

=GLT=

GREENWOOD LITTLE THEATRE

EST 1956

It's a Wonderful Life

BY JOE LANDRY



A LIVE RADIO PLAY

DECEMBER 8, 9, AND 10 AT 7:00 PM

DECEMBER 11 AT 2:00 PM

DAVIS AUDITORIUM, 400 COTTON STREET, GREENWOOD



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA

**The next generation
is truly our greatest gift.**

**And they're the
only one we've got.**

**When kids have Clubs and Clubs have you,
there is always hope for a great future.**

This holiday season and always,
thank you for supporting the Club and Club kids.
After all, they're the only next generation we've got.

We wish you a safe holiday season full of joy and hope.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA

PO Box 1617
Yazoo City, MS 39194

(662) 763-5234

info@bgcmsdelta.org

FROM THE DIRECTORS

The holiday season has arrived! And whether you are prepared or not, you will feel festive when you experience the joy that comes from watching this heartfelt Christmas classic story of hope and redemption.

"I'm hoping to create an immersive Christmas production for the audience to experience from the beginning to end," says Dezarae Leto, Production Director.

This unique theatrical version is an adaptation, written by Joe Landry, of the original iconic motion picture "It's a Wonderful Life," directed by Frank Capra and released in 1946. To this day, it's widely considered one of the most inspirational and beloved movies in American cinema.

Thanks to all the gifted people who shared their time, energy, and talent by auditioning for this show!

ADVERTISE WITH US

Join your fellow businesses in celebrating and supporting theatre arts in Greenwood, Mississippi.

The Greenwood Little Theatre is pleased to offer you the opportunity to enhance your presence in the community and to help support the theatre by placing your full-color ad in the Playbill. Each season your advertisement will appear in as many of the performance programs as you choose.

Learn more at

greenwoodlittletheatre.com/advertising



We are the Face of the South,
and there's always a Smile on it!



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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The stage and auditorium of Studio A at W-GLT radio station, the playhouse of the air, in Greenwood Mississippi. Christmas Eve, 1940s.

Settings/Scenes:

1. Studio A Radio Station
2. Bedford Falls (prayers ascending to Heaven)
3. Bedford Falls Lakeside
4. Gower's Drugstore
5. Building and Loan
6. Bedford Falls Main Street
7. The Bailey's Home
8. Bedford Falls Main Street
9. Bedford Falls Neighborhood
10. Board Meeting for Building and Loan
11. Train Station
12. The Bailey's Home / Harry and Ruth's Wedding Reception
13. The Hatch's (Mary's) Home
14. The Train Station / Building & Loan Association Business
15. Old Granville House / Honey Moon / Mary & George's New Home
16. The Bank
17. Building and Loan
18. Mary & George's Home
19. Potter's Business
20. Martini's Bar
21. Bridge
22. Martini's Bar
23. Bedford Falls Main Street
24. Ma Bailey's Boarding House
25. Library
26. Bridge
27. Bedford Falls Main Street
28. Mary & George's Home
29. Studio A Radio Station

CAST

LEAD / UNDERSTUDY

STAGE MANAGER Dezarae Leto / Glenn Nail
ANNOUNCER Jimmy Agnew / Erin Jacobs Stagner
JOSEPHINE Paulette Clay / Pam Powers
CLARENCE / CLARICE Dean Gilton / Allysa Tharpe*
GEORGE BAILEY J.T. Hurst / Greg Dees
CHILD GEORGE Lydia Jacobs Stagner / Blessyn Thomas
MARY HATCH BAILEY Tracie Agnew / Aaliyah Evans
CHILD MARY Jana Dees / Lucy Cheatham
TEEN MARY Aaliyah Evans / Jana Dees
UNCLE BILLY BAILEY Michael Haddon / Greg Dees
MR. HENRY F. POTTER Jimmy Agnew
VIOLET BICK Erin Jacobs Stagner / Abigail Stagner
CHILD VIOLET Chloe Hair / Ella Hair
TEEN VIOLET Abigail Stagner / Chloe Hair
MR. GOWER Bob Draper / Greg Dees
SAM WAINWRIGHT Lance Turney
BERT, THE COP Michele Hale / Aaliyah Evans
ERNIE, THE CAB DRIVER Allison Gant / Allysa Tharpe
HARRY BAILEY Greg Dees / Jimmy Agnew
CHILD HARRY Blessyn Thomas / Lydia Jacobs Stagner
PETER BAILEY Greg Dees / Jimmy Agnew
ROSE BAILEY Michele Hale / Sharon Draper

