

Beloit Civic Theatre

Now in its 91st Year

Presents



Steel Magnolias

By

Robert Harling

January 25, 26, 27 and February 1, 2, 3, 2024
at 7:30 p.m.

Also 3 p.m. matinees on
January 27, 28 and February 3, 2024

Elizabeth Reinholz Theatre
1225 Fourth Street, Beloit WI

Director's Notes

Over the past several months, when I would tell people I was directing *Steel Magnolias*, the response from most women was rather interesting. Instantly, they would announce "I am such a Ouiser!" or "My mother is totally M'Lynn," or they would affect a southern accent and recite one of the lines from the show: "If you can't say something nice, come sit by me." It is a testament to the indelible mark this work has had on American Culture since its premiere in 1987.

There is an overuse of the word 'Iconic' these days, but as we raise the curtain on a little neighborhood beauty shop in some Louisiana backwater, know that we are indeed in the presence of icons. Robert Harling wrote *Steel Magnolias* as an elegy to his sister Susan, and as a celebration of the women in his life in all their infinite variety and in doing so, presented to us a meditation on the human condition. Perhaps Truvy, M'Lynn, Shelby, Ouisier, Clairee, and Annelle are iconic because we see little parts of them in ourselves. As we stare at them, they stare back at us. So I ask you, which are you? Are you a Clairee, perched on the sofa, dreaming of former glory? Or are you Ouisier, marching down the street to terrorize your neighbor? Or perhaps you are Annelle, searching for your place in the world. Ponder that question for the next two hours. In a beauty shop mirror, all you can see is truth.

My thanks to Beloit Civic Theatre, my 'home' for so many years, for giving me this wonderful opportunity. To Andrew for our beautiful *Steel Magnolias* logo, Doris, my brilliant Stage Manager, Rod for the stunning set, and to Jennifer, Saralyn, Penny, Katelynne, Barbara, and Rhonda.....Bellisimas, Brava!

Matthew Tiritilli
Director

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

Produced by Arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.
440 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10016

WARNING:

There will be multiple GUNSHOT SOUND EFFECTS effects during this production.

THE CAST

Truvy Jones	Penny Wiegert
Annelle Dupuy-Desoto.....	Katelynne Hammonds
Clairee Belcher	Rhonda Nelson
Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie	Saralyn Rose
M'Lynn Eatenton	Jennifer Thompson
Ouiser Boudreaux	Barbara Mae Thompson

THE SETTING

Place: Chinquapin, Louisiana

Act I

Scene 1: April 1987

Scene 2: December 1987

There will be a twelve-minute intermission between the two acts. Please enjoy refreshments in the lobby. All donations from refreshments go to the Helen Hayes Teed Memorial Scholarship fund, which is awarded to local graduating seniors entering college programs for the performing arts.

Act II

Scene 1: June, eighteen months later

Scene 2: November

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Matthew Tiritilli
Stage Manager	Doris Hunter Tropp
Set & Lighting Design	Rod McFall
Set Construction	Les Blumreich, Richard McFall, Joe Colletta, Jackie Johnston, Dawn Kabor, Rod McFall, Harold Pann, Robin Stauffacher, Bob Strecker, Mary Easland, Doris Tropp
Lighting and Sound.....	Peter Tropp
Costumes	Rebecca Wallendal, Mary Mowers
Properties.....	Rod McFall, Doris Tropp, Rebecca Wallendal, Barbara Thompson, Penny Wiegert
Running Crew.....	Rod McFall, Les Blumreich, Mary Easland, Sydney Winchester, Peter Tropp, Lisa Scholten, Elizabeth Armstrong

WHO'S WHO



KateLynne Hammonds (Annelle Dupuy-Desoto) *Steel Magnolias* marks KateLynne's second appearance at Beloit Civic Theatre; she appeared in last season's *The Outsider* as LuLu Peaks. She also appeared in *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Diaries of Adam and Eve* for Hononegah High School. KateLynne works as a daycare assistant, and her family consists of her mother (Brandy), father (Charlie), stepfather (Matt) and her 4 siblings. Of her experiences in theatre, KateLynne says, "I have been doing theatre since middle school, and am so grateful for all my past cast-mates as well as the current ones for teaching me new things all the time."



Rhonda Nelson (Clairee Belcher) Rhonda makes her first appearance for Beloit Civic Theatre in this production of *Steel Magnolias*. Previously, she appeared in *Anne of Green Gables*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Steel Magnolias* and *Prelude to a Kiss* at the Janesville Performing Arts Center and *Sister Act* at the Edgerton Performing Arts Center. Rhonda is retired, the mother of three, grandmother of 6, and a first-time dog mom! She enjoys painting, interior decorating, gardening, yardwork, traveling and working on home improvements both inside and outside.



Saralyn Rose (Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie) This is Saralyn's second time playing Shelby, the first being in Janesville Little Theatre's production of *Steel Magnolias* in 2021, her community theatre debut. She's honored to be back in the role. Since then, she has acted in Janesville Little Theatre's productions of *Run For Your Wife* and *Women and War* and will be playing the role of Emma in their upcoming production of *Terms of Endearment*. She's also acted as stage manager and makeup artist for shows such as *The Shawshank Redemption* and *The Normal Heart*. Beloit Civic Theatre's audiences saw Saralyn in their recent productions of *The Outsider* and *Being Earnest*. She's overjoyed to be back at BCT, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Barbara Mae Thompson (Ouiser Boudreaux) Barbara is “thrilled to be back” at Beloit Civic Theatre’s stage after a 13 year hiatus. Her previous BCT credits are *Church Basement Ladies*, *Ruthless! the Musical*, *Working*, *Bus Stop*, *God’s Favorite*, *The Whole Town’s Talking*, and *All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. She directed *A Thousand Clowns* for BCT and also appeared with “the late, great Carl Balson” in Beloit Civic’s production of *Gin Game* in 2004. Barbara, a life-long actor, appeared in 15 productions for Shake Rag Players of Mineral Point, 3 productions for the Children’s Theatre of Madison and in *The Night of the Iguana* for Madison Repertory Theatre. She is a retired educator and school counselor and is married to husband, John. They have 3 dogs and live in Janesville.



