

Steel Magnolias Auditions

River Valley Arts Center

June 24, 2023 7:00PM

All are welcome to come audition both experienced and non-experienced. Please fill out audition form and bring with you to auditions if you would like to include a head shot or resume of theatre experience that is great but not required. You may just do cold readings or prepare the sides provided below if you are interested in a specific character. Also please prepare the monologue for M'Lynn if you are interested in playing that role.

AUDITION SIDES and CHARACTERS

Ouiser Boudreaux. To play 55 to late 60s – Wealthy curmudgeon. Tough, eccentric, acerbic but loveable.

OUISER: It's not your fault, M'Lynn. I used to think that you were crazy for marrying that man. Then I thought you were a glutton for punishment. Now I realize that you must be on some mission from God. I have not slept in days. I look like a dog's dinner. However, when I got up this morning, I decided I would try to rise above it. I would start anew. Whatever that man has done, I would overlook it in honor of your wedding day, Shelby. I thought I would make myself a little presentable and floss up the house in case somebody wanted to drop in... it being a big day in the neighborhood and all. So I go out to my magnolia tree and there is not a bloom on it!

OUSIER: Shelby. I managed in just a few decades to marry the two most worthless men in the universe and proceed to have the three most ungrateful children ever conceived. The only reason people are nice to me is because I have more money than God. I'm not crazy. I've just been in a very bad mood for forty years.

Clairee Belcher to play 55 to late 60s – Widow of former mayor. Grande dame, elegant and sophisticated.

CLAIREE: Lloyd and I missed it to fifty years by three months. That stinker. Bless his heart. He tried. He just couldn't make it. Shelby, I hope you and Jackson will be as happy as Lloyd and I were. We had such a good time. Until last November... at least he hung on through the state playoffs. I don't miss the whirlwind of being the Mayor's wife. It's not easy being just one. I don't like going to things by myself. If I go with another couple, I'm a third wheel. If I go with a friend, we're just a couple of old biddies.

CLAIREE: Oh, child. Nobody won that year. There wasn't even a Christmas festival when I was in high school. Why Jesus wasn't even born until I was a junior in college. I remember it distinctly. My friends and I were all out watching our flocks by night....

Truvy Jones: to play 35 to 45 – Owner of the beauty shop. Vivacious, dispenses advice and hairspray!

TRUVY: Annelle? This is the most successful shop in town. Wanna know why? Because I have a strict philosophy that I have stuck to for fifteen years... "There is no such thing as natural beauty." That's why I've never lost a client to the Kut and Kurl or the Beauty Box. And remember! My ladies get only the best. Do not scrimp on anything. Feel free to use as much hair spray as you want.

TRUVY: Got me. Maybe she was praying for Marshall and Drew and Belle. Maybe she was praying for us because we were gossiping. Maybe she was praying because the elastic is shot in her pantyhose. Who knows? She prays at the drop of a hat these days. At Mardi Gras, she had her choice of going to a Bible weekend with her Sunday School class or to New Orleans with me and two other sinners. She left that Friday a pleasant, well-adjusted young lady and she returned on Tuesday a Christian.

M'Lynn Eatenton. To play 40 to 50s – Shelby's mother. Always knows what is best. Strong, stubborn and the heart of the play.

M'LYNN: He doesn't have any idea what Valium is. The man prides himself on never having any tension. Which is amazing considering the amount he has created over the years... hm... listen to me. I've got to stop taking potshots at Drum all the time. He's a good man, he's crazy, but he's a good man. Drum and I seem to be rediscovering those things that brought us together in the first place. I don't know if we buried them or became blind to them. I don't know. I don't know if I'm lucky to have what I have... or lucky to know what I have.

M'LYNN: No. I couldn't leave my Shelby. I stayed there. I kept on pushing... just like I always have where Shelby was concerned... hoping she'd sit up and argue with me. But finally we all realized there was no hope. At that point I panicked. I was very afraid that I would not survive the next few minutes while they turned off the machines. Drum couldn't take it. He left. Jackson couldn't take it. He left. It struck me as amusing. Men are supposed to be made of steel or something. But I could not leave. I just sat there... holding Shelby's hand while the sounds got softer and the beeps got further apart until all was quiet. There was no noise, no tremble... just peace.

Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie. To play 20 to 25 – Prettiest girl in town. Loves pink. Strong willed and passionate.

SHELBY: We are awful. We are all hateful, awful people. Here all we've been talking about is weddings and psychotic animals. We're been tearing you up inside, haven't we? I can't tell you how sorry I am. And you've had such a terrible time. Sometimes we don't know how lucky we are. I know one thing I can do. Tonight, you are going to drop by my house and have some bleeding armadillo groom's cake. It's going to be a great party. I can't stand the thought of someone being unhappy or alone tonight. And if you feel yourself start getting sad, just watch my husband dance. It's very funny.

SHELBY: Mama. I don't know why you have to make everything so difficult. I look at having this baby as the opportunity of a lifetime. Sure, there may be some risk involved. That's true for anybody. But you

get through it and life goes on. And when it's all said and done there'll be a little piece of immortality with Jackson's good looks and my sense of style... I hope. Mama, please. I need your support. I would rather have thirty minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special.

**Annelle Dupuy-Desoto: to play 18 to 24 – Newly hired Beauty shop assistant.
Moves from unsure to wild to religious.**

ANNELLE: Everything is horrible. Bunkie... that's my husband. He left. We only moved here a month ago. He just vanished last week. He took all the money, my jewelry, the car. Most of my clothes were in the trunk. He never paid the rent so I got thrown out of our house and had to move in at crazy old Mrs. Robeline's. The police keep questioning me, but I don't know anything. I need a job in the worst way and I didn't know if you'd hire someone who may or may not be married to someone who might be a dangerous criminal. But I swear to you that my personal tragedy will not interfere with my ability to do good hair.

ANNELLE: Miss M'Lynn. I don't mean to upset you by saying that. You see. When something like this happens, I pray very hard to make heads or tails of it. I think in Shelby's case, she wanted to take care of that baby, of you, of everybody she knew... and her poor body was just worn out. It wouldn't let her do everything she wanted to do. So she went on to a place where she could be a guardian angel. She will always be young. She will always be beautiful. And I personally feel much safer knowing she's up there on my side. I know some people might think that sounds real simple and stupid... and maybe I am. But that's how I get through things like this.

M'Lynn Monologue

M'LYNN. Well, I wasn't in the mood to play bridge. *(Beat.)* No, I couldn't leave my Shelby. It's interesting. Both the boys were very difficult births. I almost died when Jonathan was born. Very difficult births. Shelby was a breeze. I could've gone home that afternoon I had her. I was thinking about that as I sat next to Shelby while she was in the coma. I would work her legs and arms to keep the circulation going. I told the ICU nurse we were doing our Jane Fonda. I stayed there. I kept on pushing...just like I always have where Shelby was concerned...hoping she'd sit up and argue with me. But finally we all realized there was no hope. At that point I panicked. I was very afraid that I would not survive the next few minutes while they turned off the machines. Drum couldn't take it. He left. Jackson couldn't take it. He left. It struck me as amusing. Men are supposed to be made of steel or something. But I could not leave. I just sat there...holding Shelby's hand while the sounds got softer and the beeps got farther apart until all was quiet. There was no noise, no tremble...just peace. I realized as a woman how lucky I was. I was there when this wonderful person drifted into my world and I was there when she drifted out. It was the most precious moment of my life thus far.

RVAC AUDITION FORM

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State/Zip _____
Email _____

Age _____

Height _____

Hair Color _____

Eye Color _____

Vocal Part _____ (i.e. soprano, alto, tenor, bass – high or low)

Parent (if under 18) _____
Email _____

Cell Phone () _____ Home Phone () _____ Best time to
call _____

Roles you are interested in: _____ Are you willing
to accept any role? _____ (yes/no)

If you do not get a speaking role are you willing to be in the show? _____ (yes/no)
CONFLICTS (specific dates and times, please)

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Are you interested in working on stage crew, props, or costumes? (Please circle)

Where did you hear about this audition? _____

PLEASE LIST PRIOR EXPERIENCE ON BACK OF FORM (or attach resume). Include voice, dance, acting training and theatrical experience.

PRINT THIS FORM, COMPLETE IT, AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO YOUR AUDITION.