

It's a
**Wonderful
Life** 

A LIVE RADIO PLAY

adapted by

JOE LANDRY



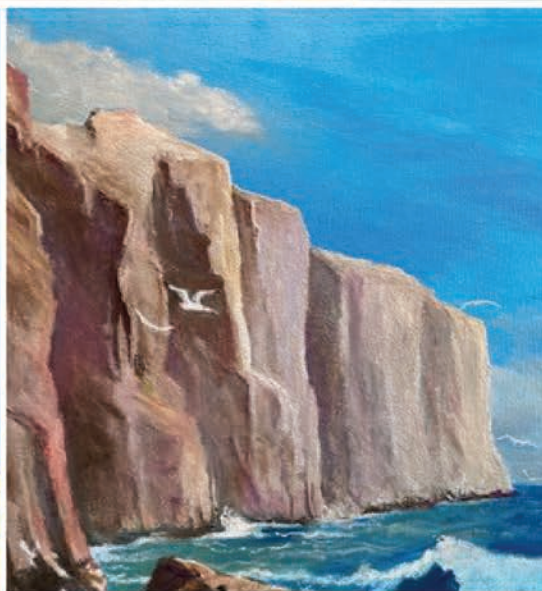
LIVE RADIO PLAY
NOV 17 - DEC 23

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NOV 17 - DEC 23

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Adapted by **Joe Landry**

The Creative Team

Director	MARK DUMEZ
Set Designer	HANS SAEFKOW
Lighting Designer	MICHAEL HEWITT
Costume Designer	MICHELLE LIEFFERTZ
Musical Director & Foley Artist	JOEL STEPHANSON
Stage Manager	JESSICA SCHACHT
Rehearsal Stage Manager	GINA MOE
Assistant Stage Manager	JALISA GONIE

Additional Music and Scoring by Joel Stephanson

It's A Wonderful Life is based on the story, The Greatest Gift, by Philip Van Doren Stern from the screenplay by Frances Goodrich, Albert Jackett, Frank Capra, and Jo Swerling.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, A LIVE RADIO PLAY is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

The Cast

SCOTT CARMICHAEL Freddie Filmore
(the actor playing Joseph & others)

KADEN FORSBERG Jake Laurents
(the actor playing George)

KATE DION-RICHARD Sally Applewhite
(the actress playing Mary)

ABRAHAM ASTO Harry Heywood
(the actor playing Clarence & others)

KIRSTEN VAN RITZEN Lana Sherwood
(the actress playing Violet & others)

THERE WILL BE ONE 20 MINUTE INTERMISSION

Setting:

Our story takes place in the stage and auditorium of Studio A
at WBFR in Manhattan, New York. Christmas Eve, 1946

With gratitude, we acknowledge the Puneluxutth (Penelakut) Tribe and the
hul'qumi'num speaking peoples, on whose traditional territory we work and play.

Presented with the generous assistance of



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES



MARK DUMEZ
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from “the little town that did” and keeps doing more!

Here we are near the close of 2023 with many of the marvels of a modern age, previously unimagined, now at our fingertips. At a time when AI is integrating with human activity, global connectivity is a click away and friends and family can Zoom or Facetime across screens.

And yet, we still gather for storytelling – a connection as powerful as a storybook at bedtime, as innate as a tale around the fire or as rambunctious as a play on the stage. In a widening and connected globe, it's wonderful to remember that details matter in each Wonderful Life.

In our story, small acts of kindness performed with care in the midst of a connected community - have a lifelong impact. Where the little details of the day-to-day ripple with intention and impact. Where a small town like Bedford Falls, or maybe Chemainus, can continue to provide a place to nourish and enrich the spirit and soul.

This gem of a story offers the hope that even small acts of grace and service ring like bells into eternity. *It's A Wonderful Life* calls us to be kind to our neighbours, to celebrate community care over personal greed and to seek love and joy and peace.

At this festive time of year, we thank you for joining us in the theatre and around this story.



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MANAGING DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



RANDAL HUBER

When George Bailey was down on his luck, Clarence, his guardian angel, showed him what life in Bedford Falls would have been like if he had never existed. Similarly, when the pandemic closures placed the theatre at risk, we heard time and time again from patrons (our own guardian angels) how important Chemainus Theatre is and how much it adds to life on Vancouver Island.

While the rebuilding of Chemainus Theatre has taken longer than we'd hoped, the faithful core has pulled us through, bringing heartfelt words of encouragement, supporting campaigns, buying tickets and encouraging their friends to do likewise.

As the theatre prepares for its 30th season, we are grateful for the opportunities we've had to enrich this region through sharing great stories, entertaining thousands of patrons annually, employing artists and staff, and engaging volunteers, donors and sponsors. We trust the 30th season will continue the arch of recovery and herald in the next decade of sharing wonderful stories and creating engagement.

