

Red Mask Players

PRESENTS

STEEL *M*MAGNOLIAS

By Robert Harling



**Kathryn
Randolph
Theater**

**November
2, 3, 4, 9,
10, 11, 16
& 17, 1990**

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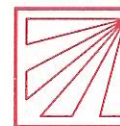
It is my privilege and pleasure to mark my ten year anniversary with Red Mask by serving as this years president. The past ten years have been filled with fun, well rewarded work, and friendships that I will always treasure.

Our 54th season is getting off to a wonderful start with **Steel Magnolias**. This highly acclaimed play is a witty, poignant work that will make you laugh and maybe even shed a tear or two. Our director, Jim Wolfe, and his cast and crew have dedicated much time and talent to provide you with an evening you'll long remember.

So enjoy your visit to Chinquapin Parish, Louisiana, "sit a spell" and get to know the ladies at Truvy's. I think you'll love them as much as I do!

Sue Ann Crick

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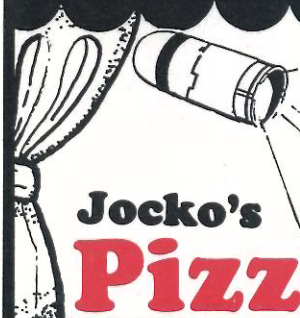
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From the Director . . .

Young and beautiful. Rich and classy. Stylish and reserved. These adjectives could describe the characters of tonight's performance. Six women who might be the envy of the hometown, Chinquapin Parish, Louisiana. However, you as an audience are fortunate to be able to observe what lies beneath the exterior of these Southern Magnolias.

Illness, loneliness, desertion, constant fear. You'll see how these six different, yet very similar women persevere and cope with the tragedies rained upon them. What makes them so special is that they are so ordinary. You love them immediately; they are the women of everyone's hometown.

I have been very fortunate to have been able to direct such a wonderful play. And directors do get special privileges. I would like to dedicate these performances to the beautiful Magnolias of my life; the tender, dedicated, driven, loving women who are a constant inspiration to those who know them. To my wife and mother, my sisters, my teacher friends, to Diane, Evelyn, and especially Swinny, (I know you're watching) this play is for you, from the heart.

Jim Wolfe

Director . . .

Jim Wolfe

This is Jim's second directing opportunity for Red Mask, having made his debut with last year's *The Mousetrap*. He has spent the past dozen years teaching fifth grade at Catlin Grade School and he is also the high school's drama director. In the summer you can find him teaching "Shake Hands with Shakespeare" for DACC's College for Kids. He and his wife Toni, and their son Robin, share a home in Catlin with their dog, McCartney.

Stage Manager . . .

Evelyn Miller

Red Mask is yet another channel for the creativity of this extremely well organized lady, who was the drama director at Armstrong High School for nine years. Her "DLO days" go back to the '60's, while her acting debut for Red Mask occurred in the '70's. Lately she has been concentrating on the off-stage aspect of theater by crewing for *Noises Off* and serving for two years on the Board of Directors. When she is not teaching summer classes for DACC, she can be found treading the boards for Sunshine II productions. Evelyn is extremely proud of her son, Edward, who is with Perot Systems Computer Services in Dallas, Texas; and son, Eric, who is entering his last year in National Chiropractic College in Lombard. She says she believes that many Steel Magnolias can be found flourishing right here in Vermilion County.

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Cast of Characters (In order of appearance)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Truvy Jones | Sue Ann Crick |
| Annelle Dupuy-Desoto | Karen Boothe |
| Clairee Belcher | Marty Howrey |
| Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie | Kerry Showers |
| M'Lynn Eatenton | Jan Marken |
| Ouiser Boudreaux | Barb Stover |

The setting is Chinquapin Parish, Louisiana

Act I Scene I

Truvy's Beauty Shop - April

Act I Scene II

December

Act II Scene I

June - eighteen months later

Act II Scene II

November

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts. At this time restrooms and refreshments are available at the lower level of the theatre. We request that there be NO SMOKING in any area of the building.

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Co-Producer . . .**Dave Downing**

This show marks the beginning of Dave's fourth season with Red Mask and his debut as a producer. He states: "Producing has proven to be more work than I envisioned. However, with this wonderful play and fantastic crew, It has become a labor of love". Dave was onstage this past summer in the Sunshine II production of **Kiss Me Kate** as Gangster #1, and last spring as Corky Oberlander in Red Mask's **LuAnn Hampton Laverty Oberlander**. When not at the theater, Dave is a systems technician with Illinois Bell.

Co-Producer . . .**Larry Norton**

Larry has been involved in both Red Mask and Sunshine II productions for the last four years, most recently as David in Sunshinell's **Catch Me If You Can**. Having spent time in other back stage capacities, he decided it was time to give producing a try. Larry says, "The opportunity to work with talented people both on and off stage makes the extra effort to bring a show together worthwhile". He would like everyone to enjoy the first area production of **Steel Magnolias**. Larry has three supporting cast members, wife Gayle, office supervisor at Kelly Services; daughter Shay, attending Alma College; and daughter Sherry, a junior at Danville High.

On Stage . . .

