



About The Author

Beth Henley is an American dramatist and actress. She writes primarily about women's issues and family in the Southern United States and, as a screenwriter, has also written many film adaptations of her plays. One of four sisters, Beth was born in 1952 in Jackson, Mississippi. She completed her first play while studying at Southern Methodist, where she was a member of the acting ensemble. After graduation, she taught playwriting at the University of Illinois and the Dallas Minority Repertory Theatre. She moved to Los Angeles in 1976 and began work on Crimes of the Heart, her first play to be professionally produced, and still her most famous. Crimes of The Heart won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and was awarded the best American Play of 1981 from the New York Drama Critics' Circle. Her screenplay adaptation for the 1986 film of the same name was nominated for an Oscar and Henley was nominated for a Tony Award. Holly Hunter played the original Off Broadway lead in Henley's play The Miss Firecracker Contest, and then reprised the role in her 1989 film adaptation Miss Firecracker. The play is due to once more open on Broadway this spring. Having written 16 full-length plays to date, Henley seems to have enjoyed her biggest successes with plays that are inspired by the American South and her own family.

Future Maskers Productions

A Double Bill:

Forward to the Right and Contractions
by Mike Bartlett and Lily Ann Green
22 - 27 March 2013
at The Maskers Studio
Tickets: 023 8055 1489

Butterfly Kiss

by Phyllis Nagy
20 - 25 May 2013
at The Maskers Studio

Scaramouche Jones

by Justin Butcher
5 - 7 June 2013
at The Maskers Studio

Anne Boleyn

by Howard Brenton
17 July - 27 July 2013
In the open air at Hamptworth Lodge, Landford
Tickets: www.ticketmaster.co.uk or 023 8071 1818

The Weir

by Conor McPherson
21 - 26 October 2013
at The Maskers Studio

For studio ticket information visit - www.maskers.org.uk

WHY NOT JOIN US ?



The Maskers Theatre Company was founded in 1968 and is firmly established as one of the South's leading amateur groups. Maskers has its own studio and workshop premises where rehearsals and small scale productions are performed. The building also allows set construction to take place on-site and there is a comfortable bar area where members and guests can relax and enjoy a drink. We are always pleased to welcome new members. There are opportunities to be involved backstage, front of house, marketing and in the many other activities involved in producing quality theatre.



Follow The Maskers on Facebook and Twitter.



For more information visit www.maskers.org.uk

The Maskers Theatre Company present

Things are gettin' mighty messy in Mississippi...



CRIMES OF THE HEART

The Pulitzer prize-winning black comedy by Beth Henley
Directed by Sarah-Jayne Wareham

26 FEBRUARY – 2 MARCH 2013

Programme £1

THE NUFFIELD THEATRE
University Road, Southampton SO17 1TR

Registered charity no. 900067 - This is an amateur production

Join our mailing list and
WIN FOUR FREE TICKETS TO
Anne Boleyn

by Howard Brenton

in the open air at Hamptworth Lodge, Landford (nr Salisbury)
(17 July - 27 July 2013) Please add my details to the Maskers
database and send me details of forthcoming shows.

Name:
Address:
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Email:

Return this slip to one of the boxes in The Nuffield Foyer, hand it to a member of the Maskers Team or post it to The Maskers Theatre Company, Unit 1, Emsworth Industrial Estate, Emsworth Road, Southampton SO15 3LX (Draw to take place on 11th March)

Director's Notes

My first taste of Crimes of the Heart was half my life ago when I was cast as one of the sisters - and I've loved it ever since. It is a mesmerising play that draws you into the lives of the 'somewhat' unconventional, but very real, characters from Hazlehurst, Mississippi.



Beth Henley is recognised for her brilliant use of comedy to highlight the moments of tragedy that her characters are often faced with. It is wonderful for the actors, who get to delve into eccentric characters that do and say the last thing you'd imagine them to, and the audience quickly learn to expect the unexpected! The play takes place during an eventful 24 hours in the Magrath sisters' lives. Granddaddy is in hospital after having another stroke; it's Lenny's 30th birthday and Meg returns home for the first time in five years to see about Babe, who has shot her husband... 'because she didn't like his looks'! Despite the hurt feelings, old jealousies and rows, their love for each other still burns bright.

The sisters and the other characters in the play are funny, quirky and often maddening just like the cast who I have been privileged enough to work with! The actors have grasped the challenge of playing their roles with hands, feet and teeth! We've had a ball working on this play and we hope you enjoy watching it.