As we did this past year, the theatre will announce its season in January of 2024. Season ticket holders and donors will be the first to hear the news and make date/seat selections. Tickets will go on sale to the general public in February. If you're not already on the inside track, consider supporting our 30 Seasons Strong campaign – see the facing page for details.

Now, with the warmest of seasonal tidings, we invite you to sit back and relax and set your phones and smart watches to silent mode.

Welcome all!



30 SEASONS STRONG

PLEASE CONSIDER
MAKING A
DONATION
TO OUR
CAMPAIGN



From the first lines of *The Skinflint* (1993) to the laughter of *Hay Fever* (2008), from to the visions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (2012) to the door slams of *The Fiancée* (2023), and all the gasps, heartache and applause in between – you have been there with us.

To continue sharing stories from our stage, please consider a donation to our 30 Seasons Strong campaign. Your support will sustain us into our 30th season of shows in 2024. Your partnership in our mission to create exceptional theatre that explores and nourishes truth, hope, redemption, love, and the human spirit, makes a difference. Thank you!

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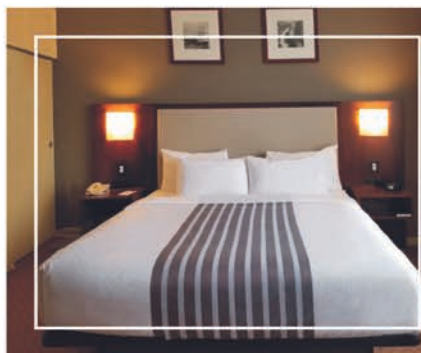
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AUTHOR'S NOTE



JOE LANDRY

Bringing Frank Capra's classic film to the stage began almost twenty years ago when longtime friend Frances Kondziela asked me to pen an adaptation for her high school ensemble. After the premiere of this original incarnation, the piece was produced by TheatreWorks in New Milford, CT, and was then chosen for its first professional production at the legendary Westport Country Playhouse. When the budget of this (still full-scale, literally putting the film on stage) production skyrocketed and was dropped from the slate, the concept of staging the piece as a live radio play of the period was born. This radio play adaptation was originally mounted at Stamford Center for the Arts in 1996, and has been performed there since with great success. It was at Stamford that the play was fine tuned and took shape as the piece published here. Through word of mouth alone, productions have since taken place around the country, including the noted Chicago premiere at American Theatre Company. My thanks to all those who have been involved since the beginning of this journey, including Frances Kondziela, Jim McKenzie, Julie Monahan, George Moredock, Doug Moser, Jane Desy, Barbara Meyer, Cathy Mulligan, Kevin Connors, Colin Eastland, Achilles Tsakiridis, Doug and everyone at Playscripts and my loving and supportive parents, Paul and Mary, sister Hope and brother Tom.

Joe Landry's plays have been produced across the country and internationally and include *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (named one of the top-ten most produced plays by American Theatre Magazine). His other "A Live Radio Play" adaptations include *Vintage Hitchcock*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *War of the Worlds: The Panic Broadcast* and *A Christmas Carol*, published through Playscripts/Broadway Licensing and Concord. Other plays include *The Wicked Stage*, *Reefer Madness*, *Numb and Hitchcocked!* He attended Playwrights Horizons/NYU and has taught playwriting at Sacred Heart University. www.joelandry.com

THE COMPANY



ABRAHAM ASTO

Harry Heywood

Making his second Christmas appearance at Chemainus (Miracle on 34th St. as Fred Gailey), Abraham loves spending this special season in the arms of this west coast town. Recent theatre and tv productions include Sense & Sensibility and A Thousand Splendid Suns (Arts Club), Halfway There (Miracle Theatre), Wild Cards (CBC, CW), Reacher (Amazon), Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies (Paramount Plus), and Love, Classified (Hallmark).



SCOTT CARMICHAEL

Freddie Filmore

Scott is genuinely thrilled to be back in Chemainus! Previous with CTF: Ring of Fire: Project Johnny Cash, Elf the Musical, and Million Dollar Quartet. Selected recent credits include Tom in The Ballad of Stompin' Tom (Capitol Theatre), Grease (Western Canada Theatre), Man of La Mancha (GTP/Magnus Theatre), The Foursome (Foster Festival), and Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story (Mayfield). Much love to son Jaden and partner Cecily.



KATE DION-RICHARD

Sally Applewhite

Kate is grateful to be back in Chemainus! Previous CTF credits include GLORY and Jeeves Takes a Bow. A graduate of UVic and Central School of Speech and Drama, Kate has acted on stages across Canada and the UK. Some favourite local theatre credits include Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley and The Odd Couple (Arts Club); The Flick and Brighton Beach Memoirs (BlueBridge) and the national tour of GLORY with Western Canada Theatre. Love and gratitude to hubs and our wonderfully wild toddler.



