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The Halifax Summer Opera Workshop

When: Through Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Phone: 494-3820

Price: \$20/\$15 seniors/students/\$5 kids 12 and under
halifaxsummeroperaworkshop.com

For the past six years, the Halifax Summer Opera Workshop has been bringing young opera singers from across the country together for an intensive period of study that culminates in the staging of two full operas. As well as being a wonderful opportunity for the students, it also gives Haligonians the chance to see a variety of operas (at an affordable price) right here. This year, the offerings are *Susannah*, a modern opera set in the American South and Handel's *Alcina*, a Baroque opera in Italian with English subtitles. Director Garry Williams has removed *Alcina* from its magical realm and set it during the Spanish Civil War. It's a successful gambit that makes staging the opera on a shoestring possible. The plot is pure nonsense, but that doesn't matter as this opera is filled with Handel's stately/sprightly music and some truly outstanding performances. *Susannah* is an engaging and tragic story anchored by Natalie Donnelly (although the role is double cast) in the titular role. Her voice is both lovely and powerful, and her stage presence is mesmerizing. She is supported by a fine, fine cast. These are two great shows that bring talented performers and a rare cultural opportunity to our city. - Kate Watson

Sir James Dunn Theatre

SOUTH END 6101 University
494-3820

★★★★★ (based on 1 user review)

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