



STEEL *Magnolias*



by
Robert Harling

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



May 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23
May 16, 23

7:30 pm
2:00 pm

2026



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Working with this cast of incredibly talented women has been a true honour. From the very first read-through, it was clear that this group brought not only skill and dedication, but also heart, humour, and a deep respect for the story we are telling. My goal in building this team was to bring the very best to the stage, and I have been continually humbled by the dedication, creativity, and heart of both our cast and crew. I am deeply grateful for this remarkable group of individuals who have helped bring this production to life.

Steel Magnolias is a celebration of friendship, resilience, and the quiet strength found in community. These women bring those qualities to life in a way that is both deeply moving and joyfully authentic. Rehearsals have been filled with laughter, support, and moments that remind us just how powerful storytelling can be when trust and connection are at the center.

This story has always held a special place in my heart. At its core, it is a story about friendship. The kind of friendship that carries you through life's highs and lows. It reminds us that true friends are the ones who lift us up when we falter, who stand beside us in both laughter and heartbreak, and who make even the hardest moments a little more bearable.

Having been blessed with the most incredible community of women in my own life, I would like to dedicate these performances to "the girls" - the friends who show up, who hold us together, and who remind us of our own strength.

Thank you for being here and for supporting live theatre. We hope this story resonates with you as deeply as it has with us.

— Dayna

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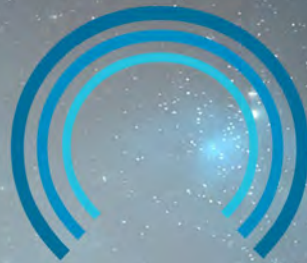
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Welcome to today's presentation of *Steel Magnolias*!

SAFETY & CONSIDERATION

For the safety of our cast and the comfort and enjoyment of your fellow audience members, we ask that there be **no flash photography** during the performance. Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the building. Please turn off all cell phones & other audible devices. AED is located beside the washrooms downstairs.

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments may be purchased from the Concession downstairs in the basement - just follow the crowd! (If you're first, and don't know where to go, exit the auditorium, go down the stairs, turn 180° to your right, go down the additional stairs and through the door at the end of the corridor.)

Coffee, tea, soft drinks, wine, beer and snacks are available

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Congratulations to the cast and crew on another fine performance!





Cast

(in order of appearance)

Truvy Jones
Annelle Dupuy-DeSoto
Clairee Belcher
Shelby Eatenton-Latcherie
M'Lynn Eatenton
Ouiser Boudreaux

Tanya Dhaliwal
Christina Stoney
Cami Ryan
Melanie Swennumson
Hollie Darel
Debbie Sands

The play will be performed in two acts with a 15 minute intermission

Originally produced by the W.P.A. Theatre, New York City, 1987. (Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)



Go to www.dewdneyplayers.com to get all the news on our upcoming shows and to sign up for auditions.
Join the fun!

We have an exciting line up of plays this season, including Hurry Hard, Bare Bear Bones, plus One-Act Plays and the Regional One Act Play Festival in March! Watch for our Summer Play - an original adaptation of Winnie the Pooh!



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Manager: Eva Jurkovicova



KUDOS!

Many people and businesses find themselves involved in Dewdney productions in a contributory role, with goods & services, a helping hand, or sometimes just by patiently standing by with advice or a kind word.

We extend grateful thanks to:

- The staff at the Old Church Theatre
- Okotoks Print & Copy for their excellent service
- Dale and 'Dad', for always going above and beyond
- Crystal Linton and Bailey Diakow, for their incredible assistance with set decoration
- Grandpa Roblin, for being our truck driver
- Dar and Keith, for accepting our Amazon packages
- Amanda Mann and Brad Snowden, for saving us behind the scenes
- The families of our cast and crew, for their love and support while we make magic happen on stage
- And to you, our audiences—for whom we exist!

THANK YOU!





