

# BACKSTAGE

The Village Inn Dracut

## IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY



By Joe Landry, adapted from the film by Frank Capra





# ACTORS inc

presents

## IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY

adapted for the stage by:

**Joe Landry**

based on the SCREENPLAY by:

**Frank Capra**

THIS RADIO ADAPTATION by:

**ANTHONY E. PALERMO**

RuyaSonic Radio Dramas  
940 S. Windsor Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
[www.RuyaSonic.com](http://www.RuyaSonic.com)

Director

**CORINNE HICKEY**

Music Conductor / Organist

**JASEN WHEATLEY**

November

7 – 8 – 9

14 – 15 – 16

21 – 22 - 23 (2008)





## About the Show

Turn back the clock to the 1940s and set the dial for a double dose of holiday nostalgia. This nifty spin on a traditional favorite hearkens back to the golden age of radio when families gathered together for inspirational broadcasts and wholesome entertainment. Cleverly conceived and drawn directly from the enduring Capra film, savvy studio actors employ their vocal talents and live radio sound effects to re-imagine the much-loved celluloid tale of George Bailey's journey of self-worth. Perfect for the whole family, revisit this vibrant celebration of simple goodwill, community, and cheer in the face of hardship.

## About the Playwright

Joe Landry's plays have been produced across the country and include *Eve & Co.*, *Beautiful*, *Hollywood Babylon*, *Flavor of the Month* and *Numb*. His other adaptations include *Reefer Madness* and *Death in Venice*. He collaborated with Kevin Connors on the musical *Mothers and Sons* which workshopped at Roundabout Theatre Company. His produced screenplays include *Who Would Jesus Date?* Current projects include a play based on the work of Alfred Hitchcock. Joe is founder of Second Guess Stage/Screen and a member of the Dramatists' Guild. [www.joelandry.com](http://www.joelandry.com)

## About the film maker

Frank Capra was Hollywood's leading director in the mid-1930s and 1940s, when he won three best director Oscars in just five years for his films *It Happened One Night* (1934), *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* (1936) and *You Can't Take it With You* (1938). His comedies combined sentimental uplift with romance, comedy and patriotism, and usually involved the triumph of the decent common man over a corrupt system. His leading actors included Clark Gable, Gary Cooper and Jimmy Stewart. During World War II he made a series of documentaries for the U.S. Army, titled *Why We Fight*, but after the 1940s his career waned. His most famous film is *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), the story of a frustrated small-town banker (Stewart) who gets the chance to see how the lives of those around him would be different if he had never been born. In 1973 the copyright to *It's a Wonderful Life* expired and the movie became an annual Christmas TV favorite, renewing public appreciation for Capra's career.



# Cast of characters

**LISA COSSEBOOM**  
**TOM HICKEY**

**ALEXANDREA JOHNSON**  
**NANCY NUGENT-HARLEY**  
**STEVEN NELSON**

**TONY ROCHA**

**PAUL SANSCARTIER**

**PAUL SHAFER**  
**REBECCA SHANAHAH**  
**ZUZU**  
**MEAGHAN WILLIS**

SPECIAL EFFECTS ARTIST  
ANNOUNCER, JOSEPH, MR. POTTER,  
BURT  
VIOLET, JANIE, WORRIED WOMAN  
MA BAILEY, MRS. HATCH, EUSTACE  
SAM WAINWRIGHT, ERNIE, CHARLIE,  
MR. GOWER, YOUNG HARRY, HARRY  
BAILEY, NICK, MR. WELCH, SHERIFF  
UNCLE BILLY, POP BAILEY, RANDALL,  
ANGRY MAN, ED, MR. CARTER, PETIE  
BAILEY, MR. MARTINI, BRIDGE KEEPER,  
PINKY  
CLARENCE, IMPATIENT NEIGHBOR,  
DR. CAMPBELL, BANK TELLER  
GEORGE BAILEY  
COUSIN TILLY, MRS. THOMPSON,

MARY BAILEY

WBFR "Belle Aires"

**ALEXANDREA JOHNSON, LAURA C. SANSCARTIER, REBECCA SHANAHAH**

# Production Staff

Director  
Music Conductor / Organist  
Stage Manager  
House Manager  
Playbill/Graphic Design  
Set Designer  
Costumes  
Make-Up Artist  
Lighting /Sound  
Props  
Box Office  
Website Design  
Hairstylist

**Corinne Hickey**  
**Jasen Wheatley**  
**Karen Nelson**  
**Ann Elfert**  
**Matt Thomas**  
**Steven Galligani**  
**Ralene Clark**  
**Holly Miller**  
**RAB Technical**  
**Lisa Cosseboom**  
**Steven Galligani**  
**Dave Cunningham**  
**Matthew Deschenes**  
**Matibo's Salon, Hudson, NH**

The cast and crew of *it's a wonderful life* would like to extend a special thanks to **Marie DiCiaccio, Emma Fried, Father John Hanley, the parish at St. Williams Church, and Tony and Laura Rocha at EFTS.**



