



# Steel Magnolias

BY  
**ROBERT HARLING**

DIRECTED BY  
**DEANNA MARTINEZ**

September 16-September 25, 2022  
Fridays & Saturdays 7:30pm  
Sundays 2:00pm

Pay What You Can Thursday, September 22nd at 7:30pm  
ASL Performance Sunday, September 25th at 2:00pm

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"We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language."

# Steel Magnolias

by Robert Harling

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

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

## TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE STAFF

Managing Artistic Director.....	Chris Serface
Office Manager.....	Karen Christensen
Technical Director .....	Blake R. York
Lead Carpenter .....	Frank Roberts
Education Director .....	Stephanie Kroschel
Production Manager .....	Dylan Twiner
Development Director .....	Diana George
Support Staff.....	Casey Brown & Nathan Lovitt
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[www.tacomalittletheatre.com](http://www.tacomalittletheatre.com)

TLT is a proud member of:



## Steel Magnolias

September 9-September 25, 2022

## Murder on the Orient Express

October 21-November 6, 2022

## *A Christmas Story*

December 2-December 24, 2022

## Po Boy Tango

January 20-February 5, 2023

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April 21-May 7, 2023

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June 2-June 18, 2023

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### FLEX Ticket Prices:

- \$145.00 for SIX admissions  
*(can be used in any combination)*

# Artistic Staff

Director .....Deanna Martinez  
Stage Manager..... Alyshia Collins  
Technical Director/Scenic Designer/Visuals .....Blake R. York  
Costume Designer..... Michele Graves  
Production Manager/Sound Designer ..... Dylan Twiner  
Lighting Desginer..... Niclas Olson  
Lead Carpenter/Properties Manager..... Frank Roberts  
Shop Assistant..... Nate Lovitt  
Scenic Artist.....Jennifer York  
Hair and Wig Consultant ..... Mauro Bozzo  
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Pete & Cheryl Burgess

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# Director's Note

When the idea of remounting *Steel Magnolias* came up, I found myself inspired by a decidedly feminine story that is both specific to time and place, but also universal in its themes and relationships. Our version stays true to the 1980's era, keeping Shelby on the cusp of fashion - and her mother, M'Lynn, stuck in the trends of her youth. It holds on to the Southern humor of smiley sarcasm and passive-aggressive quips. Most importantly, it honors the friendships developed by a group of women - women who endure the trials of life by relying on one another, providing each other strength in turn.

To truly reflect the American South, I was particularly interested in leaning into age, race, and socio-economics as lenses for the story. Why do women who are older, middle-aged, and young all go to the same salon? How do Black, white, and mixed-ethnicity women interact at a Black home salon? How does old money, new money, and poverty influence the women as they react to life?

On a personal note, I played Shelby at a small California theater only a few years after our setting of 1987. The Director, Barry Wallace, validated that a life in theatre was for me. It's a formative play for me. And, only a few years after that, I was diagnosed with a chronic kidney condition with lots of questions about the possibility of children. Thanks to UW Medical, I have three children and no more parallels to Shelby's life. THANK YOU to my children and husband for their continued support.

I'm so grateful for the opportunity to tell this beloved story with my own ethos of diversity. THANK YOU to Alyshia Collins, the designers, cast, crew, and support staff at TLT for their work and creativity in this show.

Enjoy,  
Deanna



**Please remember to silence your  
cell phone and mobile devices.  
No texting during the performance.  
—Thank you**

# Staff Biographies

## **Deanna Martinez (Director)**

Deanna (*sbe/her*) has been a Director, Actor, and Coach at theaters throughout the Sound, and is the Associate Director of Arts Engagement at Seattle Rep. Her theatre students have been seen at Village, 5th Ave, SCT, Seattle Opera, and at community theaters throughout the region, as well as in commercials and film. With The Rep, she recruited, coached, and chaperoned students for the Next Narrative Monologue Competition, including the two regional finalists who performed at the Apollo in NYC. She also directed the new work, *Cell Phone Unlocked*, and coordinated the inaugural Youth Works Festival. Other recent directing credits include *A 1940's Christmas Carol* (Centerstage) and *Polkadots: A Cool Kids Musical* (TMP). She currently serves on the EDI committees for Tacoma Musical Playhouse and Centerstage (Federal Way), advocating for equity, diversity, and inclusion onstage, backstage, and in audiences.

## **Alyshia Collins (Stage Manager)**

Alyshia has proven again that TLT can't get rid of her. Having started on this stage 21 years ago, she's thrilled to be lurking in the shadows again. Most recently, she stage managed *The Foreigner* (TLT) and *The Glass Menagerie* (Lakewood Playhouse). She also has assisted the after school camps here at TLT. She thanks her cast, crew, and Deanna for bringing this show to life.