COSTUMES

Trish Babkirk



Trish joined Dewdney in 2014 as a costume assistant for *The Odd Couple – Female Version*, and since then she has designed, constructed, acquired, altered, adapted, squeezed, stretched and fitted, and has excelled at clothing our ‘meat puppets’ in 38 plays. Trish is the keeper of our ever-expanding (though recently thoroughly curated) collection of costumes and was responsible for our getting a grant to fund an inventory system. When not dressing actors or sorting costumes, Trish is an accounting wizard - and probably just recovering from the 2025 tax-filing deadline - and a ‘Motorcycle Mama’ - known to bomb down the streets of Okotoks on a blue Can Am Spyder!

DIRECTOR

Dayna Coles



Dayna is delighted to return to the stage for her eleventh production with the Dewdney Players. Previous roles include Elaine Harper in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz*. By day, she teaches at École Good Shepherd School, where she shares her love of the arts by directing the annual drama production. She is grateful to the dedicated crew and this talented cast for bringing this story to life. She also thanks her friends and family for their support—especially when she has to say, “Sorry, I can’t. I have rehearsal!” Enjoy the show!

M’LYNN EATENTON

Hollie Darel



Hollie has been part of the Dewdney Players since 2014, beginning with *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, and has since appeared in a variety of full-length and one-act productions. Most recently, she was seen as ‘Alice’ in *Squabbles* last spring and is thankful for every opportunity to step on stage and tell a story. *Steel Magnolias* has long been a favorite for Hollie, making this production especially meaningful. Stepping into the role of *M’Lynn* has been a privilege and is a reminder of the strength, love, resilience, and unbreakable bond between these women. She is sincerely grateful for her amazing cast, director, and stage managers. “You have no idea how wonderful you all are!”

TRUVY JONES

Tanya Dhaliwal



Tanya is thrilled to be back on stage! She has been part of Dewdney Players for over 10 years, performing in productions such as *Wizard of Oz*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Noises Off*, and many more. She is incredibly excited and honoured to be playing Truvy. What a fun character! Inspired by a real-life person, Truvy has many layers, a big heart, and a deep love for her friends. May we all have a Truvy in our lives - someone who makes us feel welcomed, valued, and seen. Tanya would like to thank everyone involved in making this a performance to remember.

COSTUME ASSISTANT/ADVERTISING

Donna Eaton



With the love of theatre deeply ingrained in her by her mother, Donna choose to be involved behind the scenes and be as much a part of the creative process as she can. After 10 wonderful years volunteering with Vertigo Mystery Theatre, a move to Okotoks brought her to Dewdney Players. Starting with *Twelfth Night* whetting her appetite, she then worked with the amazing group in *Henry V* and *Hansel & Gretel*. This is Donna’s 8th production with her Dewdney “family” where her passion for live theatre can live happily and grow.

The Annual '**CAT Awards**' are an opportunity for the Calgary community theatre groups to celebrate achievement in theatre production in the previous season.

For the 2024-2025 season:

Congratulations to Marion Bowen & Reg Gothard
Recipients of Dewdney Players' **Volunteer Awards**

Congratulations to Louise Moan - *Three Little Words*
Nomination for **Outstanding Original Script**

VOTE FOR DEWDNEY PLAYERS!

If you enjoy this performance of *Steel Magnolias*, please consider helping us to get recognition by voting for us in one or more categories.



Go to www.dewdneyplayers.com and follow the "Vote for Dewdney" link at the bottom of the home page to enter a nomination for the Calgary ACTS' Annual CAT awards. (Or you can use this QR Code to go directly to the Calgary ACTS website)

Enter your information, Dewdney's information, and then vote! There are categories for director, lead and supporting performances ('actors' and 'actresses' are a thing of the past), and scene, costume, light and sound designers. The blue question marks against each category summarize qualification criteria for you.



Thank you for supporting Dewdney Players and community theatre in Okotoks!

