

PROGRAM INFORMATION

THIS WONDERFUL LIFE

Written by Steve Murray

Conceived by Mark Setlock, adapted from the screenplay *It's a Wonderful Life* by Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra, and Jo Swerling

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This Wonderful Life was originally commissioned and produced by Portland Center Stage, Portland, Oregon.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE STAFF

Jeremy Kendall (Narrator, George Bailey, others)*

A veteran actor of stage and screen, he has starred in several films including Indie cult favorite, *Lilith*, shot in 2011 by filmmaker Sridhar Reddy. He has performed in roles for the Cleveland Playhouse, Dobama Theatre, The Nebraska Shakespeare Festival and the Nebraska Repertory Theatre. He has been the spokesperson for Metro Toyota in regional commercials, and has recently written a one-man show based on stories from the Battle of Gettysburg. Jeremy received his M.F.A. in acting from the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film at the University of Nebraska and is a proud member of Actor's Equity and SAG/AFTRA.

Dan Deal (Director)

Dan has been producing and performing in theatre for the past two decades. He has directed, choreographed and brought to the stage many classic theatre pieces, new works, reviews, cabarets and showcases in the thriving Lancaster Pennsylvania theatre community. Dan is part of the production team at Sight and Sound Theatres (The nation's largest faith based theatre organization) where he has helped to develop and bring to life numerous productions. Favorite credits include: *Jonah*, *Voices of Christmas*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Aida*, *The Last Five Years*, and of course... *This Wonderful Life*, to name a few. He'd like to thank you for attending today's performance and he hopes that it warms

your heart as it reminds each of us that life is wonderful when it's shared with the people around us! Merry Christmas and God bless you!

Adam Boyer (Production Manager) is from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He is a freelancer in the area, as well as the house electrician at the Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center in York, PA. Before moving back to his hometown two years ago, he was a Head Electrician for several *Disney on Ice* and *Disney Live* productions and has toured North America and internationally. Adam holds an MFA in Theatrical Design from the University of Iowa and a BA in Theatre Technology and Design from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Steve Murray (Playwright)

Steve Murray is an award-winning arts journalist and playwright, and his plays, including *Hungry to Bed*, *Rescue & Recovery*, *Mileage* and *This Passion Thing*, have been produced internationally. *This Wonderful Life*, his take on the Frank Capra film, has been one of the most frequently produced scripts in the country since its premiere at Portland Center Stage in 2005. He received a 2010 Tanne Foundation Arts Award. Murray is critic-in-residence for Art Matters, an arts journalism project organized by the Macon Arts Alliance and Mercer University's Center for Collaborative Journalism.

This Wonderful Life is represented by Kosson Talent. <https://kossontalent.com/> and produced by Row I Productions at www.rowiproductions.com

PRESS RELEASE INFORMATION

To schedule an interview please contact:
Laura Kendall (216-650-0678) or Adam Boyer (717-344-4604)

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A One-Man Play of the holiday favorite movie *It's a Wonderful Life* -- live on stage – with actor Jeremy Kendall

Jeremy Kendall inhabits every role in this hilariously touching stage adaptation of the iconic holiday film *It's a Wonderful Life*. George Bailey, Clarence, Mr. Potter, and the gang come to life as he creates a heartwarming story about the effect one hardworking man's life has on the people around him.

“Like the film that inspired it, it quietly celebrates a simple truth: Little things mean more than we know.” – The Boston Globe

About the film

It's a Wonderful Life is a 1946 American Christmas fantasy drama film produced and directed by Frank Capra, based on the short story "The Greatest Gift", which Philip Van Doren Stern wrote in 1939 and published privately in 1945. The film is now among the most popular in American cinema and because of numerous television showings in the 1980s has become traditional viewing during the Christmas season.

The film stars James Stewart as George Bailey, a man who has given up his dreams in order to help others, and whose imminent suicide on Christmas Eve brings about the intervention of his guardian angel, Clarence Odbody (Henry Travers). Clarence shows George all the lives he has touched and how different life in his community of Bedford Falls would be had he never been born.

It's a Wonderful Life is one of the most acclaimed films ever made, praised particularly for its writing. It was nominated for five Academy Awards including Best Picture and has been recognized by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 best American films ever made, placing number 11 on its initial 1998 greatest movie list, and number one on AFI's list of the most inspirational American films of all time. Capra revealed that the film was his personal favorite among those he directed, adding that he screened it for his family every Christmas season.