## **Blake R. York (Technical Director/Scenic Designer/Visuals)**

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 16 years. Blake serves as TLT's Technical Director, Set Designer, and Graphic Designer for the season posters. Favorite designs in the area include: *Slenth, Sylvia, Scrooge! The Musical, A Christmas Story, Rabbit Hole, Cabaret* (TLT), *Oliver!, A Funny Thing...., The Lion in Winter* (Lakewood Playhouse), *Tom Sawyer, Pippi Longstocking* (TMP), and *The Tempest* (Olympia Little Theatre). Blake was named Best Director of the TLT production of *The Pillowman* at the AACT Regional Festival and won Best Scenic Designer in the AACT National Competition. He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, and friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him. In 2022, Blake was recognized as one of the *40 Under 40* by South Sound Business.

## **Frank Roberts (Lead Carpenter/Properties Manager)**

Frank is excited to continue at TLT as their Lead Carpenter and Properties Manager. His work with TLT started as a volunteer during the run of *Gypsy* and he enjoys the dynamic work and communal experience that this fine theatre provides. Frank wishes to thank Blake York, Allen Melo, Ana Quinn, and Jill Heinecke for all their contributions big and small. Additional thanks to his friends, family, Jill, and all who support local theatre.

# Staff Biographies

## **Niclas Olson (Lighting Designer)**

Niclas is an actor, director, playwright, and designer based in Tacoma. His designs for Tacoma Little Theatre include *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Cabaret*, *Dracula*, and *Of Mice and Men*. His work can be seen regularly at Lakewood Playhouse (*The Woman in Black*, *Oliver!*, *Pride and Prejudice*), Dukesbay Productions (*Tea*, *Night of the Iguana*), and New Muses Theatre Company (*Into the Woods*, *Frankenstein*, *Doctor Faustus*). Niclas is the Managing Artistic Director of New Muses Theatre Company. [www.niclasolson.com](http://www.niclasolson.com)

## **Dylan Twiner (Production Manager/Sound Designer)**

Dylan is glad to be returning as a designer for TLT. He grew up listening to old timey radio plays and has loved collaborative story telling ever since. His previous TLT sound credits include *Laura*, *A Doll's House*, *Macbeth*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Dracula*, and *The Pillowman*. He has also been seen onstage in several productions in the area over the past decade, including with the improvised theatre group Muh Grog Zoo. Thank you for coming to see this show and supporting live theatre.

## **Michele Graves (Costume Designer)**

As Resident Costume Designer for Tacoma Little Theatre, Michele has the pleasure of designing for a variety of shows, be they musicals, comedies, dramas or tragedies. Each genre affords her the opportunity to work with talented cast members and production staff. This is Michele's ninth season with TLT as Resident Costume Designer. Along with designing costumes for the mainstage shows, Michele provides costumes for the youth education program. She also costumes productions at several area high schools and Rosebud Children's Theater Conservatory.

## **Jen York (Scenic Artist)**

Jen has been a part of the local theatre community for over 14 years, serving as director, scenic artist, actor, stage manager, prop master, and youth educator for many of the area's theatres. Her most recent directorial credits include: *Seussical*, *The Underpants*, and *A Christmas Story* at Tacoma Little Theatre and *Inspecting Carol*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, and *Narnia* at the Lakewood Playhouse. She would like to offer love and thanks to her family and friends for their unwavering support of all of her theatrical endeavors- both well planned and hare-brained. -xoxo



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This production of



is rated for all ages 12 and up

This show contains the following:

