

HOPE SUMMER REPERTORY THEATRE
PRESENTS

ON AIR

IT'S A
WONDERFUL
LIFE

A LIVE RADIO PLAY

ADAPTED BY JOE LANDRY



DECEMBER 18, 19, 20
2020

BROADWAY
ON  DEMAND



RICHARD PEREZ (Director, *It's A Wonderful Life*) is returning to HSRT to direct for the first time.

Richard is an actor, director and educator. He is the recipient of the Theatre Communications Group's New Generations/Future Leaders Fellowship, which took him to Chicago Dramatists as its first Associate Artistic Director in 2009. Prior to that, he was the Producing Artistic Director of the Bloomington Playwrights Project in Indiana for seven seasons. In that time, he oversaw the production of over thirty new plays, with at least half being world premieres.

His directing credits include: *Roustabout*, *Into The Woods*, *Urinetown*, *Cry It Out*, *True West*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, *The Mercy Swing* (New York Fringe Festival) and *Nocturnal* (part of the Kennedy Center's New Visions/New Voices Festival). Chicago credits include: *Water and Power* for Urban Theatre and *Invasion of Skokie* for Chicago Dramatists. On television he has appeared as Councilman Ortiz on *Boss*, with Kelsey Grammer as well as roles on *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago Med* and *Electric Dreams*.

He studied acting at The Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute and with Uta Hagen at HB Studios in New York City. He has an MFA in Performance from Arizona State University and is proud to serve on the theatre faculty of Hope College in Holland, Michigan.

From the Director

As far back as I can remember, *It's A Wonderful Life* has been one of my favorite films. So when Lenny asked me to direct this production, I jumped at the chance and agreed.

Then I got nervous. I remembered I have never wanted to see a staged version of this cinematic masterpiece because I didn't want anything to taint the sanctity of the film, not to mention this production would be streamed on the internet!

Fortunately, something magical always happens when you bring good actors and a good script together. As we began rehearsing it became apparent, that like with any revival, our job is not to replicate the original production, but to breathe new life into the timeless text. And timeless it is. It is a fortunate soul who cannot relate to the desperate plight of George Bailey and his loss of faith.

Even though not a Christmas goes by that I don't watch this beloved film, I've never thought of it as a Christmas movie. To me, its themes of sacrifice, friendship, gratitude, and acceptance are universal virtues that we should be practicing all year long.

Thank you for tuning in tonight. This project was a labor of love dedicated to all of you who continue to support HSRT and who remain faithful that we will soon be reunited to watch live theatre together.

Merry Christmas to all and remember, "no one is a failure who has friends."

Special Thanks

Titan Theatre Company
Hope College Business Services
Mike Howes
Heather Roden



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

CAST

Director
Richard Perez

Production Manager
Erik Alberg

Production Assistant
Alyssa Van Gorder

Director of Photography
Lenny Banovez

Video Editing
Titan Productions, Inc.

Sound Design
Lenny Banovez

Prop Design
Erik Alberg

Graphic Design
Anne Bakker

Freddie Filmore Brandon Wright
Gower, Potter, Billy, Joseph, Peter Bailey, Ernie,
Old Man Collins, Ed, Pete, Man (at Martini's), Nick,
Bridge Keeper, Binky, Cop

Jake Laurents Lenny Banovez
George Bailey (and young George)

Sally Applewhite Alyssa Van Gorder
Mary Hatch (and young Mary)

Lana Sherwood Pj Maske
Violet (and young violet), Rose Bailey, Matilda,
Ruth, Mrs. Hatch, Mrs. Thompson, Schultz,
Zuzu, Janie, Sadie Vance

Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood Chip Duford
Harry (and young Harry), Bert, Clarence Oddbody,
Sam Wainwright, Martini, Dr. Campbell, Charlie,
Man (at run on bank), Horace the Teller,
Mr. Welch, Tommy, Sheriff

Announcer John Bergeron

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play
Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)

The Actors



JOHN BERGERON (Announcer, *It's a Wonderful Life*) is a glad to back working with HSRT on this project. Originally from New Jersey, John is a graduate from Wayne State University. His most recent HSRT roles include: Schrank/Glad Hand, *West Side Story*; Richard Burabage, *Shakespeare in Love*; and Gerald in *Elephant and Piggie*. Favorite local roles include Trekkie Monster (*Avenue Q*), Jaques (*As You Like It*) and Roy Cohn (*Angels in America*) at Wayne State's Hilberry Theatre and Ebenezer Scrooge (2x) at the Bonstelle Theatre. Elsewhere: Banquo (*Macbeth*)/Camillo (*The Winter's Tale*) with the Richmond Shakespeare Festival, IN; Duke Vincentio (*Measure for Measure*), Shakespeare '70.