CAST

LEAD / UNDERSTUDY

THE BAILEY CHILDREN:

ZUZU Laila Hodges
PETE Lydia Jacobs Stagner
TOMMY Blessyn Thomas
JANIE Jana Dees

MARTINI, THE RESTAURATEUR Michele Hale / Tracie Agnew

NICK, THE BARTENDER Greg Dees / Jimmy Agnew

MRS. HATCH Sharon Draper / Michele Hale

DR. CAMPBELL Lucy Cheatham / Michele Hale

BRIDGE KEEPER Mikwaevonn Mills / Aaliyah Evans

RUTH BAILEY Susie Johnson / Allison Gant

MATILDA Emma Downs

HORTENSE Michele Hale / Sharon Draper

OLD MAN COLLINS Bob Draper / Jimmy Agnew

MR. WELCH Michael Haddon / Greg Dees

BUILDING AND LOAN CUSTOMERS:

ED Bob Draper / Greg Dees

CHARLIE Michael Haddon / Greg Dees

MAN Lance Turney / Bob Draper

MRS. THOMPSON Lucy Cheatham / Emma Downs

BINKY, THE BOUNCER Michele Hale / Aaliyah Evans

COP Lance Turney / Sharon Draper

SHERIFF Bob Draper / Greg Dees

**Understudies with an asterisk after their names will be performing at the December 11th showing at 2:00 pm.*



The Greenwood Little Theatre in partnership with Mississippi Valley State University and the Greenwood Leflore Consolidated School District

Through this partnership, we are expanding community awareness of these entities' cultural events and offerings and building a cultural center in downtown Greenwood.

Opportunities abound through the joint efforts of these entities, including improving and offering a venue for visiting performers, encouraging young aspiring artists, and expanding the music and theater departments of the schools. In our first production of the season, *Blithe Spirit*, and this Christmas production, we are blessed with music performed by Dr. Edward Morse, MVSU, and student participation from the local schools.

Dr. Ed Morse is an Associate Professor of Music at Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, MS. At MVSU, Dr. Morse teaches applied trumpet, horn, trombone, tuba, and euphonium, as well as music education classes. He also directs the MVSU Brasswind Ensemble.

He currently performs Bass Trombone at The Jackson Symphony. He was previously Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Bethune-Cookman University and Adjunct Instructor of Low Brass at Daytona State College in Daytona Beach, FL.





Seussical

The Musical



Coming April 2023

Directed by Christine Hampton

MEET THE CAST



Jimmy Agnew (*Announcer, Mr. Henry F. Potter, Understudy for Harry Bailey, Peter Bailey, Nick, Old Man Collins*) is new to both Greenwood and GLT. He has been in Ambulance Manufacturing most of his life and is currently working with Pafford EMS. Since childhood, he has enjoyed experimenting/pranking with his voice in different characters with friends and family.



Tracie Agnew (*Mary Hatch Bailey, Understudy for Martini*) is new to Greenwood and GLT. From Missions to serving as a home birth midwife since 2002, she is now serving in the health and wellness arena as a certified Life Coach. She is certified in several emotional support modalities. She has spent lots of time as a mom and a Marmie reading aloud with animation.



Paulette Clay (*Josephine*) returned to Mississippi in 2018 after living in Indiana for 31 years. *It's a Wonderful Life* is her acting debut with GLT, but she was actively involved in the drama ministry at her former church, Mt. Zion, where she wrote and directed several plays and skits. "I am thrilled to have this opportunity to work with such a wonderful group of talented performers."



