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Presents



By Robert Harling

Steel Magnolias

Fridays and Saturdays,

December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 7:30 PM

Sunday Matinee, December 19 2:30 PM

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Directed by Bill Rhoten

The Cast

Kelly Kovar Truvy
Madeleine Makay Annelle
Anessa Pryor Clairee
Hannah Pryor Shelby
Lisa Rosewell M'Lynn
Barbara Webb Ouiser

Steel Magnolias presented by special arrangement
with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.



For the greatest love of all is the love that sacrifices all.
And this great love is demonstrated when
a person sacrifices his life for his friends.
. ~John 15:13

Cast Biographies



Kelly Kovar (Truvy) — Kelly has worked as an actor, set designer, and costumer for many years. She was seen in Theatre Rocks! inaugural season as “Truvy” in *Steel Magnolias* (taking home the “Best Supporting Actress” RockStar Award). She also has done the role of “Willa” in *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, as well as “Clara Breedlove” in *The Traveling Lady*. She played “Chick Boyle” in *Crimes of the Heart* twice (for which she won the “Critic’s Choice” RockStar! award). She played “Sheila” in *The Boys Next Door*, twice, winning the “Special Achievement” Ennie for the role. She has played “Mrs. Parker” in *A Christmas Story* three times. Other productions include: *The Miracle Worker*, *Christmas Belles*, *Dearly Departed*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Odd Couple* (Female Version), and *Things My Mother Taught Me*. At Corsicana’s Warehouse Living Arts Center, Kelly performed in *Savannah Sipping Society*, *Hallelujah Girls*, *The Boys Next Door*, and *Dead Giveaway*. For Phoenix Repertory Players in conjunction with Theatre Rocks!, Kelly has performed in *Cinderella*, *A Little Princess*, *An Orphan’s Adventure*, and *Sherlock Holmes: The Adventures of the Priory School*. Other acting credits include *Harvey* and *Steel Magnolias* with the St. Peters Players, the *USO Radio Show* at the Texas Theatre in Waxahachie, and the lead in four high school plays. Kelly served as stage manager for *Southern Comforts* at Theatre Rocks!, for an Ellis County Meals on Wheels Fundraiser and for the Tabernacle Baptist Church Christmas Production, *One Quiet Night*. She was the assistant director for two productions of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, produced by Inspiration Inc. She has performed in the short films *The River* and *Hope*, for Eric Hanson, appeared in industrial training films, and in Christian videos. She is currently cast in the upcoming full-length independent film, *The Bluesman*, being produced by Midnight Strikes Films.



Madeleine Makay (Annelle) — Madeleine returns to the stage with this, her 9th production at Theatre Rocks! She recently played “Sunny” in last season’s *Life’s Little Miracles*. She also has worked with Rebecca Perry and the Phoenix Repertory Players. “Annelle” is a dream role for her, and she wants to thank Bill and Suzanne for everything they do!

Cast Biographies



Anessa Pryor (Clairee) — A past Renaissance faire performer, Anessa returns to the stage after a twenty-year hiatus, during which she performed her most important roles of David’s wife and mom to four wonderful drama divas. Playing “Clairee” in *Steel Magnolias* is her first performance with Theatre Rocks!, and she is grateful to Bill Rhoten for giving her the opportunity to bring this iconic, oftentimes quoted character to life alongside this group of talented women, which, as a bonus, includes one of Anessa’s drama divas: Hannah. Many thanks to Carol and the rest of the staff at Windy Hill Stables, without whose support this dream come true would not have been possible. Thanks also to Lucy, who held down the fort, kept the home fires burning during production, and shared her makeup expertise to make her mama look good!

Praise be to God, from whom all blessings flow!



Hannah Pryor (Shelby) — Hannah is very excited to be back on the stage again and to be acting in this show with her friends and mother, Anessa. She first began acting at her homeschool co-op and participating in shows such as *Sense and Sensibility* and *Alice in Wonderland*. From there, she began acting on public stages with Ennis Public Theatre and The Core Theatre in Richardson. And now she's back at it and happy to be working with the awesome folks at Theatre Rocks! in *Steel Magnolias*. She thanks Bill for the opportunity and all her friends and family who have been very supportive.

