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Steel Magnolias

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Taylor Theatre Presents

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

April 28-30, May 4-7, 1994
Little Theatre
Taylor University
From the Director

Robert Harling’s script was born out of his own family’s lived experience of loss. As such the play can be read as an intensely personal cathartic experience for the author. However, it is much more than a simple exercise in personal exorcism. Steel Magnolias is also a powerful exploration of the strength and resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

The deliberate juxtaposition of two opposing images—steel and magnolias—creates the axis around which the story revolves. At first blush, the two metaphors would seem to be too divergent to ever resonate harmoniously. What, after all, does the delicate beauty of the fragile, ephemeral magnolia bloom have to do with the unbendable strength of a powerful steel girder. However, as the story unfolds we meet six women who individually and collectively are fully cognizant of the fragile, ephemeral quality of their lives and relationships, but who choose to build a supportive community tough as steel at its core and beautiful as a magnolia tree in its compassion and care.

Laughter, love and faith provide the glue that holds these women’s lives together individually and collectively. Each of them possesses her own special brand of humor. They laugh together about the idiosyncrasies of husbands and children; about the follies and foibles of friends and neighbors; and most of all about their own lived experiences of womanhood. Falling in love, getting married, having children, working to earn a living, surviving divorce and living with the loneliness of widowhood are all fair game when it comes to creating witty repartee.

Each woman has her own unique approach to faith. They are Episcopalians, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Methodists. They don’t always fully appreciate the articulations of faith practiced in each other’s churches, but in the end their faith transcends denominational boundaries. They all pray to one God.

Each one of the six lives out her life caught between the polarities created by Harling’s metaphor. Each is a magnolia when magnolias are appropriate, but each is steel when steel is what is needed. This quality—the ability to be steel for each other in life’s deep crises is love.

As a courtesy to the actors, please do not use cameras during the performance.

Steel Magnolias

Directed by Dr. Jessica Rousselow
Designed by Dr. Oliver Hubbard

THE CAST

Truvy ........ Jena Habegger
Annelle ........ Mindy Leonard
Clairee .......... *Rachael Bell
Shelby........... *Sally Evans
M'Lynn .......... Karen Stafford
Ouiser ........... Shannon Hubbert

The Place: Chinquapin, Louisiana
Act I: Scene 1: April, 1987
       Scene 2: December, 1987
Act II: Scene 1: June, 1989
        Scene 2: November 1989

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission between acts

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our special thanks to Joanne Kaiser, Lisa Snapp, Dorwin Starr, Laurie Davenport, Ginger Lee Hair Stylists & Tanning Salon, Hair Necessities Styling Salon, The Personal Touch, Cut Ups, Marion Civic Theatre, Dr. Albert Harrison, and the Taylor Housekeeping Department for their help in preparing for this show.

A Communication Arts Department Production

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION
will be produced in the brand new Mitchell Theatre,
Rupp Communication Arts Center
October 1994 - Please join us!

Thanks for your support in 1993-94!
PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director ............... Dr. Oliver Hubbard
Assistant Directors ............. Jerry Flewelling
                                      *Jason Francis

Set Crew  ...................... *JASON WELCH
Larry Gears                  *JASON FRANCIS
Heather Hanson               Ava Archibald
Thom Mazak                   Scott Carter
Bryan Parris                 Rachel Diller

Light/Sound Crew ............. TIM DIXON
Bill Cuttino                 Jeremy Hunt
Jeremy Hunt                  Susan Mears

Audio Technicians ............ *Jason Francis
                                      Jason Huff

Makeup Crew .................. APRIL FAUSNIGHT
Karen Olson                  Nicole Aschliman
Bryan Parris                 Luke Breneman
Karen Sursavage              Sara Covington
Mary Van Veldhuizen          Becky Dawdy
Katharine Wagner             *Peter Marshall
Heather Yoder                *Marisa Murphree
                                      Kiersah Nahler

Properties .................... COLETTE CAMP
JENNIFER HAWN
Tracey Hastings              Angie Lyons
Kacey McGowen                 Sharon Michaelsen
Ronda Yoder                  Sharon Michaelsen

Set Poster Art ................ Margo Horsey

Costumes  ..................... *DANIELLE BEAUCHAINE
                                      APRIL HUNTER
Vickie Chandler               *Peter Marshall
                                      Lisa Rozema

House  ......................... *CHARITY SMITH
Rachel Kellogg                Jason Anspach
Sharon Michaelsen             Deonne Beron
Jenny Miller                  Tina Cornett
Hal Paddock                   Rebecca Dawdy
*Amy Phillips                 *Shelly Dudelston
Marshall Potter               Gina Dyer
Kari Reiskyl                  Kezia Heidebrecht
Lisa Rozema                   Laura Hepker
Kristen Tiedge                Jay Lynn Hillstrom
Katharine Wagner              Carrie Jouardan

Program Cover Design ........ Stefan Eicher

*Alpha Psi Omega Members