Sue Ann Crick (Truivy Jones): Sue Ann is beginning her eleventh season as a Red Mask player. She got her theatrical feet wet in **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** in 1980, and has appeared in **Heaven Can Wait, Tribute, Night Watch, The Gingerbread Lady, You Can't Take It With You, The Odd Couple, and Noises Off**. After cultivating a British accent and racing up and down dual staircases in last season's **Noises Off**, she's thrilled to be a "Steel Magnolia" and slow down a bit! Sue Ann, President of Red Mask this year, won't be slowing sown too much though. Daughter Jennifer is active in children's theatre and son Josh is a typically busy eighth grader at North Ridge. Husband Ron can be found at Castle's Business Equipment or helping his ladies learn their lines.

Karen Boothe (Annelle Dupuy-Desoto): An alumnus of Indiana State University, Karen is making her debut on the Red Mask stage after an eight year hiatus from the grease paint and lights. She has appeared in productions of **Cabaret, Pippin, Oliver, Sherlock Holmes, and History of the American Flag**, to name a few. She

appeared with and directed a theatrical touring company that performed strictly for the handicapped. Her experience in theatre has been in front and behind the scenes. Karen is a special education teacher in Catlin where she lives with her daughter Rae Anne and son Kyle.

Marty Howrey (Clairee Belcher): Having performed in 12 previous Red Mask productions and beginning her 9th year as a member of the Red Mask Board, Marty is one of the veterans of the organization. Off stage she co-stars with Dave as the parents of John (a junior at I.S.U.) and Meg (a ballet dancer).

Kerry Showers (Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie): Kerry has participated in Red Mask productions through the years beginning as a child. Her most recent play was **The Night of January Sixteenth**. She is also known as Kerry West, one of the "Breakfast Flakes" on WDNL - D102 radio. Kerry's family includes husband Mike, and children Doug 6, Robbie 4, Whitney 2, and Scott 3 months. In her *spare time* she enjoys her children's sport activities, baking, and trying to memorize lines!

Jan Marken (M'Lynn Eatenton): Jan has performed on stage 13 years with Danville Light Opera, where she is also serving on the Board of Directors. **Steel Magnolias** is her 2nd appearance on the Red Mask stage. She was last seen as Carrie Pepperidge in **Carousel** for Sunshine II. **Steel Magnolias** has been an enjoyable experience and she feels very fortunate to have worked with such professional and wonderful people. Her biggest fans are her husband, Dave; daughter Michele, a freshman at D.H.S.; and son Nathan, a 4th grader at Edison. Jan works at Teepak as an Accounts Manager.

Barb Stover (Ouiser Boudreaux): Barb, retired from DACC, is delighted to be back trodding the Red Mask boards again. She says that keeping her from getting *too* senile are travel, volunteer work, and quilting, plus - every once in a while - an acting plum at Red Mask. Her previous credits include **You Can't Take It With You** and **On Golden Pond**.

Program Note: The cast would enjoy greeting you backstage after the performance. **We welcome everyone - not just friends and family!**

Scholarship...

The Board of Directors of Red Mask Players is happy to announce that it is seeking applicants for the Jean Lewis Scholarship. A \$500 stipend will be awarded to a local high school senior, a community college student, or a university student planning to or already pursuing a major in theater or a directly related field. For further information contact:

Scholarship Coordinator,
c/o Red Mask Players,
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Application deadline is March 31, 1991.

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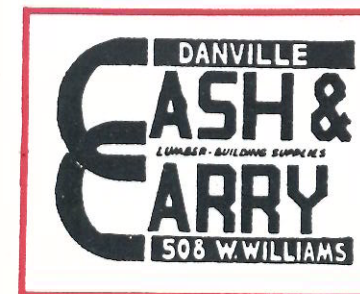
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Dave Downing, Co-Producer
 Jim Wolfe, Director
 Larry Norton, Co-Producer
 Evelyn Miller, Stage Manager

Behind the Scenes...

Director Jim Wolfe
 Stage Manager Evelyn Miller
 Co-producer Dave Downing
 Co-producer Larry Norton
 Props Bev McCallister
 Make-up Gayle Norton
 Furnishings Cast & Crew
 Sound Gaye Garner
 Lights Warren Frank
 Set Design Jim Wolfe
 Set Construction Dave Downing, Paula McMillin, Larry Norton
 Mike Walton

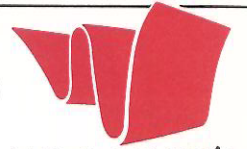
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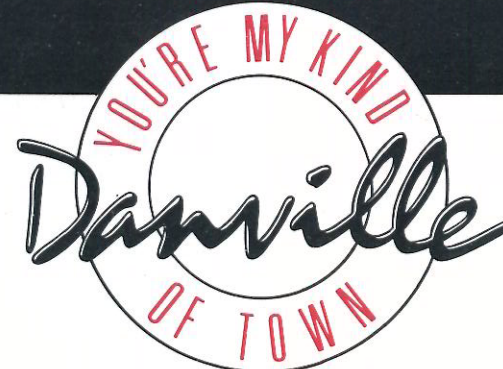
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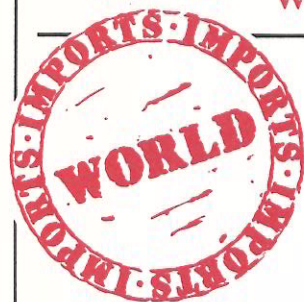
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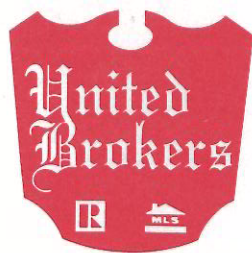
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