



TDS

*Presents*

STEEL  
*Magnolias*  
by Robert Harling



We acknowledge the Kamilaroi people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and present this work. We pay respect to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

## *President's Message*

I'm very pleased to present our first play for 2021- even if it is a little later than planned.

Last year, we all took a not-too-deep breath, and gathered online instead of in the theatre, because we didn't want to do nothing, and because our community needed us. Within a few months, we gathered every other week to watch a play together, or read a play together, all through the new media of online meetings. This was hard work, not just for the committee members who organised it all, but also for every member who had to learn not to leave themselves on mute, or remind themselves to put pants on despite not having to leave the house.

Other people noticed that we weren't in hiatus, and we recorded plays for them. For students of our local schools. For the Arts North-West Captain Isobolt film. We even provided talent to local TV advertising projects, and to other short films.

We didn't waver in our support of our local government's bid for a new cultural precinct. We lobbied for performers, artists, and for cultural activities not to be left behind, not to be jettisoned on our community's search for a safe harbour. We didn't forget our friends, our supporters, the local businesses who have helped us. The work is ongoing, it never stops- being good cultural citizens is so important, and we are helping shape our community.

We also spent 2020 reviewing our internal policies and procedures. Most importantly we adopted a Code of Conduct against Workplace Discrimination, Harrassment, Sexual Harrassment and Bullying. This policy is aligned with the best-practice our industry peak bodies recommend, and works within our constitution.

Our members also took the chance to improve their skills through our Phyllis Giblin fund, with NIDA online courses in technical theatre design disciplines. We updated our accounting package, our banking practices, our storage facility, and our stocktaking system. We did not let a good pandemic go to waste.

As we look forward to a more conventional year, TDS is looking better than a mess of fried catfish. That's good, by the way, and by the end of Steel Magnolias you might be using some North Louisiana dialect yourself!. Gero and the rest of the team have worked very hard on a fantastic play, and we are thrilled for them to welcome you back to the Capitol Theatre.



*Proudly supported by*



Tamworth High School

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## *Director's Message*

I am so privileged to be able to present this beautiful play to Tamworth audiences. This all started with a conversation in early 2019. Thank you Gina for planting the seed. This has been a very long time coming and we are finally ready to bring these much-loved characters to life.

Over the past several months I have watched these six extraordinary women evolve into the characters you see on stage. Many hours of dialect coaching and rehearsing have gone into the final product. Their dedication and hard work is an absolute credit to them and the results are testament to their efforts.

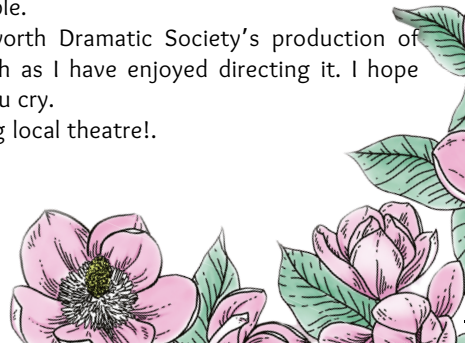
I would like to thank the Tamworth Dramatic Society Committee for giving me the opportunity to direct *Steel Magnolias* and the entire Production Team for their support and hard work in bringing this all together.

There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes to create a piece of live theatre, countless hours of work that audiences never see.

To the "unsung heroes" of community theatre who give up their free time to design, paint, style, sew, build, edit and organise so that we can showcase local talent to our audiences -thank you all for making this possible.

I hope you enjoy Tamworth Dramatic Society's production of *Steel Magnolias* as much as I have enjoyed directing it. I hope you laugh, and I hope you cry.

Thank you for supporting local theatre!.







## *Truvy Jones - Katt Cutmore*

Katt has been a part of TDS since 2012, first appearing on stage in their production of Calendar Girls. Since then, she has taken on many roles, both on stage and backstage, and thoroughly enjoys all aspects of theatre. Pre-COVID, Katt took on the role of Vera in the production She Kills Monsters. Katt's passion for theatre also extends to musicals. You may have seen her on stage with TMS (which she first joined 18 years ago!), most notably portraying Mary Magdalene in their production of Jesus Christ Superstar. She is very excited to be involved in TDS' return to stage, and is enjoying the challenge of learning to style hair in tandem with learning her lines

## *Annelle Dupuy-Desoto - Macy Brooks*

"I'd like to ask a question. I'm new here and all. Is my Life in danger?"

