

# It's a Wonderful Life



## The Radio Play

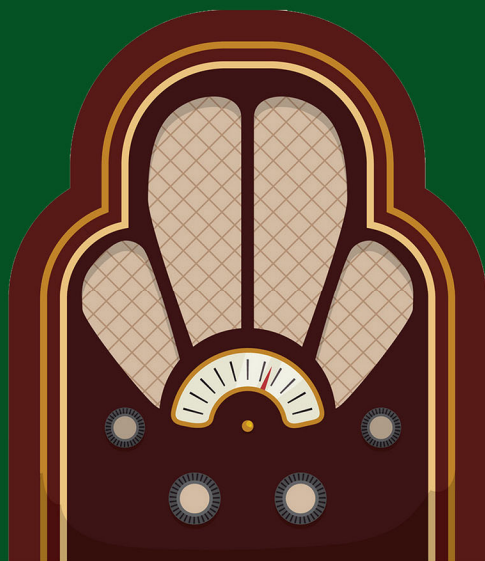
Presented by  
Barbara Coats, FICF, RICP - Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial  
and Starkville Community Theatre

By Philip Grecian  
based on the classic Christmas film by Frank Capra

Directed by Gabe Smith

Available for streaming  
December 22-27, 2020

To watch the show, visit  
<https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/44118>



This show is funded in part by grants from the Mississippi Arts Commission  
and the National Endowment for the Arts  
Produced by special arrangement with  
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois



# DIRECTED BY GABE SMITH

## THE CAST

GEORGE ..... Jordan Prather  
MARY ..... Trisha Jordan  
CLARENCE ..... Brian Hawkins  
POTTER / MR. PARTRIDGE ..... Bradley Long  
JOE / MR. BAILEY / UNCLE BILLY  
/ WELCH / OTHERS ..... Nick Bell  
TILLY / MRS. BAILEY ..... Madeline Golden  
VIOLET / RUTH / MRS. DAVIS  
/ OTHERS ..... Katherine Hardin  
ERNIE / FREDDIE / CHAIRMAN  
/ MARTINI / OTHERS ..... Rick Jordan  
JOSEPH / TOM / REINEMAN  
/ SHERIFF ..... Ross Williams  
MR. GOWER / MICKEY / ED  
/ CARTER / OTHERS ..... Derrell Staten  
HARRY / BERT / CHARLIE  
/ NICK / OTHERS ..... Hayden Manning  
MRS. HATCH / MRS. THOMPSON  
/ POTTER'S SECRETARY  
/ HORTENSE / OTHERS ..... MJ Etua  
YOUNG GEORGE / TOMMY ..... Shepherd Hardin  
YOUNG MARY / JANIE ..... Alice Raffel  
YOUNG VIOLET / ZUZU ..... Annie Redwood  
YOUNG HARRY / PETER ..... Miles Baker

# ABOUT THE CAST

## **Miles Baker**

“I’m not scared, George!” and neither is Miles Baker in his first performance with SCT! Miles has enjoyed performing since birth. He has acted in many school programs throughout his 10-year career and has spent two summers with Project P.L.A.Y. Miles is excited to join in on this unique performance experience and hopes all his adoring fans enjoy!

## **Nick Bell**

Nick is honored to be among the very talented cast of this classic show! As a big fan of Christmas films “It’s a Wonderful Life” has always been one of his favorites. He has previously appeared in SCT shows such as “To Kill a Mockingbird”, “Fools”, and “Urinetown”. When he isn’t forgetfully losing things as Uncle Billy or punching lead roles in the face as Mr. Welch, he can be found socially distancing at a local coffeeshouse or doing photography.

## **MJ Etua**

MJ Etua has been involved in theatre her entire life. A graduate of the University of Mississippi, MJ has worked in film, but prefers the stage and all aspects of theatre arts. She has appeared in numerous shows for the Starkville Community Theatre, including Proposals, Deathtrap, The Fantasticks, Nunsense, Urinetown, and The Drowsy Chaperone. Besides performing, MJ loves sitting in the director's chair. MJ has appeared in every SCT summer musical since 1998.

## **Madeline Golden**

A stage veteran, Madeline is in her 37th year with the theatre. During that time, she has performed in more shows than she can count, including dramas, comedies, farces and musicals. She has been a part of several award-winning productions including Smoke on the Mountain, Dixie Swim Club, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, and Paper Thin, and has won acting awards, including Best Actress, at the state and regional level.

## **Katherine Hardin**

Katherine is a veteran of several SCT productions. You may have seen her acting, singing, tapping, kick lining, or serving bananas and peanuts. She has really enjoyed choreographing recent musicals and continues to hold on to hope that the “9-5” musical will see the lights of the Playhouse stage! Although COVID has been quite the wet blanket, this period of quarantine has brought the opportunity for her to share the virtual stage with one of her children for the first time. She has loved coaching her son in his role and revisiting this family classic as Violet (who she sometimes quotes in everyday life).

## **Shepherd Hardin**

Shepherd is making his SCT debut with this production! As a guy who spends most of his free time in the woods, dissecting the happiness, fear, and bravery of Young George has been a novel experience... one he would likely not have had but for COVID forcing us to ZOOM. He auditioned on a whim with his mom and sister but says he never would have considered standing on a stage in front of everyone. Perhaps an adaptation of Indian in the Cupboard or Where the Red Fern Grows (a couple of his favorites) would lure him out of the virtual arena and into the spotlight!

