

Messiah University Department of
Theatre and Dance presents

Steel Magnolias



By:

Robert
Harling

Directed by:

Elizabeth Angelozzi

Miller Theater


Nov. 10-12, 18-19 at 8:00pm


Nov. 13 & 20 at 3:00pm

Nov. 17 at 10:00 am
special school performance

**2022-2023
SEASON**

2022-2023 SEASON

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 MESSIAH
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE

Messiah University
Department of Theatre and Dance
presents

Steel Magnolias

By Robert Harling

Originally produced by the W.P.A Theatre, New York City, 1987.
(Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)

STEEL MAGNOLIAS is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC,
servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)



DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE

Mission Statement: As a community of Theatre and Dance artists, we cultivate the stewardship of intellect and imagination in a forum for civic dialogue as we seek to understand our calling in Christ.

messiah.edu/departments/theatre

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saw tonight, please
spread the word on
social media!



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**Any photography, videotaping or audio recording
of this production is strictly prohibited.**

ARTISTIC TEAM

Director..... Elizabeth Angelozzi
Assistant Director..... Carmi Wilmot
Co-Stage Managers..... Sunny Almeyda, Megan Eich
Scenic Designer..... Tymberley Whitesel
Costume Designer..... Elizabeth Angelozzi
Assistant Costume Designer..... Ashton Ritter
Lighting Designer..... Tymberley Whitesel
Sound Designer..... Lauren Forlow
Properties Masters..... Sammi Shuma, Emma Hehn, Gianna Warner
Hair and Makeup Designer..... Lydia Matson
Dialect Coach..... Anna Seip
Technical Director..... Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager..... Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinator..... Yanira Perez

CAST

Truvy Jones..... Abby Crispin
Annelle Dupuy-Desoto..... Jillian Stoltzfus
Clairee Belcher..... Julia Itson
Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie..... Ella Murray
M'Lynn Eatenton..... Aria Walker
Ouiser Boudreaux..... Madalyn Oliver
M'Lynn/Annelle/Ouiser Understudy..... Clara Bellot
Shelby/Clairee/Truvy Understudy..... Carmi Wilmot
Radio DJ Voiceover..... Alden Walker

RUNNING CREW

Assistant Stage Managers..... Sarah Joyce, Lea Ratos
Wardrobe..... Eleanor Mund
Sound Board Op..... Lauren Forlow
Light Board Op..... Ella Shane
House Manager..... Nathan Steinbach
Run Crew..... Rebecca Zheng, Julia Reep

SET & COSTUME CONSTRUCTION

Set and costume construction was completed with the help of the Messiah Theatre and Dance Department Work Study Students.

SPECIAL THANKS

Coby Bracken and Kelsey Day from Messiah University Department of Nursing
Carol McDonough from Keystone Theatrics for Wig Consultation
Making Waves Pool Service

SETTING

All scenes are set in Truvy's hair salon in Chinquapin Parish, Louisiana 1986

SCENES

Act I

Scene 1- April

Scene 2- December

Act II

Scene 1- June, 18 months later

Scene 2- November

There will be one 15-minute intermission between Act I and Act II.

SYNOPSIS

Our play opens on a Saturday morning at Truvy's beauty parlor where a group of local ladies regularly have their hair done. Truvy has just taken a young stylist, Annelle, under her wing as she starts a new life after a very toxic marriage. Everyone arrives and is excited to celebrate young Shelby's upcoming wedding. The plot covers several events surrounding these six ladies over the next three years. Shelby, a diabetic, decides to have a child against doctor's orders and suffers the consequences. Her mother, M'Lynn, learns to give up control and let her daughter make her own decisions. Clairee finds a new zest for life after the passing of her husband. Ouiser decides to let love back in her life. Annelle blossoms from a shy, anxious newcomer, to a loose cannon, then extra-showy Christian (who obviously didn't get to the book of Matthew yet). Truvy navigates empty nesting and provides a much-needed safe haven for these friends to congregate. Although the main storyline involves Shelby, her mother M'Lynn, and Shelby's medical battles, we see how these women support each other and manage to find the silver linings of the darkest clouds.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings, Y'all! Welcome to Truvy's. It's no doubt that many of you have seen *Steel Magnolias* before or watched the iconic film. This familiarity, along with its strong female cast of characters, are the two main reasons I chose this show.

Steel Magnolias is like stepping into a warm hug after years of social distancing. Quarantine prevented us from seeing our loved ones, congregating to worship, attending the theatre, and yes, getting our hair styled. The fact that we are all here together sharing this experience reminds me of the Magnolia tree itself. The roots of the tree are strong, the leaves are sturdy and evergreen. The blossoms are beautiful, graceful, delicate, and fleeting, but regenerate every year with proper cultivation. As long as we keep our community strong and our roots in faith we will continue to thrive come what may.

