

Highlands Summer Festival



Scot Denton – Artistic Producer

Melissa Stephens – Executive Producer

2022 Audition Information

The Sound of Music
The Importance of Being Earnest
Every Brilliant Thing

Early Stages

An apprenticeship theatre program for young performers aged 10 to 14.
More about *Early Stages* on page 5

Please Note: Covid protocols will be in place at auditions to prioritize the protection of auditioning artists and the HSF creative team, including individual audition slots, mandatory mask use at all times (EXCEPT for artists while auditioning), sanitation facilities, social distancing, and **Proof of Full Vaccination**.

Thank you for your interest in the Highlands Summer Festival's 2022 Season. We are celebrating a return to the stage with three totally different productions, each quite challenging and rewarding. It should be another exciting and entertaining season for our patrons and all those involved onstage and off.

If you are new to the Highlands Summer Festival, or even new to live theatre, **we encourage you to audition for a role or contact us about contributing in another creative area**. We are committed to developing skills in all areas of theatre performance and production. Please consider taking part in the Festival in some capacity. Many individuals contribute to our productions by building sets and costumes or being part of the running crew. The upcoming season should provide an opportunity for you to join us in some capacity.

Creating a summer theatre season is an enormous amount of work, but it is tremendously rewarding. As you consider making a commitment, and we hope you do, please study the contents of this package carefully, especially the dates for rehearsals and performances. The Highlands Summer Festival is a regionally based community theatre with charitable status. We pride ourselves on producing theatre of the highest calibre. Our goal is to work hard to improve each year – in every facet of our operation. We are looking for people eager to help us achieve that goal this season.

Please contact us directly if you have questions about the Festival or the auditions:

Melissa Stephens
Scot Denton

Executive Producer 705-455-2366 melistep@gmail.com
Artistic Producer 416-435-5008 sdenton@sympatico.ca

Audition Information

The Highlands Summer Festival celebrates diversity and inclusiveness. All are welcome to audition. Note: Ages listed for a character may refer to the character's age in the script or the performer age range and serve as guidelines only.

Most of the roles in our three productions were cast in January 2020, before we postponed our season. We expect many of the actors cast then to confirm their participation in those roles by late January. **But there are a number of roles not cast at this time, including all of the von Trapp children, apart from Liesl.**

The Sound of Music

Music by Richard Rodgers, Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, book by Howard Lindsey and Russell Crouse

The Sound of Music returns to the Highlands Summer Festival stage this summer! When a postulant proves too high-spirited for convent religious life, she is dispatched to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain. Her growing rapport with the youngsters, coupled with her generosity of spirit, gradually captures the heart of the stern Captain.

Cast of Characters

Maria Rainer (legit soprano, 25 - 35) A postulant at Nonnberg Abbey – young, free spirited, warm, kind, courageous, and strong-willed.

Captain Georg von Trapp (baritone, 40 - 50) A retired Austrian naval captain. Polished, very military - represses sadness over the death of his wife; underneath is warm, understanding, and determined.

Max Detweiler (tenor/baritone, 30+) Charming and vital; a man of sophistication who enjoys the good life; loyal friend to the von Trapp family.

Elsa Schrader (mezzo soprano, 35-45) A baroness of taste and elegance, sophisticated, dignified, and mature. Engaged to Captain von Trapp.

Mother Abbess (legit soprano, wide vocal range, 40+) Motherly, understanding, strong and authoritative, but kind.

Sister Berthe (mezzo) Mistress of Novices, prudish, strait-laced with a quick tongue, she is less tolerant than other nuns.

Sister Margareta (mezzo) Mistress of Postulants, very kind, understanding and concerned.

Sister Sophia (soprano) Neither demanding nor critical, sticks with the rules.

Franz (ensemble, 30+) The von Trapp butler, rather formal but not without spirit, he is very German and loyal to the Fascist cause. Secretive.

Frau Schmidt (ensemble, 30+) The housekeeper, stoic; she does her job efficiently but without affection. Strong and somewhat dominating.

Herr Zeller (ensemble, 40+) Stern and humourless, a typical Nazi official whose primary concern is to see that everyone toes the line.

Rolf Gruber (low tenor, 17) Suitor to Liesl, telegram delivery boy, later Nazi soldier. A very pleasant and confident young man. Opinionated.

Admiral von Schreiber (ensemble, 40+) An important figure in the Austrian Navy and appears to be much respected by Captain von Trapp.

Baron Elberfeld (ensemble, 50+) A neighbour of Captain von Trapp and one of the “Old Guards” of Austria, violently opposed to the takeover of his beloved country.

The von Trapp Children:

All children, apart from their character description must be able to be conservative with their emotions and serious.

