

**Out of the Box Productions**

**STEEL MAGNOLIAS**

**BY ROBERT HARLING**

OUT OF THE BOX PRODUCTIONS

In association with

PERIWINKLE PLAYHOUSE

Presents

# **STEEL MAGNOLIAS**

**BY ROBERT HARLING**

Directed by  
Dick Steele

Produced by  
Wende Gilmore

The Periwinkle Playhouse  
Sanibel, Florida

April 23 through May 2, 2004

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

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

Robert Harling wrote this skillfully crafted play in just ten days. It was his first effort, and was influenced by his sister Susan's death from Diabetes in October 1985 and inspired by the women he had known as a teen in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

After a successful run on Broadway, Mr. Harling wrote the screenplay for a film, which was released on November 5, 1989. It starred six divas of the silver screen, the finest actresses working in late 80's Hollywood: Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Shirley MacClaine, Daryl Hannah, Olympia Dukakis, and Oscar nominated Julia Roberts.

Following such success and acclaim, the problem faced by a community theatre director is to find local talent with enough skill and persona to carry off a production of this piece.

After numerous auditions, readings and callbacks, I believe we have chosen such a cast. Our six performers have managed to give their own interpretations to this powerful story of life, love, and loss.

Share the laughter, share the tears, enjoy the strength of Steel Magnolias.

**Dick Steele**

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(In order of appearance)*

Annelle Dupuy Desoto....	Kristen Sabo
Truvy Jones .....	Wende Gilmore
Clairee Belcher.....	Kelly Kloss
Shelby Eatenton.....	Carrie Kinnunen
M'Lynn Eatenton.....	Christine Shirley
Ouiser Boudreaux .....	Patricia Clopton

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The play takes place in Truvy's beauty salon in  
Chinquapin, Louisiana in the 1980's

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ACT ONE, Scene I:        April

ACT ONE, Scene II:        December

### *Intermission*

ACT TWO, Scene I:        June *(Eighteen months later)*

ACT TWO, Scene II:        November

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer.....	Wende Gilmore
Director.....	Dick Steele
Set Designer.....	Joanne Steele
Costume Coordinators....	Wende Gilmore
	Joanne Steele
Stage Manager.....	Michael Gilmore
Properties.....	Joanne Steele
	Monica De La Torre'
Sound Design.....	Paul A. Rose, Jr.
Set Construction.....	Michael Gilmore
	Joanne Steele
	Lou Quattrucci
Publicity.....	Patricia Clopton
Program.....	Dick Steele

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*The use of flash photography is strictly prohibited - audio and video recording devices are not permitted. Please turn off pagers and cell phones. No food or beverages in the theatre.*

***NO SMOKING IN THE BUILDING.***

*Thank you for your cooperation*

## WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

### PATRICIA CLOPTON: (Ouiser Boudreaux)

Patricia retired to Ft. Myers from Moline, Illinois. Local theatre goers will recognize her from several Florida Repertory Theatre play readings as well as *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, *You Can't Take It With You* and *Inherit The Wind*. She recently appeared at Cultural Park Theatre in *Plaza Suite*, as well as *I Hate Hamlet* and *70 Girls 70*. Patricia is happy to once again be a *Steel Magnolia*, having played the role of Clairee at Cultural Park Theatre. In addition to modeling and television, she directs and performs with the Herons Glen Players. Patricia sends love and admiration to her fellow Magnolias, and thanks to Dick and Wende for casting her in this wonderful role, but most of all to Richard for his infinite patience and support.

### WENDE K. GILMORE: (Truvy Jones)

Wende is the founder and Creative Director of Out of the Box Productions. As a singer, she recently portrayed Ruby Starr in *Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend*, and Sandy in *Doctor Maybee*.

Wende wrote, directed and produced the original comedy, *Disaster Piece Theatre* which re-opened Periwinkle Playhouse last year. Her more familiar acting roles include Billy Dawn in *Born Yesterday*, and Eunice Hubbell in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She directed *An O. Henry Christmas* and *A Dickens' Christmas Carol* at Cultural Park Theatre. Next Season Wende will direct *You Can't Take It With You* and star as Margaret in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at Cultural Park Theatre.

Wende would like to thank God for the gift of acting, the entire cast and crew for their tremendous talent, her son Chrystopher for pursuing his passion, and especially her husband Michael for his infinite patience and for "believing in the vision".

### CHRISTINE SHIRLEY: (M'Lynn Eatenton)

Christine spends most days at Broadway Palm Dinner Theater working as a server, follow spot operator and sometimes as an actress. Her favorite roles include Tabuki in *The Jungle Book*, and the Magic Elf in *A Pooch Christmas*. Chris would like to thank the B.P. staff and management for their support. She would like to thank Kelly Legarreta and Patie Wilcoxson for their inspiration and encouragement. Chris dedicates this performance to Myrna, her shining example of a mother who would surely give her a kidney.

