

THE PROGRAM

The Cast

Truvy Jones..... Julie Latimer-Spears
Anelle Dupuy-Desoto..... Elspeth Silva
Clairee Belcher..... Arleigh DeLeon
Shelby Eatenton-Lacherie..... Ann Pittman
M'Lynn Eatenton..... Mary Jane Smith
Ouiser Boudreaux..... Linda Miller Raff

Crew

Director.....Cathy Jones
Assistant Director.....David McCullars
Lighting Designer.....Jordan Dollar
Set Designer.....David McCullars
Properties Manager.....Lisa Dollar
Costume Designer.....Deb Keenan
Hair DesignerJessica Hernandez

PLACE: Chinquapin, Louisiana

TIME: The mid 1980s.

All scenes take place on Saturday mornings in Truvy's Beauty Shop

ACT ONE

Scene One

A June day, the Day of Shelby's wedding

Scene Two

Same year, the Saturday before Christmas

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Scene OneJune

June, 18 months later

Scene Two

November, 5 months later

Steel Magnolias was written by Robert Harling and premiered at the WPA Theater in New York City in 1987. Although the play eventually made it to Broadway, it was later memorialized in the movie, *Steel Magnolias* starring Julia Roberts and Sally Field. The play was written in memory of Susan Harling Robinson, the real Shelby Eatenton Lacherie and the playwright's younger sister, and is dedicated to her son Robert. While it is set in a fictional Louisiana town, the characters are based off of real people from the town of Natchitoches although the playwright refuses to tell who is who!

THE CAST



Arleigh DeLeon acted 50 years ago in the one-act play *Antic Spring* by Robert Nail, while a student at University Junior High School here in Austin. Later that summer she and a fellow student, Hector, reprised the play for the Austin Parks and Recreation Department's Summer One-Act Play Program. She liked the experience so much that she decided she would act once every 50 years! Arleigh is now married to Hector (not a Louisiana lawyer but a Texas lawyer); they have 3 sons, each of whom have a wonderful woman to share his life, and 3 grander-than-grandchildren. Arleigh sincerely hopes she is not kicked off the Deacon Board of First Baptist Church for the irreverent things her character, Clairee, says in *Steel Magnolias*.



Julie Latimer-Spears makes her profession giving advice to people as a counselor, so she is excited to play Truvy in her first stage performance ever! Being from South Louisiana, she feels she was raised by these characters and her performance was inspired by her own sassy mother. Julie and husband Lance have been married for 5 years and are raising tiny magnolia, Arden. She also has two step-children, Zeke and Chloe, and is enjoying watching Chloe blossom into a beautiful magnolia herself. Julie thanks Lance for his support during rehearsals these past few months. She dedicates this performance in memory of two magnolias she lost recently: grandmother Marie O'Neal Rushing and friend Erin Krielow Lahr.



Ann Pittman Ann Pittman is thrilled to be back on stage after assistant directing *Inherit the Wind* earlier this year and directing *Aria Da Capo* last year. At FBC she played Eve in *The Diaries of Adam and Eve*, Sarah (Job's Wife) in *J.B.* and was one of the narrators in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Additionally, in Texas and Missouri regional theaters she's played Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, Nelly Forbush in *South Pacific*, and Anna in *The King and I*. She is a minister here at FBC and lives in east Austin with her two cats, Zorba and Potter and her dog, Janie.



Linda Miller Raff has been a member of FBC since 1973 and has been involved in every theatrical production here since 1990. She first trod the boards in *7th grace* and has been theatrical ever since. Linda currently serves as a deacon and is a member of Symposium Sunday School. She is also active in the music ministry as a member of the Sanctuary Choir, Handbell Choir, and Cantamos. When not attending rehearsals or parking garage meetings, Linda and her husband John Raff (mostly) enjoy playing a round or two of golf. Linda and John are parents to Adrienne Pardue and Jessica Hernandez, both of whom grew up at FBC. They are also grandparents to the world's cutest baby, Lukas Gabriel Hernandez.



Elsbeth Silva Elspeth Silva made her theatrical debut in high school as Louisa in *The Sound of Music*. Eight years later, she is happy to have returned to the stage. Elspeth is originally from Waco but has made Austin her home for the past three years. Elspeth is a social worker. She is a member of the Adult Education Committee. Elspeth and husband Michael Silva are newlyweds and are active members of the Awakenings class, where they first met.



