



Meredith Noblin: SHE HAS WEATHERED MANY STORMS AND COME OUT BEAUTIFUL & STRONGER THAN EVER!



Ramsay Parham: I AM NOMINATING MY MOM - A 1964 GRADUATE OF LEON HIGH SCHOOL - BECAUSE SHE IS BEAUTIFUL, KIND, AND STRONG WOMAN.



Laurie Coburn: SHE WAS IN STEEL MAGNOLIAS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND PLAYED CLAIREE



Catherine Heath: SHE IS A WONDERFUL SISTER, WIFE, MOTHER, & FRIEND!



Sally Bradshaw: SHE IS ALWAYS DOING NEW & BRAVE THINGS!



Jennifer and Anna Canady: THESE TWO WOMEN ARE THE EPITOME OF STEEL MAGNOLIAS, STRONG THROUGH ALL SEASONS!



Robyn Shirley: STRONG AS STEEL AND AS BEAUTIFUL AS A SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA! SHE LOVES DEEPLY AND HAS A SENSE OF STYLE (EVEN THROUGH THE 80'S SHE WAS AHEAD OF THE STYLE CURVE.)



Dina Clarke: SHE IS A PRAYER WARRIOR, BIBLE TEACHING, BROADWAY SINGING, EXTRAVAGANT LOVING MOTHER, WIFE, & FRIEND!

Deaver Corgine: HILARIOUS, CARING, THE ULTIMATE HOSTESS, & LONG-SUFFERING (SOMETIMES) PATIENT MOTHER, WIFE, & FRIEND!

Karen Sytsma: SHE IS A WOMAN OF GREAT STRENGTH, CHARACTER, & LOVES GREATLY!





Becky Liner: I HAVE WATCHED HER WEATHER MANY STORMS AS A TRUE STEEL MAGNOLIA. SHE IS GRACEFUL, LOVING, AND HAS THE BEST HOLIDAY DECORATIONS IN ALL OF LEON COUNTY. PLUS ALL HER TATTOOS ARE SPELLED CORRECTLY.

Bobbie Noblin: SHE TRIED TO TEACH HER DAUGHTER, LEA, HOW TO TRULY BE A SOUTHERN BELLE. LEA NEVER QUITE CAUGHT ON AND NEVER ACHIEVED THE LEVEL OF SWEET SOUTHERNNESS OF HER DEAR MOTHER. BUT BOBBEE LOVED LEA FIERCELY AND ENCOURAGED HER MIGHTILY. BOBBEE GRADUATED FROM LEON HIGH SCHOOL IN 1953 AND WOULD BE TICKLED PINK THAT LEA IS TEACHING AT LEON!



Carol Lee Marshall: A WORLD TRAVELER BUT A SOUTHERN STEEL MAGNOLIA AT HEART. A WONDERFUL ARTIST, MOTHER, FRIEND, GRANDMOTHER, AND MOTHER IN LAW!

Suzanne Rita Byrnes: SHE ALWAYS LOVES OTHERS LIKE IT'S HER LAST DAY TO LIVE. AND IF SHE'S TRYING TO REMIND THE WORLD THAT SOMEONE, EVEN A PASSING STRANGER, WISHES THEM WELL.



Annette Minger Craton: SHE WAS A SOUTHERN BELLE. THAT WAS AS STRONG AS ANY PERSON I HAVE EVER MET.

Alden Minick: THIS WO(W)MAN IS A SWAG. KIND, LOVING, COMPASSIONATE, LOYAL, GRAND PAL



June Bolling: JUNE WAS A STRONG WOMAN. SHE WORKED FOR YEARS AT THE DELI IN WINN DIXIE AND NEVER MET A STRANGER. SHE DID NOT LEARN TO DRIVE UNTIL SHE WAS IN HER 50'S AFTER HER HUSBAND PASSED AWAY. JUNE CONTINUED WORKING AT WINN DIXIE IN HER RETIREMENT UNTIL HER HEALTH BEGAN TO DECLINE. SHE WAS MARRIED TO JIMMY BOLLING AND HAD TWO SONS, JIM BOLLING AND JOEL BOLLING.