### CARRIE KINNUNEN: (Shelby Eatenton)

Carrie has been involved with several productions for Kids Conspiracy at Alliance for the Arts. She directed *Sleeping Beauty*, and was assistant director for *Lucky Hightops* and *Cosmic Cat Cadets*. Acting credits include Mrs. Cratchit in *Christmas Carol*, The Princess's assistant in *Princess Gray and the Black/White Knight*. Carrie is an assistant manager at Swim Mart and coaches cheerleading at the YMCA. She plans to study theatre at FSU in the fall. She would like to thank her mother and father and her three beautiful sisters, and "the Swim Mart Princesses" for all of their love, support, and unending encouragement. She would also like to thank the cast, Dick and Joanne, and especially Wende Gilmore for their help and patience, and for this opportunity.

### KRISTEN SABO: (Annelle Dupuy-Desoto)

Kristen earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Ringling School of Art and Design. She recently appeared in two benefit performances, *Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend* for the Children's Home Society and *Doctor Maybee* for the Gulf Coast Symphony. She portrayed Bettina Salisbury in *A Dickens' Christmas Carol* at Cultural Park Theatre, Helga Hairlipstein in *Disasterpiece Theater* at the Periwinkle Playhouse, and several benefit "on demand" appearances as *Marilyn Monroe*.

As Artistic Director of Out of the Box Productions, Kristen did original costumes, make-up, and character design for a fantasy-based street theatre production of *Jaque-en le Boxue*.

She owns her own business specializing in custom mural, faux and decorative art work as well as commissioned portraiture. Kristen would like to thank her family for their love and encouragement.

### KELLY KLOSS: (Clairee Belcher)

Kelly has enjoyed performing in classics such as *Annie Get Your Gun*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Ms. 80%*, *40 Karats*, and *On Golden Pond*. She also spent time performing on the Seminole Gulf Railway Dinner Train. She is very excited to be involved with *Steel Magnolias* and feels this may very well be a "personal best". Outside the theatre she has been involved with the Children's Home Society of FL, The Guardian Ad Litem Program and is currently a member of Big Brothers, Big Sisters. A resident of Ft. Myers since 1969, she says she is thrilled to be able to participate in Community Theatre, and hopes to continue pursuing this passion for many, many years. Kelly would like to thank you for supporting Community Theater in our area. ENJOY!

## OUR DIRECTOR

### DICK STEELE: Director

Dick has been around show business all his life, first as a professional singer on radio at age 12. Dick has produced, written and directed minstrel and variety shows, been musical director for men's choruses, and acted in numerous stage productions. He was most recently seen as Hasler in the *Pajama Game* at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. Dick will be directing *Little Shop of Horrors* at Cultural Park Theatre in Cape Coral this October. As always, he would like to acknowledge and thank his beautiful wife of 46 years, Joanne for her unending patience and support.

## THE CREW

**MICHAEL GILMORE:** Stage Manager, Set Construction, Painter  
Michael partners with his wife, Wende in the continued development of Out of the Box Productions.

He recently appeared as Lenny in *Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend*, and in *Disaster Piece Theater*, reprising his role as Billy Stinkle, and proving that ballet dancers come in all sizes. Michael's credits include an independent film project *A twenty First century Divorce*. In addition to acting, he has designed and built stage sets for the company, and was stage manager for *A Dickens' Christmas Carol*. He owns his own business, specializing in commercial and residential painting. Michael would like to thank his wife Wende for being a "visionary" and for her dedication to helping others.

**JOANNE STEELE:** Set Designer, Painter, Costumes, Props  
Joanne has worked professionally as a scenic artist for the Festival Ballet of Providence's production of *Esmerelda*, and community theatre productions of *1776*, *George M*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Lost in Yonkers*. Since arriving in Florida last year, she has designed and decorated: *Wally's Café*, *Misery*, *A Dickens' Christmas Carol* and *Plaza Suite*. She has also served as seamstress, makeup artist, and painter for many of these productions.

Joanne is grateful for her long run with "Mr. Wonderful".

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

In addition to the cast and crew listed, we thank the following for their various contributions to our production

Sassy Scissors Beauty & Barber  
Mary & Bailey King  
Salon Creations  
Barry Anton's Hair Salon  
Island Cow Restaurant  
Cultural Park Theatre  
Todd Sherman  
Dan Mitchell  
Jack Cabral

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*Out of the Box Productions seeks to markedly enhance the cultural and artistic world in which we live with our unique flavor and illumination, and to provide a safe haven for artists to grow and discover their true potential.*

*We believe that an artistic and diverse God created the whole world and we, created in his image, are called to produce excellence in every expression of our creativity.*

*Further, we believe that all men and women are created by God and therefore worthy of His love and support. As artists, we strive for excellence in our work and try to find every opportunity to help educate, inspire and fulfill the hopes and dreams of other artists within our circle of influence.*

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