**SICKNESS AND LOSS OF A LOVED ONE**

**SOME STRONG LANGUAGE**

**GUNSHOT EFFECTS**

**EXCESSIVE HAIR PRODUCTS**

# *Cast of Characters*

*Truvy Jones*.....Janice Williams

*Annelle DuPuy-DeSoto* ..... Samantha Jane Lobberegt

*Clairee Belcher* .....Laurice Roberts

*Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie*..... Aliyah Shines

*M'Lynn Eatenton*.....Shelleigh-Mairi Ferguson

*Ouiser Boudreaux*..... Stephanie Leeper

## **SETTING**

Truvy's Beauty Salon  
Chinquapin Parish, Louisiana

## **TIME**

The late 1980's

## **ACT I (1:17)**

Scene 1: April

Scene 2: December

—15-minute intermission—

## **ACT II (1:07)**

Scene 1: June, 18 months later

Scene 2: November

# Cast Biographies



## **Shelleigh-Mairi Ferguson (M'Lynn Eatenton)**

Shelleigh is excited to perform in her first dramatic role. Shelleigh has previously been on the TLT stage as Millie in *Exit Laughing*, Cookie in *Rumors*, Gloria in *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, and Muriel in *Fox on the Fairway*. She has also performed at TMP as Grandma Addams in *The Addams Family*, Frau Blucher in *Young Frankenstein*, Widow Corney in *Oliver*, and as Mrs. Claus in *Elf*; and at Lakewood Playhouse as Dotty in *Noises Off*, The Woman in *Death of a Salesman*, Princess Puffer in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and Mrs. Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*. Most recently she was in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* at Centerstage. Shelleigh would like to dedicate her performance of M'Lynn to her late son, Keating Xander.



## **Stephanie Leeper (Ouiser Boudreaux)**

Stephanie is having fun portraying a sarcastic curmudgeon with a heart of gold! She was last seen at TLT as the iconic villain, The Wicked Witch of the West/Miss Gulch in *The Wizard of Oz*. She feels so blessed to be working with Deanna Martinez, a gifted director, a lovely cast, a talented crew, and is honored to share this story of friendship, love and resilience. You may have seen her as Aurora in *Terms of Endearment*, or in her favorite role to date, Mama Rose in *Gypsy*, both at TLT. She has a BFA in Musical Theatre and has been performing for over 30 years all over WA including the 5th Avenue Theatre, Village Theatre, Auburn Community Players, and Renton Civic. She is forever thankful for Ryan, her supportive husband and fabulous kids, Rachel and Jack.



## **Samantha Jane Lobberegt (Annelle DuPuy-DeSoto)**

Samantha is so honored to get to be a part of such a beautiful show. It isn't often she is a part of a straight play, and she is so thankful to be in a show with all these incredible women. Most recently you may have seen her as Cathy in *The Last Five Years* with New Muses. She was last seen at TLT in *Sensical* as Mayzie. The next production for Samantha will be at Auburn Community Players playing Lucy in *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*. She wants to thank all her amazing friends and her fiancé for always being so supportive! She hopes you feel all the emotions with this truly special show.



## **Laurice Roberts (Clairee Belcher)**

Laurice is thrilled to return to Tacoma Little Theatre's stage and honored to work with this cast. Previous shows include *The Luck of the Irish* (Lucy, Tacoma Little Theatre), *A Christmas Carol More or Less* (Sarah, Lakewood Playhouse), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom, Changing Scene Northwest; BroadwayWorld's Performer of the Decade 2010-2019), and *Macbeth* (Hecate, Tacoma Little Theatre). Laurice thanks her family, friends, and sweet Luna Bella.

# Cast Biographies



## Aliyah Shines (Shelby Eatenton-Lacherie)

Aliyah is super excited to be playing Shelby in this cast full of talented and loving people. This will be Aliyah's first TLT show. Aliyah was previously seen in *Cinderella* as Joy, the Evil Stepsister, *Disenchanted* as The Princess Who Kissed the Frog, and *Sensical* as The Sour Kangaroo, all at Tacoma Musical Playhouse. Aliyah is super excited to be in her first straight play. Aliyah wants to thank this amazing cast and her family for the never ending support.



## Janice Williams (Truvy Jones)

Janice is a fairly new addition to theatre in the South Sound. She thoroughly enjoyed entertaining you as Cook in *Clue*, stage crew in *The Wizard of Oz*, Hannah in *The Luck of the Irish*, and now Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*. It's a pleasure to be part of a diverse and innovative telling of such a classic and loved story. "Thank y'all for sharing this experience with me!"

# Sonnets for an Old Century by Jose Rivera

An OFF THE SHELF staged reading  
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022 at 7:30pm  
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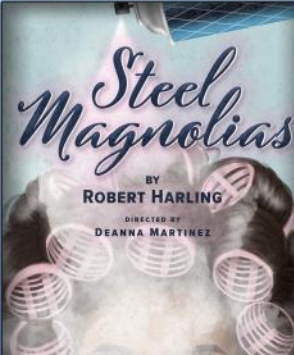


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SINCE 1918  
WASHINGTON'S CLDEST NATIONAL  
AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY THEATRE

104th  
SEASON

2022-2023

Order your season tickets today!



