



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Gothic South is Ablaze in ‘The Miss Firecracker Contest’

WHAT: University of St. Thomas drama department stages Beth Henley’s play “The Miss Firecracker Contest”

WHEN: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, July 5-7;
8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, July 11-14

WHERE: University of St. Thomas
Jones Theatre, 3910 Yoakum
Parking: Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at West Alabama

BACKGROUND: To escape a reputation as a small-town floozy and perhaps even leave that same small southern berg in "a blaze of glory," there’s only one way to go: win the annual Miss Firecracker Contest, held every Fourth of July on the town fairgrounds. At least this is what Carnelle Scott believes, as she makes a last-ditch attempt to shed her reputation as “Miss Hot Tamale” and become Miss Firecracker.

Small towns, we learn, aren’t as forgiving or as quick to forget as Carnelle might have believed. Compounding her efforts, Carnelle’s cousins, Elain and Delmont, have arrived days before the contest with a boatload of their own problems. Elain has just left her husband and two children. Delmount, recently released from a mental institution is a bitter, frustrated young man bent on selling the family home and all its belongings right out from under Carnelle.

Beth Henley is a playwright with a firm hand on the pulse of what makes the south so gothic and so funny. Henley has an astonishing ear for dialogue, a gift for pacing, a knack for humor, and an unmatched talent for storytelling that make “The Miss Firecracker Contest” an engaging and heartfelt script.

COST: General Admission \$10; Senior citizens and UST students/staff/faculty \$5
Ticket reservations: 713-525-3520

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Gino Chelakis at 713-525-3523

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