

Audiences are set to be transported to Louisiana with an iconic stage play

Y'all best be ready, because Garrick Theatre is proud to present the beloved story, *Steel Magnolias*, staged by multi award-winning actress and director Lynne Devenish, and opening on 1st August 2024.

Written by Robert Harling and based on the true story of his sister's illness, the stage play, and later the film of the same name, has been enjoyed globally by audiences since the 1980s and remains relevant nearly 40 years later.

A familiar face on the stage, director Lynne Devenish has been involved in theatre for more than 60 years – first treading the boards in her primary school stage production in Pakistan in 1953. However, it wasn't until 1965 when she was well and truly bitten by the theatre bug whilst living and working in Newmarket, England, that she discovered the joys of community theatre.

Lynne joined Garrick Theatre in 1968 after moving to Western Australia – and she hasn't left since.

With more than six decades of experience under her belt and several awards to show for it, Lynne, along with her dedicated cast, is sure to present a theatrical experience which will both warm and break the hearts of audiences.

Set in a small Louisiana town, *Steel Magnolias* is a beautiful and uplifting story, laced with hilarious dialogue about intergenerational female friendship, and this drama-comedy probably needs little introduction to most audiences.

"I've been sitting on the *Steel Magnolias* script for a while now, finally deciding to submit it for inclusion in the 2024 program at Garrick," Lynne explained.

"At the centre of the story are six women of varying ages, who all bring something different and unique to the story, yet despite their differences, at the core of their friendship, they share a strong and enduring bond that resonates with women around the world.

"The writing is energetic and witty, whilst at the same time, the playwright has not glossed over the sad and heartbreaking events that take place during the story."

Steel Magnolias will feature actresses Lea McCall, Allison Sermon, Heather Marshall, Grainne Kennedy, Kylie Calwell and Sally Forbes.

Book your tickets now at www.taztix.com.au/garricktheatre or call 9255 3336.

Theatre: Garrick Theatre, 16 Meadow Street, Guildford, WA.

Performance Dates: August 1, 2, 3, 4*, 8, 9, 10*, 10, 11*, 15, 16, 17

All evening shows at 7.30pm

*denotes matinee show at 2pm

Tickets: Adult \$28, Concession \$23, Members \$22, Children \$15. Processing fees apply.

Opening night special (August 1st) – \$10 off full priced tickets.

About Steel Magnolias

Steel Magnolias is a stage play by American writer Robert Harling, based on his experience with his sister's death. The play is a comedy-drama about the bond among a group of Southern women in northwest Louisiana.

Set in Truvy's beauty parlour in a small town somewhere in Louisiana, the energetic dialogue with sombre moments, spans three years in the lives of six women.

Truvy and her assistant Annelle, chat and gossip with their friends and regular customers, M'Lynn, Shelby, Clairee, and Ouiser. They share and discuss everything, including marriage, children, health and deaths, with advice being given freely.

When one of them passes away suddenly it is the strong bond that they share that gives them deep strength and the purpose in life to help them through their darkest hours.

The all-female cast are the titular '*Steel Magnolias*' – delicate as magnolias but as tough as steel.