

City Center **Live** presents

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

A LIVE RADIO PLAY

ADAPTED BY JOE LANDRY

DEC. 13 & 14, 2025
LENEXA CITY HALL

A FREE community theater performance
presented by the
LENEXA ARTS COUNCIL.



Lenexa
KANSAS
PARKS & RECREATION

SETTING & CHARACTERS

This heartwarming play tells the timeless story of George Bailey, a man who believes his life has no meaning — until an angel helps him see just how many lives he's touched. *It's a Wonderful Life-A Live Radio Play* celebrates community, compassion and the true spirit of the season. The setting is Christmas Eve, 1946, in Studio A at radio station WBFR, in Manhattan, New York.

Freddie Filmore (Announcer,
Potter, Joseph, Uncle Billy,
Gower, Peter Bailey, Ernie, Old
Man Collins, Ed, Nick, Man at
Martini's, Bridge Keeper, Cop)
Played by Dan Parker

Sally Applewhite (Mary Hatch,
Young Mary)
Played by Elizabeth Damon

Lana Sherwood (Violet,
Young Violet, Rose Bailey,
Ruth, Zuzu, Janie, Sadie
Vance, Matilda, Mrs. Hatch,
Mrs. Thompson, Schultz)
Played by Heather Howell

Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood
(Harry, Young Harry, Bert,
Clarence Oddbody, Sam
Wainwright, Martini, Dr.
Campbell, Charlie, Man at run
on bank, Horace the Teller,
Mr. Welch, Tommy, Sheriff)
Played by Wayne Dothage

Jake Laurents (George Bailey,
Young George)
Played by Kevan Myers

Foley Artists (sound effects):
Hannah Schnake (also
playing "Stage Manager,"
"Pete" and "Binky"), John
Schnake and Judy Tuckness



Director
Judy Tuckness

Producer
Susanne Neely (*Lenexa Arts Council
Liaison for City of Lenexa*)

MEET THE VOLUNTEER CAST & CREW



Elizabeth Damon (Sally Applewhite) has always enjoyed stories. Growing up, she read books, listened to radio theater, and created and dramatized her own stories. During her final semester of college, she finally decided to attempt auditioning for a play and was in her first production. Acting quickly became her favorite art form. In the past few years, Elizabeth has enjoyed participating in multiple productions produced by the Lenexa Arts Council. Elizabeth wishes to thank the director, Judy Tuckness, and show coordinator, Susanne Neely, for their work to gift this project to the community. She also wants to thank our foley artists for creating radio theater magic!



Wayne Dothage (Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood). "Act well your part. Therein all the glory lies." Wayne loves the part of Clarence the Angel Second Class. This is the third time Wayne has done this performance, and he enjoys working with this different cast. Wayne's acting experience began in the eighth grade and went through high school. He played Lord Capulet in *Romeo & Juliet* and had small roles in *The Boyfriend* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. He served as the technical director at Washington High School in Washington, Mo. for 15 years. Wayne says one of the hardest parts about this particular play is finding individual voices to give all of the personalities. Wayne is retired but he teaches wine classes and helps coordinate a wine and art trip to the heart of Missouri wine country. He would like to thank his wife, Mary, who indulges him in his theater experiences, as well as his supportive daughter and grandchildren.

MEET THE VOLUNTEER CAST & CREW



Heather Howell (Lana Sherwood) is thrilled to return to the stage after a 10-year hiatus—proof that theatre love stories really do stand the test of time. She first fell for the art at age six, went on to major in theatre in college, and stayed busy in community theatre in her

hometown of Longview, Texas. Heather was also among the first members of Theatre Longview's improv troupe, Duck! Duck! Moose!, and has worn many backstage hats over the years, including director, costume designer, and props wizard. In addition to the many one-kid living-room performances her parents were treated to, favorite roles include Annabella Schmidt, Margaret, and Pamela in *The 39 Steps*; Annelle in *Steel Magnolias*; and Cassandra in *Vanya* and Sonia and Masha and Spike. When she's not working for City of Lenexa, Heather can usually be found with her husband, Steven, their daughter, Anneston, and their two dogs, Allie and Millie. Every Christmas, she happily continues the tradition of watching *It's a Wonderful Life* (and Hallmark Christmas movies) with her father-in-law. Heather would like to thank Susanne Neely and the Lenexa Parks & Rec Department for the opportunity to return to the stage and do what she loves.