Macy is excited to have the opportunity to play Annelle, who goes through a lot of changes to try and find her place in a new city, with new friendships and a new job. Macy can't wait to show off all of the cast and crews hard work over the past few months. She will forever be grateful to have such a supportive and loving cast to encourage and motivate her.

Macy has studied drama in school for three years Urbs Urbis at Calrossy (a short play) and Grease the musical (at Calrossy).

When Macy completed her HSC, she hopes to continue on to university where she can continue to explore the world of the dramatic arts and make a difference. She also aspire in some way to explore the social sciences and try and help people to the best of her ability.



## *Clairee Belcher - Jennifer Ingall*

"If you don't have anything nice to say about anybody, come sit by me..." Clairee Belcher. Jennifer is looking forward to playing the feisty former Mayoress of Chinquapin county and has not missed the irony of her onstage character taking on the role of colour announcer for radio station KPPD... similar to her real-life role as features reporter for ABC New England North West. Jennifer has been treading the boards with the Tamworth Dramatic Society since 2013 when she was sound designer for the hit show Calendar Girls. She got the theatre bug and came back the following year as Peter Quinn in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, and the following year as Helga Geerhart in the British comedy 'Allo Allo'.

Jennifer enjoys being involved in local productions in many capacities, and if not on stage, she can be found lending her creative talents to the all-important role of sound and lighting production for both the Dramatic and Musical Societies. Most recently Jennifer starred as Nancy in the 2018 Australian Premier of Nell Gwyn, and in the same year as Mrs Strakosh in the TMS production of Funny Girl.



## Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie - Verity Brown

Verity is delighted to be joining the cast of Steel Magnolias for her second show with TDS. Verity is a professional dancer who chose to pursue a dance career at the age of 14. She studied full-time classical ballet at Tanya Pearson's Classical Coaching Academy in Sydney before moving to New York City to further her education in additional styles of dance at The Ailey School, where she graduated from the Certificate Program with Honours. While living in New York, Verity found a love for film and theatre working with many great Broadway artists and choreographers. She has featured in commercials, on the runway at New York Fashion Week and you can even see her in the upcoming film *This is the Night* starring Naomi Watts. Verity's career has given her many opportunities to perform throughout the US and she is now excited to work on more industry projects in Australia.



## M'lynn Eatenton - Emelia Rixon

Emelia is honoured to be a part of Steel Magnolias, exploring a strength and vulnerability she has been blessed to know in many friendships, and also as a mother. This is Emelia's sixth production with TDS onstage, with plenty of other fun behind the scenes on tour with the incredible cast and crew of 'I Am My Own Wife', making props and serving on the committee. 2014 saw her make her dramatic debut as the ridiculous Bottom in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. She continued to play Shakespeare's traditionally male roles as Bastiana (Sebastian) in the 2016 production of 'The Tempest' and as Polonius in 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead' in 2019. She was part of the premiere cast for the locally written 'Geoffrey' in 2017, and smashed the King's head whilst screaming in Portuguese as the enraged Queen Catherine of Braganza in the Australian premiere of 'Nell Gwynn' in 2018.

Emelia has also been involved on and off stage with the Tamworth Musical Society since 2007 and had the wicked joy of being cast in Stephen Sondheim's 'Company'. Emelia encourages ugly crying at the theatre and apologises in advance if you ruin your make-up.

## Oiuser Boudreaux - Jenny Sullivan

Jenny Auditioned for a production with TDS a few years ago to reconnect with performing and to attempt to make the social connections that you can only really make when working with people on hands-on projects. She found those connections and now tries to be involved in TDS productions when she can. Some previous productions in Jenny's onstage back catalogue include: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (\*2); *Macbeth*; *Geoffrey*; *Fields of Heaven*; *Alice in Wonderland*; *Treasure Island*; *Ghetto*; *Creation*; *The Three Musketeers*; *The Vagina Monologues*; *The Golden Age*; and *Year Nine Are Animals*. Now she is able to add playing Oiuser in Steel Magnolias to her experience, an opportunity she is exceptionally excited for. Working on a production with this many women is bound to be an enlightening experience, similar to that of *The Vagina Monologues*, although she may be a little overwhelmed by the fact that most people's experience of Oiuser is through watching Shirley MacLaine in the 1989 film.



