

Highlands Summer Festival

Scot Denton – Artistic Producer
Melissa Stephens – Executive Producer



2016 Audition Information

Oliver! *Old Love*

Fallen Angels

Early Stages

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

Thank you for your interest in the Highlands Summer Festival's Season for 2016. The Festival just completed its 16th season; one which we hope was entertaining and rewarding for our patrons, as well as providing opportunities for many performers.

Each season, a number of our actors and crew are new to the Festival, and some are new to the theatre. **We encourage you to audition for a role or contact us about crewing, even if you have limited or no stage experience.** We are committed to developing skills in all areas. Please consider taking part in the Festival in some capacity. Many skilled and dedicated individuals contributed to last season's 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.

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, 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 stage work of the highest calibre. Since our inception, 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 it every season.

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

Melissa Stephens – Executive Producer – 705-455-2366 melistep@gmail.com
Scot Denton – Artistic Producer sdenton@sympatico.ca

Audition Information

Please 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. The director may adjust them as required by the production.

Oliver!

Music and Lyrics and book by Lionel Bart
Based on the novel by Charles Dickens

The great British musical *Oliver!* has entertained the world for over 50 years and become one of the West End's most loved shows, thanks to numerous revivals. Written by Lionel Bart, the show is based on the novel by Charles Dickens and follows the plucky Oliver Twist in his plight around Victorian London.

Oliver! has been applauded for its simple melodies and catchy lyrics; it is "infinitely hummable." Several of the show's songs have become popular standards, including "As Long as He Needs Me" and "Consider Yourself." The original London production of *Oliver!* ran for 2,618 performances and was one of the most successful musicals in London stage history. *Oliver!* is a marvellous musical with a large cast.

Cast of Characters – Oliver!

The cast will consist of approximately eleven men, nine women and perhaps a dozen or more young actors – male and female. Aside from four male roles and one female, for all other roles, the performer will appear and sing in the ensemble as well. Dialect coaching will be provided before and during rehearsals.

Oliver	10 – 14	Soprano
Mr Bumble	50s	Tenor
Widow Corney	50s	Soprano
Old Sally	Mature adult	Spoken
Mrs Sowerberry	40 – 60	Soprano
Mr Sowerberry	40 – 60	Baritone
Charlotte	15 – 19	Spoken

Noah Claypole	16 – 21	Spoken
Fagin	50+	Baritone
Artful Dodger	12 – 15	Soprano
Nancy	early 20s	Alto/Mezzo Belt
Bet	16 – 19	Alto Belt
Bill Sikes	30 – 45	Baritone
Mr Brownlow	65+	Spoken
Dr Grimwig	55+	Spoken
Mrs Bedwin	60+	Spoken
Ensemble Boys/Workhouse/Fagin’s Gang	10+	Soprano
Ensemble Girls/Workhouse/possible Gang	10+	Soprano
Ensemble men/women	Sop/Alto/Tenor/Baritone	

Old Love by Norm Foster

Old Love is a Norm Foster classic – a story about Bud and Molly, two people who seem destined to miss out on each other, despite Bud’s best efforts. Bud reintroduces himself to Molly as she lays a rose on her husband’s grave. In his efforts to turn her into a believer, Bud will try anything. Are they right for each other now? Foster takes us back and forth in time as we discover the many twists to Bud and Molly’s journeys on their way to this new possibility. *Old Love* is funny, relevant, and will keep the audience guessing till the end.

Cast of Characters – Old Love

Bud Mitchell	60 – 70
Molly Graham	60 - 70
Actor #3	Younger Bud in flashbacks, Arthur, Arthur Junior
Actor #4	Younger Molly in the flashbacks, Kitty, Kendra

The age of actors #3 and #4 will depend somewhat on the ages of the actors playing Bud and Molly.

