



SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP INC

Presents

By arrangement with Dominic Drama

STEEL

Magnolias

Robert Harling

Director: Stephanie Ellis

Assistant Director: Anne-Marie Gray

25 February – 12 March 2005

Directors' Notes

As this is my third involvement in a production of *Steel Magnolias*, it is obvious I find it a wonderful piece of theatre based on the life of Robert Harling's beloved late sister Susan. The interest it generates was obvious from the number of talented auditionees we had and the enthusiastic cast we were able to select. There were also keen offers to crew the production making the season of hard work pleasant and rewarding for all. My sincere thanks to cast and crew.

Our appreciation is extended to our 'really truly' hairdressers for their input – Brendon of "Alley Hair Design" in Beaudesert (for salon furniture), and "Angela's Mobile Hair Design" (☎ 0422 455 380), for posters. A special thanks to Jason of "Detroit Hair" in Fortitude Valley for salon fittings which give an authentic atmosphere to our set. He has also given his time to help the cast with technique and 'tricks of the trade' resulting in greater confidence in our representation of a hairdressing salon as a workplace.

As always, our STG team has been keeping the theatre ticking over – the unseen workforce. Thank you all once again...

Stephanie and Anne-Marie

Stephanie Ellis...

During the many years of involvement in amateur theatre, Stephanie has been involved with several of the different aspects of stage productions. The current STG show of *Steel Magnolias* marks her third run with this wonderful play, once as Assistant Director and twice in the Director's chair. It being such a favourite with her, Stephanie hopes you, the audience, will enjoy it as much as she does.

Anne-Marie Gray

Anne-Marie has been seen on TV singing on "Bandstand" produced in Sydney. She has studied Drama at the *Ensemble* in Sydney and also at NIDA. For 6 years Anne-Marie has worked on the committee for STG and has covered most areas of stage work with STG as well. Having appeared in many musicals including *Oklahoma*, *South Pacific* and *West Side Story*, she is now having a first time experience as Assistant Director with the current production of *Steel Magnolias*.

Synopsis of Scenes

The action of the play takes place in *Truvy's Beauty Shop*
Chinquapin, Louisiana
Time - the Eighties

Act 1

Scene 1 April

Scene 2 December

I n t e r v a l (20 mins)

Act 2

Scene 1 June, eighteen months later

Scene 2 November

The Cast

In order of appearance

Mandy Robertson Truvy Jones

Jenni Merritt Annelle Dupuy-Desoto

Jeanette Campbell Clairee Belcher

Emma Walter.....Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie

Elizabeth Hood M'Lynn Eatenton

Gail Rant.....Ouiser Boudreaux

CAST

MANDY ROBERTSON - Truvy Jones

This is Mandy's third production with STG. She has played *Anne* in "*Tomb with a View*" and *Jo* in "*The Pajama Game*". Dancing since the age of six and appearing in many musicals with Burnie Musical Society (Tasmania), Mandy has gained stage experience performing in "*Showboat*", "*Chicago*", "*Jesus Christ Superstar*", "*Annie*", "*Alice in Wonderland*" and "*Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*". As *Truvy* she's shining.

JENNI MERRITT - Annelle Dupuy-Desoto

Starting off in a school production of the musical "*Sheerluck Holmes*", Jenni has always found acting of interest but until now hasn't stepped back onto the stage. The part of *Annelle* in "*Steel Magnolias*" is Jenni's first experience of working with a production company outside of school and she has found out what a wonderful and exciting place it is. We trust that Jenni will continue to work with STG productions.

JEANETTE CAMPBELL - Clairee Belcher

Jeanette gained a Performer's Associateship and Teacher's Licentiate in Speech & Drama from Trinity College London while training with Brisbane Repertory Workshop/Brisbane Arts Theatre in the 1960s. She's played roles such as *Rachel* in "*Inherit the Wind*", and *Emilie* in "*The Winter's Tale*". Happy in the audience for many years she's now back on the stage as *Clairee*, a mature woman with major life-style changes and new horizons.

EMMA WALTER - Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie

Just like Shelby, Emma loves pink. She started in theatre at STG in 1992 and didn't return until 2004 as *Brenda* in "*The Pajama Game*" and then young *Nancy* in "*When We Are Married*". Emma is now looking to extend her acting career into television having done movie extra work and some commercials. She finds working with different people and making new friends in the theatre a rewarding experience.

ELIZABETH HOOD - M'Lynn Eatenton

This is Elizabeth's third show at STG and is feeling enough at home to tackle her first dramatic role as M'Lynn. Starting at the age of 12 in her hometown of Gosford as *Amahl* in "*Amahl & The Night Visitors*", her love of G & S saw her in lead roles in Sydney and at the Sydney Opera House. She spent 20 years on the Sunshine Coast appearing in lead G & S roles & many others. She has appeared as a soloist with the Brisbane Sinfonia, the Tatty Tenors and enjoys singing for Senior Citizens and with the Bach Society.

GAIL RANT - Ouiser Boudreaux

A newcomer to STG, Gail has enjoyed theatre since her first role of *Astrid* in the Playhouse Theatre Restaurant's "*Dimboola*" in 1973. Since then her involvement with Savoyards Musical Comedy Society saw her as *Fruma Sarah* in "*Fiddler on the Roof*" and with Mercury Theatre as *Lucille* in "*The Cemetery Club*". Gail took a NIDA short course in Directing and directed for Savoyards. Now we see Gail as the curmudgeon *Ouiser Boudreaux*.

