



IT'S A

WONDERFUL LIFE



A Live Radio Play
by
Joe Landry

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DECEMBER 3,4,5 7:30 PM | DECEMBER 5 2 PM
CONFEDERATION CENTRE MAINSTAGE



IT'S  A
WONDERFUL
LIFE
A Live Radio Play

Playwright
JOE LANDRY

Director
MARTI HOPSON

Producers
MIKE MALLALEY | MARTI HOPSON

Stage Manager
COLIN HOOD

Sound Designer
PAT CARON

Reader
JOE MOAK

Original sponsor jingles
MARTI HOPSON

photography
BRIAN COLLINS, Landwash Studios

graphic design
MAGGIE LILLO

CONFEDERATION CENTRE THEATRE DEPARTMENT

Artistic Director
ADAM BRAZIER

General Manager of Theatre
ANDREA SURICH

Theatre Administrator
CINDY RILEY

Technical Director
DOUG MORUM

Project Coordinator
CHANTAL HAYMAN

Associate Producer
SARAH DENMAN-WOOD

Director, Live @The Centre
DARCY CAMPBELL

BOYD ALLEN
Head of Carpentry

BILL HIGGINS
Head of Lighting

KEVIN MACLEAN
Head of Audio

KATHLEEN ROSS
Head of Props

CAST

FREDDIE FILLMORE **Keir Malone**
(Joseph, Harry Bailey, Mr. Gower, Peter Bailey, Ernie,
Sam Wainwright, Martini, Ed, Dr. Campbell, Pete)

JAKE LAURENTS **Alex Arsenaault**
(George Bailey)

SALLY APPLEWHITE **Jenna Marie Holmes**
(Mary Hatch, Binky)

LANA SHERWOOD **Amanda Rae Gallant**
(Violet Bick, Rose Bailey, Mathilda, Ruth, Mrs. Hatch,
Sadie Vance, Nick, Janie, Zuzu, Mrs. Thompson, Schultz)

HARRY 'JAZZBO' HEYWOOD **Rob Thomson**
(Clarence, Mr. Potter, Charlie, Horace, Mr. Welch,
Old Man Collins, Sheriff)

CHARLES 'CHIP' FOX **Mike Mallaley**
(Uncle Billy, Tommy, Bert, Cop, Bridge Keeper)

STAGE MANAGER AND SOUND EFFECTS **Mitchell Gallant**

RUNNING TIME: 100 MINUTES | NO INTERMISSION

THANK YOU

Confederation Centre of the Arts and Adam Brazier,
The Watermark Theatre and Andrea Surich, Peter Moak (carpentry),
The Fox and Crow, and the UPEI Student Union

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In 1946 Frank Capra produced and directed the film *It's a Wonderful Life* based on the short story by Philip Van Doren Stern. Although the film did poorly in its initial release, it was nominated for five Academy Awards, and has been hailed by the American Film Institute as the most inspirational American film of all time. It quickly became a holiday classic, known and loved worldwide.

George Bailey, who has put his own dreams aside to help others, contemplates suicide one Christmas Eve—after suffering a financial loss that will surely ruin his business and possibly send him to jail. Heavenly intervention, in the form of George's guardian angel, Clarence Odbody, attempts to convince George that “no man is a failure who has friends” (a quote by Mark Twain).

The year 2020 has brought challenges to many. The arts industry, especially live performance suffered great losses. ACT is a community-based amateur theatre association with a mandate to:

- foster local theatre, by encouraging artistic and practical development of all facets of the art
- collect and make available materials supportive to the development of community theatre
- stimulate cooperation between all persons and groups active in community theatre

ACT was formed in 1995, which makes this year our 25th anniversary. Plans for a large-scale production and gala event were shelved in March. Our 10th annual community theatre festival was cancelled. As the year went on, I had the idea that producing a simple show, such as *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* might be possible on a small scale, and allow us to celebrate 25 years as well as fulfilling some of the above mandate! Before we knew it, Confederation Centre of the Arts had offered a partnership with very generous support, and we were on our way. This 'little show' has grown to be very meaningful for our small company, and has brought great joy for us, during these somewhat dark times. We are grateful to be able to perform for you this evening in a safe manner, and hope that you find the same happiness and comfort in this story that we have had over the last few weeks. The Mark Twain quote that Clarence uses is certainly true, “No man is a failure who has friends”...

