



CONEJO PLAYERS
THEATRE

Steel Magnolias



by Robert Harling

Aug 7 - 29, 2026

Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm

Thu Aug 13 at 8:00pm • Sat Aug 22 & 29 at 2:00pm

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC,
servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection.

www.dramatists.com

Welcome to **CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE**



Welcome to the 68th season of the Conejo Players Theatre! As the newly elected President of this incredible organization, I am humbled to stand in a line of leadership that stretches back nearly seven decades. Since first stepping on this stage less than two years ago, I've felt that CPT is the "Grande Dame" of the Valley—not just because we are the longest-running, all-volunteer theater in the region, but because of the authority and heart our volunteers bring to this stage every single night. We are an organization steeped in tradition, yet inspired to innovate.

Our mission is to be more than just a playhouse; we are a Creative Incubator. Whether it's a sprawling musical in our mainstage season or a thought-provoking drama in our Readers Theatre series, we are a laboratory where artists are forged and stories come to life. We are a place where children can develop a new talent and adults can rekindle a long-burning creative spirit. As we look toward our 70th Anniversary, we are modernizing our house to better serve you—our patrons—and our tireless volunteers.

Theater is the ultimate civic collaboration. From the first screw driven into a set to the final bow, this is your community at work. I invite you to join this family—whether in the front of house, backstage, or through a tax-deductible gift to our capital campaign. Thank you for being part of our "Next Act." Enjoy the show!

Onward & Upward,

Conejo Players Theatre
is a Proud Member of



Jeremy Richter
President

Email: President@conejoplayers.org



Mission Statement

The mission of Conejo Players Theatre is to share in providing the community with a year-round schedule of affordable live theatre produced to serve the cultural, educational, and entertainment needs of the community; and to welcome and provide an avocational opportunity for all volunteers interested in the theatre arts to participate in the many activities of community theatre.

CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE
presents



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Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection

Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

Aug 7 - 29, 2026

Fri & Sat at 8pm • Sun at 2 pm

Thu Aug 13 at 8pm • Sat Aug 22 & 29 at 2pm

The **CAST** (in order of appearance)

Claudia Stone-Sheppard	Truvy Jones
Luca Nicoletti	Annelle Dupuy-Desoto
Victoria McGee	Clairee Belcher
Mars Fuller	Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie
Dana Marley-Kolb	M'Lynn Eatenton
Theresa Secor	Ouiser Boudreaux

The **SETTING**

Chinquapin, Louisiana - 1987

Scene **BREAKDOWN**

Act One

Scene I: April

Scene II: December

Act Two

Scene I: June, 18 months later

Scene II: November

Production **STAFF**

Director	Jolyn Johnson
Producer	Devery Holmes
Assistant Director	Patrick T. Rogers
Stage Manager	Carolyn Luu
Costume Designers	Danielle Anneman, Dei Hobbs, Valerie Hobbs
Co-Set Designers	Dana Marley-Kolb, Mark McCandless
Set Decorator & Dialect Coach	Patrick T. Rogers
Lighting & Sound Designer	Dean Johnson
Co-Prop Designers	Jaye Depew, Dona Pugh
Assistant Stage Manager	Cathy Johnson
Wig/Hair Designer	Katy Strang
Beauty/Hair Consultants	Kaitlin Fuller, Lea Roman
Costume Assistant	Andrew "Argyle" Ceco
Light Operators	Christiana Dexter, Kristin Krause
Sound Operators	Dean Johnson, Joe Krause, Eric R. Umali
Mic Operator	Joe Krause
Script Secretary	John Barker
Stage Crew	Haley Marie, Suzanne Tobin
Headshots & Publicity Photos	Aaron Kirsch
Production Photos	Scott Quintard
Medical Consultant	Rachael Pugh
Construction Crew	John Holroyd, Max Honingberg, Lee Marks, Deidre Parmenter, Jeremy F. Richter, Monica Steinberg, Rick Steinberg, Mike Watrobski
Audition Crew	Diann Alexander, Miriam Durrie- Kirsch, Defne Ertugrul, Gul Ertugrul, Rita McCaffrey, Eric R. Umali
Strike Crew	Defne Ertugrul, Gulnihal Ertugrul, John Eslick, Mars Fuller, Celeste Hennings, Joey Hennings, Devery Holmes, Jim Holmes, Bill Hubbard, Cathy Johnson, Dean Johnson, Jolyn Johnson, Joe Krause, Jason LaMasters, Lee Marks, Dana Marley-Kolb, Victoria McGee, Luca Nicoletti, Patrick T. Rogers, Claudia Stone-Sheppard, Eric R. Umali, Wesley Umali, Murat, Mike Watrobski
Paint Crew	Andrew "Argyle" Ceco, Susi Cruz, Ritchie Filippi, Devery Holmes, Cathy Johnson, Dean Johnson, Jolyn Johnson, Dana Marley-Kolb, Joe Krause, Carolyn Luu, Jake McDermott, Laura McDermott, Nate McDermott, Luca Nicoletti, Jeremy F. Richter, Patrick T. Rogers, Claudia Stone-Sheppard, Suzanne Tobin, Eric R. Umali, Wesley Umali
Specialty Painting	Mark McCandless, Elena Mills

