



DECEMBER 1-18, 2022ISLAND CITY STAGE, WILTON MANORS

"Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. And when he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?"

CLARENCE

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946)





Funding for this project is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

browardarts.org





New City Players is supported by Pompano Beach Arts

pompanobeacharts.org



Marcos Fuentes, Marlo Rodriguez, Carlos Alayeto, Caroline Dopson & Noah Levine in



a live radio play by JOE LANDRY

Director	Timothy Mark Davis
Production Manager/Asst. Director.	Elizabeth Price
Stage Manager	Brittany Blouin
Assistant Stage Manager	Amanda Gomes
Scenic & Costume Designer	Casey Sacco
Scenic & Costume Designer	Arlette Del Toro
Lighting Designer	Desiraé Merritt
Sound & Foley Designer	Tyler Johnson Grimes
Asst. Dir./Asst. Lighting Designer	Denzel McCausland
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House Manager	Megan DeGraaf
Box Office Manager	Tyler Johnson Grimes
Dramaturg	Ilana Jael

A Note from the Director

It's fascinating to read Frank Capra, director of the film *It's A Wonderful Life*, talk about how for him the film was about "exalting the worth of the individual" and "championing man-pleading his case". While the exaltation of the individual is certainly present in this story, it's not actually the element that puts a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye. It's George Bailey's community rallying around him in his time of need. It's the plight of an individual being alleviated by his community. It's the paradoxical beauty of the one in and among the many. Spoiler alert by the way (hopefully you've seen the film).

Capra sees his film as a cry for the dignity of the individual... but where is that individual without their community? Clarence sums it up "No man is a failure who has friends." Here's the truth: our individual choices add to and/or subtract from the lives of others. At all moments we are either contributing to or detracting from our neighbor. Perhaps if we build communities of individuals whose choices are adding something kind or good or sacrificial or meaningful

to each other's lives, that community will take on those very traits. There is a wonderful exploration of the personal and the public; the individual and the communal in this story.

I hope you walk away knowing that your life has worth, that you have added to other's lives, that others have added to your life, and that those truths make life worth living. There is much to be grateful for and gratitude is medicine for the cynic's mind. Open your heart to the silly and the sentimental during this show. Let the joy overtake you. You'll be glad you did.



Timothy Mark Davis

Director/Producing Artistic Dir.

Freddie Filmore/Potter & Others	Carlos Alayeto
Jake Laurents/George Bailey	Marcos Fuentes
Sally Applewhite/Mary Hatch	Marlo Rodriguez
Lana Sherwood/Josephine & Others	Caroline Dopson
Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood/Clarence & Others	Noah Levine

SETTING

1949, at the Fort Lauderdale Radio Station: WNCP

There will be no intermission.



We'd like to acknowledge that this production is taking place on the occupied indigenous lands of the Seminole, Taino, and Tequesta peoples. It's important that we acknowledge the history and ongoing colonization of where we are sitting right now in South Florida and in our country. It's also important to acknowledge our own place in the story of colonization.

It's a Wonderful Life is presented by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. Show artwork and playbill by Ryan Arnst.









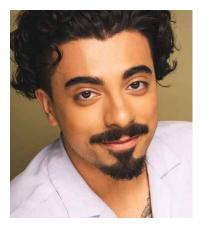




as Freddie Filmore/Potter & Others
Carlos is thrilled to be joining the cast of It's a Wonderful Life and be part of a New City Players production.
Born and raised in Miami.

Carlos Alayeto

Carlos has been privileged to work on stages across the region like Theatre Lab, Thinking Cap Theatre, Actors' Playhouse, Alliance Theatre Lab, City Theatre, and Miami New Drama. He's also been a professional voice actor and Arts for Learning Teaching Artist for over 15 years.



Marcos Fuentes as Jake Laurents/George Bailey

Marcos is a screen and stage actor born in Miami, Florida, of Honduran and Argentinian descent. From a young age, Marcos discovered

his passion by being enthralled in South Florida's theater scene through exposure of both his parents' careers as performers. He has been training as an actor since middle school and continues to carry the determination to hone his craft. Marcos recently attained his BFA from New World School of the Arts College with a focus in Acting. His most recent work includes the audio drama *Where or When*, a time traveling romance and *Before Dawn*, a post apocalyptic short film. Marcos is thrilled to be working on such a timeless story with an incredible cast. His many thanks go out to the cast and crew of NCP, his family, and friends.