## **Brian Hawkins**

Brian has been involved with SCT for over 20 years, including performing in all 21 summer musical revues. Favorite roles in other SCT shows include “Smudge” in Forever Plaid and Plaid Tidings, the villainous “Julian” in Communicating Doors, hypochondriac “Phil” in Inspecting Carol and the police sergeant in It Runs in the Family. When not on the SCT stage, Brian works as marketing director for Chick-fil-A in Starkville. He is also a member of First United Methodist Church, where he sings in the Chancel Choir and is a member of the Heavenly Metal of the South steel pan band.

## **Rick Jordan**

Rick is very excited to be doing his first ever virtual performance. Rick has been on stage for SCT since 2008 and is glad to be able to add such a different type of performance under his belt! This has been an interesting challenge and never something he thought he'd be doing at the beginning of 2020. He's excited to get back on the stage one day soon and hopes you enjoy his terrific accent work in this fun Christmas show!

### **Trisha Jordan**

This is Trisha's third performance with SCT. She has performed as Sylvia in Sylvia and had several roles in The Laramie Project. However, most of her waking hours are spent dedicated to theatre as a director. She is the director of International Thespian Troupe 1180, head of the theatre department at Starkville high school and has directed and produced many performances at the high school as well. Before moving to Starkville, Trisha directed several shows at Tupelo High School, Northwest Rankin High School, and Mississippi College as well as performing in shows with Black Rose Theatre Company and Mississippi College Tribal Players. While this is not her first time working in film, this was an entirely new experience filming a theatre piece over zoom.

### **Bradley Long**

Bradley Long is excited to join the Starkville Community Theatre family in the production of It's a Wonderful Life. Bradley was elated and honored to join a timeless story and participate in this innovative presentation of the arts. When not in front of the camera, Bradley works at the Social Science Research Center, is pursuing his master's degree and enjoys reading, music, and laughing as much as possible.

### **Hayden Manning**

Hayden has been in several SCT productions, including Harvey and Pride and Prejudice. He has been involved in theatre since the age of eleven but took a few years off to focus on college. He returned to the stage as "Bard" in MSU's production of The Hobbit several years ago. He would like to thank his family and friends for always supporting his passion for theatre.

### **Jordan Prather**

Jordan is thrilled to be back with SCT for It's a Wonderful Life as George Bailey. His last role was for SCT's production of War of the Worlds. He also played "Gene" in MSU's production of The Author's Voice and was a part of MSU's improv troupe Lab Rats. In his spare time, Jordan loves to dabble in his several ongoing projects, which include everything from fixing the stereo system to recording cover songs.

## **Alice Raffel**

This is Alice's first time in a play of any sort, and she was both nervous and excited when she got a part for it. After scrolling through script and battling her printer, she is so excited to be a part of "It's a Wonderful Life"! Now that it's all over, she can treat her cat, her ever-present editor and moral compass, to some treats and training on how not to step on a keyboard.

## **Annie Redwood**

Annie Redwood is thrilled to be making her SCT debut as Young Violet and Zuzu. When she's not performing, Annie enjoys drawing and loves math. She would like to say a very big "thank you!" to Mr. Gabe and everyone involved in the It's a Wonderful Life production.

## **Derrell Staten**

Derrell is excited to be a part of this production. He has been involved in previous productions at SCT, including Picasso at the Lapin Agile and Fox on the Fairway.

## **Ross Williams**

Ross, an SCT veteran of over 35 years, is in his first dramatic role since retiring and the 2017 production of "To Kill a Mockingbird". He states the most challenging role was that of God's messenger in the 1988 production of God's Favorite. This is the first production where he as appeared as multiple characters and haven't used as many "cheat sheets" since appearing as a witness in the 1987 production of Witness for the Prosecution.

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# *It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play* to stream online

By Jan Swoope

The Commercial Dispatch - December 19, 2020

In a year that has seen Broadway go dark and most live community theatrical productions shuttered, Starkville Community Theatre is rising from the pandemic to deliver some holiday entertainment — 2020 style. “It’s a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play” will stream online during the week of Christmas, from 12:15 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22 through Sunday, Dec. 27 at 11:45 p.m. The play by Philip Grecian is based on the classic Christmas film by Frank Capra.

“For only \$5, you can support SCT and the fabulous performers in this show by watching the show from the comfort of your living room,” said SCT Chief Administrative Officer Gabe Smith. Access may be pre-purchased to the stream at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/44118>.

“Your rental of the stream gives you access on-demand for up to 48 hours of time, meaning, if you want to, you can watch Act 1, take a personal intermission, and settle back in for Act 2 at your leisure, either first thing in the morning with a cup of hot coffee or late in the evening with a mug of nightcap eggnog.”

Smith directed the show, calling it a unique experience. The retelling of the story of George Bailey, the unsung, big-hearted hero of small-town Bedford Falls and his lovable, bumbling guardian angel, involved more than 60 speaking roles, performed by 16 actors, recorded on multiple days in multiple locations. With safety in mind, the entire process, from auditions to final production stream, took place online.

“It’s been both challenging and rewarding to put together a show like this in a new format, for volunteers accustomed to performing live onstage,” the director remarked.

The ensemble cast includes Miles Baker, Nick Bell, MJ Etua, Madeline Golden, Katherine Hardin, Shepherd Hardin, Brian Hawkins, Rick Jordan, Trisha Jordan, Bradley Long, Hayden Manning, Jordan Prather, Alice Raffel, Annie Redwood, Derrell Staten and Ross Williams.

“It’s a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play” is produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Co. of Woodstock, Illinois. Like all programming in this unusual 2020-2021 year for SCT, this show was funded in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. This SCT production is sponsored by Barbara Coats of Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial. “We’ll see you soon in Bedford Falls,” said Smith. “It’s your holiday, and we’re so grateful to be part of it.”

