

Community State Bank
&
Ankeny Community Theatre

Present



By James W. Rogers

Based on the film by Frank Capra

December 2 – 17, 2005

Ankeny Community Theatre
1932 SW 3rd St
Ankeny, Iowa

Directors Notes:

I have to admit that while I am a big fan of Jimmy Stewart, I did not know the movie version of “It’s a Wonderful Life” very well when given the chance to direct the stage version. After reading the play script several times, I watched the movie again.

It immediately became clear why this old, slightly corny black and white film has become such a holiday favorite. It is hard not to like Jimmy Stewart’s version of George Bailey, and as we learn about him, his life and his predicament, it is easy to find ourselves rooting for George to triumph.

While this stage version is not an exact copy of the movie, it does manage to fit in most of the characters and scenes that stand out and charm us in the film. Our challenge was to take this story and make it fresh and vital on stage. We knew we couldn’t duplicate the performances of Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed or Lionel Barrymore, but we had the same wonderful story and our own cast of charming, talented actors on our side.

It has been our goal since the first rehearsal to tell this story with sincerity. We have worked hard to make the characters ring true and the situations seem authentic, whether the drama of the scene is joyous, tense or sad. We hope that you, our audience, find we have been successful in accomplishing our goal.

When the chips are down for George Bailey, he finds that there are lots of folks from Bedford Falls who answer the call and come to his aid when he is in need. In the same way, I am grateful to a long list of people who have helped bring this play to life on the ACT stage. In every play I have been involved with at ACT, and this one in particular, I am reminded of what a huge community of people that it takes to successfully create theatre. My heartfelt thanks go out to our marvelous cast, crew and their families, and to the ACT board, for answering the call. This cooperative process, as much as the end result, is why I love theatre.

Best wishes to you for the holiday. It is my hope that our performance is one of many things this season, which remind you that your life is indeed a wonderful life.

Ron Gilbert, Director

A big THANKS to our members!

Angel's Circle (+\$5500)

Clara & Vi DeStigler
Monica Green
Jerry & Jo Reid
Jessie Reid
Juanita Rogers

Producer's Circle (\$250 - \$499)

Karen Burkett & Keith Pederson
Monte & Vicki Ingh
Jeanne Ginger
Roger & Sondra Spahr
Paul & Kaylene Ruby
Dick & Patricia Wilson

Director's Circle (\$75 - \$249)

Jim & Sharon Anderson
Luz Anderson & Loren Kruse
Doug & Lynn Artburn
Orville & Bonnie Ballard
Janie Buel
Aldo Bugarelli
Dean & Christine Burkett
Christine Burkett-Shields
Dick & Ellen Crowe
Gene & Cyndee Davis
Richard & Nancy Degner
Brian & Wendy DePrez
Troy DeStigler
Randy & Karen Dierenfield
Bob & Mary Jo Fraiser
Edwin & Joan Gibson
David & Susan Hayes
Marjean Hunter
Lory & Mary Johnson
Bob & Leighann LaRocca
Oscar & Renee Lenning
Earl & Janet Leonard
Jack & Grace Leverenz
Ken & Patty Loder
Gene & Gail Lucht
John & Deb Lundstrom
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Robin Nelson
Harvey & Sandy Olschoom
Al & Jan Price
LaVerne & Janice Quass

Sharon Hall & Kirk Reeder
Evelyn Rigby
Becky Schollee
Richard & Rhonda Snyder
Joe & Kim Van Haecke
Janet Wilson

Patron's Circle (\$50 - \$74)

Jim & Kathryn Bisbey
Wayne & Dottie Blewer
Linda Brice
Jim & Carolyn Bauer
Bob & Leona Carlson
Kay Wayman Chevalier
Marian Garner
Dave & Julie Gerdes
Greg & Dawn Hockemeyer
Jeff & Susan Jacobson
Ordean & Elizabeth Johnson
Ken & Donna Kelling
Nels & Pat Lertsen
Greg & Angie Luttenegger
Jay & Margaret Munson
Kristen Petty
Steve & Georgene Raver
Frank & Susan Rhoades
Carl & Brenda Schumann
Steve & Tamara Strachan
Polly Taylor
Don & Barb Wagner
Don & Carolyn Zuck