Liesl von Trapp (mezzo, 16) The oldest child, blossoming into a young lady with an interest in boys. She has a maternal edge to her and cares very deeply for her younger siblings.

Friedrich von Trapp (treble, age 14) Tough exterior, very much trying to be “the man” of the family. Dutiful, serious.

Louisa von Trapp (soprano, age 13) Rebellious attitude. Prankster.

Kurt von Trapp (treble, age 10) Gentle and mischievous.

Brigitta von Trapp (soprano, age 9) Bright, observant, curious.

Marta von Trapp (soprano, age 7) Shy, sweet, sincere, and gentle.

Gretl von Trapp (soprano, age 6) The littlest and very cute. Fun.

ENSEMBLE:

5-10 male chorus members (16-60+ years) – soldiers, neighbors, Salzburg citizens and Georg’s friends (of naval background). 5-10 female chorus members (16-60+ years) – Salzburg citizens, new postulant, nuns, novices, and contestants in the Festival Concert.

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

One of the cleverest comedies by one of the greatest writers in the English language, *The Importance of Being Earnest* has delighted audiences since its premiere in 1895. Oscar Wilde's scintillating, hilarious work introduces us to Jack and Algernon, charming bachelors who are each living a double life, aided by a fictional alter ego called "Ernest." But the two fall truly in love with a pair of proper young women, Gwendolen and Cecily – both of whom are partial to men named Ernest.

Cast of Characters

John (Jack) Worthing Age: 29. In the city he goes by the name Ernest, a fun-loving bachelor, and in the country, he is Jack, a landowner and guardian of Cecily. He is about to take his place in society by proposing to Gwendolyn Fairfax.

Algernon Moncrieff Age: 21-25. A languid poser of the leisure class, bored by conventions and looking for excitement. Algernon, unlike Jack, is not serious and is generally out for his own gratification.

***Lady Augusta Bracknell** Age: 50-65. The perfect symbol of Victorian earnestness — the belief that style is more important than substance and that social and class barriers are to be enforced. She is a strongly opinionated matriarch, who bullies everyone in her path.

*Occasionally played by a male actor.

The Honorable Gwendolen Fairfax Age: 25-29. Lady Bracknell's daughter, believes style to be more important than sincerity. Romantic, hard-headed and opinionated, much like her mother.

Cecily Cardew Age: 18. Jack Worthing's ward, granddaughter of his adopted father, Sir Thomas Cardew. She is romantic and imaginative and able to wrap men around her little finger before they know what happened.

Miss Prism Age: 50-65. Cecily's governess. She is educating Cecily to have no imagination or sensationalism in her life. Outwardly a symbol of Victorian morality, she reveals a secret life of passion, including having written a three-volume sensational novel.

Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D. Age: 50-65. Local vicar, and a source of moral judgments, but easy-going and pleasure seeking, nonetheless. His proudest achievement is the all-purpose sermon that can be used for christenings, weddings and funerals alike.

Lane and Merriman Age: 30-65. Servants in the households of Algernon and Jack. Both solemnly watch the follies of their "betters" and save them from embarrassment. They are the pillars upon which the easy-going lifestyle of their employers rest.

Every Brilliant Thing by Duncan MacMillan with Jonny Donahoe

You're six years old. Mum's in hospital. Dad says she's "done something stupid." She finds it hard to be happy. So you start to make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world. Everything that's worth living for.... 1. Ice cream. 2. Kung Fu movies. 3. Burning things. 4. Laughing so hard you shoot milk out your nose. 5. Construction cranes. 6. Me. You leave it on her pillow. You know she's read it because she's corrected your spelling. Soon, the list will take on a life of its own. ***Every Brilliant Thing*** is an uplifting play about depression and the lengths we will go to for those we love.

Cast of Characters

Narrator The narrator can be played by a man or woman (30 – 60) of any ethnicity.

Early Stages Our Apprenticeship Theatre Program

Early Stages is an apprenticeship theatre program for young performers aged 10 to 14. Participants will take classes with Artistic Producer Scot Denton and instructors who are students or graduates of college performance programs. Classes will include voice and text, improvisation, acting and movement and will take place at St George's Anglican Church in Haliburton during the month of July. Classes will begin July 5 and run during the daytime Monday to Thursday (excluding July 4) for four weeks. There will be a presentation of work created at a suitable venue late in July. Early Stages began in 2014 – a number of the participants have gone on to take part in Highlands Summer Festival productions. The cost is \$250. There are a couple of bursaries available for Early Stages – please speak to Betty Mills (contact info below) if you would like more information about them.