Marlo Rodriguez as Sally Applewhite/Mary Hatch

A South Florida director and actor, Marlo Rodriguez holds Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance from Florida Atlantic University.

She is extremely grateful to work alongside such a creative team for New City Player's production of *It's a Wonderful Life* and hopes that this show sparks abundant joy for audiences. Her recent credits include *Lungs* (New City Players), *Luna Gale* (Boca Stage), *Merchants of Venice* (Grace Arts Fl), and *Miami Bus Stop Stories* (Juggerknot Theatre). Marlo is a recipient of the 2022 Silver Palm Award for Outstanding Direction for her contribution as assistant director for *Once On This Island* (Slow Burn Theatre Company). She will have her Directorial debut with New City Player's production of *Cry Old Kingdom* in April of 2023.



Caroline Dopson
as Lana Sherwood/
Josephine & Others
Caroline is an educator,
actress, and makeup artist
located in South Florida.
While she is native to
Louisiana, she moved to

Florida to pursue her MFA in Theatre Performance at FAU where she currently teaches. Some of her favorite roles include as follows: Marianne (Constellations), Mrs. Givings (In the Next Room), Sydney (The Altruists), Joan (Fun Home), and Karen (The Children's Hour). She would like to thank the cast, crew, her fiancé, and her cat for making the world a better place <3

Learn more about her work at carolinedopson.com



Noah Levine
as Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood/
Clarence & Others
Noah is happy to finally
be making his NCP debut,
and is thankful to Tim,
Elizabeth, and the rest of
the stellar NCP team for

the privilege! Other regional credits include: Actor's Playhouse, City Theatre, Delray Beach Playhouse, Island City Stage, Kutumba, Mad Cat (company member), Miami Shakespeare, NY Fringe Festival, Slow Burn, StoryMakers, Theatre Lab, Thinking Cap (company member), and West Boca Theatre Company. Speaking of which, feel free to check him out next month in WBTC's production of Joshua Harmon's *Admissions*. He received his BA in Theatre Performance from Florida Atlantic University in 2004. He lives in Deerfield with his lovely wife Cally, awardwinning elementary educator and massage therapist (yes, for both), and their cute little 4-year-old son, Miles.

A Wonderful Season To Make Connections

Believe it or not, I'd never actually seen *It's a Wonderful Life* in its entirety before I found myself getting enlisted for this project. But since beginning my research into this play and into the classic film that inspired it, I've found myself increasingly fascinated by its peculiar road to notoriety, as well as by the fact that it tells a darker and more nuanced story than many of us remember.

Many of the issues addressed in *It's a Wonderful Life*, from discrimination against immigrants to the large-scale impact of socioeconomic inequality, are still as unfortunately relevant today as they were when the film premiered in 1946. This includes the one it addresses both most famously and most directly: the issue of suicide. Unfortunately, suicide remains a serious public health issue, and one that remains disturbingly prevalent in present day USA. As I discovered while researching one of the blog posts I wrote related to the production, 47,646 Americans committed suicide in the year 2021, and 234 suicide deaths took place last year in Broward County alone.

Though this may sound bleak, these statistics do have a flip side: that the vast majority of suicide deaths are thought to be preventable. And, while social isolation is one of the biggest risk factors for suicidal ideation, one of the greatest protective factors against it is in fact social connectedness, which is much the same thing as I found to be true regarding addiction while investigating it in conjunction with last year's New City Players'

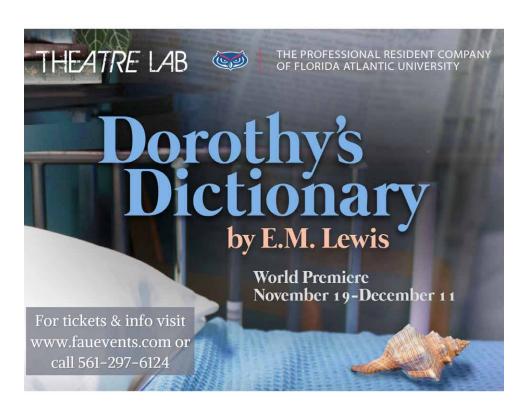
production of Water By The Spoonful.

