



FOSTER MOM PRESS KIT

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"This moving, insightful play brings so many current yet universal questions to mind. Not all are answered, of course, but then in life, are they ever answered fully?" - WESTFIELD LEADER

"The world of displaced children, who often have no place to go, is well worth exploring and *Foster Mom* sheds light on the tremendous need for a child to find a loving home." - TAPINTO.NET



Show Menu

BWW Review: FOSTER MOM at Premiere Stages is Charming and Enthralling

by Marina Kennedy Sep. 12, 2017

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"No one knows where their steps will lead them."

By Leslie in *Foster Mom*

Foster Mom, an entertaining and significant new play is now being presented at Premiere Stages at Kean University through September 24. This charming theatrical piece is written **Chris Cragin-Day**, meticulously directed by **Kel Haney**, and features an

excellent cast. It is a story that will touch the hearts and minds of all who see it. The play was selected from over 400 submissions to the theater's Play Festival, an annual competition for unproduced scripts by area playwrights. Compliments to Premiere Stages for making this outstanding show available to metro area audiences.

In *Foster Mom*, Leslie, who is 39 and single, has decided to become a foster parent with the guidance of a straight talking social worker, Sophie. But when Leslie's mother, Sarah sets her up with Josh, an eligible bachelor, things become complicated. As the couple's romance develops, Leslie is reluctant to reveal her plans to be a foster mom to Josh. The issues of race and acceptance are also confronted as Josh has an Asian background and Leslie, a white woman, may be offered a child of color. The story is an insightful and thoughtful portrayal of the foster care system, personal perceptions, and how relationships can affect plans. Leslie's romance, her mother's perspective, and the experience of her social worker all play a considerable part in the story's outcome.

Each member of the four-person cast is ideal in their roles. They deliver the well-crafted dialogue so genuinely that you will believe that you have been drawn into a real life event. The company includes Stori Ayers as Sophie; **Ariel Woodiwiss** as Leslie; **Kate Kearney-Patch** as Sarah; **Kurt Uy** as Josh. The understudies are Bria Johnson as Sophie; Marissa Parrott as Leslie; Darrell Bryan Rosales as Josh.

The Creative Team has done a great job of bringing *Foster Mom* to the stage. They include scenic design by Jessica Parks; lighting design by Brant **Thomas Murray**; costume design by **Sydney Maresca**; sound design by **Emily Auciello**. **Dale Smallwood** is the Production Stage Manager; Amy Fisk is the Assistant Stage Manager; Helen Tewksbury is the Props Master and Arly Rubens is the Assistant to the Director.

Foster Mom is a play that will inspire essential conversations about social responsibility, attitudes about race, and the role of motherhood. Get your tickets now for this enthralling production at Premiere Stages.

Foster Mom runs for 90 minutes with no intermission. It is being performed through September 24 in the Zella Fry Theatre on the Kean University main campus in Union, N.J. Shows are Thursday and Fridays at 8:00 pm; Saturdays at 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm; and Sundays at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$30 standard, \$20 for senior citizens and Kean alumni and \$15 for students and patrons with disabilities. There are significant discounts for groups of 8 or more. To make reservations or to order a season brochure, please call the box office at 908.737.7469 or visit Premiere Stages online at www.premierestagesatkean.com.

Photo Credit: Mike Peters



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Home Reviews Theater

Reviews Theater

"Foster Mom" keeps you guessing throughout

By **Allen Neuner** - September 16, 2017

230



Ariel Woodiwiss as Leslie and Kurt Uy as Josh in the Premiere Stages production of "Foster Mom.: Photo by Mike Peters

Premiere Stages, Kean University's professional theater company, is proving to be a home of strong contemporary drama. *Foster Mom*, chosen from more than 400 submissions as the winner of this year's Play Festival, is an outstanding example of the company's work.

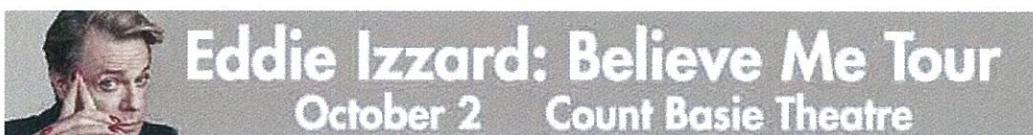
Foster Mom follows the story of Leslie, a woman in her late 30s who decides to undertake training to become a foster mother in New Jersey's child protection system. Leslie's path is not an easy one; her case worker, Sophie, guides her to examine her motivations and her resolve, explaining simply but honestly the difficulties as well as



Stori Ayers as Sophie and Ariel Woodiwiss as Leslie in the Premiere Stages production of "Foster Mom"

the joys that are part of fostering a child. Sarah, Leslie's mother, is frankly skeptical about her daughter's decision, going so far as to set up a meeting with Josh, an Asian-American computer installer who could be a potential romance. Things finally come to a head when Leslie gets the call asking if she will take in a foster child.

