

A Play in Two Acts by James W. Rodgers

Produced by Stephen Porter and directed by Carol Harris

Nov 29, Dec 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 at 8pm Nov 29, Dec 6 and 13 at 2pm

at the Morgan Hill Community Playhouse Corner of Monterey and Fifth

www.svct.org

by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois



Message from the President

Welcome to our 40th anniversary season's holiday production! We sincerely hope that you will enjoy this beloved story of despair turned to hope as George Bailey comes to realize that his has been a truly wonderful life.

SVCT is a non-profit organization supported by ticket sales, memberships, concession sales, donations and grants. Our volunteer organization is made up of community members of all ages and from all walks of life with a passion for the theater and committed to our vision of bringing quality theater to South County and beyond. Each season we produce five shows; a children's production; a teen production; a family musical; and two adult shows, usually comedies. Open auditions are held for all shows.

Tickets to our shows make unique gifts for family and friends. To simplify your holiday shopping check our website: www.svct.org or pick up a brochure in the lobby for more information on show dates and how to order tickets.

If you are a regular to our theater I would like to thank you for your continued support. If you have not done so already, please consider becoming a member of SVCT. Please stop by the membership table in the lobby during intermission for more information. Membership, in addition to helping SVCT financially, brings additional benefits including discounted tickets and voting privileges at our annual "Members Choice" awards.

Be sure to add your name to our mailing list in the lobby to guarantee receiving audition, performance and season ticket notices. We thank you for your patronage as an audience member and welcome and encourage you to become involved onstage as well as behind the scenes.

Now sit back, relax, and enjoy the show.

Carol Harris

Gilray ARTS XLLIANCE

It's a Wonderful Life

List of Scenes

ACT 1 A bridge near Bedford Falls, Christmas eve 1944 Gower's drug store, 1918 Bailey home exterior, June, 1925

Scene 3 Near Bedford Falls High School, a short time later Scene 4 Bedford Falls Cemetery, a few days later Scene 5 In front of the Bailey home, 1929

Scene 6 The Hatch home, a short time later
Scene 7 Church exterior, a few months later

Scene 1

Scene 2

Scene 3

Scene 8 Bailey Building & Loan Lobby, a few minutes later

ACT 2

| Scene 1 | Outside the new Martini house, 1935 | |
|----------|---|--|
| Scene 2 | Mr. Potter's office, a short time later | |
| Scene 3 | Bedford Falls street, moments later | |
| Scene 4 | Bedford Falls street, December 24, 1944 | |
| Scene 5 | Bailey Building & Loan offices | |
| Scene 6 | Bailey Home, that afternoon | |
| Scene 7 | Mr. Potter's office, a short time later | |
| Scene 8 | Bedford Falls Street, Christmas eve. | |
| Scene 9 | The bridge, a short time later | |
| Scene 10 | Potterville | |
| Scene 11 | Ma Bailey's boarding house | |
| Scene 12 | The Bailey home, Christmas 1944 | |

It's a Wonderful Life

Cast

(In order of appearance)

| George Bailey | .Scott Lynch |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Clarence Odbody | .Ray Trimble |
| Mr. Gower | |
| Young George | .Chris McCann |
| Harry Bailey | |
| Mother Bailey | .Barbara Smith |
| Aunt Tilly | .Lisa Singleton Quijano |
| Violet Peters | .Christine Carrillo |
| Bert | .Scott Valkenaar |
| Ernie | .Dave Leon |
| Uncle Billy | .Bill Corneth |
| Mary Hatch (Bailey) | .Susan Foster |
| Henry F. Potter | .Bill Tindall |
| Mr. Potter's secretary | .Natalie Portera |
| Mrs. Hatch | .Trudy Parks |
| Sam Wainwright | .Jim McCann |
| Miss Andrews | .Jennifer Langford |
| Mrs. Thompson | .Natalie Everett |
| Mr. Martini | .Kel Whisner |
| Mrs. Martini | .Trudy Parks |
| Miss Carter | .Robin Harris |
| Newspaper Boy | .Jacob Garcia |
| Pete Bailey | .Dane Weber |
| Tommy Bailey | .Jacob Garcia |
| Zuzu Bailey | .Mary Foster/ |
| | Makena McElroy |
| Mr. Welch | |
| Janie Bailey | |
| | Samantha Quijano |

Producer's Notes

It's a Wonderful Life has it's origins in a story called "The Greatest Gift" written in 1939 by Phillip Van Doren Stern. It was made into a motion picture staring James Stewart and Donna Reed in 1946. This play was adapted from the movie by James W. Rodgers and was first performed in 1993 at Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School in Lexington, Kentucky. It has become a classic along with "A Christmas Carol", "A Miracle on 34th Street" and traditional religious presentations.

