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Steel Magnolias

by Robert Harling



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L.A. THEATRE WORKS

SUSAN ALBERT LOEWENBERG
PRODUCING DIRECTOR

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

Friday, November 2, 2018, at 7:30 pm
Hancher Auditorium, The University of Iowa

WRITTEN BY
ROBERT HARLING

DIRECTED BY
BRIAN KITE

STARRING
ELISA BOCANEGRA
SHANNON HOLT
MONICA McSWAIN
CERRIS MORGAN-MOYER
INGER TUDOR
PATTI YASUTAKE

PROJECTION DESIGNER
KATE JOHNSON

SOUND DESIGNER
MARK HOLDEN

LIGHTING DESIGNER
DANIEL IONAZZI

COSTUME DESIGNER
RUOXUAN LI

SCENIC DESIGNER
RICH ROSE

MUSIC SUPERVISOR
RONN LIPKIN

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ANNA LYSE ERIKSON

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & TOURING STAGE MANAGER
LEIA CRAWFORD

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

***Steel Magnolias* will be performed with one 10-minute intermission.**

**The taking of photographs or use of any kind of recording device
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Steel Magnolias is presented by special arrangement
with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.



Photo: Rich Rose

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L.A. THEATRE WORKS

Under the leadership of Producing Director Susan Albert Loewenberg, L.A. Theatre Works (LATW) has been the foremost radio theatre company in the United States for more than 30 years. LATW is broadcast weekly in America on public radio stations, daily in China on the Radio Beijing Network, streamed online at latw.org, and aired on many other international outlets, including the BBC. Our unique model—using cutting-edge technology to preserve ephemeral live theatre—transcends the limits of the physical stage, making us the industry leader in providing access to live and recorded theatrical performances, with an unparalleled annual reach of millions. Through our commitment to artistic excellence, educational and outreach efforts, and innovative distribution technologies and content formats, we provide an immersive, imaginative, and affordable on-demand theatre experience to anyone, anywhere, any time. The company records its productions in Los Angeles before an enthusiastic and loyal audience of season subscribers. Works by Arthur Miller, Tom Stoppard, Lillian Hellman, Athol Fugard, Joyce Carol Oates, Stephen Karam, Wendy Wasserstein, Neil Simon, Lydia Diamond, David Mamet, Lynn Nottage, David Henry Hwang, and others have been performed and recorded by LATW with casts of critically acclaimed film and stage actors. On the road, LATW has delighted audiences with its unique live radio-theatre style performances in over 200 small towns and major cities, including New York, Boston, San Francisco, Washington, Chicago, Beijing, and Shanghai. An LATW performance is immediate and spontaneous, and features a first-rate cast and live sound effects, creating a sound-rich, intimate experience that draws audiences into the stories and performances.

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ELISA BOCANEGRA (*Truvy*) was most recently seen in *SPILL* for L.A. Theatre Works. She starred in *The Happiest Song Plays Last* by Pulitzer-winning writer Quiara Alegria Hudes which was part of the Elliot Trilogy, a partnership with Center Theatre Group and the Latino Theater Company. She also appeared in *Between Riverside and Crazy* for L.A Theatre Works. Elisa received critical acclaim for her performance in Hero Theatre's production of *The Conduct of Life* by María Irene Fornés. Her NY credits include *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore* with Olympia Dukakis at Roundabout Theatre Company, *Song for New York* at Mabou Mines, and *Adventures of Barrio Grrrl* at SPP. Regional credits include Goodman Theatre and South Coast Repertory's production of *Destiny of Desire*. Also at SCR, *The Motherf**ker with the Hat* and *California Scenarios*. Oregon Shakespeare Festival's productions of *Servant of Two Masters*, *Paradise Lost*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. *Electricidad* at the Center Theatre Group, *Love's Labor's Lost* at the Huntington Theatre Company, and *Camino Real* with Ethan Hawke at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Elisa was part of the development of *Like Water for Chocolate*, the musical at the Sundance Theatre Lab. Film and television credits include *Easy to Assemble* with Illeana Douglas and Jeff Goldblum, *El Superstar* (produced by Norman Lear and George Lopez), Sundance-winner *Girlfight*, *Spun Undeclared* by Judd Apatow, and *Gilmore Girls*. She is artistic director of Hero Theatre, which she founded with the help of her mentor Olympia Dukakis. herotheatre.org



