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Director's Notes

What is it about a good murder mystery that sets our hearts thumping and blood pulsing faster? Why do we love sitting on the edge of our seats, squirming as the tension builds until that last minute when the murderer is revealed? Is it the thrill of being safely hidden in the dark, surrounded by others, while a precarious situation unfolds; one we hope never to experience in real life? Is it a fascination for danger that, deep down, is not only exciting, but also enticing?

It could be one or the other, or even a combination of both. Or perhaps we simply love the shiver that accompanies good, old-fashioned goosebumps.

Whatever it is, we have been enamored of it for almost two centuries. Detective fiction dates all the way back to the mid-1800s when Edgar Allan Poe wrote *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* in 1844, and shortly after, in 1868, Wilkie Collins wrote the first detective novel, *The Moonstone*. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes was first introduced in *A Study in Scarlet* in 1887. Agatha Christie published her first book, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, 100 years ago this past October. Since then, we have had a whole cavalcade of fictional murderers and sleuths.

Deathtrap, by Ira Levin, was written in 1978. It holds the record for the longest-running comedy-thriller on Broadway, and was nominated for four Tony Awards, including Best Play. It is my all-time favorite, and I would like to thank Artistic Director, Judi Rodman, for taking a chance on it and me.

I hope you enjoy the show!

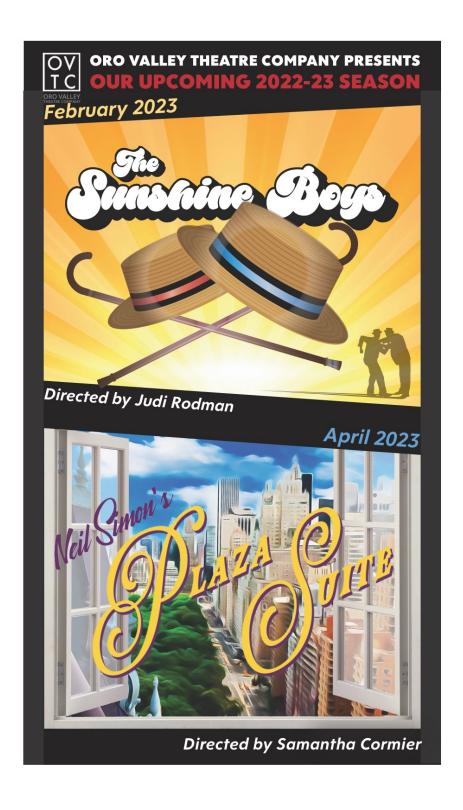
Gene

The Oro Valley Theatre Company Presents

Deathtrap By Ira Levin

Directed by Gene Abravaya
Presented by special arrangement with
Concord Theatricals, New York, New York

Place: Sidney Bruhl's study in Westport, CT **Act 1:** Scene1: An afternoon in October 1978 Scene 2: That evening Scene 3: Two hours later **Act 2:** Scene 1: Two weeks later, in the morning Scene 2: One week later, in the evening Scene 3: A week later, in the afternoon **CAST** Sidney Bruhl......Cedric Hay Myra Bruhl.....Ruth Ann Larson Helga ten Dorp.....Sasha Case Porter MilgrimTed Dreisinger PRODUCTION TEAM Production Coordination.....OVTC Board Assistant Director......Kalei Allen Ashlock Set Design/Construction......Connie and Peter Gullman Lighting Design/Operator......Charlie Gebow CostumesCarol Fratt & Kathy Gillespie Property Mistress......Kalei Allen Ashlock Program.....OVTC Marketing Team





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A special recognition to the following for their assistance with this production....

Karen Alexander; Bob Asbell & Donna Maxwell @ Resurrection Lutheran Church; Golden Goose Thrift Shop; Matt Mann; Samantha Lambert

Special Thanks.... to Carol & Nubs Fratt for storing all of our wonderful costumes!



Who is Who in the Cast and Crew



Cedric Hay - (Sidney Bruhl) Cedric Hay is originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and came to Tucson to attend the University of Arizona. Once here, he performed in such shows as *Evita* and *42nd Street* with SALOC - the Southern Arizona Light Opera Company,

while also teaching at Fred Astaire Dance Studio. For the last ten years, he has been an assistant director with Spotlight Youth Productions. He recently performed in *Something Rotten, The Descendants*, and *Titanic the Musical* with Arts Express. He thanks OVTC for welcoming him into their family and is honored to be a part of this production.



Daniel Hagburg - (Clifford Anderson) Daniel has been acting in Tucson for over 10 years, performing with CYT, Arts Express, Pima Community College and Arizona Rose Theatre. This is his third show with OVTC after recently performing as Paul in *Barefoot in the Park*.



Ruth Ann Larsen - (Myra Bruhl) - A performer since early childhood, Ruth Ann earned her BA in Theater Performance from Southern Utah University. Ruth Ann is proud to have been with the OVTC since its first season as

Mrs. Gibbs in *Our Town*. Since that inaugural production she has played Mickey the Cop in *The Odd Couple*, Romaine Heilger in *Witness for the Prosecution*, & last season as Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*. Ruth Ann appreciates OVTC for the opportunity to rekindle a life-long passion. She is also very thankful to her husband of 23 years for holding down the fort and wrangling their 5 kids.



