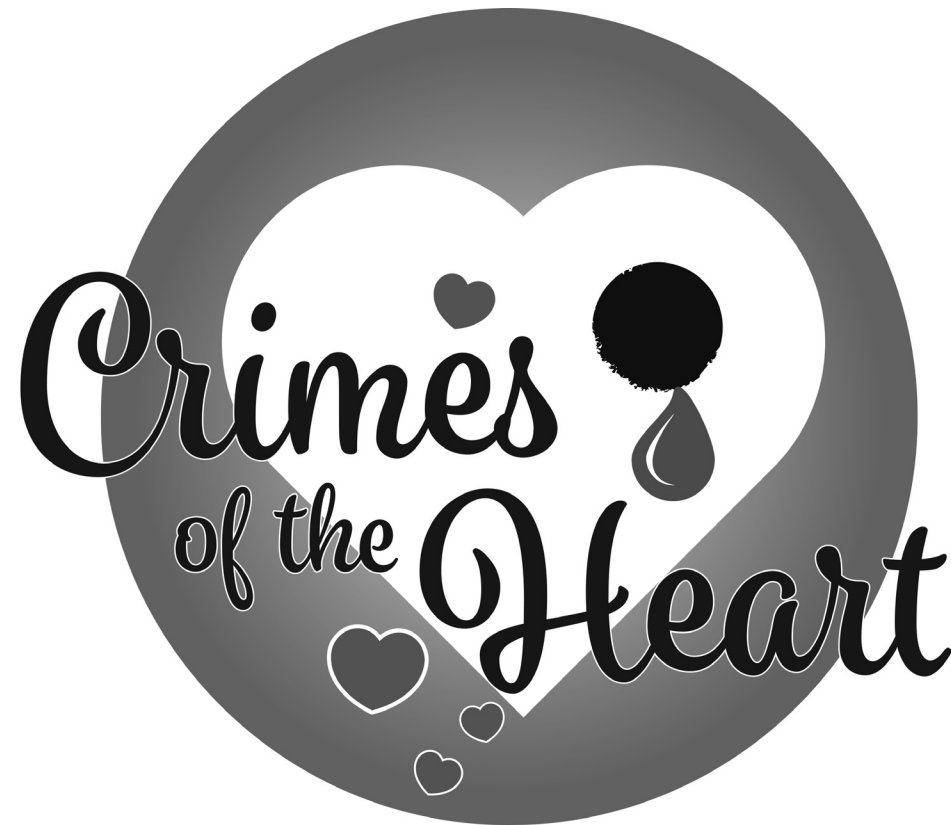


## *Crimes of the Heart* takes aim at ACT 1 Theatre audiences Feb. 9, 10, 16, 17



### Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

The 2014 Tony Awards winner for Best Play, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* is a brilliant comedy written by Christopher Durang.

The story revolves around the relationships of three middle-aged single siblings, two of whom live together, and takes place during a visit by the third, Masha and her young actor boyfriend.

They discuss their lives and loves, argue, and Masha threatens to sell the house.

**April 6 (7pm) • April 7 (2 & 7pm)**  
**April 13 (7pm) • April 14 (2 & 7pm)**

### Urinetown

Winner of three Tony Awards, three Outer Critics Circle Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards and two Obie Awards, *Urinetown* is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, municipal politics and musical theater itself!

In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets.

The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs.

Amongst the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom!

**June 1 (7pm) • June 2 (2 & 7pm)**  
**June 8 (7pm) • June 9 (2 & 7pm)**

### Crimes of the Heart

Three sisters with quite different personalities and lives reunite in the home of their dying grandfather after the youngest of them, Babe, has just shot her husband.

The oldest sister, Lenny, takes care of their grandfather and is turning into an old maid, while Meg, who tries to make it in Hollywood as a singer/actress, has had a wild life filled with many men. Their reunion causes much joy, but also many tensions.

This Pulitzer Prize winning dark comedy set in Hazelhurst, Mississippi is joy and sorrow filled, as are all family journeys.

Home is truly where their stories begin

and you won't want to miss it!

**Feb. 9 (7pm) • Feb. 10 (2 & 7pm)**  
**Feb. 16 (7pm) • Feb. 17 (2 & 7pm)**

### Charlotte's Web

Determined to save Wilbur the pig from the butcher, Charlotte the spider begins her campaign with the "miracle" of her web in which she writes, "Some pig."

It's the beginning of a campaign which ultimately ends with the now-safe Wilbur doing what is most important to Charlotte.

**March 2 (7pm) • March 3 (2 & 7pm)**  
**March 9 (7pm) • March 10 (2 & 7pm)**

# ACT 1

Theatre



# AD LIB

Newsletter • Feb. 1, 2018



Photo by SCOTT HANSEN  
Actors Natalie Rieder (as Lenny Magrath) and Ashley Cate (as Meg Magrath) rehearse a scene from the new ACT 1 Theatre production of *Crimes of the Heart* at the Liberty Theater in Puyallup.

## Crimes scene

### Keeping the audience laughing through the tears

By Megan Noborikawa

*Crimes of the Heart*, the first show of 2018 for ACT 1, poses unique challenges for its actors, as well as its audiences.

With only half the time usually allotted for rehearsals, for some actors it might seem a daunting task, especially considering the dark quality of the comedy.

See **CRIMES**, Page 2





Photo by SCOTT HANSEN

BJ Foley will play the part of Doc Porter in the new ACT 1 Theatre production of *Crimes of the Heart* at the Liberty Theater in Puyallup.

## CRIMES

From Page 1

"It's harder, but I think we'll be OK," said Kaira Hensler, who plays Babe, one of the three Magrath sisters. "The dialogue is pretty natural."

