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## Beloved Play “Steel Magnolias” Comes to Winthrop Nov. 1-5

Winthrop University

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# Beloved Play “Steel Magnolias” Comes to Winthrop Nov. 1-5

## Quick Facts

- Show times are 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday.
- Tickets are \$5 with a Winthrop ID or \$10 for the general public for the Wednesday and Thursday shows and \$8 with a Winthrop ID or \$15 for the general public Friday through Sunday

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ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – Come out from under the dryers and paint those nails for a night out when “**Steel Magnolias**” comes to Winthrop University’s **Johnson Studio Theatre** Wednesday-Sunday, Nov. 1-5. Show times are 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday.

“Steel Magnolias,” the basis for the Oscar-nominated film, is the bittersweet story of six women who gather under the dryers at Truvy’s Beauty Salon to share gossip, laughter, recipes and beauty secrets in a small Southern town. When tragedy strikes, they face it with sass and strength, supporting each other through thick and thin. By turns hilarious and poignant, “Steel Magnolias” is a heart-warming portrait of friendship and love.

This student-directed piece includes **Kristi Swiger** (Genoa, Illinois) as Truvy Jones; **Joy White** (Irmo, South Carolina) as Annelle Dupuy; **Madeline Penn** (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina) as Shelby Eatenton; **Hailee Beltzhoover** (Irmo, South Carolina) as Ouiser Boudreaux; **Caitlyn Brown** (Charleston, South Carolina) as Clairee Belcher; and **Ericka Meliszewki** (Florence, South Carolina) as M’Lynn Eatenton.

Director **Sydney Taie** (Goose Creek, South Carolina) has been a fan of “Steel Magnolias” her entire life and chose the play because of her desire to give more female actors a chance to star on stage. In addition to the cast, the crew is entirely made up of female students.

“I really like that the play is all women because I wanted to show female empowerment and give actors a chance to do something they might not have had the chance to do otherwise,” Taie said.

This is Taie’s first time directing a full-length production on stage. Though she began as an actor at Winthrop, Taie has enjoyed taking on the behind-the-scenes roles, but says that directing her peers presents its own set of challenges.

“Being the same age as the actors, I have to step into a different role in the room, since we’re friends off-stage,” Taie said.

Tickets are \$5 with a Winthrop ID or \$10 for the general public for the Wednesday and Thursday shows and \$8 with a Winthrop ID or \$15 for the general public Friday through Sunday. Tickets can be [purchased online](#) or at the Department of Theatre and Dance Box Office one hour prior to show time or 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday beginning Oct. 2. Free parking is available in the parking lot between Johnson Hall and Alumni Drive.

For more information, contact **Whitney Hough**, director of communications and community engagement for the [College of Visual and Performing Arts](#), at 803/323-2399 or [houghw@winthrop.edu](mailto:houghw@winthrop.edu), or visit the website at [www.winthrop.edu/arts](http://www.winthrop.edu/arts).

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