

PLAYBILL

NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Crimes of the Heart

BETH HENLEY

AUTHOR



NIAGARA PROSCENIUM PLAYERS

January 26, 27 and 28, 2023

The NIAGARA PROSCENIUM PLAYERS of NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
proudly present

Crimes of the Heart

BETH HENLEY
AUTHOR

Direction by
DENNIS WILSON

Costumes by
DANIELLE DEPALMA

Produced by
TOM VITELLO

Technical Direction by
RICH MERANTO

Sound and Lighting by
NICK FAGIANI and WES SLUSSER

*"CRIMES OF THE HEART" received its New York Premiere at the Manhattan Theatre Club in 1980.
Produced on the Broadway Stage by Warner Theatre Productions, Inc. / Claire Nichtern, Mary Lea Johnson, Martin Richards, Francine Lefrak
"CRIMES OF THE HEART" is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection.
(www.dramatists.com)*

Welcome to the Niagara Falls High School Performing Arts Center!

*Please familiarize yourself with the following reminders as a courtesy to yourself,
other patrons and the performers:*

- **Restrooms** are located in the front lobby. Please be discreet if you have to leave during the performance.
- Please **turn off all cellular phones and other electronics** as a courtesy to other patrons and the performers. Cellular frequencies will interfere with the wireless audio system used in this theatre.
- Please **remain seated through the entire act** of the performance to avoid distracting the performers and patrons.
- The use of **flash photography, video and audio recording including via mobile device is strictly prohibited**, as it is hazardous to the performers and a contract violation. Please help us by observing this rule.
- While we appreciate your enthusiasm, please be mindful of proper theatre etiquette as this is not a sporting event.
- **Thank you and enjoy the show!**

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one question survey to help us gather
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Thank you!

The NFHS Theatre Department



SYNOPSIS

SETTING

The kitchen in the Magrath sisters' house in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, a small southern town, in the fall, five years after Hurricane Camille.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Lenny Magrath.....	Jadyn Langer
Chick Boyle.....	Brianna London
Doc Porter.....	Evan DalPorto
Meg Magrath.....	Kendall Arbatosky
Babe Botrelle.....	Kaelyn Walter
Barnette Lloyd	Ayden Loebel

Break-a-leg!

Encore!

Bravo!

-The Martinez Family

**NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
THEATRE DEPARTMENT**

presents



March 23, 24, 2023 - 7PM

March 25, 2023 - 1PM and 7PM



GO WOLVERINES!
We are so proud
of you, NFHS Theatre!

*Mrs. Vilardo, Mr. Ventry, Mr. Rotella,
Mrs. Rotella-Zafuto and Mr. Ruffalo*

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

THE CAST

(in alphabetical order)

KENDALL ARBATOSKY (Meg Magrath) is a sophomore at NFHS. She has previously been seen in The Niagara Proscenium Players Alumni Production of *Evita* and the play *Back Cover*. She has taken competitive dance classes for 9 years and has been featured in the ballet, "The Nutcracker". She enjoys being a stagehand for shows and likes to get as involved in theater as possible.

EVAN DALPORTO (Doc). Evan is a sophomore at Niagara Falls High School. Evan has been seen in The Niagara Proscenium Players Productions of *Clue* (Colonel Mustard), *An Evening of Stephen Sondheim* (Narrator), and *On Golden Pond* (Billy). Evan was recently cast in a New York City short film titled *Nothing Will Ever Be The Same* (Jeffery). After graduating from Niagara Falls High School, Evan plans to attend The University of Southern California to study and pursue a career in acting.

JADYN LANGER (Lenny), Jadyn began performing on stage in the 8th grade. She was set to perform in the musical *Freaky Friday*. Unfortunately, the show was cancelled due to Covid. Jadyn had another opportunity to perform this musical as Savannah and a cater waiter two years later. Jadyn has just only started getting into performing in theater she always has performed in some way from being in chorus to being the third little pig in the *Three Little Pigs* when she was little. The most recent performance she was in was in the Open door Productions' production of *Back Cover* as Jessica.

AYDEN LOEBEL (Barnette) Ayden is currently a sophomore at NFHS. He first entered the theatre program through lending stage crew a hand in the musical *Evita* where he found a passion for creating art alongside brilliant people. Ayden soon made his debut joyfully participating in the play *Clue* cast as The Unexpected Motorist. As Ayden looks forward to another amazing production he would like to thank his brilliant peers, his wonderful theatre teacher and his most trusted friend William all of which have brought him the guidance he needs.

