 -30's - Wild Mary - an uncontrolled spirit of the bush, alert to and embracing of the dangers and passions of the park
- 50 -60 - Frances McGillivray - an artist; self-confident, intelligent, goes after what she wants
- 45 -60 - Marie Trainor - determined to be a proper mother; she has somehow sublimated a real strength and determination
- 50 -60 Dr James MacCallum - ophthalmologist, art patron, businessmen; wry and intelligent; becomes Thomson's patron, agent and friend
- 50 -60 Lawren Harris - a founder of the group of seven; spiritual; well-spoken
- 15 -19- Alice Lambert - vivacious, unaffected, determined

Please Note: In all likelihood, some of the more minor characters will be combined so that one actor would play two roles.

Within Reach

Within Reach, which will be created by the Highlands Summer Festival, is a poignant and sometimes amusing look at the history of education for young women. This collective work by young performers of Haliburton County, a rare and thoughtful combination of dance, theatre and music, explores the journey for women as they look for an education “equal to that of their brothers” and celebrates where they are today.

Cast

- Young Woman #1, #2, #3, #4, #5 17-21
- Young Girl #1, #2 11-13
- Young Man #1, #2 17-21

The actual numbers of Young Women, Young Girls and Young Men will depend on the auditions. There will be an additional 'movement' audition at a later date, likely the first weekend in February.

Arsenic and Old Lace by Joseph Kesselring

This is a farcical comedy revolving around Mortimer Brewster, a drama critic who must deal with his crazy, homicidal family and local police in Brooklyn, NY, as he debates whether to go through with his recent promise to marry the woman he loves. His family includes two spinster aunts who have taken to murdering lonely old men by poisoning them with a glass of home-made elderberry wine laced with arsenic, strychnine, and "just a pinch" of cyanide; a brother who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt and digs locks for the Panama Canal in the cellar of the Brewster home (which then serve as graves for the aunts' victims); and a murderous brother who has received plastic surgery performed by an alcoholic accomplice, Dr. Einstein (a character based on real-life gangland surgeon Joseph Moran) to conceal his identity and now looks like horror-film actor Boris Karloff (a self-referential joke, as the part was originally played by Karloff).

Cast of Characters

Abby Brewster	Late 60s – a plump little darling who poisons elderly men, aunt to Teddy, Jonathan, and Mortimer.
Martha Brewster	Late 60s – a sweet elderly woman with Victorian charm, sister of Abby and an aunt to Teddy, Jonathan, and Mortimer.
Elaine Harper	20s – attractive, engaged to Mortimer, surprisingly wise in the ways of the world for a minister's daughter.
The Rev. Dr. Harper	50-65 - Minister, Elaine's father
Teddy Brewster	30s-40s (flex.) – Nephew of Abby and Martha, destined for the sanitarium but harmless - thinks he is Theodore Roosevelt.
Officer Brophy	20-50, Cop, familiar with the Brewsters
Officer Klein	20-50, Cop, familiar with the Brewsters

Mortimer Brewster	20s – drama critic, nephew of Abby and Martha - a drama critic who is engaged to Elaine - nice man who cares for his aunts.
Mr. Gibbs	60s+ - elderly gentleman who wishes to rent a room from the Brewster sisters.
Jonathan Brewster	30s (flex.) – tall, sinister, Nephew of Abby and Martha Brewster, -psychopath who has had plastic surgery and now looks like Boris Karloff.
Dr. Einstein	30-50 (flex.) – A plastic surgeon and an alcoholic in his fifties, Dr. Einstein has changed Jonathan's face three times.
Officer O’Hara	30s - A police officer - a would-be playwright who pesters Mortimer to read his play.
Lieutenant Rooney	30s - 40s, a tough and dominating police officer
Mr. Witherspoon	60s+ - elderly gentleman - the superintendent of Happy Dale Sanitarium

Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling

A comedy–drama about the bond among a group of Southern women in northwest Louisiana. The title suggests the "female characters are as delicate as magnolias but as tough as steel". The action centers on Truvy's beauty parlour and the women who regularly gather there. The story begins on the morning of Shelby's wedding to Jackson and covers events over the next three years, including Shelby's decision to have a child despite having Type 1 diabetes and the complications that result from the decision. There is also a glimpse of the unlikely friendship between Clairee and Ouiser; Annelle's transformation from a shy, anxious newcomer in town to a good-time girl and then to a revival-tent Christian; and Truvy's relationships with the men in her family. Although the main storyline involves Shelby, her mother and Shelby's medical battles, the underlying group-friendship among all six women is prominent throughout.