Playwright Chris Cragin-Day based the play on her and her husband's own experiences becoming foster parents, and she skillfully weaves her own experiences into the narrative of the play. Ms. Cragin-Day's characters are brought to life by the fine cast under the direction of Kel Haney. Ariel Woodiwiss embodies Leslie in all her complexities, and the actress's talent leaves the audience wondering up until the final scene if Leslie will succeed in her endeavors. As the people with the most influence on Leslie, Stori Ayers projects quiet authority as Sophie; Kate Kearney-Patch adds a touch of meddling-mother humor as Sarah; and Kurt Uy's Josh is a strong romantic foil with his own strengths.





Kurt Uy as Josh and Kate Kearney-Patch as Sarah in the production of "Foster Mom." Photos by Mike Peters

For an evening in the theater you will not soon forget, I definitely recommend being immersed in the world of Leslie, the would-be *Foster Mom*.

Foster Mom is presented by Premiere Stages at the Zella Fry Theatre on the campus of Kean University in Union through Sept.

24, 2017. For tickets and information, visit premierestagesatkean.com.

‘Foster Mom’ has topical subject matter but feels universal

By: JAY LUSTIG | September 20, 2017

Leslie's problems don't result so much from what she says, as from what she doesn't say.

Leslie, the protagonist of "Foster Mom" — a well-crafted new comedy-drama that the Premiere Stages series at Kean University in Union is presenting through Sept. 24 — is a 39-year-old published poet who does corporate writing to pay her bills, and is single. At the start of the play — written by Chris Cragin-Day, and the winner of the 2017 Premiere Stages Play Festival — she begins the process of possibly becoming a foster mother some day.

But Leslie (played by Ariel Woodiwiss) keeps it from her meddling but well-meaning mother, Sarah (Kate Kearney-Patch), even though she will have to lean on Sarah for support if she goes through with it.

Sarah, who is eager to get Leslie married, introduces her to the nice, handsome, well-mannered Josh (Kurt Uy), who has been engaged twice (without marrying) and owns his own computer business. Soon, their blind date turns into a serious relationship. But Leslie hesitates to tell him about her interest in foster parenting, too.

Clearly, Leslie has some issues to work through. And she does so with the help of the play's fourth character, Sophie (Stori Ayers), the social worker assigned to help determine if Leslie will be approved for foster motherhood. Sophie is caring and sensitive but also all business, and sees right through Leslie's neuroses. Ayers does a great job of conveying her cool efficiency. This is a woman who won't let herself get exasperated, we suspect, because she just doesn't have the time and energy to waste on that.

So Leslie, ultimately, doesn't just have to dispel her own doubts. She has to make Sophie see that she's worthy. Will she win her over? Will she let Josh in on her plans? Will Josh — seemingly husband material, but possibly commitment-shy — stick with her, when and if she tells him?

And, perhaps most crucially, if he she ever gets approved, and gets the call that some child is in desperate need of a home, will she have the strength, and confidence in herself, to say yes?



PHOTOS BY MIKE PETERS

Stori Ayers, left, and Ariel Woodiwiss co-star in "Foster Mom," which is at Kean University in Union through Sept. 24 in a Premiere Stages production.



Ariel Woodiwiss and Kurt Uy in "Foster Mom."

Cragin-Day, wisely, doesn't answer all the questions definitively, while still bringing the story to a hopeful, emotionally satisfying conclusion.

In one sense, "Foster Mom" is a topical play. You learn a lot about the process: how children get into the foster system, how potential foster parents get approved, how contact between a foster parent and a foster child is made. It will also give you some insight into the psychological issues that tend to come into play.

But the issues don't overshadow the story, or the warm humor that Cragin-Day builds into most of the scenes. I'm not sure that she chose the best title for the play, though, because it leads you to suspect she has a narrow focus. And "Foster Mom," ultimately, feels universal.

Premiere Stages presents "Foster Mom" at the Zella Fry Theatre at Kean University in Union through Sept. 24. Visit [premierestagesatkean.com](http://www.premierestagesatkean.com) (<http://www.premierestagesatkean.com/>).

