

PTC @ STEELTOWN



**Written by
Robert Harling**

Directed by Terry Tracy

**SEPTEMBER 16-25 and
October 2, 2022**

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Steel Magnolias is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services



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Presents



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Directed by

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*The Production Team wishes to thank the following
who helped to bring this production to life:*

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PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCERSDianna Schepers / Phillip Leyva
DIRECTORTerry Tracy
STAGE MANAGERClarisse Nicole
STAGE CREWAlex Paz and Teresa Wilson
SET DESIGNTerry Tracy
COSTUME DESIGNFlorenda Buchanan
WIGSTina Smith and Florenda Buchanan
PROPERTIESCast and Crew
LIGHTING DESIGNSean Gendreau
SOUND DESIGNBear Hamilton
SET CONSTRUCTIONDianna Schepers, Michael Wilson, Cast
VIDEOGRAPHERMel Nash
PHOTOGRAPHERSara Leyva
MARKETING & PUBLICITYPhillip Leyva, Dianna Schepers
GRAPHICS / PROGRAMDianna Schepers

SCENES

PLACE: Chinquapin, Louisiana

ACT 1

Scene 1: April

Scene 2: December

ACT 2

Scene 1: June, eighteen months later

Scene 2: November

THERE WILL BE ONE
FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

CAST

In order of appearance

TRUVY JONESJuhandryn Dessames
ANNELLE DUPUY-DESOTORachel McElroy
CLAIREE BELCHERSandy Wright
SHELBY EATENTON-LATCHERIESophia Amador
M'LYNN EATENTONKim Saunders
October 2–Clarisse Nicole
OUISE BOUDREAUXTina Smith



SWINGClarisse Nichole



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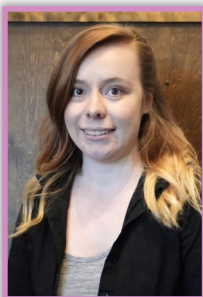
WHO'S WHO



SOPHIA AMADOR (SHELBY EATENTON-LATCHERIE) It is an honor to perform for PCT's classic production of "Steel Magnolias." I have had the theatre bug strong since my first production at the age of 12 and, subsequently, cohosting a children's food show on cable television. A passionate performer since, I ultimately pursued theatrical arts in college (UNR Class of '19). Currently, working back in my hometown as a digital photographer and loving it. A huge thank you to absolutely everyone who helped make this wonderful production possible. Thank you Terry Tracy, the entire cast and crew, my family and friends, and the community for supporting our dreams! This whole process has been beautiful, just like the original story that you are about to experience tonight. Please enjoy!



Juhandryn Dessames is an amazing performing artist, educator, mother, and financial consultant. She received her BA from California State University East Bay in Liberal Arts, and minored in Dance/Theater. With over 30 years of performance experience, Ms. Dessames is a founding member of the Lyric Dance and Vocal Ensemble and the Lyric Performing Arts Academy. She is also a performing member of the After Shock Dance Company. As an actress, she was in the original cast of "Go Tell It! A Harriet Tubman Escape Story." As an educator, Juhandryn has worked in East Bay Area schools teaching dance and youth development for over 15 years. Ms. Dessames, affectionately known to her students as Ms. Je' has taught dance for several organizations including Stanford University, California State University East Bay and the Oakland YMCA. Additionally, Juhandryn has more than 20 years of financial consulting and non-profit management experience. In her spare time, she co-facilitates workshops around the history and resolution of racism. Juhandryn is an Oakland native committed to community service and youth development.



RACHEL MCELROY (ANELLE DUPUY-DESOTO) is making her debut with Pittsburg Theatre Company's production of Steel Magnolias. She is excited to be a part of this great story. She has been in shows with Los Medanos College, Deer Valley High School, Stage Right Conservatory Theatre, and El Campanil Children's Theatre. Rachel loves everything theatre related and when she is not on stage, she likes to bake cupcakes, cheesecakes and pies. She hopes you enjoy the show.

