

FLORIDA REPERTORY THEATRE

GREG LONGENHAGEN, Artistic Director • JOHN MARTIN, Managing Director

2018 - 2019 SEASON
HISTORIC ARCADE THEATRE • FORT MYERS RIVER DISTRICT

PRESENTS

Steel Magnolias

BY ROBERT HARLING

SPONSORED BY **EMILY EASON AND KEARNS RESTAURANT GROUP**
MEDIA SPONSOR: **TOTI MEDIA GROUP**

STARRING

ensemble members

RACHEL BURTTAM* • PATRICIA IDLETTE* • SARA MORSEY*

and

ALISON CAMPBELL • BETSY HELMER* • AMY TRIBBEY*

DIRECTED BY *ensemble member* **JASON PARRISH****

SET & LIGHTING
DESIGNER
JIM HUNTER***

COSTUME DESIGNER
BRAD MUSGROVE***

SOUND DESIGNER
KATIE LOWE

PRODUCTION STAGE
MANAGER
JANINE WOCHNA*
ensemble member

ASST. STAGE MANAGER
BRIGHAM JOHNSON

2018-19 GRAND SEASON SPONSORS



This entire season sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Florida Repertory Theatre is a fully professional non-profit LOA/LORT Theatre company on contract with the Actors' Equity Association that proudly employs members of the national theatrical labor unions. *Member of Actors' Equity Association. **Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. ***Member of United Scenic Artists.

Steel Magnolias

BY ROBERT HARLING

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Annelle Dupuy-Desoto.....**Betsy Helmer***
Truvy Jones.....**Rachel Burttram****
Clairee Belcher.....**Patricia Idlette****
Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie.....**Alison Campbell**
Ouiser Boudreaux.....**Sara Morsey****
M'Lynn Eatenton.....**Amy Tribbey***

TIME AND PLACE:

Chinquapin, Louisiana. Late 1980s.

ACT ONE, Scene I: April

ACT ONE, Scene II: December

ACT TWO, Scene I: June, 18 months later

ACT TWO, Scene II: November

Asst. Costume Designer/Wardrobe Supervisor:

Emma Lodgard

Lighting and Sound Board Op: **Cacelynn Hoggard**

Understudies: **Sydney Torres (Annelle),**

Tova Volcheck (Shelby Eatenton)

Hair Consultant: **James Farley/J. Bernard Studio**

STEEL MAGNOLIAS is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS will be performed with one 15-minute intermission.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

*Member of Florida Repertory Theatre's Ensemble of Theatre Artists.

See page 25 for the entire ensemble.



* The Actors & Stage Manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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The Designers at this Theatre are Represented by United Scenic Artists - Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

ROBERT HARLING made his directorial debut with *The Evening Star* for Paramount, which he also wrote for the screen based on Larry McMurty's novel. That film is the continuation of one of the most beloved and acclaimed movies of our time, *Terms of Endearment*. Before launching a successful stage and screenwriting career, Robert graduated from Tulane University School of Law, but instead of taking the bar exam, he opted to become an actor in New York. After years of productive work as an actor in voiceovers and commercials, Harling was inspired to write the highly acclaimed stage play *Steel Magnolias*, which was based on events from his personal life. *Steel Magnolias* continues to thrive in theatrical productions throughout the world. Immediately bridging a career from stage to screen, Harling adapted his original play into the popular film of the same title, which starred Sally Field, Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Olympia Dukakis, Dolly Parton, and Daryl Hannah. Over the years, Mr. Harling has become a much sought-after screenwriter, with credits that include *Soapdish*, which was based on Harling's acting experience and starred Sally Field, Whoopi Goldberg, and Robert Downey Jr., and *First Wives Club* for Paramount, starring Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn, and Diane Keaton.

