

# Steel Magnolias to bloom at Scottsdale's Actors' Café

**Place:** Actors' Café inside Scottsdale's Desert Stages Theatre at 4720 N. Scottsdale Rd., at the SW corner of E. Highland Avenue and Scottsdale Road.

**Production:** *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling, directed by Roger Prenger.

**Plot:** When the ladies of a small Louisiana town gather at Truvy's Beauty Salon, hair isn't the only thing that gets teased, fixed and arranged. Lives are changed, secrets are revealed and, underneath all the gossip, a strong bond of caring and love is formed that sees these women through love and loss.

**Players:** *Steel Magnolias* stars Angela Yates of Mesa as Truvy, Angela Kriese of Scottsdale as Annelle, Janis Webb of Tempe as Clairee, Jessica Godber of Scottsdale as Shelby, Shari Watts of Tempe as M'Lynn and KatiBelle Collins of Phoenix as Ouiser.

**Particulars:** It plays April 27 - June 30. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. with additional 2 p.m. matinees on Sunday, May 13 and Sunday, May 20. Tickets cost \$22 (\$20 seniors and students) in advance; or \$25 the day of the show. For reservations, call (480) 483-1664. For more information, visit [www.desertstages.com](http://www.desertstages.com).

(Right) Angela Kriese, left, plays Annelle and Angela Yates is beauty salon owner Truvy in the production of *Steel Magnolias*, opening April 27 at Actors' Café in downtown Scottsdale.

Photo by Laura Kerrigan



## Fountain Hills Community Theater

**Place:** Fountain Hills Community Theater on its Mainstage at 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd., at the corner of Saguaro and Rand.

**Production:** *The Music Man* by Meredith Willson, directed by Peter J. Hill.

**Plot:** A traveling salesman, Harold Hill, visits a small Iowa town in 1912, where he meets and falls in love with the willful, spinster librarian, Marian Paroo.

With his fast-talking style, "Professor" Harold Hill convinces the town that unless they adopt his revolutionary music program, the youngsters of River City will be forever doomed. He gets the parents to buy instruments and expensive uniforms in order to form the River City Boys Band.

Chaos ensues as Hill's credentials are questioned.

**Players:** *The Music Man* stars Erik Arriola, Bill Beamish, Jesse Berger, Molly Boca, Jenna Ciotta, Drew Cline, Jeff Cohen, Lisa Cohen, Terri Ann Cohen, Tony D'Alessio Elizabeth Gibson, Marilyn Gibson, Aimee Graves, Mallory Hacker, Maryann Hacker, Robin Harkrider, Kellen Hunt, Roy Hunt, Mary Beth Ingram, Ryan Jordan, Charlie Jourdan, Dennis Kodimer, Johnny Kohli, Amy Koviekis, Heather Macnaughtan, Wes

Middendorf, Loen Orson, Brittney Peters, Katrina Peters, Amy Powers, Jay Schlum, Ingrid Schnell, Jennifer Simmons, Laura Webb, Marc Williams and Tyler Wise.

**Particulars:** It plays May 4 - 27. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and younger. To purchase tickets, call (480) 837-9661 extension 3.

## Broadway Palm

**Place:** The Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, 5247 E. Brown Rd., in Mesa.

**Production:** *My Fair Lady*.

**Plot:** A distinguished phonetics professor wagers he can transform a common girl into a cultured lady.

**Players:** Starring Jennifer Davis-Johnson, Brian Bowman, Kerry Sensenbach and Kevin M. McDaniel.

**Particulars:** Plays through April 14, through Saturday at 8 p.m. and weekend matinees at 1:15 p.m. Sunday buffet begins at 5:30 p.m., show begins at 7 p.m. (Meals begin two hours before show time.)

Ticket prices range from \$43 to \$52. Call (480) 325-6700.



(Below) Mark Shannon, left, and Andrea Tripodi in *Diet! The Musical*.

Photo by Laura Durant

## North Valley Playhouse

**Place:** North Valley Playhouse, 13043 N. Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix.

**Production:** *Diet! The Musical* by Susan and Ken LaFave, directed by Jeana Whitaker.

**Plot:** *Diet! The Musical* presents a heavy subject: the constant roller-coaster journey to create the perfect body, in a light and humorous manner. This musical follows the lives of two women as they discover that life is not about

the diet, it's about the heart and believing in one's own self.

**Players:** Starring Mark Shannon, Andrea Tripodi and Nicole Lang.

**Particulars:** Plays April 19 - May 5. Performances are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for evenings and \$12 for matinees. Call the box office at (602) 765-1581 or visit [www.nvplayhouse.com](http://www.nvplayhouse.com).



# U.K. smash *Girls Night* coming to Theater 4301 in May

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts will present the U.S. premiere of the U.K. smash hit *Girls Night: The Musical* from May 1 - 20, at Theater 4301 in downtown Scottsdale.

Single tickets are available for \$38 from the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts box office at (480) 994-2787 or online at [www.scottsdaleperformingarts.org](http://www.scottsdaleperformingarts.org).

*Girls Night: The Musical* has earned rave reviews and packed theaters throughout the United Kingdom on three national tours since 2003.

