

*The Cadillac Footlites
presents*



CADILLAC
FOOTLITERS
THEATRE



October 26-November 4, 2023



Mackinaw Trail Pediatrics

Elizabeth Rzepka-Alto MD • Angela Trucks MD • Cecilia Dietrich MD
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Cadillac Footliters Presents

Season 60

2023-24



Coming in January

Noises Off

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Cadillac Footliters Proudly Presents:



by Robert Harling

Graciously Underwritten by:

Avon Protection
Mackinaw Trail Pediatrics

Directed by:

Brandon Peltier

Assistant Director: Heather Brannam

Stage Manager: Ann Clous

Producer: Joseph Baumann

Set Design: Derek Sengelaub & Julie VanHaitsma

Lighting Design: Joseph Baumann

Sound Design: Jay Simon

Costumes: Mary Kay Zagata

Props: Leslie Benson & Jill Kanouse

Posters & Program: Ami Peltier & Jay Simon

October 26-29, November 2-4, 2023

The Elks Lodge
Downtown Cadillac

CAST

Truvy Jones	Katie Maynard
Annelle Dupuy-DeSoto	Jenni Kirt
Clairee Belcher	Shaina Biller
Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie	Elizabeth Pechota
M'Lynn Eatenton	Kelli Simons
Louisa "Ouiser" Boudreaux	Sally Goggin

TIMELINE

ACT ONE: Scene I: April
Scene II: December

ACT TWO: Scene I: June, eighteen months later
Scene II: November



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"Steel Magnolias"
is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.
(www.dramatists.com)

Director's Note

Welcome to our continuing celebration of the Footliters' 60th season! *Steel Magnolias*, the first adult show of our season, offers an intimate, heartfelt look at the lives and friendships of six women who live in a small Southern town. As a first-time lead director, I chose this show as my directing debut because it explores the entire range of human emotions -- from laughter to tears and then back again. In other words, this play has "all the feels," and I will cherish the experience of helping bring it to life.

Steel Magnolias is a story of enduring friendship between six strong, vivid women. I am blessed with a cast that brings these very real, deep, funny characters to life. I personally want to thank everyone involved in our production, including our light and sound engineers, prop masters, house manager, stage manager, set designer, set builders, marketing team, casting directors, and wardrobe designer. I especially want to thank my first-time assistant director, Heather Brannam, for her vision, organizational skills, and support as we brought our vision to life. We hope you laugh, cry, and most of all experience the lives of these women as they share their laughter, their triumphs, and their joys.

With gratitude,

Brandon Peltier

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*Special thanks to Shear Professionals and Roots Hair Salon
for their help with sourcing props!*

BIOS



Shaina Biller (Clairee Belcher): Shaina is excited to be back on the stage after a brief hiatus and even more excited to share this special show with all of you. She is blessed to be part of an amazing cast bringing the women of Chinquapin Parish to Cadillac. Special thank you to Ryan for always being patient, supportive, and the rock that keeps me sane.



Sally Goggin (Louisa “Ouiser” Boudreaux): Sally Goggin returns to Footliters after directing and performing in several productions over the past 20 years. Previously, while living in Midland she played the lead in numerous shows, including her favorites, *Funny Girl*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Taming of the Shrew*.

Sally has also appeared in productions with the Old Town Playhouse, including the title role in *Mame*. She has a degree in theatre and music from Alma College.

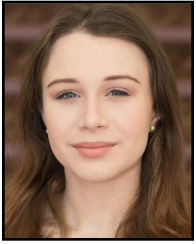


Jenni Kirt (Annelle Dupuy-DeSoto): Jenni is thrilled to return to the stage as Annelle for this production of *Steel Magnolias*. Jenni joined Cadillac Footliters in 2021 and has been involved with several productions since then but this will be only her third time on stage. She has loved every second working with the talented cast and production team for this play.

She would like to thank her children, Landon and Cameron, for their patience and support of their mom’s love of theater. She hopes you enjoy your time at Truvy’s, and thanks you for coming and supporting Cadillac Footliters!



Katie Maynard (Truvy Jones): Katie has been a member of Footliters for over five years, filling various roles offstage and on. Sharing the stage with these powerful women is truly an honor. Many thanks to our directors for their guidance and support, but most of all to my Maynard. I couldn’t do it without you.



