



Mercury Theatre Wynnum  
184 Melville Tce Manly QLD 4179  
P.O. Box 9056, Wynnum Plaza QLD 4178  
Ph: 0408 701 961  
email: mercurywynnum@gmail.com

# AUDITION PACK

## STEEL MAGNOLIAS

*By Robert Harling*

### **About this Production**

Set in the fictional north western [Louisiana parish](#) of Chinquapin, the play opens at Truvy's in-home beauty parlour where a group of women regularly gather. They discuss Shelby's upcoming wedding to her fiancé, Jackson. The plot covers events over the next three years relating to Shelby's [Type 1 diabetes](#), and with how the women cope with their conflicts, while remaining friends: Shelby's decision to have a child despite jeopardizing her health, Clairee's friendship with the curmudgeon Ouiser; Annelle's transformation from a shy, anxious newcomer in town to a good-time girl then repentant revival-tent Christian; and Truvy's relationships with the men in her family. Although the main storyline involves Shelby, her mother M'Lynn, and Shelby's medical battles, the group's underlying friendship is prominent throughout the drama

### **About Mercury**

Mercury Theatre Wynnum was founded by local identity Win Davson, producing its first play, 'Milestones' by Arnold Bennett-Edward Knoblock at the Star Theatre, Wynnum Central on 7 July 1949. Win wrote that she began Mercury "to foster an appreciation and love of a great art whose field is the whole of human life with its laughter and tears, sorrow and tragedy". The name was inspired by a London theatre of the same name. Mercury Youth Theatre was founded in April 1957 by Lois Lenihan and Daphne Raymond and continued to provide performance opportunities for local children for many years.

Mercury Theatre is a community-based (amateur) company governed and managed completely by volunteers. We rehearse at both the Wynnum Community Centre, Wynnum and the Manly-Lota RSL Hall, Manly. Performances will be held at the Manly-Lota RSL Hall, Queensland.

***To participate in the show, you must be a member of Mercury Theatre Wynnum Inc.  
Successful cast members and crew will pay a Mercury Theatre Wynnum Inc membership  
fee of \$10 per person which is valid for the calendar year in which it is paid.***



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**Director: Ric Medlin**

Ric is a long term member of Mercury Theatre having joined the youth theatre as a child. Ric has been an integral part of our theatre as an active member, actor, director, committee member and participating in all roles within the theatre over the years. Ric has directed several plays with Mercury, most recently "It's My Party...and I'll Die If I Want To" and also with Mt Cotton Drama Group where he Directed "The Opposite Sex". Ric has extensive experience with all aspects of the theatre and was awarded Life Membership in 2021.

***Auditions will be held at 7pm – 9pm on Thursday, 17 February, and Monday 21 February 2022, at the Wynnum Manly Arts Council [Room 1:12], Wynnum Community Centre, 105 Florence St, Wynnum***

**To register for an audition please email your name, mobile number and the role/s you'd like to be considered for, to [mercurywynnum@gmail.com](mailto:mercurywynnum@gmail.com)**



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### Requirements for characters:

- Listed stage ages are preferred but are open to the discretion of the artistic team.
- Depending on the character, you may wish to be considered to be cast in multiple parts.

### Characters:

**Truvy Jones** - Truvy is in her late thirties and owns a hair salon, which is the setting for the play. She is quite the gossip and loves to be in everyone's personal affairs. Her two sons are Louie, who attends Louisiana State University, and Poot, who is to work with her cousin in Baltimore. She is married to a man named Spud Jones who she describes as a "lazy old man." Truvy treats Annelle as a daughter, even though they are not related. She also loves listening to other people's romantic experiences.

**Annelle Dupuy-Desoto** - Annelle is young, between eighteen and twenty-five. She is new in town and seeks out a job as a hair stylist at Truvy's salon and a room in a boarding house due to her lack of money. Annelle is a shy, private, and creative individual. She is kind and gracious towards the women she meets in the beauty salon.

**Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie** - Shelby, mid-twenties, is the daughter of M'Lynn Eatenton. At the start of the play, she is about to get married to Jackson Latcherie. She has diabetes but does not want her medical background to define her nor does she want to rely on others. She is a paediatric nurse, and she wants to have children. However, it is not recommended for her to have children because of her medical conditions. She wants to have a very romantic and peaceful marriage instead of the hectic relationship that her parents have.

**Ouiser Bourdeaux** - Ouiser is an older woman in her late fifties to early sixties, often described as "bitter" or "annoyed." The things she values the most are her dog Rhett and her property. She is constantly arguing with M'Lynn's husband Drum over property but does have a deep and genuine concern for Shelby and her health. Even though she speaks poorly to the other women sometimes, she still considers them her closest companions. She has been married twice and has children.



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**M'Lynn Eatenton** - M'Lynn is the mother of Shelby. She also has two sons named Tommy and Jonathan, Shelby's brothers. She is around 40 years old. She is also the wife of Drum Eatenton, whom she believes is "crazy." She is the administrator of the Mental Guidance Centre. Her main priority is her daughter Shelby; she takes great care of her daughter, almost to the point of becoming overprotective. On the surface, she appears strong and collected, but deep down she is fragile.

**Clairee Belcher**- Clairee is the mayor's widow and the owner of the local radio station. She is older, around her late fifties. She is known for her "smart mouth" and "sweet tooth." She often puts herself down but tends to remain playful whenever a serious topic arises. She is the only woman in the play without children, but she maintains close ties with her relatives.



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### **Audition Format:**

- Please prepare one monologue of your choice, to be delivered in an American accent (preferably Southern), with the intention to demonstrate your ability and proficiency to play different characters and adapt your accent to suit.
- You will be asked to perform a cold read of the script with the same accent requirements..
- Please bring a **colour headshot** (minimum size 10cm X 15cm) printed at a KMart kiosk or on your home printer is sufficient. Please note, this is non-returnable.
- Please bring your **audition form**, completed in full and ensuring you list ALL clashes with the show calendar

### **Notification of Offer**

ALL auditionees will receive notification of the outcome of their audition by either email or phone call within a week of auditions.

### ***IMPORTANT DATES, TIMES AND VENUES***

#### **Rehearsals:**

If you are successful in receiving an offer for a role, you are expected to be available for all performances. You are likewise expected to be available for all rehearsals scheduled however, life happens, so please list any conflicts with rehearsal dates on your audition form. Updated rehearsal schedules may be released periodically throughout the rehearsal process.

On Monday, 28 February there will be a meet and greet session with the cast and director, you will be provided with your script and a read through of the play will be done.

Rehearsals will commence on Monday, 7 March at the Manly-Lota RSL Hall, 184 Melville Tce, Manly and thereafter each Thursday and Monday starting at 7.00pm promptly. When rehearsals commence, you will be expected to have a thorough understanding of the play, your character and the characters your character plays!

#### **Performances:**

All performances will be at the Manly-Lota RSL Hall, 183 Melville Terrace, Manly:

Friday, 3 June, Saturday 4 June, Friday 10 June, Saturday 11 June, Friday 17 June and Saturday 18 June @ 7:30pm



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**AUDITION FORM**

**STEEL MAGNOLIAS**

**by Robert Harling**

***Please complete IN FULL and bring it with you to your audition.***

***Please STAPLE your performance history and colour 10x15cm headshot to this form.***

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

**Name:** .....

**Mobile:** .....

**Address:** .....

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.....

.....

**Email:** .....

**I would like to be considered for:** .....

I am willing to be cast in another role:      YES                      NO (circle as appropriate)



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**CALENDAR CONFLICTS**

Please list ALL known conflicts you may have. While we understand that work commitments come first, we expect a high level of commitment from our performers. Knowing your date conflicts allows us to create a productive rehearsal schedule.

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**RELEVANT PERFORMANCE HISTORY [Please begin with the most recent]**

PRODUCTION	ROLE PLAYED	COMPANY	YEAR

**Other relevant experience:**

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OFFICE USE ONLY:

OFFER:	
DATE PHONED:	DATE EMAILED:
NOTES:	