The Jefferson College Players present

Crimes of the Heart

By Beth Henley

Friday & Saturday, October 29 & 30 and November 5 & 6, 1993
8:00 p.m. • Fine Arts Theatre

Crimes of the Heart is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.
440 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016
"All My Sons"
Directed by Paul Moore
1960's
1

"My Three Angels"
Directed by Paul Moore
1967
2

"The Imaginary Invalid"
Directed by Frank Wensching
1968
3

Backstage before "Reynard the Fox"
Directed by Linda Larson
1970
4
Jefferson College...30 Years of Theater

"Oedipus"
Directed by
Wes Robertson-1978
12

"Fiddler on the Roof"
Directed by
Deborah Robertson-1978
13

"The Sound of Music"
Directed by
Deborah Robertson-1979
14

"Come Back Little Sheba"
Directed by Joe Wilson
1980
15

"The Importance of Being Earnest"
Directed by
Wes Robertson-1981
16

"Anastasia"
Directed by
Wes Robertson-1982
17
Jefferson College: 30 Years of Theater

"A Doll's House"
Directed by Wes Robertson-1983
18

"On Golden Pond"
Directed by Joe Wilson 1987
19

"Dragon Tale"
Directed by Wes Robertson-1987
20

"Romeo & Juliet"
Directed by Wes Robertson-1988
21

"Treasure Island"
Directed by Wes Robertson-1988
22

"Steel Magnolias"
Directed by Jane Sullivan 1990
23
Jefferson College . . 30 Years of Theater

"Saint Joan"
Directed by Wes Robertson-1990

"James and the Giant Peach"
Directed by Wes Robertson-1991

"Man of LaMancha"
Directed by Jane Sullivan-1992

Jefferson College Speech & Theater
Departmental Philosophy

The Speech & Theater department at Jefferson College emphasizes involvement of students regardless of major or area of interest. Students are given opportunities in acting or technical theater, such as set construction and design, lighting, sound, costuming and make-up.

The department encourages all students, at any talent and experience level, to participate in productions and related classes. An effort is always made to provide each student with the opportunity to play a variety of leading and supporting roles. If students aren’t cast in a particular production, they are still encouraged to participate in the production in a technical capacity, offering them a chance to experience firsthand the collaborative nature of the theater event.

It is the policy of Jefferson College that no person shall, on the basis of age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, national origin, race, religion or sex, be subject to discrimination in employment or in admission to any educational program or activity of the College.

Please note: If accommodations for a disability are needed, please contact Beth Ferguson at 789-3051/942-3000, ext. 168.
Synopsis

Beth Henley was born in Jackson, Mississippi and studied drama at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She started her career as an actress but began writing plays by the time she reached 30. Her other plays include Am I Blue?, The Miss Firecracker Contest, and The Wake of Jamey Foster.

Her first play, Crimes of the Heart, won Ms. Henley critical acclaim in 1981 in an unprecedented way. Crimes of the Heart was awarded both the Pulitzer Prize and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for 1981 before it opened on Broadway. The play was originally produced at the Louisville Actors Theatre in Kentucky, where it was the co-winner in 1979 of the Great American Play Contest. It was subsequently seen in regional theaters in California, St. Louis, Baltimore, and New York prior to its opening on Broadway in November 1981.

The Pulitzer Committee's citation described Crimes of the Heart as "a play rich with wisdom about the way people respond to life." Many critics compare her southern gothic humor to the work of Eudora Welty and Flannery O'Connor. Henley compassionately portrays the bizarre family dealing the underlying horrors of small-town life.

Reviews

Edith Oliver (The New Yorker) calls Crimes of the Heart "a comedy of private disasters among three sisters in Hazelhurst, Mississippi. . . The sisters—walking wounded, who are in tears one moment and giggling and hugging at the next, ordering birthday cake and making lemonade—are very much of the South, of Mississippi. . . ."

Scott Haller (Saturday Review) says of Henley's play, " . . . she has populated the household with bizarre characters. In effect, she has mated the conventions of the naturalistic play with the unconventional protagonists of absurdist comedy. It is this unlikely dramatic alliance, plus her vivid Southern vernacular, that supplies Henley's idiosyncratic voice."

Walter Kerr (New York Times) says, "Given the giggling and the wailing that overtakes the girls regularly, it is a bit as though William Faulkner had tried his hand at writing Little Women."

About the Play . . .

Hazelhurst, Mississippi, "five years after Hurricane Camille," is the setting for the McGrath sisters' reunion. They have come together after Babe, the youngest, has shot her husband because she didn't like his looks. Lenny, the oldest, is celebrating her 30th birthday without much hope for the future or consolation about her present circumstances. Meg, the middle child, returns after failing to launch a Hollywood singing career. Hovering above them is the spirit of their mother who hung herself in the basement because she was having a really bad day.

As the story unfolds we witness the sisters coming to an understanding about themselves and each other . . .

