

KANKAKEE VALLEY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

**JANUARY 31
FEBRUARY 1-2
2025**

KVTA STUDIOS BLACK BOX THEATRE

1 STUART DRIVE KANKAKEE, IL 60901

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

WWW.KVTA.ORG

**A PLAY BY:
ROBERT HARLING**



**DIRECTED BY:
TYLER McMAHON**



Steel Magnolias

STEEL MAGNOLIAS is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

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A Note from the Director . . .

Steel Magnolias has been a part of my life for a long time. I grew up on the movie and the endless quotes. So, when the opportunity to direct a stage production came around, I had to try my best to get it. After the board selected me to direct, I knew I was in for an interesting time. I've directed big and small musicals and plays but never a play of 6 women. Would they trust me? Would they think I was Man-splaining? Who was I to tell them how to be Southern Belles? I'm not Southern nor a Belle...

But I knew one thing. I know how to help shape believable characters. Plus, growing up around a lot of strong-willed women, both at home and here at KVTA, I know who all 6 of these women are. I've met their real-life counterparts many times.

Then auditions came and I got a very talented group of women that auditioned. It was not easy to make the choices that needed to be made. I have to say it's lucky to get 6 talented women for this show, but to get 12 is amazing.

I have to give major shout outs to our understudies. They have created 6 distinct women, separate from their counterparts and it's been fantastic to watch.

So please sit back, relax, and step into 1980's Louisiana. Grab your tissues, you're going to have a lot of tears from laughter and sadness.

Tyler McMahon

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KVTA BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Tickets can be purchased online at www.kvta.org.

For information, please call 815-935-8510.

Kankakee Valley Theatre Association is a not-for-profit organization. Ticket prices cover only a fraction of the cost of each performance. We welcome volunteers and appreciate donations of any size. We invite you to become a member of KVTA. Contact any Board Member for information or visit www.kvta.org.

KVTA is a Proud Member of:

- Community Arts Council of Kankakee
- Illinois Arts Council Agency
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- Illinois Theatre Association
- Kankakee Chamber of Commerce
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Cast of Steel Magnolias

**Denotes first appearance in a Kankakee Valley Theatre Association production*

<i>M'Lynn.....</i>	<i>Paige Mayotte</i>
<i>Shelby.....</i>	<i>Samantha Perzee</i>
<i>Truwy.....</i>	<i>Courtney Bradley</i>
<i>Clairee.....</i>	<i>Jackie Pletsch*</i>
<i>Ouiser.....</i>	<i>Bonnie Brewer</i>
<i>Annelle.....</i>	<i>Kayla Connelly</i>

Understudies

<i>M'Lynn.....</i>	<i>Jill Shapkauski</i>
<i>Shelby.....</i>	<i>Kathleen Williams</i>
<i>Truwy.....</i>	<i>Sara Marion</i>
<i>Clairee.....</i>	<i>Rebecca Schumacher*</i>
<i>Ouiser.....</i>	<i>Amanda Cuzzo*</i>
<i>Annelle.....</i>	<i>Abigail Van Kley</i>

Scene Synopsis

Setting: 1980's

Location: Chinquapin, Louisiana

Act 1

Scene 1: April 1984

Scene 2: December 1984

**There will be a 15 minute intermission*

Act 2

Scene 1: June 1986, 18 months later

Scene 2: November 1986

Production Staff

Director.....	Tyler McMahon
Assistant Director.....	Robin Haug
Production Coordinator.....	Christine Case
Costumer.....	Jordyn Clark
Set Builder.....	Andrew Stephens Jim Ozee, Zac Stephens
Set Decorator.....	Angel Mirkov Kayla Connelly, Tim Haug, Daniel Marion
Stage Manager/Properties.....	Aubrey LaLuna Steel Magnolias cast, Tyler McMahon
Box Office.....	Tricia Kohan
House.....	Christine Case
Split the Pot.....	Jim Kravat
Stage Door Lounge.....	Steel Magnolias Understudy Cast
Program.....	Kimberly Hall Tyler McMahon, Courtney Stephens
Publicity.....	Sharla Ronchetto Stephen Menard, Pathfinder, Jordyn Clark
Lights.....	Joel Knapper
Sound.....	Main Street Music Production



Meet the Cast

Courtney Bradley (Truwy) A resident of Kankakee, Courtney is a Registered Nurse at Riverside Medical Center. She started with KUTA/YPT at the age of 11. Courtney states, "I was never a good beautician because my grandmother was. She ensured I had beautiful healthy hair. She passed just before Christmas, so this is for her."

Bonnie Brewer (Ouiser) Bonnie and her husband Don live in Kankakee and they have three children, Barbi, Jay, and Joe. She is a retired teacher. Bonnie adds, "This is my third production of Steel Magnolias, second time as Ouiser. Break a leg to all the hard-working members and understudies in this cast."

Kayla Connelly (Annelle) Kayla resides in Morris and is a Freshman studying Vet Medicine at PSU. Kayla recently played the role of Beatrice in KUTA's The Mystery of Edwin Drood in 2024. Kayla shares, "I would like say thank you to my parents for always being supportive of my theatre journey. Tyler, thanks for the opportunity to be a part of this show!"