KADEN FORSBERG

Jake Laurents

Kaden is delighted to return to Chemainus for this holiday classic! Recent theatre credits include: Cabaret (Ovation), Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Sh-Boom (Drayton Entertainment); Almost a Full Moon (Citadel Theatre); One Day (Segal Centre, Playwrights' Workshop Mtl); Naked Radio, Classic Country Roads (Chemainus Theatre Festival); Little Women, Candide, Fiddler on the Roof (NUOVA). Film/TV: March Hare/Card #2 in The Garden of Alice.

THE COMPANY



JALISA GONIE

Assistant Stage Manager

A versatile theatre artist, Jalisa works hard to balance stage management, writing and acting. They hold a BFA from the University of Saskatchewan and training from the Manitoulin Conservatory for Creation and Performance. Their work has brought them to stages and parks throughout Saskatchewan, Alberta and now to Vancouver Island. Recent work: The Unplugging (ASM, The Belfry), Velveteen Rabbit (SM, Persephone Theatre), Zero Gravity (SM, SUM Theatre).



MICHAEL HEWITT

Lighting Designer

Michael is a multi-disciplinary designer with a focus on Lighting and Sound. This is his 2nd show with Chemainus Theatre Festival. Michael has worked through the province and beyond. His award-winning designs have been used with companies such as: Arts Club Theatre Company, Bard on the Beach, Firehall Arts Centre, Pacific Theatre, Rosebud Theatre and more. Michael has also mentored students at Capilano University as well as Douglas College.



MICHELLE LIEFFERTZ

Costume Designer

A seasoned actor and costume/production designer, Michelle holds a performance MFA earned in London (UK) and has worked in theatres and film/television on both sides of the Atlantic, in both performative and design roles. She currently focuses most of her time in Barkerville, immersed in the 1860's Goldrush. She's delighted to be back at CTF for Christmas, grateful for dear friends, and hopes for the ringing of many bells this season!



GINA MOE

Rehearsal Stage Manager

Stage Manager for The Fiancée, and GLORY (Chemainus Theatre Festival), Pride and Prejudice, Almost a Full Moon and The Colour Purple (Citadel Theatre), Orphée+, My Last 100 Years, and La Bohème (Edmonton Opera), 10 Funerals and Bloomsday (Shadow Theatre), Evelyn Strange (Teatro la Quindicina), Metronome (WWPT), Titus Buffonicus, The Empress and The Prime Minister (Theatre Network). Gina is a two-time winner of the Elizabeth Sterling Haynes award for Outstanding Achievement in Production.

THE COMPANY



HANS SAEFKOW

Set Designer

Hans is excited to be headed into the Christmas season with this classic show. For Chemainus Theatre Festival: Ghost - the Musical and Gaslight which recently was remounted at Western Canada Theatre. Recent other work includes Sleight of Mind, Around the World in 80 Days, Ride the Cyclone, Stones in His Pockets, Isitwendam (An Understanding), Romeo and Juliet, Chicago, Mamma Mia, The Drum is Calling You Home and The Drowning Girls. Portfolio at hanssaeFKow.com.



JESSICA SCHACHT

Stage Manager

Jessica Schacht is a theatre artist gratefully living on Quw'utsun territory, Vancouver Island. As a stage manager, dramaturg, and director, she has worked with companies across theatre, opera, and dance. Recent credits with Chemainus Theatre Festival include: The Fiancée (Director), A Tiny Christmas Carol (Co-adaptor) & Little Women (Assistant Director). Other credits include Gather: Stories in Nature (Dramaturg), The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito (Director).



JOEL STEPHANSON *Musical Director & Foley Artist*

Joel is pleased to be back in Chemainus after many years in Vancouver and rural Alberta. He first apprenticed at Pacific Theatre and now divides his focus between acting and making music. Past credits include Fiddler on the Roof (Chemainus), The Buddy Holly Story (Globe Theatre, SK), Godspell (Pacific), and many shows at Rosebud Theatre: Bright Star, Freud's Last Session, The Gifts of the Magi, and Cotton Patch Gospel were among his favourites.



KIRSTEN VAN RITZEN

Lana Sherwood

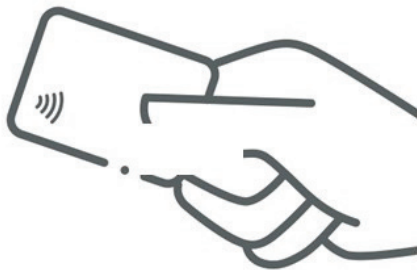
Kirsten has performed for theatre, radio and TV across Canada & the US. She is also a comedienne, dancer, playwright & producer. Based in Victoria, she is delighted to make her CTF debut. Island credits include The Last Frontier, Blackstones & Bathtubs, Emerging Voices; plays at Kaleidoscope Theatre, Theatre SKAM, Gotta Getta Gimmick, Sin City Improv Serial, & more. Nominations include: Ovation Award Outstanding Actress, Best Solo Comedy Artist (L.A.), Canadian Comedy Award. www.kirstenvanritzen.com

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