Elizabeth Pechota (Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie): Ten years ago, Elizabeth was in the audience to watch her cousin perform as Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*. On that day, she declared that she would be a performer. She started her theatre journey with Footliters in *The Wizard of Oz* and absolutely fell in love with it. Elizabeth continued to follow her passions and

became involved on and off stage with any show available. She obtained two Bachelor's degrees in Theatre and Psychology from Alma College in April 2022. During her time there, Elizabeth was nominated for two Irene Ryan awards for her performances, and had the opportunity to write and perform a devised piece at the Fringe Festival in Edinburg, Scotland. After spending a year determining her next steps, she finally realized that "there is no place like home." She is excited to be back in her hometown, performing a show that not only kickstarted her passion for Theatre but is about strong women who love and take care of each other no matter what happens. Elizabeth would like to thank her mother, sister, and grandmother, for always modeling what strength and courage truly means. She hopes that you can see the women in your life within the women of Chinquapin Parish. Please enjoy the show!



Kelli Simons (M'Lynn Eatenton): Kelli is happily returning to the Footliters stage as M'Lynn, reprising the role of mother, one she has embraced in shows such as *Matilda the Musical*, *Mamma Mia*, *Leaving Iowa*, *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, *Music Man*, *Christmas Story*, and *Into the Woods*. Many thanks to Brandon and Heather for always

pushing to find "the feels" and keeping us all organized. I'll let you guess who was in charge of the latter. And to my fellow *Steel Magnolias*, thank you for all the love, laughter, and tears. What a gift it has been to play these beautiful, funny, supportive, and strong women.

A Message From Our President, Joseph Baumann

Who would have thought? In 1964, when a group of community members wanted to get together to do some theatre, who would have thought that group would be alive and thriving SIXTY years later? Well, here we are. Honoring their legacy. Building our future.

And so it begins. Season 60. 60 years engaging, enriching, and entertaining the Cadillac area. It hardly seems possible that we're still here doing what we love most after this many years.

And if a 60-year celebration wasn't enough, our Board of Directors recently renewed our strategic vision, rebranded our visual and graphical identity, and scheduled a special season of shows that will knock your socks off. We hope you like it, because we can't do it without YOU.

As you will see in our special pre-show video this season, Footliters must honor where we came from in order to chart a path to our NEXT 60 years. And YOU are a key part of it. Join us. Audition for a show, share a talent, learn a new skill, find a new tribe.

Footliters' responsibility is simple - #engage new people in the arts, #enrich our community through balanced show offerings and charitable partnerships, and #entertain by producing quality that YOU want to see. Succeeding here is our only path to another 60 years.

Our first 60 years are worthy of celebration. Join us and be part of our NEXT 60 years.



Cadillac Footliters Board of Directors

Joseph Baumann, President
Jennifer Neff, Vice President
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**Engage.
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How Does Your Support Make An Impact?

Production costs for one show can average anywhere from \$2,000 up to \$6,000 depending on if the production is a musical or non-musical. Ticket sales are only able to partially cover the cost of a production. Memberships, sponsorships, and additional contributions are necessary to fill that gap and help Cadillac's Footlitters continue making great shows possible!

Become a member! Sponsor a show! Volunteer! Pick up some swag! Support and become part of our growing fine arts community, nourishing the talent of our community actors, musicians, and dancers. As a member, you can be part of our great community theatre—on stage, behind the scenes, or in the audience.

If you would like to support your community theatre but prefer not to take an active role, please consider making a financial donation.

Sponsorships help pay for:

- Show production rights—production rights and rental fees cost between \$1,000 and \$5,000 per show
- Sets and set building, lumber, paint, hardware
- Costumes
- Technology—special lighting, sound effects, wireless microphones, mechanical animated prop maintenance
- Props—furniture and other items
- Equipment rental, special costumes, tools, and specialty orchestral instruments that help complete a show

Whether it's through membership, sponsorships, or volunteering—you can be part of our mission!

Sponsor or Join Cadillac Footlitters Today!

Visit: <https://www.cadillacfootlitters.com/support-us/>

Thank You, Sponsors, Donors, and Members!

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ACTOR FAMILY (\$25)

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- Ann and Richard Clous
- Delores Dipple
- Jeanne HewittFleck

PRODUCER (\$300-\$499)

- Sally Goggin
- Dr. Brandon, Ami, and Sara Peltier
- Mort and Barbara Shea

ACTOR (\$15)

- Terry Bartrand
- Brenda Benson
- Shaina Biller
- Evan Heuker
- Kelly Johnson
- Mia Kadwell
- Elizabeth Pechota
- Mary Kay Zagata

STAR (\$100-\$299)

