



Douglas Walker – Artistic Producer
Melissa Stephens – Executive Producer

2025 Audition Information

URINETOWN THE MUSICAL

SALT-WATER MOON

DRINKING HABITS

Hello, and thank you so much for your interest in our 25th season of the Highlands Summer Festival. My name is Douglas Walker and I am the new Artistic Producer. Prior to accepting this new challenge, I have been a working theatre professional for the last 18 years. I recently made Haliburton my home and when this opportunity came my way, I jumped at the chance. I cannot wait to share the season with both yourself and the people of Haliburton. Working with Highlands Summer Festival in the past has shown me how much talent lives in the Haliburton Highlands. I look forward to showcasing the many and amazing talents of the community here.

If you are new to the Highlands Summer Festival, or even new to live theatre, we encourage you to audition for a role.

You may wish to contact us about contributing in another capacity. 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 by building sets and costumes, being part of the running crew or assisting with Front of House. This kind of contribution can be tremendously rewarding. Please consider joining us.

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:

Douglas Walker
Artistic Producer
647-229-4403
douglaswalkeractor@gmail.com

Melissa Stephens
Executive Producer
705-455-2366
melistep@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. **Casting continues! Please see page 7 for audition information.**

Urinetown The Musical

Music by Mark Hollmann, book by Greg Kotis

It all starts with the sixteenth letter of the alphabet, P. The letter which speaks for itself or, when spelled out, pee, is the central theme to this fast-paced musical Urinetown. As a metaphor for the over-arching intrusion of big corporations into all aspects of our lives, the plucky cast of citizens fights back as the UGC Company (Urine Good Company) attempts to raise the rates on access to public toilets. With music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann, and book and lyrics by Greg Kotis the cast makes its case against the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, and municipal politics with music, humour, and boycotts as several love stories emerge from the mayhem.

URINETOWN is above all a parody and a comedy. In essence characters are seriously silly or more accurately, earnestly, seriously silly!! Notwithstanding this description, it is imperative to make the character as believable as possible. Indeed, this is the comedy of the show.

Cast of Characters

Officer Lockstock - Baritone

A corrupt policeman and the tongue-in-cheek narrator of our story. Bold and brash. An authoritative voice, with rich low notes but a firm G4. Excellent comic timing needed and strong acting ability.

- Suggested Gender and Age: Male, 30+

Bobby Strong - Tenor

The “good-looking”, rebellious everyman who works for Miss Pennywise at the poorest, filthiest town urinal. He becomes an unsuspecting protagonist and romantic hero when he starts a revolution. A clear high tenor; a nimble falsetto is a plus

Hope Cladwell - Mezzo

An innocent, romantic optimist who becomes vengeful and determined after being exposed to her father's evil. A naïve girl who believes there is good in everyone. Falls in love with Bobby. Key role. Strong acting and singing ability with good comic timing.

Penelope Pennywise - Mezzo

The tough, jaded warden of the poorest, filthiest town urinal. A gutsy female character. Strong acting and comic timing needed. Need to be excellent singer with a belt and potentially shrill up to a G5.

Caldwell B. Caldwell - Baritone

The president and owner of the Urine Good Company. A tyrant who both gleefully exploits the poor and genuinely believes he is helping the city. Baritone, needs crisp diction. Excellent acting with strong stage presence.

Little Sally - Mezzo

A precocious and irreverent street urchin. She serves as a quasi-narrator who often questions Lockstock and the play's logic. Needs to be smallish in stature because she is the 'child' of the cast. Needs to look young in stage age. A key role. Strong acting, singing ability and comic timing.

Josephine "Ma" Strong - Mezzo

A strong-willed woman with fight, and a better ability than most to deal with the hard hand life has dealt her. Strong acting and singing

Joseph "Old Man" Strong - Any

Bobby's rebellious father. His refusal to follow abusive laws ultimately launches the revolution. Good acting and comic timing.

Hot Blades Harry - Baritone/Tenor

One of the city's poor. Immature and confused. Despite his name he is large in stature. Good acting and comic timing.

Little Becky Two-shoes - Mezzo

One of the city's poor. Rebellious and impulsive, she definitely has a dark murderous side. Strong actor and singer.

Soupy Sue - Mezzo

One of the city's poor. Kind and anxious. Good acting and singing.

Tiny Tom -Baritone/Tenor

One of the city's poor. Immature and confused. Despite his name he is large in stature (optional). Good acting and comic timing.

Officer Barrel - Baritone/Tenor

Lockstock's patrol partner with a secret. He sees himself as a thuggish and aggressive policeman yet does show a caring side. Good actor and singer.

Senator Fipp - Baritone/Tenor

A greedy politician in Cladwell's pocket. A coward who hides all his crimes through politics. A creepy character who seems to lurk in all the wrong places. Strong acting, minimal singing.

Mr McQueen - Baritone/Tenor

Cladwell's sycophantic lackey. A servile assistant..

