



SHAHEED MERANI

NO TATTLING! Studio Theatre's *Crimes of the Heart* delves into the drama and troubles that families often experience.

Crimes hearts fun, realism

Crimes of the Heart

Written by Beth Henley
Starring Tracy Leigh Campbell, Advah Soudack, Amanda Lisman, Kate Bateman, Darren Dolynski and Ben McIvor
Runs 30 November to 9 December
Studio Theatre

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Not liking her husband's looks, Babe shoots him. Her sister Meg is a man-eating lounge singer living in Los Angeles. Her other sister, Lenny, is about to turn 30 and feels frustrated and alone.

This is the basis for Beth Henley's *Crimes of the Heart*, which tells the story of three sisters who return to their small hometown of Hazelhurst, Mississippi after Babe offs her spouse. Arriving at their granddaddy's house, the women find their troubles have followed them there—for instance, Billy Bob, the family's horse, gets struck by lightning and Chick, the

social-climbing cousin, freaks out because her kids just ate paint.

University of Alberta BFA student Amanda Lisman—who plays Meg, the black sheep of the family—explains that the characters make choices in the pursuit of happiness, but continually encounter circumstances that made them unhappy. For instance, Meg's happiness lies in her ability to sing, but her career in Los Angeles just doesn't seem to want to take off.

"The play ultimately is about our quest for happiness, which I think is something we can all identify with," Lisman says. "It's just one of those very human plays."

It's precisely this attention to human nature and family that makes *Crimes of the Heart*, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1981, relevant and timeless.

"It's about the relationship these three sisters have, and how all these crises and bad things sort of bring them together," Lisman explains. "The audience will identify with the characters and their struggles and just how they deal with the ups-and-downs

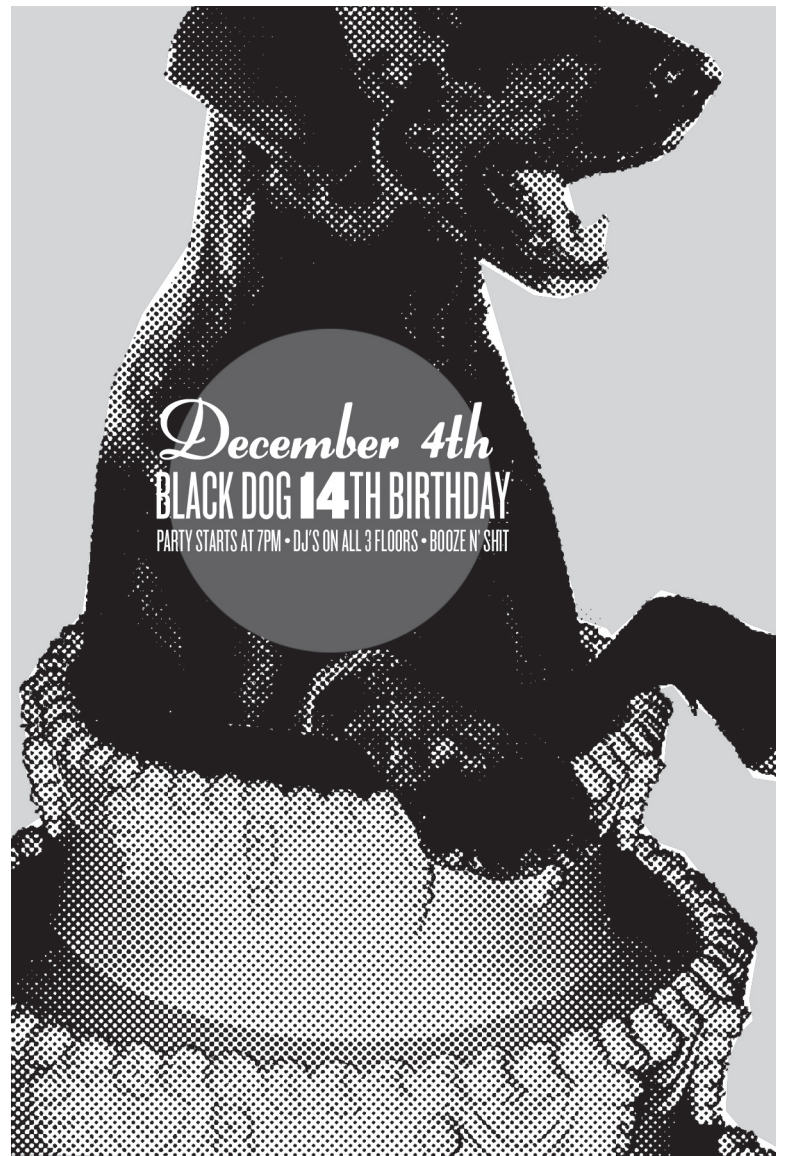
of life. One minute they're laughing, and one minute they're crying. The humour is really well-strung throughout. It's really quite hilarious."