However, it also seems as if ours is becoming a world in which making meaningful connections has become more and more difficult, as attested to by the hypothesized existence of an American "loneliness epidemic," that experts suggest the pandemic only exacerbated. As political divisions magnify interpersonal ones and massive corporate conglomerates displace small family firms, the typical American town has begun to look less like Bedford Falls than like Pottersville; places in which a lack of strong social ties leads to a replacing of morality with debauchery, and which run by an every man for himself ethos that seems to be eating many of us up inside.

Yet while the larger scale causes of this loneliness epidemic are out of most of our hands, most of us do have the power to combat it in ways that may seem small but that can have a profound impact on the people we share our lives with. Perhaps no story illustrates the immensity of that impact better than does *It's a Wonderful Life*; so, if you take nothing else away from this radio play reimagining of the tale, I hope you can take from it a reminder of the importance of nurturing your connections with the people whom you most care about—or a willingness to be open to making new ones, especially with those around you who seem most in need of a helping hand.



Ilana Jael Dramaturg



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Community Partnerships

The following individuals and organizations contributed to our forum on Mental Health and the Holidays on November 16. Please explore their work of these organizations and consider supporting them.

Rick Wolfer, United Way of Broward unitedwaybroward.org

Shay Palmer, Mission Yoga missionyogafl.com

Dr. Andre Caruso dacpacs.com

Cyth & Co. cythco.com

Do you know about 211?

New City Players supports 211, a free and confidential service that helps people across North America find the local resources they need 24/7.

211 is the most comprehensive source of information about local resources and services in the country. It's powered by people: thousands of caring, local experts are available to help, 24/7. Calls to 211 are confidential and can be anonymous.

The 211 network in the United States responds to more than **20 million requests** for help every

2.1.1

Broward

year. Most calls, web chats, and text messages are from people looking for help meeting basic needs like housing, food, transportation, and health care. 211 can be accessed by phone or computer, at **211.org**. A toll-free call to 211 connects you to a community resource specialist in your area who can put you in touch with local organizations that provide critical services. You'll find information about:

- Supplemental food and nutrition programs
- Shelter and housing options and utilities assistance
- · Emergency information and disaster relief
- Employment and education opportunities

- Services for veterans
- Health care, vaccination and health epidemic information
- Addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs
- Reentry help for ex-offenders
- Support groups for individuals with mental illnesses or special needs
- · A safe, confidential path out of physical and/or emotional
- Domestic abuse

Across the U.S. and Canada, 211 has made a difference during COVID-19. Whether it's providing reliable information about the pandemic, testing or vaccination sites, or helping people stay in their homes, put food on the table and pay bills – 211 has been a lifesaver for millions over the last 18 months. The 211 network made 27.8 million connections to critical services and help last year, up nearly 100% from 2019. And call specialists have fielded a 150% increase in connections to food programs. All of that is an indicator of how vital a strong 211 is to strong, resilient communities.

Go to 211.org

Production Staff

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Dramaturg	Ilana Jael
Graphic Designer & Photographer	Ryan Arnst
Videographer	Manny Zaldivar

A very special "Thank You!" to the following individuals and organizations whose generous support has made this production of It's a Wonderful Life possible!

Island City Stage, Integrity Accounting Advisors, NSU University School, Florida Atlantic University, April K. Soroko, Patty Clemson, Michael Burch, Mercedes del Toro, Daniel Eilola at Lake Worth Playhouse, Art Tijerina at Starbucks, Trader Joe's, Aaron Ivey, Don Grimes, Theatre Lab at FAU, Zoetic Stage, Slow Burn Theatre, Plays of Wilton, City Theatre, MNM Theatre Company, Palm Beach Dramaworks



Timothy Mark Davis
Director, Producer
Tim is a theatre producer,
director, and actor. He is
a founder and Producing
Artistic Director of New City
Players and has produced
over fifteen productions

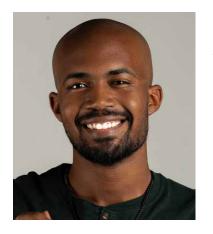
with the company since 2014 and directed four including *Rabbit Hole*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Proof*, and *Clybourne Park*. With New City Players Tim has spearheaded the vision for works produced, community engagement, fundraising, marketing, artist hiring, and the building of an ensemble. He holds an M.A. in Theatre Studies, received the 2017 Silver Palm Award for Outstanding New Theatre Company, the 2019 Remy Service Award for service to the South Florida Theatre League, and the 2020 Carbonell Award for Best Actor for his work in New City Players' production of *Falling*.

