

The Summit Foundation
& The Theater Project
present

It's a Wonderful Life

A live radio play

Adapted by Liz Zazzi

November 29 & 30
2025

**The THEATER
PROJECT**
THINK THEATER

Welcome!

LIVE ON STAGE:

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

THE "RADIO" PLAY



Emily Bonaria



Lee DeCecco



André DeSandies



Gary Glor



Dalton Gorden



Anna Gundersen



Lynn Marie Macy



Brian Madden



Jeff Maschi



Matt McCarthy



Terry Nickerson



Brian Parks



Skylar Bellew



Emma Jordan



Aubrey McCarthy



Sophia Rivas



Kevin Joshi

We can never say this enough ...

Year after year, **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE** reminds us that being grateful for what we have is perhaps the best gift we can give to ourselves and to each other. We hope that our presentation is seen as an expression of gratitude and affection for our audience, and for the community of actors who have breathed life into IAWL for — gasp — over 20 years.

We can never forget **Shanjala Irving, Jerry Lazar, Ken Schactman, Rose Pedone, Arthur Annis, and Rick Delaney**, who shared their talents with us in this show and many, many others. They took great joy in performing, and they shared that joy and incredible skill with their audiences and colleagues.

We particularly want to thank the **IAWL** cast, many of them veterans of this event, who come together year after year, giving their time and talent in order to say **Happy Holidays** and thanks for being there, to you and to each other.

Mark Spina

Artistic Director, The Theater Project

**The Theater Project is grateful for
the generosity of our many donors, including:**

BCB Bank

Lynn Heyns

Carol Simon and Gary Levin

Gil and Claire Zweig

Joseph Kubala

Richard J. Pierce, Architect.

and especially those who got us started:

Mrs. Marion Curka & Mr. J. Edward Cecala

Bohdan Lukaszewsky

and Ms. Stephanie Fein

**WONDERFUL LIFE is made possible in part by
support from THE SUMMIT FOUNDATION and
THE UNION COUNTY LOCAL ARTS PROGRAM.**

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions:
ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION / AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSI-
CAL ARTISTS / AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS / SAG-
AFTRA through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting
the Artists to appear in this program.

Welcome to the LUX Radio Theater,
with your host William Keighly,
the LUX Girls, and the STARS:

(Most actors in today's broadcast play multiple roles.)

Dalton Gorden*	Jack Clark
André DeSandies	St. Joseph
Brian Parks*	Clarence
Gary Glor*	Uncle Billy
Kavin Joshi	Young George
Sophia Rivas	Young Violet
Emma Jordan	Young Mary
Matt McCarthy	George Bailey
Lynn Marie Macy*	Mother Bailey
Emily Bonaria	Violet Bick
Terry Nickerson	Ernie Bishop
Brian Madden	Bert the Cop
Jeff Maschi	Mr. Potter
Anna Gundersen	Mary Hatch
Lee DeCecco	Libby Collins
Skylar Bellew	Zuzu Bailey
Foley Artiste	Aubrey McCarthy

*members of Actors' Equity

Our LUX show is broadcast without intermission.
Please stay for the LUX commercials.

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LUX Radio Staff:

LUX Stage Manager Jai-lee Curbelo
LUX Floor Manager Amelia Hajduk
LUX Lighting Designer Ed Pearson
LUX Wardrobe Consultant Barbara Canace
LUX Roadie Dominick Mastrodonato

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Who's Who

The Adults: (*Members of Actors' Equity Association)

Emily Bonaria (Violet Bick) is delighted to be back on stage for her fourth holiday season in *It's a Wonderful Life!* You may have previously seen her work with The Theater Project in this summer's *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay*, *Kaleidoscope Kabaret 2024*, and various readings.

She holds a BA in Theatre from Muhlenberg College.
www.emilybonaria.com.

Lee DeCecco (Libby Collins) is a NY/NJ based actor and is very excited to be a part of *It's a Wonderful Life* with The Theater Project. Lee graduated from Montclair State University with a BFA in Acting, Most recently, they appeared in *The Elephant Delivery & 6 10 Min Veteran Authored Comedies* at Savage Wonder Arts Center. They have previously worked with First Flight Theatre Company in *The Gods of Lightning* (Rosalie), *Poe: Mystery and the Macabre* (Actor 2) and *Little Women* (Jo March). Film credits include *Fantasy Master* (Lisa), and most recently *Fata Morgana* (Sonya). They also have participated in several improv groups including MILF and Zlurp Zlorp.

