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September, 2006

Amarillo Little Theatre presents

Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling

“One parlor. Six beauties. Countless laughs.”

Amarillo Little Theatre proudly opens its 2006-07 Mainstage season with the spectacular play **Steel Magnolias** by Robert Harling. This hilarious and touching show is sure to be overwhelmingly popular with ALT audiences! Concerned with a group of gossipy Southern ladies in a small-town beauty parlor, the play is alternately hilarious and touching and, in the end, deeply revealing of the strength and purposefulness of its characters.

The action is set in Truvy’s beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, where all the ladies who are “anybody” come to have their hair done. Helped by her eager new assistant, Annelle (who is not sure whether or not she is still married), the outspoken, wisecracking Truvy dispenses shampoos and free advice to the town’s rich curmudgeon, Ouiser, (“I’m not crazy, I’ve just been in a bad mood for forty years”); an eccentric millionaire, Miss Clairee, who has a raging sweet tooth; and the local social leader, M’Lynn, whose daughter, Shelby (the prettiest girl in town), is about to marry a “good ole boy.” Filled with hilarious repartee and not a few acerbic but humorously revealing verbal collisions, this play and its characters have a special quality which makes them truly touching, funny and marvelously amiable company for an evening in the theatre.

ALT has selected an incredible cast for this production including several ALT favorites. Included are **Treva Oller** as Truvy, **Debra Sullivan** as Annelle, **Cindi Bulla** as M’Lynn, **Carrie Huckabay** as Shelby, **Anne Lankford** as Miss Clairee, and **Lynda Joyce Barr** as Ouiser. Artistic Director for the production is **Jeff Jarnagin**. Assistant to the Director is **Shane Harnish**.

The New York Post calls **Steel Magnolias** “....a skillfully crafted, lovingly evoked picture of eccentricity in the small-town south.” We think ALT audiences will simply call it “great!”

This show is certain be a sellout. Make your reservations today!

Production Funding by
Daryl and Maureen Roberts
with additional support by
Dr. Hal and Martine Riddle
Amarillo Little Theatre Guild

Sponsored by
Phyllis Curtis Billy and Carolyn Campsey
Jerry and Sue Norman Eleanor Glazener
Mildred Everett

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Performance Dates September 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 September 24, October 1	Times 8:00 pm 2:30 pm	Location – ALT Mainstage Box Office Phone – 806-355-9991 Rated – PG	2019 Civic Circle
Box Office Opens to Members – Tuesday, Sept. 5	10:00 am	Order Online by e-mail – jeff@amarillolittletheatre.org	
Box Office Opens to Public – Monday, Sept. 11	10:00 am		

CHECK OUT ALT’S WEB SITE AT WWW.AMARILLOLITTLETHEATRE.ORG

Director's Notes



**Allen
Shankles**

A new season has begun! By the time you read this article, we will have already completed what I expect to be a terrific run of **Bright Ideas** at the Adventure Space. I want to thank director, Cara Kee, and the wonderful cast and crew for their great work in that season opening production.

There is great anticipation for **Steel Magnolias** which will open our Mainstage season on September 21. This show is quite simply one of the finest pieces of theatre literature ever written. It is rich with hilarious dialogue, eccentric but lovable characters and a wonderfully touching conclusion. The show features a great cast and director and I think it will be a huge hit for ALT.....at least I am hoping so.

The opening of **Steel Magnolias** will also usher in “a new era” at ALT as we have completely renovated our lighting and sound systems at the mainstage. This upgrade has also included new, safer overhead rigging, drapes and communication systems. We were so inspired with these new changes that we have also renovated both dressing rooms backstage. A much needed improvement that ALT performers will greatly appreciate.

I am thrilled with these new improvements. For the twenty two years of my tenure at ALT, we have struggled to make due with less than adequate technical equipment. We have successfully produced huge productions with far less lighting equipment than most high schools in the area enjoy. The drapes on stage had been around longer than I and, like me, they were showing the wear and tear of years in the theatre. For the first time in my career, the ALT staff and I will be working with equipment worthy of the quality of work we produce at ALT and that makes me very happy.

ALT audiences will not experience the full capacity of these new systems during **Steel Magnolias** as this fairly simple, one set show won't require lots of lighting and special effects. However, our audiences should “buckle their seatbelts” with the opening of **A Christmas Carol**. This show will allow us to “show off” our new capabilities in every way possible. It will be filled with extraordinary sound, lighting and special effects that will dazzle our audiences. I can't wait!

I wish to thank the Sybil B. Harrington Living Trust for its generous support of this project. I also want to thank the various contractors (most of them local) for their great work in completing this project on schedule. They include, Missouri Valley, Inc., Texas Scenic Company, Randy's Music Mart and Pro Audio/Video, Denman Building Products, Legacy Floorcovering, Curb Appeal Specialty Products and Eddie Rimel of Artist Enhanced Homes.

