

Shawnee Playhouse, Celebrating Its Forty-fifth Season, With It's A Wonderful Life

By Samantha Cameron

SHAWNEE ON DELAWARE, PA – The Shawnee Playhouse, celebrating its forty-fifth season, will be cozying up their stage this winter with *It's A Wonderful Life*, The Musical, from November 23rd to December 22nd, 2024. Directed by Ryan Cook, assistant director Sarah McCarroll, this heartwarming, inspirational musical stars veteran top talent from The Poconos, including George Kovar as Mr. Bailey, Ken McMullen as Clarence, Megan Fry as Mary Hatch Bailey, and Johanna Gelbs as the alternate Mary Hatch Bailey. This delightful rendition also features Dante Giammarco as Mr. Potter/Joseph's Mike Morano as Uncle Billy/Franklin's Voice, Duca as Harry Bailey, Rachel McDaniel as Violet as Mr. Martini, and Angelo Revilla as Mr. Gower/E

Based on the the beloved 1946 film, *It's A Wonderful Life* through his childhood dreams and

as he embarks upon an existential journey of self discovery, while he ponders whether or not his life has had any significant meaning and impact on those around him. Cinematically scored and theatrically staged, this beautiful adaptation breathes musical life into a timeless classic, while retaining the warmth, humor, and pathos of the original. This rendition is sure to become a new holiday favorite for devotees and newcomers alike.

Based on the story, *The Greatest Gift* by Philip Van Doren Stern, this charming and captivating production showcases many talented performers that audiences have come to know and love, including Sarah McCarroll as Cousin Tilly, Midge McClosky as the alternate of Cousin Tilly, David Berger as Pete Bailey, Jules Gindraux as Mayor, Sally Hendee as Mom Bailey, Liam Rosales as Mr. Potter's Goon, and Robert Cooney as Ensemble. This beloved musical will also feature Maelynn McCormick as Janey Bailey, Evelyn McCormick as Zuzu Bailey, David Carmen as Pete Bailey, and Blake Porcano as Tommy Bailey.

Produced by Charles and Ginny Kirkwood, the creative crew for *It's A Wonderful Life*, The Musical, features a veteran technical team, including Midge McClosky, executive director of the Shawnee Playhouse, Ryan Cook as director, Sarah McCarroll as assistant director, Todd Dean as music director, Barbara Beltz as costumer, Susan McCann as stage manager, Luke Leonard as sound technician, Liam Rosales as backstage crew, Kenneth Card as promotional photographer, Robert McClosky as media manager, and Samantha Cameron as press writer.



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