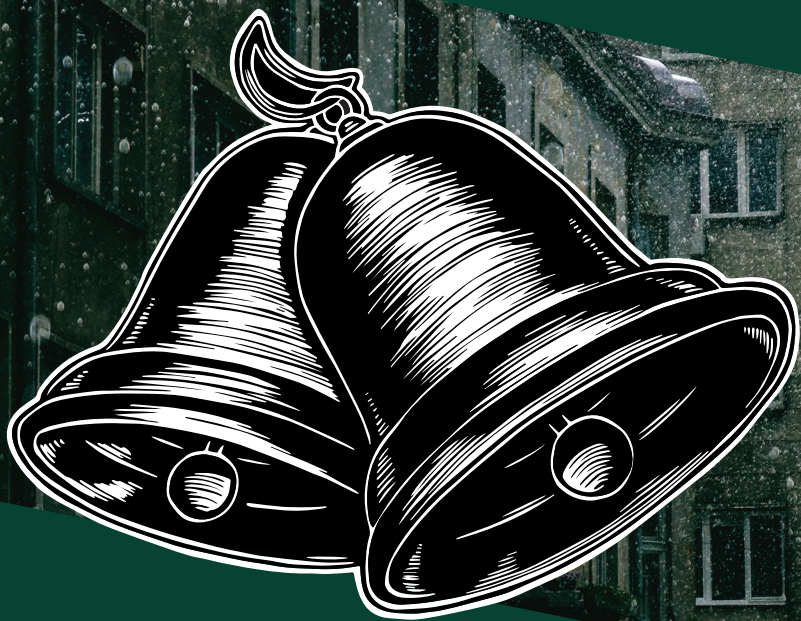




kanata theatre



**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE:
A RADIO PLAY**

ADAPTED BY PHILIP GRECIAN

BASED ON THE FILM BY FRANK CAPRA

DIRECTED BY TOM KOBOLAK

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kanata theatre



DREAMWORKS

MADAGASCAR

A MUSICAL ADVENTURE

BASED ON THE DREAMWORKS ANIMATION MOTION PICTURE

**BOOK BY KEVIN DEL AGUILA | ORIGINAL MUSIC & LYRICS BY
GEORGE NORIEGA & JOEL SOMEILLAN**

DIRECTED BY DIANE COTÉ

DECEMBER 27 - 30 2018 | \$15

Madagascar – A Musical Adventure TYA is presented through special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI).

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IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE:

A RADIO PLAY

George Bailey learns from Clarence, the hapless and wingless angel, that his life of toil and self-sacrifice has touched the lives of many. He is indeed, the richest man in town.

CAST

Young Girl #1	BETHANY OLSZEWSKI
Young Girl #2	PORTIA GARNONS-WILLIAMS
Young Boy #1	JOEY DONOHUE
Young Boy #2	AIDAN KOOPS
Woman #1	RHIANNON HENKELMAN
Woman #2	MARY ELLEN VICE
Woman #3	LORRAINE MCINNIS
Man #1	BERNIE HORTON
Man #2	MIKE HAMMOND
Man #3	BRIAN MCMANUS
Man #4	LIONEL KING
Man #5	BRUCE RAYFUSE
Man #6	HAROLD SWAFFIELD
Man #7	RICHARD MURRAY
Broadcast Technician	JACQUIE BLAIR
Broadcast Technician	NIHAN KAVASLAR
Harp/Piano	MIRIAM FITZGERALD
Foley Artist	TANIA NADELLE

SETTING

A radio broadcast studio, upstage NY, 1948

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Interesting isn't it, that to discuss this play, you need to first speak of the movies and the Golden Age of Radio.

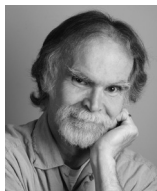
The movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*, the story of George Bailey, is an American institution. Film director Frank Capra, scared that he'd lost his talent, shot the film in four frantic and supposedly lonely months in the spring and summer of 1946. Colonel James Stewart, his star, a bomber pilot with 20 missions, had been so worried about his career that he'd contemplated going back to Pennsylvania to operate the family business. But he wanted to do a movie with Capra. "It was about a normal guy", Stewart said, then added. "And there weren't enough stories about normal guys."

