

Actors in the Garden

Newsletter of Theatre Onset Inc. Box 91 Bega (e) Mahamati @internode.net
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BE QUICK!



That's the message if you plan to see *Steel Magnolias*. A couple of postings on Face Book and already the message is 'I'm going'.

This is the show that started Off Broadway and after 1,126 performances moved to Broadway and the big time.

But, even before that it had opened on the West End in London.



Three touring companies carried the show through the UK. with Japanese and Swedish productions taking to the boards in 2007 and 2008 respectively (how you'd manage a deep southern drawl in Japanese or Swedish is something to imagine.) Australia was quick off the mark with its first professional production in 1998 and most recently Jackie Weaver starred in a national tour in 2009.

Right from the start *Steel Magnolias* was a staple with community theatre companies and, it's not hard to see why. The cast is beautifully balanced, offering good, meaty roles for young, middle aged and older actresses and the story is a killer. The PR that *Steel Magnolias* is, 'the funniest play ever to make you cry' is spot on the button.

Steel Magnolias is writer, Robert Harling's catharsis. Written after the death of his sister the plot follows her story closely. Diagnosed with diabetes and warned not to have children she opted for a kidney transplant which failed leading to her death, hardly the stuff of comedy. It's the generosity of the play's characters that give it its heart and humour.

They say you can tell if a musical is a hit when the audience is humming the songs as it leaves the theatre. With *Steel Magnolias* they're repeating some of the best one-liners you'll ever hear.

'If you don't have anything nice to say about anybody, come sit by me.'

Theatre Onset has a cracking cast for this show and direction is in the hands of the very experienced Diana Nicol. It's set for a seven performance season and with one of the cast leaving for overseas the days after it closes there's no chance of an extension.

Don't miss it. Book now!

WOT, NO ELEPHANTS?

Melbourne's International Festival this year is heavy on Circus with not an elephant in sight. Reflecting the move from big top to theatre stage the program offers troupes from China, France Australia and Belgium and there are marriages of style that you'd never see under canvas.

Optus promises to perform with the Debussy Quartet, one of France's most prestigious string quartets. The Australian company Dislocate will bring slapstick story-telling to the stage and Nan Jing promises the best of Chinese acrobatics and juggling. And if you thought circus was for kids book your tickets to Carousel des Moutons. Aimed at kids three years and up.

Theatre for the kids.

And there are plenty of special theatre productions for kids. *Primo* promises and under water imagining for kids 2 to 5 and the UK's premiere Children's Theatre Unicorn is bringing *Something Very Far Away* for the 8 plus age group.

For Big People.

Dublin's Brokentalkers is bringing *Have I No Mouth*

OVER THE MOUNTAIN

Okay, any more snow is unlikely so, go climb the Brown and head to Canberra for:

Bell Shakespeare *The Dream* 28 Aug to 13 Sept.

Something as little different? Try the *National Pole Dancing Championships* on 27 Sept or a little burlesque with *Dames of Thrones* 14 Nov.

So, serious politics is your thing then you won't want to miss

The Warf Revue 30 Sept to 4 October. There's been plenty of material to work with this year.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS



FRIDAY 5 SEPT then 6, 7 11,12,13,14.

Week nights at 7.30
Sunday matinees 3.00

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Lis Shelley Alison Vanderberg and Ella Davies primping it up in Truvy's Salon.

'Remember there's no such thing as natural beauty.'