

Just Call Them Angels

Written by Margaret Evans

Tuesday, 09 October 2012 11:10

A conversation with the cast of “Honky Tonk Angels,” opening at USCB on October 20th.



Photos by Eric Smith, Captured Moments Photography

Last week, I had the great pleasure of sitting down with Penney Dawson, Velma Polk and Elaine Lake, soon to be renowned throughout Beaufort and beyond as the Honky Tonk Angels. The three women, who barely knew each other until recently, have become fast friends who finish each other's sentences, step on each other's punch lines, and clearly delight in each other's company. On October 20th, they'll bring that infectious camaraderie – and some sweet singing chops – to the USCB Center for the Arts in the musical comedy “Honky Tonk Angels.”

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The Angels – as they shall henceforth be known – tell me that each felt an uncanny connection to her character from the get-go. Velma plays Angela, a Texas housewife with a great sense of humor and an independent streak. Elaine is Darlene, a sweet, simple girl who grew up in a coalmining town. Sue Ellen, played by Penney, is a citified southerner living in LA pursuing a career. “Honky Tonk Angels” is the story of how the lives and destinies of this unlikely trio unfold and, ultimately, intertwine. In Nashville, of course, where all honky tonk dreams come tr



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Velma Polk is a local country star from way back – you may have seen her at the Back Porch Grill, where she had a regular singing gig for years – but this is her first foray into theatre. From what I can tell, she's downright giddy over the experience.

"This is the most fun I've ever had in my life!" she says. "If I'd known it would be this much fun, I'd have done this years ago, when I was actually young enough to keep doing it for a long time!"

She almost missed her chance to start. Velma says she'd have never even considered auditioning for 'Angels' – "The thought wouldn't have entered my mind!" – had Penney Dawson not called and asked her to. Penney had just signed on as Musical Director, and was looking to cast her show with some great voices.

"Penney and I didn't know each other well," says Velma, "But she'd heard me sing at the Back Porch, I guess."

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