

# Highlands Summer Festival

Scot Denton – Artistic Producer  
Melissa Stephens – Executive Producer



## 2019 Audition Information

*Mary Poppins*      *The Ladies*

*Foursome*

*Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*

### 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 2019. We are about to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> season! I hope it will be an exciting and entertaining one for all of our patrons as we attempt to provide 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 the world of 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 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 contribute to our 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.

Creating a summer theatre season is an enormous amount of work, but it is tremendously rewarding. As you consider making a commitment, and we hope you do, 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. From the outset our goal was to work hard to improve each year – in every facet of our operation. Our faithful and generous patrons have come to expect quality programming and we are committed to delivering it to them.

Should you have any questions regarding the season, the audition process, the rehearsals, or where you might take part, we would be happy to hear from you:

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)

## 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.**

### *Mary Poppins*

Music by Richard M. Sherman & Robert B. Sherman, Book by Julian Fellowes

One of the most popular Disney movies of all time has captured hearts in a whole new way: as a practically perfect musical! Based on the books by P.L. Travers and the classic Walt Disney film, *Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins* delighted Broadway audiences for over 2,500 performances and received nominations for nine Olivier and seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

*The cast will consist of approximately 14 men, 12 women and two children. Ages listed below are guidelines for the age of the character.*

#### Cast of Characters

**Bert** The narrator of the story, is a good friend to Mary Poppins - hurdy-gurdy player, sidewalk artist and chimney sweep. He has charm, speaks with a Cockney accent and is a song-and-dance man. Male, 30 - high baritone

**George Banks** The father to Jane and Michael Banks - a banker to the very fiber of his being. Demanding "precision and order" in his household. His emotional armor conceals a sensitive soul. Male, 40-60 - baritone

**Winnifred Banks** George's wife and Jane and Michael's mother. A former actress, she is a loving and distracted homemaker – trying to be a model wife and mother, to live up to her husband's expectations. She has great warmth and simplicity. Female, 30s - mezzo

**Jane** The high-spirited daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Banks - bright and precocious but can be willful - inclined to snobbishness. Female, 11 - soprano

**Michael** The cute and cheeky son of Mr. and Mrs. Banks. Excitable and naughty - adores his father and tries to be like him. Male, 9 - soprano

**Katie Nanna** Jane and Michael's nanny at the beginning of the show. Overwhelmed and upset - has had her fill of the Banks children. Female, 30s

**Policeman** A neighborhood fixture who is respected by and observant of households on his beat. Male, 30s

**Miss Lark** The haughty next-door neighbour of the Banks family who treats her dog, Willoughby, as if it was her child. Female, 30s

**Admiral Boom** A retired Royal Navy man and neighbour of the Banks with a loud and booming voice - has a soft spot for his neighbour, Miss Lark. Male, 50s - baritone

**Miss Brill** The housekeeper and cook for the Banks family. Overworked and harassed - always complaining that the house is under-staffed. Intimidating exterior - warmth underneath. Female, 50s – mezzo

**Robertson Ay** The houseboy to the Banks family. Lazy, sleepy and grumbling, he never gets things right and believes himself to be useless. Male, 20 – tenor

**Mary Poppins** Jane and Michael Banks's new nanny. She is extraordinary and strange - sometimes a little frightening. She is practically perfect in every way and always means what she says. Female, 20s - mezzo with strong top notes

**Park Keeper** Uniformed and officious, he makes sure no one breaks park regulations - secretly hankers after his childhood. Male, 40

**Neleus** The statue of a young boy posed with a dolphin in the park. A small and lonely being, he is very happy to befriend Jane and Michael. Male, 16 - dancer

**Bank Chairman** The head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed - an Edwardian stuffed-shirt. Male, 50 – 60 – baritone