Dorothy Wolff Detrio. DOROTHY, OR DOT, AS SHE WAS KNOWN, WAS A STRONG WOMAN WHO RAISED HER THREE CHILDREN AND ALSO HELPED RAISE HER GRANDDAUGHTER. SHE HAD A WICKED SENSE OF HUMOR AND WAS ALWAYS THERE TO LISTEN WHEN YOU NEEDED TO TALK. DOT WAS MARRIED TO ANTHONY DETRIO AND HAD ONE DAUGHTER, KATHY BOLLING AND TWO SONS, MIKE DETRIO AND PHIL DETRIO.



Susan Wessner. SUSAN IS A GREAT MOM! SHE IS ALWAYS THERE TO LISTEN IF I HAVE A PROBLEM. SHE IS A MATH TEACHER AT TCC AND HER STUDENTS LOVE HER. SUSAN IS ALSO A GIRL SCOUT LEADER AND ENJOYS VOLUNTEERING WITH THE GIRLS. SHE IS MARRIED TO DAN WESSNER AND THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN, SEAN WESSNER AND CADEN WESSNER.

Kathy Bolling. SHE IS A FORMER CEO AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF FLORIDA INSURANCE SCHOOL UNTIL HER RETIREMENT. KATHY IS THE BEST MOM AND THE MATRIARCH OF OUR FAMILY. SHE IS MARRIED TO JIM BOLLING AND HAS 2 CHILDREN, SUSAN WESSNER AND JEFF BOLLING.



Almira Malley. SHE IS THE MOST INCREDIBLE PERSON I KNOW! SHE IS STRONG, KIND, PATIENT, CARING, LOVING, INSPIRATIONAL, BEAUTIFUL, SWEET, COMPASSIONATE, CARING, AND THESE ARE ONLY A FEW OF THE WORDS THAT COULD BE USED TO DESCRIBE HER! BUT THERE IS ONE WORD THAT I LOVE CALLING HER MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD...MAMA ❤️

Bobbie Buckingham. SHE HAS DEDICATED HER LIFE TO TEACHING OTHERS HOW TO CHALLENGE LIMITATIONS AND FIND THEIR OWN VOICE. WACHULA BORN AND MEANT TO SOAR!



Carol Davis. CAROL DAVIS IS THE EPITOME OF A STEEL MAGNOLIA: STRONG AND BEAUTIFUL. SHE HAS BEEN AN EXAMPLE TO HER DAUGHTERS AND GRANDDAUGHTER ON HOW TO LIVE AND LOVE. SHE IS KNOWN FOR HER POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND FACING CHALLENGES HEAD ON. HER MOTTO IS: "WHAT A GREAT DAY TO BE ALIVE!". SHE IS AN INSPIRATION AND A CHEERLEADER FOR ALL OF THE FAMILY.

Director's Notes

OUR THEME FOR LEON THEATRE THIS YEAR IS STRONG WIND, STRONG TREES WHICH IS EXPRESSED SO PERFECTLY BY THE LINES FROM THIS POEM...

GOOD TIMBER BY DOUGLAS MALLOCH

GOOD TIMBER DOES NOT GROW WITH EASE:

THE STRONGER WIND, THE STRONGER TREES:

THE FURTHER SKY, THE GREATER LENGTH:
THE MORE THE STORM, THE MORE THE STRENGTH.
BY SUN AND COLD, BY RAIN AND SNOW,
IN TREES AND (WO)MEN GOOD TIMBERS GROW.