Fallen Angels by Noël Coward

Two wealthy British women, Julia and her best friend Jane, are bored with their husbands and longing for excitement. Both women receive notes announcing the impending arrival of Maurice, their mutual premarital lover, just as their respective husbands, Fred and Willy are departing for a weekend of golf. *Fallen Angels* is Noël Coward's 1925 hilariously witty romp about the foibles of the British upper class, dealing with such universal themes as the lure of lustful sex and the sexual double standard.

What will happen when Maurice finally arrives? Torn between their sense of marital duty and their desire to relive the passion they once experienced, Julia and Jane consider leaving town to avoid temptation, and then become suspicious rivals, as the champagne flows.

Cast of Characters

Julia Sterroll	30s
Fred Sterroll	35 - 50
Saunders	50 – 60, female
Willy Banbury	30 - 45
Jane Banbury	30s
Maurice Duclos	35 - 45

In its Third Year!

Early Stages

Our Apprenticeship Theatre Program

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 in college performance Programs. Classes will include voice and text, improvisation, acting and movement and will take place at a location in Haliburton during the month of July. Classes will begin in early July and run during the daytime each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for four weeks. There will be a presentation of work created at a suitable venue late in July or very early August. Participants 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.

There will be two sets of Auditions for **Early Stages**. The first is Sunday afternoon January 24 from 3:00 p.m. at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St at Pine St. Please book a time by calling Joan Hawley at 705-457-1789 or emailing her at joanhawley99@hotmail.com. The second Audition opportunity will be on Saturday afternoon, February 6th at 2:00 p.m. at Haliburton United Church

Applicants auditioning for **Early Stages** should bring indoor shoes and comfortable clothing and expect to take part in a short theatre-related game or movement exercise. Dance experience and singing are not prerequisites.

Note: Young performers cast in **Oliver!** are eligible to audition for **Early Stages** - it is possible to take part in both. And you do not have to audition twice – just indicate on your ‘Oliver’ audition form that you would like to be considered for Early Stages.

Auditions for *Oliver! Old Love, and Fallen Angels*

Auditions will be held on Saturday, January 23 and Sunday, January 24 at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St, Haliburton.

Book an audition time by contacting Joan Hawley at 705-457-1789 or joanhawley99@hotmail.com.

Boys and girls auditioning for *Oliver, Dodger, Workhouse and Fagin’s Gang* should wear comfortable clothes, indoor shoes, and be prepared to sing something – it does not have to be a music theatre song and you do not have to bring music. You can even just sing Happy Birthday! But be sure to call for an audition time – **Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon - print and fill in the form on page 8, and bring it to the audition.**

Audition Requirements

Print the last page of this package (page 8) – the Audition Information Sheet – fill it in and bring it to your audition. Dress comfortably and bring indoor shoes.

Adult performers

Adult performers who are new to the Festival should 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).

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.**

Please have a copy of your music with you for the accompanist.

If you have questions about material for your song, please contact Melissa Stephens at 705-457-2366.

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

You are encouraged to be familiar with the specific shows. We do have a limited number of scripts 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 \$20 deposit, which will be refunded when you return the script. Librettos for *Oliver!* are not available at this time. (Some information about the musical and the plays is available online.)

Rehearsal Schedule

It is the expectation that a minimum of 100 hours of rehearsal time for each Main Stage production will have been achieved prior to performance (120 hours for the musical). The weekly rehearsal schedule will be established by the directors and the cast. However, each production has rehearsals each week on Saturday and Sunday during the day, (and 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 supporting and ensemble 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 will be more frequent, and will likely require everyone.

Performance Schedule

<i>Oliver!</i>	July 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
<i>Old Love</i>	July 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29
<i>Fallen Angels</i>	August 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12

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 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 decide to audition, we hope you can also make this commitment.

To book an audition time, please contact:

Joan Hawley at 705-457-1789

joanhawley99@hotmail.com

Audition Information Sheet

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

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

Other _____

Email _____ (Parent's email) _____

Age (if under 20) _____

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 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:**

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

Stage Management and Crew

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 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.

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

Your signature (or parent's): _____ Date _____, 2016

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