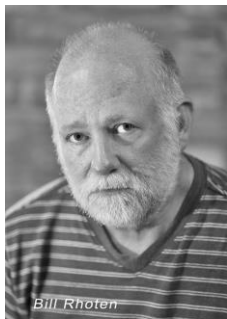
Cast Biographies



Lisa Rosewell (M'Lynn) — This is Lisa's second time to play “M'Lynn” under Bill Rhoten's direction. Theatre Rocks! audiences might remember some of her other portrayals, including “Big Boy” in this season's first production of *Big Boy, Miss Alice & the Colonial Encyclopedia Man*, “Eleanor of Aquitaine” in *The Lion in Winter*, and “Ethel” in *On Golden Pond*. “M'Lynn,” however, remains close to Lisa's heart. Theatre Rocks! has been home to Lisa for almost thirteen seasons, and she's been able to share this stage with her husband, Brian, and their four children along the way. Now she looks forward to hitting the “boards” with her adorable grandchildren: Analisa, Aurora, TJ, and the newest addition, Ariela, who debuted on the world stage October 22, 2021! It's on her bucket list.



Barbara Webb (Ouiser) – Barbara has been acting for Bill Rhoten since he cast her as “Ouiser” in *Steel Magnolias* the first time he directed it in Ennis (2003). She's done the part twice and still loves it. She appeared with her late husband Terry in *On Golden Pond* (2003). She also has appeared in *The Traveling Lady*, for which she won a RockStar Award for Best Supporting Actress. Other shows include parts in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *The Sunshine Boys*, and *Hyer House*. Barbara also is on cast at Scarborough Renaissance Festival and Screams. She retired after 29 years as a teacher at Ennis High School.



Bill Rhoten **Theatre Rocks!** **Co-Founder and Artistic Director**

Bill Rhoten was born in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. He has more than 40 years of diversified acting, directing, producing, and writing experience, in over 100 stage productions in Ennis and the Dallas area. He founded Dallas Theatre on Tour, the Prairie House Dinner Theatre, Ennis Public Theatre, and—seven years ago—Theatre Rocks! Some career highlights include: directing Pulitzer Prize and Tony winner Tracy Letts in his early career in Dallas in four productions; Bill performed in and directed William Mastrosimone's ***The Woolgatherer***, for which he received the coveted "Critics Choice" award by the Dallas Times Herald; he directed ***Electric Angel*** by Brad Bailey, which had its world premiere in Dallas and was later produced in Los Angeles; and ***The Real Queen of Hearts Ain't Even Pretty*** by Brad Bailey was produced twice by Bill, who later co-produced and directed the feature length film.

His writing credits include two screenplays, a TV pilot, ***Jessie's Diary***, a short film now available on Amazon.com, and his film entitled ***New Hope*** (writer/director) which was selected with 30 other shorts in its category (of 1,800 submitted) for competition at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. "***New Hope*** was the wisest, the smartest, and truthfully the most passionate of all the films we submitted....." (The Desert Sun, Palm Springs, California)

He has authored seven stage plays: ***My Favorite Christmas*** and ***Where's Santa?*** and four award-winning plays, all of which premiered on the Theatre Rocks! stage: ***Mojave***, ***Hyer House***, ***My First Date***, and ***Forever***. His seventh play, ***Life's Little Miracles***, premiered last season.



Suzanne Rhoten **Theatre Rocks!** **Co-Founder and Executive Director**

Suzanne's background is in film and theatre production. She was formerly a founder and executive director of the Miss Plano Pageant, a preliminary to the Miss Texas/Miss America pageants. She has extensive acting experience, having been cast in numerous film, commercial, and industrial productions, as well as theatre in the Dallas area. Working alongside her producer, writer, director husband, Bill, she has experience in the areas of production management, script supervision, and set design. A certified non-profit manager and ordained minister, she serves as executive director of Theatre Rocks!

Bill Rhoten's students have worked for these clients:

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ABC / TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX / TRI-STAR
ROBOCOP / RESURRECTION / DAKOTA
PEYTON PLACE / PLACES IN THE HEART / DALLAS
QUICK CHANGE / TIME BOMB / RUBY / JFK
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THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL / SILVERADO / HAIR
BROADWAY DANNY ROSE / PURE COUNTRY / ALIVE
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CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS / HEXED / NBC
FUGITIVE AMONG US / JAILBIRDS / LOVE HURTS
FIRE AND RAIN / STEALTH HUNTERS / WISHBONE
SQUARE DANCE / POSITIVE I.D. / COTTON CANDY
TRAVELIN' MAN / DEADLY BLESSING / LOGAN'S RUN
GUILTY OR INNOCENT / TOUCH AND DIE / THE APOSTLE
A SOLDIER'S STORY / NIGHT OF THE EAGLES
BLUES IN THE NIGHT / ROUGH RIDERS / THE SECRETARY
CRISIS AT CENTRAL HIGH / MIDDLE AGE CRAZY
DALLAS - THE EARLY YEARS / COURAGE UNDER FIRE
GENERAL HOSPITAL / DAYS OF OUR LIVES / LOVING
EVENING SHADE / BEVERLY HILLS 90210 / COLUMBO
WALKER TEXAS RANGER / DANGEROUS CURVES
ALL MY CHILDREN / PICKET FENCES / MY SO-CALLED LIFE
SPACE MARINES / BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY
PBS / SLING BLADE / WEST WING / THE PRACTICE
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN / PARKLAND / THE SON
TEXAS HEART / I SAW THE LIGHT
THE SECTOR / FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS / RECTIFY
BUG / FROM DUSK TO DAWN / BAGHDAD TEXAS
PRISON BREAK / SONS OF THUNDER / EYE OF GOD
CSI / GREY'S ANATOMY / THE GUIDING LIGHT
AS THE WORLD TURNS / THE LIFE OF DAVID GALE