ROBERT HARLING'S PLAY STEEL MAGNOLIAS IS THE RESULT OF HIS DEVASTATING LOSS OF HIS SISTER AS HE STRUGGLED TO COPE WITH HER DEATH. THIS CATHARTIC WRITING HAS GIVEN TO US A BEAUTIFUL STORY OF SIX SOUTHERN WOMEN GROWING IN STRENGTH AND DIGNITY AS THEY FACE THE STRONG WINDS OF LOSS & LIFE. IT IS THE PERFECT PLAY TO SHOWCASE HOW STRONG WINDS CAN PRODUCE STRONG AND VITAL TREES! AND IT HAS MADE ALL OF US STRONGER AS WE STRUGGLED THROUGH THIS PROCESS!

A FEW MAGNOLIA FACTS HELPED FORM MY VISION FOR THIS PLAY: MAGNOLIAS MAY SEEM EVER PRESENT BUT THEY ARE DEFINITELY NOT COMMONPLACE PLANTS. MAGNOLIAS GROW ON TREES, NOT VINES, BUSHES OR ON STALKS AND THESE TREES CAN LIVE FOR A FULL CENTURY. FOSSIL REMAINS SHOW THAT BASICALLY ALL MAGNOLIAS FOLLOW THE SAME BLUEPRINT THROUGHOUT THEIR LONG HISTORY HERE ON THE PLANET. ANCIENT MAGNOLIAS ARE STILL RECOGNIZABLE TODAY AS MAGNOLIAS. CLEARLY, MAGNOLIAS HAVE FOUND A WAY TO SURVIVE. THEREFORE, A MAGNOLIA MEANS STABILITY AND GRACE THROUGH THE EVER CHANGING AGES. MUCH LIKE THESE MAGNOLIA-LIKE WOMEN.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT MY OWN MOTHER & MY DAUGHTERS WHEN I CHOOSE THIS PLAY. MY MOTHER WAS A FAITHFUL WEEKLY VISITOR TO HER BEAUTICIAN, GRACE'S SALON EVERY WEEK! SO THE CHARACTERS SEEMED LIKE FAMILY TO ME! I AM ALSO PREPARING TO SEND MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OFF TO COLLEGE NEXT YEAR. MAY I MEET ALL THE CONSTANT CHALLENGES IN MY LIFE WITH THE STRENGTH AND CONVICTIONS OF FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP THAT THESE WOMAN SHOW US THROUGHOUT THIS PLAY.

I HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY PRIVILEGED TO HAVE WORKED WITH AN EXTREMELY TALENTED CAST. DURING REHEARSALS I MARVELED AT THEIR STRENGTH AND CONVICTION TO TELL THIS STORY WITH GRACE AND DIGNITY. THESE WOMEN ARE AS ADMIRABLE AS THE WOMEN IN THE PLAY, AND FOR ME THEY ARE TRUE STEEL MAGNOLIAS. PLUS THEY LISTENED TO MY STORIES OF 80'S FASHION WITHOUT LAUGHING TOO HARD.

THIS PRODUCTION HAS BEEN CREATED BY THE ADVANCED THEATRE CLASS AT LEON. EVERY SINGLE PART OF IT WAS CREATED BY THESE INCREDIBLE STUDENTS. I AM BLESSED TO GROW AS A DIRECTOR, TEACHER, AND HUMAN BEING AIDED BY THEIR CREATIVITY & DISCIPLINE, AND MOST OF ALL BY THE TRUST AND LOVE THEY HAVE FOR THEIR DIRECTOR .

{lea marshall 11.4, 2017}

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
FEBRUARY 23RD & 24TH FOR THE VERY REALISTIC
ABSURDIST PLAY **THE ARSONISTS.**

“ONE THING IS CLEAR:
IF YOU WANT TO FEEL COZY AND SAFE,
THIS ISN'T THE PLAY FOR YOU.
BUT IF YOU WANT TO FACE THE UNCERTAINTY OF OUR TIMES,
THIS PLAY IS PERFECT.”

STEPHANIE HOUSE (MD THEATRE GUIDE)