Lucy Cheatham (*Dr. Campbell, Mrs. Thompson, Understudy for Child Mary*) is a high school freshman who enjoys playing guitar and piano, singing, and drawing. *It's a Wonderful Life* is Lucy's first acting role and first time participating with the GLT.

MEET THE CAST



Greg Dees (*Harry Bailey, Peter Bailey, Nick, Understudy for George Bailey, Uncle Billy Bailey, Mr. Gower, Mr. Welch, Ed, Charlie, Sheriff*) debuted at GLT during the 2019 production of *Annie: The Musical*, where he played multiple roles. "As a husband and father of two girls, I appreciate the entertainment provided by GLT to our community."



Jana Dees (*Child Mary, Janie, Understudy for Teen Mary*) debuted on the GLT stage in 2019 during *Annie: The Musical*. She is 12 years old and is a home-educated 7th grader. "I love volunteering for my community alongside my family and friends!"



Emma Downs (*Matilda, Understudy for Mrs. Thompson*) is a 9th grader at Leflore Christian School in Greenwood. Emma likes to help with Southern Mutts, a local dog rescue. "While this is my first play, I feel like it is the first of many, and that I have finally found my calling."



Bob Draper (*Mr. Gower, Old Man Collins, Ed, Sheriff, Understudy for Man*) has recently appeared onstage in *Blithe Spirit* (2022), *Annie: The Musical* (2019), *M*A*S*H* (2019), *Ragtime* (2019), and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (2018) among others. Bob is currently serving as Vice President of GLT. He volunteers as a Friend of the Museum of the Mississippi Delta. He and his wife, Sharon, are members of First United Methodist Church.

MEET THE CAST



Sharon Draper (*Mrs. Hatch, Understudy for Rose Bailey, Hortense, Cop*) a Greenwood native, was the stage manager for *The Best Little Christmas Pageant Ever* (2017) and appeared in GLT's 1983 production of *Annie: The Musical*. Sharon retired from Leflore County Schools in 2011 and is currently teaching at Leflore Christian School.



Aaliyah Evans (*Teen Mary, Understudy for Mary Hatch Bailey, Bert, Bridge Keeper, Binky*) is a graduate of the Mississippi School of the Arts and Copiah-Lincoln Community College. She participated in GLT's Shakespeare Summer Scene Fest for several years. She appeared in *Ragtime: The Musical* (2019), *The Good Doctor* (2016), and *Curiosity Cat* (2013).



Allison Gant (*Ernie, Understudy for Ruth Bailey*) first developed an interest in theater through church Christmas plays as a child. She has always known about Greenwood Little Theater, but this is her first time performing. She hopes to perform with GLT more in the future.



Dean Gilton (*Clarence*) began his theater involvement at the Crossroads Community Playhouse in Corinth, Mississippi with their 2002 production *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He recently appeared as "Roy" in *The Odd Couple* (2022) and worked backstage during *On Golden Pond* (2016).

MEET THE CAST



Michael Haddon (*Uncle Billy Bailey, Mr. Welch, Charlie*) spent his childhood backstage pulling curtains, creating sound effects, and building sets. He ran lines with his mother, Janie Haddon, who starred in such plays as *Steel Magnolias*. *It's a Wonderful Life* will be Michael's first time on stage when the curtains open.



Chloe Hair (*Child Violet, Understudy for Teen Violet*) is in the 9th grade and is an aspiring musician. She has been accepted into the Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and hopes to have a life in ministry. She appeared in GLT's 2019 production of *Annie: The Musical* and GLT's 2014 production of *Curiosity Cat*.



Ella Hair (*Understudy for Child Violet*) is in the 7th grade and enjoys singing harmony with her youth worship team. She appeared in GLT's production of *Annie: The Musical* (2019) and *Curiosity Cat* (2014).



Laila Grace Hodges (*Zuzu*) is the daughter of Charles and Valerie Hodges. She is a 5th grader at Davis Elementary. Laila loves to draw; this is her first time performing in a stage play.

