



Steel
Magnolias

2024 SEASON

OUR TOWN
APRIL 18 - 21

THE WIZARD OF OZ
JUNE 7 - 16

CHECK BACK SOON!
JULY 26 - AUG 4

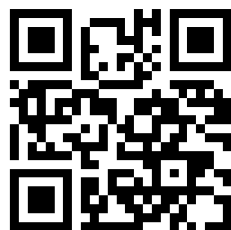
CHICAGO
TEEN EDITION
SEPT 12 - 15

LEGALLY Blonde
OCT 17 - 27

BLITHE SPIRIT
NOV 14 - 17

Ken Ludwig's & Jack Ludwig's
TINY TIM'S CHRISTMAS CAROL
DEC 12 - 15

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MONTHLY



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 **HERSHEY AREA
PLAYHOUSE**
presents

Steel Magnolias

**WRITTEN BY
ROBERT HARLING**

DIRECTOR	<i>Austin Shay</i>
STAGE MANAGER	<i>Nicholas Shay</i>
PRODUCER	<i>Taylor Swisher</i>
COSTUMES	<i>Austin & Nicholas Shay</i>
PROPS	<i>Nicholas Shay</i>
LIGHTING/SOUND DESIGNER	<i>Austin Shay</i>
LIGHTING TECHNICIAN	<i>Taylor Swisher</i>
SET CONSTRUCTION	<i>Jeff Miller, Carlton Hoke</i>

**STEEL MAGNOLIAS
IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH BROADWAY LICENSING, LLC
SERVICING THE DRAMATISTS PLAYSERVICE COLLECTION.**

www.dramatists.com

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PRODUCTION NOTES

Welcome to the Hershey Area Playhouse! It is my delight to welcome you to *Steel Magnolias*, our latest mainstage production of the 2023 season. This season, we bring you stories that illustrate human nature through vulnerability, fear, and hope. There is no greater illustration of this than the beautiful and heart-touching story of *Steel Magnolias*.

Steel Magnolias has had such a strong and profound effect on so many. It intertwines humor and heartbreak showing resilience that thrives despite adversity. Witnessing strength amidst trials is what gives us all such hope. Strength amidst trials could also be the definition of what makes a wonderful directorial team. Austin Shay and his team have once again brought to life a wonderful production that maximizes the unique space of the Hershey Area Playhouse and the community spirit that defines its spirit.

I wish to express my sincerest thanks to the many volunteers and current and past board and committee members who make performances like this a reality. Without their generosity, productions like these would not be possible. We follow a long line of dedicated individuals who have maintained a commitment to quality theatre in Central Pennsylvania. It is an honor to be a part of this tradition, and we thank you for your continued support. Please come back to visit us for our upcoming productions. If you like what you see today and are able to support our efforts, please consider sharing your own gifts at hersheyareaplayhouse.com.

**JASMINE AMMONS BUCHER,
BOARD CHAIR**

Welcome to the Hershey Area Playhouse's production of *Steel Magnolias*. It is with great joy and enthusiasm that we bring this beloved story to life on our stage. *Steel Magnolias* is a heartwarming and poignant tale of friendship, love, and resilience that has captured the hearts of audiences for years. Set in the charming town of Chinquapin, Louisiana, the play takes us on an emotional journey through the lives of six remarkable women.

As we delve into the lives of these "steel magnolias," we are reminded that the bonds of friendship can endure even the toughest of challenges. In this close-knit community, the beauty of strength and resilience is celebrated, and the power of love and laughter is ever-present.

Through the eyes of these wonderfully complex characters, we explore the triumphs and tribulations of life. The beauty of this play lies in its ability to seamlessly blend moments of humor with the profound. Laughter and tears are intertwined, much like the strong relationships that bind these women together.

Our production has been a labor of love, with a dedicated cast and crew committed to bringing the spirit of *Steel Magnolias* to life. It is our hope that our portrayal of these characters and their stories will resonate with you, the audience. We invite you to immerse yourself in the world of Chinquapin and join us in celebrating the enduring strength of friendship.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Hershey Area Playhouse for their unwavering support and to our talented actors and production team for their dedication and hard work. We hope that you leave the theatre tonight with a renewed appreciation for the powerful connections we forge with others throughout our lives.