Artist's Circle (\$40)

Kay Bowser
Lori Card
Loanne Dodge
Steve Hickle
Jim Leeper
Genevieve Logue
Jan Luce
Jennifer Mahlow
Colleen Nelson
Bev Norager
Verdel Oldgaard
Helga Olson
Abby Ostrem
Bertha Perry
Ruth Politisch
Carol Rolow
Louise Vander Linden
Scott & Kristi Van Der Weide
Gary & Charlotte Van Lengen
Barbara White

It's A Wonderful Life

By

James W. Rogers

Based on the film by Frank Capra

And the story by

Philip Van Doren Stern

Director

Ron Gilbert

Cast

George Bailey	John Claes
Clarence Odbody	Larry Mahlstreit
Mr. Gower	Bob Steyer
Young George	Brett Deters
Young Mary	Kylie McGill
Young Violet	Nicole Frericks
Harry Bailey/Mr. Welch	Brian DePrez
Mother Bailey/Mrs. Hatch	Polly Layton
Aunt Tilly	Jeanne Gimpel
Violet Peterson	Anne Claes
Bert/Mr. Martini	Troy DeStijer
Ernie	Monte English
Uncle Billy	Greg Miller
Mary Hatch (later Mary Bailey)	Joyce Allen
Henry F. Potter/Sam Wainwright	Keith Pederson
Mr. Potters Secretary	Brandi Scott
Miss Andrews	Marnie Straie
Mrs. Thompson	Sarah Marchand
Mrs. Martini	Ann McGill
Miss Carter	Susan Jacobson
Newspaper Boy	Noah McClure
Pete Bailey	Brad DePrez
Tommy Bailey	Mathew McGill
Zuzu Bailey	Madison Loring
Jainie Bailey	Levi Kennard
Young Townspeople	Ben Baum
	Katherine Claes
	Allison DePrez
	Kailey Douglas
	Lauren Johnson

Production Staff

Asst. Director/Producer/Asst. Stage Mgr.	Cary Douglas
Set and Light Design	Ron Gilbert
Stage Manager/Rehearsal Asst.	Clare Stordahl
Costumes.....	Sarah Marchand
	Theresa Britt
	Kathy McGlothlen
Props	Theresa Britt
Light and Sound Operators	Harold Mosier
	Kyle Douglas
Hair and Make-up	Clare Stordahl
	Cast
Publicity	Jenny Neighbour
	Dawn Hockemeyer
	Lynn Arterburn

SETTING: Christmas Eve; Bedford Falls, 1945

TIME: Early evening.

Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, IL

No recording devices or flash photography are allowed during this production. Out of consideration to the actors and your fellow patrons, please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers and other audible electronic devices.

Biographies

John Claes – George Bailey

It has been a while since John has appeared on stage, the last time being in ACT's production of *Our Town* eleven years ago, in the memorable role of Professor Willard. (Memorable, at least, to those who remember it!) Prior to that, John appeared on high school, collegiate, community theater and "Folies" stages in Cedar Rapids. He is thrilled to share this "wonderful" theater experience with his wife (Anne) and daughter (Katherine). John works for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and lives in Johnston.

Larry Mahlstedt – Clarence

This is Larry's second performance as Clarence. Previously he played Clarence at the Ingersoll Dinner Theatre in 2003. Larry has performed in numerous productions at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater, Des Moines Playhouse, Drama Workshop, Newton Community Theater, ACTORS and Ankeny Community Theater. Some of his favorites include *Oklahoma!*, *Gyps and Dolls*, and of course *It's A Wonderful Life*. Larry is an Insurance Specialist for John Deere Risk Protection. In his free time Larry enjoys traveling, watching movies, and spending time with friends and family. Larry wants to dedicate this performance to his mom. "She is my guardian angel." DITTO

Bob Steger – Mr. Gower

Bob has performed at various venues, however this is his first with ACT. Some of his favorites include *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Something's Afoot*, *Bus Stop*, and *Tony & Tina's Wedding*. Bob is a warehouse manager with Kate-Lo Tile and enjoys history, sand volleyball, crossword puzzles and classic movies (*It's a Wonderful Life* makes Bob's top FIVE all time favorites)

Brett Deters – Young George

Brett is not a rookie when it comes to being on stage. He has been seen in the *Wizard of Oz*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *A Christmas Story*, *45 Minutes from Broadway*, and *Cinderella*. Brett is also an accomplished athlete participating in football, soccer, swimming, gymnastics and Tae Kwon Do. He can also be seen participating in Boy Scouts, Awanas, and the Parkview Web Team.

