

PACTBILL

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A NARADA RADIO COMPANY PRODUCTION

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

A LIVE RADIO PLAY



DEC. 1 – 11, 2022

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December 1 – 11, 2022

PORT ARANSAS COMMUNITY THEATRE
presents

A NARADA RADIO COMPANY PRODUCTION

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

LIVE RADIO PLAY

Adapted for live performance by Pete Lutz and directed by Jessica Mathews



The use of any audio or video recording device or the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. As a courtesy to others, please turn off all electronic devices, such as cell phones, and refrain from texting during the performance.



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Thank You

From the PACT Board of Directors

On behalf of the PACT Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for being at our production today, and for supporting regional live theatre. I'd also like to thank my fellow volunteer board members for their dedication. In addition, I'd like to recognize the other volunteers who make us so successful. PACT couldn't continue our tradition of excellence without their efforts, and I appreciate each and every one of them.

I'm pleased to introduce Su-z Kleinhans as our new theatre manager. You'll likely find her in the ticket booth, concession stand or running around helping where needed. Please be sure to say hello and let her know if you're interested in being a volunteer (or on stage). We'd love to have you.

We are excited to be hosting the Narada Radio Company's re-creation of the live radio broadcast "It's A Wonderful Life." This talented troupe will take you back to the days of live radio, where just a few people provide the voices for all the characters (including sound effects). If you like what you see, tell everyone!

Rick Adams, President, PACT Board of Directors

PLEASE COMPLETE THE PACT AUDIENCE SURVEY!



Thank you for attending our performance. Please take a moment to complete our short six-question survey.

This information helps guide us in choosing future productions and helps us improve our promotion and outreach. Please take the time to make your opinions heard.



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PORT ARANSAS COMMUNITY THEATRE

The Mission of the Port Aransas Community Theatre is to entertain, inform and educate, thereby enriching the cultural life of the Texas Coastal Bend area.

PACT shall provide area residents and visitors the opportunity to attend and participate in quality presentations of a cross-section of the finest theatrical works available. PACT shall provide education in the theatre arts to adults, young adults and children.



In meeting these goals, PACT shall be mindful of the standards of its audiences and shall maintain fiscally sound management.

PACT BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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Savannah Sidor, Vice President of Productions
Nicole Boyer, Treasurer
Rhonie Stuart, Secretary

Tiffanie Arnold
Yvette Jimenez

Glenda McCormick
Lisa Shelton

Jacob Williams

Staff

Su-z Kleinhans, Theatre Manager

Non-Board Contributors

Ray Dillahunt: Set Design and Construction
Annette Berksan: Social Media, Website and Print Media

Special Thanks

IGA Family Center in Port Aransas, Island Market IGA and
Port A Pizzeria for displaying show banners.

Port Aransas South Jetty for promoting the show.

City of Port Aransas for the award of
hotel occupancy tax funds for PACT's 2022 & 2023 seasons.

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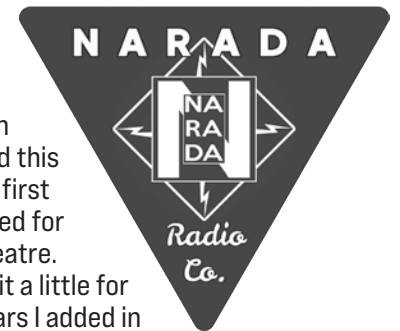
A NOTE FROM PETE LUTZ



The Narada Radio Company was first created in 2001, the year I wrote my first audio dramas for live performance at Harbor Playhouse. Since we were creating a mock radio broadcast (in the same way “It’s a Wonderful Life” is being presented tonight), I wanted a name for the troupe that would evoke the right nostalgic feeling — one like Orson Welles’s Mercury Theatre On the Air in the 1930s. Welles, by the way, has been a great inspiration to me — writer, actor, director, producer and

man of great girth. I could think of no better tribute than to give my troupe a name parallel to that of his. Since Mercury was the Messenger of the Gods in Roman Mythology, I went looking for one in a different pantheon. None of them seemed fitting until I found Narada — Hindu Messenger of Vishnu, also famous for storytelling and the ability to see into the future. How perfect! And so the Narada Radio Company was born.

