

2024

Mar 15 - Apr 6

program



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The Only Thing Stronger Than Steel Is Friendship



Steel Magnolias

Directed by Jon Sparks

Produced by Alison Boole and Kirk Larson

March 15 thru April 6, 2024

Sponsored by Collins Law Group

STEEL MAGNOLIAS is presented by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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Westchester Playhouse

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Culture



Kentwood
Players

proudly presents

Steel Magnolias

by Robert Harling

DIRECTED BY Jon Sparks

PRODUCED by
Alison Boole & Kirk Larson

Set Design
Shawn K. Summerer

Lighting Design
Michael Thorpe

Sound Design
Susan Stangl

Costume Design
Michael Mullen

Sponsored by Collins Law Group

STEEL MAGNOLIAS is presented by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

CAST

(in alphabetic order)

Shelby

Jahnvi Alyssa

M'lynn

Elizabeth Bouton Summerer

Truvy

Amy Coles

Annelle

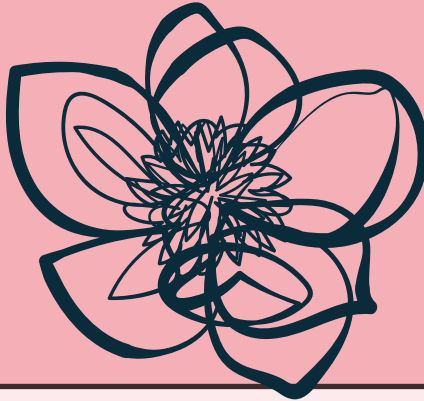
Grady Hicks

Ouiser

Catherine Rahm

Clairee

Michele Selin



PLACE: Chinquapin Parish, Louisiana

ACT I

Scene 1: April

Scene 2: December

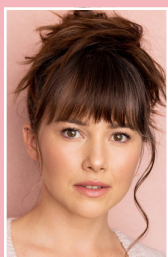
*There will be one 15-minute intermission between
Act I and Act II.*

ACT II

Scene 1: June, eighteen months later

Scene 2: November

Meet the Cast



Jahnavi Alyssa (she/her) - Shelby

Jahnavi is so delighted to make her Kentwood Players debut and join this amazing community as Shelby. Theatre credits include Imogen in *Cymbeline*, Natasha Ivanova in *The Three Sisters*, Emily Webb in *Our Town*, and most recently as Anne Redferne and Claire Claremont in Downtown Repertory Theatre's sold-out immersive shows. Watch for new feature film *Superbloom* premiering soon. Jahnavi is a proud company member of Playground LA, Los Angeles' premiere new play incubator. Bottomless gratitude always to her extraordinarily supportive family and friends without whom, quite simply, none of this would be possible. IG @jahnavialyssa



Meet the Cast



Elizabeth Bouton Summerer (she/her) – M'Lynn

Elizabeth is excited to be a part of this amazing production of *Steel Magnolias*! A few of her past Kentwood credits include Miss Shingle in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, Judy Bernly in *9 to 5 The Musical*, Sandra Bloom in *Big Fish*, Inga in *Young Frankenstein*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, Nancy in *Oliver*, Lucille Frank in *Parade*, Edwin Drood in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Molly Brown in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and Gabby/Bobbi in *City of Angels*. A huge thank you to Jon, Ali and Kirk for this amazing opportunity and kudos to this very talented cast and crew! Love SKS - FLAMES MM!



Amy Coles (she/her) - Truvy

Amy Coles is pleased as punch to step into her second famous Dolly Parton role. You may have seen her don a blonde wig as Doralee Rhodes in 2022's *9 to 5*. She was also recently on the Kentwood stage as one of the Sibellas in last year's *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. Other favorite roles include Morticia (*The Addams Family*), Baker's Wife (*Into the Woods*), Diana (*Next to Normal*), and Mayzie (*Seussical*). *Steel Magnolias* might be her first play without music...? Thanks to her fellow Magnolias for being such a wonderful group of strong women and Jon for your passion and hair expertise. Ya'll just melt my butter. Love and thanks always to BVD.



