



# On Stage

**'A Christmas Story'** — El Paso Playhouse, 2501 Montana, presents the comedy by Philip Grecian. **Dec. 1-10.** Showtimes are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$15 (\$12 seniors 62+, students, military). Information: 532-1317 or elpasoplayhouse.com.

A young boy named Ralphie Parker only wants one thing of Christmas: a Red Ryder BB gun. It's not sure he will ever make it to Christmas, between his brother Randy and the school bully, Scut Farkus.

**'Annie'** — Las Cruces Community Theatre, 313 N. Main in the Las Cruces Downtown Mall, presents the beloved musical **Dec. 1-17.** The story of the lovable orphan is by Thomas Meehan, with music by Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin. Directed by Janet Beatty-Payne, with musical direction by Meagan Higgins. Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$15 (\$12 student, senior, military; \$10 age 12 and younger). Information: (575) 523-1200 or lcct-nm.org.

**'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'** — ACT (A Children's Theatre) of Mesilla Valley presents the holiday comedy at 7 p.m. Friday and 1 p.m. Saturday, **Dec 1-2**, at Rio Grande Theatre, 211 N. Main in the Las Cruces Downtown Mall. Tickets: \$6 in advanced; \$7 at the door; available at (575) 644-9561.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" follows the outrageous shenanigans of the Herdman siblings, or "the worst kids in the history of the world." The siblings take over the annual Christmas pageant in a hilarious yet heart-warming tale involving the Three Wise Men, a ham, scared shepherds, and six rowdy kids.

**'Tick, Tick...BOOM!'** — UTEP Dinner Theatre, in the UTEP Student Union West building, presents the autobiographical musical by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning composer of "Rent," Jonathan Larson, **Dec. 1-10**, as its Side Dish Student Production. Show time is 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sunday. No dinner served; all seats general admission. Tickets: \$15 (\$12 UTEP faculty, staff, alumni assoc. members, ages 4-12, non-UTEP students and groups of 20 or more; \$10 UTEP students with valid ID) Information: 747-6060 or utep.edu/udt (Ticketmaster).

"Tick, Tick...BOOM" follows the playwright-composer's journey that led to a Broadway blockbuster. Set in 1990, this story of personal discovery is presented as a rock musical. Adult subject matter and language.

**'It's A Wonderful Life'** — American Southwest Theatre Company presents the holiday play based on the Frank Capra classic **through Dec. 2** at NMSU's Center for the Arts, Las Cruces. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

Thursday through Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$17. Information: (575) 646-4515 or nmsutheatre.com.

**No Strings Theatre auditions** — No Strings Theatre is hosting auditions for the Anna Ziegler play "Photograph 51" at 7 p.m. Sunday, **Dec. 3**, directed by Ceil Herman, at Black Box Theatre, 430 N. Downtown Mall in Las Cruces. Information: (575) 523-1223 or nstcbbt@zianet.com.

Auditions will consist of readings from the script. Needed are 5 men, ages 20's to 40's. The role of Rosalind Franklin is cast. A copy of the script is on reserve at the Branigan Library Research Help Desk.

**'A Christmas Carol'** — The UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance presents its popular holiday season production **Dec. 9-17**, in UTEP's Fox Fine Arts Wise Family Theatre. Show time is 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 and Friday, Dec. 15, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 and 17. Tickets: \$14; \$12 UTEP faculty/staff, seniors, military, groups of 10 or more, Alumni with card, non-UTEP Students; \$9 UTEP students and children. Information: 747-5118, theatredance.utep.edu or on Facebook.

**Solstice Showcase** — The Border Theater presentation is 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday, **Dec. 15-17**, at Glasbox, 201 Poplar. Door open at 7:30 p.m. Ticket information: 412-5283 or bordertheatre.org.

**El Paso Playhouse auditions** — El Paso Playhouse, 2501 Montana, hosts these auditions for upcoming shows. Information, audition times: 532-1317 or elpasoplayhouse.com.