When I took up audio dramas again in 2013 for podcasting purposes, I brought the Narada troupe back into existence. What began with our first episode in October of that year, with a mere 11 players, has grown in the ensuing nine years into an ensemble of more than 100 actors, with more than 100 audio dramas produced for podcast — including several incarnations of “It’s a Wonderful Life,” performed at the Rialto in 2018 and 2019, and at the PACT in 2021 and this year. As you may well know, this play was first a film released 76 years ago. It was adapted for radio that same year by the Lux Radio Theatre. The script was in existence, so I tweaked it a little for that first performance. In subsequent years I added in more dialogue and characters from the film to make it a better, more-rounded experience for our audience. This year, we have added an entirely new scene — one that was written for the screenplay, but didn’t make it into the finished film. You’ll hear it tonight, close to the end — and that’s the only hint you’ll get! If you don’t catch it, ask a cast member after the show.



Thanks for coming out for the show. I hope you enjoy it!

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"It's a Wonderful Life" is the classic tale of George Bailey and the people of Bedford Falls. This production is an adaptation of the 1947 Lux Radio Theatre Broadcast. To quote *Time Magazine*, "With its range of emotions and its messages of hope, charity, and love, 'It's a Wonderful Life' remains the gold standard, 75 years after its debut."



We are creating what we call "theatre of the mind." It's not your normal stage show. Think of it more like a radio show of old – with a cast of ten taking on the challenge of more than 50 roles, using only their voices – accompanied by live music and a mix of recorded and live sound effects, all created before your very eyes. This show creates a whole new feel, and we hope, a new appreciation for audio dramas.

Having been a part of the cast for the past four years, I am excited to take on the role of director, bringing the show to the Port Aransas Community Theatre for a second year. There are large shoes to fill, as Pete Lutz did the groundwork for this show – putting together the script, sound effects and so much more. I am also excited at the amount of raw talent each cast member possesses. This is a whole new world to some of them, and they are truly the greatest cast I could have wished for!

"It's a Wonderful Life" is a true classic that has been a traditional staple of my family's holiday celebration. And I am so very honored to help make it a tradition for the Coastal Bend.

Jessica Mathews, Director



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CAST

MICHELE BARNETT *Clarence, Mom*
 DR. ROSS C. BERNHARDT *Pop Bailey, Bystander, Horace, Mr. Carter, Festershiel Quartet*
 MICHELE COTTER *Annie, Cousin Tilly, Mrs. Hatch, Sheriff, Charlie, Bank Employee, Mrs. Snagwaris, Mr. Welch*
 RILEY CUMMINGS *Boy, Ed, Uncle Billy, Ernie, Nick, Franklin, Old Man Collins, Bridgekeeper, Festershiel Quartet*
 DANA GONSALVES *George Bailey, Announcer, Clerk, Trooper*
 PETER M. HOWARD *Boy, Mr. Gower, Harry Bailey, Dr. Campbell, Eustace, Sam Wainwright, Tom, Angry Man, Pete Bailey, Festershiel Announcer, Teenager, Crying Kid*
 JESSICA MATHEWS *Mary Bailey, Mrs. Thompson, Zuzu, Festershiel Quartet*
 TRE MINOR *Joe, Mr. Potter, Mr. Martini, Bert the Cop*
 DAWN ROBERTSON *Bank Employee, Janie Bailey, Announcer*
 CHUCK WILSON *Joseph, Randall, Dog, Festershiel Quartet, Santa Claus*

PRODUCTION TEAM

JESSICA MATHEWS *Director*
 DR. ROSS C. BERNHARDT *Music Director*

Join us during intermission for sing-alongs and trivia to win some cool swag!

EVACUATIONS: In the event of an evacuation, DO NOT RUN. Walk to the emergency exit nearest you. **NO SMOKING:** Smoking of any kind, including the use of E-cigarettes, is not permitted in any area of the theatre. Patrons who wish to smoke may do so outside the building. **REFRESHMENTS:** Outside food and beverages are not permitted inside the building during performances and events.