ADFA Foothills Region One-Act Play Festival - April 10 & 11, 2026

Dewdney Players participated in the Foothills Region One-Act Play Festival here in Okotoks and we are pleased to report the following successes!

Honourable Mention - Outstanding New Work
Kelvin D Hatch - *Who Said There Are No Stupid Questions3*

Congratulations to Strathmore Theatre Players Guild for their winning play: *Go Get 'Em Tiger*, which will represent the Foothills Region at the Provincial One-Act Play Festival in Leduc.





SET DESIGNER

Dale Fea

Dale Fea has been designing sets for this company for over 20 years, bringing a deep sense of craft, collaboration, and storytelling to every production. She strives to create environments that ground actors fully in the moment while faithfully realizing the director's vision—worlds that invite audiences to step inside and stay awhile. For this production, however, she can't shake the curious feeling that she's done it all before.



ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Charlie Mann

Charlie is excited to be joining the Dewdney Players for her first season as Assistant Stage Manager. She has loved being part of the drama community at École Good Shepherd School, where she previously performed as Sharpay Evans in *High School Musical* and Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*. Charlie has a passion for theatre both onstage and behind the scenes, and she is thrilled to support this incredible cast and crew in bringing *Steel Magnolias* to life. She would like to thank everyone who has supported her along the way. She hopes you enjoy the show!



PROPS MANAGER

Nicola Payton

Nicola has been involved in community theatre since before she was born and loves to help out wherever she can, turning her hand to sound operation, makeup, set design and props. She is an actress and CAT Award winning director (*The Peacock Season*, *Morpheus*). Having just finished directing a one act play for Dewdney and helping backstage for Misfit theatre, Nicola is very pleased to be rounding of her trio of April/May productions with the wonderful *Steel Magnolias*



FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER

Jane Platt

Jane has been with Dewdney since 2001 and her family has also been involved in Dewdney for most of that time in various capacities. Jane has Produced 26 plays for Dewdney in that time! Jane is Vice President of the Board and Front of House Manager so come out in intermission for cookies, pop and 50/50 tickets. Enjoy the show!



STAGE MANAGER

Katherine Roblin

This is Katherine's first season with the Dewdney Players, and she feels so honoured to be working alongside such an incredible cast of women. She is a teacher at École Good Shepherd School, where she has been actively involved in supporting and co-directing student drama productions over the past four years. Katherine loves bringing stories to life and being part of a creative community. She would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this special show possible.



OAC

OKOTOKS ARTS COUNCIL

Your Okotoks Arts Council is proud to support the theatrical arts in the Foothills through the creative energies and talents of the volunteers and performers with Dewdney Players.

Thank you for supporting the Arts in Okotoks

www.okotoksartscouncil.ca



CLAIREE BELCHER

Cami Ryan

Cami is a lifelong dabbler in theatre and a once-experienced voice-over actor, rediscovering the joy of live performance ... between hot flashes. Her stage credits include *Calendar Girls*, *The Bad Seed*, and *The Great Gatsby: A Live Radio Play*, with earlier highlights spanning television and radio work and a smattering of community theatre adventures. Known for self-deprecating humour, a strong work ethic, and wholehearted collaboration, Cami is delighted to be part of this powerhouse all-female cast, proving that women of a certain age bring depth, steel, and a whole lot of heart to the stage.



OUISER BOUDREAUX

Debbie Sands

Debbie is a veteran of Dewdney Players who has been producing and acting since 1992. She was last seen in "Squabbles", in which she played Mrs. Fisher. Thank you to Dayna for giving her the opportunity to be in this wonderful play. She's really enjoyed playing yet another grumpy old lady, except that this one actually has a heart. Thank you also to Ed for, as always, helping her to run lines. It's been a blast rehearsing and working with this great cast of women, and also to work with this amazing crew!



