

PLAZA THEATRE COMPANY

A Savage-ly funny play at the Plaza

By MARK A. NOBLES
Special to the Times-Review

Ever wondered what label historians and archeologists will slap on our times 100, 500 or 1,000 years from now? We have the Stone Age, Iron Age and Industrial Age. They connote the major influences of these bygone times. What will they label our era? How about the Logo Age? Seems everything these days has a logo and/or sponsorship of some kind.

Our stadiums, our clothes, even the Olympic torch, all have logos and sponsors. Everything has a price tag because of our insatiable greed. Sometimes it does a body good to get off that capi-

talism-run-amok merry-go-round and think a little more altruistically. John Patrick's "The Curious Savage" is a light, funny, satirical play that serves as a gentle reminder to stop and think about more fanciful things like hopes and dreams.

The play is centered on Ethel P. Savage, a free-spirited, slightly eccentric widow determined to set up a charitable fund with her deceased husband's extremely wealthy estate to help people realize their hopes and dreams. We're not talking about big, serious hopes and dreams like starting a business or curing cancer, but rather, the more whimsical kind. Ethel is more concerned with sending a group of chil-



Courtesy photo

"The Curious Savage" is at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday every weekend until May 10.

dren "on a trip around the world while there's still a world around." Remember, this was written in the 1950s

Cold War era.

Ethel is an old woman you can root for as she plays cat and mouse with her three

greedy stepchildren over the money. The stepchildren, Lilly Belle, a flighty socialite with six failed marriages, Titus, a

U.S. senator with the worst record on Capitol Hill, and Samuel, a judge who's decisions are always overturned, have Ethel committed to an "institution" in the hopes of regaining control over the family fortune. It is here she meets an oddball assortment of "guests," who befriend and aid her in outwitting the misguided stepchildren.

Judy Keller plays Ethel with humor and grace. Her character totes this play on her back, and it is to her credit that you're never quite sure if Ethel is crazy like a fox or mad as a hatter. Keller delivers one of the best lines of the evening when she laments, "Had I been a fool in my youth, no one would have

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