Special Thanks

**Rachael Pugh, Melissa Pringle of Salon Rouge in Thousand Oaks,
Wendy Babb, National Charity League, Deidre Parmenter
Eric R. Umali, Wendy Babb, Santa Paula Theater Center
Miriam Durrie-Kirsch, Aaron Kirsch, Boys Team Charity**

From **THE DIRECTOR**

Most people know *Steel Magnolias* from the film, but the play was written first and is a love letter to a sister who had the same experiences as Shelby. It's not just a tribute to her, though, as all the characters are based on real women that Robert Harling's mother knew, making each of these characters truly special. It requires women to not play them as one dimensional, and all six actors took that idea and ran with it. What makes this show so important are the frank discussions about illness (in this case, Type 1 Diabetes), job searches, empty nesters, divorces, marriages, births, and everything in between. While we as a cast bonded learning more about transplants and living with Type 1 Diabetes (please read our flyers for more details), we also used that to ground our storytelling in truth. How did these women become true sisters, supporting each other through life's struggles? What makes us get past grief? And what if, through all of life's hardships, it truly does go on? Can we remain optimistic and hopeful in a world where that sort of strength is devalued? There are a lot of themes in this story that I hope you take with you after tonight. Maybe you'll discover that it's okay to love laughter through tears.

- **Jolyn Johnson**, Director

In *Steel Magnolias*, Shelby Eatonton-Latcherie has Type 1 Diabetes. We wanted to provide you with information on Type 1 Diabetes as well as outline the difference between Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes. Here's a clear distinction between Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes.

Type 1 Diabetes:

An autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. This destruction leads to absolute insulin deficiency, making patients physiologically dependent on injected insulin for survival.

Type 2 Diabetes:

A chronic condition where your body doesn't make or use insulin well. Too much glucose then stays in your blood, and not enough reaches your cells. The good news is that you can take steps to prevent or delay the development of Type 2 Diabetes.

For more information, visit the American Diabetes Association.

Click these links to find out more

Type 1

Type 2





CONEJO PLAYERS
T H E A T R E



**do-
nate!**

Your tax-deductable donation supports the work of the Conejo Players including no-cost youth theatre programs, community outreach and training the next generation of performers and technicians.



Click this link to get to our donation page. And thanks!

Donate now!



Be part of the CPT family!

Volunteering at Conejo Players Theatre

At the heart of Conejo Players Theatre is its volunteer members. Our theatre is unique in the Conejo Valley, as it's operated on a solely volunteer basis since its inception in 1958; the theatre's board members, actors, production staff, and technical crew do not receive any monetary compensation for their services. But the rewards of volunteering with our theatre are many -- we provide a medium for creative self-expression, with opportunities to get involved both onstage and behind-the-scenes ... acting, directing, producing, stage managing, scenic design and construction, theatrical lighting and sound, costuming, and the list goes on.