Salt-Water Moon

by David French

We turn to the production which opened the Festival 25 years ago, the award-winning Salt-Water Moon. The Highlands Summer Festival theatre partnership, prepared to kick off its first season, we chose this quintessential Canadian play by David French. Set in Newfoundland eight years after the end of the First World War, this is a touching love story with the conflicted young lovers overlain by the memory of the horrors of the war, changing roles for women in society and technological advances.

Cast of Characters

Jacob Mercer - Jacob is an 18-year-old man who returns to his hometown of Coley's Point, Newfoundland in 1926 to win back his former sweetheart, Mary Snow. Jacob and Mary were once in love but Jacob left for Toronto a year earlier without saying goodbye.

Mary Snow - Mary Snow is a young woman who is torn between love, independence, and responsibility: Mary is in love with Jacob Mercer, but has become engaged to Jerome McKenzie, the local schoolmaster. Mary wants to be independent, but sees her engagement to Jerome as a way to improve her social status and financial situation.

Drinking Habits

by Tom Smith

Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud farce, *Drinking Habits*. Two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancés, are hot on their trail. They go undercover as a nun and priest, but their presence, combined with the addition of a new nun, spurs paranoia throughout the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. *Drinking Habits*: wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves.

Cast of Characters

Sister Philamena (F) — age range 20s-mid-50s One of the three nuns who lives at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing. Has secretly been making wine for several years with Sister Augusta in order to keep the convent open. Devout and dedicated to her calling. Joyful and humorous. Incapable of lying. Must have excellent comic timing and move well.

Sister Augusta (F) — age range 20s-mid 50s One of the three nuns who lives at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing. Has secretly been making wine for several years with Sister Philamena in order to keep the convent open. Devout and dedicated to her calling. Joyful and humorous. Must have excellent comic timing and move well.

George (M) — age range 20s-30s Caretaker and gardener at the convent. George isn't dumb, but he is a little slow. Must have excellent comic timing and move well.

Mother Superior (F) — age range 40s-early 60s Has been in charge of the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing for many years. Hates alcohol, especially wine. Someone wily. Must have excellent comic timing and move well.

Paul (M) — age 24 Newspaper reporter. Co-worker and former fiancé of Sally. Paul is an orphan. He's a good writer, but his conscience sometimes gets in the way of his reporting. Must be a master of comic timing and move well and quickly.

Sally (F) — age range 20s Award-winning newspaper reporter. Used to be engaged to Paul. Left him standing at the altar on their wedding day in order to cover an important story. Quick-witted and sometimes sharp tongued. Must have excellent comic timing, move well.

Sister Mary Catherine (F) — age 24 A novice nun sent to the convent to finish her training. Meek & timid. Must have excellent comic timing and move well.

Father Chenille (M) — age range 40s-early 60s Priest of the local parish next door to the convent. Patient, understanding, and a little clumsy. Must have excellent comic timing and move well

Auditions for
Urinetown the Musical
Salt-Water Moon
Drinking Habits

Casting continues!

Saturday 1st February & Sunday 2nd February

Haliburton United Church, 10 George St, Haliburton KOM 1S0.

*To arrange for an audition please contact:

Melissa Stephens by emailing her at:
melistep@gmail.com

Audition Requirements

- Please complete and print the last page of this package (page 10 – the Audition Information Sheet) and bring it to your audition.
- Dress comfortably, bring indoor shoes, and wear a mask if you wish.
- For any questions, please contact Melissa at melistep@gmail.com

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 *Urinetown***. We may only need to hear 16 bars of the song or (Verse, Chorus) whatever showcases you best. If you have questions about singing at your audition, please contact Melissa Stephens – melistep@gmail.com

Self Tape Requirements

If you are unable to make our in-person auditions. You are more than welcome to submit a self tape for consideration. Please send self-tapes to Douglas Walker, douglaswalkeractor@gmail.com. The following are tips and requirements for your tape, to help set you up for success.

- Please film yourself in Landscape mode (not portrait)
- Does not have to be a full length shot. Can be from waist up. The most important thing is to make sure you are clearly visible.
- Please begin your tape by giving your name and the show you'd like to be considered.
- Please perform one monologue of your choice.
- If auditioning for Urinetown, please also include 1 short video of you singing. No longer than 1 minute, either acapella, with karaoke track, or accompanying yourself.
- Tape can be uploaded to YouTube as an unlisted video and you can email a link. Alternatively you can send the file via wettransfer.com

You are encouraged to be familiar with the plays and the musical. Please contact Douglas Walker at douglaswalkeractor@gmail.com or Melissa Stephens at melistep@gmail.com and we will send you more information on your desired show.

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 *Urinetown*). 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, beginning at the end of April or some time in May, depending on the date of the production's opening.

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

Urinetown July 1, 2, 3, 4*, 6*, 7, 8*

Salt-Water Moon July 15, 16, 17, 18*, 20*, 21, 22

Drinking Habits July 27*, 28, 29, 30, 31, August 1*

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) _____ email: _____

Parent 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:**

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: _____, 2024

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.