



1245 JEFFERSON BOULEVARD, WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02886 | 401.723.4266 | GAMMTHEATRE.ORG

Tony Estrella, Artistic Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GAMM PRESENTS WARM, *WONDERFUL* HOLIDAY TREAT FOR THE FAMILY

WARWICK, RI (October 23, 2019) – The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) celebrates the holiday season with ***It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play***. Adapted by **Joe Landry** from the screenplay by **Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra** and **Jo Swerling**, this family friendly play is set in a radio studio on a snowy Christmas Eve in 1946, with radio personalities retelling the redemptive story of George Bailey. **Damon Kiely**, chair of performance for The Theater School at Chicago's **DePaul University**, makes his **Gamm directorial debut** transposing the movie classic from screen to stage, as if it were a live radio broadcast. A cast of 7 actors play multiple characters, with radio jingles and an onstage Foley artist creating real-time sound effects.

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play runs **December 5-22** at **The Gamm Theatre, 1245 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI**. Tickets are **\$45** (regular) and **\$20** (child/student); preview performances (December 5-8) are **\$33**. **Season subscribers get \$10 off** regular-price tickets. Tickets: **401-723-4266** or **gammtheatre.org**.

Kiely said he's been working with Landry to customize the script for The Gamm and create a truly unique experience.

"Our show will be set in Warwick Rhode Island in the fictional WGAM radio station. We'll be advertising local businesses on our 'radio station' and making deep connections with the Gamm audience through holiday carols and on-air shout-outs. I feel excited that we have the possibility to touch so many New Englanders with the incredible story of George Bailey, the human spirit of Bedford Falls, and the joy of live radio performance," Kiely said.

Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella, who plays George Bailey, called *It's A Wonderful Life* "the heart of our 35th season."

"All season long we are looking deeply at what it means to be an American," Estrella said. "George Bailey's story is a reminder that decency and selflessness are the core values of citizenship, that a community is only as strong as its most vulnerable members, and that no one is too small to matter or make a difference."

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

George, Clarence, and the entire town of Bedford Falls come to life in this staged 1940s radio broadcast of Frank Capra's holiday movie classic. With live sound effects and a handful of actors, the story of beleaguered building and loan owner George Bailey, and his affable helper angel, Clarence, unfolds one fateful Christmas Eve as you've never seen it before. This captivating, life-affirming story is a holiday treat for the entire family!

"One of the best holiday shows around. . . .

A fresh and inventive way of reconnecting with a classic story of love and redemption." *Chicago Sun-Times*

"A well-loved tale told with style, charm and a heart so big it could burst the ribcage of the harshest Grinch." *Chicago Tribune*

This production is sponsored **Greenwood Credit Union**.
Season Supporter: **Rhode Island State Council on the Arts**

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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

adapted by **Joe Landry** from the screenplay by **Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra, and Jo Swerling**
directed by **Damon Kiely***

CAST

George Bailey
Mary Hatch/Rose Bailey
Henry F. Potter/Clarence/others
Harry Bailey/Ernie Bishop/others
Violet Bick/Janie Bailey/others
Joseph/Billy Bailey/others
Announcer/Zuzu Bailey
Foley Artist

Tony Estrella*
Madeleine Lambert*
Fred Sullivan, Jr.*
Jeff Church*
Angella Lynsey Ford
Richard Noble
Emily Turtle
D. J. Potter

CREW

Set Design by **Michael McGarty**
Costume Design by **Jessie Darrell Jarbadan**
Lighting Design by **Noah Beauregard**
Music Design by **Charles Cofone**
Production Management by **Jessica Hill**
Stage Management by **Robin Grady***

*Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

Thursday, Dec. 5 preview at 7:30
Friday, Dec. 6 preview at 7:30
Saturday, Dec. 7 preview at 2:00
Saturday, Dec. 7 preview at 7:30
Sunday, Dec. 8 press preview at 2:00
Tuesday, Dec. 10 opening at 6:30 (**New time!**)
Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7:30
Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7:30
Friday, Dec. 13 at 10:00 (student matinee, open to public)
Friday, Dec. 13 at 7:30

Saturday, Dec. 14 at 2:00
Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7:30
Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2:00
Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 7:30
Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7:30
Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7:30
Friday, Dec. 20 at 7:30
Saturday, Dec. 21 at 2:00
Saturday, Dec. 21 at 7:30
Sunday, Dec. 22 at 2:00

ABOUT THE GAMM THEATRE

Founded in 1984, the non-profit Gamm Theatre creates the finest of live theater, engaging the audience intensely in the most salient issues of our time and all time. The Gamm further serves the public with educational outreach programming designed to support the theatrical experience, and help sustain and enhance the intellectual and cultural life of its community. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Tony Estrella, The Gamm is a regionally recognized, award-winning theater and a proud member of New England Area Theatre (NEAT), a bargaining unit of the Actors' Equity Association.

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