We're proud of the dedication of our volunteers, and the services they provide are invaluable to our success. It's our volunteers -- both adults and children -- that have allowed Conejo Players to thrive since its humble beginnings. In return, our volunteers gain invaluable creative experiences while enjoying the fun and friendships that come with working in the ever-evolving atmosphere of live theatre. We invite you to join us in our efforts to support the cultural, educational, and entertainment needs of the community through the arts!

These are some of the volunteer opportunities available:

**Usher/Ticket Taker/Snack Bar • Costumes • Props • Set Builders
Sound Board Operator • Light Board Operator • Outreach Committee**
Email us at info@conejoplayers.org for these and other volunteer options.

"Why should I spend \$1 to become a Conejo Players Theatre Member?"

There are 4 reasons that we share:

1. By becoming a member, you are part of our CPT family for life. You are on our rosters and members can follow up with you to let you know what is going on at CPT.
2. When you fill out the form, you can opt in to receive our weekly newsletters and let us know what you are interested in doing, whether it be on stage or off stage. We can share with the Directors and Producers, Front of House Coordinators, Stage Crew team etc. what you are interested in doing.
3. By becoming a member and an active member, it gives you the opportunity to be a part of the direction of the theatre. You have a vote to make a difference on the direction the board takes. You can become a part of the board. You have decided you care about the theatre and want to make your voice heard.
4. You will receive invitations to exclusive Member Only Events!

We hope you do choose to become a member and join our family. We will work to find the best opportunities that match your interests!

Meet THE CAST



Luca Nicoletti (Annelle) is honored to be part of this dream production! Nicoletti is a new graduate of Pepperdine University, earning BAs in both Theatre and Hispanic Studies. Her recent credits include *The Women of Lockerbie* (Woman #3), *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* (Marie), *Passage* (F), and *This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing* (Carmen). Special thanks to her family, friends, and the cast & crew.



Victoria McGee (Clairee) recently directed the Conejo Players Readers Theatre production of *Underdog: the Other Other Brontë*. She has appeared at Santa Paula Theater Center in *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Baskerville*, and *The Farndale Christmas Carol*, and has worked in theater in Ventura County, Maui and Tucson. Victoria recently produced and directed her play *How Can I Help?* (adapted from the book by Ram Dass and Paul Gorman) at Santa Paula. She's also the artistic director of Free Range Comedy SoCal, serves on the Board of the Santa Paula Theater Center and is the author of *A Trauma Toolbox*, *How to Include Your Soul in Healing Trauma*.



Theresa Secor (Ouiser) has been involved with Ventura and LA County theatre for over 40 years. She was recently seen at The Elite in *She Who Hunts* and in Ojai in the production of *Rope*. Some of her favorite roles were as Mother Kate Keller in *All My Sons* at the Elite in Oxnard, Maggie in *Dancing at Lughnasa* (for which she won a Four Star Award performing in Ojai), Regan in *King Lear*, Queen Margaret in *Richard III*, Lady Macduff in *Macbeth*, Miss Maudie in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Adriana in *The Comedy of Errors*, and Miss Tweed in *Something's Afoot*. She has directed several times for Playzapalooza in Santa Paula as it is a favorite! Theresa has also directed *All My Sons* for Panic! Productions, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* for Young Artists Ensemble, and many more.



Mars Fuller (Shelby) has been on and off stage in the community since before she gained consciousness. Most recently, Mars has been stage managing and crewing, but you may have seen her in High Street Arts Center's *Young Frankenstein*, Jimmy Buffett's *Escape to Margaritaville*, or maybe even around town! Mars would like to thank Jolyn and the team for trusting her as well as all the friends, family, and especially her wife Kate for encouraging and supporting her through it all.



Claudia Stone-Sheppard (Truvy) is absolutely delighted to be back on the Conejo Players stage. Previous theatre adventures include *Underdog: The Other Other Bronte* (Emily Bronte), *The Tempest* (Antonio), and *Mary Poppins*, where she joyfully blended into the ensemble. When not on stage, she can be found roaming the halls of *Abbott Elementary* (ABC/Hulu)—yes, really. Claudia sends love to her friends and family and hopes you enjoy the show as much as she enjoys being part of it.