Grady Hicks (she/her) – Annelle

Grady Hicks is thrilled to be making her debut at Westchester Playhouse. She graduated with a BA in Theatre from the University of Denver in 2020. Grady is originally from Colorado but has recently made the move to LA. You can see Grady in the web series "Hell is Other People" coming out later this year. Some of her other favorite credits include Phoebe in *As You Like It* (Shakespeare in the Wild) Sharla in *Killer Joe* (DU) Sandra in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (DUPAI) and Mary in *Toward Zero* (Firehouse Theatre). Grady has had the best time working on *Steel Magnolias*, a play that celebrates the vitality of female friendship. She would like to thank everyone involved in the production for creating such a wonderful environment!

Meet the Cast



Catherine Rahm (she/her) – Ouiser

Catherine feels like she has been training all her life to play a cranky old Southern woman and is very grateful to Jon for this opportunity to bring Ouiser to Kentwood. When she is not hollering at people to get off her lawn, she spends her time at Kentwood performing, directing, producing and serving on the Board. This performance is dedicated to the memory of the most outspoken and delightful Southern woman she ever knew, her Aunt Maggie.



Michele Selin (she/her) – Clairee

Performing in this play, in this theatre, with this cast, crew, and director, is truly a dream come true. Previously at Kentwood as Appleby in *Night Watch*, Mrs. Bradman in *Blithe Spirit*, Mrs. Webb in *Our Town*, Lurlene in *Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will?*, and Toinette in *The Imaginary Invalid*. A heartfelt thank you to this wonderful team and to all who support live theatre. Much love to my daughter Kate and my partner Brian for all their support.



Meet the Cast

Jon Sparks - Director

This year marks Jon's 24th year as a member of the Kentwood Players! He is extremely honored to work with this great cast and production team. For the past two decades, he has performed, directed, wigged, costumed and produced shows all over Los Angeles and Orange County. Jon is a proud member of IATSE Local 706, the Make-Up Artist and Hair Stylist Guild. Jon is an accomplished wig master, having worked at Disneyland as well as many local theaters.

GMKL-FLAMES

Alison Boole - Co-Producer

Alison is very happy to be working with Jon, Kirk, and this amazing cast. Alison has been part of several previous Kentwood production teams on shows including *Rent*, *All My Sons*, *Clue* and *Vanya, Sonya, Masha and Spike*. In addition, Alison directed and choreographed *Young Frankenstein* and *Pippin* here at Kentwood. As a performer, Alison has portrayed Charlotte in *Moon Over Buffalo*, Violet in *9 To 5 The Musical*, Marmee in *Little Women*, the Angel in *Angels In America*, Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Cassie in *A Chorus Line*, and LaTrelle in *Sordid Lives*. She has been a member of Kentwood for over 25 years and has participated in over 50 productions as a performer, director, choreographer, stage manager, light booth operator and currently serves on the board as Treasurer. Alison would like to thank her husband West for his patience and for sharing his artistry with Kentwood.

Kirk Larson - Co-Producer

Kirk has been a Kentwood member for over 20 years and has played many roles behind the scenes but this is his first time producing. He'd like to thank Alison for showing him the ropes. It's been a pleasure working with this cast and crew! GMJS. Flames.



Meet the Production Team

Shawn K. Summerer – Set Design

Originally from Michigan, Shawn got his start in theatre playing “The Letter K” in preschool. He received his BFA in Film Writing from USC in 2004. Shawn is a regular set designer at Kentwood, having also designed *California Suite* in 2013, *Young Frankenstein* in 2016, *Pippin* in 2019, *9 to 5: The Musical* in 2022, and *Rent* last year. He has also directed three shows at Kentwood including *Dracula* in 2010, *The Miracle Worker* in 2012, and *Into the Woods* in 2014. As an actor, he was most recently seen as George Deever in *All My Sons*. Other favorite past roles include Smudge in *Forever Plaid* and David in *Company*.
DOORBELL.

Michael Thorpe – Lighting Design

What, when you really get down to it, is the purpose of program bios? Is a dry list of biographical information the best use of the space? Are clever bits of short-form prose sometimes more fitting? Is obsessive overthinking occasionally okay or only obstinancy? Are alliterations always awful? Must everything end in a question mark? Would using more question marks help??? Can punctuation be an effective substitute for profundity? Or is unimaginative junk like this the inevitable result of scraping the bottom of the barrel for bio ideas?