Sasha Case - (Helga ten Dorp) is happy to a be part of this rollicking production of *Deathtrap*. This is her fourth production with the OVTC working onstage, and she loves it! Sasha has been an OVTC board member since 2018 and has worked as producer and assistant director

on past OVTC productions. Thanks to the director, cast and crew for making the experience so enjoyable, and thanks to the entire Board of OVTC, past and present, for making local, live theatre a reality in our beloved Oro Valley. On with the show!



Ted Dreisinger - (Porter Milgrim) - Ted is delighted to return to the Oro Valley Theatre Company (OVTC) stage in this production of *Deathtrap*. He previously played the Telephone Man in *Barefoot in the Park*, Doc Gibbs in *Our*

Town, Henry Albertson in *The Fantasticks*, and Dr. Wyatt in *Witness for the Prosecution*. In retirement, he teaches anatomy and physiology at Pima Community College, where he loves working with young people. He is previously a legacy member of the OVTC Board of Directors.

Kalei Allen Ashlock - (Property Mistress & Assistant Director) Kalei is excited to be part of *Deathtrap* as her first show with the Oro Valley Theatre Company. A recent graduate of The University of Arizona, Kalei has dedicated most of her life to theatre and is excited to be back at it with this production.

Please silence your phones before the performance and enjoy the show!



Director's Bio
OVTC Welcomes
Award—Winning
Producer
Gene Abrayaya

Before retiring, Gene worked in the entertainment industry for over forty years, a journey that began with the daytime serial drama *As The World Turns* and led to Prime Time sit-coms like *The Facts of Life, One Day at a Time, Diff 'rent Strokes, The Jeffersons, Charles In Charge,* many television pilots, countless community theater productions and finally, before retiring in 2017, an Artistic Director position for Spreckels Theatre Co., one of Northern California's most prestigious and popular theatre companies. In all, Gene has directed more than thirty-three large scale theatrical productions.

In 2015 and 2016, he won back-to-back Excellence in Theatre Awards from the San Francisco Bay Area Theater Critics Circle for Best Direction of a Musical. Gene has authored two full length plays. *The Book of Matthew (Leibowitz)* and *The Final Scene*, have been produced in Northern California, San Francisco, and the Midwest. He has currently penned a third play, entitled *The Trial of John Brown*, a historical drama that has been performed as a dramatic reading in Northern California and Tucson, AZ.



Connie and Peter Gullman (Set Design and Construction) - Connie and Peter have enjoyed designing and building props for Ironwood Ridge High School's Project Graduation, since 2004. In addition to Project Graduation, they have created props and sets for other schools and events in the Tucson area, as well as in their hometown of Middletown, NJ. This is their fifth time working on a production with the Oro Valley Theatre Company.

Carol Fratt (Costumes) - Carol is involved for the fourth time with the Oro Valley Theatre Company. She assisted with the costumes for *Our Town*, the Company's first production. She comes to us with a background in fabric arts and painting. A degree in Political Science was followed, 20 years later, by a degree in landscape design. Carol owned and ran a landscape design company for several years. She also served on several community boards while living in the Pacific Northwest. Carol is looking forward to being involved with costumes and any other areas where she can contribute along with getting to know the cast and crew.

Kathy Gillespie (Costumes) - For many years, Kathy has been in various management positions, franchise owner, and has run her own cottage industry as Katydid Kustom Klothing. She's done custom clothing for brides and their bridal parties, quinceaneras, as well as her own line of children's clothes—some making their way to the White House for children of Secret Service agents. Her flower girl dresses have been featured in the Tucson Lifestyle Bride's Edition. By day, Kathy continues to pursue her interests, and by night, she loves to create just about anything with her sewing machine.



Board of Directors: Judi Rodman, Ph.D., Chairperson; Phil Wheeler, Treasurer; Karen Kreider, Secretary; Karen Alexander, Member at Large; Sasha Case, Member at Large; Kristy Diaz-Trahan, Member at Large; Andraea Douglass, Member at Large; Carol Fratt, Member at Large; Kathy Gillespie, Member at Large; Dr. Mo Greene II, Member at Large; Dave Perry, Member at Large

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The following are Friends—Up to \$99 - Judith & Lawrence Effken; Sally & Jack Evert; Franze & Maryanne Fauley; George & Shelia Lindsay; Sandra & Earl Mason; Mary & TJ Murphy; Rebecca Swiggett



The Oro Valley Theatre Company would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dave Perry on his retirement as President/CEO of the Greater Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce. Your service to others has made Oro Valley a better community.





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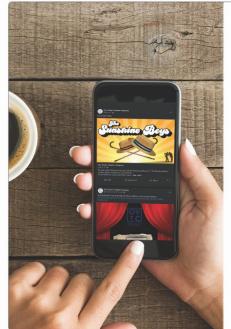




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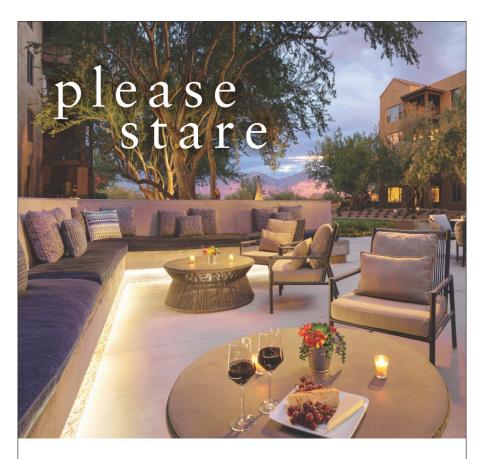
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