MEET THE CAST



J.T. Hurst (*George Bailey*) debuted in GLT's 2017 production of *No Exit* and has had a hand in many shows, including *The Odd Couple* (2022), *Crimes of the Heart* (2021), *Annie* (2019), *M*A*S*H* (2019), *Ragtime* (2019), and *Suddenly, Last Summer* (2017). He also co-directed GLT's 2022 production of *Steel Magnolias*.



Erin Jacobs-Stagner (*Violet Bick, Understudy for Announcer*) has been practicing chiropractic in Greenwood for the past 16 years. She is the leader of the Greenwood Optimists Club and a member of The Greenwood Chorale. She directed *Fox on the Fairway* (2015) and has performed onstage during *Into the Woods* (2014), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (2013), and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (2011).



Lydia Jacobs-Stagner (*Child George, Pete, Understudy for Child Harry*) is debuting in this production. She is an entrepreneurial homeschooler, including baking treats for both humans and pets and babysitting.



Susie Johnson (*Ruth Bailey*) has always wanted to get involved in theatre. She is a self-taught artist, a 1st-degree black belt in Taekwondo, a persistent reader, and an enjoyer of the arts.

MEET THE CAST



Mikwaevonn Mills (*Bridge Keeper*) is new to GLT but welcomes the challenge of theatre life. A native of New York City, specifically Brooklyn, she credits her upbringing with why she always plans to give back to the community where she resides. "It is not what you've done or where you are from, but how you grow and what you learned as a result that matters."



Pam Powers (*Understudy for Josephine*) is a Broker-owner of Powers Properties, a REALTOR® for over 30 years, and 2022-23 President of Greenwood Little Theatre. Pam recently directed *Blithe Spirit*. She has appeared on the GLT stage in *The Odd Couple*, *Dixie Swim Club*, and *Six Degrees of Separation*. She directed the first two Senior plays at Pillow Academy and *Vintage Hitchcock: A Radio Play* at GLT.



Michelle Shahan-Hale (*Bert, Rose Bailey, Martini, Hortense, Binky, Understudy for Mrs. Hatch, Dr. Campbell*) debuted in GLT's 2022 production of *Blithe Spirit* as the eccentric "Madam Arcati." She is a Physical Therapist and EMT but has always loved music and the arts--especially theater. She was a lifelong resident of Oklahoma before moving to Greenwood in August.



Abigail Stagner (*Teen Violet, Understudy for Violet Bick*) is a student at Carroll Academy. *It's a Wonderful Life* is her first GLT production. However, she has been a dancer at Expressions Dance Company for ten years.

MEET THE CAST



Allysa Tharpe (*Clarice, Understudy for Ernie*) is the great-niece of Elaine Tharpe, a long-time member of GLT. She is the eldest of five siblings and a reader and writer. *It's a Wonderful Life* marks her first production with GLT.



Blessyn Thomas (*Child Harry, Tommy, Understudy for Child George*) moved to Greenwood last year from Chicago, Illinois. He is 11 years old, and this is his 2nd time performing on stage.



Lance Turney (*Sam Wainwright, Man, Cop*) debuted in GLT's 2021 production of *Crimes of the Heart* and appeared in *The Odd Couple* (2022) as "Vinnie." He is a graduate of Northwest Mississippi Community College and Delta State University, majoring in Computer Information Systems. He works as a receiver at Home Hardware Center in Greenwood.

Flash photography and video recording are prohibited. Please do not use electronic devices during the show.



MEET THE DIRECTORS



Jeanne Gewalt (Artistic Director) is a transplant to Greenwood from her native California, with a BA in Art and a Master's Degree in Architecture/Historic Preservation. Jeanne has performed, costumed, and choreographed various university and community theatrical productions and has taught college Fashion Design.

Annie: The Musical (2019) was her first co-directing and costuming with the GLT, followed by costuming for *Crimes of the Heart* (2021), *Steel Magnolias* (2022) and *Blithe Spirit* (2022).



