

BUS BARN STAGE COMPANY

It's a Wonderful Life **a live radio play**

by Joe Landry

Original Music and Musical Arrangments
by Kevin Connors

directed by Ana-Catrina Buchser

CAST

Martin Gagen as Jake Laurents
Clara Hirsh as Sally Applewhite
Ryk Houseman as Freddie Filmore
Katherine Leyva as Lana Sherwood
Charles Woodson Parker as Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood

Charles Morgan
Pianist

STAFF

Scenic Design
Bryan Hornbeck

Technical Director
David Ferlauto

Lighting Design
Ben Hemmen

Properties Design
Patricia Tyler

Costume Design
Margaret Toomey

Sound Design
George Psarras

Stage Manager
Samantha Schroeter

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY is presented through
special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

THE ACTORS



Martin Gagen (Jake Laurents) This is Martin's first performance at the Bus Barn Stage. He is an English actor with theatre and film experience in the US and Europe. His theatre work has included many modern and classical productions. His recent Bay Area performances include Adrian in Steven Dietz' *Private Eyes* at the Dragon Theatre, Jimmy in Neil Simon's *The Gingerbread Lady* at the Dragon Theatre, General Tilney and Mr. Morland in Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* at The Pear Avenue Theatre, and the Narrator in C. S. Lewis's *The Magician's Nephew* at The Tabard Theatre. Martin trained with A.C.T. in San Francisco, and with the British American Drama Academy at Oxford University, where he worked with the founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company, John Barton.



Clara Hirsh (Sally Applewhite) Clara hails from Chicago, IL and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Illinois Wesleyan University with a BFA in Music Theatre. Clara has performed with California Theatre Center as Mollie in *The Mousetrap* and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as well as in many plays for young audiences like Miss Nelson in *Miss Nelson is Missing*, Miss Clavel in *Madeline's Christmas*, and Beauty in *Beauty and the Beast*. Other favorite show credits include Cinderella in *Into the Woods* and Emily in *State Fair*.



Ryk Houseman (Freddie Filmore) This is Ryk's debut at the Bus Barn Stage. Recent shows include *My Three Angels* and *Flaming Idiots* with The Santa Clara Players, Mr. Sowerberry in *Oliver* and Slim in *Of Mice and Men* at the Douglas Morrison Theatre. He sings with the Stanford Symphonic Chorus and traveled with the Chorus as part of the Olympic cultural exchange in Shanghai and Beijing. He has been a ham radio operator since high school and is a fan of 30's and 40's radio drama, which brought him full circle to *It's A Wonderful Life*, *A Live Radio Play*.



Katherine Leyva (Lana Sherwood) Katherine is a recent graduate of the University of Southern California with a BA in Vocal Arts and a Musical Theatre minor. Recently, she has appeared in *Of Thee I Sing* (Chambermaid/Contestant) at 42nd Street Moon and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Featured Dancer) at Foothill Music Theatre. She has also performed in *Nine* (Ilse) at City Lights Theatre Company and *Will Rogers Follies* (Ziegfeld Girl) at Hillbarn Theatre. Other roles include Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* and Hope in *Anything Goes*, both at PACT Wingspread and Mrs. Taylor/Daisy in *Bat Boy: The Musical* and Sarah in *Company*, both with the USC Experimentals. Her next show will be *Carnival* (Gloria) also at 42nd Street Moon. This is her first show at the Bus Barn Stage.

THE ACTORS



Charles Woodson Parker (Harry “Jazzbo” Heywood) Charles is excited to return to Bus Barn Stage, the theater that marked his return to the Bay Area performing arts community. Recent roles include Leduc in *Incident at Vichy* with Role Players Ensemble, Guildenstern in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* with Role Players Ensemble, Barfee in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* with West Valley Light Opera, City Him in *Gifts of the Magi* with the Tabard Theatre Company, and Judas in *Godspell* with Sunnyvale Community Players. Charles holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theater from The Boston Conservatory.



