

## **Heart and Soul of Song: Cameron Moncur and Lyla Miklos love musical stage**

**By Gary Smith**

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In a sense, Cameron Moncur and Lyla Miklos found themselves through musical theatre.

Each grew up loving the musical stage. Each did the show thing in high school. Moncur at Parkside in Dundas, Miklos at Hill Park in Hamilton. Each worked with Lou Zamprogna in the Performing Arts Program at Theatre Aquarius.

Though they didn't really know each other back then, their paths have certainly crossed now in Hamilton Theatre Incorporated's musical revue *A Grand Night For Singing*.

Miklos and Moncur are onstage together, doing what they love best, finding the heart and soul of the big time show tune.

"I fell in love with musicals when I was a kid," Moncur grins. "The first show I saw was *Oliver* at Theatre Aquarius. Years later, I was in that same musical at HTI, playing one of the workhouse brats. It was a real dream come true."

Miklos started singing in elementary school, after a music teacher pointed her out to the class.

"You have a really good voice," she said. "I was, of course, thrilled out of my shoes."

"In high school I did the musical *Big River*, playing Huckleberry Finn's mother. After that I guess I just stopped. I didn't go onstage for quite a few years. I was heavily into sports and trying to figure out who I was. Then I discovered I didn't have the kill, kill mentality needed for serious games, so of course I went back to someplace comfortable -- the theatre.

"I'm not an actress, and I'm certainly not a dancer, but I figured I had a better than so-so voice so I concentrated on singing."

Moncur, meantime, expressed his love for music in a number of intriguing ways.

"I have played the piano since I was four. And I took voice lessons with opera star John Fanning. My love of music took me to a number of instruments. I learned to play the flute, clarinet, oboe, English horn, saxophone and bassoon. I discovered there was another part of musical theatre right there under the stage.

"In the orchestra pit you didn't need to dress up, you could play in a T-shirt if you liked. I don't know what I prefer. When you're up there onstage there is that rush of acceptance, an instant payback from your audience."

Unlike Moncur, Miklos decided not to pursue a professional career. "That's like being a gambler for a living," she grimaces.

A programmer for Space-Bravo TV, she puts schedules together for shows on the tube. "It's perfect for a science fiction geek," she shrugs.

Moncur continues to go for the brass ring. Next fall he'll continue studies at Sheridan College, hoping for a career in the theatre.

Now Moncur and Miklos are enjoying singing the songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein in HTI's A Grand Night For Singing.

"I'm completely in love with this music," Moncur admits. "I get to sing some wonderful tunes, such as Honeybun and This Nearly Was Mine."

"I know what he means," Miklos chimes in. "When I was a kid I played these songs on records and happily joined in. Here I get to do It Might As Well Be Spring and Something Wonderful in Grand Night. Who could resist that?"

"We have some fun too," Miklos continues. "Things won't always be as you expect. If you try to sing along you might get a big surprise."

Gary Smith has been writing on theatre and dance for The Hamilton Spectator for more than 25 years.

#### Showtime

Who: Lyla Miklos and Cameron Moncur

What: A Grand Night For Singing

Where: HTI Studio, 140 MacNab St. N.

When: April 1 and 2, 8 and 9, 15 and 16, 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. Matinees April 10 and 17 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 (\$18 for students and seniors)

Phone: 905-522-3032.