Cast of Characters

Truvy Jones	40 – 50 – owner of the beauty shop. Sets hair during the scenes.
Annelle Dupuy-Desoto	late teens – beauty shop assistant. Sets hair during the scenes.
Clairee Belcher	60s – widow of former mayor, grande dame.
Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie	late teens - early 20s – prettiest girl in town.
M'Lynn Eatenton	40 – 50 – Shelby's mother. Socially prominent career woman.
Ouiser Boudreaux	60s – Wealthy curmudgeon. Acerbic but lovable.

Audition Dates and Location

The auditions will be held on Saturday, January 21 and Sunday, January 22 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at the High School in Haliburton. Be sure to book a time for your audition.

Audition Requirements

Book an audition time by calling Rob Eaton at 705-489-2435. Print the last two pages of this package – the Audition Information Sheet – fill them in and bring them to your audition. Dress comfortably and bring indoor shoes.

If you are new to the Festival, be prepared to either perform a short monologue (max. 2 minutes) or tell a short story. You may be asked to read “sides” (a short scene). Be prepared to spend an hour or more for the audition process.

Those auditioning for *Within Reach* should be prepared to do a monologue, tell a short story or recite a short poem from memory.

If you are new to the Festival and would like to audition for the musical, we will need to hear your singing voice - please prepare just 16 bars or one verse of any song from the Music Theatre repertoire - **have a copy of your music with you for the accompanist.**

Candidates are encouraged to be familiar with the specific shows. A limited number of scripts for *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Steel Magnolias* are available. They can be borrowed for a short period of time by calling Jim Frost at 705-457-4031. You will be required to leave a \$10 deposit, which will be refunded when you return the script. Librettos and scores for *Colours in the Storm* are not readily available at this time. There will be some sides of the script available for you to look at if you are asked to read for a specific role. (Some information about the musical and the plays is available online.) *Within Reach* is not scripted - it will be created by the Artistic Team and the performers.

Rehearsal Schedule

It is the expectation that a minimum of 100 hours of rehearsal time for each production will have been achieved prior to performance (120 hours for the musical). The exact rehearsal schedules will be established by the directors and their casts. However, each production has rehearsals each week on Friday evening and/or Saturday and Sunday during the day, beginning towards the end of April or early in May. Actors cast in supporting roles may not be required at every rehearsal.

Please note: The Festival moves into the theatre towards the end of June. During the ten days to two weeks prior to each production's opening (see dates below), rehearsals may be more frequent.

Performance Schedule

<i>Colours in the Storm</i> –	July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
<i>Within Reach</i> –	July 8, 9, 10
<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i> –	July 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
<i>Steel Magnolias</i> –	July 30, 31, August 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, (10)

The Commitment

Part of the mandate of the Highlands Summer Festival is to develop the talents and skills of people, especially young people, in the performing arts. Wherever possible, we prefer to utilize the talents of the residents of Haliburton County.

In order to achieve and maintain this standard, a commitment of time, talent and energy must be made by all involved. The expectation is that performers will be in attendance and on time for ALL rehearsals/performances. In our community theatre, it is further expected that performers will be willing to assist with move-ins and move-outs of Festival shows, especially their own. If you are unable to make such a commitment, please do not audition.

To book an audition time, please call

Rob Eaton at 705-489-2435

Audition Information Sheet

Please print legibly when completing this form. Make sure you bring it with you to the auditions.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: Home _____ Other _____

Email _____

Age (if under 20) _____

The above information will be used by the Festival to contact you and will be retained only if you get a role or indicate an interest in other aspects of the Festival. The contact information may be shared with others involved in the Festival.

If you are familiar with the plays and/or musical, you may wish to indicate which roles you are interested in auditioning for.

I am interested in auditioning for the role(s) of:

Please indicate one of the following:

If not chosen for the role(s) indicated, I would consider another role.

I am interested only in the role(s) indicated.

The Festival requires reliable back-stage help from people with a strong work ethic and a desire to help bring our plays to life. Of extreme importance is the role of Stage Manager, who serves as the director's right hand and calls the show. This person would attend all rehearsals and some production meetings. Other key roles are Assistant Stage Managers, Tech Assistants, Crew and off-stage support. We offer support and training for all of these positions. Please indicate if you wish to be considered for any of these opportunities.

Yes

No

Please indicate specifically any conflicts you might have with the rehearsal schedule:

—

Your signature: _____

Date _____, 2012

Please summarize any experience and/or training you have which you will bring to the Festival. You may attach a resume.