I want to extend my personal thanks to our director, Carol Harris, the cast members and staff who worked so hard to bring this show to our stage. I especially want to thank my assistant, Loritta Bonfante-Johnson. Without her generous help and guidance this show would not be possible.

The holidays can be a depressing time for many people, particularly in light of current economic conditions. I hope all of you will be inspired by this play to take time to remind your friends and relatives of all the good things they have done for you and for others as Clarence did for George Bailey. As Clarence put it "No man is a failure who has friends". May you all have a joyous and happy holiday season.

The Tradition of the Gypsy Robe

Each SVCT production awards "Gypsy Robe" to a cast member who has made special contributions of time, and energy towards the good of the show. The robe is presented to the recipient on opening night; they put on the robe, and bless the stage before the performance. It is the duty of the recipient to affix to the robe a patch that signifies the show. The Gypsy Robe is then returned closing night, to perform its duty for another show, and carry on the tradition.

The producers of *It's a Wonderful Life!* are pleased to present the Gypsy Robe to

Barbara Smith

Production Staff

| Producer | Stephen Porter |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Production Assistant | Loritta Bonfante-Johnson |
| Director | Carol Harris |
| Stage Manager | Wayne Dewey |
| Set Design | |
| | Carol Harris |
| Scenic Artist | Glynis Crabb |
| House Manager | Jim Carrillo |
| Costumes | |
| Props Coordinator | Lori Foster |
| Lighting Design | Beric Dunn |
| Lighting Board | Kim Kacir |
| | Patrice Lyn |
| Sound | Stephen Porter |
| Concessions | Jackie Murphy |
| | Amy McElroy |
| | Tina I |
| Box Office | Bruce O'Hara |
| Program | Zana Vartanian |
| Lobby Decor | Robin Harris |
| Photography | |

Special Recognition to the following for their generous support of *It's a Wonderful Life*:

Bill Tindall for upholstery Morgan Hill Historical Society for porch furniture

Staff Bios

Carol Harris (Director)

Finding herself in the director's chair is always an enjoyable challenge for Carol and she has enjoyed every minute of working with the talented, good natured, hard working cast and crew of It's A Wonderful Life.

Carol's directing credits include 1940's Radio Hour; The Secret Garden; Some Enchanted Evening; The Odd Couple, Women's Version; Pump Boys and Dinettes; A Day in Hollywood, A Night in the Ukraine; and Something's Afoot, as well as numerous teen and children's' productions. On the stage, her most recent roles were The Reverend Mother in Nunsense, and Aunt Abby in Arsenic and old lace.

A retired teacher, Carol is the current president of SVCT, past president of The Gilroy Arts Alliance, and serves as an Arts and Culture Commissioner for the City of Gilroy. She is also a music minister at St Mary Church in Gilroy, teaches private voice and piano in her home, and is the accompanist for the award winning Gilroy High School choirs.

Carol wishes to thank her husband Dave for his continued support, Rosie for staying up late to play ball, Loritta for her infinite patience and friendship, Terri for hauling costumes and hunting fedoras, Stephen for going far beyond a producer's job description, Glynis for her talent, advice, hard work and good laughs, and Roz for filling in with style and grace. She hopes this production will inspire everyone to find the wonder in their own lives.

Stephen Porter (Producer)

This is the third show Stephen has produced for SVCT. His past two as junior co-producer and this time producing on his own. Most of his previous efforts have been in the technical end of show production, primarily as a sound designer. He has participated in more than 50 musical theater productions for high school and community theater groups over the past 20 years. He believes this a great inspirational show and hopes you enjoy it as much as he has enjoyed working with a wonderful talented cast, staff, and director.