Charles Morgan (Pianist) Charles is excited to be doing his first Bus Barn main stage production after being part of this year’s “Follies” family. Charles received his training at Belmont University in Nashville and later at the New England Conservatory. He served as departmental accompanist in musical theatre and performed with various musical groups, including Boston’s Beantown Swing Orchestra. Since moving to the Bay Area, Charles has worked with various arts organizations, including Performing Arts Workshop and San Francisco Opera. He has also had the privilege of serving as music director for Bullis Charter School’s after-school theatre program for the past two years.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

The following five actors play the following roles in the radio play:

Jake Laurents plays George Bailey and young George

Sally Applewhite plays Mary and young Mary

Freddie Fillmore is the Announcer and plays Clarence the Apprentice Angel, Potter, Billy, Peter Bailey, Ernie, Old Man Collins, Ed, Pete, Man at Martini’s and Cop.

Lana Sherwood plays Violet, young Violet, Rose Bailey, Matilda, Ruth, Mrs. Hatch, Mrs. Thompson, Schultz, Zuzu, Janie, and Sadie Vance

Harry “Jazzbo” Heywood plays Harry, young Harry, Bert, Joseph, Sam Wainwright, Martini, Dr. Campbell, Charlie, Man at run on bank, Horace the Teller, Mr. Welch, Tommy, Sheriff, Bridge Keeper, Binky and Nick



Bus Barn Stage Company

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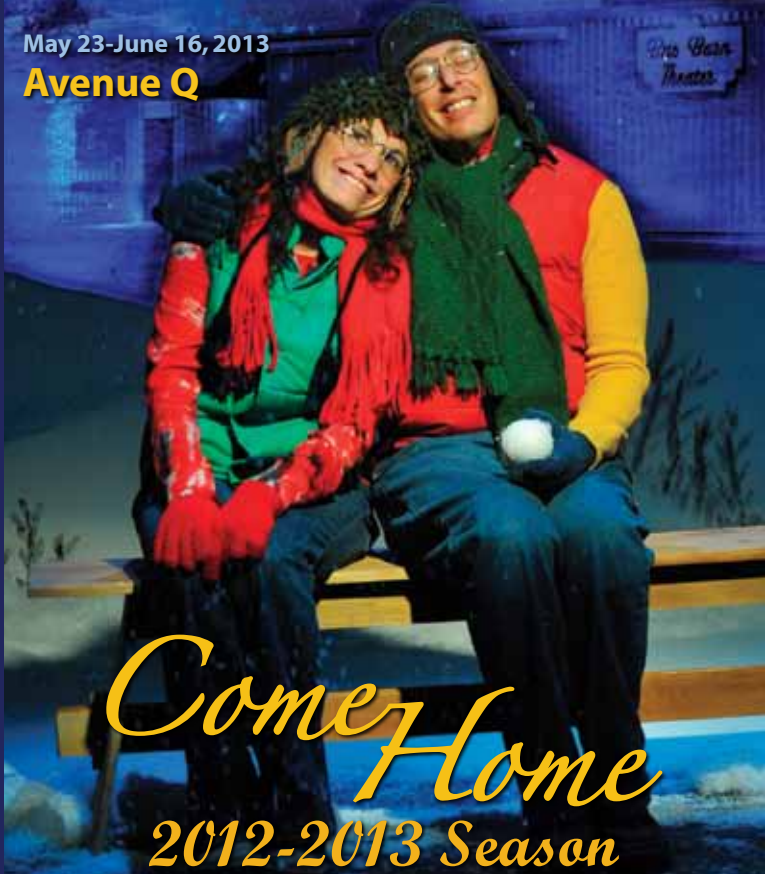
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SCENE

Time: Christmas Eve, 1946

Place: The stage and auditorium of Studio A at WBFR in Manhattan, New York.

