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## The Wake of Jamey Foster

Beth Henley

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John Carroll University  
Department of Communications presents

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# The Wake of Jamey Foster



Kulas Auditorium • March 18 & 19, 25 & 26 • 8:00 p.m.  
for ticket information call 397-4428.



John Carroll University Department of Communications  
presents

# **The Wake of Jamey Foster**

**by Beth Henley**

**directed by Dr. Karen Gygli\***

**March 18, 19, 25, 26, 1994  
Kulas Auditorium**

**produced in conjunction with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.**



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Critic Beverly Walker has called Beth Henley's dramatic vision "comically apocalyptic," describing Henley's knack of looking at the pain and humor of a crisis in life. The men and women in a Beth Henley play are always in the midst of a crisis, whether it be a crisis of death or a crisis of faith in themselves or a crisis in a relationship. The crisis brings everyone together, to support each other and to make each other crazy. Henley, who also wrote the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Crimes of the Heart*, said in an interview that she was inspired to write *Jamney Foster* during her own personal crisis, the wake for her father: "All the family was together, and there was all this tension and all these raw emotions... You know, people have an excuse to drink and an excuse to scream and an excuse to act their fullest." What makes her plays a joy to watch in spite of the pain and sadness she often portrays is that Henley's women are also fighters--they want it all. They want home and family and freedom and a good man to love and "joy, exultation and rapture." In spite of the pain, they are exuberant and fierce in their demands on life, even, as in this play, in the face of death. We had a great time putting together this production and we hope you enjoy it. Thank you for coming.

Dr. Karen Gygli, Director

## PLEASE NOTE

We ask that patrons refrain from eating, drinking or smoking in Kulas Auditorum. Taking flash pictures during the production is distracting and potentially dangerous to the actors, as it may disorient them--please wait until after the performance.

# CAST

Marshael Foster  
Leon Darnell  
Katty Foster  
Wayne Foster  
Collard Darnell  
Pixrose Wilson  
Brockler Slade

Laura Bertrand  
Travis P. Lattimore  
Carrie Lichtman  
Joseph M. Guay\*  
Arlene Boyle  
Beth Beer  
Benjamin Smietana

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the play takes place throughout Marshael Foster's house and yard in Canton, Mississippi.

### ACT I

Scene 1: Morning  
Scene 2: Supper Time

There will be one ten-minute intermission.

### ACT II

Scene 1: Late that night  
Scene 2: Throughout the night  
Scene 3: The following morning

The music used for this show is taken  
from the following albums:

B.B. King, *Blues Summit*  
Nina Simone, *The Blues*  
Katie Webster, *No Foolin'*

# PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Karen Gygli*
Assistant Director	Neil Ryan*
Stage Manager	Melissa A. Tilk*
Assistant Stage Manager	Rick Wilson
Scenic Designer	James F. Beck*
Lighting Designer	David A. Kaleal*
Costume Designer	Maureen Dempsey
Hair Designer	Tony Marotta
Sound Designer	James Parker*
Sound Operator	Jennifer Wagner*
Light Board Operator	Megan Torok
Running Crew	Joe Grieco, Charles Gifford, Kevin Biacsi, Arn Howald, Joy Malek
Construction Crew	Joe Haverstick, Gary Niedepuerm, Jamieson Leslie, Gerry Thomas, Joe Walton, Julie Manke, Chris Randal, Meg Driscoll, Art Semlow, Rachel Zucca, Ben Wlodarczak
Lighting Crew	David A. Kaleal*, Jen Gorisek, Dean Bird, Adam Schneider, Patrick Shaughnessy
Costume Mistress	Rebecca Biddiscombe
Dresser	Caitlyn Yeykal
Publicity	Melissa Tilk*, Samantha D'Angelo, Rebecca Biddiscombe
Property Mistress	Kim Walczak
Properties Crew	Rick Wilson, Nick Deblizo, Heather Butler, Tim Cuckow, Jeff Johnson, Monica Stesanick
Box Office	Samantha D'Angelo
Program	Melissa Tilk*, Rebecca Biddiscombe
Graphic	John Yasenosky



# THE CAST

**Beth Beer** (Pixrose Wilson) is a senior who hails from Auburn, NY. Beth was last seen on stage in *Big River*, and has also acted in *Baby* and *Ten Little Indians*. Beth has no plans for the future, so anyone interested in hiring her should please leave business cards at the box office.

