

Students Produce *Steel Magnolias*

By Michael Perry
Staff Writer

The spring semester is now only one month old and the Methodist College Theatre Department has already started production on its first performance of 1999. The show chosen for this semester is *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling. The Theatre Department puts on two major shows every semester, but this one has a very special quality to it—*Steel Magnolias* is being completely done by students and is being sponsored by Alpha Psi Omega, the theatre honor society.

Theatre majors must direct a play for their senior project. Usually the shows that the students direct are performed in the Alumni Dining Room; only a few students are chosen to direct a show that is performed on the main stage of Reeves Auditorium.

Stephanie Decker is one of those few, and now she has the opportunity to join the elite. Decker says, "I am extremely excited and scared but I am going to direct the show just like any other director would—professionally." *Steel Magnolias*, which opens

February 25, is now in production, and as opening night quickly approaches, Decker adds, "This is a great opportunity for me and I just can't wait to do it."

Stephanie Decker is not the only student working on *Steel Magnolias*. Although directing is a large challenge for a student, other students here at Methodist College are working just as hard. In fact, there is very little faculty involvement in the production of this show. Other than advice and a few words of wisdom from Edward Cohn and Paul Wilson, the faculty is not assisting in any area of this production.

The set is being constructed by junior Jason Masker, who has also constructed the set for the past production of *Hansel and Gretel*. The roles of Stage Manager and Assistant Lighting Designer fall upon Daniel Harrington (who has also worked on *Hansel and Gretel*), and the Lighting Designer is Michael Perry. The cast, which is composed of Summer Gilmore, Kristy Jefferson, Ruthie Miller, Christina Perry, Elizabeth Stanley, and Stacie Bird (yes, guys, all women), meet nightly to rehearse. Laughter is a big part of rehearsal, but when

instructions come from their peer director to get to work, it is done without hesitation.

On February 25, make plans to see just what theatre majors can do. As Decker says, "If we could pull this off in an auditorium, what couldn't we do if we had a real theatre."

Show times are 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free for Methodist College students and staff. Admission for all others is \$7 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens, and \$3 for children. For more information, contact the Monarch Box Office at (910) 630-7483.



Keyboardist who had the last #1 instrumental.

Movie review *She's All That*

By Lara Taylor
Staff Writer

After some haggling with my husband over which movie to see this past weekend, we decided upon *She's All That*. I wanted to see why a movie that was targeted to teenagers was doing so well. Was it another Leo phenomenon? Surprisingly, no.

Not only were there several groups of teenagers (who travel in large giggling packs of 10 and 15 teens), there were small groups of military men, and quite a few couples in the twenty-something age group. I was very surprised, but not as surprised as I was at the movie itself. It was really good.

Freddie Prinze, Jr. plays Zack, the guy who accepts a bet from his best friend to turn any girl into a bombshell after his girlfriend dumps him. Rachael Leigh Cook plays Laney, the object of the bet.

The initial feeling after viewing this was that it was good, with quite a few laughs, and a happy ending. It even had a really gross part that most guys would appreciate and had the audience groaning in disgust. After thinking about it for awhile, I decided that, like most movies nowadays, there was some room for improvement, but not much.

First of all, the romance between Zack and Laney would have been much more satisfying if Zack's home-life had some more "umph" to it. It seemed that the writers wanted him to be a teen with problems,

like Laney, and that there would then be a problem resolution and perfect ending because they were together. However, his "problem" was practically nonexistent; he couldn't decide which college to attend after receiving several letters of acceptance. Many of them were ivy league schools and his family was upper class. This was the source of his angst. It seemed as if the problem was supposed to be a son desperately trying to find his own way in life apart from the views of his father, but the tension between father and son was never realized.

Laney, on the other hand, was a motherless artist, who couldn't seem to open up to anyone, not even in her art. Her character seemed much more authentic and biting. The best part in the movie went to the bitchy and sarcastic character, Taylor. She is whiny, nasty, and self-centered and is played to perfection. The character of Brock in this movie is wild, wacky and believable. His dance scene is pretty gosh-darn funny.

To sum it up, this movie was a smooth coming-of-age story, with some funny scenes, stylishly-dressed actresses and hunky guys. It is reminiscent of the 80s romantic coming-of-age comedies targeted at teenagers, such as *Can't Buy Me Love*, *Pretty in Pink*, and *Sixteen Candles*. However, this is a movie that attracts people of all ages for a variety of reasons. I would recommend paying the outrageous movie theater prices to see this movie.



The final chapter in the "Indiana Jones" film trilogy.

Music Trivia

If 1999 passes without an instrumental going to #1 on *The Billboard Hot 100*, the 1990s will be the first decade in the Rock Era (1955-1999) not to have a #1 instrumental. Name the last instrumental to hit #1 on the *Hot 100*.

Hints: There is a hit on the current *Hot 100* whose title is one of the words in the title of the instrumental.

The instrumental was not from a movie. The album it came from yielded Top 10 hits for Phil Collins and Glenn Frey.

Good Luck! The first correct response received at music_trivia@yahoo.com will win a gift certificate from **DiscGoRound** for a **FREE CD** (a \$7.99 value!).

This contest is open to Methodist College students, day or evening, except for Methodist College *Pride* staff.



433 Westwood Shopping Center
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Movie Trivia

In the film *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, Indiana must face three trials along the path to the cave where the Holy Grail resides. What are the names given to each of those trials?

Hints: The name of each trial ends with the words "of God."

In the first, Indiana is almost beheaded; in the second, he nearly falls into a chasm by stepping on a "J;" in the third, he must make a leap of faith.

Good Luck! The first correct response received at music_trivia@yahoo.com will win **FREE ADMISSION** for two to the **Carmike 12** or **Wynnsong 7** Theatres!

Carmike 12 Theatre: Westwood Shopping Center

Wynnsong 7 Theatre: behind the Holiday Inn Bordeaux

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Congrats

Congratulations goes to Kathryn Obst, who correctly answered last issue's trivia question. The answer was "New Orleans"—as in "The Battle of New Orleans" by Johnny Horton (1959). Of course, the song refers to the fight which took place during the War of 1812, and the future president it mentioned was Colonel Andrew Jackson. Thanks to everyone who entered!