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[Home](#) [About](#)

Saturday, September 16, 2017

REVIEW: HONEST, AUTHENTIC "FOSTER MOM" SHINES @ PREMIERE STAGES IN UNION

by Ruth Ross

What does a young woman with no romantic relationship and a strong desire for a child do as she approaches 40 years of age? Undergo artificial insemination with sperm from a donor she's never met? Adopt? Take in a foster child?



This is the dilemma facing Leslie in *Foster Mom* by Chris Cragin-Day and winner of Premiere Stages' 2017 Play Festival. In an emotionally honest performance, Ariel Woodiwiss' character (left) takes us on a poignant journey that threatens to upend her relationship with her recently widowed mother Sarah and a budding one with techie Josh. Add to this blunt, no-nonsense social work Sophie and you end up with a polished, authentic, engrossing production that rounds out a stellar season for the Kean University theatre.

Once she's made her decision, Leslie finds that not everyone is on board with her choice. Sophie questions the steadiness of her income (Leslie's a poet and free-lance

copywriter) and her commitment to what will be a difficult road ahead. Her flabbergasted mother is taken aback and then anxious about what will happen if the arrangement goes south and the child is removed from her foster care. And Josh, long kept in the dark about Leslie's plans, is unnerved and dismayed; it's clearly something he never anticipated.

It is to Cragin-Day's credit that there is no pat happy ending to this dilemma. All the characters behave in totally natural ways as the plot moves inexorably along to what is, at best, a hopeful dénouement. The production's success is the result of steady direction by Kel Haney that never lets the actors descend into melodrama as they grapple with Leslie's decision, and the natural, convincing performances of a quartet of gifted actors.

Woodiwiss is superb as Leslie. Her facial expressions—predominantly her habit of chewing her cheek as she mulls over her responses and options—convince us that she's really thinking, not just reciting dialogue written for her. Her ambiguity is palpable, especially when wrestling with whether to tell Josh about her decision. Their penultimate scene is dynamite as Leslie realizes that she loves a child she's never met—as much as a natural mother does—and fulfills her mother's prediction.

Much of the play's humor comes from the mouth of Sarah, played to perfection by Kate Kearney-Patch (left, with Kurt Uy). Anxious to bring her daughter and Josh together, she drolly tries to entice him into her scheme. But that light bantering evaporates when she grapples with Leslie's unexpected news about fostering and lets down her jokey guard to reveal a secret





that brings her and her daughter close. By the final scene, she's more lighthearted, optimistic and supportive of her daughter.

As Josh, Kurt Uy is charming as he attempts to deflect Sarah's machinations and believably earnest as he, too, attempts to come to grips with the surprise Leslie springs on him. The honesty of his portrayal meshes with the other actors and

makes us love him even more than the playwright's depiction of his character.

Stori Ayers' Sophie has a much harder time gaining our sympathy. Blunt, officious, her character seems to be placing roadblocks in Leslie's path during the opening interview. She's not very encouraging to this young woman about to take a major leap of faith. But Ayers (right, with Woodiwiss) nails the character, even exposing a vulnerability that changes the way we (and Leslie) feel toward her. She may not become immediately warm and fuzzy, but she adds complexity to what could be a two-dimensional character.



The set by Jessica Parks serves many venues, from Leslie's and Sarah's apartments to a bar where Josh and Leslie have their first date. Sidney Maresca's costumes not only delineate character (Leslie's funky outfits are perfect for a creative type) but they look as though the actors have chosen them. Brant Thomas Murray's lighting and Emily Auciello's sound enhance the veracity of the various locations.

Foster Mom tackles an important current problem with candor and integrity, making it personal enough so that we care about what happens to these people and root for them to sort it all out. Chris Cragin-Day's play is a worthy winner of the 2017 play festival and a great way to cap a successful season.

Foster Mom will be performed at the Zella Fry Theatre in the Vaughn Eames Building on the campus of Kean University, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union, through September 24. For information and tickets, call the box office at 9083737.7469 or visit www.premierestagesatkean.edu online.

Posted by Ruth Ross at [4:51 PM](#)



Labels: [Drama](#), [Premiere Stages](#), [Review](#)



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Arts & Entertainment

Methodist Church to Host Evening Of Irish, Celtic American Music

WESTFIELD – The Hudson-Shannon Line – an eclectic ensemble featuring folk and classical musicians – will appear in the sanctuary of Westfield's First United Methodist Church, One East Broad Street, on Saturday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Oratorio Singers of Westfield, this flexible group of Metropolitan area Irish musicians led and produced by clarinetist Andy Lamy will offer up toe-tapping rhythms of spirited Celtic music reminiscent of an evening of fun in an Irish public house.