**Miss Smythe** The Bank Chairman's humourless secretary. Female, 40s

**Mrs. Corry** Exotic. Owns magical gingerbread shop. Female, 40s

**Bird Woman** Covered with patchwork of old shawls, gruff, folksy Female, 50s – mezzo

**Miss Andrew** George's scary nanny, a bully. Female, 40s – soprano with alto belt

**John Northbrook** Honest businessman seeking a loan Male, 30s

**Von Hussler** A businessman seeking a loan from the bank for a shady business deal.

**Ensemble** Annie, Fannie, Valentine, Teddy Bear, Mr. Punch, Doll, Chimney Sweeps, Toys, Parkgoers.

***Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*** by Richard Alfieri

Lily, an aging but formidable retiree, hires Michael, an acerbic dance instructor, to give her dance lessons in her condo in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. Antagonism between a gay man and the wife of a Southern Baptist minister gives way to profound compatibility as they swing dance, tango, foxtrot, and cha-cha while sharing barbs and intimacies along with the dance steps.

**Cast of Characters**

**Lily Harrison** a lovely, well-dressed woman – 70s

**Michael Minetti** a dance instructor – 35 - 50

## *The Ladies Foursome* by Norm Foster

It's the day after the funeral of a friend, and three women gather for a round of golf in honour of their recently deceased playing partner. They are joined by a fourth woman, another friend of the deceased that the other three didn't know about. During the round the women discuss life, love, men, sex, children, careers...everything but golf. Many surprises, secrets and confessions come to the surface during this hilarious and heart-warming round.

### Cast of Characters

<b>Margot</b>	<b>50 – 55</b>	<b>Business woman, no nonsense, mother figure to her friends, drinks a bit</b>
<b>Tate</b>	<b>early 40s</b>	<b>Sensitive, stay at home mom, wants more from life now that her children are independent</b>
<b>Connie</b>	<b>50 – 55</b>	<b>Narcissistic, promiscuous, tough, resilient, says what she thinks</b>
<b>Dory</b>	<b>early 40s</b>	<b>Kind, smart, mother to six, always wanted to be a singer</b>

## **Early Stages** **Our 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 in college performance Programs or graduates. 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 2 and run during the daytime Monday to Thursday (excluding July 1) for four weeks. There will be a presentation of work created at a suitable venue late in July. Participants may work in separate junior and senior groups and also together. The cost is \$215. There are a couple of bursaries available for Early Stages – please speak to Sean Pennylegion (contact info below) if you would like more information about them.

If you are interested in Early Stages, please plan to visit us during the auditions on the weekend of January 26/27 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, which is located at the High School in Haliburton. Please book a time by calling Sean Pennylegion at 705-457-1174 or 705-854-9411 or by emailing him at [pennylegion@gmail.com](mailto:pennylegion@gmail.com). If you are unable to visit us then, please call Scot Denton at 416-486-5008 to make other arrangements.

Applicants auditioning for 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** ***Mary Poppins, Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks,*** ***and The Ladies Foursome***

Auditions will be held on Saturday, February 9th in Haliburton.

**Book an audition time by contacting Melissa Stephens at 705.455.2366 or by email at [melistep@gmail.com](mailto:melistep@gmail.com).**

## **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.

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 should bring sheet music, so we can provide piano accompaniment. Please don't prepare something from *Mary Poppins*. If you have questions about singing at your audition, please contact us.

You are encouraged to be familiar with the plays and the musical. *Mary Poppins*, *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* and *The Ladies Foursome* may be viewed in e-copy. Please contact Scot Denton at [sdenton@sympatico.ca](mailto:sdenton@sympatico.ca) or Melissa Stephens at [melistep@gmail.com](mailto:melistep@gmail.com) and we will send you a copy or provide you with a Dropbox link.

**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 *Mary Poppins*). 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 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 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 likely require everyone in attendance.

## **Performance Schedule**

*Mary Poppins* June 30, July 1\*, 2, 3, 4, 5\*, 7\*, 8, 9

*Six Dance Lessons* July 15, 16, 17, 18, 19\*, 21\*, 22, 23

*The Ladies Foursome* July 29, 30, 31, August 1, 2\*, 4\*, 6, 7, 8

**Note 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 previous family commitments.*

**To book an audition time, please contact:**

**Melissa Stephens at 705.455.2366**

**or at [melistep@gmail.com](mailto:melistep@gmail.com)**

# Audition Information Sheet

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 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 any conflicts you might have with the rehearsal schedule:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

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.