Susan Stangl – Sound Design

Susan Stangl has designed sound for many productions here at Kentwood and at other local theaters for over twenty years. Also at KP she directed *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville*, *Becky's New Car*, *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*; and she has acted at KP stage in *I Remember Mama*, *The Elephant Man*, *Rain*, *Blood Brothers*, *Sordid Lives*, *The Man of La Mancha*, *Good People* and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. When not involved in theater, she plays with the band Dreamers and Drifters.

Meet the Production Team

Michael Mullen – Costume Design

Michael Mullen is a costume designer, actor, and writer. Among his theatrical design credits are *Dreamgirls*, *The Boy From Oz*, *Siamese Sex Show*, *Fugue*, *When Jazz Had The Blues*, *Burners*, *Cabaret*, *Year Of The Rooster*, *Fixed*, *Sweeney Todd*, *American Idiot*, *The Legend Of Georgia McBride*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Wild Party*, *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner*, and *L.A. Now And Then*. He has received several awards and nominations for his work both onstage and off from such organizations as LA Stage Alliance Ovation, L.A. Drama Critics Circle, L.A. Weekly, N.A.A.C.P., Scenie, Stage Raw, Robby, Broadway World, Ticket Holder, Eddon, and Desert Theatre League. Michael wants to thank everyone involved with this production for their dedication and hard work and he hopes you all enjoy the show!



Production Team

Stage Manager

Grace O'Neill

Master Builder

Shawn Summerer

Construction Crew

Doug Carlson, Ben Lupejkis

George Kondreck

Set Decoration

Elizabeth Bouton Summerer, Ben Lupejkis

Set Decoration Assistance

Jamie Dawley

Script Supervisor

Gail Bernardi

Props

Lyndsay Palmer

Wig Design

Jon Sparks, Patty Jarvis

Additional Voiceover

Greg Abbott, Kim Peterson

Graphic / Poster Design

West Maätita

Photography

Gloria Ramirez

Booth Operator

Howard Male, Natalie Mann

Audition Desk

Anne Klafter, Myron Klafter



Production Team

Work Sunday

Alta Abbott, Greg Abbott, Jahnavi Alyssa, Gail Bernardi, Alison Boole, Mark Bruce-Casares, Patricia Butler, Doug Carlson, Sheldon Cohen, Mikah Conway, Jamie Dawley, Martin Feldman, Samuel Goldman, Kelly Gresalfi, Grady Hicks, Peat Hurst, Steve Izant, Anne Klafter, Myron Klafter, George Kondreck, Kirk Larson, Zack Lillie-Liberto, Ben Lupejkis, Howard Male, Melvin Miller, Colleen Okida, Roy Okida, Grace O'Neill, Lyndsay Palmer, Jeremy Palmer Pereslete, Kim Peterson, Catherine Rahm, Michele Selin, Julia Sison, Jon Sparks, Shawn Summerer, Elizabeth Bouton Summerer, Michael Thorpe, Susan Weisbarth, Brian Wells, Rhonda Yeager-Hutchinson



Special Thanks

Alta Abbott, Elizabeth Bouton Summerer, Shawn Summerer, Grace O'Neill, Theatre Palisades, Josh Harper, Maria O'Connor, Lori Marple Pereslete, Tony Pereslete, Brandon Ferruccio, Susan Stangl, Chris Aruffo, Kim Peterson, Doug Carlson, Ben Lupejkis, Gail Bernardi, Gloria Plunkett, Alison Boole, Kirk Larson, Caprice Collins and Collins Law Group

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Upcoming Productions

May 10 - Jun 8, 2024

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

Book and Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Directed by Elijah Green



Jul 19 - Aug 10, 2024

FOOLS

By Neil Simon

Directed by Jeremy Palmer



September 13 – October 5, 2024

MISERY

By William Goldman,

based on the novel by Stephen King

Directed by Kathy Dersheimer



November 15 – December 14, 2024

THE PRODUCERS

by Mel Brooks & Thomas Meehan

Directed by Susan Weisbarth

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COMING SOON

The gods have spoken!



ONCE *on this* ISLAND

Book and Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens | Music by Stephen Flaherty

Directed by Elijah Green

Musical Direction by Elizabeth Bouton Summerer

Choreographed by Katie Powers-Faulk

Produced by Martin Feldman, Susan Weisbarth, & Alison Boole

Sponsored by Charles Ortner

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

MAY 10 - JUNE 8, 2024