

THE FUNNIEST PLAY EVER TO MAKE YOU CRY...



**Kacey
AINSWORTH**



**Isla
BLAIR**



**Cheryl
CAMPBELL**



**Cherie
LUNGI**



**Sadie
PICKERING**



**Denise
WELCH**

Steel Magnolias

By Robert Harling

Kacey Ainsworth (Annelle), **Isla Blair** (M'Lynn), **Cheryl Campbell** (Ouiser), **Cherie Lunghi** (Clairee), **Sadie Pickering** (Shelby) and **Denise Welch** (Truvy) comprise the cast for the National Tour of ***Steel Magnolias***, written by **Robert Harling** and directed by **David Gilmore**. ***Steel Magnolias*** is being produced by David Ian Productions.

Robert Harling wrote the play ***Steel Magnolias*** as a form of therapy following the death of his sister from diabetes. The 1989 smash-hit movie adaptation starred Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Shirley Maclaine, Darryl Hannah, Olympia Dukakis, and Julia Roberts.

*A heart-warming and bittersweet comedy ***Steel Magnolias*** tells the story of six very special friends bonded together by mutual triumphs and tragedies. Sharing each other's strength and loyalty, these remarkable women survive the cycles of life, birth and death to emerge stronger, closer and still laughing. ***Steel Magnolias*** is the funniest play ever to make you cry.*

Steel Magnolias opens at the **Theatre Royal Bath** on 3 April 2012, before touring nationally to the **New Theatre, Cardiff** (10-14 April), **Alhambra Theatre, Bradford** (16-21 April), **Theatre Royal, Nottingham** (23-28 April), **Theatre Royal, Brighton** (30 April – 5 May), **Grand Opera House, York** (7 -12 May), **Richmond Theatre, Richmond** (14 -19 May), **Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham** (21 -26 May), **Theatre Royal, Newcastle** (28 May – 2 June), **The Mayflower, Southampton** (4 -9 June) and **Milton Keynes Theatre, Milton Keynes** (11 – 16 June).

Internationally acclaimed director and Olivier Award winner **David Gilmore** has directed more than a dozen West End productions including the original award-winning productions of ***Daisy Pulls It Off***, ***Lend Me a Tenor***, and ***The Hired Man***. His production of ***Defending the Caveman*** at the Apollo theatre won an Olivier award for best entertainment and Gilmore's production of ***Grease*** has been running almost continuously in the West End for 17 years. Other West-End Productions include ***All the Fun of the Fair***, ***Beyond Reasonable Doubt***, ***Chapter Two***, ***Radio Times***, ***The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui***, ***Annie Get Your Gun***, ***A Swell Party***, ***Out of the Blue***, and ***Fatal Attraction***. His frequent work in Australia includes ***Footloose***

and **Happy Days** at the Olympic Superdome in Sydney. His production of **La Haut**, a French comedy operetta which he directed for the theatre Des Celestins in Lyon played the Theatre de Varietes in Paris and has subsequently been filmed for French television. Other productions abroad include **As You Like it** for the Shakespeare Repertory Company in Chicago; David Mamet's **Glengarry Glen Ross** at the Royal Flemish theatre in Brussels, Andrew Lloyd Webber's **Song and Dance** in Australia, the American comedy **Alone Together** and Ben Elton's **Gaspig** which toured to Hong Kong and Peking. He is artistic director of the new St. James' Theatre, opening in Westminster in late 2012.

David Ian is one of the UK's most prolific theatrical producers. Current shows, produced by David Ian Productions, include *The Sound of Music*, *Grease*, *Chicago* and the forthcoming musical *The Bodyguard* based on the hit movie starring Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner.

Kacey Ainsworth is most recognized for her role as Little Mo in **EastEnders** but other television credits include **Rock & Chips**, **Midsomer Murders**, **Tracey Beaker Returns**, **Hotel Babylon**, **Where the Heart is**, **A Touch of Frost** and **Peak Practice**. Her stage credits include **Calendar Girls** – on tour, **Sleep With Me** and **Mothers, Sons and Other Lovers** for the National Theatre and **Attempts On Her Life**, **Pale Horse**, **Once Not** and **Smacking Mint** for the Royal Court Theatre.

Isla Blair's theatre credits include **The History Boys**, **Stuff Happens**, **A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum** and **Noises Off** all for the National Theatre, **Henry IV** at the Wyndham's Theatre and many seasons of work for the Bristol Old Vic Theatre. Blair's television credits include **Single Father**, **Law & Order**, **Casualty**, **Midsomer Murders**, **A Touch of Frost**, **The Final Cut**, **When the Boat Comes in** and **The History Man** and her film credits include **Afterlife**, **Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage Wars**, **The Monk**, **The Match**, **Indiana Jones & The Last Crusade** and **The Tennis Court**.

Cheryl Campbell has most recently been seen on television as Miriam Turner in **Casualty**. Cheryl's other screen credits include **The Sarah Jane Adventures**, **Poirot**, **Appointment With Death**, **Lewis**, **Funland**, **William & Mary** and **Peep Show IV** and the recent feature film directed by Stephen Frears, **Tamara Drewe**. Her stage credits include **Noises Off** at the Piccadilly Theatre and on tour, **Life After George** in Guildford and at the Duchess Theatre, **Passion Play** and **The Seagull** at the Donmar Warehouse and **The Strip** at the Royal Court Theatre.

Cherie Lunghi was a contestant in the 2008 series of **Strictly Come Dancing**, and went on tour with the show in 2009. Cherie's other screen credits include **Lewis**, **The Old Guys**, **Casualty 1909**, **Apparitions**, **The Verdict** and the feature film **No Ordinary Trifle**. She is also recognised from her recurring role in the Kenco Coffee ads. Cherie's stage credits include **The Syndicate** for Chichester Festival Theatre, **Passion Play** at the Donmar Warehouse, **Teeth N'Smiles** at the Royal Court Theatre and **As You Like It**, **Much Ado About Nothing**, **Twelfth Night**, **The Winter's Tale**, **King Lear** and **Saratoga** all for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Sadie Pickering has most recently been on screen as Lottie in the BBC's **Popatron**. Other regular television roles include Flick Mellor in **Waterloo Road** and Louise in **Material Girl**. Her film credits include **Acts of Godfrey** and **Splintered**.

Denise Welch is a regular presenter on ITV's **Loose Women** and earlier this year competed on the channel's popular series; **Dancing On Ice**. Denise's other iconic television roles include Steph Haydock in **Waterloo Road**, Natalie Horrocks in **Coronation Street** and Marsha Stubbs in **Soldier Soldier**.

Website: www.seesteelmagnolias.com



Press Contact: Emma Holland emma@emmahollandpr.com 0791 709 4203