



THEATREWORKS FLORIDA

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE – A LIVE RADIO PLAY: SYNOPSIS & CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

SHOW SYNOPSIS

This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble cast that brings dozens of characters to the stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve. When an angel, Clarence, shows him the positive impact he has had on his family and the people around him George realizes that he is loved.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

*NOTE: The cast is structured as a "show-within-a-show". A small ensemble of **five core radio actors** (plus a Foley sound effects artist) portray all the dozens of characters from the classic Frank Capra film by shifting their voices and characters live at the microphones.*

LEADS: (3) Female and (3) Male.

- **Jake Laurents** (In his 20s or 30s)
 - *Voices:* **George Bailey** and Young George.
- **Sally Applewhite** (In her 20s or 30s)
 - *Voices:* **Mary Hatch Bailey** and Young Mary.
- **Freddie Filmore** (In his 30s to 50s)
 - *Voices:* The Radio Announcer, **Mr. Potter**, **Uncle Billy**, Joseph (the Superintendent of Angels), Mr. Gower, Ernie the cab driver, Peter Bailey, and Pete Bailey (as a child).
- **Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood** (In his 30s to 40s)
 - *Voices:* **Clarence Odbody** (the Angel Second Class), **Harry Bailey**, Sam Wainwright, Bert the Cop, Welch, Martini, and Tommy Bailey.
- **Lana Sherwood** (In her 20s to 40s)
 - *Voices:* **Violet Bick**, Rose Bailey (George's mother), Zuzu Bailey, Janie Bailey, Ruth Dakota Bailey, and Mrs. Hatch.
- **Stage Manager / Foley Artist**
 - This non-speaking or minimally speaking role remains live on stage creating all the retro, handmade sound effects (wind, doors slamming, footsteps) to bring the broadcast to life.