CAST



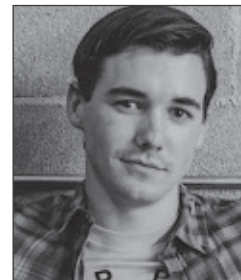
Michele Barnett



Dr. Ross C. Bernhardt



Michele Cotter



Riley Cummings



Dana Gonsalves



Peter M. Howard



Jessica Mathews



Tre Minor



Dawn Robertson



Chuck Wilson

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

MICHELE BARNETT (*Clarence, Mom*) is pleased to be back on the PACT stage, where she appeared in last year's production of "It's A Wonderful Life." She has appeared in 29 productions in five Coastal Bend theaters since 1998 when the acting bug bit her deeply. Most recently she was Abigail Brewster in the Rockport Little Theatre production of "Arsenic and Old Lace." Because Michele lives in Bishop, she has mostly performed at Harbor Playhouse and The Aurora Arts Theatre, but (obviously) she is willing to travel for an interesting challenge. Michele is delighted to be a member of the Narada Radio Company, appearing in live radio shows and providing her voice for several episodes of the Narada Radio Company's audio dramas. Outside of acting, Michele is the secretary at the First Presbyterian Church of Kingsville. She enjoys cooking, crocheting and reading "REAL" books. She would like to thank her loving husband, Rick, for his support and encouragement. Mostly, she thanks Pete Lutz for resurrecting this wonderful acting medium and including her in his collection of wild, wacky, fun-loving and highly talented radio actors.

DR. ROSS C. BERNHARDT, Music Director (*Pop Bailey, Bystander, Horace, Mr. Carter, Festershiel Quartet*) performs the roles of Pop Bailey, a Bystander, Horace, Mr. Carter and a member of the Festershiel Quartet. Dr. Bernhardt is Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in

choral conducting from Michigan State University. An internationally recognized composer, Dr. Bernhardt has won numerous composition awards, including third place in the American Prize in Composition for his opera, "Olivia's Ocean." He has written music for numerous audio drama podcasts by the Narada Radio Company, Sole Twin Audios and Sonic Summerstock Playhouse.

MICHELE COTTER (*Annie, Cousin Tilly, Mrs. Hatch, Bank Employee, Charlie, Mrs. Snagwaris, Mr. Welch, Sheriff*) was last seen on stage at the Harbor Playhouse in "To Kill a Mockingbird" as Miss Maudie. "I am grateful and blessed to be a part of this production. Enjoy the show."

RILEY CUMMINGS (*Boy, Ed, Uncle Billy, Ernie, Nick, Franklin, Old Man Collins, Bridgekeeper, Festershiel Quartet*) is a young talent with a background in film, and more recently, theater. Riley has a passion for the performing arts and looks forward to furthering his career as an actor. He recently performed in "Heathers" at Harbor Playhouse.

DANA GONSALVES (*George Bailey, Announcer, Clerk, Trooper*) has longed to be someone he wasn't for a very long time. At a very young age he pretended to be the characters he saw on cartoons, which annoyed his dad to no end. As he grew up, his cousin introduced him to the world of "Dungeons and Dragons," where he expanded his creativity and pretended to be people he created. It was through this that he met some people who thought he should use his

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

talents on stage, so he and a group of his friends auditioned for "A Christmas Carol" at the Harbor Playhouse. He was cast in a very fun musical number, and his love of theater took hold. The next year, he auditioned for a little show called "Science Fiction, Double Feature," written and directed by the mastermind behind the show you see tonight, Pete Lutz. "Many thanks to this grand gentleman, who has always had more faith in me than I have had in myself. Thanks to my dad, who was annoyed at my sound effects, but never discouraged my creativity. He just wanted me to be quieter. Thanks also to the cast and crew who make this so much fun. And to you, the audience, always remember that no matter how much you may think otherwise, the world is a better place because you are here."

PETER M. HOWARD (*Boy, Mr. Gower, Harry Bailey, Dr. Campbell, Eustace, Sam Wainwright, Tom, Angry Man, Pete Bailey, Festershield Announcer, Teenager, Crying Kid*) is a longtime fan of the golden age of radio. He is thrilled to once again be working with Pete Lutz's spectacular group, the Narada Radio Company.

Performing in a memorable and beloved classic show such as this is a remarkable honor that is as much a treat to perform as it is to listen to. "Thank you to the cast, crew, theater and of course — you, the audience. Without you, there would be no reason to do this. Enjoy the show."

JESSICA MATHEWS, Director (*Mary Bailey, Mrs. Thompson, Zuzu, Festershield Quartet*) has been a part of all of the Narada Radio Company's live audio drama productions since she joined the company in 2015. Before she joined Narada, she was active at Harbor Playhouse and was involved in many award-winning local film productions. She is reprising her role as Mary Bailey in this production of "It's A Wonderful Life." Jessica and her husband own and operate Lazy Beach Brewery and Cafe. She loves being able to enjoy theatre in all aspects and invites you to sit back and enjoy the show!

