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Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa Announces Cast List for "Steel Magnolias"

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By Marjorie Pagel
Sept. 11, 2011 | 0 comments

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JudyLee Tarbox, producer of the play "Steel Magnolias," which will open on October 7 in Wauwatosa, has announced the cast list.

Truvy will be played by Rhonda Trickey, Pewaukee; M'Lynn - Antoinette Stikl, New Berlin; Shelby - Elise Georgeson, Wauwatosa; Clairee - Kathy Landry, Milwaukee; Annelle - Bridget Knapik, Grafton; and Ouiser - JudyLee Tarbox, Waukesha.

Directing the play will be Teresa Drews, Milwaukee.

"Steel Magnolias," a comedy-drama by Robert Harling which has won critical and popular acclaim on stage and screen, takes place in Truvy's beauty salon, in a small town in Louisiana. "But the six memorable characters are just like the women you meet everywhere -- even right here in Wauwatosa," Ms. Tarbox said.

"Steel Magnolias" will be performed on stage at Christ King Parish, 2601 N. Swan Boulevard, Wauwatosa.

The play will run for a limited engagement: Oct. 7 and 8, Oct. 14 and 15, at 7:30 p.m. "Order your tickets now, Ms. Tarbox urged. "There is a special rate of \$12 for groups of 10 or more." General admission is \$15; students and seniors over 65 years pay \$13.

For other information about the play or Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa, visit www.villageplayhouse.org. To order tickets, please call Bob at 414-207-4879 or email SteelMagnolias@villageplayhouse.org.

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Oct
7
2011
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Wauwatosa, WI (map)

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overview

Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa presents "Steel Magnolias" by Robert Harling. The play opened to rave reviews in 1987 at the WPA Theatre in New York. The story takes place in Truvy's beauty salon in a small town in Louisiana, but the six memorable characters of Steel Magnolias are just like the women you meet in hair salons or women's gatherings right here in the Midwest.

"This is one of the funniest plays that will make you cry," said VPW director Teresa Drews. (Don't forget your tissues!)

For more information, visit [the website for Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa presents "Steel Magnolias"](#).

event details

- Event Phone:** (414) 207-4879
- Event Website:** [Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa presents "Steel Magnolias" website](#)
- Venue Phone:** (414) 258-2604
- Venue Website:** [Christ King Parish website](#)
- Categories:** [Performing Arts](#), [Theater](#)
- Price:** \$15 - general admission, \$13 - seniors and students
- Age Suitability:** All Ages
- Creator:** MarjoriePagel

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"Steel Magnolias" opening Oct. 7 in Wauwatosa: Portrays Friendship "Solid as Steel"

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By Pamela Stein
Sept. 30, 2011 | 0 comments

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The importance of having "true, caring, friends" is the message of "Steel Magnolias," says Rhonda Trickey, of Pewaukee, who portrays salon owner, Truvy. Ms. Trickey is one of six women in the ensemble cast of the Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa's production of the hit play, "Steel Magnolias".

This beloved play, one that invokes many human emotions, is the fall production for the Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa. It will be presented at Christ King Parish, 2604 N. Swan Blvd.(92nd Street) on Oct. 7, 8, 14, and 15 at 7:30 p.m.

While most people are familiar with the award-winning movie of 1989, Steel Magnolias was first an off-Broadway play, which premiered at the WPA Theatre on March 28, 1987. Robert Harling wrote the play as a way to cope with the death of his sister and best friend after she passed away from kidney failure two years after the birth of her son. She was a diabetic.

After the success on the big screen, the stage play was revived and brought to the Great White Way's Lyceum Theatre. There it opened on April 4, 2005, with an all-star cast including Delta Burke, Christine Ebersole, and Marsha Mason.

Holding true to the script, the VPW production is set in the fictional small town of Chinquapin, Louisiana. "Steel Magnolias" takes us into Truvy's beauty parlor where the audience witnesses six women's joys, fears, sorrows and -- most of all -- their friendship: a friendship that is solid as steel.

Elise Georgeson, of Wauwatosa, who plays the diabetic bride-to-be, Shelby, best summarizes the interplay of the characters. "They want the best for each other and show their support through their sense of humor, compassion and pushing each other's buttons," she says.

An interview with members of the cast made it very clear that each woman views this play as one that all audiences can relate to. Antoinette Stikl of New Berlin, portrays the worried mother, M'Lynn, in the show. She was driven to audition for this play because of what "Steel Magnolias" means to her. She states that this story is about "the complexity and closeness of a group of ladies and a love so strong." Regarding the audience's connection to the show, Ms. Georgeson adds, "If you are a woman watching the show, there is someone you can identify with, and if you are a man watching the show there is probably a character in the show that seems familiar to a woman in your life."

Learning a Southern accent and adopting a "Southern mentality" has been a challenge for most of the cast. Yet they all seem to have mastered this accent well; you would never know that this is a group of women who reside in Waukesha, Grafton and other Milwaukee area communities.

However, one cast member, Bridget Knapik, has a real life experience that has helped her in bringing the newly single and devoutly religious character of Annelle to the stage. A recent graduate of Auburn University, Ms. Knapik states that she has a "deeper appreciation for each of these characters after living in the South." Having interacted with Southern women on a daily basis, Ms. Knapik understands how Southern ladies approach situations and handle challenges -- with grace, dignity, and humor.

Rounding out this cast are JudyLee Tarbox of Waukesha, who gives us a wonderful performance as Ouiser, the cynical Southern lady with a snarky sense of humor, and Kathy Landry, of Milwaukee, who depicts the gossip loving, genteel widow, Clairee.

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Waukesha Actress - Producer of "Steel Magnolias"

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By Marjorie Pagel
Sept. 28, 2011 | 0 comments

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Judy Lee Tarbox has had a passion for theater all her life, and for the past 25 years she has found a creative outlet for her talent in the Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa.

"Theater is my love," Judy Lee said in a recent interview. "I am happiest when I am on stage or preparing for a show." Over the years she has helped out wherever needed, and she serves on the VPW board as well. In the forthcoming production of "Steel Magnolias", she will be wearing two hats – producer and actor.

Judy Lee will play the role of Ouiser, "a rich curmudgeon" – and that's quite a stretch for this friendly, outgoing woman from Waukesha. But Judy Lee absolutely loves this play, and she is sure the audience will too.

Playwright Robert Harling based the story of "Steel Magnolias" on women from his hometown in Louisiana who supported his family at a time of personal tragedy. They were as soft and lovely as the magnolias from that area, but they proved to be strong as steel in a time of personal crisis.

In addition to Ouiser, the characters in the play include Truvy, owner of a beauty salon, which is the setting of the story; Anelle, her assistant; Miss Clairee, the local social leader and eccentric millionaire; M'Lynn, the local social leader and mother of bride-to-be, Shelby.

Cast in the other roles are: Rhonda Trickey (Truvy), Antoinette Stikl (M'Lynn), Elise Georgeson (Shelby), Kathy Landry (Clairee), and Bridget Knapik (Anelle). Director is Teresa Drews.

The play will be performed at Christ King Parish, 2604 N. Swan Boulevard (92nd Street), Wauwatosa, on Oct. 7 and 8 and Oct. 14 and 15, all performances at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets may be reserved by calling 414-207-4879 or email SteelMagnolias@VillagePlayhouse.org. Tickets are also available at the door - \$15 general admission, \$13 – students and seniors over 65. Seating is on first come, first served basis.

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