# SCENE SYNOPSIS

## ACT I

HEAVEN  
GOWER'S DRUG STORE  
HEAVEN  
OLD BAILEY BOARDING HOUSE  
HEAVEN  
SIDEWALK  
HEAVEN  
BOARD ROOM  
LOAN OFFICE  
HEAVEN  
BAILEY KITCHEN  
SIDEWALK  
MARY'S FRONT WALK  
MARY'S HALL  
HEAVEN  
ERNIE'S CAB

## ACT II

HEAVEN  
UNCLE BILLY'S OFFICE  
MAIN LOAN OFFICE  
MAIN LOAN OFFICE  
HEAVEN  
POTTER'S PRIVATE OFFICE  
OLD GRANVILLE HOUSE BEDROOM  
HEAVEN  
LOAN OFFICE  
BANK LOBBY  
HEAVEN  
STREET NEAR LOAN OFFICE  
OLD GRANVILLE HOUSE  
POTTER'S PRIVATE OFFICE  
HEAVEN  
MARTINI'S CAFÉ  
HEAVEN

## ACT III

BRIDGE  
BRIDGE KEEPER'S SHACK  
NICK'S BAR  
STREET  
MAIN STREET  
STREET  
ERNIE'S CAB  
EMPTY OLD GRANVILLE HOUSE  
NEAR MA BAILEY'S HOUSE  
MA BAILEY'S PORCH  
NEAR MA BAILEY'S HOUSE  
LIBRARY SIDEWALK  
STREET  
BENEATH BRIDGE  
OLD GRANVILLE HOUSE PORCH  
OLD GRANVILLE HOUSE FRONT HALL



# Who's Who in the Cast

**LISA COSSEBOOM** (SPECIAL EFFECTS ARTIST) is excited to be performing in *It's a Wonderful Life* where she's permitted to MAKE NOISE! Her family and friends often say she "makes a racket without even trying". So, this is the perfect role for her! Lisa has performed with ACTORS inc in *Li'l Abner*, as Vera in *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, Gretel in *Sandbag, Stage Left* and in *Godspell*. Some of her favorite roles include Maggie in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Sylvia in *Steppin' Out* and Gloria in *Damn Yankees*. She has performed with the Mugford Street Players, North Regional Theatre Workshop and several charity productions. She has appeared in such musicals as *42nd Street, Guys and Dolls, My Fair Lady*, and *Sweet Charity*. She has also directed and choreographed children's theater. Thanks to Corinne for this UNIQUE opportunity and to her fellow cast and crew! Happy Holidays to all!

**TOM HICKEY** (ANNOUNCER, JOSEPH, MR. POTTER, BURT) has been a versatile stage performer in comedies, dramas, musicals, and variety shows throughout the Greater Lowell and Greater Boston areas for over 30 years in venues ranging from professional summer stock productions to dinner theatre to community theatre. He has played featured roles for the Winthrop Playmakers (Dr. Gibbs in *Our Town* and Howard Wagner in *Death of a Salesman*), the Play by Players Theatre Co. (Henry Saunders in *Lend Me A Tenor*), the Camelot Players (Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey* and Andrew Makepeace III in *Love Letters*) and The Paint 'N Powder Club (Vitorio Vidal in *Sweet Charity*). His most recent appearance for ACTORS inc was this past spring in *Li'l Abner* playing the roles of Pappy Yokum and Senator Phogbound. Tom's versatility is again at work in *It's a Wonderful Life* as he is supplying the voices to 4 different characters.

**ALEXANDREA (alex) JOHNSON** (VIOLET, JANIE, WORRIED WOMAN, WBFR Belle Aire) was born and raised in Tucson, AZ. Her background contains mostly choral singing from age 8 onward. In her real life, Alex is a mechanical engineer. Two years ago, she joined ACTORS inc to keep her sanity. With ACTORS inc, Alex has taken the backstage scene, stage managing *Female Odd Couple*, contributed to the wild display of *Sandbag, Stage Left*, playing the dancing bailiff, Bertha, wanted nothing more than to be a star as Sister Mary Robert Anne in *Nunsense*, and did some good 'ol fashioned man huntin' in *Li'l Abner*. It is now time for Alex to flash back to the 1940's as a radio broadcaster and Andrew Sister in *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. She thanks all her friends for supporting her and coming to her "nutty shows."

**STEVEN NELSON** (SAM WAINWRIGHT, ERNIE, CHARLIE, MR. GOWER, YOUNG HARRY, HARRY BAILEY, NICK, MR. WELCH, SHERIFF) has been an avid follower of ACTORS inc since their beginning and is thrilled to be making his second stage appearance with AI. Steve first appeared on stage with ACTORS inc as Available Jones in *Li'l Abner* after some (but not too much) poking and prodding from his friends and family.



# Who's Who in the Cast

Although Stephen is new to the stage, he has a musical background. He's been singing and playing the keyboard for many years. Offstage, he and his wife, Karen, own Lowell Overhead Door Company. Steve is also a fabulous cook. He is looking forward to moving the acting he does in the 'real world' to the stage!

