

PATIOBILL

Steel MAGNOLIAS

SEPTEMBER 19 – OCTOBER 5

patio
playhouse
community & youth theater

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Patio Playhouse Presents:

Steel
MAGNOLIAS

Written by:

Robert Harling

Directed by: Alicia Gonzalez

Produced By: Frank Guttieri

**Originally produced by the W.P.A. Theatre, New York City, 1987.
(Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)**

**Royalties for this production were paid in part by
The Richard Gant Royalty Endowment.**

**This production was supported in large part by a grant from
Janecek Family Charitable Fund.**

Any video or audio recording of this production is prohibited.

**Patio Playhouse acknowledges that this production is being performed on the traditional
lands of the Kumeyaay-Ipai Peoples and wishes to pay our respects to Elders both past and
present.**

Thank you!

This production was made in part by the generous support of Janecek Family Charitable Fund. Their commitment to the arts and community has played a vital role in bringing our performances to life. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their contribution, which helps us continue to enrich and entertain our audience.



~ Welcome ~

Welcome to Truvy's salon—where the hairspray is strong, the gossip is quick, and the friendships run deeper than a jar of sweet tea on a hot summer day. We are so thrilled you're here for Patio Playhouse's production of *Steel Magnolias*.

This show reminds us that life is equal parts laughter and tears, but always best lived together. In this little Louisiana beauty shop, women gather not just to fix their hair, but to fix each other's hearts. Their humor, grit, and unconditional love shine a light on what it means to be part of a community—something we at Patio hold near and dear.

Putting this production together has been a joy. Our cast, crew, and creative team have worked tirelessly (and joyfully) to bring you this story, and I couldn't be prouder. Much like M'Lynn, Ouiser, Truvy, Clairee, Shelby, and Annelle, we've laughed, we've cried, and—most importantly—we've leaned on each other.

Thank you for supporting live, local theater. We hope tonight leaves you with a full heart, a smile on your face, and maybe a tear or two in your eye. After all, as Truvy says, "Laughter through tears is my favorite emotion."

With love and gratitude,
Jennifer Guttiere
Artistic Manager, Patio Playhouse

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~ Director's Note ~

Welcome to Truvy's Beauty Shop, where the hairspray is plentiful, the coffee sometimes tastes "off", and the opinions are strong.

Directing Steel Magnolias was like joining the funniest, most heartfelt friend group you've ever seen. The characters are quick with a quip, fearless with feelings, and incapable of refraining from imparting unsolicited advice.

I've learned from this play that laughter isn't just a reaction- it's a life skill. Between the teasing and the gossip, the characters remind us that humor is how we handle everything in life. And in Truvy's shop, there's no such thing as "too much", whether we're talking about laughter, love, or hairspray.

You are witnessing an insanely talented, fiercely committed cast who have worked harder than a teasing comb at Truvy's shop. They've mastered the art of delivering hilarious one-liners while balancing the emotional depth that makes this story unforgettable. Rehearsals have been a masterclass in dedication, from perfecting the rhythm of Southern banter to finding moments of truth between the laughs. Their work ethic, generosity, and sheer joy in the process have been nothing short of inspiring. Thank you forever Andrian, Barbara, Jenn, Michelle, Shane, and Shealagh

Sit back and enjoy! I hope you laugh loudly and often, tear up a bit, and leave here feeling like you've just spent an afternoon with great friends who will always invite you to "Come sit by me."

Now sit back, relax, and remember: "There's no such thing as natural beauty."

Alicia Gonzalez, Director
Steel Magnolias
Patio Playhouse



JOIN/DONATE HERE:



Act One

Scene I: April
Scene II: December

Act Two

Scene II: June, eighteen months later
Scene II: November

There is one 15 minute Intermission



~ Production Crew ~

Director: Alicia Gonzalez

Producer: Frank Guttieri

Stage Managers: Emma Fonderon, Matilda Jenkins, Scarlett Hilborn

Props Master: Leslie Williamson

Costumes: Jennifer Guttieri and Jana Limon

Set Builder: Scott Heidemann

Set Designer: Sara Grosse, Stacey Lower, Brandy Baesel, Leslie Williamson, Scott Heidemann, Greg Oberle

Lighting Designer: Scott Heidemann & Jason Hilborn

Lighting Crew: Jason Hilborn

Sound Technician: Scott Heidemann, Jason Hilborn, Rick Ashcroft and Steven Murdock

Program: Courtney Hilborn

Cover Art: Brandy Baesel

~ Profiles ~



Andrian Eagleston– Annelle Dupuy-Desoto

Andrian is excited to make her debut at Patio Playhouse as Annelle. Favorite credits include Emily (Our Town), Tzeitel (Fiddler on the Roof), and Grandma Addams (The Addams Family). When she isn't at the theatre, she loves writing music, dance parties, hair tickles, and walks and snuggles with her sweet dog Harley. Big thank you to all her loved ones including her fellow Magnolias who are here to support and who keep her laughing through her tears. Enjoy the show!



Barbara Clifford – Ouiser Boudreaux

Barbara Clifford is originally from back East but has lived in CA long enough to be a native. While living in Los Angeles, she was very active with the Kentwood Players and other community theaters. Barb also was a background player in a variety of movies and TV shows. Her biggest acting experience was as a regular in the internet fan-based series "Star Trek: Hidden Frontier" for seven years. She lives in Escondido with her husband, 3 dogs and 3 cats. Steel Magnolias is her Patio Playhouse debut. She wants to thank Alicia and the wonderful cast and crew for allowing her to join in the fun. "She is crazy. And this is the most fun she has had in 40 years!"