CHIP DUFORD (Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood, *It's a Wonderful Life*) is delighted to work with longtime friend and colleague, Lenny Banovez on this project. Chip worked with Lenny in the premiere of a musical called *Dogpark*, at The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, written and directed by Malcolm Hillgartner and Jahnna Beecham. Chip has had a long connection with Malcolm and Jahnna starting in 1995 at Hope Summer Repertory Theatre in Holland, MI, creating the role of Clive Cooper in the HSRT hit musical *CHAPS!*, which was written and directed by both of them. He has worked for 27 seasons in over 70 productions at HSRT, and spent four holiday seasons aiding in the creation of creatures and performing in the Hope College/HSRT joint venture, *The Nutcracker / A Play*. Years ago, Chip teamed up with local Holland, MI artist Joel Tanis and Enthusiastic Productions to take on the role of the curmudgeonly next-door-neighbor, Mr. Flabbinjaw, in the children's TV program, *Come On Over*. Normally during the holiday season, Chip would be over near Detroit, MI, playing Mr. Fezziwig in Meadow Brook Theatre's annual production of *A Christmas Carol*, but due to COVID 19, MBT, along with many theatres, including HSRT, has had to close it's doors. Chip would like to thank all who view this production for their support for HSRT and artistry in general during these trying creative times.



PJ MASKE (Lana Sherwood, *It's a Wonderful Life*) is joining HSRT for the first time. Spanning a nearly 20 year career, Pj has acted for various regional theatres around the country. She holds a bachelors degree in Theatre and Dance from James Madison University and a graduate degree in Movement Studies from London's prestigious Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, which has allowed her to perform and direct in such hallowed spaces as The Pompidou Center in Paris, St. Leonard's Church in Shoreditch and London's Southwark Playhouse. Since 2004 she's been producing trans-disciplinary live arts events as Urban Garden Performing Arts, a department of the international non-profit Artists for Community Transformation, and most recently has been narrating vampire romance audio books from a tiny cave in her Michigan basement.



ALYSSA VAN GORDER (Production Assistant: Sally Applewhite, *It's a Wonderful Life*) is a singer, actress, stage manager and producer. She received her BFA in Vocal Performance from SUNY Purchase and has been seen in various operas, musicals, plays and films. Alyssa also co-founded two theatre companies and produced numerous plays and musicals to date. She has worked with various organizations to raise money and awareness for charities, which include Broadway Cares, The Ronald McDonald House, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Helping Hands and The Anti-Defamation League. Alyssa is also currently the Managing Director of TITAN Theatre Company and a proud member of Actors' Equity. www.alyssavangorder.com



BRANDON WRIGHT (Freddie Filmore: *It's a Wonderful Life*) is glad to return to HSRT for this production. Previous company credits include Tinman in *The Wiz* and Roy in *The Odd Couple*. Other Michigan credits with Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Flint Rep, and the Hilberry Theatre as a Grad student at Wayne State. Most recently, Brandon played the role of Harpo in the National Tour of *The Color Purple*. Social media: @iactwright

HSRT Leadership



ERIK ALBERG (Production Manager) is a lighting and sound designer currently working as the Director of Design and Production for the Performing Arts at Hope College. Erik has been involved in and around HSRT since he was a lighting intern in 1989, and has served in multiple roles such as intern, electrician, assistant technical director, lighting designer and sound designer. His design work has been seen in *Godspell*, *Suds*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Schoolhouse Rock*. He received his B.A of Theatre at Hope College and his M.F.A. in technical production from the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware. Erik's design work has been seen with many dance companies including H2 Dance Company, Strike Time Dance Company, dANCEpROJEct Dance Company, IDT Dance Company, Dorrell Martin's Dance Fusion, and Lehrerdance. His design work has also been seen or heard at HSRT, The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Hope College, University of Delaware, Boarshead Theatre Company, Heritage Theatre Company, City Theatre Company, and The Miniature Theatre of Chester. Erik is a member of The Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, where he serves as the Commissioner for Sound Design and Technology. Erik is also an award-winning photographer, whose works have been featured in galleries and publications.