Hilarious and touching, it follows five friends in their 30s and 40s during a wild and outrageous girls' night out at a karaoke bar. Friends since their teens, they have all had their fair share of heartache and tragedy, joy and success.

Among the characters are Carol the party girl, blunt Anita who tells it like it is, Liza and her "issues," boring Kate the designated driver and

Sharon, the not-so-angelic angel who just couldn't resist tagging along.

Together, they reminisce about their younger days, celebrate their current lives and look to the future, all the while belting out classic anthems, from *I Will Survive* to *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*.

Written by Louise Roche and directed by Jack Randle, *Girls Night: The Musical* stars Lisa Fogel (Anita), Janine Smith (Carol), Jennifer Jane (Sharon), Danielle Wetzal (Kate) and Sonya Carter (Lisa) with Vanessa Kiernan as understudy.

Theater 4301 in the Galleria Corporate Centre at 4301 Scottsdale Rd., on the corner of Drinkwater Boulevard and Fifth Avenue in downtown Scottsdale, one block east of Scottsdale Road. Free parking is available in the Galleria Corporate Centre parking garage.



From left, Danielle Wetzal, Sonya Carter, Jennifer Jane, Lisa Fogel and Janine Smith star in *Girls Night: The Musical* at Theatre 4301. Photo by Larry Rubino

## Phoenix Theatre

**Place:** Phoenix Theatre, 100 E. McDowell Rd., just east of the Phoenix Art Museum at Central and McDowell.

**Production:** *Moonlight and Valentino*, a lighthearted drama by Ellen Simon, and directed by Karla Koskinen.

**Plot:** The warmth and spirit of life, loss and friendship is brought to stage in *Moonlight and Valentino*. When Rebecca loses her husband in a tragic accident, her friends and family come to her aid. None of them, however, can see past their own problems.

**Players:** Robyn Allen plays

Rebecca, Cathy Dresbach plays Alberta, Rebecca's former stepmother. Athena Hunting plays her neighbor Sylvie and Francis Rivera plays Rebecca's younger sister. Valentino is played by Rick Estrada.

**Particulars:** *Moonlight and Valentino* runs through April 22. Shows are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and selected matinees. Tickets cost \$36.50 and are available by contacting the box office at (602) 254-2151 or by visiting the theatre at [PhoenixTheatre.com](http://PhoenixTheatre.com).

## Fountain Hills Community Theater

**Place:** Fountain Hills Community Theater 11445 N Saguaro Blvd., (near the corner of Saguaro Boulevard and Rand Drive).

**Production:** FHCT Youth Theater's fourth show of the 2006-2007 season, *Charlotte's Web* by Joseph Robinette from the E.B. White classic story.

**Plot:** *Charlotte's Web* is the adaptation by Joseph Robinette of the classic story written by E. B. White that examines the value of true friendship.

Charlotte, a barn spider, befriends the little pig Wilbur and sets about convincing the farmer he is "Some Pig" and should be spared from the butcher.

**Players:** Ross Collins, director; Anne Kelleher, producer; Gail Oliphant, costume design; and scene designers Dani Beamish, Sarah Goodman and Ross Collins.

*Charlotte's Web* cast includes: Katherine Anderson, Rich Beamish, Julia Chugerman, Tay Coben, Anne Collins, Devin Derr, Jasmin Feliciano, Carolyn Fogleman, Lindsey Garland, Risa Isaacs, Mackenzie Johnson, Peyton Jordan, Christina Keosky-Smith, Rylee Kercher, Amanda Kukkola, Kyle Link, Nicole Long, Zach Percevecz, Kelsey Ruggaard, Matthew Sardella, Maddie Slusher, Maggie Smith and Clinton Stiles-Schmidt.

**Particulars:** *Charlotte's Web* plays Fridays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. April 13-29.



Matt Sardella, center, plays Wilbur in *Charlotte's Web*.

There is a special evening performance at 7 p.m. on April 21 to benefit the Shelly Cohen Scholarship Fund.

Tickets are \$12 for adults

and \$10 for children 12 and under.

For tickets call (480) 837-9661.

## Gravity Jazz Dance Theatre

Experience a world of beauty and temptation through modern music and dance, as Gravity Jazz Dance Theatre brings classic Greek mythology alive with Pandora's Box.

Feel the power of Pandora's Box as evil spills open onto the world and witness the effect hope can have on tragedy.

Performances are Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday 2 p.m. at Tempe Performing Arts Center, 132 E. Sixth St., in Tempe.

This is the premiere of this production from Gravity Jazz Dance Theatre, a professional

jazz dance company in its fourth season expressing the wide range of compelling human emotions through artistic excellence.

Under the direction of Artistic Director Melissa Cesarano, Gravity Jazz Dance Theatre specializes in interpreting classical literature through contemporary music and jazz dance to provide a quality experience in both performance and education.

Tickets for Pandora's Box cost \$16 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students. To order, call (602) 316-0846 or e-mail [Info@GravityJazzDance.org](mailto:Info@GravityJazzDance.org), or [Showup.com](http://Showup.com).



Clockwise from top-left: Francis Rivera, Rick Estrada, Robyn Allen, Athena Hunting and Cathy Dresbach. Photo by Laura Durant