

Immediate Release

Young People's Theatre Presents
**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE:
A Live Radio Play**

A Holiday Hug for the Whole Family!

Adapted by Joe Landry

Based on the story "The Greatest Gift" by Philip Van Doren Stern

from the screenplay by Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra and Jo Swerling

Directed by Herbie Barnes

Nov. 20 – Dec. 30, 2023

TORONTO, ON (Nov. 8, 2023) – This holiday season, [Young People's Theatre](#) (YPT) presents a heartwarming adaptation of the beloved classic, [It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play](#). Directed by YPT Artistic Director **Herbie Barnes**, an ensemble cast of five will transport audiences back in time, retelling the holiday standard as a vintage 1940's radio broadcast where theatregoers are the live studio audience. The actors double as foley artists, producing a playful acoustic backdrop of ingenious sound effects and retro jingles. *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* warms up the Ada Slight Stage from **Nov. 20 – Dec. 30, 2023**. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

"This play is a love letter to my childhood," says Barnes. "It's a throwback to a time of connectedness – when everyone gathered around the one television in my house and experienced this meaningful story as a family. My hope is that family members of all generations will enjoy this story about human connection – told in an entirely new way – together."

Based on Frank Capra's 1946 film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, this captivating adaptation is a masterclass on the art of storytelling as the ensemble cast brings dozens of characters to life on stage.

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play opens on a snowy Christmas Eve in Bedford Falls, when George Bailey is struggling with an unfulfilled life of big dreams and even bigger disappointments. A lovable guardian angel by the name of Clarence appears and takes George under his wing, revealing what life might have looked like without him. In the true spirit of the holidays, George is reminded how precious life is, and the value of family, community and love.

"When the weight of the world pushes you down, it's sometimes hard to see how important you are to those in your life, or how you are supported by so many," says Barnes. "This story of humanity and hope is a gentle reminder of the impact that one life can make."

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play features performances by Shaw Festival alumnus **Caitlyn MacInnis**, **Amy Matysio**, a multiple Canadian Screen Award and Canadian Comedy Award nominee, **Shaquille Pottinger**, who made his YPT debut in last season's smash hit *The Darkest Dark*, Dora Award-winning actor **Anand Rajaram**, and veteran television, film and stage actor **Cliff Saunders**.

Additional credits include Set & Costume Designer: **Shannon Lea Doyle**; Lighting Designer: **Shawn Henry**; Sound

Designer: **John Gzowski**; Stage Manager: **Bradley Dunn**; Assistant Stage Manager: **Katie Fitz-Gerald**.

YPT's 2023.24 Season is Proudly Supported by **The Slight Family Foundation as Lead Donor**
and **BMO as Season Presenting Sponsor**.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY

Performances:

Previews: Nov. 20 & 21 at 10:15AM

Weekdays: Nov. 28, 30, Dec. 5, 7, 12, 14, 19 & 20 at 10:15AM & 1:00PM | Nov. 29, Dec. 1, 6, 13, 15 & 21 at 10:30AM

Weekends: Nov. 25, 26, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 27, 28 & 29 at 1:00PM & 4:00PM | Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 30 at 2:00PM

Recommended for ages 10+

Run time: Approx. 85 minutes

Tickets: \$10-\$54 (plus HST & service charges)

Purchase Online: youngpeoplestheatre.org

About Young People's Theatre

Young People's Theatre (YPT) recently launched the next stage in the company's 57-year history, co-led by Artistic Director Herbie Barnes and Executive Director Nancy Webster. This new era also marked the unveiling of YPT's expanded and renovated theatre complex, more than 10 years in the making. As Canada's largest and oldest professional theatre for young audiences, the company produces and presents a full season of theatre and arts education programming, serving approximately 150,000 patrons annually. With the purchase and renovation of YPT 161 Studios across the street from its historic theatre, YPT has expanded its footprint, increased its accessibility, refreshed its lobbies, and upgraded the theatrical equipment capabilities of its 433-seat Ada Slight Stage and 115-seat Studio. United in vision, the two facilities now anchor the corner of Front and Frederick streets in downtown Toronto creating Canada's largest theatre complex for young people. With its broad-ranging educational programs and exceptional productions, the company has an annual operating budget of approximately \$5 million. [Learn more.](#)

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Connect with Young People's Theatre



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