ABOUT THE CAST



RACHEL BURTRAM**

(*Truvy Jones*) has been a company member since 2002, and has performed in over 25 plays with Florida Rep. Additionally, she has played the roles of Company Manager,

Front of House Manager, Director of Audience Development, and Associate Director here at Florida Rep. Favored roles at the Florida Rep include: *Disgraced*, *Outside Mullingar*, *Miracle on South Division Street*, *August: Osage County*, *Trying*, *Doubt*, *Amy's View* (with Carol Lawrence). Other Regional Theatre credits: Actors Theatre of Louisville & the Humana New Play Festival, Riverside Theatre, the Kitchen Theatre Company, Hippodrome Theatre, Geva Theatre, Barnstormers Theatre, Gloucester Stage. NYC credits include: Actors Studio, Vital Theatre Company, NYC International Fringe Festival. TV & Film:

ABOUT THE CAST

Emma's Fine, Burn Notice, World Traveler. Rachel is a proud member of Actors' Equity. Dedicated to the Steel Magnolias in my life. www.rachelburttram.com



ALISON CAMPBELL

(Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie) is truly honored to be making her Florida Repertory Theatre debut as Shelby in the beloved story of *Steel Magnolias*.

Her recent credits include Heather Clark in *Gideon's Knot* with Stray Cat Theatre and the Tempe Center for the Arts, Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride@Prejudice* and Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*, both with Southwest Shakespeare Company. Her other credits include Lily Whitfield in *Alabama Story* (u/s) and Christine Patterson in *One Man, Two Guvnors* with Florida Studio Theatre. She received her BFA in Acting for the Stage and Screen from Azusa Pacific University in Los Angeles, California. This opportunity is one she will surely treasure forever and dedicate to her Mama as well as her very own *Steel Magnolias* ladies back home. And last but certainly not least, she extends her gratitude to all who come to support live theatre. THANK YOU. www.alisonpcampbell.com Instagram: [@_alisoncampbell_](https://www.instagram.com/_alisoncampbell_)



BETSY HELMER*

(Annelle Dupuy-Desoto) is honored to be performing at Florida Repertory Theatre. Selected Theatre Credits: *Shakespeare in Love* (Viola De Lesseps),

Baby Doll (Baby Doll) at New Stage Theatre, *Women in Jeopardy* (Amanda) at Pioneer Theatre Company, *Fox on the Fairway* (Louise), *Murder on the Nile* (Christina) at Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, *As You Like It* (Rosalind), *Alice in Wonderland* (Queen of Hearts) at Alabama Shakespeare Festival. TV Credits: *The Enemy Within* (upcoming), *Shadow of Doubt*, and *American Supernatural*. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and is currently in the Advanced Improv Program at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre in New York City. Her family is the reason she is able to live out her dreams. All love always! www.betsyhelmer.com



PATRICIA IDLETTE**

(Clairee Belcher), a native of Fort Myers, is an actor, writer, and director whose work has been seen in regional

theaters across the United States and Canada. Her creative endeavors encompass film, television, voice, and performance art. The dynamic Ms. Idlette was last seen as Mama in *A Raisin in the Sun*, the closing production of Theatre Conspiracy's season at the Alliance for the Arts. In addition to her artistic pursuits, Patricia spends her time tending to her wild ol' garden. She is proud to be a member of the Florida Rep Ensemble of Theatre Artists.



SARA MORSEY**

(Ouiser Boudreaux)

last appeared at Florida Repertory Theatre as "Mrs. Shubert" in *Shear Madness*. Other Florida Rep credits include:

Dividing the Estate, The Little Foxes, The Year of Magical Thinking, The Last Romance, August: Osage County and Collected Stories. Last season Sara played "Mary Tyrone" in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Days' Journey into Night* at Greenbrier Valley Theatre in West Virginia and spent some time at The Hippodrome Theatre where she is a long-time associate and company member. Credits there include last season's *1984, Hamlet, and Ripcord* as well as countless others. Sara has spent a lifetime in the regional theatres of America and has appeared at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the National Palace of Culture in Sofia, Bulgaria. Education: Master of Fine Arts from the University of Louisville. Sara is a member of Actors' Equity Association. www.saramorsey.com



AMY TRIBBEY*

(M'Lynn Eatenton)

Broadway: Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*. Off-Broadway: *Talley's Folly* at The Roundabout, *Up Up Down Down* with New York Theatre

Experiment. Regional theatre includes American Conservatory Theatre, Paper Mill Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse, Alabama

2018-2019 Season

A Hot Broadway Musical, A World Premiere, A New Adaptation of a Classic, A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Classic, Gut-Busting Comedies, and MANY MORE!

