

all cars considered

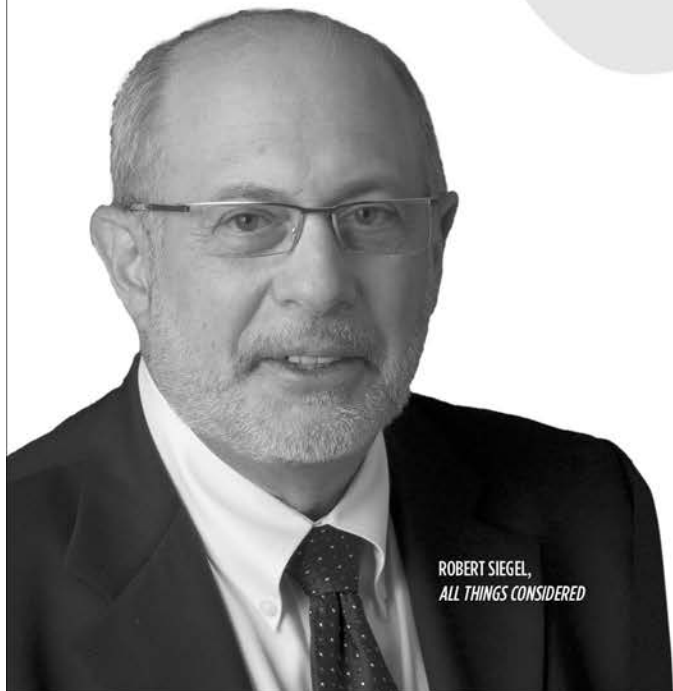
KTEP and Robert Siegel want your car!

Donate your vehicle to KTEP and turn it into the programs you love. You get free towing and a tax deduction!



Make it happen
by calling
855-277-2346

ktep.org



ROBERT SIEGEL,
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

'Love from Stranger' began as short story

El Paso Playhouse loves its Agatha Christie, as do its audiences. But "Love from a Stranger," EPPH's newest Christie offering and the final show of the 54th season, isn't a familiar story as, say, "The Mousetrap." That show is the longest running show in London's West End, which has played continuously since it opened in 1952. "Mousetrap" is in its 66th year of a record-breaking run of more than 27,000 performances.

But there is a good reason that "Love from a Stranger" is not as widely known, said director Frieda Voeks, who is secretary of the Playhouse board of directors.

"This play differs in that it was not written as a play originally but as a short story by the 'Duchess of Death' and then adapted for the stage by Frank Vosper," she said.

The plot sounds very Christie.

"Cecily and Mavis have won the lottery and want to rent their flat as Mavis intends to travel and Cecily is to get married," Voeks said. "However, a prospective renter enters the picture and sweeps Cecily off her feet. She breaks her engagement, marries the man, and they move to the country. Little by little, Cecily discovers that her husband isn't a charming gentleman after all but a homicidal maniac and sets his mind to murdering her. Unforeseen circumstances lead Cecily to discover the truth. But it may be too late!"

This show features both familiar faces and actors new to El Paso. Audiences will know Playhouse favorites Jean Ames and Jonathan Schwind. New to the Playhouse are Austin Hughey from Austin, who hasn't been on stage since high school; Freddie Nevarez Jr. from the old Music Theatre El Paso; and Ashleigh Davis, who has a theatre arts degree from McMurray University. Filling out the cast are Anita (Jo) Sanchez, Andrew Najera, Jimmi Corg and Daniela Chavez-Reyes.

STAGE TALK

by Carol Viescas

The challenge of putting on this show, Voeks said, was the usual one for most theaters – finding enough good men to fill the roles. Voeks should be familiar with the challenge. She's been involved in theater for 35-plus years as both an actor and director. She got her start in musical theater. She has a master's degree in education with a minor in fine arts.

And then there is the fact that the theater is haunted.

"Lights go off and on for no reason," Voeks said. "One night during rehearsal something flew off the fireplace."

But, she added, she has been thrilled with her cast. It has been a cooperative effort, she said.

"Everyone feels comfortable enough to offer suggestions on how to improve the production. I don't always take them, but it's good to know they trust that I won't shoot their ideas down."

Playhouse fans also will be happy to know that the 2018-19 55th season will be announced soon.

"We are planning a 2018-2019 Season Kick-Off Party in May with food and live music, and some great shows are planned," Voeks said.

Carol Viescas is a veteran of community theater and teaches journalism at Bel Air High School.

"Love From a Stranger" runs through May 12 at El Paso Playhouse, 2501 Montana. Information: 532-1317 or elpasoplayhouse.com.

EL PASO PLAYHOUSE
SUMMER THEATRE YOUTH CAMP
2018
JUNE 13-29, 2018

EL PASO'S LONGEST RUNNING THEATRICAL COMPANY BRINGS TWO WEEKS OF FUN IMMERSIVE INSTRUCTION IN ACTING, STAGE WORK AND MORE!
2501 MONTANA, EL PASO, TX 79903
CAMP HOURS - 4:00 PM TO 6:30 PM
FINAL PERFORMANCE - SATURDAY 30 JUNE AT 5PM

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
\$50 IF REGISTERED BEFORE JUNE 1ST \$75 FROM JUNE 1-12
\$100 WALK-UP REGISTRATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION
SAMMANTHA FRANCO
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION OUTREACH
915.532.1317
THEELPASOPLAYHOUSE@GMAIL.COM