TRE MINOR (*Joe, Mr. Potter, Mr. Martini, Bert the Cop*) has performed at the PACT for the last six years. He currently is a performer on the Red Dragon pirate ship. Although he's done numerous

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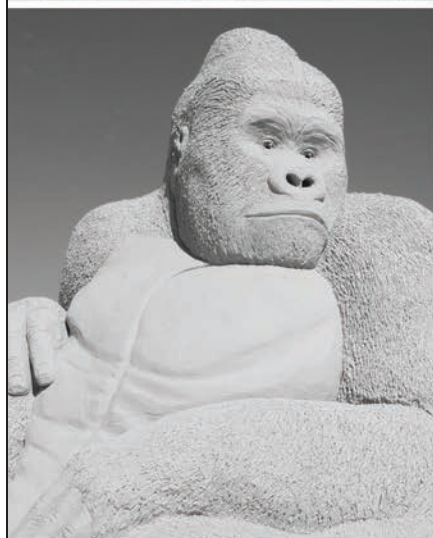
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Photos: Annette Berkson

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

shows with PACT, this will be his first radio show. "I'm excited to be a part of this amazing tradition, and I'm looking forward to working with this cast."

DAWN ROBERTSON (*Boy, Mrs. Bailey, a Worried Woman, Bank Employee, Janie Bailey, Announcer, Driver*) This is Dawn's fifth live production with the Narada Radio Company, appearing first in "The Pinup Murder Mystery/ Sunset Boulevard" at Rockport Little Theatre, "Othello" at the PACT and the 2019-through-present recordings of "It's A Wonderful Life." Originally from Chicago, Dawn exhibited an interest in comedy and improv early, and has studied at Second City, ComedySportz

and Player's Workshop of the Second City. She brought what she learned to Houston, where she performed in several productions for the USA Theatre. Dawn founded, performed, directed and taught for the Young Urban Comedians' Club. She moved to the Corpus Christi area in 2010, and is looking forward to many more productions in the area.

CHUCK WILSON (*Joseph, Randall, Dog, Festershield Quartet, Santa Claus*) is having great fun performing in "It's A Wonderful Life" again this year. He has been in more than 72 plays and musicals throughout the years at Harbor Playhouse, Aurora Arts Theatre, Del Mar and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.



Every time a bell rings,
an angel gets his wings

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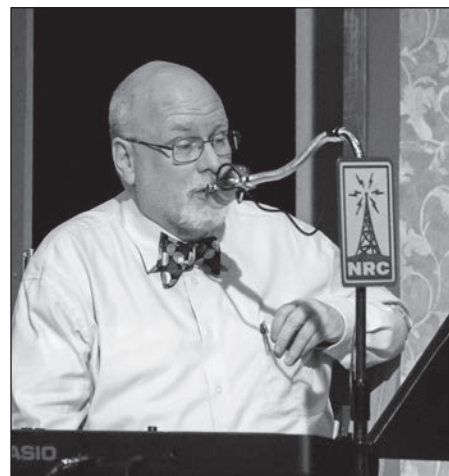


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BEHIND THE SCENES



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Volunteers are needed for each production to sell concessions, pass out playbills, serve as ushers inside the theatre, and sell tickets in the box office. As a thank you, volunteers are invited to stay and enjoy the performance at no cost.



