



The Community Theatre of Howell
announces
AUDITIONS for
It's A Wonderful Life, The Musical

Performances: November 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 2008
Auditions: August 16, 18, 19, 2008

“Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings,” says little Zuzu at the end of the beloved classic film, *It's a Wonderful Life*. Now this holiday favorite has been made into a delightful musical featuring all the characters you have come to love. Our hero, George Bailey, has reached a life crisis and is considering ending it all when Angel Second Class Clarence Odbody comes to the rescue. By showing George what the world would have been without him, George finally realizes what a wonderful life he has after all. A heart-warming story for the entire family that reaffirms the value of every single life.

- **Rehearsals begin August 25th.** All rehearsals will run Monday through Friday, 6:30-9:30pm, plus some Saturdays closer to performance dates.
- **Staff:** Director – Vera Cunningham, Producer – Pam Medelis, Choreographer – Maria Usher.
- **Where?** **Howell High School Freshman Campus, 1400 W Grand River, Howell.**
- **How?** Audition forms are found on the website, www.cththeatre.org, if you wish to fill it out in advance. Please bring a small photo if you have one. Also bring your calendar and all conflicts from Aug. 25 through Nov. 23.
- **Scripts and Readings** – to check out a script and music CD or request the music for a specific character, contact Pam Medelis at 810-229-2315 or medel3@sbcglobal.net. Scripts may be kept for one week. There will be a \$25 deposit on all scripts and music CDs which will be returned when the script and CD are returned. Audition scenes for all speaking roles will be handed out at the vocal/dance audition, but can be obtained in advance (after June 15th) by contacting Director, Vera Cunningham at vcunningham@comcast.net or 517-548-3605.
- **How do I prepare?** Read the script, listen to the music, examine the character descriptions posted online and listed below and review the vocal selections and readings.
- **Who can audition?** All of our auditions are OPEN to everyone! You do not have to be a member to audition, but if you are cast, we do ask that you become a member. And while experience may be helpful, the Community Theatre of Howell does not require this. All we ask is your commitment to help make *It's a Wonderful Life, The Musical* the same high quality show that we strive to provide the community with all of our productions.

Please join us for a wonderful theatrical experience!!

Audition Schedule:

Wednesday, August 13th OPTIONAL DANCE WORKSHOP
Maria's School of Dance, 145 E Grand River, Fowlerville.
6:30 – 7:30pm Youth age 7 through 12
7:30 – 8:30pm Adults and teens

Saturday, August 16th DANCE AND VOCAL AUDITIONS, separated by age
Howell High School Freshman Campus, 1400 W Grand River, Howell.
9:30 – 10:00am Registration, youth age 7 through 12 only
10:00 – 11:00am Teach youth dance and vocals – choir room and stage
Song: “A Place to Call Home” or else one of the Christmas songs
11:00 – 12:00pm Vocal and dance auditions – all youth age 7 through age 12
(the ages of the Bailey children)

***Hand out scenes for those reading for a speaking role**

12:30pm Registration, adults and teens
1:00 – 1:30pm Teach adult dance – including a specialty dance for Dance Ensemble
1:30 – 3:00pm Adult and teen vocal and dance audition

***Hand out scenes for those reading for a speaking role**

Monday, August 18th**READINGS – all ages**

6:30 – 10:00pm

Youth readings first, then teens and adults
 Schedule made out ahead of time for the readings.
 Green Room, using the choir room to rehearse while waiting.

Tuesday, August 19th**CALLBACKS IF NECESSARY**

6:30 – 9:00pm

Choir room for warm-ups and for anyone who needs to do another
 vocal audition. Green room for Callback auditions.

Cast List posted 7pm, Thursday August 21st on the website, cththeatre.org, and on the stage door.

Monday, August 25th**ACTOR ROUNDUP**

6:30 – 9:30pm

Hand out paperwork, read-through Act 1, Barnard Center, 415 N. Barnard, Howell.

Tuesday, August 26th**COMPLETE ACTOR ROUNDUP**

6:30 – 9:30pm

Pay fees, hand in paperwork; read-through Act II, Barnard Center.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS
It's a Wonderful Life – the Musical

There is a large cast in this show including many speaking and singing roles. The story covers a span of 18 years from 1928 to 1946 so most ages are not given. Many of these roles can be played by younger actors who age or older actors who also play themselves as young people. There is minimal dance for most roles but for a few production numbers we will have a dance ensemble. We will also be adding children to the Townspeople, a group which is very important in this show as they are in many scenes and production numbers. A suggested audition song is listed for each character, but you may sing anything you wish. Please bring sheet music if you plan to sing a song not from this show. A pianist will be available. This show is not available on a commercially produced CD but you can check out a music CD along with a script as noted above.

