

Audition Notice: *Steel Magnolias*

Plaza Theatre | Wharton, Texas

Directed by: Amber Barbee

Audition Dates: February 15 & 17, 2025 at 6:00pm

Performance Dates: April 24 – May 3, 2026

Location

Plaza Theatre

120 S. Houston St., Wharton, TX

Casting Six Female Roles

We encourage performers of all backgrounds to audition.

Character Descriptions

M'Lynn Eatenton

Age: 40s-50s

Description: M'Lynn is a strong, compassionate, and determined woman who is both a loving mother and a grounded, sensible individual. She must show emotional depth, particularly in the face of Shelby's illness and the play's heart-wrenching moments.

Requirements: The actor must be able to convey a range of emotions, from dry humor to profound grief, with subtlety and strength.

Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie

Age: Mid 20s to early 30s

Description: Shelby is M'Lynn's daughter, a vibrant, independent woman full of life and determination, despite her struggles with diabetes. She's warm, hopeful, and unapologetically herself.

Requirements: The actress must balance a youthful, optimistic energy with the maturity that comes from her health challenges. Strong emotional vulnerability and charm are key.

Truvy Jones

Age: 40s-50s

Description: Truvy is the owner of the beauty salon, a charismatic and talkative woman who provides a sense of community for the group. She's caring, witty, and serves as the group's central connector.

Requirements: The actor must be able to deliver humor with warmth and an engaging, larger-than-life personality.

Ouiser Boudreaux

Age: 60s-70s

Description: Ouiser is a wealthy, sharp-tongued, and independent woman who is often grumpy but has a heart of gold. Her sarcastic wit and comedic timing should be delivered with layers of vulnerability.

Requirements: The actor should be able to balance dry humor with moments of unexpected tenderness; must have excellent comic timing.

Clairee Belcher

Age: 60s-70s Description: Clairee is a former first lady of the town with a quick wit and a strong sense of social awareness. She's the calm and often comedic presence in the group, offering sage advice and support.

Requirements: The actor must portray a charming, dignified character with a sharp sense of humor. A Southern accent is essential, and the actor should be comfortable with both comedic and heartfelt moments.

Annelle Dupuy-Desoto

Age: Early 20s Description: Annelle is the shy, sweet, and somewhat insecure newcomer to the group, initially working as Truvy's assistant. She evolves throughout the play, gaining confidence and finding a sense of community.

Requirements: The actress must convey a sense of personal growth and inner strength. The role requires subtle vulnerability, with the ability to show a gradual transformation.

Audition Requirements

Prepare two monologues in the style of the character you wish to be considered for.

Monologues are provided bellow

Notes for Performers

Southern accents are encouraged and may be used during auditions.

Rehearsals will begin March 2, 2026 and typically run Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 6pm – 9pm.

Performers must be available for all performances.

We look forward to seeing your interpretation of these rich and beloved characters.

Break a leg, y'all!

Monologues

Truvy 1 (talking to Annelle about the local gossip. She obviously knows it all)

I have a strict philosophy that I have stuck to for fifteen years... "There's no such thing as natural beauty".

Remember that, or we're out of a job. You must live close by. Within walking distance, I mean. I didn't see a car.

You live over at Robeline's, right? Ruth Robeline, now there's a story. She's a twisted, troubled soul. Her life's been an experiment in terror. Husband killed in Vietnam. I have to tell you, when it comes to suffering, she's right up there with Elizabeth Taylor.

Truvy 2 (regarding Annelle's excessive praying)

Got me. Maybe she was praying for Marshall and Drew and Belle. Maybe she was praying for us because we were gossiping. Maybe she was praying because the elastic is shot in her pantyhose. Who knows? She prays at the drop of a hat these days – and has ever since Mardi Gras. She had her choice of going to a Bible weekend with her Sunday school class or to New Orleans with me and two other sinners. She left that Friday a pleasant, well-adjusted young lady and she returned that next Tuesday a Christian ... Her boyfriend Sammy's so confused he doesn't know whether to scratch his watch or wind his butt. He's crazy about her. He says he could deal with

another man in her life, but he has trouble with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ... I'm torn. I've got two sons that I'm afraid are going to hell in a handcart and a semi-daughter that strives to be the kind of girl Jesus would bring home to Mama. I don't know what to think. I don't understand those people ... but they sometimes seem to have a peace about things that I've never had. Maybe I'm just jealous.

Annelle 1 (talking to M'lynn about Shelby's death)

I think in Shelby's case, she wanted to take care of that baby, of you, of everybody she knew... and her poor body was just worn out. It wouldn't let her do everything she wanted to do. So she went to on to a place where she could be a guardian angel. She will always be young. She will always be beautiful. And I personally feel much safer knowing she's up there on my side. I know some people might think that sounds real simple and stupid... and maybe I am. But that's how I get through things like this.