Crimes of the Heart is a naturalistic play, and as such, Lisman explains, the production has the actors live normally on the set, and do the mundane things the characters might actually do in their daily lives.

"We make lemonade, we eat cake and there's candles, so it's kinda fun in that way," Lisman says enthusiastically. "I, as an audience member, always enjoyed seeing shows where actors were eating onstage and just living normally. It's always kinda fun."

This realistic aspect of the play allows Lisman and the other actors to delve into their characters and really understand the stories, and from her perspective, she hopes the audience will find a character they can jump right into.

"[It's] great for us as actors, as a challenge to really get into the lives of these people," Lisman says. "[Audiences] will find it heartwarming, funny and touching."



December 4th
BLACK DOG 14TH BIRTHDAY
PARTY STARTS AT 7PM • DJ'S ON ALL 3 FLOORS • BOOZE N' SHIT

The Hills are alive with music

Despite a few setbacks, Hills Like White Elephants are ready to release their CD

Hills Like White Elephants CD Release

With Woodpigeon, Sleeping Girl and Storyboard
Saturday, 2 December at 6pm
Muttart Hall, Alberta College Campus

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Most bands would be ecstatic about releasing their first EP, believing that what they've done is nothing short of perfection, but this is not the case with Edmonton rock band Hills Like White Elephants.

The band finished making their self-titled EP back in July after four months of red tape and four different release dates. Now that they're ready to set their hard work forth into the musical world, the excitement has somewhat died. However, on the positive side, the disk's postponement has given the band a chance to come up with some new material that they've started to incorporate into their live shows.

"We've been playing all the songs off the EP up 'til now," says Hills Like White Elephants singer-songwriter, Chris Blackmore. "There's really no

pressure to play the EP songs to sell EPs."

Sounds reasonable enough—especially since there are already plans to record a new album in the spring.

"I think we're going to have a more cohesive kind of sound on [the next album], which we're really excited about. The four songs from the EP were drawn from two years of songwriting. I'm still really proud of the EP, but yeah, it could be a lot better," Blackmore laughs, later realizing and admitting that he might be giving the wrong impression.

Nevertheless, Blackmore continues to talk with excitement about the new songs.

"I know a lot of bands who like to think that they're unique or living up to their favourite groups, but I think we kind of draw from a lot of darker, gloomier stuff and we pair it with a pop sensibility," Blackmore says. "Our new material is sounding more like Godspeed pop songs—like if you could condense a 20-minute Godspeed [You! Black Emperor] track into four minutes and have a bit more of a pop sensibility about it."

While Godspeed songs are being

condensed, the band itself has expanded. This past August, HLWE grew from four to eight band members. Blackmore, along with guitarist Stefan Dehod and drummer Mike Kropiniski were the original three, with bassist Jim Cumming joining later on to form the core four.

Hills Like White Elephants are continually striving for improvement and novelty. Blackmore, who's in his third year studying history at the University of Alberta, along with the other band members who try to balance music with school (Kropiniski and Cumming attend Grant MacEwan) find that the stress mostly comes from pushing themselves to play new songs at every show. He finds that playing the same material in such a local setting "gets very old, very fast"—not just for the band, but for the audience as well.

"You reach a point where you're so indulgent that people can't relate," Blackmore says. "Then it's kind of pointless because I see music as a social instrument. Why else would you play music if you don't want people to relate to it? Why not just play alone in the garage and congratulate yourself for articulating everything so nicely."

NOMINATE YOUR

PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK

The Students' Union would like to send a great big "Thank you!" to all the students who nominated their professors for Professor of the Week. This term's winners have been:

- OCT 5 : Dr. James Talbot (MED 516)
- OCT 12 : Dr. Denis Lamoureux (CHRTC 350)
- OCT 19 : Dr. Clive Hickson (EDEL 321)
- OCT 26 : Dr. Judy Gnarp (MMI 113)
- Nov 2 : Dr. Yvette d'Entremont (CUME 322)
- Nov 9 : Dr. Helen Vallianatos (ANTHR 110)
- Nov 16 : Dr. Al Meldrum (PHYS 114)
- Nov 23 : Dr. Don Carmichael (POL S)

Our next winner will be announced January 25, 2007. Please continue to submit nominations for your outstanding professors.

Don't let great teaching go unrecognized.

MAKE TEACHING MATTER!

PLEASE DETACH AND SUBMIT

NOMINATE YOUR PROFESSOR FOR PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK!

Professor's name

Course for which he/she is nominated

Reasons for nomination (attach additional space if necessary)

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Nominations can also be picked up/submitted at any Faculty Association office or InfoLink desk, or at the SU Executive Office front desk. Nominations can also be emailed to the Associate VP-Academic Tasneem Karbani at avpa@su.ualberta.ca.

CHECK OUT WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/MAKETEACHINGMATTER FOR A COMPLETE PROFILE OF EACH WEEK'S WINNERS.