PRODUCER

Ed Sands

Ed is a Dewdney veteran who has been involved in almost every aspect of theatre with Dewdney Players (including costume construction), as well as a couple of Calgary companies in the distant past. Ed had the delight of producing the first version of *Steel Magnolias* in 2008 and is so delighted to be able to come full circle to produce this season's version! With life and society getting so complicated (and contentious) lately, Ed hopes that an evening spent in mirth and merriment will soothe the jagged nerves! (Once you get past the sad bits!)



TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Matt Seders

Matt has been a dedicated and versatile contributor to Dewdney Players since 2000. Over the years, he has played an integral role in numerous productions as a producer, actor, techie, and most recently stage manager. He has also served on the Board of Directors both in the past and continues to contribute in that capacity today. His passion for storytelling and collaboration has helped bring creative visions to life both onstage and behind the scenes. Known for his reliability and attention to detail, Matt consistently supports the success of each production and the strength of the theatre community.



COSTUME ASSISTANT

Sherene Seders

Sherene certainly isn't new to Dewdney, but she is usually found in the director's chair. Over the past 10 years, she has been proud to bring *Calendar Girls*, *The Full Monty*, and various live radio plays to the stage. Not to mention the award-winning one-act play, *Three Little Words*. *Steel Magnolias* is her first foray into the world of costuming. She has enjoyed the camaraderie working with a costuming "dream team" as she learned the tricks of the trade. She may not be a seamstress, but she is a master at vision boards and finding obscure items online. Sherene would like to thank Trish for taking her under her wing and for sharing a new creative avenue of theatre production.



May 8-23, 2026





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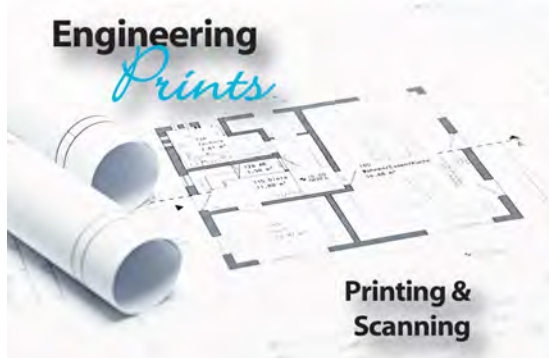
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ANNELLE DUPUY-DESOTO

Christina Stoney

Christina is thrilled to make her debut with Dewdney in this production of *Steel Magnolias*. She is incredibly grateful to Dayna for taking a chance on her and providing this wonderful opportunity. A huge thank you to her daughter, whose performance in *Hansel & Gretel* served as the ultimate inspiration to hit the stage once again, and to her son for his loving support, even if drama isn't exactly his cup of tea! Deepest thanks to all the cast and crew for creating such a beautifully supportive environment; the bar has truly been set high. After all this practice with hair, she's officially ready to start booking hairdressing appointments on the side! Enjoy the show!!



SHELBY EATENTON-LATCHERIE

Melanie Swennumson

Melanie Swennumson is pleased to be part of this production of *Steel Magnolias* with Dewdney Group Players. Melanie has been involved in local theatre for several years and is grateful for the opportunity to bring this heartfelt and humorous story to life. She has thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing with this talented cast and dedicated directors. Like Shelby, she believes in living fully, laughing often, and embracing whatever life brings—with heart and humor. She hopes you laugh, cry, and enjoy this beautiful story as much as she has loved bringing it to life.

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Hello, Okotoks!

At Simply Floors, we're not just about beautiful flooring; we're about celebrating our amazing community. For the past 20 years, your support has meant the world to us. That's why we're thrilled to be part of local events, like the fantastic productions by the Dewdney Players.

We believe that art and community go hand in hand, and we're honoured to support the Dewdney Players and all the wonderful artists who bring our community to life.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Here's to many more years of beautiful floors and vibrant community moments!

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Show Your Support For Community Theatre

The many businesses featured in this program are making visible their support for community theatre. Their names are also listed on page 27. Our thanks go to these businesses, whose support goes a long way towards the success of Dewdney productions. We ask you to support our sponsors and to take time to thank them for their support of community theatre.

