

starkville area arts council &
starkville community theatre present

“laughter through tears”



steel magnolias

by robert harling



directed by paula mabry
february 13-16 & 18-22, 2014



produced through special arrangement with dramatists play service.



steel magnolias

By Robert Harling



Directed By Paula Mabry

The Cast

In order of appearance.

Annelle Patricia Pohlhaus *
Truvy Johnnie Sue Wijewardane *
Clairee Marsha Williams
Shelby Callie Paxton *
M'Lynn Krista Vowell
Ouiser Judy Leonard *

* SCT Debut

The Setting

Place: Chinquapin, Louisiana

Time: The mid 1980s

All scenes take place on Saturday mornings in Truvy's Beauty Shop

Act One, Scene One - A June day, the day of Shelby's wedding

Act One, Scene Two - Same year, the Saturday before Christmas

Act Two, Scene One - June, 18 months later

Act Two, Scene Two - November, 5 months later

There will be a 10-minute intermission between Act I and Act II.

The Production Team

Director Paula Mabry
Assistant Directors Thomas La Foe & Haley Harper
Stage Manager..... Thomas La Foe
Set Design & Construction..... Edwin Ellis
Costumes Sue Snow & Sue Helms
Hair Design Brad Moreland
Lighting Design..... Edwin Ellis
Sound Design Thomas La Foe
Set Decorator..... Brad Moreland
Voice Over Recordings Marcus Vowell
Set Painting Heather Box, Haley Harper,
Thomas La Foe, Judy Leonard, Brad Moreland
Trisha Pohlhaus & Marsha Williams
Props Brad Moreland & Others
Stage Crew Heather Box, Michele Crescenzo
Haley Harper & Isa Stratton-Beaulieu
Lighting & Sound Operator Edwin Ellis
Poster Design Marcus Vowell
T-shirt Design..... Thomas La Foe
Photography Rachel Cannady
House Manager Coordinators Barry & Grace Ward
Box Office Ann Bonner, Cam McMillan
& Marsha Williams
Opening Night Party Starkville Area Arts Council
& Brian Hawkins

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www.sct-online.org

662-323-6855

About the Cast

Judy Leonard “Ouiser”

Judy is honored to be selected to play “Ouiser Boudreaux” in this SCT production. It's been a while since she last trod the boards; she was active in theatre in high school, playing many roles in many productions. In her day job, she is a physical therapist assistant at OCH. And, just like Ouiser, she loves her dog, Millie, and would gladly give her a kidney if she needed one. “My thanks to my cast mates for their support, thanks to Laura for running lines with me, and thanks, Lynn, for the push.”

Callie Paxton “Shelby”

Callie is thrilled to be a part of her first Starkville Community Theatre production. After taking a three year hiatus from acting, Callie is grateful to have found such a professional and enjoyable theatre experience in Starkville. She is a junior at Mississippi State and will be marrying her own Jackson Latcherie in a few months!

Patricia Pohlhaus “Annelle”

There's a new girl in town! Tricia was previously involved with Theatre MSU but is new to the SCT stage! She graduated from MSU in 2013 with a degree in Special Education and a concentration in Theatre and is currently teaching at Henderson Intermediate School in Starkville. Theatre has always been a special part of her life and she hopes to make the theatrical experience more accessible by creating theatre programs for people with disabilities. Playing “Annelle” in *Steel Magnolias* has been her favorite and most memorable role. Working with the other cast members and directors has been an absolute treasure. She is very excited to share her first SCT experience with you.

Krista Vowell “M'Lynn”

Krista has been an active member of SCT for a number of years. She has been in many plays, has won some pretty cool acting awards, and has had many “favorite roles.” There are also many people that she could thank for supporting her in this hobby. However, she feels they would all understand when she dedicates her space in this program to one of the people who made SCT possible. “Thank you, Bob Anderson, for your friendship, your instruction, your direction, your kindness, your grumpiness, your loyalty and for the Chik-O-Sticks. I'm better for having known you, sir.”

About the Cast

Johnnie Sue Wijewardane “Truvy”

Johnnie Sue is proud to perform in theatre for the first time after spending many years singing and playing piano and guitar primarily in church and community programs. Her earliest performances were singing in church and imitating “Cousin Minnie Pearl.” She credits her parents, Sue Davis Cooper and the late Joe Edd Cooper for nurturing a love for performance, including music and comedy, from a very early age, and her husband, Chamath, for encouraging her to continue performing. She studied voice privately under local vocal instructor, Lucy Phillips and Gainesville, Texas vocal instructor, Glen Wilson. Johnnie Sue's “real job” is working as a nurse practitioner and as graduate nursing department chair at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. She received her Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD in Nursing from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She is a member of the Mississippi Nurses' Association and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Marsha Williams “Clairee”

A charter member of SCT, Marsha has had responsibilities as actor, director, president, box office chair and almost everything in between (but she does not do windows). Her favorite shows *include 6 Dance Lessons in Six Weeks, Love Letters, Marriage to an Older Woman, Glass Menagerie, and Grace and Glorie*. “Thank you, Lyle, Bob, Elizabeth, Jay, Debbie, and Edwin for letting me share the stage with you in those shows. And now, thank you, Johnnie Sue, Trish, Callie, Krista, and Judy for letting me share the stage with you in this one. Rehearsing with this cast and crew has been a joy. Thank you, Paula, for allowing me to be a part of Steel Magnolias, and thank you, Clyde and Kyle for not complaining about my absence from home and the lack of meals. This one is for you, Bob.”



