



Booking Form



Steel Magnolias

...and Fish'n'Chip Supper
October 20th, 21st & 22nd 2005



PROGRAMME 50 pence

A fish'n'chip supper will be served during the interval.
House manager Sue Walker
Bar manager Renate Butler
Box office Sue Walker
Thank you to all our other helpers... front of house and bar staff and other behind the scenes helpers who all contribute to the success of the evening.

PRODUCTION TEAM



stage director
Cyril Mighall



lighting & sound
Rodney Bain

PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE
LIGHTING & SOUND - Peter Shore
SET CONSTRUCTION - John Gent, Jeremy Lund
PROPERTIES - Jenny Barnett
CONTINUITY - Clive Shore

Felicity Lund
Sally Harling
Barbara Saunders
Emma Davey
Liz Tomlin
Susan Sarti



felicity lund

Felicity has not had the chance to reprise her stunning first performance, at the age of 4, as a rabbit and feels now that it will never happen. More sedate roles have followed, both in comedy and straight drama, as well as forays into directing.



emma davey

Emma escaped from Weston-super-Mare to go to London and find her fortune through training as an actor! She has worked on stage, TV & film and favourite leading roles have been in *Pygmalion*, *The King & I* and *Abigail's Party*. She is delighted to again join Bletchingley Players for such an exciting production.



sally harling

Sally moved to Bletchingley six years ago and joined Bletchingley Players in 2000 since when she has enjoyed roles in six productions. When she is not in a play, Sally runs for charity, works on a project for children with special needs at a Redhill school and enjoys her new status as a first-time aunty.



liz tomlin

Liz has enjoyed several parts since joining the players eight years ago. She last appeared in *Caramba's Revenge*, and has twice directed Player's productions - *On Golden Pond* and *Pygmalion*. Liz has been involved with several groups over many years, including Croydon Stagers, and at the Miller Centre.



barbara saunders

A member of Bletchingley Players since 2002, and the current chairman, Barbara appeared in *Anybody for Murder* and *Waiting in the Wings* as well as directing *Arthur's Big Day* and *Caramba's Revenge*. She had a role in *Steel Magnolias* once before with another amateur group.



susan sarti

Two years ago Susan played sharp-tongued Irish harridan - and now plays a sharp-tongued southern American. "How significant is this?" she asks. "Could it be type-casting?" But Susan says it is great to be back on stage with her old friend and to have a producer who terrifies her only a little.



director
john tomlin

John Tomlin has directed and produced a number of plays for Bletchingley Players, including *The Odd Couple* (female version), *After September*, *Late of this Address* and *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. He has also appeared in several productions which include *Blythe Spirit* and *On Golden Pond*.

Director's note: The action of this play is set in Louisiana, in and around the area recently devastated by Hurricane Katrina. I have decided to stay true to Robert Harling's original script which mentions places like Baton Rouge and New Orleans. This in no way lessens the feelings of sympathy and sorrow that I, or my fellow Players, have for the great loss and tragedy in that area.
John Tomlin

Truvy Jones
Annelle Dupuy-Desoto
Clairee Belcher
Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie
M'Lynn Eatenton
Quiser Boudreaux

reviews

Steel Magnolias
Bletchingley Players
Reviewed by
Tony Flook

I LIKE the idea of theatre combined with a supper evening - what an excellent chance to meet friends, eat and be entertained all at one time. But if the theatre element is to be given a chance to take its proper place, then the play must be carefully chosen. Two one-act pieces are ideal and even a frivolous comedy or farce would fit in. Not, though, something like *Steel Magnolias*, which not only is worth close attention from the audience (not always easy after a satisfying plate of fish and chips) but which suffers loss of impetus due to the inevitably long break. Bletchingley Players compounded this disruption with a prolonged raffle in a second interval. A pity, because director John Tomlin and his team had put a great deal of effort into their production of Robert Harling's play, which is, by turn, humorous, tragic and uplifting. The action is set in Truvy's beauty salon - the hub of a small town in Louisiana - where wealthy women come to be pampered, exchange gossip and gently poke fun at each other. Cyril Mighall's set design created the location with care, complete with basin, working tap and hairdryer. Local hair studio, Streaks Ahead, had loaned much of the paraphernalia expected in a hairdresser's and this was subtly but noticeably moved around as it would be over the two-and-a-half years spanned by the story. The only significant technical problem was that the off-stage dog barking was too loud and abrupt and, in combination with gunshots, drowned out several lines at the end of one scene. Emma Davey acted with feeling in her role of Shelby, the strong-willed young bride. The way in which she lost control during a diabetic attack looked and sounded particularly realistic and there was also sincerity in her sometimes loving, sometimes fractious relationship with her mother, played with understanding by Liz Tomlin. It was less easy to believe in Clairee, portrayed



Truvy (Felicity Lund) working on M'Lynn (Liz Tomlin)

by Barbara Saunders. Although she held her accent well (as did the rest of the cast), she did not fully project the image of the wealthy, if unpretentious, leading citizen. Felicity Lund showed authority as Truvy - in many ways the pivot of the group. Annelle (Sally Harling) had the right, dowdy appearance when she was taken on as the new assistant who had escaped from a disastrous marriage but would surely have developed her sense of dress and, more important, of hair style under Truvy's guidance. Susan Sarti maintained Quiser's battleaxe expression and sour outlook right until she softened, if only slightly and realistically, in the final, life-affirming scene.

the cast

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PROGRAMME 50 pence

Bletchingley Players

would like to thank...

... Lesley and Christine of **Streaks Ahead** for their invaluable help and advice during this production.

We would also like to thank Lesley for loaning us so many items for the set.

Our next production will be on
4th, 5th & 6th May, 2006.
Watch out for further details.

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Bletchingley Players – formerly BADS, Bletchingley Amateur Dramatic Society – have been entertaining villagers for more than 40 years – staging a wide range of productions from farce to serious drama and evenings of comedy and entertainment.

We acquired the former ATC/Scout Hut on Grange Meadow, Bletchingley some four years ago and it is there that we store our props and scenery, and where we rehearse our productions.

It is a sad fact of life that vandalism in the village is running at a high level and uncontrolled. In recent months the roof has been severely damaged, the hut itself has been daubed with graffiti, and the hooligan element has caused damage which has run into thousands of pounds.

It is our normal custom to support local charities from the raffles at our performances, and over the years we have donated thousands of pounds to these organisations. We are sure, however, that our patrons will understand that we have to finance the repairs ourselves. So, for this production, the funds raised from our raffles will go towards the repairs to the Hut. Thank you for your support.



Longhurst

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Surrey

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Setting: Truvy Jones' beauty shop in Chinquapin, Louisiana

Act 1: Scene 1: April
Scene 2: December

Act 2: Scene 1: June – eighteen months later
Scene 2: November



Felicity has not had the chance to reprise her stunning first performance, at the age of 4, as a rabbit and feels now that it will never happen. More sedate roles have followed, both in comedy and straight drama, as well as forays into directing.

felicity lund



emma davey

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Steel Magnolias

by Robert Harling

Cast in order of appearance

Truvy Jones
Annelle Dupuy-Desoto
Clairee Belcher
Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie
M'Lynn Eatenton
Ouiser Boudreaux

Felicity Lund
Sally Harling
Barbara Saunders
Emma Davey
Liz Tomlin
Susan Sarti

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John Tomlin

PRODUCTION TEAM

stage director



cyril mighall

lighting & sound



rodney bain

PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE

LIGHTING & SOUND

– peter shore

SET CONSTRUCTION

– john gent

– jenny lund

PROPERTIES

– jenny barnett

CONTINUITY

– elien shore

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Bar manager
Box office

Sue Walker
Renate Butler
Sue Walker

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25TH, 26TH & 27TH OCTOBER 2005

PREVIEW

21ST, 22ND & 23RD OCTOBER 2005

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reviews

Nov 3 2003

Steel Magnolias Bletchingley Players

Reviewed by
Tony Flook

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