Learn more about his theatre and film work at timothymarkdavis.com



Elizabeth Price
Production Manager, Asst.
Director, Producer
Elizabeth is a stage, screen, and voice actor, director, and producer based in South
Florida. She received her
MFA in Acting from Florida

Atlantic University where she taught acting for the last nine years. She now serves as the Associate Artistic Director for New City Players. South Florida stage acting credits include: Rx; Villainous Company; An Accident; Reborning (Boca Stage), Little Montgomery; Falling, Twelfth Night (New City Players), This Random World (Theatre Lab), Son (Island City Stage), Crooked; Dance Nation, The Importance of Being Earnest (Thinking Cap), Standing on Ceremony; Island Shorts (City Theatre), The How and the Why (Arts Garage), Reservoir Dolls: The Normal Heart (Outre). She's also acted and directed in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Dallas, Austin, New Orleans, and New Mexico, and has received two Silver Palm Awards, a Big Easy Award, and three Carbonell Award nominations for her acting and directing.



Denzel McCausland
Asst. Director, Asst. Lighting
Designer
Denzel is an actor born
and raised in Miami. He is a
Florida Atlantic University
graduate with his Bachelor's
in Theatre. His most

recent credits include his portrayal of "M" in *Lungs*, produced by New City Players, Shepard Mallory from Boca Stage's production of *Ben Butler*, Bass in the production of *Merchants of Venice* performed at the Victory Black Box Theatre and Lincoln in the Main Street Players production of *Topdog/Underdog*. Denzel is extremely excited for the opportunity to be able to work with and learn from the New City Players for this production.



Brittany Blouin
Stage Manager
Brittany is a local South
Florida actor and freelance
stage manager. She has
recently graduated with
her B.F.A. from Florida
Atlantic University, and has

recently finished stage managing a production of *Young Frankenstein*. She is thrilled to be working with New City Players on this amazing production of *It's a Wonderful Life*.



Amanda Gomes

Asst. Stage Manager

Amanda is honored to work

with NCP for the first time as
the ASM for It's a Wonderful

Life! They are a jack of
many trades working in
several areas of theatre from

singing & acting to directing, writing, stage managing, wardrobe, and theatrical makeup. They'd like to thank the cast and crew for their support and holiday spirit!

Keep up with them on all social media platforms **@mandagomeswho**



Casey Sacco
Scenic & Costume Designer
Casey is a local actor and
resident costume designer
for New City Players.
Credits include: Wardrobe
Supervisor for School of
Rock (First National Tour).

Costume Designer for South Florida plays: *Lungs*, *Water by the Spoonful* (New City Players), *Armature*, *One in Two* (Island City Stage), *Carrie: The Musical* (Oxbridge Academy). You can see Casey's work coming up in *Rotterdam* (Island City Stage, Jan 2023).

Learn more about her work at caseysacco.com



Arlette del Toro

Scenic & Costume Designer

Arlette is very excited
to be a part of this
wonderful production. She
has previously worked
professionally as an actor in
DC, Seattle, and now Fort

Lauderdale. She has acted for several South Florida theaters, and most recently appeared as Odessa/ Haikumom in NCP's production of *Water by the Spoonful* at Island City Stage.



Desiraé Merritt
Lighting Designer
Desiraé is a freelance
lighting designer with a
B.F.A. in theater technology
and design from Florida
Atlantic University. Desiraé's
credits include Lungs and

Water by the Spoonful with New City Players as well as Ben Butler and Luna Gale with Boca Stage. Desiraé is a proud NCP ensemble member and this is her second season with the company. Desiraé would like to thank everyone at NCP for giving her the love and support needed to get her to this point, as well as her family and boyfriend for pushing Desiraé to be her best. Congratulations, cast and crew of It's a Wonderful Life! Happy holidays!