CAST



MANDY ROBERTSON



JENNI MERRITT



JEANETTE CAMPBELL



EMMA WALTER



ELIZABETH HOOD



GAIL RANT

Other Stuff

Some Southern recipes Clairee found on the internet – **I just got it!!**

Crawfish Etoufee

The word *Etoufee* (pronounced 'A-2-fay') simply means "smothered" so *Crawfish Etoufee* just means *Smothered Crawfish*. Different people smother their crawfish in different ways. What passes for *etoufee* at one house may not resemble what someone else calls *etoufee*. *C'est la vie*. That's just fine, because it's all good...

8lb crawfish (live)	1/2 tsp. tomato paste
1 c. cooking oil or 2 blocks of butter	1/2 tsp. cornstarch
6 onions, chopped fine	1/2 c. cold water
1/4 c. onion tops and parsley	Salt and red pepper to taste
1/2 c celery chopped	

Boil crawfish for about 5 minutes, peel into a large bowl, retaining as much fat as possible.

Add onions, celery and tomato paste to cooking oil. Cook over medium heat until onions are partially cooked. Add crawfish tails (with fat).

Dissolve cornstarch in cold water. Add to mixture, stirring constantly. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil in uncovered pot over medium heat and cook for 15 minutes.

Add green onions and parsley. Mix well. Serve over cooked rice.

Creole Gumbo

2 1/2 lb. chicken, cut up	1/2 cup minced celery
1/2 cup cooking oil	2 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 cup flour	1 pt. fresh oysters
1 onion, finely chopped	2 sprigs parsley, chopped
1/2 bell pepper, minced	4 green onion tops, chopped.

In a large pot, brown chicken. Cover with water and bring to boil. Simmer for 15 minutes. In a heavy skillet, make a roux with the flour and oil. Add the chopped onion to the roux and cook for 3 minutes. Stir roux gradually into chicken stock. Add bell pepper, celery and garlic; let simmer until chicken is tender. Add oysters, parsley, and green onions. Cook until oysters curl. Top with filé. Serve in bowls over cooked rice.

Gumbo Filé.

Gumbo is a very traditional dish. Here in South Louisiana, we have gumbo bowls (like a soup bowl-sized coffee mug, deep and with a handle) to ensure that the gumbo is served just right.

Real gumbo is served in a deep bowl over a small amount of rice, and topped with a light sprinkling of filé (pronounced *fee-lay*).

What is filé? To be precise, it is the finely-ground leaves of a sassafras tree, which have been gathered during the full moon in the month of August. Branches are hung to dry in the shade for two weeks, then exposed to bright sunshine for an hour or so before being ground in a mill. Stored in tightly sealed amber jars in a cool place, the filé is ever ready to complete that most Cajun of meals, gumbo.

Or, you can buy jars of the stuff where ever "Cajun" products are sold.

Behind the Scenes

Director -----Stephanie Ellis
Assistant Director-----Anne-Marie Gray
Stage Manager -----Coralie Peterson
Stage Crew-----Angie Tomlinson & Sue Willingham
Set Design and -----Stephanie Ellis, John Arbery and
Construction Anne-Marie Gray
Costumes -----Cast and Crew
Dresser -----Cheryl Allen
Lighting Design & Operation ---John Arbery
Lighting Assistant-----Brad Wyeth
Sound Operator -----Toby Dawson
Programme -----Sue Willingham
Publicity -----Robin Ross
Front of House -----Mary Hamilton, Jim Cliff, Robin Ross,
Bob Gow, Margaret Waller,
Stephanie Ellis, Fay Gallie,
Colin Robinson, Deirdre Robinson,
Cheryl Allen and Kenn Verrall

THANK YOU...

Jason of Detroit Hair
969 Ann Street, Fortitude Valley
Telephone: 3252 8742

(Psst - Don't be afraid, Truvy says it's okay to go see Jason if you can't get an appointment time to see her – she was at beauty school with him!! Taught him everything she knows but he does have some extra pretty special secrets of his own.)

Almost forgot Clairee's favourite.....

The *Cuppa-cuppa Cake* ... Cup of flour, cup of sugar, cup of fruit cocktail with the juice. Mix it up and bake at 350F 'til gold and bubbly. Serve with ice-cream to cut the sweetness. Yummie!!!!!!

SUNNYBANK THEATRE GROUP INC

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Annie Get Your Gun

A Musical by Irving Berlin

Director: Anne Ross

Musical Director: June Gemmell

Choreographer: Eileen Morgan

13 May - 28 May 2005

Witness for the Prosecution

Agatha Christie

Director: Pam Murdoch

29 July - 13 August 2005

Play On!

Rick Abbot

Director: John Arbery

16 September – 1 October 2005

The Philadelphia Story

Philip Barry

Director: Susan Willingham

18 November – 3 December 2005

Refreshments

Before the show commences & during interval our fully licensed bar offers a range of alcoholic beverages and soft drinks as well as tea and coffee.

The bar will remain open after the show for you to enjoy a drink with cast and crew