SHANNON HOLT (*Ousier*) was previously seen at LATW in *Seven*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Judgment at Nuremberg*, as well as the national tour of *Judgment at Nuremberg*. Regional credits include Berkeley Rep, Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Rep, Laguna Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, The Public Theatre, Trinity Rep, Indiana Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Dixon Place in NYC. Stages throughout Los Angeles include work with Evidence Room, Rogue Machine, East West Players, Boston Court, Actors' Gang, Padua Playwrights, Odyssey Theatre, and Antaeus Theatre Company, where she is a company member. Her work has garnered nominations and awards from *LA Weekly*, *Stage Raw*, *BroadwayWorld*, *Backstage West*, and LA Stage Alliance Ovarations. Film and TV credits include *Seinfeld*, *ER*, *The Marc Pease Experience*, and *Love, Liza*.



MONICA MCSWAIN (*Shelby*) has made a significant mark in both the dance world and acting world...and continues. As a child of the theater and Omaha native, Monica has danced, sung, and acted her way into the hearts of audiences in leading roles on Broadway (Schoenfeld Theatre, Lincoln Center), in feature films (Miramax, Paramount, Columbia & Universal Pictures), and television (ABC, FOX, Showtime, Disney). As a member of Actors' Equity Association & SAG-AFTRA, Monica's leading roles also include over 50 national TV commercials, billboards, and national magazines. Her credits comprise dancing for notables like Debbie Allen and with legendary Michael Jackson (hired as one of only three females). Monica's choreography and teaching has commissioned her to produce across the globe. Her honors and awards include a full scholarship with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and appearing with their main company. Monica believes in balancing career and life doing missions in the U.S. and overseas, frequenting Rwanda, Africa. imdb.me/MonicaMcswain.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



CERRIS MORGAN-MOYER (Annelle) is delighted to be touring L.A. Theatre Works' production of *Steel Magnolias* as both cast member and tour manager. Previously with LATW: *Daniel Deronda*, *Jane Eyre*, *Tribes*, *Under Milk Wood*, *Frost/Nixon*, and the national tour of *Pride and Prejudice*. Regional theatre credits include Karen Zacarias's *Legacy of Light* and Camilla Carr's

Grace Note. In Los Angeles: Mike Leigh's *Abigail's Party*, Beth Henley's *Sisters of the Winter Madrigal*, Harold Pinter's *Old Times*, Nick Darke's *The Body*, and Jane Chambers's *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*. In New York, Cerris worked with such companies as Gorilla Rep and Faux-Real Theatre Company. Favorite NYC credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Faust*, *Fun Box Times Square*, *The Naked Show*, and *Where I'm Headed*. Cerris's film credits include *Appaloosa*, *The Rehearsal*, *The Audition*, *The Performance*, *Fantasy*, *Beatrice*, *Rule of Three*, *Wall/Paper*, and *Mister 49*. Cerris's voice is featured in a variety of audiobooks, animated series, video games, global campaigns, and feature films such as *Black Panther*, *The Mummy*, *Spider-Man*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, and the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise. Cerris was born in Cornwall, U.K., and filmed her first film there at the age of six: *A Different Drummer*, BBC biography of poet Jack Clemo. She trained at Central School of Speech and Drama in London.