If you would like to show *your* support for community theatre (and get a plug for your business!), email dewdneyplayers@gmail.com to find out how.



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Enjoy the Show!

Dewdney Players is pleased to present an **'All Canadian Season'** of plays for our 2026-2027 season!
All plays will be by Canadian playwrights and we anticipate several 'homegrown' titles in our One-Act Play production in March!



A Heartfelt Comedy About
Love on the Rocks &
Overcoming Impossible Odds

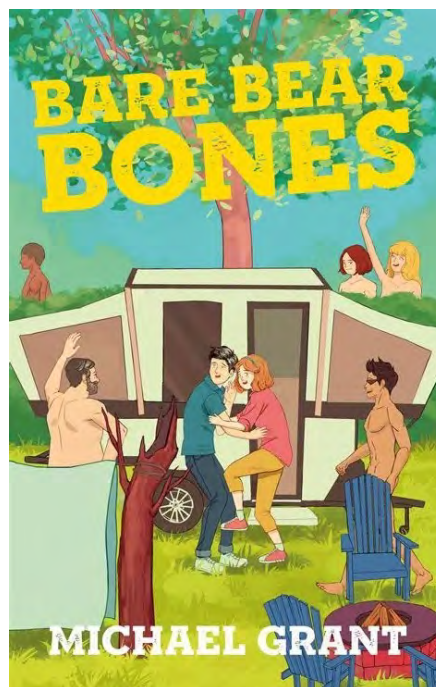
Kicking off the season we present
'Hurry Hard', by Kristen Da Silva,
November 6 - 21, 2026
(dark on November 20),
Here at the Old Church Theatre!

When Bill and Sandy's marriage split up, so did their curling team – splintering off into a men's team and a women's team who begrudgingly share the ice at the local Curling Club. Now, a medical emergency has left the men's team short a player on the day of the big regional bonspiel. If they have any hope of beating their rivals from the next town over and taking the trophy, they'll have to put aside their personal differences and unite as one team.

Hurry Hard is a hilarious and heartfelt comedy about what it takes to overcome impossible odds.

To close the season, we are pleased to present
'Bare Bear Bones', by Michael Grant.
April 30 - May 15, 2027
Here at the Old Church Theatre

At the instruction of their marriage counsellor, empty nesters Norm and Ruth book a trip to a place where they remember being in love, the Bear Bones Family Campground, in order to re-kindle their spark. After arriving late in the night, the conservative couple wakes to discover that their once familiar spot has become the Bare Bones Alternative Lifestyle Campground, and that nobody else is wearing any clothes!
Besides figuring out which side of the clothesline they're on, Norm and Ruth have to work on their communication, whether it's blindly directing one another to the washroom or re-establishing their goals in life. With the help of guests and staff, the couple starts to open their eyes and find their way back to their happy place.





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Dewdney Players is proud to present an original adaptation of the classic stories of A.A. Milne, written and directed by Brad Snowden.

The performances will be at the Olde Towne Plaza

July 23, 24, 25, 31, August 1: 7:00 pm

July 25, 26, August 1, 2 2:00 pm

Bring the kids and lawn chairs and join Christopher Robin and his friends in the Hundred Acre Wood as we bring Winnie-the-Pooh's classic tales to the stage.





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Congratulations to the Cast, Crew and all the individuals involved in