Thank you for joining us on this journey through the heartwarming and inspiring world of *Steel Magnolias*. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

**AUSTIN SHAY,
DIRECTOR**

CAST

SHELBY	<i>Emily Myers</i>
M'LYNN	<i>Brenda Moyer</i>
OUISER	<i>Colleen Mullikin</i>
CLAIREE	<i>Martha Traverse</i>
TRUVY	<i>Adrienne Thoman</i>
ANNELLE	<i>Hailey Lockner</i>

TRUVY/M'LYNN UNDERSTUDY	<i>Rita Smith</i>
OUISER/CLAIREE UNDERSTUDY	<i>Deborah Santiago</i>
RADIO DJ (VOICE OVER)	<i>JD Dorazio</i>

CAST



Emily
Myers



Brenda
Moyer



Colleen
Mullikin



Martha
Traverse



Adrienne
Thoman



Hailey
Lockner



Rita
Smith



Deborah
Santiago

CREATIVE TEAM



Austin
Shay



Nicholas
Shay

ABOUT THE CAST

EMILY MYERS (SHELBY) is so excited to be involved in her first straight play since 2018! She was most recently seen in *School of Rock* (Patty DiMarco/ Mrs. Hathaway), *First Date* (Lauren), *9 to 5* (Maria), *Bandstand* (Jo/Julia u/s), *Sin* (Avery), and *Seussical* (Bird Girl 3). She would like to thank everyone at HAP for their friendship and support during this difficult year. She would like to thank her family and friends for always being there and supporting her craft. Everything I do is dedicated to my pap, love you always! She/her

BRENDA MOYER (M'LYNN) is honored to be in her first production at the Hershey Area Playhouse. She has been active in multiple theater productions since returning to community theater since 2017. She has been involved with multiple productions with the Majestic Players, Actors Guild of Schuylkill County, and Schuylkill Free Shakespeare. Brenda is thrilled to be playing in *Steel Magnolias* with the talented cast. Outside the theater She is an emergency room RN with Lehigh Valley Health Network. She also mother to 4 children and 3.75 grandchildren. She thanks her family and friends for all their support in her life and passion for the theater. She/her

COLLEEN MULLIKIN (OUISER) is pleased to return to the Playhouse and to work with Austin and Nick again. Some of her favorite roles include Caprice Crumpler from *Doublewide Texas Christmas*, Mrs. Paroo from *The Music Man*, the Reverend Mother from *Nun-crackers*, and Mrs. Bumble from *Oliver*. Colleen retired from teaching in 2021 after being an educator for 40 years, 37 of those years in Derry Township School District. Yes, she is ancient... Colleen currently can be found at the Palmyra Weis Market teaching folks the joy of self-scanning! She truly appreciates the opportunity to perform with this amazing cast and crew. She/her

MARTHA TRAVERSE (CLAIREE) Since relocating to Camp Hill in October 2020, Martha has enjoyed performing at several nearby venues. She is happy and honored to add Hershey Area Playhouse to that list! Recent roles include Madame in *Cinderella* and the Dorothy Loudon role in *Jerry's Girls* at the Allenberry Playhouse. She also appeared as Dolly Levi in *Hello Dolly!* at York's Belmont Theatre, and as Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg. At age 19, Martha began a 13-year career in professional musical theatre as a singer/dancer in *Take Me Along* starring the illustrious Gene Kelly at the famous St. Louis Municipal Opera. Other credits include playing Guenevere in an international tour of *Camelot*, opposite the late star/director Richard Harris; appearing on Broadway in her understudy role as Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!*; and taking over the role of Sara Longstreet in *High Button Shoes* at the Goodspeed Opera. Active in community theatres for over 25 years, Martha's favorite roles include Rose in *Gypsy*, and Anna in *The King and I*. She/her

ADRIENNE THOMAN (TRUVY) is thrilled to take the stage as Chinquapin's favorite beautician! She last performed at Hershey Area Playhouse in Jennifer Feldser's *The Other Woman* (Cici) and the *Vagina Monologues*. Other past performances include *Reclaiming My Time and HairStory: Reclaiming My Crown* by Maria James-Thiaw; and *The Hand That Holds the Quill* (*Elizabeth Randolph*) by Cindy Dlugolecki. Outside of the theatre, Adrienne is a member of the Student Engagement team at Penn State Harrisburg (#weare). She is co-creator of The Pirate Life Podcast and a licensed Zumba instructor. She resides in Harrisburg with her husband (Shawn) and two perfect furbabies (Sookie and Lucy). She/her