WHO'S WHO



CLARISSA NICHOLE (SWING/STAGE MANAGER) is thrilled to be supporting one of her favorite shows of all time, especially after enduring a long period away from theatre! Most recently, Clarisse has been starring as Mom to her amazing 4 yr old and focusing on various album recording projects and Cabaret collaborations. Favorite theatre credits include Queen Aggravain in "Once Upon a Mattress" (PCT – Shellie Award Nominee), Dr. Emma Brooker in "The Normal Heart" (PCT – Shellie Award Nominee), as well as Mimsy/Aunt Sheila in "It Shoulda Been You." When not on stage, Clarisse enjoys sharing music

on her YouTube Channel (youtube.com/ClarisseNichole) and belting for the libatious crowd at Martuni's. Clarisse sends love and thanks to her incredible village for understanding and enduring her constant need to sing and perform; special appreciation goes out to Joe & Joey, and vocal coach Matt L., for their special way of fanning and supporting her passion. Enjoy the show!



KIM SAUNDERS (M'LYNN EATENTON) is happy to be working with Pittsburg Theatre Company. Kim has performed at: The Nat Norne Theatre, Neighborhood Playhouse, American Ballet Theatre at Lincoln Center, The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, San Jose Repertory Theatre, African American Shakespeare and Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. She is also a professional director/choreographer and works as a teaching artist in high schools supporting teachers and the amazing students she has the privilege of working with. www.kimsaunders.net



TINA SMITH (OUISER BOURDEAUX) was last seen on stage as the the ethereal Velma Von Tussel in PCT's Hair-spray. She has also participated in PCT's "Once Upon a Mattress" (Wizard), "Into the Woods" (The Witch), "Steel Magnolias" (M'Lynn) and "Bye Bye Birdie" (Mae Peterson). She has helped in many other PCT shows as well. Other theatre companies and role highlights include: Oakland Center for the Arts in "Nunsense" (Sr. Robert Anne) and Salem Community Theatre in "Nunsense" (Sr. Robert Anne). A personal favorite is SCT's "Greater Tuna" (Arles Struvy, et al). Tina thanks her wife/partner of 26 ¾ years,

Michelle for her love and support.

WHO'S WHO



SANDY WRIGHT (CLAIREE BELCHER) played Jane, many years ago in PTC's *Absurd Person Singular* and was awarded the Gypsy Coat! Just recently, Sandy returned to play Mother Superior in PTC's 2019 wildly popular *Sister Act*. In the absent years she went back to the University of San Francisco to earn a teaching credential and a Master's Degree in Education, and has been teaching theater for over twenty years. In the last ten years, she has produced and directed over 15 plays and musicals for Buckingham High School in Vacaville, where she also teaches English literature. She is thrilled to be back with PTC playing Clairee in the hilarious and tragic *Steel Magnolias*. Clairee is a role she has contemplated for years, but was not quite old enough to play it. The stars have finally aligned and having just turned 65, jumped at the chance! Sandy would like to thank Wendy for 27 years of love and support, she could not have done it without her! Sandy also thanks PTC for making her dream of playing Clairee come true! Enjoy!

MEET THE DIRECTOR



TERRY TRACY (DIRECTOR) has been involved with the Performing Arts in one capacity or another since the Second Grade when he was the Head Elf in his school's Christmas play. Never having an issue of telling people what to do, his mother always said he should be a director. However, Terry had his sights set on Stardom on Broadway.

He studied Acting, Directing, Speech, and Music at San Francisco State University and the University of the Pacific. All this while performing throughout Northern California for various companies. In his younger years, he appropriated directing techniques used by others and merged it into his own brand of Direction. It's a secret recipe. However, the goal is a heightened learning experience for all; the audience, cast, crew, and himself.

Terry is excited to make his directorial debut with Pittsburg Theatre Company. He last directed *The Rocky Horror Show* to sold out houses at the Pinole Playhouse. Prior to that he has directed and/or choreographed everything from Shakespeare (*The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) to Sondheim (*Into the Woods*, and . . .nope just *Woods*.) Other shows directed and/or choreographed by Terry include: *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Torch Song Trilogy*, *Godspell* and *Pippin*. He's even dabbled in vocal direction and consulting.