Amanda Cuzzo (Ouiser Understudy) A resident of Bourbonnais, Amanda is employed by Advanced Group. In 2024, she played Ensemble/Judge in Legally Blonde with Acting Out Theatre Company. Amanda says, "Thank you Tyler, Robin, and Christine for everything and for casting good people! You knew we meshed well together! Thank you Angel, Jordyn, Courtney and Andy."

Sara Marion (Truwy Understudy) Sara and her husband Steve live in Bourbonnais and are parents to Nick, Jenna, Sam, and Daniel. She is employed by AHF. Most recently, she played the role of Mrs. Mayor in Seussical with KUTA in 2024. Sara states, "Thanks to Tyler for giving me a chance to be a part of my first straight play, and for getting me started in theater in The Music Man in 2021."

Paige Mayotte (M'Lynn) Paige lives in Chebanse with her children Jackson, Chloe, and Bailey. She is employed at St. Mary's Hospital as an Administrative Assistant to the Imaging Department. Paige adds, "I've been involved with community theatre (YPT, KUT and CTW) for many years... something like 35. I couldn't do this without the love and support of my family. This show is something special and it's thanks to the amazing cast and crew. You are wonderful!"

Meet the Cast

Samantha Perzee (Shelby) The daughter of Derek and Amanda Perzee of Chebanse, Samantha is a Senior at Central High School. In 2023, she played the role of Donna Sheridan in Mamma Mia with CHS. Samantha shares, "Special thanks to my family and friends who encouraged my outreach to community theater and my fellow cast members for making the show memorable!"

Jackie Pletsch (Clairee) Jackie resides in Bourbonnais and has a son, Jake Pletsch. She is employed with Joseph A. Schudt & Associates, Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors. From 2009-2023, she was a Soprano with the Lincoln Way Area Chorale Singers and Madrigal Performers. Jackie states, "To all my friends and family, thank you for supporting me on this new journey. I could not do any of this without your love and support."

Rebecca Schumacher (Clairee Understudy) Rebecca lives in Bourbonnais with her husband Grant and children Indy, Penny, Josey, and Meadow. She is a 6th grade science teacher at Hickory Creek Middle School and most recently was the Assistant Director for the 2024 production of Wonka JR at HCMS. Rebecca adds, "I would like to thank my family and friends for always supporting me in all my craziness! I couldn't have done it without them all!"

Jill Shapkauski (M'Lynn Understudy) A resident of Bourbonnais, Jill has two daughters, Cara and Eva. She is an ELA teacher at Kankakee High School. In 2018, Jill directed the KUTA production of Junie B. Jones. Jill shares, "Thanks to the staff for the opportunity to be in this show. I appreciate the kindness and encouragement for a part I loved playing, with a wonderful cast!"

Abigail Van Kley (Annelle Understudy) Abigail lives in Bourbonnais and is a Starbucks barista and art student at Arizona State University. Most recently, she was a member of the Ensemble in KUTA's Mystery of Edwin Drood. Abigail states, "Thanks to my family for encouraging me to audition for this show."

Kathleen Williams (Shelby Understudy) Kathleen and her husband Matt live in Bourbonnais with their children Sebastian and Lennon. She is a Social Worker at Bradley Central. In 2018, Kathleen was a part of the KUTA production of Newsies. Kathleen states, "Thank you to my husband, my kids, and all of my family for their support to get back on stage. Thank you Tyler and Robin for the chance to play a dream role."

Meet the Production Staff

Tyler McMahon (Director) Tyler is married to Thomas and they reside in Bradley. He was the director of KUTA's hit murder mystery, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, in 2024. Tyler adds, "Thank you to these 12 incredible ladies for their dedication and hard work to bring these southern belles to life."

Robin Haug (Assistant Director) Robin and her husband Tim live in Bourbonnais where she has worked for Digestive Disease Consultants for 25 years. Robin states, "I have had the pleasure of being on stage for 6 shows and behind the scenes for numerous others. My favorite role was that of Miss Adams in Miracle on 34th Street. This is my first role as an A.D. and I have loved every moment of it. This show will make you laugh and cry and the women in this show are amazing! I hope you love it!"

Christine Case (Production Coordinator) Christine and her husband Stephen live in Kankakee with their children Jack, Baylor, Matt, and Harper. She is employed as a Library Media Specialist at Hillcrest High School. Christine shares, "Thank you to Kim Hall for your guidance on being a PC and to Tyler and Robin for fostering a positive atmosphere with this production."

Jordyn Clark (Costumer) Jordyn lives in Ashkum with her husband Samuel and she is employed by 1-Kan. Jordyn says, "I am super excited to play Trunchbull in the upcoming production of Matilda. Thank you to Tyler for allowing me to be a part of this amazing show and as always to my husband for being the best theatre husband a girl could ask for."

Andrew Stephens (Set Builder) Andrew and his wife Sarah reside in Bourbonnais. They have two daughters, Ellen and Anna.