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play is performed as a 1940s live radio broadcast in front of a studio audience. Five actors perform the dozens of characters in the radio play as well as produce the sound effects.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JOE LANDRY (Playwright) At age 12, Joe's first job was in the film department at the library in his hometown of Fairfield, CT. This was before the dawn of home video, back in the days of 16mm, and their permanent collection included *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The Lady Vanishes* and other early Hitchcock films. Joe's other main interest was the theatre. Encouraged by his parents, Joe was introduced to various theatres which he came to call home, including Playwrights Horizons and Roundabout Theatre Company in New York, Westport Country Playhouse and others. In 1995, Joe founded Second Guess Theatre Company, which produced over two dozen new plays, adaptations and revivals to critical acclaim. In 1997, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* premiered in Stamford, CT and has since enjoyed productions around the country. Joe's other plays include *Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play* and an adaptation of the cult classic *Reefer Madness*. Other projects include *Mothers and Sons*, a musical co-written with Kevin Connors and *Lifeboat, Dahling!* with Bert Bernardi. www.joelandry.com

PRODUCTION STAFF

Ana-Catrina Buchser (Director) Ana-Catrina has been directing in the Bay Area for 14 years at theaters such as Dragon Productions Theatre Company, Santa Clara Players, and City Lights Theatre Company, as well as assisting at the San Jose Repertory Theatre and TheatreWorks. She attended Stanford University where she received BAs in Human Biology and Drama, and a MA in Directing. She is an alumna of the tenor saxophone section of the Stanford Marching Band. Ana-Catrina is a member of Theatre Bay Area, Directors Lab West, Lincoln Center Directors Lab, SJREAL (San Jose Rep Emerging Artists Lab) and an Associate Member of SDC. You can read and contribute to her blog here: modicumsofinspiration.com

Bryan Hornbeck (Scenic Designer) Bryan started his theatrical career at age nine in his elementary school Christmas play as Ebenezer Scrooge and helping draw and paint the scenery. Since that time in 1974, Bryan has been involved in many aspects of theatre including directing, talent management and play development. He graduated college with a degree in theatrical design and production from Cal State Northridge. Bryan has been a professional stagehand with the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 16 in San Francisco for the past fifteen years. *It's A Wonderful Life* is his first production with the Bus Barn Stage Company.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Ben Hemmen (Lighting Designer) Ben is happy to return to Bus Barn to light *It's a Wonderful Life*. His work last year included lighting *Almost, Maine* and stage managing *Doubt, A Parable*. Some of his favorite shows over the years have included *Breaking Up is Hard to Do*, *Private Lives*, and *Forever Plaid*. He has worked with several groups over the years including Los Altos Youth Theater, The Pear Ave. Theater, Lyric Theater, AMT, and San Jose Taiko.

Patricia Tyler (Properties Designer) Patricia has designed props and costumes for over 40 shows in the Bay Area including The Pear Ave. Theatre, Lyric Theatre, Bus Barn Stage, Palo Alto Players, and Dragon Productions. She has appeared as an actress on many of those stages as well. Her performing background includes puppetry (Lunatique Fantastique), improvisation (The Second City), mime (Seattle Mime Theatre) and film (Hemingway & Gellhorn, Dumbarton Bridge, and Trouble in Mind).

Margaret Toomey (Costume Designer) Margaret works nationally in costume, scenic, and prop design and production. Recent local credits include: *A Chorus Line* (BBBay); *Pericles* (Shady Shakespeare); *The Wizard of Oz* (Pied Piper Players); *The Gondoliers* (Lyric Theatre); *Cinderella* and *Beauty and the Beast* (California Theatre Center); and *Cherry Orchard* (Hapgood Theatre). National credits include: Triad Stage (Greensboro, NC); Dallas Children's Theater; Dallas Theater Center; WaterTower Theatre (Addison, TX); Portland Stage Company (Portland, ME); and ArtsWest Playhouse (Seattle). Margaret received her MFA in Scenography from UNC Greensboro and BA in Theatre from Grinnell College in Iowa.

George Psarras (Sound Designer) George has designed sound and/or written original music for many productions, mainly at City Lights Theater Company, where has been the resident sound designer for the past two seasons. Productions include *44 Plays for 44 Presidents*, *Chicago*, *In The Next Room or (the vibrator play)*, *Hamlet*, *Aphrodisiac*, *August: Osage County*, *Distracted*, *Equus*, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty* and many more. He is also a Bay Area actor and has worked at Crowded Fire Theater, City Lights Theater Company, TheatreWorks, Golden Thread Productions, and Dragon Productions. He is a graduate of the Foothill Theatre Conservatory.