Kylie McGill – Young Mary

Kylie is a 7th grader at Parkview Middle School and has participated in church musicals and theatre camps in Milwaukee and Des Moines. Kylie is new to ACT and has two younger brothers. She's involved in Tae Kwon Do, soccer, piano, church youth group, and enjoys reading!

Nicole Frericks – Young Violet

Nicole Frericks (Young Violet) is a 7th grader at Ankeny Christian Academy. She was last seen in ACT's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. She has been in numerous musicals and plays at Capitol City Baptist Church and at Ankeny Christian Academy. Her favorite hobbies are playing basketball, writing, performing, reading, and playing with her pets.

Brian DePrez – Harry/Mr. Welch

This is Brian's 4th appearance at ACT. His past performances include *Take the Money and Run*, *Funny Girl* and *Funny Money*. Brian is married to Wendy and they have 2 children, Brad and Alli, who are also in the show. Brian is a Realtor for Coldwell Banker here in Ankeny. Check out the color of his socks!

Polly Taylor – Ma Bailey/Mrs. Hatch

Polly Taylor has done backstage work (light, sound, stage manager, director, and producer) for both Ankeny Community Theatre and the Ankeny Elks Lodge - but this is her on stage debut. Polly is a computer system analyst for the Animal Science Department at ISU. Polly likes 1940's/1950's movies, science fiction, and cross-stitch.

Jeanne Ginger – Aunt Tilly

This play is Jeanne's 20th performance for ACT and she says her favorite to date was *Funny Girl* in 2003. Jeanne has lived in Ankeny 42 years and has been working for the school system for 27 years. Jeanne also performs with ACT II (a singing and dancing group). ACT II can be seen performing annually at the Iowa State Fair, Summerfest and in area rest/retirement homes during the holidays.

Anne Claes – Violet

The last time Anne appeared on stage was in the role of Mrs. Webb in *Our Town*. Anne is from Washington, Iowa, where she performed in community theater productions. She also has performed in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. She is thrilled to share this "wonderful" experience with her husband (John) and daughter (Katherine). Anne teaches preschool at Little Friends and lives in Johnston.

Troy DeStigter – Bert/Mr. Martini

Troy has appeared in numerous productions for ACT, most recently in *Don't Drink the Water*. Troy is also serving his third and final year on the ACT Board of Directors. Troy is employed with American Republic Insurance Company.

Monte Engh – Ernie

Monte has been around ACT since the late 1900's. A few of his favorites include *Funny Money* and *Bedful of Forgiveness*. Monte was part of the ACT Board of Directors. He says the governor has revoked his parole and he is now serving another three-year sentence. Monte would like to thank his wife Vicki for all her support.

Greg Millar – Uncle Billy

This is Greg's second ACT production. He was previously seen in *Mesmgagh-Nuns* last spring. He was a regular at the Ingersoll Dinner theatre prior to its closing and was in productions including *Gyps and Dolls*, *Music Man*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Showboat*, *My Fair Lady* and several children's productions. Greg lives in Ankeny with his wife Carol and children Ben, Shelby and Taylor. Greg works as an early childhood special education teacher in Des Moines. Greg enjoys reading, traveling to Las Vegas and jazz music.

Joyce Allen – Mary Hatch

Joyce has been involved with theatre in the Des Moines area since 2001 and has been seen in *Man of Lamancha*, *Kin*, *Book of Days*, *Lone Star Love Poiton*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Readers Theatre*; just to name a few. We are thrilled she is now sharing her talent with ACT. Joyce works at Iowa Retina Associates and her hobbies include crafts, bicycling, jogging, writing, and spending time with her two adorable grandkids. Joyce would like to thank her son, Andy, for helping her with lines and watching the movie version more times than he ever wanted to; her boyfriend, Greg, for putting up with rehearsal schedules, and Ann Claes, for sharing her good-looking hubby (on stage!). It's a Wonderful Life has truly been a wonderful experience!

