



# TRAIL MAGIC

Wandering Aesthetics  
November 21 – 23, 2014



Wandering Aesthetics  
in collaboration with  
Eden Valley Enterprises and  
The Center For Applied Theatre  
and Active Culture  
presents...

## **TRAIL MAGIC**

By Akron-born Kelly Boyer Sagert  
Rsearchers: Bette Lou Higgins &  
Kelly Boyer Sagert

The amazing TRUE story of  
Grandma Gatewood: the first  
female to hike the Appalachian  
Trail – alone!



Priscilla Kaczuk  
As  
Grandma  
Emma Gatewood



Directed by:  
Kyle Jozsa



Nici Romo  
As  
Trail Angel

**FROM THE DIRECTOR, KYLE JOZSA:**

“You enter the forest at the darkest point, where there is no path.” - Joseph Campbell

A little over a year ago, I finished my thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail. It was an act of courage.

The Appalachian Trail, all 2,185.9-miles of it, is one of the most difficult challenges I have ever faced. The Trail was my teacher, simultaneously simplifying my life while, at the same time, demanding I muster up every ounce of strength, focus and endurance I had. Beyond that, the Trail forced me to confront myself for everything I am and everything I am not.

It's true that I did not literally blaze my own path. However, I did hike my own hike. Just like many before me...

Their stories are written on the boulders of Mt. Katahdin and carved into the dense forests of Virginia. If you listen closely, the winds of the White Mountains whisper their words.

That's how I first discovered the story of “Grandma” Emma Gatewood. Raised in a time when it was better to be widowed than divorced, Emma endured years of physical, emotional and spiritual abuse.

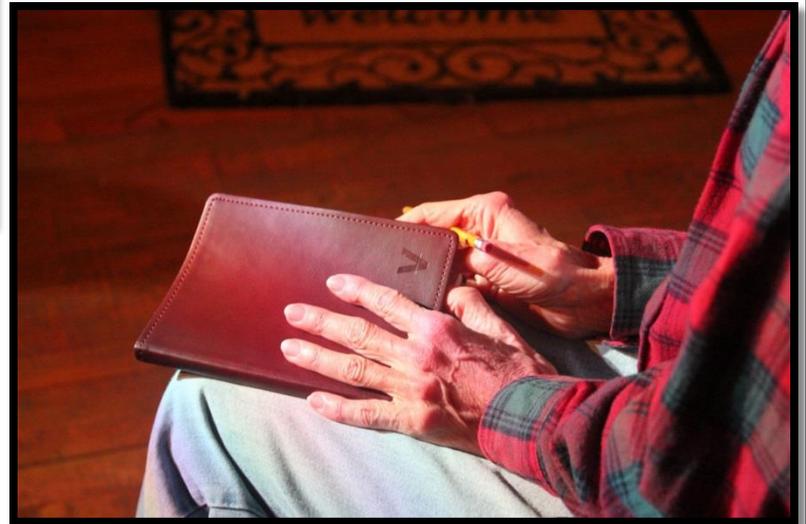
It took an act of courage to stand up for herself. It took an act of courage to be herself. It took an act of courage to love herself. And that courage carried her a long way...well over 10,000-Miles.

Trail Magic explores Emma Gatewood's character, history and strength through the eyes of a Trail Angel. A Trail Angel who is willing to offer up countless acts of kindness to friends and strangers alike.

Join Emma and her Trail Angel as they traverse the peaks and valleys of Emma's long, fulfilling life. This ,too ,is an act of courage.

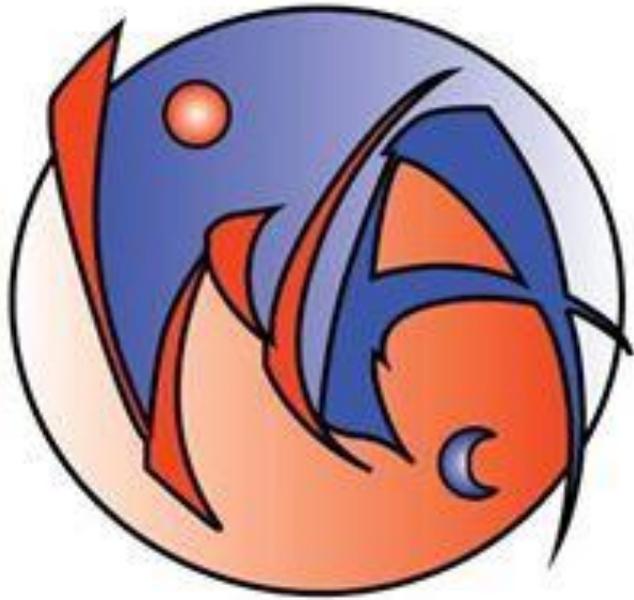


- Emma Gatewood made her historic hike in 1955 at the age of 67.
- In 1957, she returned to hike it again – by herself.
- She climbed the six highest peaks of the Adirondack Mountains, a collection of glacier-carved mountains in the state of New York in 1958.
- Emma took on the Oregon Trail in 1959.
- By the time she died in 1973, at the age of 85, she had hiked some 10,000 miles!









**Production  
pictures courtesy  
of Wandering  
Aesthetics;  
Akron, Ohio**

# TRAIL MAGIC

This play is just one part of a project to document Emma Gatewood's life by Eden Valley Enterprises and FilmAffects. A storytelling program has been completed and a PBS documentary is due out in May of 2015.

For complete information visit us at

<http://edenvalleyenterprises.org/progdesc/gatewood/gtwdinf.htm>