INGER TUDOR (M'Lynn) is a graduate of London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, Harvard College, and Harvard Law School. She is a longtime member of Theatre of NOTE and Rogue Machine Theatre and a guest artist with A Noise Within and Antaeus Theatre Company. Los Angeles theatre credits include *The Suppliant Women*, *Honky*, *Stop Kiss* (Rogue Machine),

Antigone (A Noise Within), *Diet of Worm*, *Slither* (Chalk Repertory), *Going to St. Ives* (Actors Co-op - LA Stage Scene Award, Stage Raw, and NAACP nominations for Best Lead Actress), *What May Fall*, *Just Say No*, *Food for Fish* (NOTE), *The Exorcist* (Geffen Playhouse), *Stuff Happens* (Mark Taper Forum), *The Maids* (Stage 54 - 4 NAACP Theatre Award nominations), and *Romeo and Juliet: Antebellum New Orleans, 1836* (Boston Court - NAACP Theatre Award nomination - Best Supporting Actress). Television credits include *Goliath*, *Doubt*, *Aquarius*, *Hand of God*, *House*, *NCIS*, *General Hospital*, and *Without a Trace*. Film credits include *On Time* (Best Actress Awards - Ikuska Film Festival, Spain, and Grand Off Film Festival, Poland), *Elizabeth Blue*, *Lemon*, *Stairways*, *The Social Network*, *The Lost One*, and *The Making of "Grits"* (Mockumentary Festival - Best Actress Award). Voice-over credits include *Jefferson's Garden*, *The Goodbye Girl* (L.A. Theatre Works), *The Grim Sleeper: The Lost Women of South Central*, *Engineering Infinity* (Deyan Audio), and voice-over narration for the blind for film and television through WGBH.



PATTI YASUTAKE (Clairee) received an Independent Spirit Awards/Best Supporting Actress nomination for the film *The Wash*, not long after her film debut in Ron Howard's *Gung Ho*, which became a series she co-starred in with Scott Bakula. She is best known as Nurse Alyssa Ogawa from the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* series and films. Her extensive TV guest star and film roles

include *Notorious*, *Pretty Little Liars*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *The Closer*, *Cold Case*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Bones*, *Blindspot*, *The Road to Galveston*, *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, *Tales of Meeting and Parting*, and more. In theatre, she worked

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

extensively with East West Players and originated lead roles in *Stumps* (New Mexico Rep & American Southwest Theatre), *I Don't Have To Show You No Stinkin' Badges* (L.A. Theatre Center & San Diego Rep), and *Tea* (Manhattan Theatre Club), plus in touring *East West Stories* (EWP/Hawaii) and *Finding Home* (SCR). Other notable leads include *Loose Ends* (SCR), *Top Girls* (SCR & Westwood Playhouse), *And The Soul Shall Dance* (Olympic Arts Festival), *Hokusai Sketchbooks* (EWP), and playing M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias* (EWP). She is a native of Los Angeles and graduated with honors in theater from UCLA.

BRIAN KITE (*Director*) has directed live theater across the United States and abroad and is currently the Chair of the Department of Theater in UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television. He served as producing artistic director of La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts from 2008–2015 and directed many productions for the theater, co-produced by McCoy Rigby Entertainment, including their critically acclaimed productions of *American Idiot*, *Billy Elliot*, *Les Misérables*, *Miss Saigon*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Dinner with Friends*, *Steel Magnolias* starring Cathy Rigby, *Driving Miss Daisy* starring Michael Learned, and David Auburn's *Proof*. Kite is the recipient of the Los Angeles Ovation Award for Best Direction of a Musical for his production of *Spring Awakening* and was again nominated for his productions of *Les Misérables* and *American Idiot*. He directed the national tours of *Judgment at Nuremberg*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *The Graduate*, and *Pride and Prejudice* for L.A. Theatre Works, and staged the first production of *Miss Saigon* to ever play in China when his show closed the Macau International Music Festival. He also directed *Top Secret: The Battle for the Pentagon Papers*, starring Margaret Colin, which toured throughout Mainland China. The production was the first U.S. production of a play at Beijing's National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA). In 2018, he staged the South China premiere of David Lindsay-Abaire's *Rabbit Hole* in Mandarin at the Guangzhou Dramatic Arts Center in Guangzhou, China. He helmed a production of *Cabaret* in Bermuda under the patronage of the Queen's Governor and directed Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie* at The Actors Co-op in Hollywood. His work with actress/writer Michelle Azar, *From Baghdad to Brooklyn*, premiered at the United Solo Festival in New York City in 2017 and continues to tour nationally. Other credits include directing the live radio recordings of David Mamet's *American Buffalo*, David Rambo's *The Tug of War*, and Ayad Akhtar's *Disgraced*. He directed the Los Angeles revival of Archibald MacLeish's *J.B.*, and the West Coast premiere of Václav Havel's *The Beggar's Opera*. In addition, he directed the Philadelphia production of Glenn Wein's *Grandma Sylvia's Funeral* and worked with Tony Award-winning director Daniel Sullivan on Geffen Playhouse's production of *Hedda Gabler*, starring Annette Bening. He directed more than 20 productions during his tenure as director of theater programs at New York's French Woods Festival, a position he held for more than seven years. Kite serves on the board of governors of the L.A. Stage Alliance, holds an appointment as a visiting professor at the Shanghai Theatre Academy, and is the artistic director of the award-winning Buffalo Nights Theatre Company.