If you are interested in Early Stages, please book a time to visit us on the weekend of February 5/6 at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. by calling Betty Mills at 705-457-1354 or by emailing her at bettydavid.mills@gmail.com If you are unable to visit us that weekend, please call Scot Denton at 416-435-5008 or email sdenton@sympatico.ca to make other arrangements.

Applicants interested in Early Stages should bring indoor shoes and comfortable clothing and expect to take part in a short theatre-related game or exercise. Dance experience and singing are not prerequisites. Cast members in *The Sound of Music* can also participate in Early Stages if they wish and if age appropriate.

Auditions for *The Sound of Music, The Importance of Being Earnest & Every Brilliant Thing*

Auditions will be held on:

**Saturday, February 26 and Sunday, February 27
at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. in Haliburton.**

***Please book an audition time by contacting:**

Betty Mills at 705-457-1354 or by emailing her at bettydavid.mills@gmail.com

Audition Requirements

- Please complete and print the last page of this package (page 8 – the Audition Information Sheet) and bring it to your audition.
- Dress comfortably, bring indoor shoes, and please wear a mask.
- **All those auditioning will need to provide Proof of Vaccination and a government issued photo ID**, (those younger than 16 can show an Ontario Health Card or Birth Certificate). For any questions, please contact Betty Mills - bettydavid.mills@gmail.com or 705-457-1354

Those who are new to the Festival should be prepared to either perform a short monologue (maximum 2 minutes) or tell a short story. You may be asked to read “sides” (a short scene) – this may extend your audition time.

If you wish to audition for the musical (and are new to us), we will need to hear you sing. You can sing a cappella (without accompaniment), or you can sing with a backing track on a device (make sure it is a karaoke track—we want to hear you sing), or Melissa Stephens will accompany you playing **music which you provide**. Please sing something **which is NOT from *The Sound of Music***. We may only need to hear 16 bars of the song. If you have questions about singing at your audition, please contact Melissa Stephens – 705-455-2366

You are encouraged to be familiar with the plays and the musical. **The libretto of the musical and the script of the *The Importance of Being Earnest* may be viewed in e-copy**. Please contact Scot Denton at sdenton@sympatico.ca or Melissa Stephens at melistep@gmail.com and we will send you a copy.

Please note - The casting process takes time and is a critical part of each production – it may be several weeks before it is finalized.

Rehearsal Schedule

It is our expectation that a minimum of 100 hours of rehearsal time for each production will have been achieved prior to performance (120 hours for *The Sound of Music*). The weekly rehearsal schedule will be established by the director with the stage manager. However, each production rehearses every week on Saturday and Sunday during the day, (and possibly the occasional brief rehearsal early Friday evening), beginning at the end of April or some time in May, depending on the date of the production's opening. **Actors cast in ensemble roles in the musical or supporting roles in *The Importance of Being Earnest* will 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 will be more frequent, and will require everyone in attendance.

Performance Schedule

The Sound of Music July 4, 5, 6, 7, 8*, 10*, 11, 12, 13, 14*

The Importance of Being Earnest July 18, 19, 20, 21, 22*, 24*, 25, 26

Every Brilliant Thing August 1, 2, 3, 4, 5*

Curtain Times: Evenings at 7:30 PM * Matinees at 2:00 PM

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. And wherever possible, we prefer to utilize the talents of the residents of Haliburton County.

In attempting to achieve this goal, 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 when they are called. In our community theatre, it is further expected that performers will be willing to assist, within their skills, with move-ins and move-outs of Festival shows, especially their own. If you decide to audition, we hope you can make this commitment. *We understand, of course, that some people will have work or previous family commitments. **Please note these on your audition form.***

Audition Information Sheet

Please print this page, print your information legibly, and bring it with you to the audition.

Name _____

Address _____

Cell # _____

Other _____

Email _____

Age (if under 18) _____ Other email: _____

The above information will be used by the Festival to contact you and will be retained only if you are cast or you have indicated an interest in other aspects of the Festival. The contact information is shared only with others involved in the Festival.

If you are familiar with the plays, you may wish to indicate which roles you are interested in auditioning for. **I am interested in auditioning for the role(s) of:**

I am interested in the Early Stages program. (please check box)

Stage Management, Crew, Set Construction and Painting, Costumes and Props

The Festival depends on reliable backstage help from people with a strong work ethic and a desire to help bring our plays to life. Of extreme importance are assistant stage managers, crew and set, costumes, and prop builders. We offer support and training for all of these positions. Please indicate if you wish to contribute in any of these areas.

Please indicate specifically all conflicts you have with the rehearsal schedule:

Your signature (or parent's, if under 18):

_____ **Date: February _____, 2022**

You may use the space on the back to summarize any experience and/or training you have which you would like us to be aware of, or you may attach a resume.