*All Titles and Dates Subject to Change

BECOMING DR. RUTH

by Mark St. Germain • Based on the Life of Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer

EXTENDED THRU OCT 28, 2018

The Heartfelt, Hilarious, and Triumphant Story of the Girl who Became Dr. Ruth!

A One-Woman Tour-de-Force from the author of *George Washington's Teeth* and *Best of Enemies!*

• In the ArtStage Studio Theatre •

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

by Robert Harling • OCT 16-NOV 7, 2018

See the Play that Inspired the Classic 1980s Movie!

"A skillfully crafted picture of eccentricity in the small-town South!" –*Drama-Logue*

• In the Historic Arcade Theatre •

DAMASCUS

A Regional Premiere by Bennett Fisher • NOV 6-DEC 9, 2018

A Gripping & Electrifying NEW PLAY! Chosen from the 2017 PlayLab!

When terror rocks a Midwestern airport, two young men find themselves locked in a dangerous psychological thriller! Nothing is what it seems in this important new play!

• In the ArtStage Studio Theatre •

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE TALE OF EBENEZER SCROOGE

A World Premiere Adaptation by Mark Shanahan from the Story by Charles Dickens

NOV 27-DEC 19, 2018

A World-Premiere Adaptation of the Beloved Dickens Classic! Join Ebenezer Scrooge on a thrilling journey of discovery and redemption that is perfect for the WHOLE FAMILY!

• In the Historic Arcade Theatre •

TENDERLY: The Rosemary Clooney Musical

Based on the Life of Rosemary Clooney

by Janet Yates Vogt & Mark Friedman • DEC 18, 2018-FEB 24, 2019

A NEW MUSICAL Salute to the Beloved Jazz Icon! A fresh, personal, and poignant picture of the woman whose unparalleled talent and unbridled personality made her a legend!

• In the ArtStage Studio Theatre •

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE FOR 9, 8, 7, 6, or 5 SHOWS!

2018-2019 Season

SUBSCRIBE NOW to Florida Rep's THIRD DECADE OF NATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED PROFESSIONAL THEATRE!

Renewing subscribers, your renewal letter is in the mail NOW! If you want to renew immediately, pick up a form in the lobby on the way out!

August Wilson's

FENCES

JAN 8-30, 2019

The Tony-Award and Pulitzer Prize-Winning Drama! A Modern American Classic! A gripping portrait of a family struggling to make their American Dream come true in 1950's Pittsburgh. From one of the most influential playwrights of the 20th Century!

• In the Historic Arcade Theatre •

HAY FEVER

by Noël Coward • **FEB 12-MAR 6, 2019**

A Delightfully Madcap Comedy of Bad Manners! Watch a weekend getaway spiral into mayhem as tempers flare and eccentricities reign supreme! "An evening of intoxicating escape!" -*NY Times*

• In the Historic Arcade Theatre •

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

book by Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux

Original Concept & Direction by Floyd Mutrux • **MAR 19-APR 10, 2019**

Celebrate Florida Rep's 3rd Decade with Broadway's Newest rock 'n' Roll SENSATION!

Inspired by the famed recording session that brought together icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins for the first and only time!

• In the Historic Arcade Theatre •

NATIVE GARDENS

by Karen Zacarías • **APR 2-MAY 5, 2019**

Good Fences Don't Really Make Good Neighbors in this Hilarious NEW Hot-Button Comedy!

Cultures and gardens clash as well-intentioned neighbors become arch-enemies over backyard turf-war!

• In the ArtStage Studio Theatre •

FLORIDA REP IS
"One of America's TOP Repertory Companies!"
—*The Wall Street Journal*

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Shakespeare Festival, The Hangar Theatre, Indiana Rep, Laguna Playhouse, Tennessee Rep, Northern Stage, Merrimack Rep and Florida Studio Theatre. Film: *Every Secret Thing* with Diane Lane, *Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight* with Christopher Plummer (HBO), *Split the Movie*. Television: Marilyn on *The Americans*, *House of Cards*, *Gotham*, *Person of Interest*, *Unforgettable*, *Over/Under*, all the *Law & Order* series. Jeremiah 29: 11-13.