*Crimes of the Heart* is centered around the trio, who are, each in their own way, dealing with trauma and mental illness.

Set in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, the three Magrath sisters have gathered to await news of the family patriarch, their grandfather, who is living out his last hours in the local hospital.

Lenny, the oldest sister, is unmarried at 30 and facing diminishing marital prospects; Meg, the middle sister, who quickly outgrew Hazlehurst, is back after a failed singing career on the West Coast; while Babe, the youngest, is out on bail after having shot her husband in the stomach.

Their troubles, grave yet hilarious, are

highlighted by their stuffy cousin, Chick, and by the awkward young lawyer who tries to keep Babe out of jail while helplessly falling in love with her.

In the end, *Crimes of the Heart* is the story of how its young characters escape the past to seize the future.

And while there is no singing or dancing that would normally require extensive rehearsal time, Ruth Orozco, who plays Chick, points out that *Crimes of the Heart* does offer some challenges in its dialogue.

There are colloquialisms and a number of repeated words that gave Orozco a hard time. And fellow thespian BJ Foley, who plays Doc Porter, said that some of the dialogue feels awkward in order to be comedic.

And then there is the emotionally taxing nature of the play.

To better appreciate this, the actors talked with marriage and family therapist Cherise Alexander. She helped them understand the pretext of the show, explaining, for example, the concept of post-traumatic stress disorder. It is a key theme for *Crimes of the Heart*,

### NOW PLAYING **CRIMES OF THE HEART**

A play by American playwright Beth Henley. It is set in Hazlehurst, Mississippi in the mid-20th century. The play won the 1981 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play. In 1986, the play was novelized and released as a book, written by Claudia Reilly.

#### PRINCIPAL CAST

**Lenny Magrath** Natalie Rieder  
**Meg Magrath** Ashley Care  
**Babe Magrath** Kaira Hensler  
**Chick Boyle** Ruth Orozco  
**Doc Porter** BJ Foley  
**Barnetts Lloyd** Timothy Duval

#### SHOWTIMES

**Feb. 9-10 and Feb. 16-17**

7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays  
 2 p.m. (matinee) on Saturdays

#### TICKETS

Adults - \$20  
 Students, Military & Seniors - \$15  
 Available online at:  
[www.ACT1Theatre.org](http://www.ACT1Theatre.org)

which was written by American playwright Beth Henley in 1978. However, the term PTSD was not coined until 1980.

Alexander also helped the actors who play the sisters understand that their birth order changes the way each sister thinks of and approaches responsibilities.

Every character in this play deals with depression. That, in a way, is also a highlight. "This show is tackling mental illness but it's still an effective comedy," Foley said. "It's always important to talk about mental health issues. This play will bring up [that] discussion."

"I think the audience will find a little of themselves in each character," Orozco said.

The goal is to keep what the characters say in the audience's consciences long after the show is over. Perhaps it will still make the audience laugh. Perhaps it will give them pause. But the cast says they hope you appreciate the show and all the work these actors did to challenge you and make you laugh.

# Contemplating our next big move

ACT1 once again searching for a home

By Megan Noborikawa

If you've followed ACT 1 for a while, this may be a familiar story: At the end of the 2017-2018 season, the longtime community theater troupe will again have to find a new home.

The Borovic Family sold the Liberty Theater in the latter half of last year. The 2017-2018 season had already been planned at that point and although originally ACT 1 was told that it could stay, it has since learned that extended only to the end of the season.

"We hoped this would be our long-term home," Artistic Director Petra Karr said of the Liberty Theater.

ACT 1 moved to the Liberty The-

ater two seasons ago. The industrial-garage-turned-black-box-theater that they had been working out of was renovated and so ACT 1 and others had to go. That space became apartments.

"We thought [the Liberty] was a cool space," Karr said.

Indeed, it offered an easier location for actors and patrons, had larger seating and a marquee.

Instead, ACT 1 will be once again wandering the valley, in search of a new theater space to call home.

The search will remain in the Puyallup and Sumner area, as the troupe seeks to stay close to the youth who are a vital part of ACT 1.

It will be a challenge to carry an audience to a new space, but loyal friends and patrons have been on this quest before.

"My faith and the faith of my amazing husband keep me moving forward — I believe ACT 1 has a following and makes our communities better," Karr said.

Still, the show goes on...

Based on the children's novel by author E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web* tells the story of a livestock pig named Wilbur and his friendship with a barn spider named Charlotte. When Wilbur is in danger of being slaughtered by the farmer, Charlotte writes messages praising Wilbur (such as "Some Pig") in her web in order to persuade the farmer to let him live.

A classic of children's literature, it is enjoyable to adults as well as children.



Coming  
**March 2-3**  
**March 9-10**



## ACT 1 Theatre

P.O. Box 1531  
 Sumner, WA 98390  
[info@act1theatre.org](mailto:info@act1theatre.org)  
 253-447-4139

#### Theater:

Our performances are held in the historic

#### Liberty Theater

116 W Main Ave  
 Puyallup, WA 98371

**ACT 1 Theatre is a 501(c)3 organization, and all donations are tax deductible**



Donations are always welcome.

Please visit us on Facebook or at

[www.ACT1Theatre.org](http://www.ACT1Theatre.org)

## The fate of local theater is in your hands

We need your help.

Please help us sustain quality live community theater in the Puyallup Valley.

Consider sending a donation of any amount to:

**ACT 1 Theatre**  
 P.O. Box 1531  
 Sumner, WA 98390  
 or click:  
**DONATE NOW** at  
[www.ACT1Theatre.org](http://www.ACT1Theatre.org)