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## There's no biz like show biz for stage mom

**By Jasmina Wellinghoff**  
 Special to the Express-News

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Theatrical producer Steven Stoli believes that every play should have a good title.

Clever names stir up instant curiosity, he says, and he is living proof of it. Stoli was browsing through a play catalog when he spotted the title of Helen McAvity's little-known comedy "Everybody Has to Be Somebody," which immediately attracted his attention. After he read the catalog description, he was even more intrigued.

### Everybody Has to Be Somebody

**The playhouse is dedicating this show to Travis Krueger, a 13-year-old writer and actor who died from a brain tumor recently.**

**Where:** Steven Stoli Playhouse, 11838 Wurzbach at Lockhill Selma  
**When:** 8 p.m. Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays, through June 15  
**Tickets:** \$14.50-\$17. Reservations, (210) 408-0116.

"It said it was about a stage mother/grandmother and I thought, this could be really good, I haven't seen any plays on that subject," said Stoli. "Then I read the actual script and it has characters of all ages in it, teens, a mother, a grandmother, a husband and even a dog. Also, it's from the '70s, a period Larry (Schwartz) knows well, so I thought it would be a perfect play for him to direct."

Schwartz promptly agreed and the play with the catchy title is opening tonight at the Steven Stoli Playhouse.

Starring Catherine Hayes as a former child star and Sandy Schwartz as her aging mother, the story revolves around the mother's attempts to revive her daughter's film career against the daughter's wishes. Back when Frances (Hayes) was in the movies, Maggie (Schwartz) enjoyed a career of her own as the guiding parent behind the young actress. But now that Frances is an adult who finds self-realization in charity work, Maggie is sort of lost.

"Maggie is trying to get her life back, and Frances is trying to hang on to hers," explained Sandy Schwartz. "There is a lot of mother-daughter relationship in their interaction."

Not one to be easily stopped, Maggie also tries to get grandson Timmy (Austin Bonilla) into show business.

Both lead actresses in the play have been touched by the experience of guiding and caring about a talented youngster in the family. Hayes' 14-year-old daughter is already involved in community theater as both stage manager and performer, while one of Schwartz's granddaughters is a promising dancer.

"I am a stage grandmother," chuckled Schwartz. "She calls me a lot for advice and anything I can do to open up opportunities for her, I will do."

Meanwhile, she'll provide laughs as a stage stage-mother.

"It's a good, real-life relationship comedy," she said.

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Others in the cast are Martha Prentiss as Maggie's friend Birdie, Les Steubing as Frances' husband, Bill, and Anthony Garant and Alex Hoeffler as Timmy's friends.

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