

## 1980s small-town Louisiana brought to life in Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias*

"...this is a show that everyone should see...[it] takes a viewer inside a place where women are themselves, empowered, witty and free."  
*Star Tribune*

"I would rather have thirty minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special."  
Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*

**OPENING JANUARY 24, 2020 8:00PM** – Run Dates January 22 – February 29, 2020 •  
Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

**SEATTLE, WA** – December 4, 2019 – BOOM! Drum fires another shot into the magnolia trees giving Ouiser's dog a nervous breakdown. Truvy's salon is buzzing as gossip and zingers fly between baby's breath and bouffants. Annelle is new and nervous which means things are getting a little poofy. Welcome to Chinquapin, Louisiana. Hold onto your rollers and grab your tissues for this hilariously heartwarming American classic.

"Harling has given his women sharp, funny dialogue... The play builds to a conclusion that is deeply moving." (NY Daily News). Perhaps best known for its film adaptations starring many Hollywood favorites, playwright Richard Harling wrote it to come to terms with his sister's death. Moving between laughs and tears with the ease of a hair flip, his remembrance has touched audiences for decades.

Tickets are available online at [taproottheatre.org](http://taproottheatre.org), by phone 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St. Ticket prices range from \$25-52 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix. Discounts are also available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting [taproottheatre.org/group-sales](http://taproottheatre.org/group-sales).

Directed by **Marianne Savell** whose previous Taproot directing credits include *Arsenic and Old Lace* as well as several Taproot Theatre Company touring Christmas shows.

The cast includes **Casi Pruitt** (Tacoma Arts Live Regional Theatre's *Sonya and Vanya and Masha and Spike*) as Truvy Jones, **Arika Matoba** (ACT Theatre's *Urinetown*) as Annelle Dupuy-Desoto, **Marlette Buchanan** (Seattle Opera's *Porgy and Bess*) as Clairee Belcher, **Melanie Hampton** (Taproot Theatre's *Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberley*) as Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie, **April Poland** (Taproot Theatre Company's *Sweet Land: The Musical*) as M'Lynn Eatenton, and **Kim Morris** (Taproot Theatre Company's *Arsenic and Old Lace*) as Ouiser Boudreaux.

The production team includes **Jocelyne Fowler**, costume design; **Amanda Sweger**, lighting design; **Mark Lund**, scenic and sound design; **Katt Greaser**, stage manager; **Emily Brown**, dramaturg; and **Marianna de Fazio**, dialect coach.

## **SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE**

**Post-Play Discussions:** TTC staff and cast members will join the audience to discuss the play and its production process. Post-play discussions are held after every Wednesday performance (excluding Preview) and after the Midweek Matinees.

**Pay What You Can (PWYC):** January 29 at 7:30 PM; a limited number of \$10 tickets are available at noon, tickets may be purchased in person or by phone (card fees may apply). Beginning at 5:00 PM, tickets are name-your-own-price; these tickets may be purchased in person only. Limit 4 tickets per person. Seating for PWYC performances is General Admission, there is no reserved seating. If you have accessible seating needs please call the Box Office directly.

**Senior Matinees:** January 28 (*post-play discussion*) and February 12 (*post-play discussion*) at 2:00 PM; Our Senior Matinee program provides anyone aged 62 and older with an affordable way to participate in live theatre in convenient daytime performance.

**Intergenerational Matinee:** February 26 (limited availability, *post-play discussion*) at 10:30 AM; With \$10 student/chaperone tickets, play guides and a guided *post-play discussion*, our Intergenerational Matinee enhances student education, providing theatre as a tool and springboard for learning, growth and communication. Senior ticket price: \$20.

## **STEEL MAGNOLIAS FACT SHEET**

**WHAT:** Taproot Theatre Company presents *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling. *BOOM! Drum fires another shot into the magnolia trees giving Ouiser's dog a nervous breakdown. Truvy's salon is buzzing as gossip and zingers fly between baby's breath and bouffants. Anelle is new and nervous which means things are getting a little poofy. Welcome to Chinquapin, Louisiana. Hold onto your rollers and grab your tissues for this hilariously heartwarming American classic.*

**WHEN:** January 22 – February 29, 2020 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

*Dates to note:*

Previews: January 22-23, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: January 24, 8:00 PM

Pay What You Can: January 29, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinees: January 28 at 2:00 PM (*limited availability, post-play discussion*), February 12 at 2:00 PM (*post-play discussion*) and February 26 at 10:30 AM (*limited availability, post-play discussion*)

Post-Play Discussions: Wednesday nights (excluding Preview) following performances and after the Midweek Matinees.

**WHERE:** Taproot Theatre Company's Jewell Mainstage Theatre, 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St, Seattle, WA 98103

**TICKETS:** Tickets are available online at [taproottheatre.org](http://taproottheatre.org), by phone 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St. Ticket prices range from \$25-52 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix. Discounts are also available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting [taproottheatre.org/group-sales](http://taproottheatre.org/group-sales).

**AGE RECOMMENDATION:** 14+

**CAST** (*in order of appearance*)

Casi Pruitt	<i>Truvy Jones</i>
Arika Matoba	<i>Annelle Dupuy-Desoto</i>
Marlette Buchanan*	<i>Clairee Belcher</i>
Melanie Hampton	<i>Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie</i>
April Poland*	<i>M'Lynn Eatenton</i>
Kim Morris	<i>Ouiser Boudreaux</i>

**PRODUCTION**

Marianne Savell	<i>Director</i>
Jocelyne Fowler	<i>Costume Design</i>
Amanda Sweger	<i>Lighting Design</i>
Mark Lund	<i>Scenic &amp; Sound Design</i>
Katt Greaser	<i>Stage Manager</i>
Emily Brown	<i>Dramaturg</i>
Marianna de Fazio	<i>Dialect Coach</i>

*\*Member of Actor's Equity Association.*

*\*\*Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.*

**PHOTOS:** Press photos are available online at <http://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/> > Jewell Mainstage Theatre > Steel Magnolias. (*This link is not to be published.*)

**PR:** Jacob Viramontes, Communications Manager, 206, 529.3666, [jacobv@taproottheatre.org](mailto:jacobv@taproottheatre.org)

Support for Taproot Theatre Company's 2020 Jewell Mainstage Season is generously provided by 4Culture, ArtsFund, the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and Verity Credit Union.

*Steel Magnolias* is also sponsored in part by Polyclinic Sleep Medicine.

**Taproot Theatre Company** is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a multi-faceted production program. Founded in 1976, Taproot Theatre serves the Pacific Northwest with Jewell Mainstage Productions, Isaac Studio Theatre Productions, Touring Productions and the Acting Studio. Taproot Theatre Company creates theatre experiences to brighten the spirit, engage the mind and deepen the understanding of the world around us while inspiring imagination, conversation and hope. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS) and Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Association (PNA).

Scott Nolte, Producing Artistic Director | Karen Lund, Associate Artistic Director  
204 N 85<sup>th</sup> St | Seattle, WA 98103  
206.781.9705 | [taproottheatre.org](http://taproottheatre.org)