In the late 40's, in Radio's Golden Age, the Academy Award Theatre and the Lux Radio Theatre offered hour long versions of famous big budget, big star movies. And in 1947, *It's a Wonderful Life* was presented on radio in a one hour format, with none other than Stewart and Donna Reed reprising their roles as George and Mary. So, Mr. Grecian's play and the numerous other radio broadcast versions of this story do have some history to them.

I think I can now see why I love this fable so much: for those who yearn for personal moments of unbridled happiness, there is George's joyous, slip-sliding, mad romp from the bridge to his tattered, drafty house and the family who loves him; for those who stare into mirrors and wonder what happened to all their dreams, there is the sound of Clarence exercising his new wings; and for those who feel alone, there is Uncle Billy's arrival with the laundry basket groaning with coin, and Harry Bailey's glorious toast to his big brother.

On behalf of everyone both on and off stage, enjoy our show. And permit me one indulgence: "Merry Christmas, Bedford Falls!!"

BIOGRAPHIES



TOM KOBOLAK (Director) has been directing plays for Kanata Theatre since 1994, last directing *Radium Girls* in 2015 and *Agnes of God* in 2013. He is delighted to leave the "dark side" and work with such talented people on this timeless and inspiring story. When not directing, he is occasionally on stage, narrowly avoiding being poisoned in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, or crawling under tables in *The Dining Room*. Thanks to Theatre Ontario for all their training initiatives. Enjoy this marvelous fable everyone, and may your lives be truly wonderful.



JACQUIE BLAIR is excited to be on stage for the first time! She has contributed to Kanata Theatre in many ways over the past 13 years and has been involved in backstage activities for 19 plays. Her credits include Stage Manager, Assistant Stage Manager, Props, Costumes, Dresser and other activities. Jacquie has spent the past few years helping in the Box Office so it will be fun to be involved with this production and working with Tom and Julie again!



JOEY DONOHUE is happy to join this great cast and crew for this holiday favourite. He has been involved with KT Kids production for 3 years, including *Artisocats Jr.*, *Pirates Past Noon*, and *Seussical Jr.* Joey has also participated in children's choruses in the Chamber Opera Company Ottawa and Opera Lyra. In addition to acting and singing, he also enjoys playing classical guitar, marching with the Army Cadets, and volunteering at the Kanata Theatre in set construction and Front of House. A special thanks goes to his family for always supporting him.



MIRIAM FITZGERALD is pleased to be making her onstage debut at Kanata Theatre as the Musical Director. A volunteer since 2016, she has provided continuity and front of house support for several productions. A singer, she was the musical consultant on *Calendar Girls*. Miriam thanks the cast and crew for their support, her family for being so patient with her absences, and Tracey B. for introducing her to the fun at Kanata Theatre!



PORTIA GARNONS-WILLIAMS has been in 7 musicals with Kanata Theatre's KT Kids, including *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, *Shrek Jr.* and *Aladdin Jr.* *It's A Wonderful Life: A Radio Play* is her first adult play. Academically, Portia's been a straight-A student throughout school. She believes in public service as demonstrated by her consistent leadership in student politics at Earl Of March Middle School where she served last year as President. She enjoys photography, running and quality time with her three cats.



MIKE HAMMOND is thrilled to be making his eighth appearance on the Kanata Theatre stage. He first appeared as King Krispin in the children's Christmas musical *The Haunted Castle*, made it to the main KT stage in *Departures & Arrivals*, and has portrayed Ernie Cusack in *Rumors*, Sharky in *You'll Get Used To It - The War Show*, Tim Allgood in the award-winning *Noises Off*, Richard Hannay in John Buchan's *The 39 Steps*, and most recently George Banks in 2015's *Mary Poppins*.



RHIANNON HENKELMAN is delighted to be returning to the Kanata Theatre stage in her first regular season role. She has had the pleasure of acting with KT for several years, taking part in the seasonal Christmas shows before taking time away for University. Along with being on stage, Rhiannon also enjoys volunteering for backstage and makeup crews. Previous acting credits with KT include *Seussical*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Yo, Vikings!*, *Willy Wonka*, and *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*



BERNIE HORTON is pleased to make his 10th appearance on the Kanata Theatre stage, most recently as Oscar in *The Odd Couple*. He has also had the pleasure of portraying diverse characters in *A Flea In Her Ear*, *A Few Good Men*, *The Underpants*, and *I Hate Hamlet*, among others. Bernie has performed with Goya Theatre and last season at OLT in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. This story and the message it brings to us all still brings a tear to his eye every time, even after having watched the film over 30 times. He would like to thank his wife and family for all their love and support during this journey.



