

**FMCT**

FARGO/MOORHEAD  
COMMUNITY THEATRE

# Steel Magnolias

By: Robert Harling

February 2-5 and 9-12 @ 7:30pm  
February 13 @ 5:30pm

The Hjemkomst Center  
202 1st Ave N, Moorhead

Play Season Sponsor

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[fmct.org](http://fmct.org)

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# A Note from Executive Director, Judy Lewis

Hello FMCT Friends and Families,

Welcome to the Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre's production of *Steel Magnolias* written by Robert Harling about his own sister's bravery, her love for life, and the way her passion inspired the women who loved her. I hope while you're watching tonight's show that you laugh out loud and remember to cherish all of the people who you love so dearly. Life is best lived in the tiniest moments.



Thank you to the cast of this play. It has been a true honor to work with each one of you. Your work to bring the women of Chinquapin Parish to life has been a difficult dive into a lot of challenging emotions. You are each bold, and brave, and deeply beautiful!

To the tech crew and staff at FMCT, thank you for your laughter, your commitment to excellence, and your willingness to work long hours- at least we're doing what we love! You're all brilliant and you're a gift to everyone who knows you!

To our guests, whether it's your first time seeing a production at FMCT, or you're a long-time patron of our productions, on behalf of everyone at FMCT I'd like to welcome you to the Hjemkomst. Your support means everything to us. Please grab a drink from the bar, settle in, and enjoy tonight's play.

With joy,

Judy Lewis  
Executive Director, FMCT

# Steel Magnolias Cast

(in order of appearance)



**LISSA MEYER (Truvy Jones)**

A Kensington, Minnesota native, Lissa is a huge fan of the movie "Steel Magnolias" and is delighted to be making her theatrical debut as Truvy on the FMCT stage. While earning her bachelor's degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, she toured the United States as a member of the Concordia Choir under the direction of renowned composer and conductor Dr. René Clausen.

An accomplished singer, Lissa has performed at Lincoln Center with the Master Chorale of Fargo-Moorhead and opened for national acts including Bucky Covington, Jerrod Niemann and Randy Houser. Lissa works in marketing at Bobcat Company, enjoys playing the piano and sings with the Hope Lutheran Church worship team.



**WHITNEY MCCLAIN (Annelle Dupuy-Desoto)**

Whitney McClain is a graduate of MSUM with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Musical Theatre. She has participated in various community theatre productions in Fargo-Moorhead throughout the last five years, such as 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and 'Rock of Ages' and is beyond excited to be included in this project! At its most basic level, theatre is about creating something magical, but there is something to be said for the bonds you make with your cast and crew that can last a lifetime! She hopes you enjoy this production of 'Steel Magnolias'.



# Steel Magnolias Cast



## **DAWN GUNDERSON (Clairee Belcher)**

For many years, FMCT has become Dawn Gunderson's home-away-from-home where she fuels her theatre passions. This fall she kicked off FMCT's season playing the role of the Blind Hermit in *Young Frankenstein* and then stepped into directing and choreographing *Elf the Musical*. Some of Dawn's favorite roles have been in FMCT's *Noises Off*, *Calendar Girls*, *Mary Poppins*, *A Christmas Story*, *Dial M for Murder*, *White Christmas*, *Peter and the Star Catcher* and directing/choreographing *Little Women*. She is thrilled to play the role of Clairee!

Another big part of Dawn's life is her role as an English and theatre arts teacher and director at Moorhead High School. Dawn appreciates living and working in the vibrant, thriving Fargo/Moorhead arts community where she is writing the story of her life, following her heart, and preparing for her performing life after retirement. Dawn thanks her husband, daughters, mom, dad, and best friends for supporting her dreams.



## **TRACY ARONSON (Shelby Eatonton-Latcherie)**

Tracy is pleased to be returning to the FMCT stage after appearing in *"Elf: The Musical"* and *"Young Frankenstein"* this season. Tracy graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York in 2021. Some of her previous credits in the Fargo-Moorhead area include *"Rock of Ages"*, *"Newsies"*, and *"Freaky Friday"*. Tracy would like to thank her family and friends for understanding that she "always has rehearsal"!



# Steel Magnolias Cast



**JEANIE SMITH-MURPHY (M'Lynn Eatonton)**

Jeanie is a life long resident of Fargo-Moorhead. She has had her own practice as a massage therapist for 21 years. She has been a part of several FMCT productions. Roles include Tanya in Mamma Mia, Marmee in Little Women, Miss Shields in Christmas Story, Miss Andrew in Mary Poppins, Celia in Calender Girls.



**JEAN SANDO (Ouiser Beaudreax)**

Jean Sando first saw "Steel Magnolias" at the Detroit Lakes Community Theater in 1988 and it became a firm family favorite. This is her second FMCT production. The first was "Calendar Girls" when she returned to the front of the stage after 30 years. Jean is better known the local theater community for her costuming work with Moorhead Area Public Schools and Oak Grove Schools, but it's fun to put her tape measure away for a while and be on stage. It has been wonderful to build this play with these strong women.

Jean is delighted to be playing Ouiser in this production. She wants to thank her mom, Paul and "the kids" for being so supportive while she has been crankily method acting her way into this performance, her costuming "family" for their encouragement, and especially her Auntie Sharon Sinclair, who introduced her to the play and has modeled an active life in community theater.





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FARGO/MOORHEAD  
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3 @ 5:30 PM

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sign up for auditions, visit [fmct.org](http://fmct.org)



# Production Team

Director.....	Judy Lewis
Technical Director.....	Rick Lewis
Assistant Technical Director.....	David Harvey
Costumer Designer.....	Shelly Hurt-Geist
Audio Technician.....	Lucas Rutten
Stage Manager.....	Kim Rensvold

## FMCT Staff

Executive Director.....	Judy Lewis
General Manager.....	Lucas Rutten
Community Engagement Director.....	Shanna Franzen
Finance Manager.....	Kim Rensvold
Education Coordinator.....	Michaela Pytlik
Technical Director.....	Rick Lewis
Costume Director.....	Shelly Hurt-Geist
Assistant Technical Director.....	David Harvey

## Special Thanks

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