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September 26, 2013

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Steel Magnolias

"There's so much static electricity in this room, I pick up everything but boys and money."

by Kate Watson

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It's been 26 years since *Steel Magnolias* made its stage debut, and while a lot has changed since then (particularly in the management of diabetes, which is germane to the story), it still shines as a tender and funny tribute to the power of female friendship. The play features six women: Truvy (Debra Pollock), the warm and witty hairdresser; Clairee (Charmaine Alma), an acerbic semi-socialite; Annelle (Caroline Khoury Smith), a timid newcomer; Ouiser (Michele Moore), the curmudgeonly diamond-in-the-rough; Shelby (Britney Canzi), a sweet-natured bride-to-be; and Shelby's mother M'Lynn (Diane Hawco), a rational, intelligent woman at odds with her daughter's impulsive nature. The characters laugh together, trade some sharp one-liners and ultimately grieve together. And though the audience shares in the laughter, the power of the TAG production lies more in the dramatic moments than the comedic ones.

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