- Ryan, Melissa, Caleb, and Caden Benzenberg
- Jon Berry
- Jen Neff and Shawn Kadwell
- Dr. Skip, Melissa, and Charlie Kendell
- Katie and Dave Maynard
- Violet Mooney
- Dr. Randy and Deb Myers
- Michael and Carissa Perry
- Jay and Deb Simon

DONORS and MEMBERS (cont'd)

ACTOR STUDENT (\$5)

- Alexis Alto
- Amelia Anderson
- Charlee Bain
- Clara Bain
- Lilian Ball
- Emmalynn Baney
- Kylee Batistoni
- Caleb Benzenberg
- Sadie Bodnar
- Layla Bookout
- Ayla Brown
- Harper Brinks
- Jolene Callsen
- Betty CordNer
- Maple CordNer
- Mary Desmond
- Lillian Dontje
- Azira Dunn
- Olivia Elsholz
- Zachary Evans
- Tanis Felsk
- Sam Gaffke
- Quinn Godfrey
- McKenzie Gray
- Scarlett Houle
- Megan Jesweak
- Evan Johnson
- Reed Johnston
- Charlie Kendell
- Lottie Knopf
- Emma Kramer
- Bristol Kuhn
- Hailey Kuhn
- Addison Ladd
- Madisyn Liddy
- Coleson Mattiuzzo
- Hallie Mattiuzzo
- Max McKinley
- Vivienne McMahon
- Leslie Morin
- Mollie Morse
- Charles Mosher
- Londrico Nixon
- Amelia Philburn
- Edith Phillips
- Isla Rumohr
- Waylon Snyder
- McKynly Swanson
- Charlotte Thomas
- Bryce Trembley

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SUPPORT THE CADILLAC FOOTLITERS

Our sponsors, donors, and members help us keep the stage lights on and are the primary reason we're able to bring shows like the ones this season to the stage. We welcome your support! To learn about making a tax-deductible donation to the Footliters visit: cadillacfootliters.com/support-us/

Enjoy the show!

Let us cover your life
wherever you go...

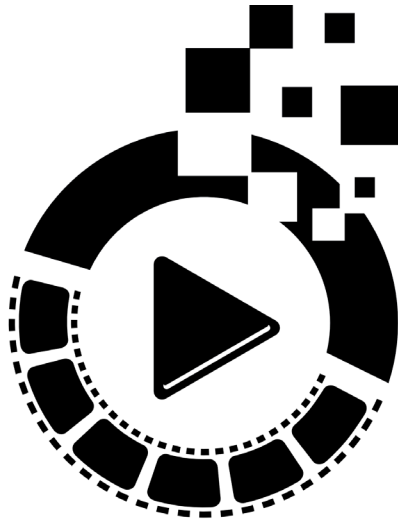
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Footlites Remembers...



Jean Nicholas

In January, the Cadillac arts community lost a friend and member who had given of herself for nearly three decades in a variety of ways.

Jean Nicholas joined Footlites in 1990 and was a member for more than 25 years, serving in myriad ways that patrons rarely see – behind the scenes. A director, stage manager, and historian, what was perhaps Jean's favorite role was what first drew her to help out with the Footlites – costumer.

Mary Kibbe, who first met Jean through Footlites and enjoyed a close friendship with her offstage, recalls being costumed specifically by Jean in several shows.

"I was in awe of some of those costumes," Mary remembers.

Past Footlites president Laura Porter recalls not only Jean's creativity in costuming, but her prolificness.

"I will never forget when she made Oompa Loompa white overall costumes for 40-50 kids," Laura said. "The last pair was finished on opening night, but she made it!"

Laura and Jean planned and worked the Footlites' summer drama camps together, and in 2007 they, along with Mike Galloway, co-developed the Juniors program, now the Cadillac Footlites Youth.

"She was the artistic and creative contributor, and I was the kid wrangler," Laura remembers.

Jean enjoyed using rehearsal photographs to create poster boards for display outside the theater doors, as well as utilizing those same photos to create cards for cast members as thank you gifts.

"She was the one who never forgot a birthday and sent the most beautiful homemade cards," said Laura.

Laura and Mary both remember Jean as a quiet but thoughtful and hard-working presence on the shows with which she was involved.

"She wasn't afraid to express her thoughts when she really believed in something," Laura recalls. "She was always the 'go-to' person when you needed anything.

"She either knew where it was, would find it, or make it."

Though she never chose to grace the stage as an actor, Jean's impact on the Footlites won't soon be forgotten.

"I am going to miss Jean," said Laura. "She contributed so much to the Footlites, but always preferred to stay in the background."



Costumes from "Little Red Riding Wolf," all created by Jean Nicholas.
Photos courtesy Mary Kibbe.

