

About "True Crimes"

Fort Smith is fortunate to have a community theatre willing to serve as a test site for experimental projects like *True Crimes*. To have found such a welcome here was an honor and a joy.

True Crimes is a short play about the homespun horrors of life in rural Arkansas. "Where did you get the idea for this play?" is a question that must be answered with a quote from Flannery O'Connor: "Anybody who has survived his childhood has enough information about life to last him the rest of his days." Although *True Crimes* is not an autobiography, some of the characters are similar to people I have known; perhaps you have known such people, too -- the struggle for emotional freedom, and the rage and despair that accompany that struggle, are common to many families.

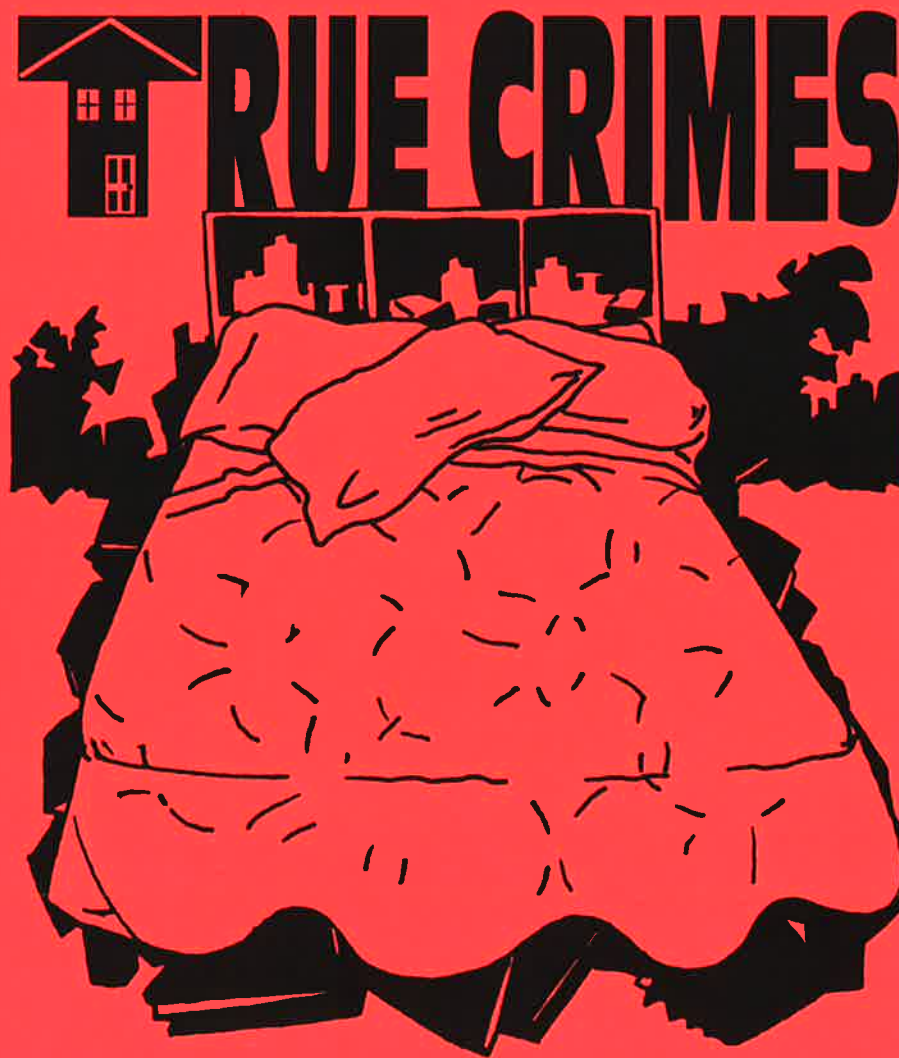
The play that you will see on the stage tonight is vastly altered from the first rough draft that was written several months ago. Jim Moody greatly helped to shape and strengthen the play; and each of the cast and crew, as you will see, have brought their own unique talents to the project. What an experience it was, as a writer, to watch them during rehearsals as they brought the typed script to life with such intensity and skill.

For their guidance, support, and undaunted optimism during the writing and production of the play, I want to thank Jim Moody and Katy Boulden; Anita Paddock and the other talented and generous members of the Fort Smith Borderliners; and, especially, my husband, Lester Newland.

And to you, who have gathered here with us tonight, not quite sure what to expect, but hoping, with us, for the best -- thank you, too, for your help in making live theatre a possible dream for all of us.

-- Emily Newland

THE FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE SEASON 45 - 1992



May 8, 1992

TRUE CRIMES

by Emily Newland

The Cast

Essie Weaver
Ruth
Ginny
Kathy

Katy Boulden
Pam Camp-Vick
Lee Batchelor
Paula Sharum

Time: The present, an oppressively hot day in July

Setting: A dilapidated homestead a few miles from the small town of Big Bend, Arkansas

A reception, hosted by the Fort Smith Borderliners, will be held in the theatre lobby after the performance.

Production Staff

Director	Jim Moody
Producer	Travis McDaniel
Stage Manager	Tom Oliver
Lighting Design	Charlie Long
Light Board Operator	Wendy Quick
Props	Jane Ann Short
Wardrobe	Martha Gooden
Make Up	Glenda Stockton
Prompter	Margaret Moseley
Graphic Design	James McCartney

Acknowledgements

KUAF
Southwest Times Record
Jon Kay Designs
Bruce Birkhead