ROBERT HARLING (*Author*) made his directorial debut with *The Evening Star* for Paramount, which he also wrote for the screen based on Larry McMurtry's novel. *The Evening Star* reunited Shirley MacLaine and Jack Nicholson and co-stars Juliette Lewis, Bill Paxton, Scott Wolf, Miranda Richardson, and Marion Ross. *The Evening Star* is the continuation of one of the most beloved and acclaimed movies of our time, *Terms of Endearment*. Before launching a successful stage and screenwriting career, Robert graduated from Tulane University School of Law, but instead of taking the bar exam, he opted



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EARL**

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

to become an actor in New York. After years of productive work as an actor in voiceovers and commercials, Harling was inspired to write the highly acclaimed stage play *Steel Magnolias*, which was based on events from his personal life. *Steel Magnolias* continues to thrive in theatrical productions throughout the world. Immediately bridging a career from stage to screen, Harling adapted his original play into the popular film of the same title, which starred Sally Field, Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Olympia Dukakis, Dolly Parton, and Daryl Hannah. Over the years, Mr. Harling has become a much sought-after screenwriter: other credits, to name a few, include *Soapdish*, which was based on Harling's acting experience and starred Sally Field, Whoopi Goldberg, and Robert Downey Jr., and *First Wives Club* for Paramount, starring Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn, and Diane Keaton.

SUSAN ALBERT LOEWENBERG (*Producing Director*) is founder and Producing Director of L.A. Theatre Works, a non-profit media arts and theatre organization. Ms. Loewenberg has produced award-winning radio dramas, plays, and films in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and London. Under her supervision, LATW has created the largest library of plays on audio in the world, garnering numerous awards from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Writers Guild, The American Library Association, *Publishers Weekly*, and others. Ms. Loewenberg also serves as host and is the Executive Producer of LATW's nationally distributed syndicated radio series, *L.A. Theatre Works*, broadcast on NPR stations nationwide. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, she has served on innumerable boards and panels, including the National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, and The Fund for Independence in Journalism in Washington D.C., and she was co-chair of the League of Producers and Theatres of Greater Los Angeles. From 1996–2002, Ms. Loewenberg served during the Clinton administration on the board of directors for Federal Prison Industries, a presidential appointment, and served for several years as a member of the regional panel of the President's Commission on White House Fellows. She is currently a member of the board of directors of The Center for Public Integrity and a Fellow of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities at USC. Ms. Loewenberg is the author of a number of articles that have appeared in *American Theatre* magazine, the *Los Angeles Times*, and various professional journals.

ANNA LYSE ERIKSON (*Associate Artistic Director*) is point producer for all LATW productions, including live recordings, in-studio recordings, and tours. With Susan Loewenberg, she does all casting, manages rights and play selection, and generally oversees the artistic quality and development of LATW productions. Anna Lyse has worked as a casting director, acting coach, and dramaturg for numerous theatre, film, and radio projects in the L.A. area. She was previously the Consulting Artistic Director for Vagabond (Los Angeles), Development Director of the Morgan-Wixson Theatre (Santa Monica), and Director of Marketing and Outreach for the Independent Actors Theatre (Columbia, Missouri). Anna Lyse holds an M.A. in theatre history, theory and criticism from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a B.A. in theatre performance from the University of Missouri.