## *Creatives*

**Director** - Gero Cutmore

**Production Manager** - Ellie Sampson

**Stage Manager** - Ben Sutton

**Costume Design** - Miranda Heckenberg and  
Glendon Fletcher

**Hair and Makeup** - Lara Northey

**Lighting Design** - Stephen Carter

**Lighting and Sound Operator** - Chelsea Roulstone

**Props** - Isobel Tarte and Grace Mckinnon

**Set Construction** - Blake Saban and Stu Rowe

**Set Design** - Sandra Zuñiga

**Sound Design** - Caitlin Furlong

**Dialect Coach** - Daniel Gillett

## *Stage Crew*

Tach Curnow

Ros Gower

Cassidy Foody

Mark Gower

Nicole Moxon

Linda Floyd

Mark Floyd

Tracey Lefevre

Ethan Faulks

Nicole Martin

Kevin McCorriston

Shelly Norris

Halen Godley

Grace McKinnon

Grant Quinn

Emily Docking

Stu Rowe

Sebastian Smith

Robin Northey

## *Costumiers*

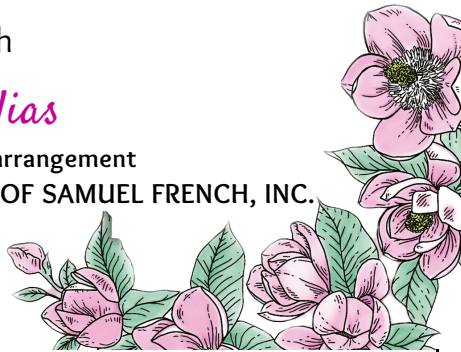
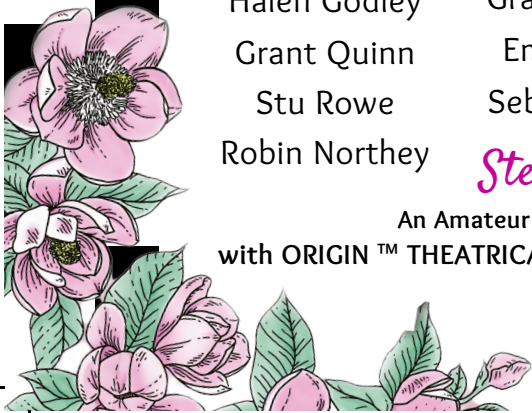
Miranda Heckenberg

Amanda Pearson

Rob Christmas

## *Steel Magnolias*

An Amateur Production by arrangement  
with ORIGIN™ THEATRICAL ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.



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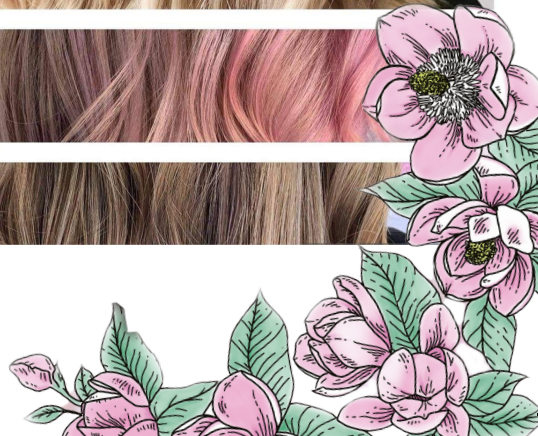
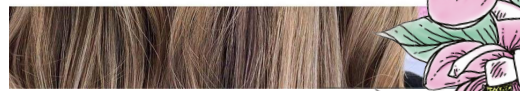
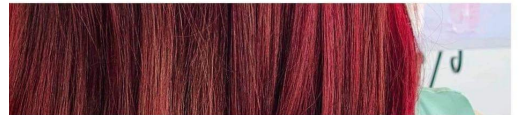


THE LASH *studio*



STRINGS & BEANS  
TAMWORTH

**HAIR**  **ARTISTRY**







*Next Production:*

**TDS presents**

# THE FULL MONTY



**Info Night**

25th May 7:30

**Auditions**

28th, 29th and

30th May by  
appointment only.

**Contact**

for further details

head to

[tds@tds.org.au](mailto:tds@tds.org.au)



Aunty Jax has been serving Tamworth and the North West for over 40 years and are very proud of our relationship and interest in The Capitol Theatre, the Musical society, and Tamworth Dramatic Society, offering them support on many occasions as the official Floral sponsor.

WE are always amazed at the depth of the local talent we enjoy here in Tamworth and the standard of the productions on the programmes each year.

WE also believe that by sponsoring such productions, that we are encouraging both artists and patrons to support these Societies....

Steel Magnolias is amongst our favourite movies and we look forward to experiencing the local Production presented by TDS! WE hope you enjoy our floral installations in the foyer and also your personal floral gift!!

Thank you ....Brian and Mick @ Aunty Jax