



Scot Denton – Artistic Producer  
Melissa Stephens – Executive Producer

## 2023 Audition Information

*She Loves Me*                      *4000 Miles*  
*Shirley Valentine*

### Early Stages

An apprenticeship theatre program for young performers aged 10 to 14.  
More about Early Stages on page 4

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

Thank you for your interest in the Highlands Summer Festival's 2023 Season. We continue to celebrate this past season's return to the stage with three exciting productions, each quite challenging and rewarding. It will 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 to another 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, being part of the running crew or assisting with Front of House. 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. We hope you will consider joining us. 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 again this season.

Please contact us directly if you would like more information about the Festival or the auditions:

**Melissa Stephens**      **Executive Producer**    705-455-2366    [melistep@gmail.com](mailto:melistep@gmail.com)  
**Scot Denton**            **Artistic Producer**    416-435-5008    [dentons0601@gmail.com](mailto:dentons0601@gmail.com)

## **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. **None of the roles in our three 2023 productions are cast at this time.**

## ***She Loves Me***

**Music by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, book by Joe Masteroff**

George and Amalia, co-workers in a cosmetic shop, haven't been getting along. Their adversarial relationship continues even though they have been exchanging letters after they both responded to a lonely-hearts advertisement.

### **Cast of Characters**

**Amalia** (legit soprano, 20 - 30) The eager new employee at Maraczek's Parfumerie. Despite being a skilled saleswoman, she easily becomes intimated and nervous. Attractive, bright, and a lover of literature.

**Georg** (bari-tenor, 25 - 30) An established employee of Maraczek's Parfumerie, he is a hopeless romantic. Shy, intelligent, and soft spoken.

**Arpad** (tenor/baritone, 16 - 20) Delivery boy at Maraczek's Parfumerie. His exuberance is infectious and commitment to his job is remarkable. He is ambitious and adorable.

**Mr Maraczek** (baritone, 55 - 65) Owner of Maraczek's Parfumerie. With a commanding presence, his dedication to the trade is rivaled only by his faithfulness to his wife.

**Ilona Ritter** (mezzo soprano, 25 - 35) Employed at Maraczek's Parfumerie. She is sexy and learned in the ways of romance, but longing for something more from the game of love.

**Ladislav Sipos** (baritone, 45 – 55) Not the brightest employee at Maraczek's Parfumerie. A confidant to Georg, he is an optimistic family man who looks like a huggable father.

**Steven Kodaly** (tenor, 25 - 35) A well respected and liked employee at Maraczek's Parfumerie. Though he is considered dapper and occasionally charming, he is more of a shallow womanizer.

**Head Waiter** (baritone, 18 – 65) Waiter at the Café Imperiale. Deals with Amalia when she's waiting for Dear Friend. Full of himself.

**ENSEMBLE:**

Four or five male ensemble members (16-60+ years), Four or five female ensemble members (16-60+ years) – shop customers, Café patrons, nurse, carolers.

## ***4000 Miles* by Amy Herzog**

Ninety-one-year-old political activist Vera Joseph's solitary existence is entirely shaken when her grandson, Leo, appears at the door in the middle of the night. Leo is fresh from a cross-country bike adventure and assures Vera that he won't stay long. Leo, however, is in crisis, confused by an on-again, off-again romance, furious with his mother's incessant meddling, and grieving deeply for his best friend and biking partner, Micah, who is recently deceased. While Leo seeks solace in his grandmother, Vera finds companionship in another person for the first time since the loss of her husband, Joe.

### **Cast of Characters**

**Leo Joseph-Connell** Age: 21 Describes himself as a hippy – doesn't own a phone. Physically lanky and fit - recently finished biking 4000 miles across the country. A free spirit, he is very uncertain about his future. Somewhat immature, loquacious, and in search of himself.

**Vera Joseph** Age: 91 Plain-speaking, middle class, left leaning. Still vital but dealing with the challenges of old age – arthritis, having difficulty remembering words. Feisty - she speaks her mind. Loyal to family.

**Bec** Age: 21 Strong, beautiful, hale. Socially responsible and active college student. She has travelled extensively. Emotionally rich with a strong moral compass.

**Amanda** Age: 19 Fashion-forward Chinese American art student. From a very rich family, a bit precious. Playful and impulsive.

## ***Shirley Valentine* by Willy Russell**

Inside Mrs. Joe Bradshaw—42-year-old mother of two grown children—is the former Shirley Valentine longing to get out. Her hope and self-confidence badly shattered by school, marriage,

and life, she is reduced to talking to the kitchen wall while preparing her husband's evening meal—to be on the table as he opens the front door every night. As she sips a glass of wine she dreams of drinking in the country where the grapes are grown. Her feminist friend offers her a holiday in Greece, and with great trepidation and a lot of forward planning, Shirley seizes the opportunity and goes, encountering a totally new lifestyle. Shirley, breaking out of the mould cast for her by society, is brilliantly shown with humour, warm sympathy, and human insight.

### **Cast of Characters**

**Shirley**                      **Age:** 42, born and bred in Liverpool

## **Early Stages An 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 4 and run during the daytime Monday to Thursday (excluding July 3) 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 Stella Voisin (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 January 21/22 at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. by calling Stella Voisin at 705-457-4524 or by emailing us at [auditions@highlandsummerfestival.on.ca](mailto:auditions@highlandsummerfestival.on.ca) If you are unable to visit us that weekend, please contact Scot Denton at 416-435-5008 or email [dentons0601@gmail.com](mailto:dentons0601@gmail.com) 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.

# Auditions for *She Loves Me, 4000 Miles & Shirley Valentine*

Saturday, January 21 and Sunday, January 22  
at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. in Haliburton.

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

**Stella Voisin at 705-457-4524 or by emailing us at  
[auditions@highlandsummerfestival.on.ca](mailto:auditions@highlandsummerfestival.on.ca)**

## Audition Requirements

- Please complete and print the last page of this package (page 7 – 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 Stella Voisin - [auditions@highlandsummerfestival.on.ca](mailto:auditions@highlandsummerfestival.on.ca) or 705-457-4524

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 *She Loves Me***. 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. Some information about *She Loves Me* is available online at Music Theater International – [mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com) and you may find some of the songs elsewhere. The scripts of *4000 Miles* and *Shirley Valentine* may be viewed in e-copy. Please contact Scot Denton at [dentons0601@gmail.com](mailto:dentons0601@gmail.com) or Melissa Stephens at [melistep@gmail.com](mailto:melistep@gmail.com) and we will send you a pdf.

**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 *She Loves Me*). 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 *4000 Miles* 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

*She Loves Me*      July 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\*, 9\*, 10, 11, 12, 13\*

*4000 Miles*        July 17, 18, 19, 20, 21\*, 23\*, 24, 25

*Shirley Valentine*      July 31, August 1, 2, 3, 4\*

**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. 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 musical or 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, Painting, Costumes, Props, Front of House**

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 let us know if you wish to contribute in any of these areas.

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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.