André DeSandies (St. Joseph) is one of the founding members of The Theater Project, over 30 years ago, where he originated the role of Flan in the inaugural production of *Six Degrees of Separation*. Since then, he has numerous Theater Project credits, including some of his favorite roles, John in *Oleanna*, Rev in *Crowns*, Lawrence in *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls* and of course different roles over the years in *It's a Wonderful Life*. André has also appeared in Vivid (formerly Dreamcatcher) Ensemble productions including *Grief at High Tide* and *The Most Deserving*. He loves to play steel drums and proudly thanks the talent in his family, his wife Gail Lou, and his daughters LC and T.S., for their constant love and support, and dedicates this performance to those artists seeking support to continue to create.

Gary Glor* (Uncle Billy) is a founding member of The Theater Project, where he has appeared in *Sunset Park*, *Exit Strategy*, *Moonlight & Magnolias*, *Omnium Gatherum*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Why Torture is Wrong...and the People Who Love Them*, *Music from a Sparkling Planet*, *Pterodactyls*, *Artist Descending a Staircase* and *The Best of Enemies*. Off-Broadway: *A Most Secret War*, as well as in productions

at George Street Playhouse, Metropolitan Playhouse, Hudson Classical Theater Company, and Buffalo's Shakespeare in the Park.

Dalton Gorden* (Jack Clark) is an actor, fight choreographer, and martial artist currently working out of Nutley, NJ. A masters alumnus of Montclair State University and member of SAG-AFTRA and Actors' Equity, recent theatre credits include *Canned Goods* with American Theatre Group, and an evening of ten-minute play readings with Veteran's Repertory Theatre in Cornwall, NY. Regular attendees of The Theatre Project may also recognize him as the fight choreographer for their production of *And in This Corner... Cassius Clay*.

Anna Gundersen (Mary Hatch Bailey) is thrilled to return to The Theatre Project's *It's a Wonderful Life* as Mary Hatch Bailey. Anna has played Mary for multiple years, as she loves to bring this classic story of hope and community to life. Anna holds a B.A. in theater from The Pennsylvania State University and an M.A. in Educational Theatre from New York University. In addition to acting in plays, Anna can be found performing sketch comedy in New York City

and teaching theater to youth. Visit AnnaGundersen.com for more.

Ms. Lynn Marie Macy* (Mother Bailey) is a playwright, actor and director and is pleased to be working again with New Jersey's The Theater Project after appearing as Olympe de Gouges in Season 2024's *The Revolutionists*. Her scripts have been presented and she has directed plays at The Theater Project as well as New Perspectives Theater Company, Theater 2020 and Cosmic Orchid in New York City. She is a member of New Perspectives Long Play Lab, The Theater Project's Playwright Group and a member of the Dramatists' Guild. She would like to thank her husband David for his love and support.

Brian Madden (Bert the Cop) is excited to be a new addition to this lovely Christmas tradition with The Theater Project. Active in NJ community theater since '22, Brian has performed in over twenty full productions and staged readings. All-time favorite roles include Robert Lambert in *Boeing Boeing* at StageWorks in Pompton Lakes, Paul Singer in *Moon Over Buffalo* with Stony Hill Players, and King Henry VIII in *A Man For All Seasons* at Westfield Community Play-

ers. Brian has enjoyed further collaborations with First Avenue Playhouse, Lord Stirling Theater Company, Readington Community Players, Somerset Valley Players, The Summit Playhouse, and Villagers Theater.

Jeff Maschi (Mr. Potter) Previous acting credits include *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *A View From the Bridge*, *Art*, *Dinner With Friends*, *The Crucible*, *Music From a Sparkling Planet*, *The Groundling*, *Doubt*, *The Humans* and many others. In NJ, Jeff has been an active member of The Theater Project, Raconteur Radio, 12 Miles West, and Alliance theatre companies, and has performed with several NYC-based companies including Bon Bock, Creative Voices, and Ten-Grand-and-a-Burger. He is proud and grateful to be part of this fine *It's a Wonderful Life* tradition.

Matt McCarthy (George Bailey) is a resident of Chatham Borough and was first involved with The Theater Project over 20 years ago where he played Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life*, among other shows. Some favorite shows include *Comic Potential*, *Last Train to Nibroc*, *Still Life*, *Betty's Summer Vacation*, and *Tape*, just to name a few. Matt is a co-founder of JAM Theater Company where he does thea-

ter education, summer camps, and holiday productions. He would like to thank his talented cast and crew. Much love to his family!

Terry Nickerson he/him (Ernie Bishop) is a NJ/NY based actor. He graduated from Montclair State University with a bachelor's in performing arts and a minor in film/television in May of this year. While he has never done a live reading, he's ready to jump in and see what comes of it!

Brian Parks* (Clarence) is happy to return to the cast of *It's A Wonderful Life* with The Theater Project for another year! He is a member of the Axis Theater, a company in NY where he has appeared in *Dead End*, *Seven in One Blow*, and *Twelfth Night*. He is also a member of the sketch comedy group Take Care Now which has performed live shows in NY and NJ. A big thank you to his wife Allison and friends for all the support.