Sarah-Jayne Wareham
February 2013



Patrons are advised that the use of cameras, camcorders or mobile phones in the theatre is forbidden. The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors. All gangways, corridors, staircases and passageways which afford a means of exit should be kept free from obstruction at all times. The safety curtain will be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

Setting: Hazlehurst, Mississippi, 1974

The Cast

Lenny Magrath
Meg Magrath
Babe Magrath
Cousin Chick
Doc Porter
Barnette Lloyd

Susannah Lawther
Rachael Courage
Joanna Russel
Ruth Kibble
Steve Cosier
James Norton

Crew

Director
Production & Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Set Design
Set Build & Painting

Sarah-Jayne Wareham
Kathryn Salmon
Zoe Salanitro
Peter Liddiard
Graham Buchanan,
Geoff Cook,
Ken Hann, Pete Hill
Peter Liddiard,
Roger Lockett, Jez Minns
Steve Russell
Ken Spencer
Norman Wareham

Lighting Design
Lighting Operator
Sound Design & Effects

Clive Weeks
Ian Wilson
Jamie McCarthy
Geoff Grandy
Mike Matthias
Sarah-Jayne Wareham
Joanna Russel
Susan Wilson
Sarah Russell
Ella Lockett
Gill Buchanan
Alison Tebbutt
Sarah Russell & team
Catchy Monkey
Jo Welch
Clive Weeks
Geoff & Pam Cook
Angela Stansbridge

Sound Operator
Costumes

Costume Assistant
Set Dressing
Properties

Marketing & Publicity
Poster/Flyer Design
Programme
Photography
Front of House
Front of House Display

*There will be one interval of 20 minutes
(drinks can be pre-ordered from the bar)
The performance will end at approximately 10:00pm*

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to the following for their help with this production:
Beatnik Emporium and Rags 2 Retro for help with costumes and props from the period, Jamie Boxall for the Crimes of the Heart film trailer, Angus D'Arch for loan of saxophone, Bitterne Local History Society, Clive Weeks Photography (www.cwphotos.co.uk) The Crown Hotel, Highfield, Key Transport for delivery of fridge & cooker, Angela Stansbridge for set curtains, Michael & Fiona Meaton and Phyllis Amy for vintage set pieces, The Nuffield Theatre and members of The Maskers Theatre Company.



Susannah Lawther (Lenny Magrath)

Susannah plays the cosmetically challenged Lenny Magrath, the oldest of the Magrath sisters. Being born into the Maskers, Susannah has enjoyed many varied roles including Elizabeth Bennett in *Pride & Prejudice* and Marguerite Blakeney in the *Scarlet Pimpernel*. Most recently Susannah played Helena in the Maskers' summer production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Rachael Courage (Meg Magrath)

As the middle sister Meg Magrath smokes like a chimney, drinks like a fish, and has certainly had her fair share of men! Love affairs come and go but there's something a bit different about Doc Porter, the one that got away... Rachael's last role was as Titania, Queen of the Fairies where, in spite of being in command of the seasons, she seemed to have no control over last summer's rain.



Joanna Russel (Babe Magrath)

Due to her short stature Joanna often gets cast as children and teenagers (or could this be down to her youthful looks?!). She has enjoyed playing a range of characters for Maskers as last appeared at The Nuffield as Sonya in *Uncle Vanya*. She is pleased to be playing Babe and thinks her character; Babe Magrath is nearly as 'kooky' as she is herself!

Ruth Kibble (Cousin Chick)

Playing Chick "the Stick" Boyle sees Ruth get her teeth into a great comedy role. Being a fairly tall lady, Ruth is no stranger to "costume dramas"! Previous theatrical incarnations have seen her as a tropicana dancer when she took out the legs of a fellow performer with the weight of her swinging banana skirt and attempting to sing high notes while being hoisted atop another actor's shoulders wearing a corset!



Steve Cosier (Doc Porter)

Steve is a regular actor and director with Maskers, having directed *The Graduate* at the Nuffield last year, and starred as John Proctor (*The Crucible*) on stage here two years ago. Doc Porter is the ex-boyfriend of Meg, whose injury during a violent storm crushed not only his body but their love.

James Norton (Barnette Lloyd)

James' previous roles with Maskers include designing Spitfires as R.J. Mitchell in "Mitchell's Wings" and regressing mentally for the part of Billy in Edward Bond's "Chair". In October 2012, he made his directorial debut, with two short ghost stories for Halloween at the Maskers Studio last year. James plays Barnette Lloyd, the handsome lawyer.