LEIA CRAWFORD (*Technical Director & Touring Stage Manager*) Regional: *The Mountaintop*, *Judgment at Nuremberg*, *Dracula* (LATW Tour); *Boy*, *Jane Eyre*, and *American Buffalo* (L.A. Theatre Works); *Massoud: The Lion of Panjshir* (CTG Workshop), *Neva* (CTG Reading); *Murder for Two*, *Switzerland*, *The Gospel According to...*, *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*, *Play Dead*, and *Ruined* (Geffen Playhouse); *Future Thinking*, *The Whale*, *The*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

*Motherf**ker with the Hat*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Little Night Music*, and *An Italian Straw Hat* (South Coast Rep); and *For Piano and Harpo* (Falcon Theater). Dance: *Incubation*, *Four Seasons*, *LACDC10*, and *Youth* (Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company). Other theater credits: *What Goes Around* (Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre), *BLKS* (Ojai Playwrights Conference 2016), *Surgeon and Her Daughters* (Ojai Playwrights Conference 2015), *Permission* (Ojai Playwrights Conference 2014), *Story Pirates*, Antaeus, Classic and Contemporary American Plays, Shakespeare Center LA, and Redcat. Film: *Diani & Devine Meet the Apocalypse*. YouTube: *Princess Rap Battle 4: Cinderella vs. Belle*, *Princess Rap Battle 5: Maleficent vs. Daenerys*, and *Princess Rap Battle 6: Katniss vs. Hermione*. Leia has also worked AFI Film Festival and the TCM Film Festival. Love to family & friends.

KATE JOHNSON (*Projection Designer*) is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and artist. Her work has been screened throughout the nation on PBS, at the Film Society of Lincoln Center, the American Cinematheque, Cannes Film Festival, the Institute of Contemporary Art (London), the Doc Channel, and on stations internationally. She began as a video artist creating projections for live dance performances. This sparked her interest in large-scale, site-specific video art, and she created pieces that were exhibited on L.A. City Hall, the Getty Center, Japanese American Community and Cultural Center, LA Metro Stations, Santa Monica Bergamot Station, and Tongva Park, including commissions for events at MOCA and LACMA. She is a principal at the seminal L.A.-based media arts group EZTV which is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2019. She is an assistant professor at Otis College of Art and Design and has contributed to conferences internationally on the subject of video, art, and its impact on community.

MARK HOLDEN (*Sound Designer*) has over two decades of experience producing, recording, and mixing various projects in studios, on sets, and on live stages. He has designed, recorded, and mixed over 250 plays, shows, and national tours for L.A. Theatre Works, the BBC, dozens of production houses, and podcast companies. As a composer and producer, Mark understands that communication and comfort are essential to a creative space, which is why he created The Invisible Studios in West Hollywood, CA. This commercial production and post-production environment is home base for the many projects overseen by Mark and his team. He has composed for radio, film, and television such as scoring the award-winning feature film *Out in the Dark*. Additionally, he has engineered and produced for several genres of music and worked with some of the biggest names in commercial and creative voice talent. Mark currently serves on the board of Rogue Artists Ensemble: rogueartists.org. Learn more about Mark and his team at theinvisiblestudios.com.

DANIEL IONAZZI (*Lighting Designer*) returns to L.A. Theatre Works, where he designed the tours of *The Mountaintop*, *Judgment at Nuremberg*, *Dracula*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *The Graduate*. His work has also been seen at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Arena Stage, South Coast Repertory, Denver Center Theatre Company, Berkeley Rep, and the Geffen Playhouse. His design for the New York production of *The Jacksonian* garnered a Lucille Lortel nomination. He designed the lighting installation for *Teatro alla Moda* for the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, and *Trajectoire* and *Catapult* for the dance company Diavolo. His design work can also be seen in the 4-D cinematic experience, *Beyond all Boundaries*, at the National World War II Museum. Daniel is production manager for the

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Geffen Playhouse, a member of the faculty of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, and Director of Production for the UCLA's Department of Theater. He is the author of *The Stage Management Handbook* and *The Stagecraft Handbook*.

