

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:



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- 2024 -



Lewis & Young Entertainment Presents

Steel MAGNOLIAS

BY ROBERT HARLING

January 26 & 27, February 2 & 3 @ 7 pm
January 28 & February 4 @ 2 pm

CITY OF INVERNESS
FAMILY
SUITABLE FOR
ALL AGES
PG - Rating equivalent if this live performance were a film.

VALERIE THEATRE | 207 COURTHOUSE SQ. | (352) 341-7850

The Valerie Theatre logo, featuring the word "VALERIE" in a large, white, serif font inside a dark red rectangular frame with a decorative top. Below it, "THEATRE" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, and "INVERNESS • FLORIDA" is at the bottom in a small, dark red, sans-serif font.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The true story of *Steel Magnolias*...

Steel Magnolias is one of America's most beloved tales. It was written in 1987 by Robert Harling and has been a smash hit both on- and off-Broadway. It has also been adapted into a 2012 mini-series starring Queen Latifah. The show is most famously known for the award-winning film adaptation in 1989 starring Julia Roberts, Sally Field, Shirley MacLaine, Olympia Dukakis, Daryl Hannah, and Dolly Parton. The true story, however, took place in a small community in Louisiana. Note: If you want to avoid spoilers for the play, you can stop reading now... Still with us? Okay... In 1985, Robert Harling's sister, Susan, died from complications of Type 1 diabetes shortly after giving birth to a baby boy despite her doctors warning her of the dangers of a pregnancy. This play was written to highlight the two lessons that he learned from that experience: 1) His sister was such a remarkable woman that she needed to be remembered, and 2) The women in this Southern community were so strong, so witty, and so remarkable that they needed a stage to tell their story. He incorporated both of these observations when he created *Steel Magnolias*-- a tale about six women who are as strong as steel and tender as a flower.

The stage play and the famous movie are very similar, but there are a few differences. For example, there are no male characters in the original stage version, which focuses solely on the six female characters (although you will become acquainted with the men via the women's descriptions). Also, all of the action takes place in Truvy's neighborhood hair salon.

If you are a fan of the movie, you may find it interesting that the doctors and nurses in Shelby's death scene were not actors. They were the actual medical team that tended to Susan (the real-life Shelby) in her final hours. Robert Harling's mother (the real-life M'Lynn) was on-set for the death scene and insisted on lingering until she could see Julia Roberts get up after the director called "Cut!". She said that it was the most healing experience of her life. In our play, the death scene takes place off-stage in Act Two – between the two scenes.

Please enjoy our presentation of *Steel Magnolias*.

Harry Lewis, Director



A Note from Lewis and Young Entertainment:

The producers, staff, and talent of Lewis and Young Entertainment would like to thank you for attending this, our first ever full stage play. If you have followed LYE's progress over our first two seasons you'll know that this show is a departure from the "Old Time Radio Show" format that we have lovingly performed over the last couple of years. Another thing that makes this show special is that it marks a course change for our future offerings. Our next season (2024/25) will feature full stage plays by well-known playwrights, *original* stage productions based on classic radio show scripts, and our proprietary YouTube videos.

We will, of course, continue to be a champion for the Arts in our community, and provide insight into local entertainment and talent through our monthly informational videos: "*A View from the Balcony*" highlighting upcoming shows and events; and "*A Peep in the Peep Sight*" featuring interviews with local talent. Please visit our website: **lyeusa.com** for all things Arts related, and please subscribe to our weekly Blog while you're there.

We hope that you will join us for our final show of the season – "*Easter on the Airwaves*" on March 22nd, 23rd and 24th here at The Valerie Theater. Thank you again for being here as we begin our journey to expand our artistic endeavors and continue to be the place where, "Quality Entertainment is Born".

* To contact our talent with questions or job offers, please email them at lyetalent@usa.com using their name in the subject line.



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Lewis and Young Entertainment

PRESENTS

Steel MAGNOLIAS BY ROBERT HARLING

with

Spencer Bailey

Rachel Vazquez

Janet Torcello

Rylee Vazquez

Holly Sherwood

Kim Stuart

Directed By
Harry Lewis

Scenic Design
John Koch

Technical Design
Harry Lewis

Production Stage Manager
Tim Stuart

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

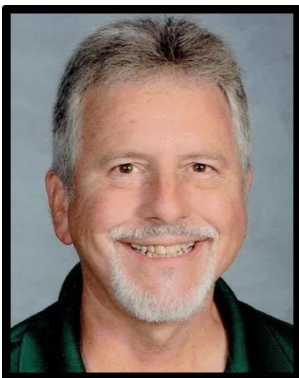
Steel Magnolias is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service
440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Phone: 212-683-8960 Fax 212-213-1539
www.Dramatists.com



Harry Lewis (Director)

Arguably one of the greatest showmen on the Nature Coast, Harry loves nothing more than telling a great story. He is the slightly younger (and maybe taller) half of Lewis & Young Entertainment. Born (some say under a cabbage) and raised right here in Inverness; he spends his working hours providing critical components to the aerospace industry via his high-tech machine shop. When not keeping the Air Force flying, he is a proud nerd who loves science fiction, anime, board games, and role playing (the fun convention kind, not the cheap motel bar kind).

He lives with his lovely wife, two horses, six poodles, an Italian greyhound... and sometimes a massively talented writer (who's a little down on his luck). Harry would like to thank The Valerie Theater and his wonderful, brilliant cast for making this show possible.



Tim Stuart (Stage Manager)

Tim began his involvement with the Theatre in 1976 and has experience in almost all facets of theatre production. Oddly enough, Stage Managing was not one of those facets. However, he feels that he has the skill set necessary, thanks to his 39-year career with the Citrus County School System. He's all about ensuring that children are well behaved, know where they're supposed to be, and perform to the best of their ability. This production is extra special because Tim is sharing it with his wife. He confesses that he looks forward to reuniting with the

sweet, demure lady that he married when that Ouiser character is finally retired.

* SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Sheri Lewis, R.N. - Medical Consultant

Freedom at Vuja Dae Salon, Floral City, FL



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THE TIME AND PLACE

Mid-1980s. Truvy's Beauty Spot, Chinquapin Parish, Louisiana

ACT ONE

Scene One: Shelby's Wedding Day – April

Scene Two: The Saturday before Christmas

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission between acts.

ACT TWO

Scene One: June, eighteen months later.

Scene Two: November



"Laughter through tears is my favorite emotion."

MEET THE CAST OF STEEL MAGNOLIAS

In Order of Appearance



Spencer Bailey

as Annelle Dupuy-DeSoto

Youth, talent and stage experience collide to produce the perfect magnolia. Showcasing her talents with Lewis and Young here for the first time, Spencer is, however, a veteran of many local stage plays. She believes that “strutting the boards” since childhood has given her the skills and confidence needed to conquer difficult roles on stage and in her real life. Spencer praises the performing arts for its ability to teach young people the skills they need to work toward the singular goal of putting on a great show while working with a diverse group of “crazy people”. She would like to thank her mother for her support and

inspiration; Harry Lewis for his confidence in her; and the cast for being a true “theater family”. Spencer asks that when you have the chance, please check out her charity - [Spencer's Closet](#) on Facebook.



Rachel Vazquez

as Truvy Jones

Rachel, a native Floridian, was involved with theatre in many ways for many years in South Florida. She stopped to have two beautiful daughters. Years later, she followed her parents to the Nature Coast and tested the waters with her talented daughter, Rylee, in a one-act festival. There she met Rex (quite an odd fellow) and somehow was pulled in to Lewis & Young Productions where she has found a home (they won't let her go)! Since then she has performed in half a dozen productions, as has become the face of “A View from the Balcony” (on the LYEUSA.com website and YouTube channel). She has become a core member of this crazy, loving family and looks forward

to many, many more productions! She is so very excited to be performing again with her talented daughter, Rylee, as well as four other absolutely amazing women in this iconic show! When she is not on stage or rehearsing, she is a Property Manager with Great American Realty in Inverness.



Janet Torcello

as Clairee Belcher

Originally from frosty New York state, Janet has been keeping herself warm in Florida for over thirty years, the last ten right here in Inverness. A veteran of the Valerie stage, she last appeared with Lewis & Young in her starring role as “Anne Brewster” in [Cabin B13](#) during 2023's *Summer of Suspense*. Not one to keep her talents to herself, she regularly performs with, and supports local production companies and charitable organizations. Janet was Citrus Theater Beat's “Peep in the Peep Sight” for August 2023, where she was honored for her amazing work in theater both on stage and behind the scenes. She would like to thank her wonderful husband for all his love

and support... and putting up with months of “Southern Drama” as she learned her lines. Janet thanks you all for being here, and asks that you please support our local charities when possible.



Rylee Vazquez

as Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie

Rylee Vazquez, at the age of 24, has lived in Florida her whole life. Being the owner of Beauty by Rylee, she is now her own boss and is loving every minute of it. Giving her the freedom to do shows with Lewis and young entertainment. She has been a part of the arts since she was in fifth grade. Rylee has always loved expressing herself through music and being on stage. The most important thing to Rylee is her family! Knowing that they love and support her puts a smile on her face and warms her heart. Without them she could never have chased her dreams.



Holly Sherwood

as M'Lynn Eatenton

Performing in Steel Magnolias for the fourth time, she originally played M'Lynn exactly 20 years ago! Oh, but that's just some of the highlights of this talented young lady's career as a performer. Holly has appeared with the Kansas City Ballet, The Ocala Civic Theatre, The Valerie Players and has been seen in over fifty stage productions and films. Most recently, she appeared on stage as Ms. Claus in the Lewis & Young Christmas show last November. She has played roles as diverse as the hell hound in “*Baskerville*” – along with 14 other characters; a talking baby doll; an unlikely Lieutenant Governor; and Ethel Thayer in *On Golden Pond*. Expanding her range (or possibly

just being exploited by the production staff), she is LYE's Executive Secretary, Desktop Publisher, Proofreader, and the Director of “A View From The Balcony.”



Kim Stuart

as Ouiser Boudreaux

After 50 years of being a choral and church accompanist, Kim is “off the bench” in her debut acting role as Ouiser. She is “Grandma” to five grandsons and “Damaw” to two granddaughters. Kim is currently church pianist at FBC Inverness. She has played for numerous student ensembles and choirs at Citrus High, Lecanto High, Lecanto Middle and Inverness Middle Schools. She is also one of the receptionists at Humphrey & Saltmarsh CPAs during tax season. Kim would like to thank her husband, Tim, for his help and encouragement during this production. She would also like to thank her director,

Harry, and the other Magnolias for their constant support and patience while working with this newbie. Kim also wants to thank her friends who came to see this show: “You know who you are... You know how special y'all are to me.”



Miranda

as Rhett Boudreaux

At 10 years old, Miranda is making her theatrical debut. A standard collie with a vivacious personality and dedication to the craft which has forged her into a superior artist and wonderful companion. When not working to perfect her thespian skills, she enjoys people watching and meeting other quadrupeds at Bark Central. Never one to seek drama off stage, Miranda never fights in public; her classy demeanor answers the age old question, “Who's a good girl?” She admits that even though she is spoiled at home, she sometimes needs to exercise her inner escape artist. Miranda would like to thank her

fellow cast members for their professionalism, dedication to the show, and all the belly scratches.