Dana Marley-Kolb (M'Lynn) is grateful to be a part of this wonderful production. At CPT she has performed as Rose in *Gypsy* (Four Star Award), Muzzy in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Phyllis in *Follies*, Barbara in *Social Security*, Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* (Four Star Award), Arlene in *Baby*, Violet in *9 to 5*, and Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*. Behind the scenes at CPT, she served as Dramaturg for the streamed *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [Revised]* and for *Romeo & Juliet*, staged two Car Park Theaters, directed *Daddy Long Legs*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Book of Will* and produced *25th...Spelling Bee*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *A Gentleman's Guide...Murder*. In an earlier life, she directed *Macbeth*, *Richard III*, *Our Country's Good*, and *The Beggar's Opera* (among others) and performed in *Twelfth Night*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *West Side Story*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Grease* (among others) in Los Angeles. She thanks you all for joining us, and very special thanks to her family and friends.

Meet THE STAFF

Jolyn Johnson (Director) is thrilled to be directing this play at CPT with this amazing cast and production team. Previous favorite directing credits include *The Laramie Project*, *Next to Normal* (Four Star Award, Directing), *When We Were Young and Unafraid*, *Yankee Dawg You Die* (VC Premiere), *Stop/Kiss*, *The Normal Heart*, *Crimes of the Heart*, and *SHE* (World Premiere). She received her Bachelor's in Theatre at USC, and thanks Devery, Patrick, Carolyn, the Board at Conejo, the hard-working cast, and everyone involved in a play that celebrates sisterhood. Big thanks to the spouse and monster for their support. She dedicates this play to her late mother, Janis, who was her personal steel magnolia.

Devery Holmes (Producer) is thrilled to be a part of this tremendous production. It has been a dream to work with Jolyn Johnson, Patrick Rogers, Carolyn Luu and the wonderful cast, production team and crew! A former CPT President, lifetime member and Golden Sweatshirt recipient, she has loved every opportunity and adventure for the last 30 years at CPT including directing, producing and performing. Devery studied Drama at Goldsmiths College in London, was in the Young Americans and owns an Entertainment Marketing Agency with her husband and partner, Jim. Thanks to Jim, AJ, Caitlin, Kellyn and Ollie for their love and support.

Patrick T. Rogers (Assistant Director/Dialect Coach/Set Dresser/DJ Voice Over) is thrilled to be working on one of his favorite shows along-side this extraordinary cast and crew. Previous onstage CPT credits include: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *The Secret Garden*, *Baby*, *West Side Story*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Miss Saigon* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, among others. As a dialect coach, he has worked on productions throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties including: *Lost in Yonkers*, *A Gentleman's Guide ...*, *Clue*, *The Secret Garden*, *SHE*, *The Diner*, *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors* and most recently *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* for Rubicon Theatre. Thanks to everyone especially Jolyn for taking him on this incredible journey. When he's not doing theatre, he is an acclaimed Acting and Dialect Coach. For Mom, Eily and Sawyer, always. Insta: @ptrogers1980.

Carolyn Luu (Stage Manager) is elated to be stepping back into the position of Stage Manager. This is a role that she knows fairly well, having last worked on *Anastasia* last year here at Conejo Players. She also is no stranger to the stage, having been seen across the Ventura County community theater scene since 2013. Favorite roles include Marcy (*The 25th...Spelling Bee*, *The Elite*) and Grandma Tzeitel (*Fiddler On The Roof*, High Street Arts Center) and working behind the scenes stage managing *Yankee Dawg You Die* and producing *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, both at The Elite. She would like to thank her wonderful family and friends for their constant support. She would also like to extend the biggest THANK YOU to Jolyn and Patrick. "Thank you for making this experience so special, I could have not asked for a better team to work with. And to this extremely brave cast of six women, who have bared their souls every night up on that stage for the last four weeks - thank you for helping me heal something I never thought I would get the chance to ever heal. Love to you all." Please enjoy the show!

Dei Hobbs (Costume Designer) has enjoyed working with the cast and crew on such a moving story. She's appreciated the opportunity to get to know and work with all of them these last couple of months and grateful to add Steel Magnolias to some of the other shows she's worked on: *Avenue Q*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Anastasia* and *The Book of Will*. Many thanks to my family for their continued understanding and patience.