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

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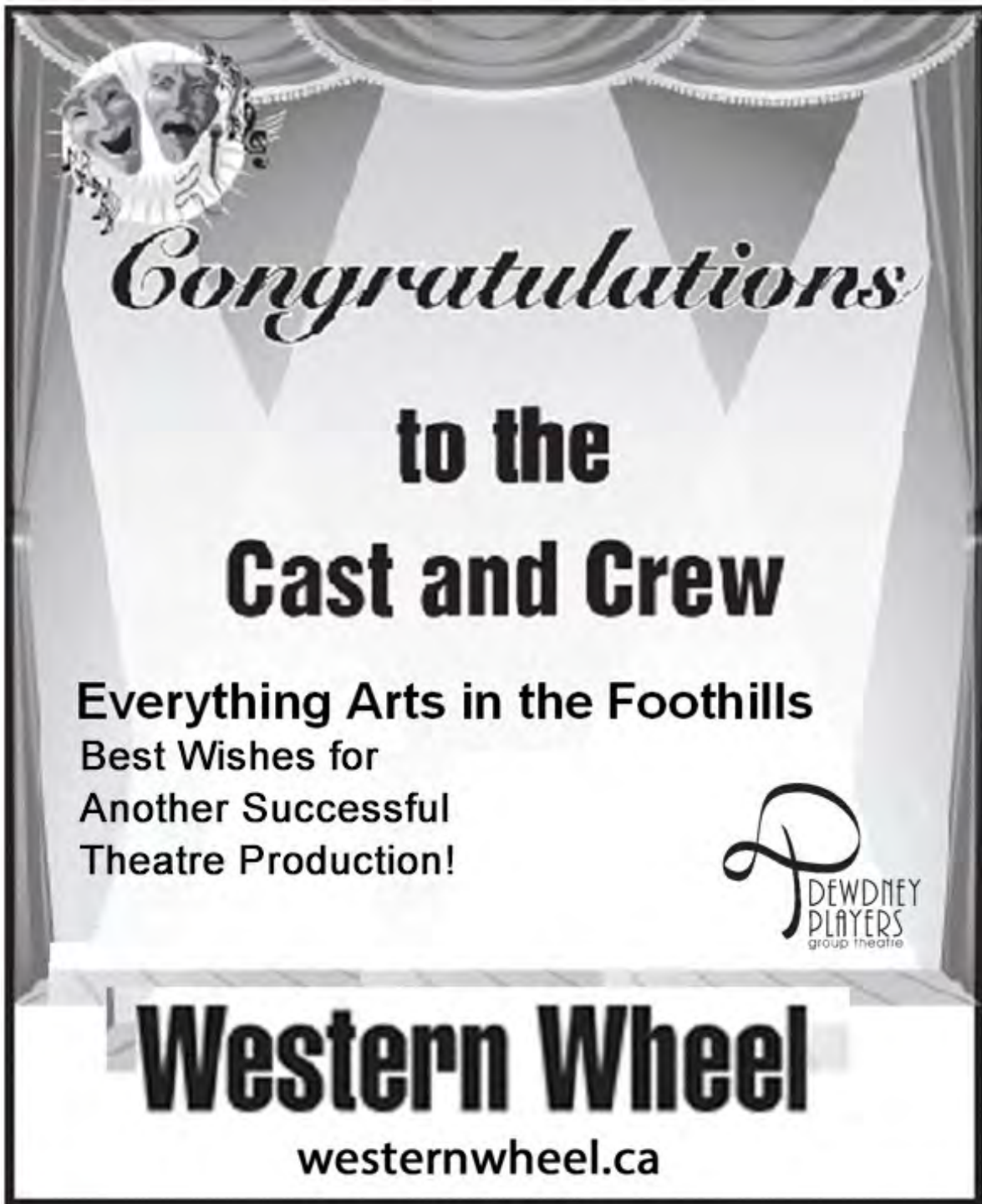
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Dewdney Players would like to acknowledge the long history and tradition of story telling in our area, through the oral practices of the people of the Treaty 7 region, which includes Blackfoot Confederacy members Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations, the Stoney Nakoda of Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Wesley First Nations, the Dene of Tsuut'ina First Nations and the Otipemisiwak Métis Nation District 4, and all those who made Treaty 7 lands their home.

Keep Community Theatre Alive!

The many businesses featured in this program are making visible their support for community theatre. Our thanks go to these businesses, whose support goes a long way towards the success of Dewdney productions. We ask you to support our sponsors and to take time to thank them for their support of community theatre.