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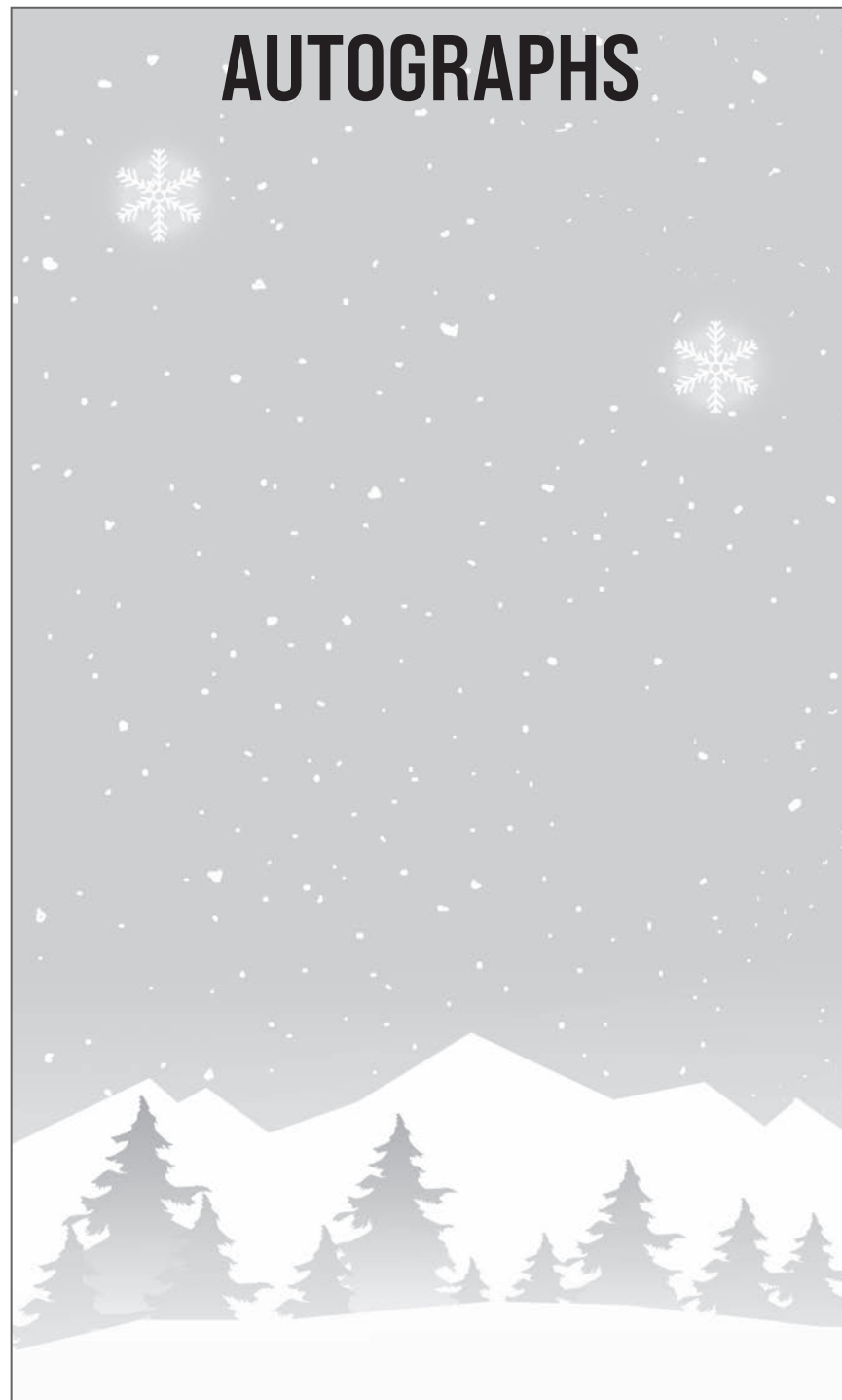
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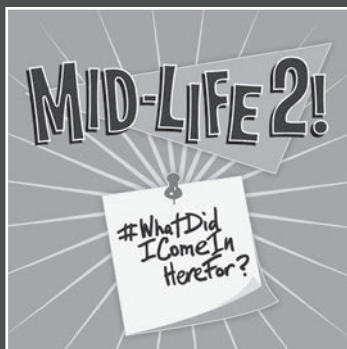
AUTOGRAPHS





2023 Season

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FEB. 16 – MARCH 5, 2023



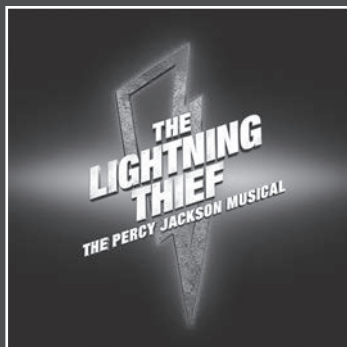
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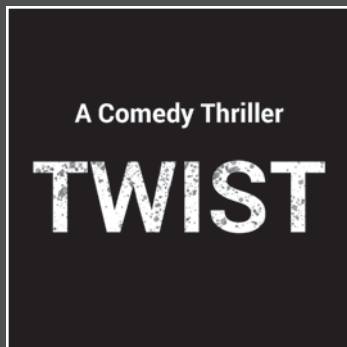
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