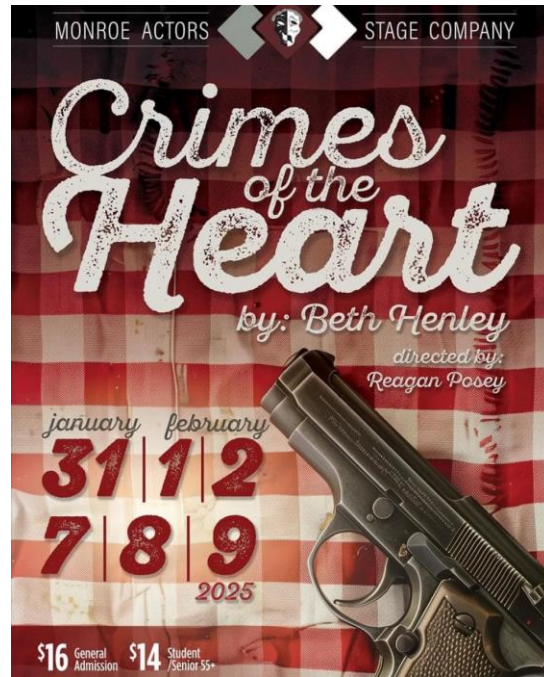


## MASC's CRIMES OF THE HEART: What to Expect



## BUILDING BASICS

MASC's performances are held at the historic Capitol Theatre in Waterloo, Illinois.



There is street parking around the building, and there is also a small parking lot nearby, surrounded by a bank, a gas station, and the back of the Hopskeller restaurant and brewery. There are several accessible parking spots on the street near the building. There is a public parking lot at the corner of Fourth and Main, and theatre patrons are also allowed to use the lot behind the Harrisonville Telephone Company building across the street from the Capitol Theatre.

The ticket counter is right inside the front door of the building. This area is small, and if there is a line for the ticket counter, it might stretch out the front door and onto the sidewalk. You will need to check in at the ticket counter whether you have bought your tickets ahead of time or not.

In order to get to the theatre itself, you'll need to be able to climb a flight of stairs. Once you get upstairs, there is a small lobby with a few benches if you need to sit down before the house opens. There are also a few stairs from the entrance of the house to the seating area.

The front door and the lobby will open at 6:30 p.m. for evening performances and 1:30 p.m. for matinees. If you're not comfortable waiting in a crowded place, consider arriving close to 7:00 p.m. (2:00 for matinees), which is when the house opens and the audience will be allowed in to be seated. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., and matinees begin at 2:30 p.m.

The restrooms are in the rear of the theatre itself, behind the seating area at house right. There is an accessible stall in each.

## WHAT'S ALLOWED?



You're welcome, and encouraged, to bring quiet fidget or comfort items if you need these to fully enjoy your time with us. These can include ear plugs, noise-cancelling headphones, small fidget items, or weighted vests or lap pads. We ask that any items you bring be noiseless and not light up. There will be a limited supply of ear plugs and fidget items available in the lobby. If you use these, they are yours to keep – please do not return them.

During the performance, phones, tablets and other electronic devices must be on silent and put away. Texting is not allowed during the performance.

Photography and recording of any kind during the performance is strictly prohibited by MASC's licensing agreement to produce the show.

You may bring a sealable water or soft drink (in a bottle with a cap, for instance) into the theatre with you. Candy, gum, or mints should be opened before the performance.

## SHOW CONTENT

*Crimes of the Heart* is a story of morally gray people in complicated situations. While there is certainly humor in the show, you should be aware of its heavier and potentially triggering subject matter.

### Content advisories:

- Suicidal behavior depicted on stage
- Discussion of a death by suicide
- Discussion of intimate partner violence
- Discussion of sexual exploitation of a minor



Mary Beth Hurt, Lizbeth Mackay and Mia Dillon in the original Broadway production of *Crimes of the Heart*.

The show also includes some strong language, including some offensive language about race, and frank discussions of sex, relationships, and difficult family history. Given its themes and content, *Crimes of the Heart* is appropriate for teens (with adult guidance) and up.

The run time of the show is about 1 hour and 50 minutes. There will be one 15-minute intermission, which will take place shortly after Babe tells Meg about the act that got her sent to jail.

## SENSORY CONSIDERATIONS

If you need a sensory break during the show, you're welcome to step out into the lobby, downstairs by the ticket counter, or outside if the weather is favorable.



### **Sound:**

There will be various noisy practical effects used, including actors stomping (see below), items being thrown or knocked over, a saxophone being blown, and the sound of a light fixture breaking. Sound effects will be minimal and will include the ringing of a land-line telephone and the closing of a car door.

### **Lighting:**

While the lighting for this show will not include any strobe, flashing, or otherwise particularly jarring effects, stage lights are often much brighter than those you're accustomed to elsewhere. If you are highly sensitive to bright light, consider sitting closer to the rear of the house.



### **Interpretation:**

The Friday, February 7 performance will be ASL interpreted. The interpreters will be located at house left, in front of the stage, and will be in a spotlight throughout the performance.

### **Allergy FYI:**

During the performance, an actor will stomp on a shelled pecan in order to crack it. If you have a tree nut allergy that could be aggravated by inhalation or contact, or if you simply aren't fond of the idea of being in a nutshell "splash zone," avoid sitting in the first couple of rows at house right.



## THE WORLD OF THE SHOW

*Crimes of the Heart* is set in the town of Hazlehurst, Mississippi, “five years after Hurricane Camille.”

**Hazlehurst** is the county seat of Copiah County, Mississippi, and is about 30 miles south of the state capital of Jackson. Beth Henley, the playwright of *Crimes of the Heart*, is from Jackson and spent a great deal of her childhood in the small town where she chose to set her play. Lovers of the blues will recognize the name of a master of the genre who was born in Hazlehurst: Robert Johnson, who – according to legend – sold his soul to the devil at a crossroads in return for musical success.

**Hurricane Camille** made landfall in the United States in August of 1969 as a powerful Category 5 storm. To this day, Camille is the second most intense hurricane on record to strike the United States, and it is one of only four Category 5 hurricanes to have ever made landfall in the lower 48 – along with the unnamed Labor Day hurricane of 1935, Andrew in 1992, and Michael in 2018. Camille directly caused the deaths of 143 people in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, and it caused flooding in Virginia that led to over 150 additional deaths.

**Hurricane parties** – like the one briefly described in *Crimes of the Heart* – are held primarily in the southern U.S. in advance of a hurricane’s landfall, hosted by people who cannot or choose not to evacuate. Guests often stay with the host for a few days, bringing food and other supplies to share. A story circulated for many years about a hurricane party that claimed nearly two dozen lives in Pass Christian, Mississippi, where Hurricane Camille made landfall; while hurricane parties are real, this particular story has been debunked as an urban legend.