His future directorial hopes include revisiting some past shows and bringing life to shows he has not done, like *The Wiz*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Rent*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (an oldie but a goody). Terry hope's you enjoy the



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WORSHIPPING THE QUICKSAND SHE WALKS ON: FEMALE FRIENDSHIP AND FABULOUS HAIR IN STEEL MAGNOLIAS

In 1985, Louisiana native Robert Harling, an aspiring actor in New York City, lost his younger sister Susan to complications during minor surgery related to a nearly life-long struggle with diabetes. He decided to channel his grief into a tribute to her memory. That tribute became *Steel Magnolias*, a perfect oxymoron to describe the women who inhabit the play, as both their strengths and vulnerabilities get a workout in this much-loved show. Harling's inspiration for his all-female cast came from watching his mother interact with her friends, who often gathered at a local beauty parlor.

"I was really impressed, during the last five arduous years of my sister's life, how the women of the community all pulled together," Harling told *The New York Times* in 1987. "When I was a kid, the mystique of the beauty parlor was that guys were never allowed," he said in 2019. "You didn't know what went on in there, and they all came back different somehow. I realized this hermetically sealed environment would be the best place to have these women express their true feelings."

Harling based all the women in the show on his mother's real-life friends, including Ouiser: "I've never told a living soul who Ouiser is based on," he has said. "After the play had some success and everybody from Natchitoches (his hometown in Louisiana) went up to New York to see it, I was really worried because Ouiser's such a crotchety old curmudgeon. And lo and behold, every woman in town was saying, 'He based Ouiser on me.'"

The play was a hit, performed throughout the United States, and globally as well. An Australian performance proved to be the premiere theatrical performance by one Nicole Kidman (guess who she played?). The play has been made into a popular film with a star-studded cast, including Shirley MacLaine, Sally Field, Olympia Dukakis, Julia Roberts, and Dolly Parton.

Less well-known was the 1990 proposed television sitcom starring legendary Broadway diva Elaine Stritch as Ouiser. The show, also written by Harling, was to take place where the play leaves off, and a two-hour pilot series was filmed. It aired once and was not picked up for further development. In 2012, an African-American version of *Steel Magnolias* was filmed for Lifetime, with a cast including Queen Latifah, Phylicia Rashad, and Alfre Woodard.

Dramaturg Page

By Gregory Brown

Something about beauty parlors makes them a kind of monument to female self-empowerment and communion. According to Beth Daley of *The Conversation*: “Salon workers can develop a ‘commercial friendship’ with clients as they maintain close physical proximity with the client over a long period. But they are neutral figures in relation to emotional disclosures. This relationship means clients may disclose more details about the troubles in their lives than they would to friends or family.”

And in “Social Roles of Hair Salons,” author Kay Tang points out that “whereas only wealthy women could afford professional beauty services in the 19th century, women of all economic classes could have their hair styled in a salon of the 20th century. The hair-dressing industry took its cue from the role barber-shops played in the cultivation of male culture and offered women a friendly place to commune with and seek support from other women.”

The women of *Steel Magnolias* display this support, particularly as the play darkens near its closing. Harling clearly loves these extraordinary women. In a touching note to all who decide to perform the show, Harling has attached this proviso to the beginning of the printed version of his script:

“The women in this play are witty, intelligent, and above all, real characters. They in no way, shape, or form are meant to be portrayed as cartoons or caricatures.”



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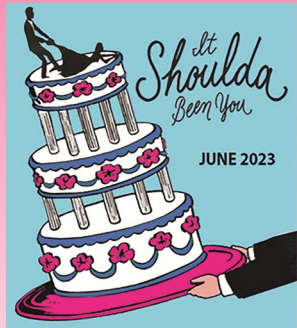
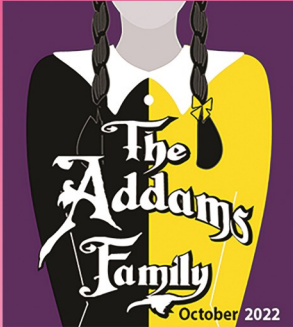
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