

Ripples

from the Community Circle Players at
Riverwalk Theatre

Season 34 • Number 7
April, 2023

228 Museum Dr. • PO Box 12249 • Lansing, MI 48901 • 517-482-5700 • Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 am to 5 pm • e-mail: RWT@riverwalktheatre.com • web site: RiverwalkTheatre.com

'Steel' Yourself for an Emotional Roller Coaster

Adaptation of classic film 'Steel Magnolias' comes to Riverwalk

Laughter, tears and the enduring power of friendship will be on display as the stage adaptation of the hit movie *Steel Magnolias* comes to Riverwalk Theatre's Black Box Stage.

Riverwalk and Lansing theatre veteran Meg Woolsey grew up watching the movie and says she was attracted to the themes of female friendship. "I found that during the pandemic I really leaned on my close-knit group of female friends, and I love how these characters hold each other up during the good and bad times," she said.



L to R: Amy Rickett, Gloria Vivalda, Gini Larson, Taylor Haslett, Caila Conklin, Laura Croff • PHOTO BY WWW.ARINIKO.COM

M'lynn (Gini Larson) is the mother of bride-to-be Shelby Eatenton (Taylor Haslett), and as friend Truvy Jones (Laura Croff) fixes the women's hair for the ceremony, they welcome a helping hand from aspiring beautician Annelle Dupuy Desoto (Caila Conklin). Diabetic Shelby has a health scare, which is averted but doesn't bode well for her hopes of having children. Time passes, and the women and their friends encounter tragedy and good fortune, growing stronger

and closer in the process. Gloria Vivalda and Amy Rickett round out the cast.


"This cast is a veritable who's who of Lansing theatre," Woolsey said. "We were overwhelmed by the amount of talent that came out to audition, and I'm very lucky to work with these six women, all of which are highly accomplished and forces to reckon with on stage." Woolsey is also proud to have put together an all-female-identifying production team.

Fans of the movie will not be disappointed, Woolsey said: "The source material for this


show is so incredibly well-written — we are not trying to reinvent the wheel. We want to stay true to the original spirit of this show and really embody these women."

Steel Magnolias will run April 13-16 and 20-23. Showtimes are 7 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. To learn more and purchase tickets, visit riverwalktheatre.com or call our box office at 517-482-5700.

WHAT'S ON AT RIVERWALK

 April 13-23 - **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** - Drama by Robert Harling, Directed by Meg Woolsey - Black Box Stage

 May 4-14 - **PETER AND THE STARCATCHER** - Musical Comedy by Roger Rees & Alex Timbers by Rick Elice, Music by Wayne Barker, Directed by Brian Farnham - Main Stage


 Wednesday, June 28, 7 pm - **BARNEY AWARDS CELEBRATION** awards, entertainment, refreshments.

A Sun/Mon, July 16 & 17 at 7 pm **AUDITIONS for Admissions** Directed by Bob Robinson

A Sun/Mon, August 6 & 7 at 7 pm **AUDITIONS for The Rocky Horror Show** Directed by Shannon Bowen & Erin Hoffman

A Mon., August 28 at 7 pm - **AUDITIONS for AMADEUS - roles of Mozart and Salieri only.** Other roles 1/21-22 Directed by Amy Rickett

 **PLAYS:** (both black-box & main stage) 7 pm Thurs.; 8 pm Fri. & Sat.; 2 pm Sun. Fri./Sat./Sun. \$15 (\$12 sr/student/military) **Bargain Thursdays \$12/\$10**

 **MUSICALS:** 7 pm Thursdays; 8 pm Fri./Sat.; 2 pm Sundays - \$24 (\$20 sr/student/military) (\$12 age 12 & under)

A **AUDITIONS** - more info at riverwalktheatre.com/auditions

 **SPECIAL EVENT:** More info at RiverwalkTheatre.com

Kinky Boots



Tia Twig, Norman Scheel, Erik Grill, Rachel Daugherty, Miles McEvoy, Rita Diebler, Ann Carlson, Ade Anderson, Ty Schalter, Yoshi Fukagawa, Zach Everly, Kelly Jo Garland, Kelly Stuible-Clark, Camryn Cardwell, Taren Going, Ron Meyer, Carin McEvoy, Kyle Krause, Kait Wilson, Zach Husak, Elaina Coscarella, Erk Drake, Ben English, Erin Beil, Lisabeth Desmet, Dayfran Comacho, Samantha Le, Ada Mbonu, Bernie Lucas, Jordan Taylor, Connor Kelly, Dale Wayne Williams, Drew Doman, Morgan Weaver, Terry Furton, Drew Birchmeier, Sydney Sauseda II, Gordan Clark, Giselle Ulep, Kayal Muthuraman, Erin Hoffman, Lauren Spadafora • PHOTOS BY WWW.ARIKO.COM

Kinky Boots truly hit the Riverwalk stage dancing (Choreography Karyn Perry) in this a funny and FABulous musical by Harvey Fierstein and Cyndi Lauper. This show was a great success for Riverwalk, selling out the final weekend — certainly our biggest hit since the pandemic shutdown.

The script was based mostly on true events: a failing British shoe company was saved by turning to the niche market of drag queen footwear. The show also deals with identity issues in light of fathers' expectations, and celebrates accepting people as they are.

Director Kelly Stuible Clark assembled an enthusiastic crew of shoe factory workers and drag queens who learned to love and support each other, culminating in a grand finale number "Raise You Up/Just Be" that featured a wild and wonderful assortment of kinky boots.

Charlie (Zach Husak) was at loose ends, being coerced by his beautiful and bossy fiancée Nicola (Giselle Ulep) into a London life he was unsure of. Then his Daddy (Gordan Clark) died and the failing family shoe business fell into his lap. An attempt at chivalry introduced Charlie to Lola/Simon

(Jordan Taylor) a drag queen star complaining of flimsy high-heels — and an unlikely partnership was born.

Miles McEvoy and Camryn Cardwell were sweet representations of the boys Charlie and Lola/Simon had been. Dale Wayne Williams was the poster child for prejudice and a heartwarming example of the way it can melt away. Elaina Coscarella as Lauren, offered a more compatible and supportive partner than the overbearing Nicola.

The ANGELS were a highlight, singer/dancers showcasing their star, Lola, with glitzy flair and panache. Little did I know, 20 years ago, when I did *Hansel and Gretel Meet Goldilocks*, that my little Hansel would grow up so glam! (Go Ben English! and also other dazzling Angels: Drew Doman, Dayfran Camacho and Drew Birchmeier.)

The set (Andrew Snyder) is a versatile practical backdrop for the fun costumes (Costumer Zoe Schultheiss and her team of Kris Maier, Jana Nicol, Kelsey Southwick and Carin McEvoy) Carin was also Music Director and led the six piece orchestra. Drag design by Delicious was assisted by Aaliyah.

Jane Zussman



A U D I T I O N S

PERUSAL SCRIPTS for all shows are available at the Riverwalk office, Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 5:00 pm. Call 517-482-5700 to check availability: rwt@RiverwalkTheatre.com audition forms are available online at www.riverwalktheatre.com/auditions.html

ADMISSIONS

by Joshua Harmon
Directed by Bob Robinson

AUDITIONS: Sunday & Monday, July 16 & 17 at 7 pm

Show Dates: September 14-17 & 21-24, 2023

The play takes place at Hillcrest, a second-tier, on-the-cusp-of-being-a-first-tier prep/boarding school in rural New Hampshire. The time is December to shortly after Easter during the 2015-2016 academic year. The Head of Admissions and her husband, the school's Headmaster, are struggling to diversify the student body and bring the stodgy institution into the 21st century. But when their only son, a senior at the school, is rejected for admission to Yale, personal ambition collides with their progressive values. The play is

a no-holds-barred look at privilege, power and the perils of hypocrisy. *The New York Times* called the play, "Astonishing and daring. An extraordinary and excruciating satire — of the left, by the left, for the left — for today."

Those who audition will read from the play and all are strongly encouraged to **read the play before auditioning**. Perusal copies are available from the theatre office - rwt@riverwalktheatre.com

Characters:

Sherri Rosen-Mason: 45-55, very liberal secular Jewish woman, Head of Admissions for Hillcrest.

Bill Manson: 45-55, very liberal WASP, Sherri's husband and Headmaster of Hillcrest.

Charlie Luther Manson: Sherri and Bill's son, a senior at Hillcrest.

Ginnie Peters: 45-55, very liberal WASP, stay-at-home mom. Her son is Charlie's best friend.

Roberta: 65+, white, long time employee in the Development Department at Hillcrest.

NOTE: *The dialogue in this play contains strong adult language, including the teenage character, "Charlie." Please do not audition if you object to using adult language on stage.*

MEMBERSHIP

funds at least a quarter of show budgets plus general operating expenses to maintain our building and staff.

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU FOR A SECURE FUTURE!

Actor — \$15-24, Ripples, voting on board members and Members Choice favorite show award.

Technician — \$25-49, Ripples, voting, program listing

Stage Manager — \$50-99, Ripples, voting, program listing, and one comp ticket

Director — \$100-249, Ripples, voting, program listing, two comp tickets

Producer — \$250-499, Ripples, voting, program listing, four comp tickets

Star — \$500-999, Ripples, voting, program listing, six comps, name on theatre seat

Angel — \$1000+, Ripples, voting, program listing, 12 comp tickets, name on a theatre seat and on the donor board in the lobby

THREE WAYS TO JOIN: go to **riverwalktheatre.com**

- click "more" then "get involved" to join online — OR phone Mike with your credit card info 517-482-5700 — OR just mail a check to Mike at the office, P.O. Box 12249, Lansing 48901. We're 501c3 tax deductible.

BACK THE BARNEYS



Help make this year's Barneys a success! We can't wait to celebrate our first fully-slated, in-person

season since the pandemic began with you on Wednesday, June 28 — awards, entertainment, food — we have a lot to commemorate, but that takes support from our RWT family.

If you'd like to sponsor this year's celebration, please call Mike at 517-482-5700 with your credit card info — OR mail a check with "Barney Sponsor" in the memo line to: RWT Barneys P.O. Box 12249, Lansing MI 48901 No amount is too small!

If you're interested in helping plan or set up (event coordination, catering, serving drinks, stage managing, day of setup and teardown, lights, sound, etc.), contact either:

Kate Clark (dickinson.katie99@gmail.com)
Sarah Hayner (skhayner7@gmail.com).

Let's make our beloved Barneys as wonderful as our season!

GET INVOLVED!

Audition information, season tickets, updates and more will be posted at www.riverwalktheatre.com.

To volunteer backstage, in a technical role (lights, sound, etc.), at our scene shop, or some other support capacity, please contact the director of the show that interests you or email Sarah Hayner (skhayner7@gmail.com)

To assist with front-of-house duties (ushering, concessions, theatre upkeep, etc.) contact Mike Siracuse (rwt@riverwalktheatre.com) • 517-482-5700

RIVERWALK

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Ripples is published by Riverwalk Theatre. Submit info to Editor Jane Zussman (jszussman@gmail.com) or Riverwalk Manager Mike Stracuse (rwt@riverwalk-theatre.com) 517-482-5700 or at RiverwalkTheatre.com



P.O. Box 12249
Lansing MI 48901

Next to Impression 5,
228 Museum Drive, south
off Michigan Avenue,
across from the
Lansing Center

Riverwalk Receives ARPA Grant from City



On Tuesday, January 3, Mayor Andy Schor announced that Riverwalk Theatre was awarded a community grant of \$20,000 from the City of Lansing. This award was from a \$2 million fund Lansing received from The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, a large federal package passed in response to pandemic-related economic turmoil.

Riverwalk Theatre was in a group of 30 community-based organizations who received funding. In making the announcement, Mayor

Schor said, "These funds provided by the federal government through ARPA are going to help fund some great programs all across Lansing and for Lansing Residents."

"This funding will help us replace the failing HVAC in our Black Box theatre," said RWT Board President Brian Farnham. "We intended to use our reserves to do this when the system broke down, but then COVID hit and we needed to use those reserves to operate when we had to cancel productions."

This is a Black Box show with general seating and fewer seats, so it can easily sell out! Phone or go online to reserve your seats today:

517-482-5700 • riverwalktheatre.com

Season 35 • 2023-24

ADMISSIONS by Joshua Harmon, Director: Bob Robinson; Sept. 14-17 & 21-24 - black box

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW by Richard O'Brien, Director: Shannon Bowen & Erin Hoffman; Oct. 19-21 & 26-28 - main stage

TRAIL TO OREGON by Nick & Matt Lang, Brian Holden & Jeff Blim, Director: Ayden Soupal; Nov. 9-12 & 16-19 - black box

CHRISTMAS BELLES by Jones, Hope & Wooten, Director: Kate Clark; Dec. 7-10 & 14-17 - main stage

THE EXONERATED by Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen, Director: Alan Greenberg; Feb. 15-18 & 22-25 - black box

AMADEUS by Peter Shaffer, Director: Amy Rickett; March 14-17 & 21-24 - main stage

MOONGLOW by Kim Carney, Director: Emily Clark; April 11-14 & 18-21 - black box

Laughter through tears
is my favorite emotion.

**Steel
Magnolias**

BY ROBERT HARLING • DIRECTED BY MEGHAN ELDRED-WOOLSEY

APRIL 13-16
& 20-23, 2023

Note: Thursday 7pm shows only are sold at half capacity for socially distanced seating, with masks required for the audience.

Supported in part by MICHIGAN ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL • NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS • COMMUNITY FOUNDATION • ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER LANSING