Jennifer Thompson (M’Lynn Eatenton-Latcherie) is excited to return to Beloit Civic Theatre where she was last seen in *The Musical of Musicals (The Musical)*. She holds degrees in theatre from Monmouth College (BA) and NIU (MA) and has performed and directed throughout the Stateline area for more than three decades. Fun fact: Jennifer played M’Lynn in her high school production of *Steel Magnolias* in 1991. By day, she leads communications and marketing and teaches theatre at Rock Valley College. Jennifer dedicates this performance to Margaret Harling, the real M’Lynn. May her memory be a blessing.



Penny Wiegert (Truvy Jones) Penny is “delighted to make her debut at Beloit Civic Theatre in this beloved tale of friendship”. Although new to the Beloit stage, Penny has a long list of credits both on and offstage in community theatre including appearing in *Steel Magnolias* once as Ouiser at Byron Civic Theatre and again as Clairee at Pec Playhouse. She is a founding board member of Byron Civic Theatre where she has been an actor, director, costume, hair and makeup designer, writer, publicist, program editor and dinner theatre cook. She also appeared at Pec Playhouse as an actor, director and board member and directed four productions for Winnebago High School. She was most recently seen in Rockford as Francis in the Usual Suspects Reader’s Theatre production of *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation*. Off stage, Penny is a life-long journalist and Director of Communication and Publications for the Diocese of Rockford. When not at the office or onstage, Penny and her husband can be found camping with the Tin Can Tourists in their vintage 1969 Frolic camper.



Doris Hunter Tropp (Stage Manager) Doris serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors of Beloit Civic Theatre, where she also is a dedicated behind-the-scenes volunteer, filling in wherever the need is greatest and her skills allow. Her BCT directing credits include *The Outsider*, *The Game's Afoot* or *Holmes for The Holidays*, *Camelot*, *Cliffhanger* and *Seniors of the Sahara*. In addition, Doris has appeared onstage for BCT in *Making God Laugh*, *Showboat*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Vanities*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Hot I Baltimore*, *Deathtrap*, *Greetings*, and *Driving Miss Daisy*. Doris loves her job as the Administrative Assistant at Roscoe Methodist Church, where she also serves as Steward of the Board for the Village Nursery School in Roscoe. Also Doris is a member of the Roscoe Historical Society Board of Directors. She and her husband, Peter, have three grown children, two cats and are up to four grandchildren, two grand-cats and two grand-dogs, all of whom they enjoy playing with frequently. In her copious free time Doris enjoys singing in a worship band, reading, kayaking with friends, and binge-watching TV series online.



Matthew Tiritilli (Director) Matthew is extremely proud to make his directorial debut for Beloit Civic Theatre after a relationship which began in 1999. As an actor, Matthew appeared in all three of last season's productions. His other credits with BCT include *Sylvia*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *She Loves Me*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Private Lives*, *All My Sons*, *Bus Stop*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Mame*, and *The Apple Tree*. With Gateway Arts in Rockford, Matthew has appeared in *Hairspray*, *Newsies* and was Assistant Director for *Shrek*. With Byron Civic Theatre, Matthew was assistant director for *Mary Poppins*. Matthew would like to thank the Beloit Civic Theatre Board of Directors for this wonderful opportunity along with his family and friends for their constant support.

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- Loren Sass.....Vice President
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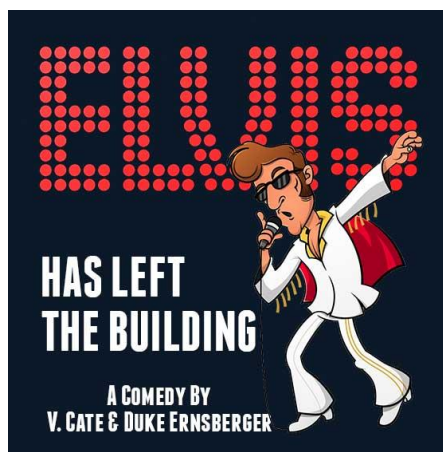
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AUDITIONS FOR THE SPRING SHOW

Auditions for *Elvis Has Left the Building* by V. Cate & Duke Ernsberger will be held on Monday, March 11 and Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elizabeth Reinholz Theatre. The script requires 2 females and 3 males. Doris

Hunter Tropp will be directing this comedy. Please contact her if you are interested in auditioning but unable to be at either of those audition dates. She can be reached at 815-543-1037 or emailed at kiradorys@gmail.com

You may request to be added to our actor database if interested.

Postcards announcing auditions are mailed before each show’s auditions. Just give your name, phone number and postal mailing address to anyone working in the lobby or email us at beloitcivictheatre@gmail.com

Beloit Civic Theatre Angels

Beloit Civic Theatre wishes to thank the following members for their additional financial contributions to the theatre. If there are any errors or omissions in this list of supporters, please call Beloit Civic Theatre at

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Mary Ann Luety of Madego's Hair Designs Inc for a salon chair

Nola Carnine for Shelby's radio

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 for donating cookies for our fall musical, The Kids Left, The Dog Died,
Now What.

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