ANNE D. BAKKER (Managing Director) has been working with HSRT for more than 24 years in marketing, graphic design and as the Ticket Manager. In 2016 she began her role as Managing Director. Her HSRT involvement goes back to her Hope College student days, where she began her work in the ticket office and on the electric crew in 1982. She earned a Master's degree in Organizational Communication from Western Michigan University and spent many years in Student Activities, both at Hope College and Grand Valley State University. After winning numerous national awards for programming excellence and graphic design, including a lifetime achievement award from the National Association of Campus Activities, Anne began working independently in graphic design, event management and consulting in 2000. She was the Hope Ticket Manager from 2005 until 2016 and married Hope College Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Tom Davelaar on the steps of the DeVos Fieldhouse in 2012.



LENNY BANOVEZ (Artistic Director; Jake Laurents, *It's a Wonderful Life*) is in his third season as Artistic Director. During Season 48, Lenny directed *The Old Man and The Old Moon*; and played Will Shakespeare in *Shakespeare in Love*. He holds an MFA from the Professional Actor Training Program (PATP) at Ohio University and a BA in Theater Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. As an actor, director and educator Lenny has worked with: The Kennedy Center, Cherry Lane Theatre NYC, Theatre Row NYC, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, The Rep -Delaware PCPA Theaterfest, Houston Shakespeare Festival, Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Chamber Theater, Hyperion Theater Project NYC, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Virginia Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Huron Playhouse, Secret Theater NYC, Hedgepig Ensemble Theatre NYC, Monomoy Theatre on Cape Cod, Artistic Director Titan Theatre, NY.



REAGAN CHESNUT (Associate Managing Director) holds an MPhil in Theatre and Performance from the University of Dublin, Trinity College. During the academic year, she works as the Office Manager for the Theatre Department and teaches Stage Management at Hope College. She has served as head script reader for Fishamble: the New Play Company and as dramaturg and stage manager for Tavistock Arts in Dublin, Ireland. In addition to her administrative work, Reagan is a playwright and author. Her plays *Kyrie*, *Twilight in Hamburg*, and *Birth of a Superhero* have been produced in both the United States and Ireland as part of the Connecting Creativity initiative by Dublin-based theatre company The Break Away Project.

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Hope College Development Services • PO Box 9000 • Holland MI 49422-9000

HOPE SUMMER REPERTORY THEATRE

MISSION STATEMENT

Established at Hope College in 1972, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre is West Michigan's premiere professional theatre company and produces plays and educational programs of the highest professional standards that address the needs of, and enhance the quality of life for, Hope College and the community.

VALUES STATEMENT

•**Inclusion:** The company is a unique blend of distinguished professionals and young theatre artists from all over the United States, creating a synergy between younger and more mature artists from a diversity of geography race, ethnicity, income and ability. Those who are more experienced are infused with the enthusiasm of youth while they pass important artistic values on to the next generation.

•**Excellence:** We are distinguished by a wide variety of plays performed by one resident acting company. Our varied repertoire is unified by the goal of exploring and celebrating the joy and complexity of the human spirit.

•**Company:** The company numbers more than 100 annually and features a unique blend of distinguished professionals and young theatre artists from across the United States.

•**Education:** We bring together professional actors, directors, technical staff and administrators with students from around the country in an atmosphere which provides interns and young theatre professionals the opportunity to learn and practice all aspects of theatre.

CONSIDER A FINANCIAL GIFT TO SUPPORT LIVE THEATRE

As we near the end of 2020 and you begin thinking about which non-profit organizations to support, please consider making a donation to support the artists who are bringing you this production and who will be bringing you the 2021 season. Your donation will go to support the artists as well as HSRT.

As many theatres are struggling to make ends meet, we are fortunate to have a community that supports us in so many ways! It is our hope to raise our entire operating budget of \$380,000 so we are able to put all of our ticket sales for 2021 towards Season 50 in 2022.

If you would like to have a conversation or need more information about ways you can support HSRT, please reach out and we can set a time to talk!

Thank you again for your support!

Anne Bakker - Managing Director
abakker@hope.edu
hope.edu/hsrt

*The CARES Act makes it possible to deduct charitable contributions up to \$300 above the standard deduction. For those who itemize, you are able to deduct 100% of your donations in 2020. Check with your tax advisor for more information about how you can take advantage of these rule changes for 2020.

Hope Summer Repertory Theatre
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