Crimes of the Heart

Three Sisters Having a Real Bad Day!

theatre | by Jeff Pitcher

We've got a few Southern gals coming to town. They're having a bad day, a real bad day, yet life's upheavals have rarely been as funny as they are in Beth Henley's Crimes of the Heart.

Directed by Dawn Moore, this touchingly hilarious comedy is the story of three sisters who reunite when Babe, the youngest, is jailed for shooting her husband Senator Z. Botrelle. The characters of Crimes of the Heart come to life through shared misfortunes, sibling resentment, family love, and lots of laughter. Lennie, the eldest sister, celebrates her 30th birthday with fears that her "shrunken ovary" will keep her a spinster. Meg, the middle sister, is a loud-mouthed singer home from Hollywood and a failing

career. Babe wasn't too pleased with her husband's looks—so she shot him. And what would a family be without their cousin Chick, who is complete noise and constant judgment. Assisted by a young upstart lawyer with a personal vendetta and Meg's old flame, who Meg broke up with during the middle of a hurricane, these three sisters face their issues and find strength in sisterhood.

Crimes of the Heart was first produced in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1979 and then in New York City in 1980. It was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1981. A graduate of Southern Methodist University Park, Texas, playwright Henley turned from acting to writing as a career because she felt that the theatre didn't offer enough contemporary

roles for Southern women. Crimes of the Heart, set in Hazelhurst, Mississippi, five years after hurricane Camille, was her first full-length play and is now her best known. In 1986, Crimes of the Heart was also made into a major motion picture starring Jessica Lange, Sissy Spacek, and Diane Keaton.

Crimes of the Heart is produced and performed by the Capilano Theatre Society at the Capilano Theatre Society at the Capilano College Performing Arts Theatre. The show runs from March 8 through to March 17, Thursday to Saturday, with a special matinee performance on Tuesday, March 13 at 1 p.m. For more information, call 990-7810.