JASON PARRISH* (Director)** is an an Ensemble actor and director beginning his fourteenth season with Florida Rep, and currently serves as the company's Associate Artistic Director. His over 30 appearances on the company's two stages include: *Cabaret*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *The Dingdong*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Dividing the Estate*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Clybourne Park*, *Greetings*, *Miracle on South Division Street*, *The Big Bang*, *Noises Off*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, 2014's nationally acclaimed production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and six years in David Sedaris' one-man-show, *The Santaland Diaries*. His directing credits with Florida Rep include: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Fantasticks*, and *Tru*, as well as *Curious George: The Golden Meatball*, *Miss Nelson is Missing*, the world-premiere commission of *Journey to Oz*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live* (2012 and 2008), *How I Became a Pirate*, *The New Kid*, and *The Mischief Makers* for Florida Rep's Theatre for Young Audience Series. An advocate for new work, Jason's tenure as Artistic Director for Florida Rep's PlayLab has led to 26 new play readings, two commissioned works for young audiences, world premieres of *Split in Three* by Daryl Lisa Fazio, *Doublewide* by Stephen Spotswood, *George Washington's Teeth* by Mark St. Germain, regional premieres of *The Dingdong* by Mark Shanahan, *Damascus* by Bennett Fisher, and *Alabaster* by Audrey Cefaly. Jason's work with other theatres as an actor and director includes Actors' Playhouse (Miami), Riverside Theatre (Vero Beach), Theatre by the Sea and Ocean State Theatre Company (Rhode Island), and guest appearances with the New York Philharmonic

at Lincoln Center. Jason is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. This is for the colorful women who helped raise him: Mary Parrish, Kathy Fisher, Marcella Fisher, and Olga Wetzel.

JIM HUNTER* (Set & Lighting Designer)** has been designing for Florida Rep since 2000. Shows include: *Doublewide*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Best of Enemies*, *A Christmas Story*, *August: Osage County*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Amy's View*, and *Noises Off*. Folger Theatre: *Julius Caesar*, *Richard III*. Phoenix Theatre: *Man of La Mancha*, *The Full Monty*, *Applause*, *Tintypes*; Charlotte Repertory Theatre: *Jar the Floor*, *Other People's Money*; Theatre Virginia: *Lost in Yonkers*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *The Sunshine Boy*; Arizona Broadway Theatre: *The King and I*. Florida Stage: *Goldie, Max, and Milk*, *Some Kind of Wonderful*; Arkansas Repertory Theatre: *Talley's Folly*, *Foxfire*; Orlando Shakespeare: *West Side Story*, *Spamalot*, *The 39 Steps*; The Lost Colony: *The Lost Colony*; Drury Lane (Chicago): *La Cage Aux Folles*. Tours: Clear Channel: *Veggie Tales Live* (National) and Wall Street Danceworks. He has received awards in Scene Design for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Picnic*. Jim is a Professor of Theatre Design at the University of South Carolina and serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Schools of Theatre and Chairs the NAST Commission on Accreditation. www.jimhunterdesigns.com.

BRIGHAM JOHNSON (Asst. Stage Manager) is thrilled to join the team at Florida Rep. He completed his undergraduate degree at Western Carolina University's School of Stage and Screen with a Bachelors of Arts in Design and Technical Theatre, with a focus on stage management and scenic design. This summer Brig worked for the Connecticut Repertory Theatre as an Assistant Stage Manager for *Disaster*, directed by Jack Plotnick. Favorite credits include *Spring Awakening* and *Hair*, both directed by Terrence Mann, and *Shrek*, directed by Chryssie Whitehead. Brig has also worked for the Utah Shakespeare Festival, Berkshire Theatre Group, Crane River Theater, and the Red Fern Theatre Company. He would like to thank everyone who has supported him over the years. www.brighamjohnson.com

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

KATIE LOWE (*Sound Designer*) is thrilled to be a part of this production! She served as an electrician intern last season at Florida Repertory Theatre. Previously, she has been an electrician apprentice at Endstation Theatre Company after graduating from the University of Kentucky. Previous credits include: *Cabaret* (Florida Repertory Theatre, A2), *Million Dollar Quartet* (Endstation Theatre Company, A2), *Once On This Island* (University of Kentucky, Stage Manager), *Sense and Sensibility* (University of Kentucky, Sound Designer), *She Kills Monsters* (University of Kentucky, Stage Manager), *In The Red and Brown Water* (University of Kentucky, Assistant Stage Manager), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (University of Kentucky, Assistant Stage Manager).