Cast Bies

Christine Carrillo (Violet Peters)

Christine is thrilled to be on stage once again. Her last SVCT production was Scrooge - The Musical. Christine is a mom of two beautiful theatrical daughters, and spends most of her time volunteering in all their activities. Christine is a typical "Drama Mama", participating behind the scenes with SVCT and the Nordstrom Theater Workshop. She has been the Choreographer for Nordstrom Theater for the past 3 years and the Set Designer prior to that. She enjoys spending her free time with her family and has now moved from Beginner Seamstress to Intermediate, probably from sewing lots of childrens' costumes! Christine would like to thank her husband, Jim for all his help and support during the run of the show.

Bill Corneth (Uncle Billy)

Bill has been performing in South County since 1980, appearing in 39 productions. It's a Wonderful Life is his 22nd performance onstage for SVCT. He has played a broad range of roles in SVCT shows, such as:

Richard the Lion Hearted in The Lion in Winter

Charles in Blithe Spirit

Mr. Jordan in Heaven Can Wait

Seth Lord in The Philadelphia Story

Ken Gorman in Rumors

Dr. Craven in The Secret Garden

General Mackenzie in Ten Little Indians

Last year he appeared for SVCT as Sidney, in California Suite, and for Pintello Comedy Theatre as Max, in The Long Weekend. Over the years when not in a show, he's been Co-Producer, Stage Manager, Tech Crew, Stage Crew, Prop Master, and Rehearsal Secretary. In addition, he has served two separate terms on SVCT's board of directors, the last time as Membership Chairman.

Natalie Everett (Mrs. Thompson)

Natalie Everett has performed in two improvisational comedy troupes, Starts With an M and Extemporaneous. Just one of these was booed out of an Elks Lodge. Needless to say, this is her first legitimate theatrical performance. Offstage, she's a reporter for the Morgan Hill Times.

Mary Foster (Zuzu Bailey)

Seven-year-old Mary Foster is a home schooled 2nd grader who loves reading, swimming and studying science. In this production of It's A Wonderful Life, she is thrilled to be sharing the role of Zuzu with fellow cast member Makena McElroy. This summer, Mary discovered her passion for performing on stage when she appeared as the littlest coil of Kaa the Snake in South Valley Civic Theatre's production of The Jungle Book Kids. This was her very first role, and she loved every minute of it. During The Jungle Book Kids, Mary was awarded the tremendous honor of wearing the South Valley Civic Theatre's Gypsy Robe, and is the youngest person in the company's 40-year history to have been selected for this distinction. A third generation resident of Morgan Hill, Mary enjoys playing with her two younger brothers Zeke and Zach and her baby sister Maggie.

Susan Foster (Mary Hatch Bailey)

Jill Susan Patrice Foster is a home schooling mother of four wonderful children, Mary (7), Zeke (5), Zach (2 ½), and Maggie (9 months). A native of San Jose, Susan is an alumnus of Saint Francis High School in Mountain View, and Santa Clara University. In this production of It's A Wonderful Life, Susan is enjoying her first role in community theatre as Mary Hatch, the wife of George Bailey. She is also thrilled to be performing along side her daughter Mary, who shares the role of Zuzu in this production. Susan wishes to thank her husband Blayney-Paul for encouraging her to audition for this role, her mother-in-law Nancy Foster for introducing the family to South Valley Civic Theatre, and the entire cast and production crew of The Jungle Book Kids, who, earlier this year, opened her eyes to the inexplicable and non-stop fun that is community theatre.

Jacob Garcia (Newspaper Boy)

Jacob Garcia is 13 years old. He attends Solarzano Middle School in Gilroy. He has performed in Aladdin and Jungle Book, and this is his third production with SVCT. Jacob enjoys spending time with his friends and family. Jacob thanks all of his family for their support.

Robin Harris (Miss Carter/Townsperson)

Robin joined SVCT last season, performing in "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "Scrooge," arranging flowers for "Little Shop of Horrors" and mastering the art of painting flats. She was active in community theater in Albuquerque as an actor, playwright and assistant director and appeared as an extra on "Unsolved Mysteries." After moving to the Bay Area, she performed with Stage One and Lyric Theater. She would like to send a special thank you to her "J's" - Jennifer, Jordan, Jim, Joyce and Jason who have made her rich beyond measure with their friendship and love. Enjoy!