Kevan Myers (Jake Laurents) loves engaging with the audience and imagining living in a different world through acting. *It's a Wonderful Life* is one of his favorite films as it is such a timeless, spiritual story. Kevan earned his theater degree from University of Kansas. He played in *Tiffany's Attic* and *Actor's Ensemble in the*

1980s and since then, he has performed with Barnplayers, Bell Road Barn, Metropolitan Ensemble, Kansas City Actor's Theater, Just Off Broadway, White Theatre at JCCC, KC Fringe, and local films. One of the most challenging aspects of this play is to portray the young versus old versions of George without mimicking Jimmy Stewart. Kevan has worked as a financial advisor at Ameriprise for 37 years. He is passionate about his pursuit of faith and enjoys spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren as well as collecting vinyl records, multiple audio systems watching classic films and teaching adult classes at church. He would like to thank all involved with this play and especially Marshall Rimann for recommending him for the part.

MEET THE VOLUNTEER CAST & CREW



Dan Parker (Freddie Filmore) Dan Parker comes to this year's production of the radio play *It's a Wonderful Life* with a composition of voices and characters. His background includes a variety of venues including consulting/coaching with an emphasis in Leadership

Development and Organizational Design. As a mental health professional, he excels in mediation and intervention and conflict resolution. As a senior level executive, he has led successful ventures throughout the United States, Africa, Central and South America, Europe and Southeast Asia. Dan has experienced success as an accomplished corporate trainer with a proven ability to build winning teams and develop top producers that consistently exceed objectives. He has a proven ability for bringing diverse groups together to achieve a common goal with exceptional negotiation and medication skills. His love for the theater and performance comes from a background in vocal performance. He is a member of the Lenexa Arts Council and expresses his appreciation for the Council in producing this year's performance.



Hannah Schnake (Foley Artist) is a graduate of Shawnee Mission West High School and now attends UMKC, pursuing a degree in pharmacy. Hannah especially likes the auxiliary percussion -- all the incidental and often unusual instruments -- which

makes her a natural foley artist knowing how to make specific sounds using instruments or just odds and ends. She has also played in the Lenexa Community Orchestra since 2018. She joins her dad on Sunday mornings operating the cameras at Asbury United Methodist Church. This is her third year doing foley, and she hopes to continue doing it in the future.



LENEXA ARTS COUNCIL

The Lenexa Arts Council promotes and encourages arts programming to further awareness of the fine and performing arts in our community. This volunteer board, appointed by the mayor with the consent of the city council, schedules exhibits, coordinates a variety of art programming and gives input on artistic involvement in Lenexa. Learn more at www.lenexa.com/art. Also, find out how you can support the arts in Lenexa with your donation to the Lenexa Foundation at www.lenexa.com/foundation.

MEET THE VOLUNTEER CAST & CREW



John Schnake (Foley Artist) is not an actor or performer, but enjoys taking part behind the scenes mixing audio and recording video. By day John works in the telecommunication industry. On the weekends he is the A/V technician at Asbury United Methodist Church, along with his daughter Hannah. John enjoys spending time with his wife Dawn and daughters Amber and Hannah. This is John's third year as a foley artist and he's had a lot of fun with it. John particularly likes *It's a Wonderful Life* because it is a story of hope. When we step back and look at our lives, it's hard to count the number of people we positively influenced, many without our knowledge, and some by merely being present. Helping even a single person makes life worth the journey.



Judy Tuckness (Director and Foley Artist) is a freelance artist, with over five decades of providing scenery for theatrical productions. She has been the Technical Director at SMNW High School for over thirty of those years, where she is known as "Mama T" by her students. As an artist, she has been commissioned for many public art projects and by private patrons. She is also known for her silhouettes (paper portraits) of many individuals. Judy is also active in the local Scout community, serving as a Camp Director and Scout Leader for BSA. Actively involved in community art programs, she has served on the Lenexa Arts Council since 1989.

SPECIAL THANKS

Carol Leligdon, Judy Tuckness and Tasha Hammes for assistance with decorating the Community Forum and converting the city's meeting space into the backdrop for this play

Lenexa Arts Council Members: Judy Tuckness (Chair), Anne Lawrence-Cherry (Vice-Chair), Emily Behrmann, Wayne Dothage, Sarah Homan, Cheryl Kimmi, Carol Leligdon, Dan Parker and Jennifer Wampler for their tireless efforts to bring a wide variety of arts programming to Lenexa

Lenexa Governing Body: Julie Sayers (Mayor), John Handley, Courtney Eiterich, Mark Charlton, Bill Nicks, Avery Bell, Chelsea Williamson, Craig Denny, and Christopher Herron for supporting arts programming for the community

Volunteer actors and crew who devoted their time and energy to prepare for this show