The Cast

Lenny McGrath, 30, the oldest sister ............................................ Melissa Newell
Chick Boyle, 29, the sisters' first cousin ....................................... Mamie Overstreet
Doc Porter, 30, Meg's old boyfriend ........................................... Jason Christ
Meg McGrath, 27, the middle sister ............................................ Erin Gavaghan
Babe Borella, 24, the youngest sister ......................................... Trudy Bequette
Barrette Lloyd, 26, Babe's lawyer .............................................. Jason Pierce

Directed by Jane Sullivan

The Setting

The setting of the entire play is the kitchen in the McGrath sisters' house in Hazelhurst, Mississippi, a small southern town.

The Time

In the fall; five years after Hurricane Camille.

Intermission

There will be a ten minute intermission between Acts I and II.

Acknowledgements

Scenic Designer & Technical Director ........................................ Wesley L. Robertson
Stage Manager ........................................................................... Cindy Webb
Shop Foreman & Property Master ............................................. Robert Denier
Set Construction ....................................................................... Stagecraft Class & Theatre Practicum Classes
......................................................................................... Cindy Zoeller, Chris Lohmann, Lesa Coy, Robert Snyder, Cynthia Courtois,
......................................................................................... Michael Corley, Myndi Buck, Helen Street, & Stephanie Johannes
Set Construction Volunteers ...................................................... Bradley Deles, Tom Schuessler, Mary Tworowe,
......................................................................................... Adam Harrison, Jane Griesse, Mike White, Jason Gegg, & Cathy Gonzalez
Light Crew .................................................................................. Cindy Zoeller & Lesa Coy
Sound Crew ............................................................................... Robert Snyder & Myndi Buck
Running Crew and Props ......................................................... Cynthia Courtois, Christopher Lohman, Michael Corley,
......................................................................................... Members of the Introduction to Theatre Classes
Costumes .................................................................................. Jeanne North, Helen Street, & Stephanie Johannes
Logo Design, Signs, & Program ............................................... Graphix/Production Services Department:
......................................................................................... Joyce Lehnoff, Donna Willhite, Nancy Parres, & Trina Martin

Special thanks to Tom Schuessler, Cathy Gonzalez and Mr. Bledsoe Sr. of Construction Concepts Corporation
Coming Attractions

November 3 - 24, 1993  Art Exhibit: Paintings by Carol E. Tetrault, Fine Arts Gallery, Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Free Admission
November 16, 1993  Jefferson College Singers, 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Admission $1
November 20, 1993  All-District High School Choir, 7:00 p.m.
November 23, 1993  Jefferson College Jazz Combo and Big Band Concert, 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Admission: Adults $2, Students $1
December 1-15, 1993  Jefferson College Student Art Exhibit, Fine Arts Gallery, Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Viking Room Gallery, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Free Admission
December 2, 3, 4, & 1993  Christmas Madrigal Dinner, 7:00 p.m., Brophy's Cafeteria, Dec. 2: $10 Hors d'oeuvres, Dec. 3 & 4: $15 Dinner
December 8 - 11, 1993  Charlotte's Web by E. B. White, Fine Arts Theatre, Dec. 8 - 10: 9:30 a.m. & 12 noon, Dec. 11: 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Admission $2
December 13, 1993  Jefferson College Concert Band, 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Admission: Adults $2, Students $1
December 14 & 15, 1993  Music Major Recitals, 7:00 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Free Admission
January 13-14, 1994  Auditions for The Servant of Two Masters, 2-4 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre
February 1 - 25  Guest Artist Exhibit: Works by Jane Alexander, Fine Arts Gallery, Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Free Admission
February 3, 1994  Music Major Seminar, 3:00 p.m., Fine Arts Room 100
February 25 & 26, 1994  The Servant of Two Masters by Carlo Goldoni, 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Admission: Adults $5, Students $4
February 27, 1994  "Irish Celebration, 2:30 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Admission: $4
March 3 - 21  Jefferson County High School Art Exhibit, Fine Arts Gallery, Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Free Admission
March 4 & 5, 1994  A Servant of Two Masters by Carlo Goldoni, 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Admission: Adults $5, Students $4
March 27, 1994  Jefferson College Community Chorale, 2:30 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Free Admission
April 6 - 27, 1994  "Please Touch" Lifecycle by Willis Shilt and Dean Erickson: Exhibits USA, Viking Room Gallery, Mon.-Fri.: 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Donations accepted
April 14, 1994  Jefferson College Singers' Broadway Showcase, 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Admission $1
April 21, 1994  Jefferson College Big Band Jazz Concert, 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Admission: Adults $2, Students $1
April 25, 1994  Jefferson College Concert Band, 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Admission: Adults $2, Students $1
April 25 - May 11  Jefferson College Student Art Exhibit, Fine Arts Gallery, Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Viking Room Gallery, Mon.-Fri.: 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Free Admission
May 3, 1994  Jefferson College Jazz Combo, 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Admission: Adults $2, Students $1
May 5, 1994  Jefferson College Chamber Singers' Benefit Concert, 8:00 p.m., Fine Arts Theatre, Admission: Adults $2, Students $1
May 8, 10, 12, & 15, 1994  Music Major Recitals, Fine Arts Theatre, May 8: 2:00 p.m., May 10 & 12: 7:00 p.m., Free Admission

* Made possible by a grant from the Arts & Education Council of Greater St. Louis
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