MARTI HOPSON | President, ACT | Director

BIOS



Alex Arsenault



Amanda Rae Gallant



Mitchell Gallant



Jenna Marie Holmes

ALEX ARSENAULT Originally from the Acadian Region just west of Summerside, Alex Arsenault has been on and around the stage since he was young. Alex was in two French Acadian productions, and also a handful of ACT plays, namely 2014's *Much Ado about Nothing* for Shakespeare in the Park, as well as 2018's *Skin Flick*. As George Bailey, the challenge of having to go through so many extreme emotions has been both stimulating and exciting. Alex says, "I believe anyone who's been feeling the pressure from the last year, anyone who's felt that the world's become a darker, colder place, should see this heartwarming, uplifting performance. To remind ourselves that, as long as we have family and friends there for us, it can be *A Wonderful Life*."

AMANDA RAE GALLANT A real pistol of a gal, Amanda Rae Gallant has sprinkled acting, singing, and producing fundraising events throughout her adult life. You may recognize her from ACT's *Much Ado About Nothing*, *An Answer to the Question on Death*, or when she proudly sported four-inch high 1980's bangs in *Sinners* at the Watermark Theatre. In *It's a Wonderful Life*, Amanda has exchanged costume changes for vocal acrobatics. She will be tackling 14 characters ranging from vampy Violet Bick to bartender Nick, and many surprises in between. So, hold on to your hats because this show is the bees knees!"

MITCHELL GALLANT Mitchell Gallant is a life-long musician, habitual farmer, school bus driver, and you can now add ... "Foley effects artist!" ... and actor. Mitchell has loved the process of developing this performance, supremely enjoyed working with the cast and crew, and hopes to be part of a larger production in the future. Thank you for coming out and supporting theatre during these unprecedented times.

JENNA MARIE HOLMES Jenna Marie Holmes discovered her love for theatre at the very young age of 6, but that love grew into a passion in high school. Growing up in the small town of Emyvale, she participated in three of Bluefield High School's musicals, and decided to pursue theatre after graduation (with a "gentle" nudge from her mother). Taking some time to travel for a few years, she's back on P.E.I. to stay and has participated in ACT's productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Skin Flick*, Sandstone Theatre's productions of *Mary's Wedding and Doubt*, and was featured in the Watermark Theatre's 2019 summer season in *Boeing, Boeing!* and *Crimes of the Heart*.

BIOS



Mike Mallaley



Keir Malone



Rob Thomson

MIKE MALLALEY Mike Mallaley started in theatre as a chorus member in *The Ugly Duckling* at the age of six and has been in love with the stage ever since. Born and raised in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Mike has been involved in over 50 stage and film productions and has called Charlottetown home for the last four years. Since moving to P.E.I., he has appeared in ACT's *The Shop Around the Corner*, as well as *Raised on Television 2&3*, and will hopefully still appear in ACT's *Noises Off* which was postponed in 2020.

KEIR MALONE The acting bug bit Keir Malone in 1991 and he was active in Island theatre until 1995's *The Foreigner*, ACT's second production, at which point he exited stage left to raise a family. Returning in 2012, Keir has since acted in or directed 25 productions on various Island stages, or for film. Some of his favorite shows have included *Hamlet*, *The Laramie Project* and now *It's A Wonderful Life*, due to the opportunity in each to play multiple characters.

ROB THOMSON Rob Thomson was a founding member of ACT, organizer of a decade of P.E.I. Community Theatre Festivals, and teacher of 'popular theatre' in schools and a prison in the South Pacific. He has acted in and done production work for over 40 productions through the years since being dragged into theatre at an audition he took his son to. This staging of *It's a Wonderful Life* is a special delight: it has been a quarter-century since Rob played Joseph in a Confederation Centre production of the original play and this time he gets to act the dichotomous good-and-evil roles of Clarence and Potter.

BIOS



Marti Hopson



Colin Hood

MARTI HOPSON | Director

Marti Hopson grew up on the shores of Lake Superior, and completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Concordia University and then a Master's of Music at the University of Victoria. She composed, performed, directed, and stage managed musical and theatre events in Ontario, Quebec and BC before becoming a veterinarian and taking a lengthy hiatus from the arts. After moving to P.E.I., she found herself on stage for *Sinners*, *The Shop Around the Corner*, *Skin Flick* and *Wake in the West*, as well as producing several shows and directing music for The River Clyde Pageant.

COLIN HOOD | Stage Manager

Born in P.E.I. and back since 2016, Colin Hood has been thrilled to be part of ACT in many capacities since returning home. He joined ACT in 2018 as part of the cast of *Rainbow Valley* and has since been on the ACT board. He hopes to be part of the production team as assistant stage manager of *Noises Off* in 2021. He is very excited to be stage managing for the first time at Confederation Centre of the Arts. *It's a Wonderful Life* is one of his personal favourites and he is so happy to be working with its unbelievable cast and crew. He hopes the audience will enjoy the show as much as he has over the last few months.



**Happy Holidays
from our family to yours!**

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