Annelle 2

I'm not sure if I'm married or not ... He's gone! Everything is horrible. Bunkie – that's my husband – he left. We only moved here a month ago. He just vanished last week. Nobody knows where he went. He took all my money, my jewelry, the car. Most of my clothes were in the trunk ... The police have been to see me. He's in big trouble with the law. Drugs or something. He never paid the rent so I got thrown out of our house and had to move in at crazy old Mrs. Robeline's. The police keep questioning me. But I don't know anything. They say my marriage may not be legal ... I should've said something, but I was scared to. I need a job in the worst way and I didn't know if you'd hire someone who may or may not be married to someone that might be a dangerous criminal. But I swear to you that my personal tragedy will not interfere with my ability to do good hair.

Clairee 1 (while telling everyone about her gay nephew)

I'm such a nosy old thing. I asked him how he...met people. 'Cause in my day you could tell by a man's carriage and demeanor by which side his bread was buttered on. But today? In this day and age? Who knows? I asked Marshall, "How can you tell?" and he says "All gay men have track lightin. And all gay men are named Mark, Rick, or Steve." (laughs) He is such a nut...track lightin (laughs).

Clairee 2

My brother can be very hotheaded when he wants to be. But he really didn't throw Marshall out. Marshall just came over to my house while his daddy cooled off. I adore Marshall. We stayed up half the night talking... I think it'll all blow over. I have to admit, Marshall did go about it the wrong way. He marched in unexpected from Los Angeles while Drew and Belle were preparing for the annual Marmillion shrimp boil. Marshall without so much as a hello says, "Mama and Daddy, I have something to tell you. I have a brain tumor. I have three months to live." Well, naturally Drew and Belle became hysterical. Then Marshall says, "Hey folks, I'm just kidding. I'm only gay." Drew became incredibly distraught and started throwing wet shrimp at Marshall, screaming at him to get out of his sight. And Marshall came to my house smelling like a can of cat food ... I want you to know Marshall's always welcome at my house. I'm very proud of him.

Shelby 1 (talking to her mom about her pregnancy and her possible health problems)

Mama. I don't know why you have to make everything so difficult. I look at having this baby as the opportunity of a lifetime. Sure, there may be some risk involved. That's true for anybody. But you get through it and life goes on. And when it's all said and done there'll be a piece of immortality with Jackson's looks and my sense of style...I hope. Mama, please. I need your support. I would rather have thirty minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special.

Shelby 2

Jackson's pretty swell. I thought he was a pest at first, but then he kind of grew on me. And now I love him. We met at a party at the Petroleum Club in Shreveport. I had no idea who he was, but I was getting a big kick out of watching him on the dance floor. It was painfully obvious he had never taken the time to dance in front of a mirror. There was something so attractive about how stupid he looked ... He's not really romantic. But he does give me flowers. And little presents if I bug him enough. He has promised to give me a red rose on every anniversary corresponding to the number of that anniversary. I think that's so sweet...

M'Lynn 1 (talking, through tears, about the last minutes with Shelby)

I stayed there. I kept on pushing...just like I always have where Shelby was concerned...hoping she'd sit up and argue with me. But finally we all realized there was no hope. At that point I panicked. I was afraid that I wouldn't survive the next few minutes while they turned off the machines. Drum couldn't take it. He left. Jackson couldn't take it. He left. It struck me as amusing. Men are supposed to be made of steel or something. But I couldn't leave. I just sat there holding Shelby's hand while the sounds got softer and the beeps got farther apart until all was quiet. There was no noise, no tremble. Just peace. I realized as a woman how lucky I was. I was there when this wonderful person drifted into this world, and I was there when she drifted out. It was the most precious moment of my life so far.

M'Lynn 2

Last week was our 30th anniversary. We've never considered it a major occasion before ... Drum prides himself on never having any tension. Which is amazing considering the amount he has created over the years ... Hmm. Listen to me. I've got to stop taking pot shots at Drum all the time. He's a good man. He's crazy, but he's a good man ... The most bizarre thing has happened. Drum and I seem to be rediscovering those things that brought us together in the first place. I don't know if we buried them or became blind to them ... Every now and then Drum and I seem to find these moments of magic. I don't know. I don't know if I'm lucky to have what I have – or lucky to know what I have.

Ouiser 1 (arguing with Clairee over going out to get cultured in New York)

Let's get one thing straight. I don't see plays because I can nap at home for free. I don't see movies because they're all trash and full of naked people. And I don't read books because if they're any good, they'll be made into a mini-series. And as far as Owen is concerned, Clairee, a dirty mind is a terrible thing to waste. We are friends. He would like more. I'm dealing with that. But I am old and set in my ways. Besides, I can't help that men find me desirable.

Ouiser 2

I have plans next Friday. I'm going to Shreveport to have my colors done. I'm going to find out if I'm a summer or spring or fall or winter. It's a present from Owen. Every person has a particular coloring – summer, spring, so on. You determine what season you are, then you know what colors look best on you. Then you're given samples of the colors that are in your palette. It's most helpful when you shop for clothes. It gives you fashion courage ... And, Clairee, I'll write a check for the little theatre. I will support art. I just don't want to see it. Let's get one thing straight. I don't see plays because I can nap at home for free. I don't see movies because they're all trash and full of naked people. And I don't read books because if they're any good, they'll be made into a mini-series.