Hampton Hoge (Mr. Gower)

Current Gilroy and lifetime Bay Area resident. Acting and stage production work at the College of Marin, and the University of the Pacific. Also in theater productions over the years with the Lafayette Dramateurs, the Woodside Village Players, the Los Gatos Montalvo Players, and the Saratoga Drama Group. Also produced "Wind in the Willows" for St. Andrew's Middle School in Saratoga. This is my first theater work with the South Valley Community Theater. Thank-you.

Jennifer Langford (Miss Andrews)

Jennifer's most recent appearance was in South Valley Civic Theater's production of California Suite/Plaza Suite. Other credits include You Can't Get There from Here and Right Bed, Wrong Husband (Pintello Comedy Theater), and Lend Me a Tenor (SVCT). Favorite Credits: Husband, Rob and sons, Kyle & Dylan. Love to Mom, Aaron, Great Grand-



ma, and Aunt Mary – thanks for the inspiration! Huge thanks to this "Wonderful" team of cast members, directors, and producers.

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Dave Leon (Bert)

Dave is thrilled to be back on stage after a hiatus of 18 months. He has been with SVCT since 2001. His most recent gig was as director for SVCT's kids' production, "The Jungle Book." He hopes that seeing this show will give you a break from the craziness of the holiday season.

Scott Lynch (George Bailey)

Even though he has lived in Gilroy since childhood, Scott Lynch joins SVCT for the first time. It has been nearly 30 years since, as a senior at Gilroy High School, Scott played Charlie in "Flowers for Algernon". Prior to that, his acting experience was comprised of elementary school and 4-H plays. Today, he is father to Nathan and Abbey and works as a manager in his family's business, Excel Auto Body and Paint. Inspired by family and friends, Scott is excited to play the role of George Bailey, a man who experiences life's true wonder by witnessing the joy of his own past as well as the difference he has made in the lives of others. His hope is that you gain a renewed appreciation for the joy in your own life through "It's a Wonderful Life."



Chris McCann (Young George)

This is Chris McCann's first appearance in an SVCT production. He has been in plays such as Odyssey Theatre Company's "L'il Abner", and Antonio Del Bueno School's "Nutcracker" production for 3 years, in 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade. He currently attends Brownell Middle School, and is in 7th grade. Chris has one 20-year old brother and a 16-year old sister, along with a Mom and a Dad, who happen to be in the same SVCT production as Chris.

Jim McCann (Harry Bailey)

After appearing in a number of Odyssey Theatre productions, Jim is pleased to be appearing in his second show for SVCT. Last year he was part of the ensemble cast of Neil Simon's "Suites". He is happy to be performing with such a great cast of actors, including his son Chris!

Makena McElroy (Zuzu Bailey)

Makena is a 4th grader at the Charter School of Morgan Hill. She has performed in the Lorax (as a oncler), The Jungle Book (as Shanti), and Fiddler on the Roof (as a daughter of Tevya) with the City of Gilroy. She enjoys hanging out with her friends, playing violin and reading. She hopes you enjoy her first SVCT production!

Shannon Murphy (Janie Bailey)

Shannon is a 4th grader at Valley Christian School. Shannon has appeared on stage in "Oklahoma" and "Fiddler on the Roof" with the St. Catherine's school plays and Suessical with Valley Christian School. She has participated in the CMT camp for young actors. This is her first performance with SVCT. Offstage Shannon is an avid tennis player and dancer. She thanks her Mom who cares for her during the rehearsals and plays and who is proud of her.



Trudy Parks (Mrs. Martini)

This is Trudy's second production with SVCT. She played the Beggar Woman in last year's production of "Scrooge – the Musical". Trudy sang in the Hillside Church Choir and was in several of their musical drama presentations at Easter and Christmas. She is an employee of the Morgan Hill unified school district, married with two adult children, four grand-children and two great grandchildren on the way. Trudy and her husband Ralph moved their family to the Bay Area from Minnesota in 1970. She would like to dedicate her performance to the loving memory of her son Dustin. Sit back and enjoy the show, and always remember it truly is a wonderful life!

