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# Arts & Entertainment



**FREE CONCERTS...**The Musical Club of Westfield presents free monthly concerts. The next concert will be held on Wednesday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield. Pictured above, from left to right, are performers at the February 2018 Valentine's Day Concert: Sophia Agranovich, Glen Crane, Mary Beth McFall, Beverly Shea and Elsa Hahn.

## Local Filmmaker Selected for Garden State Film Festival

ASBURY PARK – The Garden State Film Festival (GSFF) has announced that the film *Chris Neptune's Magic*, directed by Scotch Plains resident Adam Chinoy, will screen at the 2018 Garden State Film Festival located in Asbury Park.

"We are excited to present *Chris Neptune's Magic* as a part of our 16th Annual Film Festival in Asbury

Park, and shine a spotlight on the extraordinary talent from our state," says Lauren Concar, the festival's executive director.

The film will screen on Saturday, March 24 from noon to 2 p.m. at Berkeley Hotel Kingsley Ballroom during the Garden State Film Festival, which runs from Thursday, March 22 to Sunday, March 25. Individual

screening tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door. Weekend passes are \$50 in advance and \$55 at the door. Day Passes are also available - the Saturday Day Pass is \$30 and Sunday Day Pass is \$25. Tickets are available at [www.gsff.org](http://www.gsff.org) and at festival box offices. For more information about this film and other programs, please visit the GSFF website at [www.gsff.org](http://www.gsff.org).

## It Would be a Crime to Miss CDC's Latest Production

By **SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY**  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

CRANFORD – The Cranford Dramatic Club's latest production, Beth Henley's *Crimes of the Heart*, is set in Hazelhurst, Miss., but its themes are relatable for all time and place. "It's a human need to talk about our lives," one of the characters says in this Pulitzer Prize-winning play. And talk they do. The characters in this play have much to teach us about personal responsibility, relationships and love.

Pulitzer Prize winners usually give a glimpse of real life and are written by American authors. *Crimes of the Heart* is jam-packed with strange, bizarre events, but truly is a slice of life that centers on relatable family dynamics.

It's five years after hurricane Camille and three sisters gather at the older sister's house. It's a reunion of sorts for those siblings - Lenny Magrath (Maevie Brady), Meg Magrath (Rebecca Dolan) and Babe Botrelle (Katharine Rose Brown), where they

swap stories, catch up, and reveal festering heartaches and grudges.

The youngest sister, 24-year-old Babe, is on the front pages of the local papers for having shot her lawyer husband in the stomach. When asked why she did it, she claims, "I just didn't like his looks." She secures a lawyer, Barnette (Zach Mazouat) who has personal reasons as to why he wants to clear her of the attempted murder. But that's only the tip of the titanic iceberg that unfolds in the two-act play.

It's Lenny's 30th birthday. The lonely woman sings "Happy Birthday" to herself not once but twice after blowing out a single candle she has dripped wax to a chocolate chip cookie. She is the one in the family who has been the caretaker for their elderly Granddaddy who now is in the hospital.

Lenny has wired the middle sister, Meg, to come home from California because of the catastrophic events. Meg, a singer, has been on the west

coast supposedly looking for her big break into show biz. As it turns out, she's not as successful as the local folk had predicted.

Meg's backstory includes a love interest with a local guy nicknamed "Doc" (Joe Leo) who left his dream of a medical career after she broke his heart. He's married now with two kids and he's on the scene to help her learn a lesson about herself.

Gossipy next-door neighbor and one-quarter relative Chick Boyle (Danielle Mastropiero) casts a judgmental eye toward the sisters and is appalled at the disgrace that both their mother's actions and Babe's behavior have brought on the family.

Amid shouting matches and arguments, all three sisters have personal awakenings. Maybe real families don't clear the air in quite the way the characters do in this piece, but the thought-provoking, entertaining, deeply fulfilling show strikes a nerve of truth.

Marc Chandler's cozy-looking set, crammed with an authentic stove, refrigerator and knick knacks all are presented with great attention to detail. Director Maurice Moran, Jr. visually paints beautiful portraits with his actors. Nicely nuanced performances by all the actors bring the characters to life. A frantic pace of dialogue is set by the sisters, especially. While sporting just enough of a southern drawl, they talk over each other and cut each other off, exactly the way we do in everyday life.

As with many families, the sisters harbor grudges and recall their family life in completely different ways. But in the end, aren't our memories just that - our personal recollections - and not necessarily the factual truth?

Its final weekend plays on February 22 through 24 at 8 p.m. Tickets can be secured at the door of the playhouse at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford one-half hour before curtain.



**CRIMINALLY TALENTED...**The cast of CDC's *Crimes of the Heart* pictured, from left to right, Danielle Mastropiero, Bebecca Dolan, Joe Leo, Maeve Brady, Zach Mazouat and Katherine Brown pose for a photo.

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for more information and directions.  
Follow event parking signs upon arrival.  
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