

STEEL MAGNOLIAS Fun Facts



- The play opened off-Broadway at the Lucille Lortel Theatre on June 19, 1987.
- The play is set in Northwest Louisiana, Chinquapin Parish.
- Playwright Robert Harling wrote the play **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** shortly after the death of his beloved sister Susan Robinson aged just 33 in 1985. Susan left behind her husband Dr. Pat Robinson and their 2-year-old son Robert. Just like the character of Shelby, Susan also had diabetes, which she was diagnosed with at the age of 12.
- There was in fact an armadillo groom's cake at Susan's wedding.
- The play has been translated into 17 different languages.
- **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** was turned into a Hollywood blockbuster in 1989 and starred Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Shirley Maclaine, Daryl Hannah, Olympia Dukakis - and a young and unknown Julia Roberts, then just 19, who played Shelby, the character based on Susan.
- During the London production of *Steel Magnolias*, Daniel Radcliffe's mother Marcia, a casting agent who was involved with the production, had him while the production was going on.
- The 1980s saw a rise in the number of female barbers. By the mid-1980s, about half of all barber students were women.
- The entire cast and design team of this production of **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** are female.
- This marks the first collaboration between Playhouse Square and Cleveland Play House.
- This production of **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** is being directed by CPH Artistic Director Laura Kepley. Of the 74 theatres registered with the League of Resident Theatres, only 19% of artistic directors are women.
- The Broadway League's annual demographic study revealed that women account for 68% of theater audience members.

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Differences between the play and the film:

Play	Film
All the characters are female; male characters mentioned	The film portrays Drum, Tommy and Jonathan Eatenton, Jackson Latcherie and son Jack Jr., Sammy Desoto, Owen Jenkins, and Truvy's husband Spud (unnamed in the play) and son Louie.
All scenes take place in Truvy's beauty shop.	Film takes place in a variety of locations.
Characters are seen getting ready for Shelby's wedding.	We see Shelby's wedding actually take place, with details like the armadillo cake and Annelle meeting Sammy.
Shelby is back in Chinquapin for the famous Christmas Festival.	We see the characters attend the Chinquapin Christmas Festival.
M'Lynn and Shelby have a private conversation about Shelby's pregnancy in the beauty shop.	M'Lynn and Shelby have a private conversation about Shelby's pregnancy in their home.
Clairee mentions she bought the local radio station and serves as a color announcer for the local football team.	There is a new scene where Clairee and Ouiser are in the men's locker-room after a football game and Clairee is providing her color commentary.
Shelby announces her pregnancy to the women in the beauty shop.	Shelby announces her pregnancy during the Christmas Festival celebration.
The day after Halloween, Shelby has already passed away and M'Lynn stops by the beauty shop.	There is a new scene during Halloween when the women (sans Shelby) throw Annelle a wedding shower. During this time, Shelby loses consciousness in her own house.
M'Lynn explains that Shelby's body rejected the kidney and that she had gone back on dialysis for the months leading up to her death. About a week prior to the scene is when complications started, eventually leading to a coma.	It isn't until they find Shelby unconscious on Halloween that it is determined Shelby rejected the kidney, and she immediately goes into a coma.
M'Lynn says that when they made the decision to take Shelby off of life support, Drum and Jackson left the room before the heartbeat monitor stopped.	We see Shelby in the hospital. Drum, Jackson and M'Lynn are all present when the doctors turn the machine off, and only walk away just before the heartbeat monitor stops.
M'Lynn has her emotional outburst in the beauty shop.	M'Lynn has her emotional outburst shortly after Shelby's funeral.
Annelle tells M'Lynn that she's decided to name her child after Shelby	Annelle asks M'Lynn's permission to name her child after Shelby.

The play ends with M'Lynn leaving Truvy's beauty shop after having a cathartic experience with the women.	The film continues after M'Lynn's cathartic experience and shows her helping Jackson raise Jack Jr, and adds an Easter scene where Annelle gives birth to her child.
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CAST OF CHARACTERS:

TRUVY JONES—40ish. Owner of the beauty shop.

ANNELLE DUPUY-DESOTO—19. Beauty shop assistant.

CLAIREE BELCHER—66ish. Widow of former mayor in town. Grande dame.

SHELBY EATENTON-LATCHERIE—25. Prettiest girl in town.

M'LYNN EATENTON—50ish. Shelby's mother. Socially prominent career woman.

OUISER (pronounced "Weezer") BOUDREAUX—66ish. Wealthy curmudgeon. Acerbic but lovable.