



6thStreetPlayhouse

For Immediate Release
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6th Street Playhouse to Present *Steel Magnolias*

The up-close-and-personal stage production of a timeless favorite

SANTA ROSA, CA (September 14, 2017) 6th Street Playhouse to present *Steel Magnolias* by Alabama-born Robert Harling and directed by Beulah Vega. The play will run October 13-November 5 in the G.K. Hardt Theatre.

The Playhouse is excited to present this intimate stage production of the well-known story celebrating Southern sisterhood. Even with all the adaptations, reincarnations and updates, there's still nothing like seeing the work as it was originally intended, live and on the stage. The intimacy of the setting and bustle of activity on stage is akin to dropping in on friends.

In keeping with the female-centric theme of the play, 6th Street has assembled an all-female, all-star artistic team with Beulah Vega, stage director, at the helm.

"It is important", said Vega, "in this day and age, that theater uses every opportunity to show that all women have souls of steel, and nothing shows the magical blending of grit and grace than coming together to produce a show."

The play stars Jennifer Peck as the outspoken salon owner; Crystal Carpenter as the outsider-turned believer; Molly Boice as the town curmudgeon; Kate Brickley as the eccentric millionairess; Ellen Rawley as the gorgeous bride-to-be; and Jill Wagoner as Shelby's always-in-control mom.

Written as a tribute to the playwright's sister, *Steel Magnolias* is a heartfelt look at the strength of spirit that lies beneath the beautiful veneer of the ostensibly fragile Southern belle.

The action is set in Truvy's beauty salon in a small town in Louisiana where six very different women gather to share gossip, laughter, friendship and heartache on four significant days across three years of their lives. Alternating between hilarious and heartbreaking, the play builds to a conclusion that is deeply moving.

On opening night, October 13th, there will be a complimentary reception following the performance where patrons can meet the cast and enjoy sparkling wine and nibbles.

Post-show talkbacks will be held on Sunday, October 15th and 22nd and after the matinee on Saturday, November 4th.

Steel Magnolias opens in the G.K. Hardt Theatre October 13th and runs through November 5th every Friday and Saturday at 7:30 and Sundays at 2:00, with select performances on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Tickets are \$20 - \$33 with new Friday and

Saturday evening prices reduced from \$33 to \$28 to encourage generations of women (and men) to enjoy together.

The remainder of the 2017-18 Season line-up in the G.K. Hardt includes:

- *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* - Dec. 1
- *Honky Tonk Angels* - Jan. 12
- *Noises Off* - Mar 9
- *La Cage aux Folles* - April 27
- *Illyria* - June 15

A 6-show season subscription, including *Steel Magnolias*, is available for \$149 - \$178.

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About 6th Street Playhouse

In 2004, a new partnership reunited the Santa Rosa Players and Actors Theatre under one board of directors. Together they renovated the 119-year-old Del Monte cannery into the 6th Street Playhouse, which houses a 185-seat main stage (the G.K. Hardt Theatre) and a 99-seat black box (the Studio Theatre).

6th Street Playhouse is a performing arts organization that produces live theatre and provides education programs of the highest quality that engage, delight, and inspire the diverse communities of the North Bay region. 6th Street Playhouse is the central hub of the Sonoma County arts scene. It is known throughout the region for its high level of artistry, professionalism, educational opportunities and the bravery of its approach to works both new and old.

Award-Winning

As the most award-winning theatre company in the North Bay Area, 6th Street Playhouse has been named "Best Theatre Troupe" by the North Bay Bohemian readership for the last five consecutive years, and "Best Local Theatre Company" by the Press Democrat "Best of Sonoma County" Awards for the last four out of five years. The Playhouse was named "Theatre of the Year" by Broadway World San Francisco 2012-2014.

In 2012 Playhouse Artistic Director, Craig A. Miller, was named one of Sonoma County's "Forty Under 40" by the North Bay Business Journal, honoring the County's forty most influential people in their field under the age of 40.

In the last five years, 6th Street Playhouse has received over fifty nominations for excellence in all areas of production from the leading Theatre Arts adjudication organizations in the Bay Area, including the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle (SFBATCC), Theatre Bay Area (TBA), and Sonoma One Theatre Awards (SOTA). Of those nominations, The Playhouse received six awards at the 2013 San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards, including Best Ensemble for our production of *Red*, and Best Leading Male and Female Actors for *The Rocky Horror Show*.

In our 2013/14 Season, the musical production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* swept the SFBATCC Awards, taking home wins in all four of its nominated categories; winning a total six awards for the season, which was highlighted in *American Theatre Magazine*.

In 2015, the Playhouse took home three awards at the Theater Bay Area Awards for Best Direction, Best Ensemble, Best Actress, and Best Production for *Clybourne Park*.