

Erin Theatre highlighting complications of diabetes

Directed by the multi-award winning Kathryn DeLory, Erin Theatre presents *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling from March 20 to 29.

All proceeds from the March 26 performance will be donated to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) to help raise awareness and funds toward finding a cure for type 1 diabetes (T1D).

T1D is the most severe form of diabetes.

Following that performance, all audience members are welcome to attend a special, complimentary reception with Avery Morris of JDRF, as well as the cast and crew of Erin Theatre.

In the midst of such a long and bitterly cold winter, why not let Erin Theatre transport you to the warmth, gentility and hospitality of Louisiana? In the southern comfort of Truvy's Beauty Salon in Chinquapin Parish, six very different women gather to indulge in bizarre neighbourhood gossip, feisty verbal collisions, startling revelations, hilarious repartee and, of course, the most outrageous big hair of the 1980s. While these *'Steel Magnolias'* demonstrate grace, determination, strength and genuine laugh-out-loud humour in the face of adversity, the play also highlights the potentially devastating complications of type 1 diabetes. JDRF and Erin Theatre join forces to create a unique educational opportunity about the realities and misconceptions surrounding T1D, all while supporting JDRF's efforts to fund research to cure, better treat and prevent type 1 diabetes.

Affecting more than 300,000 Canadians, T1D is a non-preventable autoimmune disease and the most severe form of diabetes. It strikes children, teens and adults at any age and causes dependence on injected or pumped insulin for life, and carries the constant threat of complications such as blindness, nerve damage, kidney and cardiovascular disease, amputation and even death.