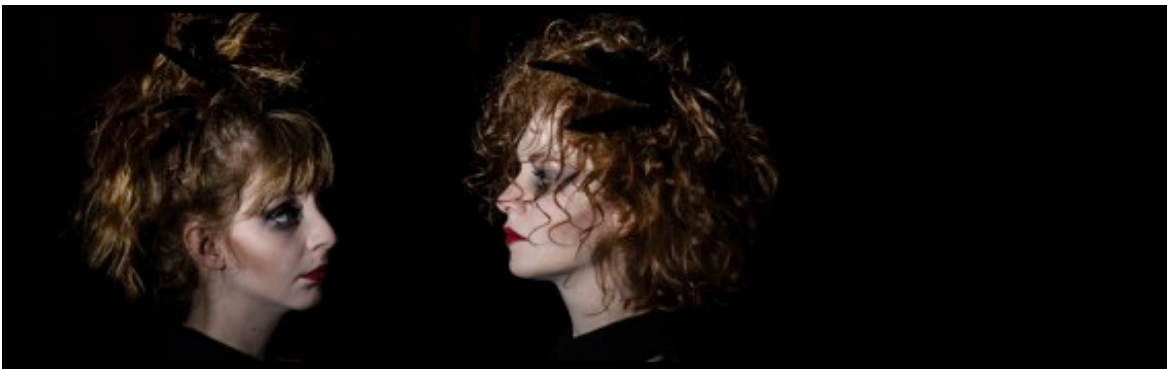


My Sister in This House

By Wendy Kesselman



Theatre Pro Rata
June 1-16, 2019
The Crane Theatre

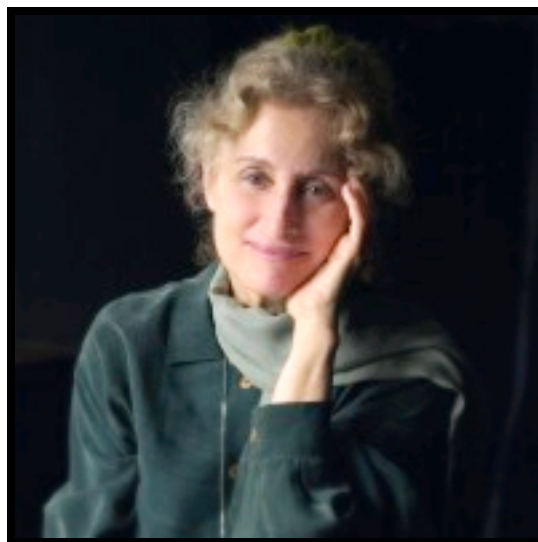


Léa and Christine Papin

The play

Wendy Kesselman's award-winning drama explores the true story of two sisters who murdered their employer and her daughter in 1930s France. What drove these two young women, who served as maids in the household, to such a desperate act? Class conflict, family dysfunction, loneliness, and love all play a role in this complex and devastating tale.

The playwright



Wendy Kesselman is an American playwright whose work has been staged throughout the United States. Nominated for a Tony award for her 1997 adaptation of *The Diary of Anne Frank* she has also

been awarded the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and the New England Theatre Conference Major Award for outstanding creative achievement in the American theatre. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild. Her plays include *Becca*, *The Black Monk*, *The Butcher's Daughter*, *Cinderella In A Mirror*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Graduation Of Grace*, *I Love You, I Love You Not*, *The Juniper Tree*, *The Last Bridge*, *Maggie Magalita*, *Merry-Go-Round*, *My Sister In This House*, *The Notebook* and *Olympe and the Executioner*. She has also written screenplays, including an adaption of *My Sister in This House*, and won a Writers' Guild of America Award and was nominated for an Emmy for her adaption of John Knowles's *A Separate Peace*. She has also received Guggenheim, McKnight, and two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships.

Of interest

Wikipedia on Christine and Léa Papin

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christine_and_L%C3%A9a_Papin

Historic mysteries

<https://www.historicmysteries.com/papin-sisters/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtYmnF-lLeE>

My Favorite Murder podcast

<https://myfavoritemurder.tumblr.com/post/162644628688/the-crimes-of-the-papin-sisters-full-documentary>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hioAbT8Vq_g&vl=en

Women playing cards

Madame Danzard and Isabelle play a version of double solitaire called *réussite* or success. Here are two sites that include information about such games:

<https://justsolitaire.com/history.html>

<https://www.parlettgames.uk/histocs/patience.html>

Another version of the story?

Jean Genet's play *The Maids* (1947) is said to be based on the same story as Kesselman's, though Genet denied this. For more information, see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Maids

Previous productions

The Second Stage (New York City), 1981:

<https://www.nytimes.com/1981/11/23/theater/the-stage-my-sister-by-wendy-kesselman.html>

The Greenwich Playhouse (England), 2008

http://www.writewords.org.uk/forum/94_201602.asp