**Laura Bertrand** (Marshael Foster) is on stage for the first time at JCU. She is originally from Hiram, OH and acted in high school and in community theatre.

**Arlene Boyle** (Collard Darnell) is a senior from Warren, OH who is also making her acting debut at JCU. Arlene was in *Grease* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* in high school.

**Joseph M. Guay** (Wayne Foster) is probably most famous for his role as Judge Wargrave in *Ten Little Indians*. After backstage work on *The Diviners*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Could Angels Be Blessed*, Joe was the Duke in *Big River*. Hailing from Pittsburgh, PA, he hopes to direct in the future.

**Travis P. Lattimore** (Leon Darnell) made his JCU debut as the King in *Big River* after extensive acting experience in high school. He is happy to be back on stage playing someone closer to his own age. "Leon is Travis, I really like to make noises."

**Carrie Lichtman** (Katty Foster) is a junior from Mayfield Heights who plans to pursue a career in the entertainment industry. She was seen on the JCU stage in *Could Angels Be Blessed* and *Big River* and is a vocalist in a semi-professional band called Carried Away.

**Benjamin Smietana** (Brockler Slade) is a senior English and Philosophy major originally from Medina, OH. This is Ben's theatrical debut. He plans to attend graduate school in the fall.



**Maureen Dempsey** (Costume Designer) is a Cleveland actress who also calls Los Angeles her home. She recently was costume designer for *A Music Man* at the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre and also has been active with the East Side Irish Club's theatre.

**Rick Wilson** (Assistant Stage Manager) was last seen on stage as the Doctor in *Big River*. A native Clevelander, Rick hopes to cultivate his artistic/theatrical skills in the anticipation of one day becoming affiliated with productions related to country music.

## \* ALPHA PSI OMEGA

Alpha Psi Omega (ΑΨΩ) is the national theatre honorary fraternity. Members of Alpha Psi Omega are committed to the production of quality collegiate theatre throughout the United States. The Mu Theta cast of Alpha Psi Omega is chartered at John Carroll University, and its members serve the local communities in their production of theatre. Induction eligibility into the fraternity is determined by participation in theatre.

## SPECIAL THANKS

The director, cast and crew of *The Wake of Jamey Foster* would especially like to thank the following people for their support:

Kathy Dolan

Dr. Jacqueline Schmidt

Dr. Alan Stephenson

Kay Rimko

Sandy Kumler

Sears, Robuck and Co. at Southland

Michael Day, Flowerville

The Cleveland Ballet

Hair by Tony Marotta at Anthony's Coiffures

# THE PRODUCTION STAFF

**Karen Gygli** (Director) is a native of Cleveland and has previously directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Ten Little Indians*, and *The Eighth Order*. In 1992, she earned her Ph.D. in theatre from Bowling Green State University. She also directed at Maryville College in Tennessee.

**Neil P. Ryan** (Assistant Director) is a sophomore English major from Chicago. Neil was last seen on stage with The Outta Hand Improv Troupe in *Don't Try This at Home*. His JCU theatre experience includes *Ten Little Indians*, *Grandma Duck is Dead*, *Could Angels Be Blessed*, *Hold the Script* and *Big River*.

**Melissa A. Tilk** (Stage Manager) is a sophomore Communications major. She has coordinated publicity and worked on costumes for *Ten Little Indians*, *Grandma Duck is Dead*, *Could Angels Be Blessed*, *Hold the Script*, *Big River* and *Speed-the-Plow*. Melissa was recently seen on stage with The Outta Hand Improv Troupe in *Don't Try This at Home*.

**James F. Beck** (Scene Designer) received his B.A. from Hiram College and an MFA in Production Design and Technology from Ohio University. Jim currently serves as both faculty member and technical director at JCU. Since coming to JCU more than three years ago, Jim has directed and designed *The Crucible*, *Baby* and *Could Angels Be Blessed*, and designed the set for *Ten Little Indians*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Eighth Order*, *The Diviners*, *The Nerd* and *Holiday*.

**David A. Kaleal** (Lighting Designer) is a 1991 graduate of JCU and has been involved with the theatre program since the fall of 1987. Dave designed the set for *Grandma Duck is Dead* and designed lights for *Of Mice and Men*. He was also the tech director for *Holiday*, *Crucible* and *Baby*.

