



Highlands Summer Festival

Scot Denton – Artistic Producer
Melissa Stephens – Executive Producer

2018 Audition Information

Romeo and Juliet *Cliffhanger*
The Dining Room

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 2018. The Festival just completed its 18th season; which we believe was entertaining for our patrons as well as providing challenging opportunities for performers, stage managers, crew, set builders, and props and costume builders.

Each season, a number of our participants are new to the Festival, and some are new to live theatre. **We encourage you to audition for a role or contact us about contributing in another creative area, 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 immeasurable. 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 each 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 416-486-5008 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. Performers of all ages and genders are encouraged to audition.

Romeo and Juliet

By William Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet – the world’s most famous love story and one of Shakespeare’s most popular plays.

In the heat of renaissance Italy two houses are at war. A son and a daughter from the opposing families break this bitter conflict by falling in love. Yet, in this whirlwind of animosity, Romeo and Juliet's passion agitates rather than unites the opposing houses, causing a trail of destruction.

The cast will consist of approximately 15 men and seven women. The younger characters will be played by age-appropriate actors. Ages listed below are guidelines for the age of the performer.

Cast of Characters – Romeo and Juliet

Prince Escalus	40+	Benvolio	late teens
Tybalt	late teens	Mercutio	late teens
Capulet	35 – 50	Lady Capulet	27 - 40
Montague	35 – 50	Lady Montague	27 - 40
Paris	late teens – 30	Romeo	late teens
Juliet	late teens	Nurse	35 - 50
Friar Laurence	35 – 60	The Chorus	20 - 60

Friar John, Abram, Balthazar, Peter, the apothecary, Capulet and Montague servants, citizens, etc. - late teens – 30s

Cliffhanger by James Yaffe

Cliffhanger is a comedy thriller about Henry Lowenthal, who expects to be rewarded with an endowment chair in his retirement, but is given a rude surprise by his successor Edith Wilshire. Just as Henry and his wife Polly are scrambling to survive what follows, Melven McMullen visits Dr Lowenthal to dispute a grade he received, and really complicates things. DeVito, a suspicious police lieutenant then starts to ask questions.

Cast of Characters – *Cliffhanger*

Henry Lowenthal	a philosophy professor - in his 60s
Polly Lowenthal	Henry's wife – in her 60s
Edith Wilshire	a philosophy professor – in her 40s
Melvin McMullen	a student - 19
Dave DeVito	a police lieutenant – in his 30s

The Dining Room by A. R. Gurney

The action of *The Dining Room* is a mosaic of interrelated scenes—some touching, some revealing, some hilarious—which, taken together, create an in-depth portrait of the rewards and trials of family life. The setting of course, is a fine dining room, the place where the family assembled daily for breakfast and dinner and for any and all special occasions.

The actors change roles, personalities and ages as they portray a wide variety of characters, from little boys to stern grandfathers, and from giggling teenage girls to Irish housemaids. Each vignette introduces a new set of people and events.

Cast of Characters – *The Dining Room*

The age of the actors is flexible. Each actor's characters cover a broad age range.

1st Actor	Father, Michael, Brewster, Grandfather, Stuart, Gordon, David, Harvey, and Host
2nd Actor	Client, Howard, Psychiatrist, Ted, Paul, Ben, Chris, Jim, Dick, and Guest

3rd Actor	Arthur, Boy, Architect, Billy, Nick, Fred, Tony, Standish, and Guest
1st Actress	Agent, Mother, Carolyn, Sandra, Dora, Margery, Beth, Kate, Claire, and Ruth
2nd Actress	Annie, Grace, Peggy, Nancy, Sarah, Harriet, Emily, Annie, and Guest
3rd Actress	Sally, Girl, Ellie, Aggie, Winkie, Old Lady, Helen, Meg, Bertha, and Guest

Note: Each actor plays nine or ten characters – some appear briefly, some are central in more substantial scenes. The above casting has traditionally worked well, although there could be eight performers and the scenes distributed differently.

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 or graduates. 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 \$215. 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 21 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 4 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.

Auditions for Romeo and Juliet, Cliffhanger, and The Dining Room

Auditions will be held on Saturday, January 20 and Sunday, January 21 at Haliburton United Church, 10 George St, Haliburton.

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

Audition Requirements

Print the last page of this package (page 7) – the Audition Information Sheet – fill it in and bring it to your audition. Dress comfortably and bring indoor shoes.

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.

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 plays. *Romeo and Juliet* is available at most libraries and can be found online at *No Fear Shakespeare – Romeo and Juliet*:

<http://nfs.sparknotes.com/romeojuliet/>

Cliffhanger and *The Dining Room* 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 or provide you with a Dropbox link.

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 Shakespeare). 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 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 in attendance.

Performance Schedule

<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	July 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10
<i>Cliffhanger</i>	July 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24
<i>The Dining Room</i>	July 30, 31, August 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8

Note new 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 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, within their skills, 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. *We understand, of course, that some people will have work or family commitments.*

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: Cell _____

Other _____

Email _____

Age (if under 18) _____ **(Parent's 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 auditioning for the Early Stages program. (please check box)

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

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, Crew and set, costumes, and prop construction. 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 might have with the rehearsal schedule:

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

_____ **Date** _____, 2018

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.