

# ALLEY THEATRE

## Theresa Rebeck Directs Pulitzer Prize-Winning Play **CRIMES OF THE HEART**, April 12- May 5, at the Alley Theatre

*Rebeck returns to the Alley and directs an all local cast in this warm-hearted, imaginative comedy by Beth Henley*

HOUSTON –The Alley Theatre and Interim Artistic Director James Black, announce the cast and crew of **Crimes of the Heart** by Beth Henley. Renowned playwright and director Theresa Rebeck (*Alley's Fool, All My Sons*) returns to the Alley to direct an all local cast. The Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Crimes of the Heart* runs April 12 – May 5, 2019 in the Alley's Hubbard Theatre. Tickets are available at [alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org) or by calling the Box Office at 713.220.5700.

Winner of the 1981 Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics Circle Award, Beth Henley's first professionally produced play brings audiences to the Mississippi home of the Magrath sisters. Babe has just shot her husband because she didn't like his looks. This brings middle sister Meg back to town from Los Angeles, where she is unsuccessfully pursuing a music career. And poor Lenny, everyone has forgotten her birthday! Warm-hearted, irreverent, and imaginative, *Crimes of the Heart* teems with humanity as the sisters forgive the past, face the present, and embrace the future.

The *Crimes of the Heart* cast is comprised of all local actors. The cast includes Alley Resident Acting Company members **Dylan Godwin** (*Twelfth Night, The Mousetrap*) as Barnette Lloyd, **Melissa Pritchett** (*Describe the Night, The Mousetrap*) as Lenny Magrath, and **Jay Sullivan** (*Quack, Holmes and Watson*) as Doc Porter. Rounding out the cast are local actors **Chelsea Ryan McCurdy** (*A Christmas Carol, All My Sons*) as Meg Magrath, **Skylar Sinclair** (*AD Players: Around the World in 80 Days, Harvey*) as Babe Botrelle, and **Bree Welch** (*Alley's A Christmas Carol, Main Street Theater: The Revolutionists*) as Chick Boyle, who is also the Alley's Company Manager.

The *Crimes of the Heart* creative team includes Scenic Design by Alexander Dodge, Costume Design by Tilly Grimes, Lighting Design by Philip S. Rosenberg, Sound Design by M.L. Dogg, Voice and Dialect Coach Elisa Carlson, and Stage Manager Rebecca R.D. Hamlin.

Prolific playwright, award-winning television writer, producer, screenwriter, three-time novelist, and creator of NBC's "Smash" Theresa Rebeck, who was recently named "the most Broadway-produced female playwright of our time" by *Forbes*, returns to the Alley after having previously directed the Alley's 2012 production of *All My Sons*. The Alley produced the world premiere of *Fool*, written by Rebeck in 2014, and also produced four of her other plays including *Bad Dates* (2005), *The Scene* (2007), *Mauritius* (2009), and *What We're Up Against* (2012). She also teaches at the University of Houston as the Distinguished Visiting Theater Artist.

Rebeck's plays include *Seminar*, *Mauritius* (Irne, Elliot Norton Awards), *Dead Accounts*, *Spike Heels*, *Loose Knit*, *The Family of Mann* (National Theater Award), *The Water's Edge*, *The Scene*, *The Butterfly Collection*, *The Bells* (Inge New Voices Award), *Bad Dates*, *The Nest*, *Omnium Gatherum* (Pulitzer finalist), *View of the Dome*, *Poor Behavior*, and *The Understudy*. Her work has been widely produced on and off Broadway, regionally, and internationally. Novels include *Three Girls and Their Brother* (Crown) and *I'm Glad About You* (Putnam), which will come out in paperback this spring. She is the recipient of the Pen Laura Pels Award for a mid-career playwright.

This past fall, her play *Bernhardt/Hamlet* premiered on Broadway, starring Janet McTeer. Her play *Downstairs*, starring Tim Daly and Tyne Daly, had its New York premiere at Primary Stages.

As a director her work has been seen at Dorset Theater Festival, the R.E.P. company of Wilmington Delaware (Sanford Robbins, artistic director), the Orchard Project, and the Folger Shakespeare Theater. She recently finished writing and directing the independent feature *Trouble*, starring Anjelica Huston, Bill Pullman, and David Morse. In television, she is known for her work on "NYPD Blue" (Writer's Guild, Peabody and Edgar awards) and for creating the NBC series "Smash."

*Crimes of the Heart* begins previews April 12, opens April 17, and runs through May 5 in the Hubbard Theatre. Performances of *Crimes of the Heart* are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. *Crimes of the Heart* is recommended for high school-aged audiences and up.

**SPONSORS:** *Crimes of the Heart* is supported by Supporting Sponsor Norton Rose Fulbright and Associate Producers: The Gordon Cain Foundation, Mrs. Jerry E. Finger, Stephen and Donna Greenlee, Connie and Roger Plank, Peter Ragauss and Jennifer Smith, and Greg and Karal Vesey. The Alley Theatre is supported by the 2018-19 Season sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of the Alley Theatre; Four Seasons Hotel Houston, the official hotel of the Alley Theatre; and Lynn Wyatt.

**TICKETS:** Tickets to *Crimes of the Heart* are now on sale and start at \$26. Discounted tickets are available for military, seniors, and any student, regardless of age, with a valid student ID for designated performances. Tickets can be ordered online ([alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org)) or by phone (713.220.5700).

**ALLEY IN CONTEXT:** The Alley Theatre will present a post-show discussion following the 7:30 p.m. performance on Tuesday, April 16 with director Theresa Rebeck and members of the cast and creative team. Following the 2:30 p.m. performance on Saturday, April 20, members of the community will discuss themes of the play.

The *Crimes of the Heart* cast will be featured during a post-show discussion following the Tuesday, April 23 (7:30 p.m.) performance.

Playwright Beth Henley will participate in a post-show discussion on Sunday, April 28, following the 2:30 p.m. performance.

**DESIGNER TALK:** An hour before the Sunday, April 14 matinee preview performance (2:30 p.m.), a member of the artistic staff will lead a discussion with the production's creative team to give audiences a behind-the-scenes look at the design process. These pre-show talks will offer audiences an exclusive opportunity to ask questions about the designer's work and learn how they brought the script to life. Designer Talks will take place in the Texas Room.

**PRESS PHOTOS:** [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mef49vv82tmp9ak/AABoUhAXu\\_Sc56PJP8ciyBSea?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mef49vv82tmp9ak/AABoUhAXu_Sc56PJP8ciyBSea?dl=0)

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### ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE

The Alley Theatre, one of America's leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Interim Artistic Director James Black and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. Rob Melrose will serve as the Alley's Artistic Director beginning with the 2019-20 Season. The Alley produces up to 16 plays each year in its newly renovated Theatre, ranging from the best current work to re-invigorated classic plays, to new plays by contemporary writers. The Alley is home to a resident company of actors. In addition, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline – actors, designers, composers, playwrights – who work on individual productions throughout each season as visiting artists.

The recent renovation of the Alley's Hubbard Theatre created a new 774-seat state-of-the-art performance venue. Matched with the newly rebuilt 296-seat Neuhaus Theatre, the Alley offers nearly 500 performances each season. The Company reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance and education programs. Its audience enrichment programs include pre-show and post-performance talks, events, and workshops for audience members of all ages.

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