

# APOLLOBILL



BY ROBERT HARLING

May 22, 23, 29 & 30, 2026 - 8:00pm

May 24 & 31, 2026 - 2:30pm

C O N C O R D   T H E A T R I C A L S

# Director's Note

Heart, soul, and lots of pink! That is what you are in store for at today's performance of Steel Magnolias. It has been such a pleasure to bring this beloved story to the Apollo Civic Theatre stage this spring. I have been joined by such a wonderful group of women who have embraced the storytelling, compassion, and drive that embody all of these iconic characters, in their own unique ways. The talent you see on this stage is matched with the heart all of these actors bring and is something you're going to want to witness over and over again!

It is my hope that you leave today's performance with a piece of love shared before you on the stage. Whether it's Truvy's love for pampering her clients, Shelby's love for pink, or M'Lynn's love for her daughter. Each of the women of Steel Magnolias face a battle or triumph of their own, but with the love and support of the ones around them, they are able to conquer some of life's hardest feats. These are some strong women, and they are stronger together. Thank you for joining us today in Chinquapin and we hope to see you again soon!

*Madison*



## **Magnolias. Madison Mitchell (Director)**

is so thrilled to be back at the Apollo directing during the main stage season. It has been such a joy to work with these women and bring Steel Magnolias to Martinsburg.

Madison is the Youth Summer Theatre Workshop Director for the Apollo and current Theatre Teacher at Martinsburg High School.

When she's not at the theatre, Madison is usually spending time with her husband and cats reading and crafting. Thank you to everyone at the Apollo and this community for supporting theatre and performance. We hope you enjoy the show!

# APOLLOBILL

**Apollo Civic Theatre Presents**

# *Steel* **MAGNOLIAS**

**BY ROBERT HARLING**

C O N C O R D T H E A T R I C A L S

STEEL MAGNOLIAS is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service imprint. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com)).

Originally produced by the W.P.A. Theatre, New York City, 1987.

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THE VIDEOTAPING OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS  
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The Apollo Civic Theatre is a non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation, partially funded by the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows, and are always appreciated.

Please silence all electrical devices.

***Done with your playbill?***

Please leave it at the concession stand  
for reuse or recycling. Thank you!

# Production Team

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Director.....                         | Madison Mitchell |
| Stage Manager.....                    | Kay Ramis        |
| Technical Director .....              | Nathan Shockey   |
| Scenic Design and Master Builder..... | Nathan Shockey   |
| Sound.....                            | Scott Johnson    |
| Lighting Design.....                  | Nathan Shockey   |
| Technical Assistance.....             | Brian Dugan      |
| Costume Designer .....                | Kelli Cooper     |
| Light Board Operator.....             | Carey Frye       |

# Special Thanks

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# MEET THE CAST



**Kathleen Cunningham (Clairee)** is thrilled to be making her return to the stage as Clairee in *Steel Magnolias* at the Apollo—her first performance since high school and the fulfillment of a long-held bucket list dream. By day, she has dedicated the past 19 years to working with Berkeley County Schools and over 15 years with The Boys and Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle, where she has found deep purpose and connection in her work.

The experience working on this production has been both exciting and a little daunting, and it would not have been possible without the unwavering support of her family & friends, whom she thanks for always encouraging even her “craziest” ideas. She is especially grateful to her four boys—Noa, Eli, Max, and Zac—who have taught her what true bravery looks like. Their constant belief in her has inspired her to believe in herself and take this leap.

She would like to extend her sincere thanks to director Madison Mitchell for the opportunity to bring Clairee to life, and to the incredible women of the cast, and all those involved in this production, for making this journey so meaningful. This has truly been an unforgettable experience, and she is honored to share the stage with such incredible humans.



**Rivers Jenkins (Shelby)** is happy to return to the stage with a role as special as “Shelby.” Rivers currently resides in Martinsburg and grew up in many youth shows at the Apollo. Rivers is currently the reigning Miss Eastern Panhandle, and will compete for the title of Miss WV in June! Rivers would like to thank her parents, her friends and the cast for always supporting her and continuing to encourage her to reach for the stars! She is excited for you to see the show and hopes it leaves you feeling tickled PINK!



