

Steel Magnolias in Villa Little Brown Theatre  
by Rosemarie Howard  
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Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling is a glimpse into the heartbeat of a small town and the women who create its rhythm. Although set in Chinquapin, Louisiana, the events and feelings captured could happen in Any Small Town, U.S.A. Unlike the movie, the audience never sees more than the inside of Truvy's beauty salon, but through the eyes and conversation of the women who frequent the salon we glimpse enough to paint our own images of the community they live in.

The show has been well-cast and directed by Kathy Llewellyn. Kaye Pead plays the beauty salon owner, Truvy, with just the right amount of gushy enthusiasm and warmth. Sharee Gariety, portrays Shelby, with Robinne Booth as her mother, M'Lynn; Darcy Moody appears as Annelle, Claudine Boothe as Clairee; and Arlene McGregor as Ouiser, the women with the outrageously crusty exterior behavior that hides a heart of gold.

Robert Harling's script is full of quotable one-liners, that the actors deliver with aplomb. "If you don't have anything nice to say, come sit by me," Clairee expounds. "An ounce of pretention is worth a pound of manure," Shelby quotes her father as saying. "The sanctuary looks like it's been hosed down with Pepto-Bismol," M'Lynn laughs, referring to her daughter's wedding color choices of "blush and bashful" (shades of pink).

Cast members work well together to create an overall sound and entertaining community theatre production.

The show is presented in the newly opened Villa Little Brown Theatre located at 239 South Main Street in Springville. Final performances will be Friday, and Saturday, March 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m. Call 389-3088 for ticket information.