• **Dec. 17-18:** 'On Golden Pond' by Ernest Thompson. Show dates are **Feb. 9-March 4.**

## December Roundup

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## Area attractions

**Wyler Aerial Tramway** — 1700 McKinley. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 years and under. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Information: 562-9899 or 566-6622.

A Women-Only is 8 a.m. Sunday, **Dec. 3**, up on Directisimo Trail.

Holiday ornament making is noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, **Dec. 9**, as part of Arts in the Parks. All materials provided.

A "pocketsquare survival" and other uses of a bandana demonstration is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, **Dec. 25.**

Last Sunday hike is 8 a.m. **Dec. 31**, up Ranger Peak. Meet in the parking lot for 1-mile hike. Hike rated as strenuous.

**Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino** — 1200 Futurity Dr. (at Sunland Park Drive), Sunland Park, N.M. Hours are 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday; and 10 a.m. to 4 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Live racing is Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday **Dec. 15-April 17.** Post time is 12:30 p.m. Simulcast racing begins at 10 a.m. everyday. General admission and parking are free. Information: (575) 874-5200 or sunland-park.com.

**Indian Cliffs Ranch** — The working cattle ranch in Fabens offers a children's zoo, buffalo, longhorns, deer, rattlesnake pit, movie sets and the Fort Apache playground. It's also home to the famous Cattleman's Steakhouse. Information: (915) 544-3200 or cattlemanssteakhouse.com.

**Tigua Indian Cultural Center** — 305 Yaya Lane, at Socorro Road east of the Ysleta Mission. The center features a museum on the Tigua tribe. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Free children's activities daily. Admission is free. Information: 859-7700, ysletadelsurpueblo.org.

Native American Dances are on the hour 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Fresh Indian bread is on sale at the center, made Saturday mornings. Also featured are family-operated gift shops.

**La Viña Winery** — 4201 S. NM Highway 28, one mile north of Vinton Road. Information: (575) 882-7632 or lavinawinery.com. Tasting room and patio open noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Tuesday (closed Wednesdays). Tasting fee is \$5. Daily tour is offered at 11:30 a.m. by appointment only; the \$10 fee includes tasting.

**Sombra Antigua Vineyard and Winery** — 430 La Viña Road (off NM 28 between markers 8 and 9), in Chamberino, N.M. Tasting room open noon to 6 p.m. Thursday through Monday. Information: (915) 241-4349 or sombraantigua.com.

The Christmas Art and Craft Fair is noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, **Dec. 9-10.**

**Zin Valle Vineyards** — 7315 Hwy 28 in Canutillo (3/4 mile north of FM 259). Free tastings are noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Monday. Information: 877-4544, zinvalle.com.

**McDonald Observatory** — The University of Texas at Austin-run observatory is located at 3640 Dark Sky Drive, near Fort Davis, Texas. Visitor Center open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily (Central Time). Information: (432) 426-4138.

Reservations required for all programs. See website for prices, schedule: mcdonaldobservatory.org.



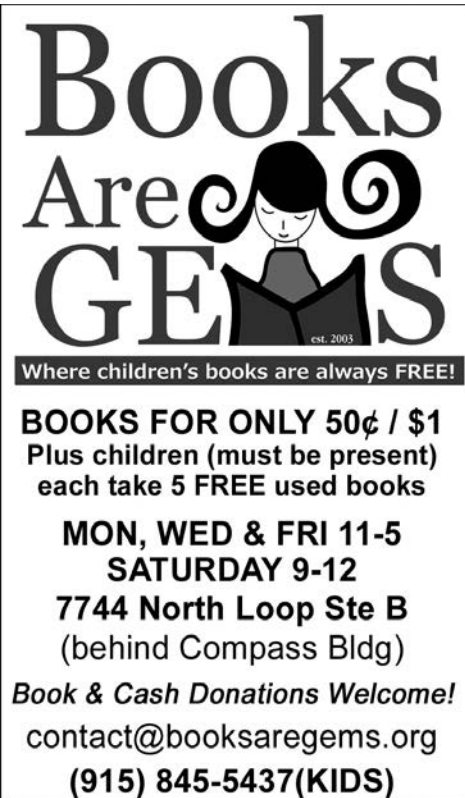
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