Samantha Schroeter (Stage Manager) Samantha is thrilled to be returning to Bus Barn Stage for her second show. She is excited to be doing an alternative holiday show and is looking forward to the smallest cast she has worked with since *A Tuna Christmas* at Bus Barn two years ago. She has worked many productions in the area including *Tales of Hoffmann* and *Aida* at West Bay Opera, *Annie* and *The Rabbit Hole* at Palo Alto Players, and *Henry V* and *Cymbeline* at San Francisco Shakespeare Festival.



FIFTY-SEVENTH SEASON
2012-13

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LES CONTES
D'HOFFMANN

Jacques Offenbach

Oct 12, 14, 20, 21, 2012



LUCIA DI
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Gaetano Donizetti

Feb 15, 17, 23, 24, 2013



OTELLO

Giuseppe Verdi

May 24, 26, June 1, 2, 2013

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2012-2013 CONTRIBUTORS

Bus Barn Stage Company gratefully acknowledges the many businesses, corporations, foundations and individuals whose generous support makes our productions possible. Contributions listed below reflect gifts received over the last twelve months (11/1/2011 – 10/31/2012). For corrections or to make a contribution, please contact Gary Landis @ 650-941-0551 • P.O. Box 151, Los Altos, CA 94023.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

BUS BARN THEATER

97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos, CA 94022
In the Hillview Community Center

BOX OFFICE

Is located next to theater. Tickets and Information: (650) 941-0551. Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 3:00 - 6:00 pm. Will Call opens 30 minutes before curtain.

PERFORMANCE TIMES

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm; Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm,
Sunday at 3 pm unless otherwise noted.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET PRICES

Preview Thursday: \$24
Opening Night (includes champagne reception with cast): \$32
Wednesday: \$24
Thu/Fri/Sat: \$30
Sunday: \$26
Student price of \$18 on Saturdays only!

GROUP DISCOUNTS

Are available to groups of 10 or more. Call the Box Office for details.

TICKET EXCHANGES

Only subscribers can exchange their tickets, free of charge. All exchanges are subject to availability and we cannot guarantee the same assigned seats. Sorry, no ticket refunds.

WHEELCHAIR SEATING

Is available. Please notify the Box Office in advance when purchasing tickets.

PLEASE REMEMBER

There is no smoking in the theater. Cameras and recording devices are prohibited. As a courtesy to other patrons, please turn off your pager, cell phone or watch alarm during the performance.

ENJOY THE SHOW!

Bus Schedule

Now Playing!



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO SHOW

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER				
Wed. 7:30	Thur. 8:00	Fri. 8:00	Sat. 8:00	Sun.
	29	30*	Dec. 1	2*
5	6	7●	8♦	9*
12	13	14	15	16*
19	20	21	22	

ON GOLDEN POND

JANUARY – FEBRUARY				
Wed. 7:30	Thur. 8:00	Fri. 8:00	Sat. 8:00	Sun.
	24	25*	26	
	31	1●	2♦	3*
Feb. 6	7	8	9	10*
13	14	15	16	17*

THE HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES

APRIL – MAY				
Wed. 7:30	Thur. 8:00	Fri. 8:00	Sat. 8:00	Sun.
	11	12*	13	
	18	19●	20♦	21*
24	25	26	27	28**
MAY 1	2	3	4	5*

AVENUE Q

MAY – JUNE				
Wed. 7:30	Thur. 8:00	Fri. 8:00	Sat. 8:00	Sun.
	23	24*	25	
	30	31●	JUN 1♦	2*
5	6	7	8	9**
12	13	14	15	16*

Come Home
2012-2013 Season

Thur/Fri/Sat performances at 8 pm
Wednesday performances at 7:30 pm
Sunday Performances: *3:00 pm and **7:00 pm

BOX OFFICE HOURS

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and one half-hour prior to all evening performances.

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