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Western Wheel		



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Best Wishes for
Another Successful
Theatre Production!**



Western Wheel

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Leads		Crews	
Producer	Ed Sands	Advertising/ Marketing	Donna Eaton, Jane Platt, Debbie Sands
Director	Dayna Coles	Costume Crew	Donna Eaton, Sherene Seders,
Stage Manager	Katherine Roblin	Front of House	Jenni Bailey, Ron Brouwer, Dayna Coles, Ainsley Darel, Becky Finney, Suzanne Fortier, Matt Jenson, Rosanne Matheson, Lou Moan, Robin Pawlak, Elly Platt, Collette Seders, Cheryl Wheat, Angela Woodard
Assistant Stage Manager	Charlie Mann	Photography, Playbill	Ed Sands
Set Design	Dale Fea	Posters	Reg Gothard
Costumes	Trish Babkirk	Set Construction and Crew	Hayden Ryan, Ed Sands, Matt Seders, Aaron Swennumson
Lighting Design	Matt Seders	Set Painting & Decoration	Dayna Coles, Bailey Daikow, Hollie Darel, Charlie Mann, Katherine Roblin, Cami Ryan, Debbie Sands, Ed Sands, Matt Seders, Christina Stoney
Sound Design	Matt Seders	Lighting Operator	Rhys Morgan, Jonah Moser, Kyle Riege
Props Manager	Nicola Payton	Sound Operator	Matt Seders
Lead Carpenter	Ed Sands		
Front of House Manager	Jane Platt		

Dewdney Players Group Theatre is a non-profit community theatre group, registered under the Societies Act, in 1987. We are dedicated to enhancing cultural life in the Foothills, through production of musical theatre, comedic, dramatic and original composition. Dewdney Players is grateful for the support of the Alberta Lottery Fund, through the Community Initiatives Program, Community Lottery Board #47, the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission and Crescent Point Community Foundation for funding for capital equipment purchases and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts for operating support. We thank Foothills County for ongoing support!

The 2025—2026 Board of Directors of Dewdney Players Group Theatre:

President	Dayna Coles
Vice President	Jane Platt
Secretary	Reg Gothard
Treasurer	Ed Sands
Directors	Trish Babkirk, Debbie Sands, Matt Seders, Dean Harrison - Artistic Director

We (Still) Need to Clone our Crew!

Dewdney Players has some pretty ambitious plans for the future!

Our annual schedule includes two to three full length plays, multiple entries to the Foothills Regional One Act Play Festival and participation in Alberta Culture Days.

Our current production team cannot handle that much fun!

So we're looking for people like you who are interested in being part of a fun group of people who range in age from 15 to 90+(!), who come from a wide variety of walks of life, and whose shared passion for theatre is what makes it all work.

If you'd like to join us to do hair or make-up, build or paint sets, acquire props, build costumes, direct, manage the stage, or even produce an entire show, talk to a Dewdney Board member (names on p 25), or email us at dewdneyplayers@gmail.com



Help Us Plan and Improve!

Okotoks is growing, and so is Dewdney's output! But there's no point in increasing our output if we're putting on the wrong stuff. So we're asking you to answer the questions below and hand this page in to an usher or other Dewdney member.

About you and Dewdney

First time at a Dewdney show?	YES	NO
Frequent and/or regular attendee?	YES	NO
Dewdney Alumnus?	YES	NO

What kind of plays would you like us to stage?

Comedy	YES	NO	Classics	YES	NO
Drama	YES	NO	Tried & Trusted	YES	NO
Mystery	YES	NO	Lesser-known	YES	NO
Musical	YES	NO	Home-grown	YES	NO

If you would like to be included on an e-mail list to be advised of future productions, auditions or tickets, or would just like to learn more about Dewdney Players productions, either send an e-mail to: dewdneyplayers@gmail.com, or fill in this coupon and leave it with one of the ushers.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

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