RUOXUAN LI (*Costume Designer*) is an internationally active costume designer based in L.A. She's the current costume designer in residence for American Contemporary Ballet and is the recipient of Swarovski Award for Excellence in Costume Design 2014. She received her MFA in costume design from UCLA and BA in costume design from Wimbledon College of Art, at University Arts London. Notable credits include *Judgment at Nuremberg* (LATW 2016), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (ISC 2018), *The Nutcracker Suite* (ACB 2017), *The Great Wall Musical* (Drama Center Theatre, Singapore 2017), *Distant Vision* (American Zoetrope 2016), and *Spring Awakening* (NoHo Arts Center 2015). ruoxuanli.com

RONN LIPKIN (*Music Supervisor*) After graduating from Haverford College with a BA in music history, Ronn worked as a staff announcer and production director for WYSP-FM in Philadelphia helping to create the legendary rock station's distinctive sound. He later moved to KLSX-FM in Los Angeles and worked as a staff announcer, recording engineer, and producer, creating award-winning radio commercials for national and regional clients. For L.A. Theatre Works, he serves as music supervisor for live productions, lead podcast and radio producer, and curator for the company's audio library. He is also an editor and creative consultant for a number of leading audiobook publishers.

RICH ROSE (*Scenic Designer*) previously designed the national tours of *The Mountaintop*, *Judgment at Nuremberg*, and *In the Heat of the Night* for LATW. Latest designs include *The Chalk Garden* at Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum in Los Angeles, *Rabbit Hole* for the Guangzhou Dramatic Arts Centre in China, and *A Man for All Seasons* for Actors Co-op in Hollywood where he also designed *Our Town*, *Summer and Smoke*, and more. Other productions include *American Idiot*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Floyd Collins*, at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, *Other Desert Cities* at Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum, *Lainie Kazan presents The Great American Songbook*, and the Mosaic Lizard Theater productions of *Robin Hood* and *A Spider-Man Christmas*. This is Rich's fifth artistic partnership with director Brian Kite. Rich is a professor of scenery design at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. richrosedesign.com

MARGARET STARBUCK (*Assistant Director & Assistant Stage Manager*) is a director, scenic designer, and actor based in Los Angeles. She graduated magna cum laude from UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television with a BA in theater in 2017. Recent directing credits include *Measure for Measure* and *Richard II* with Method & Madness Theatre Co., and *Good as New* with Reprise Performance Troupe. Stage management credits include *The Tempest* and *King John* with the Porters of Hellsgate, and assistant credits include *Steambath* at the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble and *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center of New York City* at the Geffen Playhouse. She is overjoyed to be part of this LATW production of *Steel Magnolias*! For resumes and portfolio visit margaretstarbuck.com



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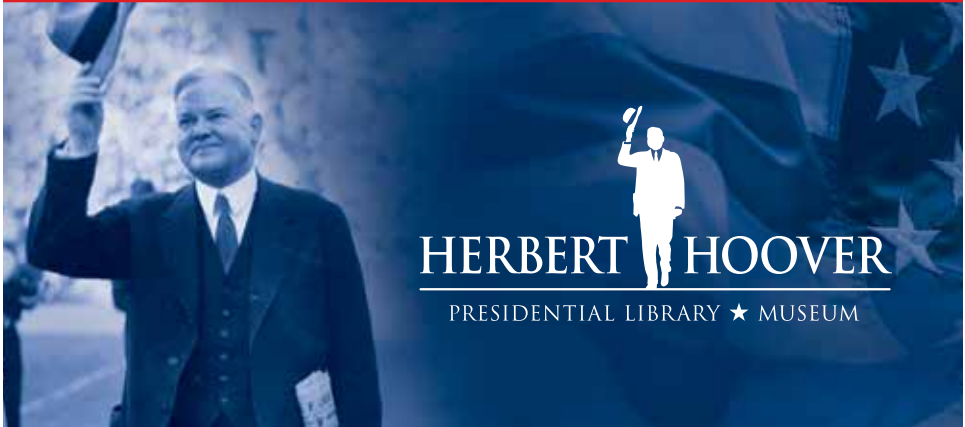


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