BRAD MUSGROVE*** (*Costume Designer*) is thrilled to be joining Florida Rep to design on of his favorite plays. As resident costume designer for STAGES St. Louis, Brad has designed productions of, *Oklahoma*, *Mamma Mia*, *I Do, Do*, *9-5*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (St. Louis Critics Circle nomination), *Sister Act*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* (St. Louis Critics Circle nomination), *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *Anything Goes* (St. Louis Critics Circle Award), and

My One and Only (Kevin Kline Award nomination). In New York, Brad designed the world premiere of *Heatwave-the Jack Cole project*. His work could also be seen on Broadway in *The Producers*, *The Boy from Oz*, *Sweet Charity*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *9 to 5-the musical*. Other credits include *Crazy for You* at Theatre by the Sea. Much thanks to Jason for this opportunity.

JANINE WOCHNA** (*Production Stage Manager*) is delighted to return to Florida Rep where she is an ensemble member, having previously stage managed *Cabaret*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Outside Mullingar*, the critically acclaimed *House of Blue Leaves*, *The Cocktail Hour*, *The Unexpected Guest*, *Tribes*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Collected Stories*, *Time Stands Still*, *Talley's Folly*, and many others over fourteen seasons. Regional theatre credits include: *The Passion of Teresa Rae King*, *Brother Wolf*, *Underneath the Lintel*, and *Abundance* at Triad Stage, five seasons as Resident Stage Manager at the Geva Theatre, and 14 seasons at the Cleveland Play House. She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

SPECIAL THANKS

Katelynn Foster • Olivia Pedigo
Wigs provided by WigBoys



ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American Actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit www.actorsequity.org.



FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL THEATRES ASSOCIATION (FPTA)

is a statewide organization of professional theatre companies and theatre professionals interested in the development and promotion of professional theatre throughout Florida. Florida Repertory Theatre is a proud FPTA member theatre.



Florida Repertory Theatre is a member of **THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (TCG)**, the national organization for the American Theatre.



Florida Repertory Theatre is a proud Associate Member of the **NATIONAL NEW PLAY NETWORK**.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



GREG LONGENHAGEN

After a months-long internal search, the Board of Directors of Florida Repertory Theatre is pleased to welcome founding company member Greg Longenhagen as the organization's new Artistic Director.

Greg is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Florida Gulf Coast University and was the President, Owner, CEO, and Senior Creative Director of Abbott Productions in Fort Myers. He assumed leadership as Artistic Director on October 15.

"The Board of Directors is very pleased to have Greg at the helm as our new Artistic Director," said Chairperson, Marc Lavolette. "Greg believes in Florida Rep's mission and has contributed to the theatre's success over the past twenty seasons. We are confident he will continue to deliver the

extremely high-quality productions that Florida Rep is known for."

Longenhagen is embarking on his 21st season with the company. He has worked on 59 productions as an actor, director, fight choreographer, or dialect coach, including the company's inaugural production of *Noises Off*. An accomplished actor, director, producer, teacher and coach, Greg has enjoyed a 30-year professional career in theatre, radio, television, and film. He was seen most recently in Florida Rep's nationally acclaimed production of *The House of Blue Leaves* in 2017 and directed *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* last season.

Greg holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and his extensive professional resume includes work onstage with Charlotte Repertory Theatre, Riverside Theatre, Arrow Rock Lyceum, Florida Stage, Pittsburgh Playhouse, Pirate Playhouse, Pennsylvania Stage Company, Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre, Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival, Philadelphia Shakespeare, The Fulton Theatre, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, Opera Delaware, St. Vincent Theatre, Theatre Row, and more. Greg was born and raised near Allentown, Pennsylvania. His career in regional theatre has taken him all over the country. In the 1990's, he settled in Southwest Florida where he met his wife, Liz Abbott.

"My goal is to honor the amazing 20-year contributions by Robert Cacioppo and Carrie Lund while conforming to the mission statement approved by our board of directors," Longenhagen said. "As Artistic Director, I will enhance the Rep's traditions of excellence in entertaining, enlightening, and enriching our audiences. With the continued generous support of our donors and patrons, I will strive to advance our educational program for the youth of the community."