Jennifer Guttieri – M'Lynn Eatenton

Jennifer Guttieri is honored to bring the fierce, funny, and deeply loving M'Lynn to life in this unforgettable production of Steel Magnolias. A lifelong fan of stories that celebrate resilience, wit, and the power of female friendship, Jennifer is thrilled to join this incredible ensemble. Favorite past roles include Helen in Fat Pig, Katherine in Taming of the Shrew, and Marlene in Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got the Will?)

Offstage, Jennifer serves as Artistic Director and Youth Director at Patio Playhouse, is a former Miss Plus America, and a Daytime Emmy Award winner for her work on NBC's Starting Over. She is endlessly grateful to her phenomenal castmates, brilliant director, and the behind-the-scenes dream team who made this production such a joy. And to her own circle of "Steel Magnolias"—thank you for showing her every day what true strength looks like.

Jennifer lovingly dedicates this performance to her angel baby, Sutton Grace.

*Be your
own kind
of beautiful*
♡

~ Profiles ~



Michelle Cocchia– Clairee Belcher

Michelle Cocchia is thrilled to return to the stage in her third production with Patio Playhouse, playing the witty and ever-charming Clairee in *Steel Magnolias*. She first discovered her love for acting in high school and continued to perform through college. After a hiatus to raise her family, she found her way back to the theater through her children's involvement in youth productions—rekindling her own passion for the arts. She is grateful to the Patio Playhouse community for welcoming her back and dedicates this performance to everyone finding their way back to what they love.



Shane – Truvy Jones

Shane Murphy is delighted to bring Truvy to life in *Steel Magnolias*! She holds a B.A. in Theatre from the University of San Diego and recently completed a Shakespeare intensive at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. Shane has a deep love for telling stories that celebrate strong women, deep friendships, and a touch of southern flair. She dedicates this performance to her two little ones, her daughter and son—her own wild magnolia blossoms. May you always grow with grace, grit, and just the right amount of hairspray.



Shealagh Burke – Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie

Shealagh Burke is ecstatic to be in her first production with Patio Playhouse. She has previously played Shelby in 2023 (*Ramona Hillside Players*) and is excited to once again bring this character to life. Previous credits include *9 to 5* (Kathy), *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Past), and *Godspell* (Anna Maria). When she is not performing, she loves to spend time with her many nieces and nephews and obsess over her favorite baseball team (Go Padres!). She would like to thank everyone at Patio Playhouse for this opportunity and her friends and family for all of their support.

Life
doesn't have
to be
perfect
to be
Beautiful

~ Creative Team ~

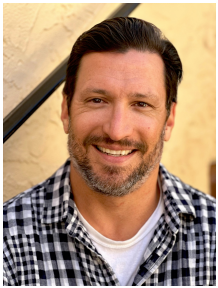
Alicia Gonzalez – Director



Alicia is thrilled to collaborate with this incredibly talented cast for Patio Playhouse's production of *Steel Magnolias*. As a director, Alicia finds deep joy in crafting meaningful moments on stage, and *Steel Magnolias* holds a special place in her heart. Driven by a commitment to fostering safe and inclusive space in youth musical theatre, Alicia founded Scripps Theatre Arts, a vibrant community in Scripps Ranch. She is currently directing 80 amazing young performers, ages 5–16, in the high-energy Disney Channel favorite *High School Musical*.

Alicia extends heartfelt thanks to the *Steel Magnolias* cast for embracing this journey with such grace and authenticity, and to Jenn, for recognizing the love and faith she would pour into this production.

Frank Guttieri – Producer



Frank was lucky enough to be involved with a production of *Steel Magnolias* in his high school drama program around the time the play was introduced. The talented cast of high school teens gave an amazing performance beyond their years, and the play has always been a favorite of his. Fast-forward thirty-three years and he is proud to help produce this show for Patio with such an outstanding cast and crew. He is very proud of his wife, Jennifer Guttieri (M'Lynn) and her amazing effort on stage in such a difficult role. Special thanks also go to Courtney Hilborn and Scott Heidemann for all their work and support. Enjoy the show!

~ Stage Managers ~

Emma Fonderon



I've enjoyed being a stage manager for *Steel Magnolias* these past months. On stage, or behind the scenes, I love theater with all my heart. Working with these very talented actors has been a joy, and they are so easy and incredible to work with. I am so glad I got this opportunity!! Enjoy the show!

Matilda Jenkins



Matilda Jenkins is 14 years old and absolutely thrilled to be managing and working *Steel Magnolias*! This is her second production with Patio Playhouse including playing Cherry Sundae in *Willy Wonka*. She has made many close friends and this company has truly opened so many doors for her in her career. Matilda is an actor, vocalist, and musician based in San Marcos and hopes you enjoy the show!

Scarlett Hilborn



Scarlett has been part of Patio Playhouse for almost a year and has already contributed her talents both on and off stage. She has performed in *Anne of Green Gables*, *Winnie the Pooh Jr.*, and *Wonka*, and has also taken on behind-the-scenes roles as a stage manager and stage crew member. Scarlett loves theater and is always eager to help wherever she can, bringing enthusiasm and dedication to every production.

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Artistic Manager - Jennifer Guttieri

Directors at Large

Michelle Cocchia, Stefanie Everton-Lovell, Mindi Gillespie, Becky Golden-Harrel,
Kelly Nichols, Marti Tucker, Leslie Williamson

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*Steel
Magnolias*
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