

Crimes of the Heart 2000

Crimes of the Heart is a Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Beth Henley. The play's rave reviews are known to have brought actor Peter MacNicol to stardom.

At the core of the melodramatic comedy are the three Magrath sisters, Meg, Babe, and Lenny, who reunite at Old Granddaddy's home in Hazlehurst, Mississippi because the youngest sister (Babe) has shot her abusive husband. The trio was raised in a dysfunctional family with a penchant for ugly predicaments and each has endured her share of hardship and misery.

Past resentments bubble to the surface as they're forced to deal with assorted relatives and past relationships while coping with the latest incident that has disrupted their lives. Each sister is forced to face the consequences of the 'crimes of the heart' that she has committed.

Henley completed her play in 1978 and submitted it to several regional theatres without success. Unknown to her, a friend entered it in the Great American Play Contest at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, and it was named co-winner and performed in February 1979 at the company's annual festival of New American Plays.