Although this script has stood the test of time, there are definitely some portions that are "dated" and hit our ears differently today. In the mid 1980's mental health was not taken as seriously as it should have been. Same-sex partnering was still considered scandalous and being "Born Again" was considered cult-like behavior. We as theatre makers do not necessarily agree with every single line in every single show we present. Because we are dealing with copywritten material, we are not permitted to cut or change any of the dialogue in the show. We feel the overriding theme of this show is a wonderful one: Life goes on.

We hope you have as much fun watching this show as we had putting it together. Thank you for supporting live theatre!

Elizabeth Angelozzi

HISTORY

Steel Magnolias originally opened Off-Broadway at the WPA Theatre, in New York City, on March 28, 1987. The story is based on the true experience of the playwright, Robert Harling and his family surrounding the death of his sister, Susan, from diabetic complications after giving birth to her son. A friend advised Harling to write to help him deal with his grief. He wrote a short story to give his nephew to preserve Susan's memory. The story evolved into a play in 1987 and then adapted into a film in 1989. *Steel Magnolias* debuted on Broadway in 2005 and has toured, and has been produced in several international productions, regionally, and is a very popular staple in both community and high school theatres. In 2012 the play was adapted into a television film for Lifetime featuring Queen Latifah as M'Lynn.

CAST BIOS

Clara Bellot (M'Lynn, Annelle, Ouiser Understudy) is a first-year musical theatre major and is thrilled to be a part of this amazing show! Previous credits include *Annie Get Your Gun* (Annie Oakley), *Clue* (Mrs. Peacock), and *Once Upon a Mattress* (Lady Larken). She would like to thank God, her mom, family, and the fantastic cast and crew that made this show possible. She hopes that you enjoy the show!

Abby Crispin (Truvy Jones) is a first-year musical theatre major and is so excited to be a part of this production! Previous credits include *Ariel* (*The Little Mermaid*), Sharpay Evans (*High School Musical*), Cinderella (*Into the Woods*) and Elle Woods (*Legally Blonde*). She's thankful to the cast and crew for being so welcoming, her parents for always supporting her, and God for helping her share the gifts He's given her!

Julia Itson (Clairee Belcher) is a first-year musical theatre student. Some of her past roles are Marian Paroo in *The Music Man*, Tansy McGinnis in *The Nerd*, and Lina Lamont in *Singin' In the Rain Jr.* When not performing she enjoys reading, playing ukulele, and spending time with her friends and family. She would like to thank Elizabeth for this opportunity and her friends and family for supporting her.

Ella Murray (Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie) is thankful to join Messiah's Theatre Community. She has performed with theatres in the Lancaster/Lebanon area including Gretna Theatre (*Matilda* and *Elephant and Piggie*) as well as Servant Stage Company (*Prodigal* and *Jukebox Saturday Night*) and Piercing Word (*Christmas Through the Ages* and *Grace Family Christmas*). Love and thanks to my parents, family, and friends who continue to encourage me to pursue my dreams.

Madalyn Oliver (Ouiser Boudreaux) is so excited to be performing in *Steel Magnolias*. Madalyn is a junior theatre major double minoring in HDFS and dance. Some of her roles at Messiah University include understudying the role of Antigone as a first-year, playing Nina Gardner in *Reclamation x 5*, and Laura in *The Glass Menagerie*. She loves this cast and feels so lucky to be sharing the stage with them!

Jillian Stoltzfus (Annelle Dupuy-Desoto) is a sophomore majoring in math with teaching and minoring in theatre. She is so excited for the opportunity to be in this show and is grateful for Elizabeth and the entire cast and crew. Past credits include *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Squirrel/Mole) and *Through the Years: A Musical Cabaret* (Cinderella's Godmother). She would like to thank God, her family, and friends for their constant love and support.

Alden Walker (Radio DJ voiceover) is a sophomore commercial music major and is happy to be a part of *Steel Magnolias* as DJ! Previous theatre credits include *Glass Menagerie* (Tom Wingfield) and *Les Misérables* (Javert). Many thanks to Elizabeth and the cast and crew for their dedication and work they've put into the show. Also, a big thank you to his friends and family for their continual love and support!

Aria Walker (M'Lynn Eatenton) is a senior musical theatre major and is thrilled to be playing the role of M'Lynn! Previous Messiah credits include *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Toad), *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (Queen Malvina), and *Anne of Green Gables* (Anne Shirley). Many thanks to the cast and crew for their dedication, to God for opportunities to pursue her passion, and to her family and friends for endless love and support!

Carmi Wilmot (AD/Shelby, Truvy, Clairee Understudy) is a junior theatre major with an emphasis in directing. She is thrilled to work alongside Elizabeth in the *Steel Magnolias*. Carmi assistant directed *A Year with Frog and Toad* and was last seen in a full-length production as Karen in *The Spongebob Musical*. Carmi would like to thank Elizabeth, the stage management team, and the cast and crew for bringing this show together. All glory to God!

