

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY

EDUCATION PACKET



**Developed by
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About the Play

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play is a stage adaptation of the Christmas classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*.

The play follows George Bailey, a man who has always wanted to leave his small town for bigger and better things. But when a financial crisis hits, and he thinks about ending his own life, an angel shows him what the world would be like without him. Chaos ensues as George tries to set things right with the help of his friends and family.

But here's the twist! The story is told in the form of a live radio play, where you will be the audience for the studio actors.

It's a Wonderful Life

It's a Wonderful Life is a holiday film created in 1946 and directed by Frank Capra. The film's creation was inspired by Capra's reading of *The Greatest Gift*, a short story written by Philip van Doren Stern. He created the story for a booklet that he published and gave to friends as Christmas presents. This story is loosely based on Charles Dickens' novella *A Christmas Carol*. The movie is available on PLEX, *YouTube*, Google Play, Apple TV, and Amazon Prime Video.



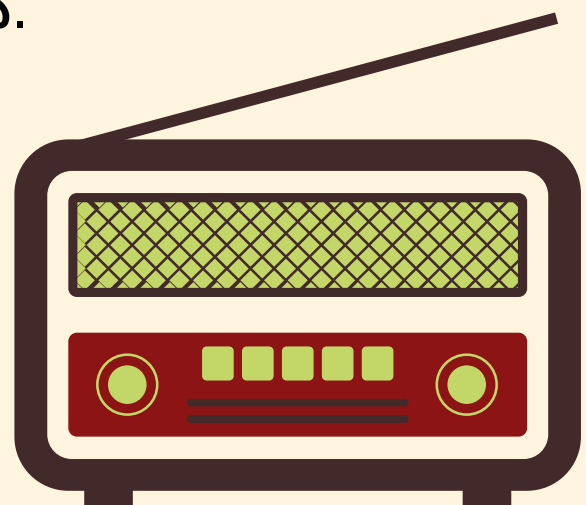
Adaptations of this film include *Clarence* (1990), *The Family Man* (2000), and a 2008 episode of the Nickelodeon show, *iCarly*, titled *iChristmas*.

What is a Radio Play?

In the 1940s, a popular form of entertainment was the **radio play**, also referred to as a radio drama. You could easily tune into a radio station from the comfort of your own home and listen to a play being streamed.

The writers of these radio plays were often playwrights for stage plays before adapting their work to radio. Without the visual element of live theatre, both the writers and the actors had the challenge of conveying a story to listeners without overwhelming them with unnecessary details.

Many radio plays included **advertisements**; companies would pay the radio station to advertise their products or services.



Welcome to WBFR

You will notice that the theater will be transformed into the WBFR New York Radio Station.



Each actor will be playing the roles of up to fifteen characters each. This casting structure was common for radio plays because of cost, space, and microphone availability limitations. There will be an onstage **foley** artist who creates the sound effects for the show.

An **applause sign** will be featured above the stage, signaling you to clap after certain scenes. Each **onstage mic is live**, so you will notice that each actor focuses on avoiding excess noise as they perform, such as whispering, footsteps, and rustling papers.

During the Show

There is no photography or recording of any kind allowed during the performance. **Silence your phone and refrain from texting**, as it can be distracting to those around you or on stage.

No outside food or drink is allowed in the theater.

However, any purchases made at our concession stand can be enjoyed in the theater during the show.

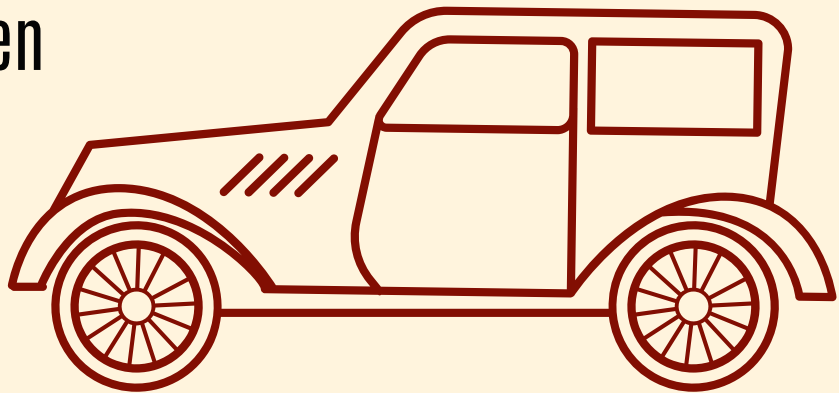


Remain seated throughout the duration of the play. There will be a **15-minute intermission** between acts, which would be a great time to check your phone, go to the bathroom, grab some snacks, or talk about the play.

Other Reminders

Timeliness is KEY

It is important to arrive **before** the show's start time (7:30 pm for preview and evening shows, 2:00 pm for Sunday matinees). Consider arriving earlier to beat the lines and snag good parking. Doors open thirty minutes before curtain.



Parking

- Do not park between our building and the red brick building on the east side of Reno Little Theater. (You will be towed)
- Street parking is available but limited.
- Additional Parking can be found at the old Gaslamp Restaurant located on the corner of Pueblo and Holcomb.

About the Production

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play
is being produced by Reno Little Theater at
147 E. Pueblo St. Reno, NV

Directed by Melissa Taylor and Christopher Willson,
rehearsals for the show began in early September. The
show runs from November 10 to December 17, with a
preview on Wednesday, November 8, and a post-show
talkback with the audience on Sunday, November 19.
The play is the second of five in RLT's 89th Season.

For more information about
the production and Reno
Little Theater, visit
renolittletheater.org.