**Rhonda Markland (M'Lynn)** is excited to return to this stage after making her Apollo Civic Theatre debut last October as Claire in *Rumors*. M'Lynn has been a dream role since Rhonda began her community theatre journey 15 years ago. She sends heartfelt thanks to Madison, Kay, Emmie, Christina, Kathleen, Rivers, and Kimberly for making living out this particular dream an amazing experience both on and off the stage. May you, the audience, be touched by this beautiful story of women supporting women through the joys and sorrows of life. Enjoy the show!



**Emmie McDonald (Truvy)** is thrilled to be making her first theatrical debut in this production! Stepping into the fabulous shoes of Truvy has been a dream come true. A proud 1996 graduate of Musselman High School, Emmie has dedicated her career to the Berkeley County community. By day, she pours her heart into sparking curiosity in her 6th-grade science classroom—a passion that earned her the honor of 2025–2026 Berkeley County Teacher of the Year. Offstage, her real-life supporting cast includes her wonderful husband, Justin, her daughter, Ryley, and her mother, Sue, who are the true anchors of her life. She owes a massive debt of gratitude to Danielle, Nikie, and Bobbie, the three dear friends who gave her the loving push she needed to finally audition. Grab a seat, get comfortable, and get ready to “increase your face value” with a lot of smiles, big hair and even bigger hearts at the beauty shop!

# MEET THE CAST



**Kimberly Nelson (Ousier)** Kimberly Nelson's stage has been the classroom since 2001 where her comedy improv skills have come in handy from time to time. Kimberly lives and works in downtown Martinsburg and has attended many events at the Apollo over the years, but this will be her first time on our stage.



**Christina Paulson (Annelle)** is delighted to make her theater debut in *Steel Magnolias*. After recently moving to the area, she's excited to put down roots and dive into the local arts community. This production has been a joyful opportunity to laugh, learn, and grow alongside such a wonderful cast, and to experience the magic of storytelling in a whole new way. Christina is incredibly grateful for the love and encouragement surrounding her, and sends a heartfelt thank you to her family and friends—especially to her husband, Ben, whose gentle nudge to audition made this adventure possible.

## **Robert Harling**

Born in Dothan, Alabama, Robert Harling lived in several Southern towns before his family settled in Natchitoches, Louisiana when he was twelve. Upon his graduation from Northwestern University of Louisiana and Tulane Law School, rather than take the bar exam, he opted to become an actor in New York. After years of productive work as an actor in voice-overs and commercials, Harling was inspired to write the highly acclaimed stage play, *Steel Magnolias* which was based on events from his family life. To this day, *Steel Magnolias* continues to thrive in theatrical productions in over 20 languages throughout the world.

Immediately bridging a career from stage to screen, Harling adapted his original play into the popular film of the same title which starred Sally Field, Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Olympia Dukakis, Dolly Parton and Daryl Hannah. The personal nature of *Steel Magnolias* was further enhanced when the film makers decided to shoot the movie entirely on location in Natchitoches, where the events on which the story was based took place. Over the years, Harling has become a much sought after screenwriter: other credits include *Soapdish*, with Kevin Kline and Robert Downey, Jr.; the highly successful *First Wives Club* for Paramount Pictures starring Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn and Diane Keaton; and *Laws of Attraction* with Pierce Brosnan and Julianne Moore.

Harling made his directorial debut with *The Evening Star* for Paramount, a sequel to *Terms of Endearment*, which he also wrote for the screen based on Larry McMurtry's novel. The stellar cast was headed by Shirley MacLaine and Jack Nicholson.

Currently, Harling is actively involved in creating new live stage projects, including writing the book for a stage musical version of *Soapdish*, and he is writing a play set in his Louisiana home called *The Strangers Room*.

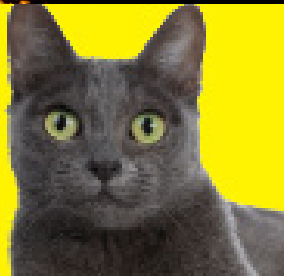


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