**NANCY NUGENT-HARLEY** (MA BAILEY, MRS. HATCH, EUSTACE) is new to ACTORS inc, but she has performed locally with various groups for many years. Nancy's favorite roles include Vera in *Mame*, Lorraine Sheldon in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Sister Hubert in *Nunsense* and *Nuncrackers*. She was stage manager for *Suitehearts* and has worked backstage or wherever needed. Nancy says that doing theatre is always fun and a terrific learning experience – there is always room to grow!

**TONY ROCHA** (UNCLE BILLY, POP BAILEY, RANDALL, ANGRY MAN, ED, MR. CARTER, PETIE BAILEY, MR. MARTINI, BRIDGE KEEPER, PINKY) has performed in a number of ACTORS inc productions, including *Godspell*, *Female Odd Couple* and *Sandbag, Stage Left*. Prior to that, Tony was seen on stage as a member of the Play By Players. Over the years Tony has sung with Lowell's own Spindle City Singers and performed with choral groups, bands, and as a soloist. Along with his lovely wife Laura, their children and grandson, Tony lives in Dracut and proudly dedicates his performance tonight to them and his mother, Mrs. Julia Rocha of Lowell.

**LAURA C. SANSCARTIER** (WBFR Belle Aire) is happy to be working on her second production with ACTORS inc! She most recently played the part of the illustrious bass piano player in *Godspell*. Other favorite roles include Sophia DePalma in *Master Class*, featured singer in *Cole Porter* and Gussie in *Merrily We Roll Along*. Laura is a member of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, resident chorus for the Boston Symphony Orchestra & Boston Pops. Her recordings include Clint Eastwood's *Mystic River*, Boston Pops' *Sleighride!* and James Taylor's *One Man Band*. Love to Paulie.

**PAUL SANSCARTIER** (CLARENCE, IMPATIENT NEIGHBOR, DR. CAMPBELL, BANK TELLER) says, "Walla walla, earthlings, Clarence here." Paul has performed in Lowell, Georgetown, Lawrence, Andover, Waltham, Acton, Nashua, and Dracut. He's acted with the CFC players, Garrett players, Play By Players, NTG, Theatre III, and now for the first time, ACTORS inc. Paul's played a KGB agent, an Englishman, a philanderer, a ghost, a false salesman, a lawyer, a PhD, a prisoner, a knight, an MD, a Lenny, a retired Greek general, a Trojan king, a principal, a bartender, a grandpa, and a Spaniard. Paul has a recurring role as husband to MY angel, Laura. He loves that woman. (Lud you, Dollface.) Thank you audience, and remember to eat, buy product, and get serviced at the advertisers in this playbill. Their sponsorship and your loyalty keep us alive and kickin'!



# Who's Who in the Cast

**PAUL SHAFER** (GEORGE BAILEY) is a native North Carolinian who completed a Master's Degree in Voice Performance in 2004 at Boston University and now auditions for stage and film opportunities in the greater Boston area. Among the roles he has played over the last four years are Abraham Lincoln in a touring children's production of the President's life, Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and the villain Ribaud in *The New Moon*.

**REBECCA SHANAHAN** (COUSIN TILLY, MRS. THOMPSON, ZUZU, WBFR Belle Aire) has been in theater for most of her life, and wouldn't have it any other way. Becca is one of the founding members of ACTORS inc and has performed with them as Reverend Mother in *Nunsense*, Cling in *Sandbag*, *Stage Left*, Appassionata Von Climax in *Li'l Abner*, as well as their production of *Godspell*. In 2007 she directed ACTORS inc's production *The Odd Couple – Female Version*. Before ACTORS inc, Becca worked as a production assistant for the Wheelock Family Theater for 7 seasons, directed for the Colleges of the Fenway and performed with the Merrimack Valley Players and Play By Players. When she is not on stage, Becca is the proud mother of Kevin and Angelina, and works at Keller Williams Realty in Andover, MA.

**JASEN WHEATLEY** (Music Conductor/Organist) was seen on stage in ACTORS inc's performance of *Nunsense* and *Li'l Abner*. He has also been seen as a singing member of the Standing Room Only Players for the past 12 years, 9 of which were spent as their rehearsal pianist. Along with all of the SRO Players, Jasen was a recent recipient of the Thomas G. Kelakos Community Service Award. Jasen has also sung with the Actor Singers and the First United Baptist Church Choir.

**MEAGHAN WILLIS** (MARY BAILEY) currently performs nationally and internationally with Deana's Educational Theatre Company on the topics of bullying, dating violence and having safe relationships. She has also performed in *Over the River and Through The Woods – Caitlin O'Hare*, *Nunsense – Sister Mary Leo*, *Sandbag Stage Left – Ginger Rayle*, and *Steel Magnolias – Annelle*. Meaghan graduated with a B.A. in theatre arts from Western Connecticut State University, where she got the opportunity to perform off-broadway and at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Meaghan would like to thank her family and friends for their unending love and support.



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