These improvements should efficiently serve this organization for the next twenty-plus years. I look forward to sharing a vastly “new and improved” magic with all of our faithful patrons and volunteers and.....

I look forward to seeing you at the theatre(s).

Volunteer Spotlight

The ALT Spotlight shines brightly on our Volunteer of the Month, Lynn Cook. Lynn has been a diligent volunteer at the vast majority of Saturday work sessions for the last few seasons. His concerted effort in set construction back stage brought him special recognition at this year's ALTA gala when he won the “Behind the Scenes” SALT (Staff of ALT) Award for “the guy works on every show but seldom sits out front to watch.”



Lynn tells us that he fully believes in the theatre and its contribution to the community. He says that “we are all standing on the broad shoulders of those who came before us.” Arts in Amarillo are thriving and this is truly because of volunteers such as Lynn. Lynn is willing to share his expertise in carpentry, painting and the electrical field to help ALT build the beautiful sets that we have come to expect for each production.

Lynn confesses that his prior experience in the theatre was in kindergarten when he played “the cat” in the Thanksgiving pageant. No stranger to voluntarism, Lynn has also been a CASA volunteer and tutored Algebra at Tascosa High School.

ALT's staff and board extend gratitude to Lynn and all the volunteers who make it all possible.

Academy Spotlight

ALT Academy is proud to announce a new addition to the team, **Ms. Heidi Stricker**. Heidi is looking forward to an exciting year and the opportunity to know each and every student here in the ALT academy. She received her Bachelor's degree in Theatre from Southern Utah University and has performed at ALT since 2004. Those of you in her classes will certainly benefit from her expertise.



Mark your calendars! It's almost audition time! The ALT Academy's autumn production will be **THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE**. Auditions will be held Monday, September 18th and Tuesday, September 19th at 6:00 P.M. in the ALT Academy Space. Auditions will consist of cold readings and are open to all theatre students ages five and up. All students must be currently enrolled in the ALT Academy. Parts are available for approximately 50 students and will require strong movement skills.

Auditions for ALT's Mainstage production of **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** will be held Monday, September 25, and Tuesday, September 26. Details will be distributed during Academy classes. Roles will be available for 30-40 men and women ages 16 and up, 6 boys ages 6 -15, 4 girls ages 7 -15 and approximately 60 children ages 5 -15 who will comprise a children's chorus. This chorus will be selected by Heidi and me.

There are multiple opportunities this fall and you can feel the anticipation in the air. Finally, both **Heidi and I** welcome you to a brand new season and we look forward to seeing you in the classroom.

Miss Jayme

Notes from the Guild

Hello everyone and welcome back to another fantastic season! We have some exciting activities this year. Our last event, **Martinis and Membership**, was a big success. Our meetings will be the second Tuesday of every month, so our next meeting will be September 12. Be sure to check the website for more details about that meeting.

We are compiling our membership directory so if you have not sent in your membership form yet, now is the time. If you don't have a form you can pick one up at the box office, in center of one of the new ALT calendars, or on the website: www.amarillolittletheatre.org

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the theatre and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me, 354-0055.

Leslie Hill
President, ALTG

DON'T MISS OUT!!!!!!

This is your last chance to take advantage of the great savings and flexibility of an ALT SEASON TICKET PACKAGE.

Season tickets may be purchased through the run of Steel Magnolias, which ends October 1, and then the opportunity is gone.

Call or email the ALT Box Office today to renew or purchase your season tickets for "a year of great entertainment."

AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS! AUDITIONS!

ALT
A M A R I L L O L I T T L E T H E A T R E

announces open auditions for its second
Mainstage production of the 2006-07 season.

Music by
Alan Menken

*A
Christmas
Carol*

(The New Broadway Musical)

Lyrics by
Lynn Ahrens

Production Dates:

November 30-December 17, 2006
ALT Mainstage

Directed by **Allen Shankles**
Music Direction by **Rolando Salazar**

Audition Dates:

Monday and Tuesday, September 25 and 26, 2006 @ 7:30 pm
ALT Mainstage

Note: This may be the biggest production in the history of ALT.

Roles will be available for approximately **30-40 men and women** ages 16 and up including a dancing chorus. Roles are also available for **6 boys** age 6-15 and **4 girls** age 7-15.

An additional children's chorus of ALT Academy students (ages 5-15) will be cast by Jayme McBride and Heidi Stricker. Audition time TBA.

Auditions will consist of a prepared vocal selection not to exceed 60 seconds. An accompanist and CD/tape player will be available. Some auditionees will be asked to do cold reading from the script. Everyone will be asked to do a short dance sequence taught by the choreographer.

Scripts and music CD's are available for perusal at the ALT Box Office. Each requires a \$10.00 refundable deposit. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the ALT office at 355-9991 or e-mail at info@amarillolittletheatre.org