Danielle Anneman (Costume Designer) has worked in film and television for much of her life. She has also enjoyed creating costumes for school productions including *Matilda*, *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, and *Newsies*. She is grateful to be part of Steel Magnolias and to work alongside such a talented and welcoming cast and crew.

Dean Johnson (Lighting & Sound Designer) is grateful to be a part of this remarkable play and is thrilled to be working at CPT with such a wonderful cast and crew. Some of Dean's favorite past productions include *Company* and *Private Lives* at Camarillo Skyway Playhouse, *Red* and *Nunsense* at Ojai Art Center Theater, *While We Waited* at Elite Theatre Company, and *Jekyll & Hyde* at High Street Arts Center. Thanks to all who worked so hard to bring this show to life.

Jaye Depew (Prop Designer) has enjoyed working with her sister, Dona Pugh, in looking for and creating props for many productions, including *Lend Me a Tenor*, *The Descendants*, *the Musical*, *The Book of Will*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Calendar Girls*. Jaye has a BA in Art from CSUN. She loves putting her creative ideas to good use. She wants to thank Devery and Jolyn for letting her be part of this production.

Dona Pugh (Prop Designer) has been volunteering at CPT for over 18 years, mainly as a House Manager. She enjoys working on props together with her sister Jaye. Plays they previously worked on include *Calendar Girls*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Disney's Descendants*, and *The Book of Will*. She wants to thank Jolyn and Devery for inviting her to be a part of this meaningful production working with so many 'Steel Magnolias'.

Katy Strang (Wig/Hair Designer) has been an ardent fan of live theatre for her entire life and is thrilled to officially be a part of it. Perhaps her hair/wig design path began at age three when she refused to ever remove a curly red wig, as she had discovered the power and impact of hair in creating a character - as this wig had convincingly turned her into the little orphan Annie. Having the opportunity to craft hair designs for a show where hairstyling is such an integral part of the story is an absolute honor. Forever grateful for this opportunity and to the incredible humans she has gotten to know at Truvy's Salon. She loves the cast and crew more than her luggage. A very special thank you to her boys who inspired her to follow her passion straight to the Conejo Players Theatre, she would not be here without their support and encouragement.

Cathy Johnson (Assistant Stage Manager) This is Cathy's second time working backstage at the Conejo Players, having stage managed *God's Favorite* several years ago. Other stage managing jobs include: *Jekyll and Hyde* at the High Street Art Center; *West Side Story*, *Nunsense*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Into the Woods*, *Noises Off*, and *Mister Roberts* at Camarillo Skyway Playhouse; and she recently assisted with sound design for *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors* at Ojai Arts Center. Cathy has also been seen onstage in such shows as *Sweeney Todd*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Sound of Music*, *Brigadoon*, *Camelot*, *Oklahoma*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Wizard of Oz* (Camarillo Skyway Playhouse), and most recently, *The Pirates of Penzance* (Ventura County Gilbert & Sullivan Repertoire Company). A few of her favorite roles include: Mrs. Sowerberry in *Oliver!*, the Rabbi in *Fiddler on the Roof*, George Reed in *1776*, and Mammy Yokum in *Li'l Abner*. She would like to thank her husband, Dean, for all his support, and her son, Patrick, whose example reminds her to never stop creating art.

Board of **DIRECTORS** and Theatre **MANAGEMENT**

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NEXT ON THE BOARDS

BEETLEJUICE JR.

Book by
 Music and Lyrics by **Scott Brown & Anthony King**
 Eddie Perfect

Based on the Gelfin Company Picture
 with a story by Michael McNewell & Larry Wilson

Sep 25 - Oct 4, 2026
 Fri at 7:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm
 Sat at 1:00pm & 5:00pm

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 is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
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Conejo Improv Players
 Back in the Mix in '26!

YES AND improv.
 conejo improv players

Shake it up with the Conejo Improv Players!
 Share our locally brewed improvised comedy show.

Sat Oct 24, 2026
 8:00pm