



**McCOY THEATRE  
RHODES COLLEGE**

*presents*

**The Mound Builders**

by Lanford Wilson



**The Miss Firecracker Contest**

by Beth Henley



**On The Razzle**

by Tom Stoppard



**SEASON 7 IN REPERTORY**



**McCOY THEATRE  
RHODES COLLEGE**

*presents*

**The Miss Firecracker Contest**

by Beth Henley

Directed by Julia Ewing

*Production Set Design*  
Stephen Pair

*Set and Performance Space Design*  
Kathy Haaga

*Costume Design*  
Lisa M. Sikes

*Technical Direction and Light Design*  
Laura Canon

*Sound Design*  
Russell Porter

*Stage Manager* .....Christl Peacock  
*Assistant Stage Manager* ..... John Hackett  
*Properties and Furniture* ..... Paige Walker Southard  
*Set and Lighting Crew* ..... Marty Story, Joe Tamborello, Greg Krosnes, Norm Pauley,  
Jeff Halpape, Todd Emily, David Jones, Will Davis, Chris  
Mangum, Sturla Olsen, Andrew Schaffner, Chris Couch,  
Reid Harlin, Charles B. Smith, Alice Hendricks, Catherine  
Summ, Stacy DeZutter, Ajay Jones, Leigh Ann Evans,  
Bryan Ford, Margaret Chandler, Gayle McFarland, Robert  
Watkins, Ann Hollingsworth, LeAnne Gaddis, Berkeley  
Bush, Sarah Jones, Alan Ostner, Kim McAfee, Ann  
Goodson, Kathleen Atkinson, Scott Swoger  
*Sound* ..... Sybil Ransom  
*Program Photography* ..... David Jones

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

Carnelle Scott ..... SARAH JONES  
Popeye Jackson ..... PAJA FAUDREE  
Elain Rutledge ..... ANNE-MARIE AKIN  
Delmount Williams ..... BRYAN FORD  
Mac Sam ..... MICHAEL UPDEGRAFF  
Tessy Mahoney ..... MARTY STORY

### ACT I

**Scene 1:** 5:00 Monday afternoon, in the living room of Ronelle Williams' house in Brookhaven, Mississippi

**Scene 2:** 8:00 p.m., the following Saturday

### ACT II

**Scene 1:** The carnival grounds, about 3:00 p.m, July the Fourth

**Scene 2:** Several minutes later

**Scene 3:** That evening

Special thanks to Mrs. Ruth Becker, grandmother of the playwright, for the loan of her red antebellum dress.

### ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:



**JULIA EWING** is a Theatre and Media Arts Department faculty member and has staged the McCoy's production of *THE CHILDREN'S HOUR*, as well as *THE CRUCIBLE*, *THE CHALK GARDEN*, and *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*. Also a talented actress, she has appeared as Ruth in *THE HITCHHIKERS* last season. In seasons past, she was Alma Winemiller in *SUMMER AND SMOKE* and her *NICHOLAS NICKLEBY* roles included Fanny Squeers, Miss Snevelicci and Peg Sliderskew. (She was also an Associate Director on that one.) She spent a part of this past summer directing *AMADEUS* for the Town and Country Playhouse in Salem, New Hampshire. Other theatres have seen her stagings of such plays as *EXTREMITIES* and *THE ME NOBODY KNOWS*. Her many roles elsewhere include Kate in *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*, Helena in *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* (directed by Ellis Rabb) and roles in *SISTER MARY IGNATIUS EXPLAINS IT ALL FOR YOU*, *SCHUBERT'S LAST SERENADE*, *LOOSE ENDS* and, more recently, the premier of Larry King's newest play, *GOLDEN SHADOWS*.



*Beth Henley (courtesy of William Morris Agency)*

THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST, written by Beth Henley, was first produced in Los Angeles at the Victory Theatre in the spring of 1980. One of The Ten Best Plays of 1983-84, it has moved from regional theatres to the Manhattan Theatre Club and enjoyed a long (extended) off-Broadway run. Henley's writing centers around smalltown life, and she has been compared to such writers as Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams and Flannery O'Connor. Born in Jackson, Mississippi, she is a product of the Southern life: "In my house, people were more inclined to sit around the kitchen table and

talk than to watch TV." Her best known play, CRIMES OF THE HEART, was a Pulitzer Prize-winning play, making Beth Henley the first female in twenty-three years to win a Pulitzer Prize for drama. In 1986, Henley wrote three screenplays, NOBODY'S FOOL, TRUE STORIES and CRIMES OF THE HEART, which won Henley an Oscar nomination for best screenplay adaptation. All of these hold true to her smalltown life theme, focusing on Buckseye Basin, Arizona; Virgil, Texas; and Hazlehurst, Mississippi, and it is Henley's unique combination of humor and day-to-day life which creates her interesting smalltown characters. She received a B.F.A. from Southern Methodist University and took a year of graduate work at the University of Illinois at Champaign. She now lives in Los Angeles with director/actor, Stephen Tololowsky, and continues to write.