

Press Release

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LOUISIANA LAUGHTER AND TEARS AT THE IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE

IVORYTON, CT: On September 17, the Ivoryton Playhouse will open the sixth show of their 2008 season - *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling. Anybody who is anybody goes to Truvy's beauty salon to get her hair done where the philosophy is "There is no such thing as natural beauty". What there is, is great gossip, a shoulder to cry on, and gorgeous hair.

Steel Magnolias was first presented in New York in 1987 where it played off-Broadway for 1,126 performances and was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award. It didn't gain universal notoriety until it was made into a film starring Julia Roberts, Sally Field, and Dolly Parton, among others. Roberts earned her first Oscar nomination for the film.

Steel Magnolias explores the dynamics of life, love, and laughter in a small-town Louisiana beauty parlour as six southern women learn to embrace the future - and all of its uncertainties. Truvy, the outspoken owner, dispenses shampoos and free advice to her clients, who gather each week to talk, gab, gossip, chitchat, needle and harangue each other through the best times - and cry, comfort, caress, and repair each other through the worst. These women are true steel magnolias: southern belles who are flowery on the outside but strong enough on the inside to survive any challenge. Charming, witty, and delightfully entertaining, *Steel Magnolias* is a bittersweet comedy that reminds all of us that life is a precious gift to celebrate.

Steel Magnolias is directed by Ivoryton Playhouse Executive/Artistic Director Jacqueline Hubbard, set design by Cully Long, lighting design by Dan Rousseau, wig and hair design by Joel Silvestro and costumes by Pam Puente. Cast features Laurie Dawn*, Beverley Galpin, Maggie McGlone Jennings, Sue Pynn, Kate Hubbard* and Krystelle Cino*.

Steel Magnolias opens on September 17 and runs thru October 5 for 3 weeks. Performances are Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 pm, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, with matinees Wednesday and Sunday at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, \$20 for students, \$15 for children, and are available by calling the Playhouse box office at 860-767-7318. (Group rates are available by calling the box office for information.)

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