Susan Jacobsen – Miss Carter

It's a Wonderful Life is the second show for Susan, her debut being with *Don't Drink the Water* here at ACT. Susan is a graduate of the U of I, and received her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State. Susan is married to Jeff, who is a medical student at Des Moines University. They live in Ankeny with their two cats. Susan is employed by the Low Cost Spay Clinic in Des Moines.

Keith Pederson – Mr. Potter/Sam Wainwright

Keith Pederson is performing in his sixth production at ACT. His favorites so far have been *Death and Taxes* and *Don't Drink the Water*. He has performed in Des Moines in *Tale of the Allergist's Wife* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He is employed with the US Postal Service at the Grimes Post Office, has four children, and is engaged to fellow ACT actress Karen Burkett.

Brandi Scott – Mr. Potter's Secretary

Brandi attended both Drake and ISU and has a degree in both Political Science and International Studies with a minor in South East Asia and Biology. She then went to school to become an EMT and earned her masters in International Relations and Comparative Politics. Brandi currently is a veterinary technician and a technician for Automated Technologies & Integration, while she figures out what she wants to be when she grows up. Brandi has previously been in *Velveten Rabbit* with ACT, and we are happy to have her back.

Marnie Strate – Miss Andrews

Marnie Strate is a veteran to the stage and her recent credits include *Diana in Lend Me a Tenor* and *Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream* and North Central College (Naperville, IL). Marnie is currently a theatre major at Drake University, as well as a waitress and a drama coach at Roosevelt High School. In her spare time, Marnie enjoys bowling, drinking tea, and playing cards. Thanks to Mom, Dad and Lou.

Special Thanks To:

Ankeny Rental: Larry Handley, owner

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Roosevelt High School Drama

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Noah McClure – Paperboy

Noah has been around ACT for several years... either on stage (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*), or following his parents who both have appeared on the ACT stage. Noah is a fourth grader at Terrace Elementary in Ankeny.

Brad DePrez – Pete Bailey

This is Brad's 2nd appearance at ACT. He debuted 5 years ago as a baby angel in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Brad plays football, basketball, baseball and saxophone. He loves to talk sports – especially the Cyclones. We figure with his interests in theater and sports, he'll end up being the next John Madden!

Matthew McGill – Tommy Bailey

Matthew is a 4th grader at Northeast Elementary and like his sister Kylie, he has been involved in church musicals. This past summer, Matthew participated in a Des Moines Playhouse theatre camp. Matthew's interests include Tae Kwon Do, soccer, chess club, piano, Harry Potter, and reading.

Madison Laing – Zuzu Bailey

The part of "Zuzu" is Madison Laing's first acting role. She is a 4th grader at (rocker Elementary) School in Ankeny and is the daughter of Mike and Anne Laing and big sister to Katlin. Madison enjoys reading, music, chess, computers, softball, Creative Treasures, singing and riding her bike. Grandma Pat and Grandma Helen have inspired her.

Sarah Marchand – Mrs. Thompson

Sarah is blessed with 4 children. Ben, Joey, Nathan and Logan and is married to her wonderful husband Jonathan. She wants to say THANKS for taking care of the kids while she was at play practice. Sara is stays home with her children and is making a comeback to theatre... this is her first play since high school. Sara also enjoys painting, sewing and crafting.

Ann McGill – Mrs. Martini

This is Ann's first involvement with drama since high school. Ann is a registered nurse, but is currently at home with her three children. Since relocating to Iowa, she has been volunteering at Northeast elementary and Ankeny Presbyterian Church. She enjoys exercising and is an avid sports fan- (to Huskers!

Lexi Kennard – Janie Bailey

Lexington Kennard is 8 years old. This is her first play, although she enjoys performing skits in the neighborhood. Lexi has participated in a two-day workshop with a Broadway Actor/Director. Some of Lexi's hobbies are soccer, sewing and of course, ACTING!

Ben Baum – Young Townsperson

Ben is a 3rd grader at Willowbrook Elementary School in Altoona. His favorite subjects is science and art. Ben has 3 brothers. He is a cub scout with pack 383. He enjoys reading, playing games and having fun with his brothers. This is Ben's first production.