NIHAN KAVASLAR made Ottawa home after living on four continents, and couldn't believe her luck in finding a purely volunteer, truly top-notch community theatre group steps from her door. She's been part of this wonderful family for six years now, trolling for tea sets and gin bottles, dressing dead bodies, finding fake cigs, painting vases, planting sunflowers, and assisting actors, including one dog, in a total of 15 shows. She loves being backstage at KT, sends big thanks to her family for their support, and hopes you enjoy our 50th season.



LIONEL KING most recently appeared at Kanata Theatre in *Anne of Green Gables* and *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon*. He has also performed in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Inherit The Wind*, and particularly remembers a cameo as Churchill in *The War Show*. Lionel feels that it's great to be in a slightly off-beat show with such a varied and fun cast and crew, especially since he doesn't have to dance the Charleston!



AIDAN KOOPS is performing for the first time with Kanata Theatre, having previously been on stage with the acting groups Stagecraft (*Beauty and the Beast*, *Seussical the Musical*, and *Aladdin*) and New Star (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat*). He has also had training with voice acting. Aidan's other interests are Basketball, robotics and a bit of programming; his team has won first place twice in the past three years at the Ottawa Robotics Competition.



LORRAINE MCINNIS is so excited to be returning to the stage for her seventh production with Kanata Theatre. Playing multiple characters while never leaving the stage is a new challenge, the concept of the radio play is just plain fun, and the whole cast and crew is a delight! A special thank you to Tom and Julie who were Lorraine's very first production team for *Romeo and Juliet* in 2012. After many adventures, it's good to be home.



BRIAN MCMANUS is delighted to return to the Kanata theatre stage following last year's hit, *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He has been active in the local theater community for many years, playing comedic roles in *No Sex Please We're British*, *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Harvey* with the Valley Players as well as singing and dancing in *Nunsense* and *Cinderella* with the Mississippi Mudds. It has been a joy to work on this show and a privilege to be part of this fine cast.



RICHARD MURRAY is a high school English teacher on exchange in Kanata. Richard has had extensive theatre experience in Australia, both as an actor and director. In 2017, he played Max Prince in Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* and directed William Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*, receiving nominations for excellence in acting and directing respectively. Richard is delighted to be taking on the challenge of presenting multiple characters and the occasional sound effect, in this, his 90th production.



TANIA NADELLE is new to Kanata Theatre, and to theatre in general. She thoroughly enjoyed working on properties for two productions in the KT 2017/18 season. Tania is excited to be on stage for the first time as the Foley (sound effects) artist in KT's production of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. Who knows, maybe next time she'll even go for a role with some lines!



BETHANY OLSZEWSKI is playing several characters in this production, her first performance with Kanata Theatre. Bethany is in Grade 5 at École St-Rémi in Kanata, and lives in Carp. In her spare time, she plays competitive soccer, and enjoys many other sports as well. Bethany would like to thank her family, Tom Kobolak for all his support, and the entire cast and crew for being so much fun to work with.



BRUCE RAYFUSE is making his seventh appearance in a Kanata Theatre production. He last appeared in the 2016-17 season's production of *Equivocation*, and in the 2015-16 season, he had roles in *Radium Girls* and *The Odd Couple*. In addition to Kanata Theatre, he has appeared in productions at the Glebe Neighbourhood Theatre, the Fringe Festival and the Odyssey Showcase. When not on stage, he can often be seen in Front-of House and Served roles at Kanata Theatre. He wishes to thank his family for their continued support.



HAROLD SWAFFIELD is honoured to be back on stage at the Ron Maslin Playhouse, adding to his many performances with Kanata Theatre. He has also appeared with the Ottawa Little Theatre (2014), Phoenix Players (2017), Rural Root Theatre, ITR Theatre and Lakeside Players. When Harold is not busy on stage, he sings with Ottawa's 17 Voyces and is the president of The Lakeside Players. A big thank you to ALL of the actors and stage hands in this production, and a special thank you to girlfriend Cathy Dowsett and director Tom Kobolak.



MARY ELLEN VICE is delighted to be working with Kanata Theatre on this project! *It's a Wonderful Life - The Radio Play* is her first non-musical since 1984. Recent shows include *Les Miserables* and *Little Women* with ASNY, *Avenue Q* with ToToToo, and *Little Women*, *Anne of Green Gables* and *Be a Friend* with Orpheus. She is a retired high school drama teacher who loves to sing, study languages, travel and hang out with her family. Mary Ellen and her husband Larry continue to live in the Ottawa Valley where they raised their four beautiful sons.