From the Director

The play, *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling, was written in 1987. The playwright also wrote the screenplay for the popular 1989 movie and the remake of 2012. Born in Louisiana, Harling based his story about his sister's diabetes and how his mother relied on her dear friends at her beauty shop to help her through some sad times. It is an honor to direct this play and to work with six amazing women who make up the cast.

I have four heroes who have nurtured this play with me. My assistant director, Thomas La Foe, brought a man's point of view into our interpretation of the play. He found all the appropriate sound effects and 80's tunes. Edwin Ellis built the set without any assistance from the cast, and managed to have running water for the hair washing scene. During the show, Edwin is in the light/sound booth running the board. Brad Moreland had a vision of how the set should be decorated. Brad was also a stickler about how the work stations and manicure table should look, plus he designed the wigs and hairdos. My final hero is my husband, Don Mabry. He makes sure that I have proper meals and treats during the entire rehearsal process. Don is also patient with me and understands how much I love the world of theatre.

Sue Snow and Sue Helms have once again found or made many outfits for the six actors. I don't know what we would have done without their expertise. My invaluable stage crew consists of four reliable women. Haley Harper, who has been Thomas's assistant stage manager, has faithfully worked as prompter and stand-in for actors, and is now backstage running props. Michele Crescenzo has proven her backstage skills as prop mistress. I appreciate her attention to detail. With only two hours notice, Heather Box agreed to paint the checkered floor and then she stayed on to assist backstage. Isa Stratton Beaulieu works with the quick dress changes for the actors. I appreciate their willingness to do these necessary jobs.

It's been such a pleasure to work with my six actors. Marsha Williams does day duty in the box office and then helps hold everything together on stage. Although a director herself, Krista Vowell takes direction well and brings her own personal touch to her character. Newcomer, Johnnie Sue Wijewardane, radiates the warmth of her beauty shop to the audience. Soft spoken Judy Leonard breathes life and humor into Ouiser's ornery soul. Trish Pohlhaus has the biggest character changes and takes each one of them to their fullest degree. Callie Paxton, our Shelby, could not be more perfect in her role. She truly is the "prettiest girl in town" and the most lovable.

Enjoy! *Paula*

Special Thanks

Pattye Archer
Shellie Aultman
Isa Stratton-Beaulieu
Ann Bonner
Mandy Clark
Sue Cooper
Happy Deas
Barbara Frank
Michelle Guyton
Marty Haug
Kashaila Kennedy
Evelyn Lowrey
Don Mabry
Terry McDowell
Diane Raines
Beverly Smitherman
Marianne Ulmer
Laura Walling
Nancy Walsh
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929

Claudine Gresham at Hair and Body Matrix
Dogpound Printing
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Highway 12 &
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We strive to keep you looking your best!

Hours of Operation:

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday)
and 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon (Saturday)

Same -Day Service:

Tuesday-Friday; in by 8:00 a.m. - out by 4:00 p.m.

4TH FRIDAYS

7:30 p.m. @ the Playhouse on Main

Friday, February 28, 2014

7:30 p.m.

Flash Fiction

Fourth Fridays is a monthly event that supports local writers in the Starkville, Columbus, and West Point communities by providing an open and supportive forum to present and discuss works-in-progress. Fourth Fridays occurs upstairs in the Playhouse on Main, starting at 7:30, lasting 1-2 hours, and are followed by a reception of snacks and drinks provided by SCT.

If you would like more information on Fourth Fridays please email fourthfridays@yahoo.com or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/fourthfridays>.

Tabor Management

200 S. Montgomery, Suite 201

Starkville, MS 39759

(662) 324-0506

www.tabormangement.com



TABOR
management

SCT's season performances are generally suitable for ages 12 and over. Children under the age of 6 are not admitted to SCT productions unless specifically noted otherwise in publicity for the show. Everyone who enters the theatre must have a ticket.

Ghost Light Honors Memory of Anderson

Starkville Community Theatre has purchased a “ghost light” in honor of the late Dr. Bob Anderson, a founding member, former president and long-time actor and director of SCT.

The ghost light has a long and storied history in the theatre world. Its name comes from one of the most prevalent superstitions in the very superstitious theatre world: ghosts! That’s right; most theatre folk believe all theatres, including the Playhouse on Main, have a ghost. Some say these ghosts are nice. (Ours is!) Others say these ghosts are not so nice... But most agree these theatrical ghosts are the spirits of former actors, directors or techies. The reason for the ghost light varies from myth to myth. Some believe the ghost light is left on in order for the ghosts to be able to perform their own plays in the middle of the night when everything is shut down. Others believe it is bad luck (and bad business) for a theatre to be leaving a ghost light on is a superstitious way of making sure the house stays “lit.”



“dark” – i.e., without a show. So

Of course the ghost light has a practical purpose, too. Empty theatres can be dark and scary. After all, they are designed to shut out natural light. So after the audience and most of the actors and crew are gone, the stage manager turns on the ghost light so people coming and going across the stage can cross safely. SCT has always left a light on just backstage. We are pleased now to have an official ghost light, and even more pleased it was purchased in memory of our friend, Bob.

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April 24-27 & April 29-May 3, 2014

A farce by Marc Camoletti
adapted by Robin Hawdon

Directed by Gabe Smith

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