SILENT SKY Written by Lauren Gunderson, Directed by Daniel Inouye

When Henrietta Leavitt begins work at the Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s, she isn't allowed to touch a telescope or express an original idea. Instead, she joins a group of women "computers," charting the stars for a renowned astronomer who calculates projects in "girl hours" and has no time for the women's probing theories. As Henrietta, in her free time, attempts to measure the light and distance of stars, she must also take measure of her life on Earth, trying to balance her dedication to science with family obligations and the possibility of love. The true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt explores a woman's place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries, when women's ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them. Social progress, like scientific progress, can be hard to see when one is trapped among earthly complications; Henrietta Leavitt and her female peers believe in both, and their dedication changed the way we understand both the heavens and Earth. **Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 6 – 8 at 8pm; Oct. 9 at 3 pm**

SHOELESS JOE Directed by Susan Hurlay

Fall musical theatre cabaret. **Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 29 at 8pm; Oct. 30 at 3pm**

STEEL MAGNOLIAS Written by Robert Harling, Directed by Elizabeth Angelozzi

Steel Magnolias is set over the span of 3 years and tells the story of a group of friends, neighbors, and clients of hairstylist, Truvy Jones. The beginning of the play focuses on young Shelby who is preparing for her upcoming wedding. As Shelby's story progresses, we learn about her struggles with Type 1 diabetes, and her mother's concern about her leaving the nest and starting a family of her own. Although the ladies argue and tease each other, their friendship and sense of community holds them together. We see this at various points of crisis during the play and, ultimately, at the end when Shelby decision to go against her doctor's orders and have a child has dire consequences. **Miller Theater Nov. 10-12, 18-19 at 8pm; Nov. 13 & 20 at 3pm; *Nov. 17 at 10am special school performance**

BLEU CHRISTMAS Directed by Gregg Hurlay

Messiah University dance students acknowledge the struggles and challenges of this broken and fallen world with this lament-driven dance experience. Reflect with us through the medium of dance with this intimate evening of words, music, and dance that will tenderly prepare us all for the joyous season of Advent. **Poorman Black Box Theater Nov. 17 at 7pm**

FALL SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors. **Poorman Black Box Theater Dec. 2 at 8pm, Dec. 3 at 3pm; Grace Pollock Dance Studio Dec. 9-10 at 8pm, Dec. 10 at 3pm**

SHOELESS JOE Directed by Susan Hurlay

Spring musical theatre cabaret. **Grace Pollock Dance Studio Feb. 4 at 8pm; Feb. 5 at 3pm**

CRIMES OF THE HEART Written by Beth Henley, Directed by Ed Cohn

The scene is Hazlehurst, Mississippi, where the three Magrath sisters have gathered to await news of the family patriarch, their grandfather, who is living out his last hours in the local hospital. Lenny, the eldest, never left Hazlehurst -- she is the caretaker of the sisters' cantankerous Old Granddaddy. Meg, the middle sister, left home to pursue stardom as a singer in Los Angeles, but has, so far, only found happiness at the bottom of a bottle. And Babe, the youngest, has just been arrested for shooting her abusive husband, Zackery Botrelle. Their troubles, grave and yet somehow hilarious, are highlighted by their priggish cousin, Chick, and by the awkward young lawyer who tries to keep Babe out of jail. Under the scorching heat of the Mississippi sun, past resentments bubble to the surface and each sister must come to terms with the consequences of her own "crimes of the heart." **Poorman Black Box Theater Feb. 16-18 at 8pm; Feb. 18-19 at 3pm**

2023 HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM DANCE CONCERT Directed by Gregg Hurlay

Dancing is a scholarly pursuit. Watch and consider how the dance program tackles the annual Humanities symposium topic in its own unique way. This dance "lecture" explores and examines movement metaphors and images surrounding the idea of migration. **Poorman Black Box Theater Feb. 24 at 4pm; Feb. 25 at 8pm**

LITTLE WOMEN THE BROADWAY MUSICAL Written by Allan Knee, Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein, Music by Jason Howland, Directed by Daniel Inouye. Based on Louisa May Alcott's beloved novel, Little Women the Broadway Musical follows the adventures of four sisters, traditional Meg, wild, aspiring writer Jo, timid Beth and romantic Amy March at their home in Massachusetts, while their father is away serving as a chaplain during the Civil War. This timeless coming-of-age story embodies the complete theatrical experience, guaranteeing a night filled with laughter, tears, and inspiration to audience members of all ages. **Miller Theater March 23-25, 31 & April 1 at 8 pm; March 26 & April 2 at 3pm; *March 30 at 10am special school performance**

SPRING SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors. **Poorman Black Box Theater April 14 – 15 at 8pm**

CULMINATION '23: SPRING DANCE CONCERT Directed by Gregg Hurlay

Dancing is an artistic endeavor. Celebrate spring and the dance accomplishments of Messiah University's theatre and dance department in an offering of favorite dance pieces from the year, new faculty work, student adjudicated creations, and senior capstone projects all in one fun and glorious dance concert! **Miller Theater April 21 at 8pm; April 22 at 2pm; *April 20 at 10am special school performance**