

The CALLBOARD

August 2008

www.TLTinfo.org

Editor: Connie Clark

Steel Magnolias Opens TLT's 60th Season!

On March 28, 1987 a new play by Robert Harling opened at the WPA theatre off-off-Broadway in New York. By June 19th it had moved to the famed Lucille Lortel Theatre off-Broadway, and *Steel Magnolias* was a solid hit with the critics!

Set in a small-town beauty shop in Chinquapin, Louisiana and beginning on the wedding day of one of its favorite patrons, **Shelby**, a young and pretty diabetic, *Magnolias* lets us meet six witty, intelligent woman who share their lives, their laughter, their cares and sorrows with each other and with us, the audience.



*Director Frances McCain (front row center) and the ladies of Chinquapin (clockwise from lower left):
Susie Kocher (M'Lynn), Cathy Millwood (Ouiser),
Sam Lovelace (Truvy), Shawna Reid (Annelle),
Mimi Alexander (Clairee), and Shelby (Jade Burdette).*

There's **Truvy**, the owner of the beauty shop, and **Annelle**, her assistant, who transforms from a shy anxious newcomer in town to a partying woman and then a religious fundamentalist. There's **Clairee**, widow of the former mayor and a grande dame in town, and **Ouiser**, the wealthy curmudgeon who is acerbic but loveable. And there's **M'Lynn**, Shelby's mother, a socially prominent career woman.

Playwright Harling has fashioned a play bringing to life women who meet regularly to chat and gossip about men, marriage, and the latest hairstyles. Together, they form a sense of community that is both warmly good-natured and delightfully real.

Harling based *Steel Magnolias* on the actual relationship between his mother and his late sister. According to Harling, an actor-turned-playwright, the play took only ten days to write, and was not so much "written" as "remembered."

By 1989 *Steel Magnolias* opened at the Lyric Theatre in London, and at the end of that same year the Academy Award winning film version opened — with a screenplay Harling adapted from his play to add many characters who are just spoken of in the stage version but never appear.

TLT staged *Steel Magnolias* back in December 1991 with Ed Glenn and Jane Flynn as directors and Frances McCain as Truvy. Now in 2008, Frances is directing this play that means so much to her, and there is a new cast to inhabit the Tryon Little Theater's version of Chinquapin, Louisiana.

The curtain goes up Thursday, September 25 for four performances — Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday the 28th at 3 p.m. *The Fine Arts Center box office opens September 11*, to be open Mon-Fri 10-2, and Saturday 10-1: 859-8322, ext. 214. Tickets for adults are \$15 for plays and \$20 for musicals. Tickets for students age 18 and under are \$6 for all shows.

And don't forget our Opening Night Reception September 25th — a chance to mingle with the cast and crew after the performance while enjoying sumptuous refreshments.

From TLT President Tommy Williamson . . .

Members of the Board of Tryon Little Theater are extremely proud of the fact that TLT is embarking on its 60th season. Over the years, *and generations*, TLT has worked hard to provide a creative venue for both adults and children alike. Our Board, like the many Boards before us, is faced with multiple sets of challenges. As we begin this new season, we are asking for your support to help us not only sustain the dreams that brought TLT through its first 60 years, but to help make TLT grow and prosper.

TLT Officers & Board of Directors

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OR OR

**Newly rotated off after three years,
with thanks for their service:**

Donna Everett

Jody McPherson

Marianne Carruth

OR OR OR

Production Heads:

Costumes — Carol Browning

457-5099 carolbrowning@windstream.net

Set Construction — Bob Richardson

894-8895; Dean Gregory 894-0261

Make-up — Honor Callaway 859-9000

Box Office — Rebecca Davis 863-1303

Volunteer Coordinator — Betty Brewer

894-8722 (c) 828/817-3843

TLT Workshop

516 S. Trade Street, Tryon

828-859-2466

www.TLTinfo.org

prosper.