Mary Jane Smith makes her second appearance since 1987, the first being Mrs. Brady in FBC's *Inherit the Wind* earlier this year. As a quadruple honor bar Thespian at Gonzales High School, she played Abigail in the *The Crucible* and Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*. In addition she played Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!*, Jerry in *Plan On!*, and Eliza in *My Fair Lady*. Mary Jane attends Symposium Sunday School and volunteers at Mobile Loaves & Fishes when she isn't traveling as Market Development Manager for CASIO AMERICA, INC. She is married to Marshall, FBC's Business Administrator and is mother to Steve, North Texas student and hopeful young musician.

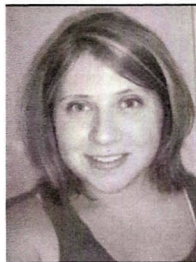
THE



Jordan Dollar Jordan first got involved in the theater as an actor and sound technician. In college he devoted himself to technical theater and began working with lighting. Since then he has served as a lighting designer, manager, and tech numerous times. Over the past 12 years, he has been involved with over 20 separate productions. Jordan formerly served as a pastoral resident at First Baptist, is married to properties manager Lisa Dollar, lives in Round Rock, and is very happy to get to play with FBC's new lighting system.



Lisa Dollar has always loved being involved in theater, whether on stage or behind the scenes. Most recently you may have seen her in *Inherit the Wind* at FBC, where she played Rachel. She also directs plays at Redeemer Middle School, where she teaches math and science. Lisa is married to Jordan Dollar and has a cat named Snickers.



Jessica Raff Hernandez grew up at First Baptist Church. After graduating from Bowie High School, she attended Baldwin Beauty School. She is now a licensed stylist and has been the official "hair consultant" for Steel Magnolias. Jessica is married to Travis County Corrections Officer Gabe and is the mom to 14-month old Lukas.

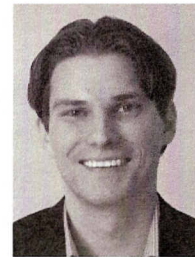


Cathy Jones has a long history of loving live drama. At FBC she has directed *Incident at Vichy*, *Angels Over Austin*, *J.B.*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Inherit the Wind*. Cathy is grateful to her talented and hard-working cast and crew; her patient and loving husband, children, and grandchildren; First Baptist Church for its enlightened support of theater ministry;

CREW



Deb Keenan teaches music at Baranoff Elementary School. In her younger years Deb was an aspiring musical theatre star appearing in numerous productions in high school and college. She toured professionally with Covenant Players, a Christian repertoire theatre company out of California, where she met her future spouse. Being married to the Reverend Doctor Doug, Deb devotes much of her life to FBC working with children and youth, volunteering in choirs. She also plays full-time a forever mom to Roxie and Charles.



David McCullars After 15 years of acting, David McCullars is excited to be on the other side of the lights for a change as AD and set designer. He has previously been seen on the Trinity Street Playhouse stage as Adam in *Adam & Eve*, Pierrot in *Aria da Capo*, Ben/Butler in *Joseph*, and Soldier/Messenger in *J.B.* Other recent gigs include Wimberley Players' productions of *Leading Ladies* and *Man of La Mancha* as well as Austin independent feature film *Waiting Rooms*. By day, David is a director of software development and he is able to work from home -- where life is always an adventure with energetic four-year-old twins Eyan and Chloe. Love and thanks to wife Cinda for putting up with me!

Thank You to Brit Barr, Robert Strickland, John Raff, Josh Houston, Lance Spears, Chloe Spears, Zeke Spears, Marshall Smith, Carter Davis, Ken Jones, Hector DeLeon and Brad Young for their help constructing the set and cleaning the Black Box.

Thanks to Danielle Medeiros for all publicity work. Thanks to Rod Machen and Brad Young for their musical genius and to Dan Hemingson for his work on sound. Thanks to Kaitlyn Kennedy for assisting in Props.

Director's Notes

It is commonly said that art imitates life. This is not surprising since it is created by living persons. Ever since the ancient Greeks invented drama, it has been used to help humankind look at their lives, problems, and ideas through a creative lens. Sometimes that lens allows us have new insights about life. The events in tonight's play are not necessarily unique, nor are the characters, but they may show us a little about how to love one another. The better we are at that, the more we can enjoy this one life we have to live. So laugh, cry, and go hug your mother, daughter, and girlfriends...if you're lucky enough to have them.

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