Production Staff

Theatre Rocks! Artistic Director & Co-Founder Bill Rhoten
Theatre Rocks! Executive Director & Co-Founder Suzanne Rhoten
Director Bill Rhoten
Sound & Lighting Charlene Andrews
Set Design & Construction Kelly Kovar, Jessica Kovar,
Jack Kovar, & Dirk Kovar
Playbill Rebecca Perry & Suzanne Rhoten
Box Office Suzanne Rhoten
Headshots Rich Raymond
Playbill Cover & Poster Designs Aaron Green

We are a charitable organization. Our mission includes being a light shining in our community and honoring the Greatest Artist, our Master Creator. We donate a portion of our income by giving back into our region through organizations that are helping those among us who need it most.

Those include:

**City Reachers International Ministries; Ennis Golden Circle;
First Look–Waxahachie; Freedom Declared Ministries;
Habitat for Humanity (in-kind donation); Love Your Neighbor;
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through our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Cor 15:57*

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*It is very important to us to properly recognize those who do so much,
so PLEASE let us know if there are any errors or omissions
on these pages. We will continue to add names
as these donations and season ticket purchases come in.*

Producer \$2,500+

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Bill & Suzanne Rhoten, Anonymous

Playwright \$1,000 - \$2,499

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Director \$500 - \$999

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Performer \$250 - \$499

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Costumer \$100 - \$249

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David Watson (2), Jimmy & Aline Whatley (4), Fred & Trina Williams,
Leon & Vicky Williams, Sandra Williams, Lori Woodard,
Anonymous (4), Anonymous (2)



2021-2022 Season



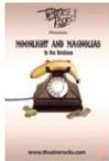
Big Boy, Miss Alice and the Colonial Encyclopedia Man

By Jason Milligan

Comedy

August 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29(M)

This play by Jason Milligan, a senior writer for Disney, was a finalist in our National Playwriting Competition. Having grown up in Mississippi, this talented writer adds funny, new meaning to the idea of "Southern Belles" in his new comedy.



Moonlight and Magnolias

By Ron Hutchinson

Comedy

October 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24(M)

A lot of fun, this show dispenses a good deal of "insider dope" on the professional and personal dynamics that fueled the Hollywood production of the classic film *Gone with the Wind*.



STEEL MAGNOLIAS

by Robert Harling

Comedy/Drama

December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19(M)

The play is based on the true life story of the playwright's family and the Southern women in the small town in Louisiana where he grew up. The play, of course, became the iconic movie known and loved by so many.



KFLU FLOYDADA - COUNTRY THAT'S CONTAGIOUS

by Bill Rhoten

Comedy

February 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27(M)

Kay Wooten Calloway Newton, has been a country singer and song writer all her life, and finally she has a song that she thinks is sure to be a hit! What she doesn't expect is that her local radio station owner/producer has other ideas for the song. Could this be the big break they have all been waiting for?



Sense and Sensibility

by Avery Wildwood, Adapted from the novel by Jane Austen

Drama/Comedy

April 22, 23, 29, 30, May 1(M), 6, 7(M & E)

Elinor Dashwood is a model of composure, while her younger sister Marianne cannot begin to keep her emotions in check. Their natures are at the heart of this well-loved story. This charming adaptation of Jane Austen's classic offers joy and laughter for all ages.



National Playwriting Competition Winner

Winner and Title to be Announced the first week of May, 2022

Winning Play Runs: June 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26(M)

Entries to the competition will be accepted November 1, 2021 - April 22, 2022

Information/Entries - www.TheatreRocks.com

Theatre Rocks! reserves the right to make changes to the show titles.

Click [here](#) to purchase season tickets!