Featured will be the best of ancient and modern music from Scotland, Ireland and North America in both traditional and fusion settings while highlighting young and cross-over virtuoso talents in collaboration with seasoned masters of the traditional world. Designed to appeal to audiences of all ages, the music styles will include reels, jigs, slow airs and hornpipes performed on a variety of instruments.

The rollicking music and tempos will be provided by well-known All-Ireland Champion Fiddler Haley Richardson and All-Ireland Champion uilleann piper Keegan Loesel. Other players include stellar singer/percussionist Courtney Cuomo, Andy Lamy, guitarist Greg Anderson, violinist Mike Stewart and Trent Johnson at the console of the Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ.

Ms. Richardson is the 2015 Junior Fiddler of Dooney and the 2013 All Ireland Champion winning in

both under 12 fiddle and under 12 fiddle slow airs. In addition to being a dynamic solo performer, Haley has performed with many of the most well-known names in Irish music today including The Chieftains, Altan, Dervish, Pride of New York, Liz Carroll with Cherish the Ladies, John Whelan, Paddy Keenan and is a regular member of the John Whelan Band. She has also participated as the band fiddler in the Studio2Stage Irish dance production "That's Dancing" from 2014-2017.

Mr. Loesel is from Pennsylvania Township, Pa. He declared at the tender age of three that he was going to play the uilleann pipes and has worked with steadfast focus to bring that to fruition. At age 17, he now holds 17 Atlantic Fleadh titles and has won the All-Ireland in uilleann pipes slow airs under 18. He has performed from Toronto to the Jersey Shore as well as in Dublin and in County Clare. He has shared the stage with the likes of Altan, The Chieftains, Mick Moloney and the Teetotalers. In addition to playing pipes – which he studies with Patrick Hutchinson – Keegan also sings, plays whistles, teaches and composes...bringing a maturity beyond his years to the tradition.

Clarinetist Andrew Lamy has received consistent critical acclaim for his sweet, colorful tone, liquid phrasing, immaculate technique and his energetic performance style. Mr. Lamy has performed with the New

York Philharmonic, The Saint Louis Symphony, The Royal Opera of London, and has played more than 20 live international broadcasts with The Metropolitan Opera. A member of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, he is also a founding member of The Halcyon Trio and the Mixed Flock Ensemble. Lamy's first Irish Traditional CD - The New Blackthorn Stick - has received glowing reviews as it is the first ever Irish traditional clarinet album featuring dance sets and lyrical airs in both clarinet solo and group instrumental combinations.

For this fun-filled Irish event general admission donation is \$20, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students aged 16 and under. The entrance for church parking can be found on Ferris Place. This venue is handicapped and wheelchair accessible.



www.goleader.com

Premiere Stages Foster Mom Shows There's a Super Mom in You

By SUSAN M. DOUGHERTY
Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

UNION—Who is ever prepared to be a mother – biological or foster? *Foster Mom* by Chris Cragin-Day, a new play now running at the Premiere Stages at Kean University through this weekend, emerged as the winner of the 2017 Premiere Stages Play Festival. Beating out 400 other entries, Ms. Cragin-Day's play explores the nerve-wracking, and long, emotional process that a person or couple needs to go through to become a licensed foster parent in New Jersey. It's not easy.

And Ms. Cragin-Day should know. She's been through this experience firsthand. Her charming, engaging fictional play is from the perspective of a 39-year-old woman named Leslie (Ariel Woodiwiss) who longs to be a mother and doesn't necessarily need or want to have them biologically. After all, the main character Leslie tells her mother and her boyfriend, that there are plenty of kids in the world already who aren't loved or needed and she feels that taking in a foster child with the long-range goal of adoption is for her. Through this arduous journey of self-reflection and questioning of her motives and preparation for this step, the audience sees how this is a decision that affects an entire family – prospective grandparents, neighbors and all involved with the child.

And the cast members in this one-act play that is presented without an intermission are as invested as deeply as the lead character. Leslie's mother, Sarah (Kate Kearney-Patch), is a sympathetic character whose own baggage makes her worried for her daughter. Ms. Kearney-Patch and her co-star bring forth a heart-warming realism. Both characters have their own agendas and motives for not sharing information with each other. This aspect of a mother-daughter relationship rings achingly true.