Angel Mirkov (Set Decorator) A resident of Bradley, Angel is a Paraprofessional at Manteno Middle School. In 2024, she played the role of Little Red in Into The Woods with The Genesis Guild. Angel adds, "Thank you to Tyler for always giving me the shot to try new things like set decorating for the first time."

Aubrey LaLuna (Stage Manager/Props) Aubrey lives in Kankakee and is employed at Applied Systems. In 2024, she was a part of the cast of KUTA's Seussical. Aubrey shares, "Thank you Tyler, for asking me to be part of this production! Excited for everyone to see it!"

Thank you to our KVTA Season Subscribers. We are beyond grateful for your support!

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Acknowledgements

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Superior Embroidery ~ Karl's Kreative Fotos ~ Jake LaMore
Stephen Menard Design ~ The Drama Group ~ Daniel Marion
Tim Haug ~ Maxine Kuntz*

Special thanks to those who made donations or volunteered after the program was completed.

River Valley
Wind Ensemble

River Valley Music Corporation
webmaster@windensemble.org
<http://www.facebook.com/windensemble>

CONCERT DATES:

Sunday, Oct. 27 - Kankakee HS - 3:00 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15 - Holiday Concert - Larsen, ONU Campus - 3:00 p.m.
Friday, April 25 - BBCHS Auditorium - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 20 - BUGC - 7:00 p.m.

River Valley
String Ensemble

[facebook.com/RiverValleyStringEnsemble/](https://www.facebook.com/RiverValleyStringEnsemble/)

CONCERT DATES:

Sunday, Oct. 27 - Kankakee HS - 3:00 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13 - Holiday Concert - Bradley Public Lib. - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 18 - Asbury United Methodist - 3:00 p.m.

Thank You to  for your support this season!



TICKETS:

6 for \$5

Arm's Length for \$10

Truvy's Length for \$20

The winning split-the-pot ticket will be announced at intermission.



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This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Why Support KVTA?

The vitality of a community is determined by its cultural resources. KVTA strives for excellence. Like all other organizations, KVTA depends on support from the community to achieve this excellence. KVTA is a volunteer, community-driven organization. It takes many volunteers and many, many, man hours to produce one show. In our production season, we stage five regular season shows and more often than not, a summer production or a theatre camp for the local youth.

How can YOU make a difference?

- **Cash gifts** - every dollar makes a difference, so please give what you can.
- **Matching gifts** - double or triple the value of your gift! Please contact your human resources or corporate giving department to learn about your employer's matching gift policy.
- **Stock gifts** - we gladly accept gifts of appreciated stock, an option that gives you a tax write-off while saving you capital gains tax.
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SHREK JR ~ Everyone's favorite ogre is back in this hilarious stage spectacle, based on the Oscar-winning smash hit film and outrageous Broadway musical.

Beauty is in the eye of the ogre in *Shrek The Musical JR.*, based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film and fantastic Broadway musical. It's a "big bright beautiful world" as everyone's favorite ogre, Shrek, leads a cast of fairytale misfits on an adventure to rescue a princess and find true acceptance. Part romance and part twisted fairy tale, *Shrek JR.* is an irreverently fun show with a powerful message for the whole family.

Once upon a time, in a far away swamp, there lived an ogre named Shrek. One day, Shrek finds his swamp invaded by banished fairytale misfits who have been cast off by Lord Farquaad, a tiny terror with big ambitions. When Shrek sets off with a wisecracking donkey to confront Farquaad, he's handed a task — if he rescues feisty princess Fiona, his swamp will be righted. Shrek tries to win Fiona's love and vanquish Lord Farquaad, but a fairytale wouldn't be complete without a few twists and turns along the way.

With abundant opportunities for imaginative sets and costumes, and a host of over-the-top roles for an expandable cast, there's a part for everyone in this dazzling adventure story.

PERFORMANCE DATES / LOCATION:

March 15-16, 2025

Lincoln Cultural Center 240 Warren Ave Kankakee, IL 60901

LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE: <https://www.kvta.org/shrekjr>



MATILDA ~ The story of an extraordinary girl who dares to take a stand and change her own destiny. Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical* is the captivating masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life. With book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, *Matilda* has won 47 international awards and continues to thrill sold-out audiences of all ages around the world.

Matilda is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher Miss Honey. During her first term at school, the two forge a bond as Miss Honey begins to recognize and appreciate Matilda's extraordinary personality. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves to punish those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!

Packed with high-energy dance numbers, catchy songs and an unforgettable star turn for a young actress, Matilda is a joyous, girl power romp. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.

PERFORMANCE DATES / LOCATION:

April 11, 12 and 13, 2025

Lincoln Cultural Center 240 Warren Ave Kankakee, IL 60901

LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE: <https://www.kvta.org/matilda>

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SEPT. 20-22, 2024



THE PRODUCERS

NOV. 23-24, 2024



ELF JR.

JAN. 31-FEB. 2, 2025



STEEL MAGNOLIAS

MAR. 15-16, 2025



SHREK THE MUSICAL JR.

APR. 11-13, 2025



MATILDA THE MUSICAL