The Bank Theatre Proudly Presents

Steel Magnolias

by Robert Harling, Directed by Renata Solski

Audition Package | The Bank Theatre | 10 Erie St. S., Leamington

Welcome, and thank you for your interest in *Steel Magnolias*! This beloved play is filled with laughter, friendship, love, and heartfelt moments. We're looking for performers who can bring these wonderful, real-life characters to the stage with warmth, humour, and honesty.

Roles Available for Audition:

- **Annelle Dupuy-Desoto**
- **Shelby Eatonton-Latcherie**
- **M'Lynn Eatenton**

Precast Roles

- **Clairee Belcher:** Laurie Niefer
- **Ouiser Boudreau:** Cindy Lee Kok
- **Truvy Jones:** Cindy Pastorius

Audition & Production Schedule

Auditions

- Thursday, November 12, 2026, | 7:00–8:30 PM
- Sunday, November 15, 2026, | 1:00–2:30 PM

Please prepare **two contrasting monologues**, one from Option 1 and one from Option 2 below.

Rehearsals

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning January 5, 2027, | 7:00–9:00 PM
- Saturdays | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Performances

- Evening: April 2, 3, 9 and 10 | 7:30 PM
- Matinees: April 4 and 11 | 2:00 PM

Preparing for Your Audition

A little preparation goes a long way! Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- **Get to know the play.** Explore the script and provided monologues to discover its blend of humour, heart, and emotion.
- **Keep it real.** As playwright Robert Harling reminds us, these women are witty, intelligent, and real—not caricatures. Let their personalities shine through naturally.
- **Keep your options open.** Unless you indicate otherwise, you may be considered for any age-appropriate role.
- **Choose two contrasting monologues.** Select one Option 1 and one Option 2. They can be from different characters.
- **Memorization is optional.** Feel free to use your script if it helps you feel more confident.
- **Try a Southern accent.** We'll be using a General Southern accent for the production. Focus on a natural sound, clear storytelling, and genuine connection rather than perfection.

Why a Southern Accent?

The warmth and musicality of a General Southern accent help bring the play's humour and emotional moments to life. Robert Harling drew inspiration from the women he knew, and their speech patterns are part of what makes the dialogue so memorable.

Most importantly, have fun, take chances, and let us see your interpretation of these wonderful characters. We look forward to meeting you at auditions!

Character Breakdown

Character	Age	Description
Truvy Jones (Cindy Pastorius)	40s	The warm, capable owner of Chinquapin Parish's beauty shop. Truvy loves her work and her clients; she is a hopeful romantic and an enthusiastic gossip, but never cruel.

Character	Age	Description
Annelle Dupuy-Desoto	20s	Truvy's new beauty shop assistant. Annelle is sweet, shy, private, and creative, with a gentle nature and a sincere desire to find her place.
Clairee Belcher (Laurie Niefer)	60s	The stylish, recently widowed wife of the former mayor. Clairee is a gracious grande dame with a quick wit, a sharp tongue, and a delightfully self-deprecating sense of humour.
Shelby Eatonton-Latcherie	20s	The much-admired young woman at the heart of the community. Shelby is spirited, determined, and unafraid to speak her mind, especially with her protective mother. She lives with serious diabetes but refuses to let it define her.
M'Lynn Eatenton	50s	Shelby's loving mother and a respected career woman. M'Lynn is intelligent, articulate, and deeply kind; her devotion to her daughter often appears as worry and protectiveness.
Ouiser Boudreau (Cindy Lee Kok)	60s	A wealthy, strong-willed curmudgeon with a wonderfully sharp tongue. Ouiser's prickly manner and acerbic humour conceal a loyal, generous, and deeply caring heart.

Monologue Options:

Annelle Dupuy-Desoto

Option 1 ***(Upon being questioned by the ladies about her current circumstances)***

I'm not sure if I'm married or not … He's gone! Everything is horrible. Bunkie--that's my husband—he left. We only moved here a month ago. He just vanished last week. Nobody knows where he went. He took all my money, my jewelry, the car. Most of my clothes were in the trunk … The police have been to see me. He's in big trouble with the law. Drugs or something. He never paid the rent, so I got thrown out of our house and had to move in at crazy old Mrs. Robeline's. The police keep questioning me. But I don't know anything. They say my marriage may not be legal … I should've said something, but I was scared to. I need a job in the worst way, and I didn't know if you'd hire

someone who may or may not be married to someone that might be a dangerous criminal. But I swear to you that my personal tragedy will not interfere with my ability to do good hair.

