



## *Highlands Summer Festival*

Scot Denton – Artistic Producer  
Melissa Stephens – Executive Producer

### **Early Stages Information & Application**

Thank you for your interest in the Highlands Summer Festival's (HSF) *Early Stages* Program for 2015. *Early Stages* is an apprenticeship theatre program for young performers aged 10 to 14. We began this new and exciting program this past season. Using theatre based exercises and games, two senior Music Theatre students from Sheridan College and HSF Artistic Producer Scot Denton, worked with 13 young local performers to create a short, 'collective' piece of theatre. This work-in-progress was presented to an audience in early August.

This year classes are from 10:00am to 3:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at St George's Anglican Church in Haliburton for five weeks in July, beginning Tuesday, June 30. The program will conclude with a presentation of work-in-progress July 29 and 30.

The *Early Stages* instructors will be senior students from recognized theatre programs who will also be cast in roles in the HSF Season. Under the guidance of Scot Denton, the instructors and young performers will employ exercises and games, including improvisation, acting and movement, as they develop performance skills and are encouraged to be responsive to their fellow players and celebrate teamwork. Using text and music, they will begin to explore the value of personal response as they are led to an understanding of what it is to be an artist.

Last year a number of our *Early Stages* participants appeared on stage for the first time. Previous theatre training, including voice and dance, are welcome but not prerequisites.

In addition to these classes, *Early Stages* participants will be invited to a number of HSF rehearsals and performances where they can watch their instructors at work.

Enrolment is limited to 16 participants, who will work in separate junior and senior groups and also together. The cost is \$190. There are several Bursaries available for this program – please speak to Joan Hawley if you would like more information about them.

Those interested are asked to attend one of two information sessions where they will take part in a few brief exercises. Those sessions are Sunday, January 25 at 11:00am and also Saturday, February 7 at 2:30pm, both at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in Haliburton. Applicants should bring indoor shoes and comfortable clothing. Parents/caregivers will have a chance to speak with one of us at the session your child attends.

Please book a time by calling **Joan Hawley** at **705-457-1789** or emailing her at [joanhawley99@hotmail.com](mailto:joanhawley99@hotmail.com).

Please print the last page of this package (page 3) – the **Early Stages Application** – fill it in and bring it to your audition.

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

**Melissa Stephens – Executive Producer – 705-455-2366** [melistep@gmail.com](mailto:melistep@gmail.com)  
**Scot Denton – Artistic Producer – 416-486-5008** [sdenton@sympatico.ca](mailto:sdenton@sympatico.ca)

Thanks again for your interest.

Scot and Melissa

## Early Stages Application

Please print legibly when completing this form and bring it with you to the audition.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Other Email \_\_\_\_\_

Age (current age) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

The above information will be used by the Festival to contact you and will be retained only if you take part in *Early Stages*. The contact information may be shared with others involved in the Festival.

### Please indicate:

\_\_\_ I would like to be contacted regarding future activities and opportunities related to the Highlands Summer Festival.

### Please indicate specifically any conflicts you might have with the 2015 Early Stages schedule:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

You may use the space provided here to summarize any experience and/or training you would like us to be aware of: