FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beef & Boards’ 2020 Season blooms with Steel Magnolias

Southern women forge strong bonds in Robert Harling play

INDIANAPOLIS – Filled with both sass and Southern charm, Steel Magnolias opens Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre’s 2020 Season on Jan. 4.

Set in 1987, Steel Magnolias is the story of six Southern women who share recipes, beauty tips, and gossip in Truvy’s beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana. Helped by her eager new assistant, Annette (who is not sure whether or not she is still married), the outspoken, wise-cracking Truvy dispenses shampoos and free advice to the town's rich curmudgeon, Ouiser; an eccentric millionaire, Miss Clairee, who has a raging sweet tooth; and the local social leader, M'Lynn, whose daughter, Shelby, is about to marry a “good ole boy.”

Best known as a popular star-studded film featuring Olympia Dukakis, Sally Field, Daryl Hannah, Shirley MacLaine, Dolly Parton and Julia Roberts, Steel Magnolias was initially a play, written by Robert Harling. After making its Off Broadway premiere in 1987, Harling went on to write the screenplay for the 1989 film.

Harling based Steel Magnolias on the life of his sister, Susan, and their experience growing up in Natchitoches, Louisiana. In a recent article in Southern Living, Harling notes most of the story was true to life. “My father shot at birds in the trees, there was an armadillo wedding cake, all of that’s true. My mother donated a kidney to my sister. It failed. All of it.”

Making their Beef & Boards debuts in Steel Magnolias are Diane Kondrat as M'Lynn Eatenton, Kay Francis as Ouiser Boudreaux, Morgan Jackson as Annette Dupuy, and Lari White as Shelby Eatenton. Deb Wims, who played Annette in Beef & Boards’ previous production of Steel Magnolias, returns in the role of Truvy Jones. Suzanne Stark (Hairspray, Shear Madness, Into the Woods, Beauty and the Beast) plays Clairee Belcher.

Steel Magnolias is rated PG and is on stage for 31 performances through Feb. 2. Tickets range from $47.50 to $72.50 and include Chef Odell Ward’s buffet, fruit & salad bar, unlimited coffee, tea, and lemonade.

For reservations visit beefandboards.com, or call the box office at 317.872.9664 anytime between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays. For complete show schedule, visit beefandboards.com.

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Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Indiana’s only year-round professional dinner theatre, has been serving up exceptional entertainment since 1973.
Fact Sheet

WHAT: Steel Magnolias
Written by Robert Harling

WHEN: Jan. 4 through Feb. 2, 2020

Weekday/Saturday Evenings
Doors open at 6 p.m.; Buffet from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Show at 8 p.m.
January: 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31
February: 1

Weekday Matinees
Doors open at 11 a.m.; Buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Show at 1 p.m.
January: 8, 15, 22, 29

Sunday Evenings
Doors open at 5 p.m.; Buffet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Show at 7 p.m.
January: 5, 12, 19, 26

Saturday/Sunday Matinees
Doors open at noon; Buffet from 12:15 to 1 p.m.; Show at 1:30 p.m.
January: 5, 12, 19, 26
February: 1, 2

WHO: Director James Hesselman
Lighting Design Ryan Koharchik
Set Design Michael Layton
Costume Design Jill Kelly Howe
Sound Design Daniel Hesselbrock
Stage Manager Jeff Stockberger

Starring
Diane Kondrat as M’Lynn Eatenton
Kay Francis as Ouiser Boudreaux
Susanne Stark as Clairee Belcher
Deb Wims as Truvy Jones
Morgan Jackson as Annelle Dupuy
Lari White as Shelby Eatenton

WHERE: Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre 9301 Michigan Rd., Indianapolis, 46268

TICKETS: Available at beefandboards.com, or by calling the box office at 317.872.9664 between 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, or 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays. Tickets range from $47.50 to $72.50 and include the dinner buffet, fruit & salad bar, and select beverages.

WEB SITE: For tickets, more information, or show schedule, visit beefandboards.com