HAILEY LOCKNER (ANNELLE) is thrilled to return to Hershey Area Playhouse, previously she also appeared in HAP's *A Gift to Remember* (Amy Sue). Hailey has performed throughout the area whenever a director has been willing to cast her. Favorites include: *Wait Until Dark* (Susan), *Twisted: The Tale of a Royal Vizier* (Ensemble and soloist), and Margot Frank in the *Diary of Anne Frank*. When not performing, Hailey is a pre-k teacher at Harrisburg Catholic Elementary. She also works for the Hershey Trolley Works during the summertime. Thanks to the entire cast and crew for a great experience. And most of all, thanks to my family and friends for their support. She/her

RITA SMITH (U/S TRUVY, M'LYNN) is delighted to return to Hershey Area Playhouse. Last seen in *A Doublewide Texas Christmas*, Rita also appeared in *The Apple*, *The Tempest*, *A Winter's Tale*, and *A Christmas Carol (musical version)* at HAP. She has traveled throughout Central Pennsylvania with the Pharmacy Theatre in their productions of *Anne Boleyn: Witch, Bitch, Temptress, Feminist, friend of Dorothy*, and *Boys Go to Jupiter*. When she is not treading the boards she can be found in the children's department of the Hershey Public Library or holed up with her laptop writing fanfiction. She thanks her children for reigniting her love of theatre and her husband for his infinite patience. She/her

DEBORAH J SANTIAGO (OUISER/CLAIREE UNDERSTUDY) is pleased to return to Hershey Area Playhouse. She has been a part of the Playhouse family since her 2015 debut in *Oliver!* Other favorite performances include *9 to 5*, *A Texas Doublewide Christmas*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Annie*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *The Sound of Music*. When not performing, Deb is an insurance agent at Lechner & Stauffer Inc. in Elizabethtown. She would like to thank the directors for the opportunity to understudy. Most of all, she would like to thank her loving husband of 31 years, Armando, for his continued support. She/her

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

AUSTIN SHAY (DIRECTOR) is excited to be back with the Hershey Area Playhouse directing *Steel Magnolias* with such a fun group of people. He previously directed *A Doublewide*, *Texas Christmas* and worked on the technical crew for *The Homecoming* and *Stage Kiss* for the Playhouse. In the past year, Austin has directed *Anne Boleyn: Witch, Bitch, Temptress, Feminist* and *friend of Dorothy* for the Pharmacy Theatre, produced a short works festival, and got married. He would like to thank his husband, Nicholas for always supporting our crazy schedule!

NICHOLAS SHAY (STAGE MANAGER) is excited to return to the Hershey Area Playhouse to stage manager *Steel Magnolias* with his husband. Nicholas has been involved in theatre ever since his role as Fender in Antietam High School's production of *Hairspray* in 2013. Since his last appearance at the playhouse, Nicholas has traveled back into time to play *Anne Boleyn* and has also grace the stage as the Narrator in *friend of Dorothy* both with the Pharmacy Theatre. He wants to thank Austin and the cast for being so supportive and helpful. He couldn't do this without you!

JEFFREY MILLER (SET CONSTRUCTION) is a retired Superintendent of Schools from the Methacton School District (Norristown, PA). Previous to his service in Methacton, Jeff was Superintendent of Schools in the Lower Dauphin School District from 1991-2003. A former member of the Board of Directors of the Playhouse and Operations Manager, Jeff has been in the Playhouse's productions of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Sound of Music*, *Annie*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Oliver*, and *Fiddler on The Roof*. Jeff is happy to have partnered with Carlton Hoke to build many of the sets for Playhouse productions. Jeff lives in Hershey with his wife, Bonnie and their cat and has been an active supporter of the Hershey Area Playhouse. He/him

CARLTON HOKE (SET CONSTRUCTION) retired from teaching in 2005 after 35 years of teaching art and computer classes in the Derry Township School District. Since then he has designed, constructed, or painted stage settings at the playhouse for many of our productions. He says that working with Jeff on Playhouse projects is the perfect retirement job. He/him



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TREASURER	<i>Natalie Tibbs</i>
	<i>Amy Jo Brixius</i>
	<i>Tony Bender</i>
	<i>Rosemary Bucher</i>
	<i>Karen Krok</i>
	<i>Taylor Swisher</i>
	<i>Jonathan Walker-VanKuren</i>

For more information about Hershey Area Playhouse, please visit

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