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Online exclusive: The “Steel Magnolias” have things to say

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Adrian Egolf, Barth Hotel, Billie McBride, Devon James, Patty Figel, Rachel Fowler, Rhonda Brown, Senior Housing Options, Steel Magnolias, theater for a good cause



The ladies of “Steel Magnolias”: Left to right, Billie McBride, Rachel Fowler, Devon James, Rhonda Brown, Adrian Egolf, and Patty Figel.

Ousier, Clairee, M'Lynn and the rest of the ladies of “Steel Magnolias” graced — and that word has special meaning here — the makeshift stage at Denver’s Barth Hotel on Thursday’s opening night of Robert Harling’s beauty parlor play. This is the sixth production Senior Housing Options has mounted to raise funds for the work it does on behalf of seniors in need of affordable housing and care. So we asked the well-known local actresses portraying that iconic bunch of Southern belles and broads who they’d most want to portray if not their own character. Genteel as can be, they replied via email:

Rachel Fowler (M'Lynn):

I would like to play Clairee. She is so damn funny. She has the funniest lines. "Ouiser, you know I love you more than my luggage!"

Billie McBride (Ouiser):

I can't imagine playing anyone but Ouiser but wouldn't mind having a crack at Claoree. She has some of the best lines.

Patty Figel (Clairee):

I would like to play Ouiser. I can be a true grump when needed....It would be typecasting.

Rhonda Brown (Truvy):

I'd love to be Ouiser, just so I could be mean as all get out and still have people laugh at me.

Devon James (Annelle)

I would like to play Truvy, so I could have big blonde hair and boss people around...wait that's me in real life. Or I would like to play M'Lynn, because M'Lynn is my middle name (literally), and because she has one of the toughest journeys on that stage.

Adrian Egolf (Shelby):

I would like to play Ouiser. She has the "Steel Magnolias' Greatest Hits" with her one liners and I always love a tough lady with a heart of gold.

"Steel Magnolias." Directed by Ashelee Temple. Through Aug. 24. At the Barth Hotel, 1514 17th St. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays. Tickets \$25-\$35 via seniorhousingoptions.org or 303-595-4464 x10.