BRIANNA LONDON (Chick) Brianna is a sophomore at NFHS. She has been involved in The Niagara Proscenium Players Alumni Production of *Evita* as well as The Niagara Proscenium Players Production of *An Evening of Sondheim*. She was the stage manager for the 2022 Senior's Production of *Plaza Suite*. Brianna played Ice Hockey for 6 years before finding her love for theater and acting.

ADDISON MOORE (Chick - Understudy) Addison is a sophomore at NFHS. She has taken 10 years of competitive dance and enjoys taking theater classes at the high school. She looks forward to joining more upcoming productions.

KAELYN WALTER (Babe) Kaelyn Walter is a junior at Niagara Falls High School. She was seen in last year's Niagara Proscenium Players Production of *Clue* (The Cook). When not performing, Kaelyn is

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Please visit the
NFHS Theatre Department
Webpage for future performances,
alumni show information, show archives
and the NFCSD Theatre Hall of Fame.

www.nfschools.net/Page/5140

Are you interested in participating in future
Niagara Proscenium Alumni Players
productions?



Follow us on Facebook for future audition
announcements and performances.

www.facebook.com/AlumniPlayersNFHS

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 8)

very active assisting the productions as stage crew, and assistant stage manager. She has also worked on a handful of films around New York and recently finished a series of commercials in Buffalo. After high school she hopes to continue her study of acting and film by attending The University of Southern California. She wants to thank everyone for their support and hopes you enjoy tonight's production of *Crimes of the Heart*.

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

(in alphabetical order)

CHARITY HOSLER (Stage Manager) is a junior at NFHS. She is a board of director for the class of 2024 and participates in Zonta Club. She is a member of the NFHS chapter of the National Honor Society and enjoys volunteering at Hopeclub of Niagara in her free time. She has previously been involved in shows in middle school as well as being the assistant stage manager for the alumni production of *Evita*, and stage manager for *Clue*, *An Evening of Stephen Sondheim* and *On Golden Pond*.

ASHLEY KINNEY (Light Board Operator) is a senior and is thrilled to be working on another NFHS Production. Ashley was the light board operator for the NFCSD Alumni Productions of *Evita*, *Clue*, *An Evening of Stephen Sondheim* and *On Golden Pond*. When not working on shows, Ashley loves to spend time reading and watching TV. Ashley would like to give thanks to the cast, crew and her family for all the support.

RICH MERANTO (Technical Director) is a recent NFCSD retiree after a 30 year career of teaching at Niagara Falls High School, where he taught mathematics, media production and helped the students in the program run the Our Schools Channel, OSC. Rich was also the head coach of three Varsity sports at NFHS (Girls Soccer, Indoor and Outdoor track). In his many years as tech director, Rich has built apartments, high school gyms, swimming pools, houses, apartments for homeless people, cruise ships, sports cars, small Russians villages (again), giant hairspray cans, schools, night clubs, burger stands, radio stations, courtrooms, French barricades, bridges, trains, libraries, restaurants, a town in Iowa, embassies, and even four hair salons. When he isn't doing all that he's probably watching *Doctor Who*. Most recently, Rich began with his family, Meranto Media, Inc., a company that helps cities, towns, school districts, churches, theatres, and small businesses design, create, and install a small media production studio which can produce and broadcast their events and programming for platforms like Facebook, YouTube, cable access channels and websites. <http://www.merantomedia.com>.

(Continued on page 12)

Kaelyn,

We are so proud of you, "Babe"!

Love, Mom and Dad

Break-a-leg!
The Constantinos

Break-a-leg! Good luck to Evan,
Kendall and all of my students
on stage and behind the scenes.

-Mr. Collins

Break-a-leg!

Love, Mrs. Donald

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 10)

LEAH SCRIVANO (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior at Niagara Falls High School. She has been in productions before such as *Lion King Jr* (Sarabi), *Frozen, Jr.* (Sven), *Freaky Friday* (Ensemble), *Evita* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Clue* (Assistant Stage Manager), *An Evening of Stephen Sondheim* (Assistant Stage Manager) and *On Golden Pond* (Assistant Stage Manager). She loves theater and is thrilled to be working with this show.

