

Players By The Sea: It's a Wonderful Life

Holiday favorite is a treat the whole family can share! November 30- December 15

by James W. Rodgers - Comedy/drama and Directed by Bob Pritchard



Your favorite holiday heart-warmer comes to life on our Mainstage! Players by the Sea presents *It's a Wonderful Life* November 30 through December 15 as a treat the whole family can enjoy together. Director **Bob Pritchard** has assembled a cast of 28 actors for this faithful stage adaptation of the classic Christmas film. Everyone knows the story of George Bailey, who fears that his life has been a failure and is ready to end it all on Christmas Eve. Clarence, an angel trying to earn his wings, takes George in hand and shows him that the help he has given others throughout his life has made a real difference in the small community of Bedford Falls and that the love and respect he has earned are worth far more than monetary riches. Happily, George is reunited with his family and Clarence earns his wings.

The opportunity to share this well-loved story, with its many lively character roles, brought out familiar favorites, past Pelican award-winners and nominees, and some welcome newcomers. Talented young **Joseph Walz** is making his PBTS debut as George. Pelican award-winner **Miranda Lawson**, last seen singing and dancing up a storm in *Cabaret* and *Bat Boy*, plays Mary, the love of George's life. Their kindly guardian angel Clarence is played by **Larry Fairall**, who has done humorous and serious turns on our stage in *Inspecting Carol* and *A Delicate Balance*. **Jack Bernard**, one of the Beaches' most reliable character actors, is blundering Uncle Billy. **Redgie Gutshall** enjoys playing hard-hearted tycoon Mr. Potter so much that this is his third time in the role. (We think he just likes riding in that wheelchair.)

Gayle Featheringill, with credits far too numerous to mention (and a table full of awards to show for it) plays Ma Bailey. **David Boyer**, another longtime Players veteran, appears as Mr. Gower. **Bill White**, last seen as the not-so-genial *Cabaret* owner Max, is Pa Bailey. **Steve McMahon** (*The Odd Couple*), **Anthony Hodge** (*Tuna Christmas*), **Annette Page** (*All the Way Home*), **Robert Thames** (*Auntie Mame*, *All the Way Home*), **Sam Willis** (*Cabaret*, *Bat Boy*) and **Heather Goodling** (*All the Way Home*) have all enlivened recent productions and are back as the various, colorful citizens of Bedford Falls. Board Member **Maria Nordan**, whose friendly face is often seen in the box office, is taking a turn on-stage as Miss Andrews. Newcomers to watch are **Kevin Raleigh**, **Zdravko Rozic**, **Tom Peterson**, **Ruth Thomas**, **Ashley Chlelous**, **Kendra McNatt** and **Jennifer Mears**. **Jacob Goodling**, who was a street kid in *All the Way Home*, plays George as a boy. Also returning from *All the Way Home* is **Chris Fox**, playing George's son Tommy. George's daughter Janie is played by **Suzanne Scheuble**. The brood also includes two young second-generation actors, Andy Ratliff, son of Pelican award-winner **Bill Ratliff** (*Bat Boy*, *The Lion in Winter*) and **Sara McCawley**, daughter of talented singer **Ingrid McCawley** (*Pirates of Penzance*, *Quilters*).



Experienced Stage Manager **Merrilyn Opendo** keeps the large cast organized. Technical Director **David Paul** has constructed a multi-level set that suggests many locales in Bedford Falls. Costumers **Camala Pitts** and **Dorinda Grogan** have created an authentic 1940's look.

Bob Pritchard directed two previous productions of *It's a Wonderful Life* for his Jacksonville Stage Company. He recently directed Limelight Theatre's atmospheric production of *Frankenstein*. A skilled and versatile actor, his most recent (and hilarious) performance at Players was as an out-of-control actor disastrously playing Scrooge in *Inspecting Carol*. He's bringing his energetic vision, unflinching enthusiasm and deft comedic touch to this great holiday show. Performances of *It's a Wonderful Life* are 8:00 PM November 30, December 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15. Sunday matinees are at 2:00 PM December 2 and 9. Tickets are \$18 for Adults, \$15 for Students, Sr. Citizens and Military. For reservations call **249 0289** or visit www.playersbythesea.org.