Natalie Portera (Mr. Potter's secretary)

This is Natalie's 10th play overall and her 5th with the SVCT company. She worked three years with Children's Playhouse in the productions of Peter Rabbit, Beware of Wolves and Green Frog Tales, and two years with Gavilan Theatre in Fame and Junble Book. Natalie won the SVCT award for Best actress in a minor role for the play Narnia and was nominated for Best actress for Schoolhouse Rock. She loves the movie Juno and enjoys terrorizing her siblings...and sometimes her Mom and Dad.

Samantha Quijano (Jamie Bailey)

This is Samantha's 4th performance with SVCT, the 1st being "Scrooge." Samantha enjoys acting very much, and her other hobbies include horseback riding, reading, and track. She is a 6th grader at Charter School of Morgan Hill, and does very well academically. Samantha gives a shout out to her friends and family, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Lisa Singleton Quijano (Aunt Tilly)

The last play that Lisa acted in was "Deadly Dan's Revenge," an original musical melodrama that she also co-wrote, including lyrics and score. But that was over 30 years ago! In the mean time, she prepared for the role of Aunt Tilly by teaching college for 20 years, being a mom for 11 years, watching dozens of black & white movies and reading countless books. She thanks her husband and 3 kids for their support, especially Samantha, who inspired Lisa to try acting again.



Barbara Smith (Mother Bailey)

Barbara started with SVCT as a chorus member in "Music Man" then followed in "Arsenic & Old Lace" playing Martha Brewster, the sweet, kind, murderous auntie. Barbara retired after 44 years of teaching and is happy to have found SVCT and met all the wonderful people involved. She dedicates this performance to the "angels" in her life: her husband Chuck, her sons Al & Ben, and especially to her youngest son Paul who started his heavenly angel work in May of this year.

Bill Tindall (Henry F. Potter)

Bill was Albert, the lovable butler, in Pintello Comedy Theater's "Boeing-Boeing" and Tom in "Sadie Returns to Big Oak". He was featured in SVCT's "Arsenic and Old Lace" for which he received the Producers' award and appeared in "Scrooge – the Musical" as the Ghost of Christmas Present. He is happy to be a part of this holiday favorite.

Ray Trimble (Clarence Odbody)

For most of his life, Ray's only involvement with theatre was as an observer. Then, in his doddering old age, he had the effrontery to stagger on stage. Ray has been in the lights four times now with South Valley Civic Theatre, and this is his second role as a man long dead. Last year he attempted the ghost of Marley in 'Scrooge, the Musical'. Before that he had smaller parts in 'Annie' and 'The Music Man'. Ray hopes you enjoy our performance, and that you, too, can come to realize that you really do have a wonderful life.



Scott Valkenaar (Ernie)

This is Scott's third play with SVCT, having performed previously as Charlie Cowell in The Music Man and Bob Cratchit in Scrooge, The Musical (in which he was honored with an award for Best supporting Actor). Scott is ecstatic to work with such a talented and wonderful cast and crew and feels privileged to be directed by Carol Harris for the first time. He is very grateful for the opportunity to stretch his acting talents by being cast in two diverse roles for this play. Scott wishes to dedicate his performance to his patient and lovely wife Susan, for whom all this acting stuff would not be possible without her gracious support and tolerance for his absences during the rehearsals and performances. And remember—ALL Life is truly wonderful—not just George Baileys...

Dane Weber (Pete Bailey)

Dane has performed as lead characters in three previous plays with the Children's Play House of San Jose. Dane is 11 years old, in 5th grade, and has two brothers and a sister. Outside of school and theater he enjoys hip hop dancing, soccer, and video games.

Kel Whisner (Mr. Martini)

Kel Whisner has previously performed in Lil Abner, The Sound of Music, and The Happy Time. He was most recently cast in the SVCT production of the Music Man. He is currently a manager at Velodyne Acoustics and has been a resident of Morgan Hill since 1999.



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Don't Miss South Valley Civic Theatre's 40th Year Gala Dinner Celebration

Another Opening, Another Show - A chance for stage folks to say hello!

Date: Saturday, January 10, 2009

Time: 6:00 to 9:30 P.M.

Location: Community & Cultural Center in Hiram Room -

17000 Monterey Road in Morgan Hill

Silent Auction, Dinner and 40 Years of Live Entertainment Tickets: \$40 person/\$75 couple - Must be 18 or older

Please contact Kim at (408) 710-8429 for tickets or further information on this event. RSVP required by December 31 due to limited seating.

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