

Beth Henley

President's Professor of Theatre Arts, College of Communication and Fine Arts at Loyola Marymount University

Los Angeles, CA, US

President's Professor of Theatre Arts

Biography

Beth Henley is a Distinguished Professor of Theatre Arts. She is a playwright, screenwriter and actress whose 1979 *Crimes of the Heart* won the Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics Circle Award. She began writing plays as a B.F.A. student at Southern Methodist University. The success of *Crimes of the Heart* has been followed by a long and distinguished career that includes the screenplay for the 1986 film of the play which featured Diane Keaton, Jessica Lange, and Sissy Spacek, Tess Harper and Sam Shepard. Other notable achievements are *The Miss Firecracker Contest* (this play was also made into a film with a screenplay by Professor Henley), *The Wake of Jamey Foster*, *The Debutante Ball*, *The Lucky Spot*, and *Abundance*. Her most recent plays are *Signature*, *Control Freaks*, *L-Play*, and *Impossible Marriage* (with Holly Hunter in the lead). In addition to the screenplays of *Crimes of the Heart* and *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, Professor Henley has written several television and movie screenplays, including "Survival Guides" with Budge Threlkeld for PBS, the films *Nobody's Fool* and *True Stories* (the last is collaboration with Steven Trobolowsky and David Byrne of the rock group, Talking Heads).

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Performing Arts, Fine Art

Areas of Expertise

Playwriting, Theatre Arts, Screenplay Writing

Affiliations

The Fellowship of Southern Writers, The Dramatist Guild, The Academy of Arts and Science.

Education

Southern Methodist University

B.F.A. Fine Arts

Accomplishments

Career Achievement in Professional Theatre Award Winner

Awarded the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Career Achievement in Professional Theatre.

Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar Nomination

Nominated for an Oscar for "Best Adapted Screenplay" for the 1986 film for "Crimes of the Heart."

Pulitzer Prize for Drama

Awarded the "Pulitzer Prize for Drama" for the play "Crimes of the Heart."

Best American Play of 1981

Awarded "Best American Play of 1981" from the New York Drama Critics' Circle for "Crimes of the Heart."

Tony Award Nomination

Nominated for a Tony Award for "Crimes of the Heart" screenplay.

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