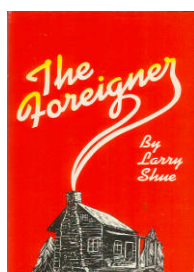
TLT faces major expenses annually to stay up and running. Producing a major musical can run over \$17,000 — what with royalties, costumes, set construction, props, make-up, honoraria to the director, musical director and musicians, TFAC rent, lighting, advertising, programs, and on and on. Even a straight play can cost \$9,000 at TFAC, and as much as \$2,800 for a small modern dress straight play performed at the Workshop.

As for the Workshop itself: rent, insurance, utilities, maintenance, telephone, cleaning, extra storage rental, general advertising, etc., ran \$29,647.42 for the twelve months ending June 30, 2008.

No theatre in the country can survive on ticket sales alone. All theatres need the financial support of generous individuals and corporations, and the sweat-equity support of an army of volunteers to get its shows up on the boards.

What you pledge now will shape the future of TLT, and provide theatrical entertainment and enjoyment for the people of our community for many generations to come. Please consider sending a tax-deductible contribution to TLT at 34 Melrose Avenue, Tryon, NC 28782.

And the TLT play selection committee has put together a terrific season for 2008-2009 with four shows scheduled at TFAC, and two shows at the TLT Workshop on South Trade Street. Please show your support by using the coupon to the right to purchase season tickets this year offered at a discounted rate!



The Foreigner

directed by Steve Carlisle
at the Tryon Fine Arts Center
November 20-23

*A delicious comedy that sweeps the
audience from joy to euphoria!*

Auditions at the Workshop

516 South Trade Street
Sunday, Sept. 14 2-4 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 15 7-9 p.m.

Roles for 5 men, 2 women, & Townspeople
Scripts available for 24 hour checkout
at The Book Shelf, Pacolet St, Tryon
For information: Betty Brewer 894-8722



Tryon Little Theater

60th Season

Season Ticket Order Form

At the Tryon Fine Arts Center

Steel Magnolias September 25-28

The Foreigner November 20-23

High Society Feb. 26—March 1
& March 5-8

Hello, Dolly! May 14-17, 21-24

At TLT's Workshop

JACOB MARLEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL

December 4-7, 11-14

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

March 26-29 & April 2-5

Tickets are by reserved seating at the Tryon Fine Arts Center, and you may state section and row preference.

At the Workshop, your ticket guarantees you a seat, but you are free to choose where you wish to sit when you arrive for the performance.

☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Should your plans change, you may always exchange your season ticket for another performance as long as seats remain available.

Day Preference

___ Thursday, 8 pm ___ Friday, 8 pm ___ Saturday, 8 pm ___ Sunday, 3 pm

TFAC Section:

___ Center ___ Left ___ Right

TFAC Row:

___ Front ___ Center ___ Rear ___ Balcony

Please send me _____ adult season tickets @ \$80 for six shows
(giving you one of the musicals free)

TOTAL = \$ _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Payment: by Check payable to TLT _____, or Visa _____ Mastercard _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder's name _____

Signature _____

*Send self-addressed stamped envelope with order to
TLT, 34 Melrose Ave, Tryon, NC 28782; mark envelope "Season Tickets"*

Tryon Little Theater, Inc.
34 Melrose Avenue
Tryon, NC 28782

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Tryon, NC 28782
Permit No. 48



C. S. Lewis' beloved classic **THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE** enchanted audiences July 17-20. Director Marianne Carruth, Lighting Designer Jimm Brink, Scenic/Costume/Prop/Make-up Designer Sam Lovelace with Lynn Costine and Chris Riddle, Fight Director Hamilton Goodman, and an army of volunteers brought **THE MAGICAL LAND OF NARNIA** to the Fine Arts Center stage.

Andrew Lloyd
Webber's brilliant
musical

CATS

Perfection on Stage
July 31-August 3
Director: Chris Tinker,
Musical Director: Lena
Duncan, Choreogra-
pher: Kathleen Carson,
Lighting: Jimm Brink