Clarence Odbody – a charming, impish Angel Second Class who, after two hundred years, finally earns his wings by saving George's life. Several solos; some dance helpful. Suggested audition song: *Second Class Angel*.

George Bailey – our heroic Everyman who gives up his dreams of leaving his small home town to travel the world and do great things with his life to stay in Bedford Falls to run his father's business; on the verge of ending it all due to a financial crisis, he ultimately realizes that his life has been wonderful after all. Several solos. Suggested audition song: *My Life* or *If You Want the Moon*.

Mary Hatch Bailey – George's adoring wife; a sweet girl-next-door type. Several solos. Suggested audition song: *My George Bailey* or *My Future*.

Uncle Billy – loveable, absent-minded, enjoys his brew a bit too much; a staunch supporter of George. Several solos. Suggested audition song: *You Can't Keep Those Bailey Brothers Down*.

Cousin Tilly – George's jolly cousin; looks after Uncle Billy. Some solo singing. Suggested audition song: *Chance of a Lifetime*.

Violet Bick – has had a crush on George since childhood; sexy, but with a heart of gold. Several solos, dance. Suggested audition song: *Would You Like to Dance With Me?*

Officer Bert – friendly Bedford Falls policeman; some solo singing. Suggested audition song: *Christmas Eve*.

Ernie Bishop – taxi driver; minimal vocal requirements. Suggested audition song: *Christmas Eve*.

Harry Bailey – George's brother who was saved from drowning as a child by his beloved brother; wins the Medal of Honor for bravery in WWII. Several solos, dance. Suggested audition song: *Would You Like to Dance With Me?*

Sam Wainwright – school chum of George's; becomes a successful businessman. Solo singing, dance. Suggested audition song: *Would You Like to Dance With Me?*

Mother Bailey – George's long-suffering mother; some solo singing. Suggested audition song: *A Place to Call Home*.

Peter "Pop" Bailey – George's compassionate, popular father; owner of Bailey Building and Loan, a company that always helps the needy folk in town. One solo. Suggested audition song: *A Place to Call Home*.

Mr. Emil Gower – the pharmacist who turns to drink when he loses his only son to the flu epidemic; he is saved from prison by the young George when he mistakenly puts cyanide instead of medicine into a prescription; some solo singing.

Mr Giuseppi Martini – a recent immigrant from Italy; devoted to George. Solo based on “O Sole Mio” Suggested audition song: *Bless You, George Bailey* (to the tune of “O Sole Mio”).

Mrs Maria Martini – his wife, also from Italy. Solo based on “O Sole Mio”. Suggested audition song: *Bless You, George Bailey* (to the tune of “O Sole Mio”).

Henry Potter – the richest and meanest man in town; the local banker, but eventually owns most of the town; confined to a wheelchair; George’s arch-enemy. Several solos. Suggested audition song: *Tell Me What You Want*.

Franklin/Francesca (can be either gender) – a senior angel, interested in helping Clarence earn his wings (one scene only). Suggested audition song *Christmas Eve* or *Jingle Bells* (will double as a Townsperson or in another role)

Joseph/Josefina (can be either gender) – a junior angel, also interested in helping Clarence earn his wings (several scenes). Suggested audition song *Christmas Eve* or *Jingle Bells* (can double as a Townsperson or another role in Act II).

The Bailey children: Suggested audition song: *A Place to Call Home, Reprise*.

--**Peter Bailey** – 9-12 years old; solo vocals in one song

-- **Janie Bailey** – 8-10 years old; solo vocals in one song; helpful if she can play “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” on piano but this is not essential

--**Tommy Bailey** – 8-10 years old; solo vocals in one song

--**Zuzu Bailey** – 7-9 years old; solo vocals in one song

Young George – 10-12 years old; one scene only so will double as a Townsperson

Young Mary – 8-10 years old; one scene only so will double as a Townsperson

Young Violet – 8-10 years old; flirty, has a “thing” for George; one scene only; will double as a Townsperson

Townspersons including children. Suggested audition song: *Christmas Eve* or *Jingle Bells*.

Dance Ensemble – 8 years old through adult. Suggested audition song: *Christmas Eve* or *Jingle Bells*.

Children’s Ensemble – ages 7 through 12 years old. Suggested audition song: *Christmas Eve* or *Jingle Bells*.

Plus many other speaking roles which can be doubled:

Mayor of Bedford Falls

Joe Hepner - department store owner

Marty Hatch – Mary’s brother

Mrs. Hatch – Mary’s mother

Ruth Dakin Bailey – Harry’s wife

Mr. Reineman – Potter’s employee; his Rent Collector

Mr or Miss Carter (can be either gender) – the Bank Examiner

Potter’s companion – (can be either gender)

Shirley – the Bank Teller

Suggested audition song for these speaking roles: *Christmas Eve* or *Jingle Bells*.