TOM VITELLO (Producer) is currently a Spanish teacher at Niagara Falls High School. Tom graduated from the SUNY College at Buffalo in 1998 with a BS in Spanish Education and a MS in Education in 2000. Tom is also a 1995 graduate of NCCC where he earned an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts/Humanities - Social Science. Tom's has over 100 theatre credits to his name including: *Anything Goes!*, *The Pajama Game*, *Guys and Dolls*, *A Chorus Line*, *Forum*, *The Music Man*, *Grease*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Godspell*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Company*, *Pippin*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Evita*, *Children of Eden*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Annie*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Barry Manilow's Copacabana*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Les Miserables*, *Chicago*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Ragtime*, *Willy Wonka*, *The Addams Family*, *Hairspray*, *Mamma Mia!*, *On Golden Pond* and *West Side Story*. Other music credits include: Handel's *Messiah*, Berlioz' *Messe Solennelle*, Mahler's *Symphony 8 - Symphony for a Thousand*, Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, and other selected works all performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Holy Trinity Lutheran Concert Choir. Tom was as the Music Director, Arranger and Studio Musician for two CD recordings, *My Father's Hymns* and *Broadway and Beyond*, by local artist Lee Stevens. In 2008, Tom performed in concert with Grammy Award Winning Singer/Songwriter Kenny Loggins at Artpark. Tom has worked with the theatre departments of Lewiston-Porter, Starpoint, City Honors School and Niagara Falls High School and has been on the production staff for several productions at NCCC. Tom served as the Drama Club Advisor/Director for Niagara Catholic from 2000 to 2006. For the Fall 2005 semester, Tom was an Adjunct/Musical Director for the theatre department of N.C.C.C. Tom proudly is co-founder of the Niagara Falls City School District Theatre Hall of Fame. In 2021, Tom was the Executive Producer of the web series *Dennis Wilson's The Therapist*, for which he composed and recorded all the underscoring and theme song, *Journey*. In Fall of 2022, Tom composed and recorded the instrumental music for the Niagara Proscenium Alumni Players production of *On Golden Pond*. Most recently this month, Tom performed at Feinstein's 54 Below on Broadway in New York City as pianist for a special engagement of the Stage Door Medium with Jimmy Moses. He would like to thank family and his husband, Jacob for being so supportive and always working the box office for every one of the NFHS theatre productions.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

(Continued from page 12)

DENNIS WILSON (Director) was born and raised in Niagara Falls, NY. He attended Niagara University where he earned a BFA in Theatre Arts and a Med in Education Administration from Grand Canyon University. Upon graduation from Niagara University, Dennis became heavily involved in community theatre in Buffalo, NY. He relocated to New York City in 1995 and was immediately cast in theatrical productions. The next few years Dennis engaged in a professional acting career. He was blessed to be able to become a member of The Actor's Equity Association (AEA).

Dennis has performed in the National and Canadian Touring Companies of *Five Guys Named Moe* (Little). Regional credits include: *Once On This Island* (Papa Ge), *Toys in the Attic* (Gus), *Ain't Misbehavin* (Andre), *The Zoo Story* (Peter), *A Chorus Line* (Mike & Bobby), *Cabaret* (Kit Kat Girl), *West Side Story* (Luis), *Dutchman* (Clay), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Judas), *Hair* (Tribe Member), *Smokey Joe's Café*.

Dennis is an accomplished choreographer, having staged productions of *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Ragtime*, *The Wiz*, *Cabaret*, *West Side Story*, *The King and I*, *Smokey Joe's Café* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

In 2005, Dennis founded a theatrical production company, Dendewil Productions. Dennis also humbly adds the title of author to his credits having written and self-published three books, *My Void My Voice* (Poetry 2012), *Eros Dennis* (Poetry 2013), *Morning Coffee Thoughts* (Positive Affirmations 2016). Dennis wrote, produced and directed his first web series, *The Therapist*, which had its premiere in October 2021 on YouTube. During the summer of 2022, Dennis recorded an audio version of his poetry from his publication, *My Void My Voice*. Most recently, Dennis appeared as the Apparition in an original Regional-World Premiere of *The Magnolia Ballet* at the Alleyway Theatre in Buffalo, NY. Dennis currently resides in Niagara Falls and teaches theatre at Niagara Falls High School.