The cast and crew would like to thank the following KT Members for their support of the production:

Box Office	Anna Filia
assisted by	Jacquie Blair, Rita Brownrigg, Michael Gareau, Carol Hussey Jennifer Kormylo, Gordon Marwood, Linda Panther, Judy Shane
Publicity	James Renaud
assisted by	Katie Buller, Christine Feldman, Jim Holmes Susan Monaghan, Emily Walsh
Marquee Signs	Paul Behncke
Program	Barbara Rousseau
Photography and Archives	Wendy Wagner
Building Operations	Justin Ladelpha
Technical Operations	Iain McCracken, Karl Wagner
Costume Room	Kathryn Clarke
Furnishings and Decor	Andrew Williams, Theresa Williams
Properties	Bev Brooks
Workshop	Jim Clarke

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer	Darlene Barr
Stage Manager	Julie Clayton
Set Design	Tom Kobolak
Construction Lead	Heidi Roberts
assisted by	Paul Behncke, Jim Clarke, Bruce Cunningham Bill Lumley, Lindsey Roberts, Steve Roberts Karl Wagner, Dan Winters, Larry Witol
Set Painting	Heidi Roberts
assisted by	Mary Holmes, Brian McManus Barbara Rousseau, Sheila Trivisonno, Sandy Wynne
Costume Designer	Maxine Ball
assisted by	Kathryn Clarke
Lighting Design	Torin Zaugg
assisted by	Ryan Kerr, Bill McLaughlin
Sound Design	Justin Ladelpha
assisted by	Andrew Stodart
Properties	Tania Nadelle
assisted by	Darlene Barr
Make-up	Martha Johnstone
assisted by	Tracey Bourke, Hilary Philebrown Kim Strauss, Emily Walsh, Sandy Wynne
Hair Design	Carol Walkey
Choreography	Tracey Bourke, Kendrick Abell
Special Effects	Kendrick Abell
Green Room	Nancy Cormier
assisted by	Adele Mayer, Terry Leonard, Christine Walton
Refreshments	Barbara Kobolak
House Manager	Don Lilico

Kanata Theatre acknowledges with special appreciation the following friends who have provided items or services to the production:

ACE Dry Cleaners • Alan Dean Photography
Jani King Service • Queensway Doors
Ron Evans Video • Spicer's Paper
Delphine Sullivan

The *It's a Wonderful Life Museum*, Seneca Falls, N.Y.

The parents and families of our student actors, for all their kindness and support,

and all KT members who volunteered after the publication deadline.

There will be **ONE** Intermission.

Please be considerate: ensure that mobile devices are turned off. The use of any media capture device during the performance is prohibited by law.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager.



PhonicEar On-Wave hearing assistance system is available during all Kanata Theatre productions. Small clip-on receivers permit control over listening volume levels. These units are available from the cloak room with regular headsets (or you may use your own headset with 3.5mm plug, if you prefer) or T- Switch hearing aid loops.

The only thing better than our plays...**are our snacks**

Enjoy coffee, tea, drinks, and desserts in the lobby during intermission!



THE RON MASLIN PLAYHOUSE

Located at 1 Ron Maslin Way, just off Terry Fox Drive, the Ron Maslin Playhouse has been the venue for Kanata Theatre productions since May 1996.

The Playhouse is accessible by OC Transpo on Terry Fox Drive, bus stop numbers 6381 and 6382.

The paintings in the foyer are by courtesy of the **Kanata Civic Art Gallery**. For further information or to purchase the art, please call Lauren Henry at 613-592-3393.

The telephone number for emergency calls is 613-831-4436.

TICKET POLICY

Tickets may be purchased by phone using Visa or Mastercard by calling 613-831-4435 or online at **kanatatheatre.ca**.

Exchanges can be made, by contacting the Box Office, up to 48 hours before the performance time shown on the ticket. A \$2 fee/ticket will be applied.

If you are a season ticket holder but are unable to attend a particular play, please don't waste your tickets: do give them to a friend or neighbour, as we are unable to issue refunds. Curtain time is 8 p.m.

Call 613-831-4435 for Box Office hours. Our email address is **BoxOffice@kanatatheatre.ca**

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