When Sarah tries to match up her daughter with a computer tech guy,

Josh (Kurt Uy) who has come to her house to sync up her computer, phone and TV, Leslie says that's the last thing she wants. But as time progresses, so does the relationship that starts with a meeting for coffee, for drinks, for dinner and then to perhaps a forever relationship. Will Leslie's decision (which she hasn't shared with her new partner yet) ruin her chances for happiness?

Just as the resource person/social worker Sophie (the amazing Stori Ayers) tells her, there are no road maps for this journey. "Don't make yourself a foster parent to make YOU happy," Sophie warns. But she does offer advice that Leslie's own mother should be on board with helping a grandchild that might be of a different race, one who might have behavioral issues to deal with along the way. The social worker girls Leslie who finally shares that she feels she has so much love to give and wants to do just that.

Sophie predicts, lovingly to Leslie's doubts, that the "Super Mom will emerge" in her once she bonds with the child, no matter what age.

Directed beautifully by Kel Haney,

the 90-minute show is over in a blinding blink. A functional, attractive set designed by Jessica Parks and brought to life with lighting design by Brant Thomas Murray serves as not only Leslie's home, but a coffee bar, the social worker's office and four or more other locations. Smart costume choices designed by Sydney Maresca make the scene changes fly by merely with a discarding of shoes and necklace or an addition of a sweater and bag.

How do people make life-altering decisions that affect not only them as an individual, but an entire extended family? Do we make a decision just because we think something feels right? This moving, insightful play brings so many current yet universal questions to mind. Not all are answered, of course, but then in life, are they ever answered fully?

Foster Mom by Chris Cragin-Day runs Thursday through September 24. For tickets to this professional theatre, Premiere Stages at Kean University, call (908) 737-4077 or go to premierestagesatkean.com.



FOSTERING HOPE...Stori Ayers as Sophie and Ariel Woodiwiss as Leslie in the Premiere Stages production of *Foster Mom* by Chris Cragin-Day.

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September 28, 2017

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[Home](#) / [New Jersey Theater](#) / [Premiere Stages Does a Fine Job with 'Foster Mom'](#)

Premiere Stages Does a Fine Job with 'Foster Mom'

Posted By Karen Nowosad on September 11, 2017



Stori Ayers as Sophie (l) and Ariel Woodiwiss as Leslie (r) in the 'Foster Mom' by Chris Cragin-Day.
Photo by Mike Peters.

The Premiere Stages at Kean University opened a new show last week. *Foster Mom*, by Chris Cragin-Day is now playing through Sept. 24. *Foster Mom* won the 2017 Premiere Stages Play Festival. After seeing this show on Thursday night, it is no surprise that it was selected as the winner over 400 other selections. The play is well thought out with careful development of plot and characters. The dialog is well paced and interesting to listen. Additionally, it addresses several universal topics and relates them to current times.

Foster Mom focuses on the story of Leslie, a 39ish year-old single, white woman raised in a comfortable suburban neighborhood. She is a poet who recognizes the need to keep her day job as a freelance corporate

writer to comfortably support herself. She has reached a point in her life where she realizes she might not marry but still wants to have a child. This leads her to the New Jersey system of Foster Care for children on the path of potential adoption. But as her case worker points out during the qualification meeting, she needs to understand something about these children. Most likely they have lived difficult lives that include abuse and neglect. Is she up to the task of being a mother to such a child? Can she understand what will be asked of her?



Kurt Uy as Josh and Kate Kearney-Patch as Sarah. Photo by Mike Peters.

As she grapples with this information and that question, we meet her mother who is recently widowed. Not aware of Leslie's plans to adopt, Mom spots an opportunity to set up her daughter with her newly hired computer technician, Josh. Josh is of Asian descent, he owns his own business, and mom likes what she sees as a potential son-in-law.

As the story continues, Leslie learns more about herself, her mother, and Josh. This is accomplished through some very well written dialogue. But what gives a special flair to this play is the way that the playwright combines modern issues women face along with more traditional ones. For example, Leslie will have to find a way to earn a good living and take care of a child. This isn't something new but the aspect of working from home like she does brings it to a more modern time.

Another issue is about relationships between men and women who meet later in life. This brings up questions about having children and if a child is already with one of

the persons in the relationship. Also examined is the mother-daughter relationship. The mother has just lost her husband so her life changes. It causes her and the daughter to have to examine how things are working out between them and whether the mother is willing to accept an adopted child into her life.