Katherine Claes – Young Townsperson

After appearing in school and "Popcorn Players" productions, Katherine felt she was ready for her first big stage experience with ACT. She is thrilled to share this "wonderful" theater experience with her dad (John) and mom (Anne). Katherine is in third grade at Beaver Creek Elementary and lives in Johnston

Allison DePrez – Young Townsperson

This is Alli's debut performance in theater. Her famous quote about being a towns person: "Mom – it's really cool because I get to be on stage a lot and I don't have to say any words!" Alli also enjoys dance, church choir, softball and basketball.

Kailey Douglas – Young Townsperson

This is Kailey's first appearance with ACT, however performing is not new to her. Kailey has danced and performed with Ankeny Dance for four years and has been singing in choirs for a number of years. She enjoys drawing, singing, acting and writing stories and songs. Kailey is in the second grade at Terrace Elementary and is an Ankeny native.

Lauren Johnson – Young Townsperson

Lauren Johnson is 9 years old and is in her first play at Ankeny Community Theatre. She is in the 4th grade at Crossroads Park Elementary in West Des Moines. Lauren enjoys the viola, piano and playing softball.

Ron Gilbert – Director

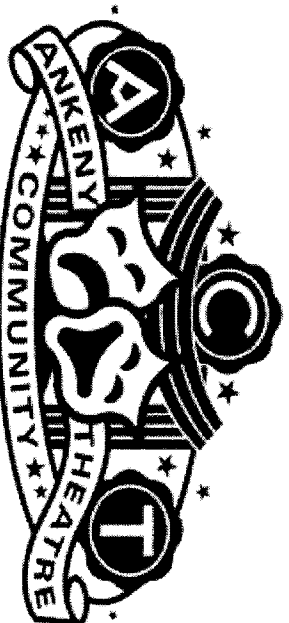
This show is Ron's 3rd to direct with ACT (*The Boys Next Door* and *Meshtagah-Nuns*) where he also serves on the board. He recently completed directing *The Miracle Worker* at Indianola High School, and will direct later this season for The Drama Workshop in Des Moines. He will make his first appearance as an actor on the ACT stage in January in *The Dining Room*, but has performed frequently at The Des Moines Playhouse and with StageWest. Ron is the father of Lindsay (19) and Spencer (16).

Cary Douglas – Asst. Director/Producer

Cary is one of the newest members of the ACT board of directors and has been seen on stage in *Funny Girl* and *A Round with the Boys*. Cary had her first experience working as the assistant director for *Meshtagah-Nuns* and she is back as Ron's right hand for a second time. While Cary enjoys being on stage, working as the assistant to the director is second nature for her and very fulfilling. When not helping at the theatre, Cary enjoys singing, crocheting, or running her two children (Kyle 11 and Kailey 7) to various activities. She shares her life with her very supportive husband, Jerry.

Clare Stordahl – Stage Manager

This is Clare's 4th season being involved with ACT. Clare has been on stage for two shows, but has been on the stage crew and done hair & makeup for many more. Clare is a hair stylist with Hair West in Ankeny and also a part-time student at DMAACC. Clare has one tail-less cat Pee Wee and she dreams of a vacation to the moon!! In Clare's spare time you can find her quilting, enjoying live music, and sleeping. Theatre is one of her greatest hobbies!!



Proudly a fixture in the Ankeny Community for more than 100 years.

Since Community State Bank opened its doors, our goal has been the same – make our customers' lives easier. From every day banking to mortgages. That's still true today. In fact, we've added Insurance Agents and Financial Advisors to help with all your insurance and financial needs as well. All under one roof, with the people you know and trust. That's how we're redefining simple. With you in mind.

The logo for Community State Bank, consisting of the letters 'CSB' in a stylized, cursive font.

Redefining Simple.

community state bank

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Feb. 24th thru March 12th

Schoolhouse Rock Live!, book by Scott Ferguson; music and lyrics by Dennis Curley, Lynn Ahrens, Bob Dorough, Dave Irishberg, Kathy Mandy, George Newall and Tom Yohe

April 21st thru May 6th

Caught in the Net, by Ray Cooney

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