Dezarae Leto (Production Director, *Stage Manager*) is lending her talents in her second consecutive production with GLT. She has been involved in the arts for over two decades, working in theater, motion pictures, print, runway, and beyond.

She wore several hats during the 2022 production of *Blithe Spirit*, including Assistant Director, Stage Manager, and Make-up/Hair Designer.



Glenn Nail (Technical Director, *Understudy for Stage Manager*) debuted in GLT's 2003 production of *Godspell* as a guitarist in the stage band. Glenn served as President of GLT for the 2012-2013 season and co-directed *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (2013) alongside Anne Roberts.

He has contributed his musical talents to other productions such as *Vintage Hitchcock* (2013), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2008), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (2004).

PRODUCTION CREW

CO-DIRECTORS

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Dezarae Leto
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Glenn Nail
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Jeanne Gewalt

STAGE MANAGER Dezarae Leto

PROPERTIES Dezarae Leto

WARDROBE Jeanne Gewalt

HAIR AND MAKEUP Aaliyah Evans

SET DESIGN Dezarae Leto

SET CONSTRUCTION Dezarae Leto, Glenn Nail, Judy Nail,
Cyndi Long, William Combs

SOUND EFFECTS Glenn Nail

LIGHTING AND SOUND J.T. Hurst, Edward Morse and MVSU

STAGEHANDS / PROMPTERS Alicia Cheatham,
Erin Jacobs-Stagner

PROGRAMS Alicia Dallas

PHOTOGRAPHY Hank Lamb

HOSPITALITY Elizabeth Johnson

TICKETING Kathryn Dyksterhouse, Amber Joiner

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to all the people and organizations who went above and beyond to make this production so special!

Davis Elementary Principal Kourtney Bush for leading collaborations with the Greenwood-Leflore Consolidated School District

Candi Stone and WABG-TV

David Dallas on "Delta Talk"

Smith & Company for their generosity and support

Nichole Buchanan for her dedication and support

Will Perkins and J.T. Hurst for the car horn

KidZone, local event rentals, owned and operated by Hattie Robinson, for the contribution to set decor

Iankel Santos and Cielo Mazantini, MVSU students

Daniel Splaingard, MVSU professor

Key Club Members: Wells Wilson, Lawson Harvey, Dharamvir Padhiar, Dhruv Patel, and Andrew Brock

Bill Clay, Greenwood Mentoring Group

Candy Carver, Traditions

Randy Harper, H&H GameCalls

Ashley's Rug World

Magnolia Home Center

Hank Lamb, Lamb's Photography

Johnny Jennings Videography

Katherine Parker, The Greenwood Commonwealth

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For more than 65 years, Greenwood Little Theatre has led the way in bringing local talent together to provide a quality, accessible and affordable theatre experience for the community, by the community. With a mission to enrich lives by providing quality volunteer produced live theatre, Greenwood Little Theatre offers meaningful opportunities for artists and audiences of all ages.

We work hard at creating a theatrical experience that will be inspirational and educational, and have a positive influence on and within the community. Greenwood Little Theatre is an important part of the Arts and Cultural experience that makes local communities better places in which to live, work and raise families.

We hope you'll join us, and help keep live theater a part of Greenwood's creative atmosphere! Please consider the membership options available. We know you'll find one just right for you.

Go to **greenwoodlittletheatre.com** to sign up with convenient credit card processing or call/text **662-219-3822** and leave a voice mail message.

Family Membership	4 Season Tickets	\$125
Regular Member	1 Season Ticket	\$50
Senior Citizen	1 Season Ticket	\$40
Student	1 Season Ticket	\$20
Introductory Membership	1 Season Ticket	\$20

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Our mission is to entertain and enrich the lives of the residents of our community and surrounding areas, providing a venue through which those who have an interest in theater can, through participation in productions, find an outlet for their creative talents and spirit.

*Greenwood Little Theatre is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.
Your donation is tax-deductible.*

Greenwood Little Theatre, since 1956

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Lydia Graves Chassaniol



*Congratulations on the opening of your 67th season!
Here's to many more years of quality productions at
Greenwood Little Theatre.*