



Serious about comedy

BIGFORK COMMUNITY PLAYERS

BACKSTAGE

Another Season Begins



Michele Shapero directs *Steel Magnolias*.

“Kill, Rhett. Kill!” Maggie McGunagle punctuates the end of a scene with that advice to her distraught dog. “Perfect!” says director Michele Shapero. And rehearsals for another season of plays by the Bigfork Community Players are underway. This, the first play of the season, is *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling. Similar in some ways to the movie starring Julia Roberts, Sally Field, and Shirley McClaine, among others, the play focusses on the life and transitions among a cadre of six southern women. Although the subject matter is serious and 90% of the audience will cry, the play is a comedy and 100% of the audience will laugh. It opens October 23.

David Vale will direct the second play, *Don't Drink the Water* by Woody Allen. This play deals with love, incompetence, egotism, and barbaric totalitarianism. In a classic farce, a successful New Jersey caterer seeks refuge from the brutal head of the secret police for himself, his wife, and his beautiful daughter in the American embassy, currently in the charge of the ambassador's bumbling but eligible son. Any tears shed in this one should be tears of laughter.

Rose Shannon directs the final comedy of the season, *Dearly Departed*, by David Bottrell and Jessie Jones. It would be unfair to place the blame on the deceased, but it was certainly his unexpected and sudden death that unleashed the sequence of events depicted in this story. It would be difficult to determine if it was his mean and surly attitude that caused his wife to “cut him off” thirty years ago or if the latter was the cause for the former. And it would be hard to say whether the off-planet personalities of his kids were the product of heredity or environment. But as the family tries vainly to pull itself together for the funeral, the result is summed up by a son who says, “When I die, don't tell nobody. Just bury me in the back yard and tell everybody I left.”

All three plays this year will run for a single weekend, opening Friday evening for two evening and two matinee performances. *Steel Magnolias* is currently in rehearsal. Auditions will be held for *Don't Drink the Water* in December and for *Dearly Departed* in January. Both contain about ten major roles and a few minor ones. Auditions are open to anyone willing to put up \$10 for a membership in the Players.