(Continued on page 16)



Brianna,
You are amazing and
we are so proud of
you!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Billy,
Emma,
Abby and Ryan

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Good evening. Welcome to our production of Crimes of the Heart. Beth Henley has written an amazing play about the lives of three sisters in a small town in Mississippi. The play explores those little crimes that people commit every day with their heart. These crimes usually go unnoticed, but they develop a sense of guilt in people. These are the crimes of jealousy, dislike, betrayal, lying, insensitivity, unkindness, carelessness, forgetfulness, and thoughtlessness. The whole play revolves around the crime of Babe shooting her husband. However, everyone in the play is involved in crimes in one or another way.

In 1986, when I heard that there was a movie version of this play coming out, I was anxious to see it. When casting was announced, my anxiousness grew into excitement as I learned that Diane Keaton, Sissy Spacek and Jessica Lange would be starring and with the great playwright Sam Shepard in a supporting role. Every one of the people mentioned above have in some way, shape or form has been an influence to me. Although I was aware that as an actor I would never have an opportunity to perform in this show, I made a vow to some day direct it.

I knew that the time to direct this show had come with student actors Kaelyn Walter, Kendall Arbatosky, Jadyng Langer, Brianna London, Ayden Loebel and Evan DalPorto. This talented group brings the characters to life with style, grace and a sense of professionalism that makes me proud. My goal is to always prepare my students to be strong, solid actors who can handle tough roles. Crimes of the Heart delivers on that aspect. The characters are funny, dark and complex. I have truly enjoyed watching the cast develop, grow and hone their skills. They have worked hard to bring you a show that will appeal to your emotions and take you on a journey of pain, courage, love, support, acceptance and most importantly family.

Again, I want to thank you all for your continuing love and support of our students.

From My Spirit To Yours!

Dennis Wilson, 2023

"This is going to sound weird but, for a second, I think you took on the shape of a unicorn."

-Brennan

We are so proud!
Love, Your Family



Good Luck, NFHS Theatre!

"Goodbye Puffy Eye!"



"Look ten years younger in less than ten minutes!"



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BRONZE PATRONS

- ◆ Good luck to the cast and crew of “Crimes”! So proud of you all! - *Kaelyn*
- ◆ Break-a-leg, Ayden! You’re the best! - *Mrs. Wagner*
- ◆ Good luck, Kaelyn. So proud of you! - *Love Ben*
- ◆ Always remember to feel pretty! Break-a-leg, Evster and Kae! - *Love, Charbeal*
- ◆ Break-a-leg, Brianna! - *Mr. Campbell*
- ◆ Hey, Bestie-Boo, I’m so proud of you. I know how much this means to you and how much effort you put into this. Break-a-leg, Bri. Love you! - *Elizabeth Finley*
- ◆ Good Luck, Ayden! - *Catherine Walsh*
- ◆ Break-a-leg! - *The Haneys*
- ◆ To Mr. Wilson for a wonderful production. - *With Much love, Ms. Somers*

FRIEND PATRONS

- ◆ Break-a-leg. Guys. Wishing you all an amazing show! - *Haleena Reygers*
- ◆ Kaelyn, good luck...don’t suck! :-) - *Emilia Marra*
- ◆ Good luck shooting Zackery, Sharon! - *Leah Scrivano*
- ◆ Break-a-leg, Mrs. Skinner - *Abigail Biery*
- ◆ Break-a-leg, Kaelyn! Have fun! - *Zackary Kayser*
- ◆ Break-a-leg, Bri! - *Love, Penny*
- ◆ Way to go! - *Love, Mrs. Forgette*
- ◆ Break-a-leg, Brianna! - *Jaden*

**Break-a-leg,
Kendall
and Camilla!
Love, Mom, Dad
and Cam**



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Mr. Bryan Rotella, Administrator

Mrs. Valerie Rotella-Zafuto, Administrator

Mr. Nicholas Ruffalo, Administrator

Mr. Edward Ventry, Administrator

Mr. Bryan DalPorto, Director of District Safety

NFHS Safety Officers

Mr. Rich Meranto

Mr. Nick Fagiani

Mr. Wes Slusser

Mr. Nicholas Vitello and Ms. Barbara Macks - Buffalo Spree Publishing

Mr. Jacob Kopera and Ms. Barbara Rodgers

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan and Evelyn DalPorto

Mr. Robert Touchette

Mrs. Teresa Kurliovitch

All of the Parent, Student and Alumni Volunteers





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3099 William St
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Break-a-leg, cast and crew of
Crimes of the Heart!

Bravo to the cast and crew!

We are so proud of you all!

*From, Penny, Samantha,
Navaeh and Addison*



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THEATRE DEPARTMENT**

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