Option 2 ***(Regarding Shelby's recent death)***

In a way Shelby was right. Maybe she knew she was going to be with her king. We should be rejoicing … Miss M'Lynn, I don't mean to upset you by saying that. You see, when something like this happens, I pray very hard to make heads or tails of it. I think in Shelby's case, she wanted to take care of that baby, of you, of everybody she knew … and her poor body was just worn out. It wouldn't let her do everything she wanted to do. So, she went on to a place where she could be a guardian angel. She will always be young. She will always be beautiful. And I personally feel much safer knowing she's up there on my side. I know some people might think that sounds real simple and stupid …and maybe I am. But that's how I get through things like this.

Shelby Eatonton-Latcherie

Option 1

Jackson's pretty swell. I thought he was a pest at first, but then he kind of grew on me. And now I love him. We met at a party at the Petroleum Club in Shreveport. I had no idea who he was, but I was getting a big kick out of watching him on the dance floor. It was painfully obvious he had never taken the time to dance in front of a mirror. There was something so attractive about how stupid he looked …He's not really romantic. But he does give me flowers. And little presents if I bug him enough. He has promised to give me a red rose on every anniversary corresponding to the number of that anniversary. I think that's so sweet…

Option 2

Mama, I want a child ... It didn't take us long to see the handwriting on the wall. No judge is going to give a baby to someone with my medical track record. Jackson even put some feelers out about buying one …I think a child of my own would help things a lot…Mama, I know…don't think I haven't thought this through. You can't live a life if all you do is worry. And you worry too much. In some ways it's a comfort to me. I never worry because I know you're worrying enough for the both of us. Jackson and I have given this a lot of thought … Diabetics have healthy babies all the time. I have it all planned. I'm going to be very careful. And this time next year, I'm going to be bringing your big healthy grandbaby to the Christmas festival. No one is going to be hurt or disappointed, or even inconvenienced.

M'Lynn Eatonton

Option 1

Last week was our 30th anniversary. We've never considered it a major occasion before … Drum prides himself on never having any tension. Which is amazing considering the amount he has created over the years … Hmm. Listen to me. I've got to stop taking pot shots at Drum all the time. He's a good man. He's crazy, but he's a good man …The most bizarre thing has happened. Drum and I seem to be rediscovering those things that brought us together in the first place. I don't know if we buried them or became blind to them …Every now and then Drum and I seem to find these moments of magic. I don't know. I don't know if I'm lucky to have what I have– or lucky to know what I have.

Option 2 ***(Regarding Shelby's recent death)***

…I couldn't leave my Shelby. It's interesting. Both the boys were very difficult births. I almost died when Jonathan was born. Very difficult births. Shelby was a breeze. I could've gone home that afternoon I had her. I was thinking about that as I sat next to Shelby while she was in a coma. I would work her legs and arms to keep the circulation going. I told the ICU nurse we were doing our Jane Fonda. I stayed there. I kept on pushing– just like I always have where Shelby was concerned hoping she'd sit up and argue with me. But finally, we all realized there was no hope. At that point I panicked. I was very afraid that I would not survive the next few minutes while they turned off the machines. Drum couldn't take it. He left. Jackson couldn't take it. He left. It struck me as amusing. Men are supposed to be made of steel or something. But I could not leave. I just sat there … holding Shelby's hand while the sounds got softer and the beeps got further apart until all was quiet. There was no noise, no tremble …just peace. I realized as a woman how lucky I was. I was there when this wonderful person drifted into my world and I was there when she drifted out. It was the most precious moment of my life thus far.

Questions? Please feel free to email the Director Renata Solski at sabbiamaresole@gmail.com

Again, thank you for your interest in being a part of this wonderful play and we look forward to seeing you at the auditions!