Steel  
Magnolias

BY  
**ROBERT HARLING**

DIRECTED BY  
**DEANNA MARTINEZ**

SEPT. 9  
THROUGH  
SEPT. 25  
2022

PERFORMANCE  
+ THEIR BIRTH IS +  
Fridays & Saturdays 1:30 pm  
Sundays 1:00 pm

ALL INTERMEDIATE PERFORMANCE SEPT. 30

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827 Adults | 828 Students/Season/Infantry | 829 Children 12 & under

**TACOMA Little THEATRE**

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

# MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

ADAPTED BY KEN LUDWIG  
DIRECTED BY MELANIE GLADSTONE



Oct. 21  
THROUGH  
Nov. 6  
2022

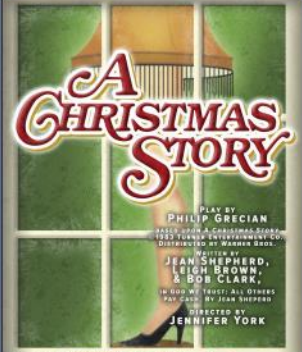
PERFORMANCE  
+ THEIR BIRTH IS +  
Fridays & Saturdays 1:30 pm  
Sundays 1:00 pm

ALL INTERMEDIATE PERFORMANCE NOV. 6

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# A CHRISTMAS STORY

PLAY BY  
**PHILIP GREGIAN**

BASED UPON A CHRISTMAS STORY  
TELEVISION ADAPTATION BY ROBERT S. COHEN  
DISTRIBUTION BY WARNER BROS.

PERFORMED BY  
**JEAN SHEPHERD,  
LEIGH BROWN,  
& BOB CLARK.**

IN GOD WE TRUST: ALL OTHERS  
PAY AS THEY FEEL

DIRECTED BY  
**JENNIFER YORK**

DEC. 2  
THROUGH  
DEC. 24  
2022

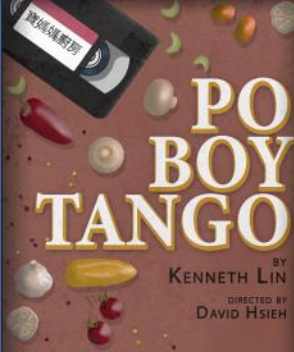
PERFORMANCE  
+ THEIR BIRTH IS +  
Wednesdays & Saturdays 7:30 pm  
Sundays 1:00 pm

ALL INTERMEDIATE PERFORMANCE DEC. 18

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# PO BOY TANGO

BY  
**KENNETH LIN**

DIRECTED BY  
**DAVID HSIEH**

JAN. 20  
THROUGH  
FEB. 5  
2023

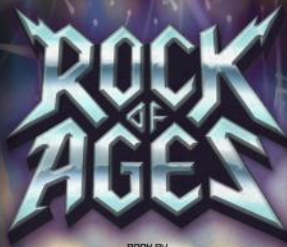
PERFORMANCE  
+ THEIR BIRTH IS +  
Fridays & Saturdays 1:30 pm  
Sundays 1:00 pm

ALL INTERMEDIATE PERFORMANCE FEB. 18

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# ROCK OF AGES

BOOK BY  
**CHRIS D'ARIZENZO**

ARRANGEMENTS AND ORCHESTRATIONS BY  
**ETHAN POPP**

DIRECTED BY  
**MARIA-TANIA BANDES B. WEINGARDEN**

MAR. 3  
THROUGH  
MAR. 26  
2023

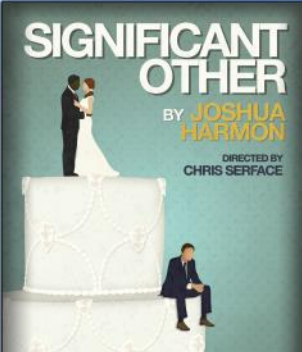
PERFORMANCE  
+ THEIR BIRTH IS +  
Fridays & Saturdays 1:30 pm  
Sundays 1:00 pm

ALL INTERMEDIATE PERFORMANCE MAR. 26

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# SIGNIFICANT OTHER

BY  
**JOSHUA  
HARMON**

DIRECTED BY  
**CHRIS SERFACE**

APR. 21  
THROUGH  
MAY. 7  
2023


PERFORMANCE  
+ THEIR BIRTH IS +  
Fridays & Saturdays 1:30 pm  
Sundays 1:00 pm

ALL INTERMEDIATE PERFORMANCE MAY 7

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# THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE  
BY OWEN O'NEILL & DAVE JOHNS

BASED ON THE NOVELLA BY STEPHEN KING AND THE SCREENPLAY BY STEPHEN KING

DIRECTED BY  
**BLAKE R. YORK**

June 2  
THROUGH  
June 18  
2023

PERFORMANCE  
+ THEIR BIRTH IS +  
Fridays & Saturdays 1:30 pm  
Sundays 1:00 pm

ALL INTERMEDIATE PERFORMANCE JUNE 18

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