Find out what Desiraé is up to next on Instagram:
@desiraemerritt.LD



Tyler Johnson Grimes
Sound & Foley Designer
Tyler is a story-teller, gamemaker, and educator who
made his NCP debut with
his short play My First Time
at Lab Fest earlier this year.
Previously in South Florida,

he has sound designed productions of *Church & State* and *True West* (Main Street Players), as well as designed/directed/produced shows with several high schools in Broward and Palm Beach County. In New York, he was the Resident Playwright, Sound Designer, and Managing Director of Distilled Theatre Company, and he was the Co-founder of DTC Radio. Happy Holidays!



Kathe O'Donnelly
Scenic Artist
Kathe O'Donnelly is a
freelance artist and designer
based in St. Augustine,
Florida. She has worked
in children's theatre in her
hometown of Houston.

costumed for The Playmakers and Bangkok
Community Theatre while living in Thailand and was
recently an arts administrator for St. Johns County.
Once the owner of an aquatic production company,
she costumed and created sets for mermaids,
mariners, aqua-bots and cowboys at theme parks and
fairs around the globe.



Ilana Jael
Dramaturg
Ilana earned her MFA in
Creative Nonfiction from
Sarah Lawrence College
and a BA in Writing and
Psychology from Florida

Atlantic University's Wilkes Honors College. Her short plays and one-acts have been produced inperson and virtually in the Florida area by companies New City Players, Theatre Lab, Bob Carter's Actor's Workshop and Repertory Company, and Femuscripts, as well as by student troupes Theatre In The Raw and Alpha Psi Omega at Florida Atlantic University. She is also a current company and board member with New City Players, and recently served as dramaturg for their spring production of *Water By the Spoonful*. Additionally, she has served as lead critic and a frequent feature writer for the virtual publication South Florida Theater Magazine since the site's inception in May of 2021.



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and Wine Down Tuesdays (50% off all wine bottles).

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Join us for a screening the 1946 American Christmas fantasy drama classic "It's a Wonderful Life".

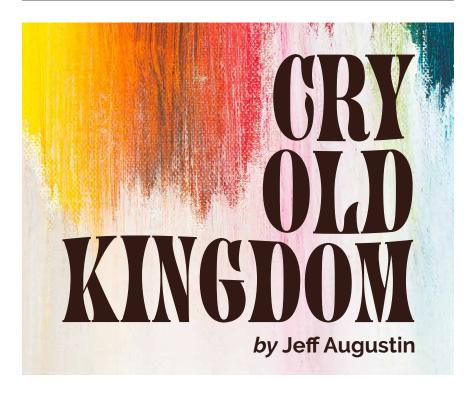




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April 13-30 | Island City Stage

Haiti, 1964. Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier's repressive regime has forced once-successful artist Edwin into hiding, turning him into a walking ghost. When Edwin finds a young man building a boat to escape to America, and persuades him to pose for a painting, he finally feels alive again. But with cries for revolution resounding through the nation and the regime's death squads on the prowl, no one's life is safe. Sometimes trying to dream and survive forces impossible choices.

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Business Manager	Megan DeGraaf
Community Engagement Manager	Ernesto Gonzalez
Marketing Manager	Alex Joyel
Original Content Manager	Casey Sacco
Company Manager	Krystal Valdes
Box Office Manager	Tyler Johnson Grimes
Media Specialist	Ryan Arnst

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Rachel Smoker Cox, Timothy Mark Davis*, Arlette Del Toro, Michael Gioia, Ernesto Gonzalez*, Ilana Jael, Alex Joyel, Denzel McCausland, Desiraé Merritt, Abby Nigro, Daryl Patrice, Harold Petion, Elizabeth Price*, Jocelyn Richardson, Marlo Rodriguez, Casey Sacco*, Krystal Millie Valdes*

*Member of the Artistic & Programming Committee

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Tim Davis (President), Megan DeGraaf (Secretary), Ernesto Gonzalez, Ilana Jael, Alex Joyel (Chair), Tracy Manning





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New City Players is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your donations are fully eligible for a tax deduction.

Did you know?

New City Players is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, professional, ensemble theatre company based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida,

Our mission is to create community through transformative theatre.

Our vision is to help South Florida become a more empathetic and thoughtful community.

Help us reach our \$15,000 year end goal so we can continue creating transformative theatre experiences in our community.

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