The Kids:

Skylar Bellew (Zuzu Bailey) is an 8-year-old third grader who is excited to be playing Zuzu. Her past roles include

playing Zuzu in *It's a Wonderful Life* (2024). Skylar enjoys shopping, acting, dancing and makeup. She would like to thank the cast and directors for all their support.

Emma Jordan (Young Mary) is a 7th grader at LCJSMS and is delighted to return to *It's a Wonderful Life* for her second year with The Theater Project, reprising the role of Young Mary. Recent credits include Middle Anna in *Frozen*, Squirt in *Finding Nemo*, and Young Fiona in *Shrek* with Pebble Players; Amaryllis in *The Music Man*, Matilda in *Matilda*, and Jane Banks in *Mary Poppins* with Summit Playhouse; and Sheldon Potts in *Junie B. Jones* with Pixie Dust Players. Emma trains in dance and musical theatre at Dance Innovations and studies voice with Heather Holcombe. She is deeply grateful to her family and friends for their unwavering support of her passion for the performing arts. She wishes the cast, crew, and audience a very happy holiday season!

Aubrey McCarthy (Foley Artiste) is excited to continue being a part of the *It's a Wonderful Life* holiday tradition at The Theater Project. In the past, she was Young Mary, Young Violet, Tommy, and Zuzu. Other favorite roles in-

clude, Alex in *The Velveteen Rabbit*, Marie in *Aristocats*, Grandma Josephina in *Willy Wonka, Jr.* and Templeton in Charlotte's Web. Aubrey is a Freshman at Chatham High School and mostly spends her time in the pool as a competitive swimmer. She would like to thank her mom and dad for supporting her throughout her journey!

Sophia Rivas (Young Violet) is a vibrant, camera-loving young actor with a passion for musical theatre, film, and performing. She recently starred as the lead in *Junie B. Jones Musical* at the Union County Performing Arts Center and commanded the stage as Beetlejuice in *Beetlejuice Jr.* She has extensive training in acting and musical theatre, is an accomplished singer, and plays the piano. Sophia brings energy, talent, and professionalism to every role.

Kavin Joshi (Young George) is thrilled to be performing in *It's a Wonderful Life!* At 12 years old, Kavin has loved bringing characters to life on stage, previously playing Jay in *Thy Lady Knight*, Gavroche in *Les Misérables*, Charlie in *Willy Wonka Jr.*, and Zeke in *#JustBeYou*. He also appeared in a Cyber Safety video for The New York Times. Kavin is grateful for every opportunity to learn and grow as an actor and

has truly enjoyed working with this talented cast and crew. Off stage, he enjoys biking, reading, and playing the violin. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Backstage:

Mark Spina (Director) is the founding artistic director of The Theater Project. He is deeply grateful to every actor and technician who has told this story with the company over the last twenty-plus years, especially Shanjala Irving, Jerry Lazar, Rose Pedone, Arthur Annis, Ken Schactman, and our first George Bailey, Rick Delaney.

Ed Pearson (Lighting Designer) is delighted to be working with The Theater Project to once again bring holiday cheer to New Jersey audiences. Ed's lighting designs have been seen at numerous Central New Jersey theaters including Somerset Valley Playhouse, Playhouse 22, Alliance Repertory Theater Company, Circle Playhouse and Villagers Theater. Ed is honored to have received an NJACT Perry Award for the second time for Outstanding Lighting Design of a Play in 2025. Ed looks forward to continuing studying Lighting Design at Mason Gross School of the Arts for the

remainder of the fall and the spring semester. Love always to Hilary who puts the light in his life!

Jai-lee Curbelo (Stage Manager) is a senior in high school spending her year studying at Kean University. She is thrilled to be stage managing her first production with The Theater Project. She would like to thank the cast and crew for such a welcoming and inspiring experience.

Amelia Hajduk (Stage Manager) is a junior technical theatre major attending the Academy for Performing Arts in Scotch Plains, NJ. For the past three years, she has had multiple backstage positions, mostly in stage management. She has been an assistant stage manager for her Freshman Showcase as well as for the play, *The Old Man and the Old Moon* last year. This year, she has recently had the job of production stage manager for her school's fall play, *Clue*. She has additionally had other job positions, such as lighting designer and has been a part of the AV crew. She is very excited to be working with The Theater Project in bringing *It's a Wonderful Life* to the stage and hopes everyone will enjoy the performance!

COMING TO THE THEATER PROJECT in 2026:

- . Classes for kids and seniors
- . Monthly readings of new plays from our Playwrights Workshop
- . THINK FAST short play competition.
- . YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS COMPETITION
- . ACTORS READING WITH KIDS (ARK) online summer tutoring
- . Summer Mainstage Season: stay tuned for details!

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