Direction and Cast

Foster Mom deals with a lot of issues. However, under the direction of Kel Haney, it moves along very smoothly with characters who are very likeable.

Ariel Woodwiss does a fine job of bringing the lead character, Leslie, to life. Her mannerisms and reactions are so spot on that the situations she is dealing with are very believable. Stori Ayers plays the social worker, Sophie. She gives information to Leslie about the foster care system. But the most poignant moment between the two women occurs when Sophie tells Leslie her own background and why she does the work she does.

Kate Kearney-Patch plays Leslie's mother, Sarah. She adds the right mix of motherly concern and humor to create a character who is herself still evolving but wanting to make sure her daughter does the right thing. Kurt Uy plays Josh. As Leslie's love interest, he holds back just enough to help the audience understand more about how difficult adult romances can be. It would not be fair to tell what he does at the end of the show, but it certainly went over well with the audience at the performance last week.

The set has a very pleasant and functional design to it. One side represents Leslie's house and the other is the mother's house. By keeping them both showing on the stage at the same time, one can see the contrasts between the two generations but a warmth that brings them together.

It is a pleasure to see the fine writing Chris Cragin-Day does in *Foster Mom*. This show is highly recommended for audiences to see while it is here at the Premiere Stages.

About the Show

Foster Mom runs September 7-24 in the Zella Fry Theatre on the Kean University main campus in Union, N.J.

Performances take place Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 pm, Saturdays at 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm, and Sundays at 3:00 pm.

Tickets are \$30 standard, \$20 for senior citizens and Kean alumni, and \$15 for students and patrons with disabilities. Significant discounts for groups of 8 or more apply. To make reservations or to order a season brochure, please call the box office at 908-737-7469 or visit Premiere Stages online at www.premierestagesatkean.com.



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'Foster Mom' explore emotional terrain

By LIZ KEILL
September 11, 2017 at 10:07 AM



| trade-offs in commitments and love

UNION, NJ – Prestige Stages at Kean University debuted the 2017 play festival winner, “Foster Mom” by Chris Cragin-Day. Artistic Director John Wooten announced that 400 plays had been submitted to the contest.

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The playwright said she based the theme on her own experience as a foster parent. And there is a real sense of the difficult trade-offs required when you commit to a child from, most likely, a troubled home and who may have emotional or physical problems of his or her own.

In this scenario, Leslie, played with strong conviction and feeling by Ariel Woodwise, is single, a poet (who uses her writing skills to earn a living) has seen this as one path to making a difference in another life.

Her mother, Sarah, sees only problems ahead. Kate Kearney Patch is clearly aware of the huge responsibility involved, as well as the pain of both giving love without necessarily being

part of this person's life in later years.

Through a somewhat convoluted plot, Leslie meets Josh, who has his own computer business. Their relationship grows, yet she's hesitant on telling him her plans to foster a child. When he finally learns the truth, he blames her for keeping this information from him for so long. Kurt Uy is the warm, charming boyfriend, trying his best to understand Leslie when he senses she is holding something back. Yet their exchanges are full of life and, especially for him, self revelation.

There are lots of shades of meaning in this play, as Sarah reminds her daughter that she continually pushes people away. And even when the foster child is practically on the doorstep, Leslie forces Josh to climb out the kitchen window. There's something that doesn't quite fit about that choice. It isn't clear why she doesn't want him to meet this child, since he apparently has overcome his resistance.

Stori Ayers is Sophie, the social worker who interviews Leslie and warns her about the steps involved in fostering a child and the need to understand her own motivations. Ayers has an inviting, comfortable presence on stage that helps you believe she has 'walked the walk.'

Kel Haney has directed this sure, fast-paced 90 minute play. Set design by Jessica Parks is fluid and open, representing various locations with an open kitchen, living area, desk and chair.

The world of displaced children, who often have no place to go, is well worth exploring and "Foster Mom" sheds light on the tremendous need for a child to find a loving home. The play continues through Sept. 24 at Premiere Stages. For tickets, call 908-737-7469 or visit premierestagesatkean.com.

Liz Keill reviews professional theatre in the New Jersey area, ranging from the McCarter Theatre in Princeton to Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn. In addition to writing for Tapinto.net, she does theatre analysis for HometowneTV in Summit. She holds a Bachelor's in Journalism from Penn State and a Master's in Communication from Syracuse University. Liz is a member of the American Theatre Critics Association, which holds seminars at regional theatres across the country as well as in New York City.
