



# *It's A Wonderful Life*

A Live Radio Play (full-length version)  
adapted by Joe Landry  
directed by Gerry McCrudden

'It's a Wonderful Life' is based on the story,  
'The Greatest Gift' by Philip Van Doren Stern

**NVT**  
NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE

Friday 9th - Saturday 17th December 2022 at 7.30pm  
Matinee: Sunday 11th December at 2.30pm

[www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/NewVentureTheatreBrighton](https://www.facebook.com/NewVentureTheatreBrighton)

Bedford Place,  
Brighton BN1 2PT

Registered Charity No. 263807

# It's A Wonderful Life

Each man's life touches so many other lives, and when he isn't around he leaves an awful hole.

What a tough road we have all travelled these past few years. As if the pandemic was not enough to cope with - then the war in Ukraine and now the cost of living and energy crisis .So we thought we could all do with something uplifting.

I rather like this excerpt from a poem by Irish poet Derek Mahon which looks forward to better happier times:

*The sun rises in spite of everything  
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.  
I lie here in a riot of sunlight  
watching the day break and the clouds flying.  
Everything is going to be all right.*

That is as good a place to start as any. No one is born to be a failure. No one is poor who has friends. These simple thoughts were the inspiration for tonight's story. A celebration of how each of us can make a difference. At our core as a community we have an empathetic spirit. In good times and in bad. George Bailey, pillar of his community, a kind man dedicated to the welfare of others. Through the actions of the town's avaricious local banker, Mr Potter, George wishes he had never been born. In answer to the prayers of the townsfolk for the missing George, a merciful angel comes to the rescue - showing George what a sad and sorry place the world would have been without him. On his journey George realises that he truly has a Wonderful Life.

A powerful and inspiring story with a life affirming message of redemption, hope restored and renewed. I hope you will enjoy watching the Cast play many different roles in the style of period and the Crew create the vision.

What better a way to start Christmas season.

Gerry McCrudden  
Director

**FOLEY/STAGE MANAGER - Samantha Howard**  
**ANNOUNCER (FREDDY FILMORE), SUPERINTENDENT OF ANGELS  
& MR MARTINI - Tom Slater-Hyndman**  
**CLARENCE - Michael Urwin**  
**VIOLET/YOUNG VIOLET/ZUZU/MAN IN BANK - Laura Scobie**  
**MARY/YOUNG MARY - Amy Brangwyn**  
**GEORGE/YOUNG GEORGE - Abbi Crawford**  
**MR GOWER/MR WELSH/SCHULTZ/UNCLE BILLY - Neil Fitzgerald**  
**PETER BAILEY/MR POTTER/NICK/ERNIE - Alistair Lock**  
**HARRY/SAM/DR CAMPBELL/BINKY/CHARLIE - Aaron Coomer**  
**MRS ROSE BAILEY/SADIE VANCE/TOMMY - Amanda Harman**  
**MRS HATCH/ED/RUTH/PETE/MRS THOMPSON  
/BRIDGEKEEPER - Elaine Larkin**  
**MATHILDA/COLLINS/BANK TELLER/JANIE/BERT - Elizabeth Kroon**

Other parts played by members of the Company

**DIRECTOR: Gerry McCrudden**  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER: Carrie Hynds**  
**MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Tom Slater-Hyndman**  
**STAGE MANAGER: Gaby Bowring**  
**STAGE CREW: Bryony Weaver, Carrie Hynds, Terri Challis & Samantha Howard**  
**SET DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION: Michael Folkard, Simon Glazier, John Everett,  
George Walter & Gaby Bowring**  
**SOUND DESIGN & MUSICAL TRANSITIONS: Alistair Lock**  
**SOUND PROGRAMMING: Ian Black**  
**LIGHTING DESIGN: Strat Mastoris**  
**LIGHTING RIGGING: Strat Mastoris, Will Scott**  
**SOUND OPERATOR: Paul White**  
**LIGHTING OPERATOR: Alex Epps**  
**MAKEUP: Emese Csoma, Zoe Ferguson & Evelyn Bódi**  
**COSTUME DESIGN: Sarah Davies & Laura Scobie**  
**HAIR & WIGS: Samantha Howard & Laura Scobie**  
**CHOREOGRAPHER: Michael Urwin**  
**PROPS: Gaby Bowring, John Everett, Simon Glazier**  
**POSTER & PROGRAMME: Tamsin Mastoris**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY: Strat Mastoris**  
**PUBLICITY & MARKETING: Carrie Hynds, Gaby Bowring**  
**HEALTH & SAFETY: Ian Black**

With thanks to:

Keith Bartlett, Paddy Cunneen, Steve Hoar, Louisa Huskisson, The Brighton Birdcage, Rod Lewis, Sheelagh Baker, Vania at Gladrags, Brighton Little Theatre and as always, to the Front of House and Box Office teams, without whom no show would ever go on.



photo by Nick James Photography

### Samantha Howard

Samantha trained at the Gloria Roberts school of drama & dance. She then performed extensively in musicals, both internationally & at home, including "Mame"- Mame, "Julie"- Showboat, "Adelaide"- Guys & Dolls, "Rizzo"- Grease, "Tracey Lord"- High Society, "Alice Beane"- Titanic, "The Mother Abbess"- The Sound of Music, "Dolly Levi"- Hello Dolly & "Mrs Cratchitt" - A Christmas Carol. Samantha also has numerous TV, Film, Play & Radio credits & after studying for an MA specialising in Vocal Pedagogy, she is now running her own business, "Vocal Chords".

### Tom Slater-Hyndman

Tom most recently appeared in 'Paradise Rocks' at BOAT. Previous NVT productions include 'Pickwick and Weller', 'Dick Barton and the Tango of Terror', 'Amongst Barbarians', 'The Winslow Boy' and 'Biloxi Blues'.



### Michael Urwin

Michael has been involved with productions at The Brighton Little Theatre which included playing Tybalt, in 'Romeo and Juliet', as well as directing and choreographing for their productions including 'The Rink' and 'You're a Good Man Charlie Brown'. He has also directed and choreographed for Brighton Theatre group, 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Annie' and 'My Fair Lady'.



### Laura Scobie

This is Laura's eighth production with NVT. She was last seen there playing Shirley in 'Hangmen'. Other recent roles include U Boat Captain/ Edith/ Andrews Sister in 'Dad's Army' at BLT, and a scullery maid in 'Town House Voices' at the Regency Town House. She is over-the-moon to be in 'It's a Wonderful Life', and hopes that audiences leave with a warm-and-fuzzy feeling.



photo by Miles Davies

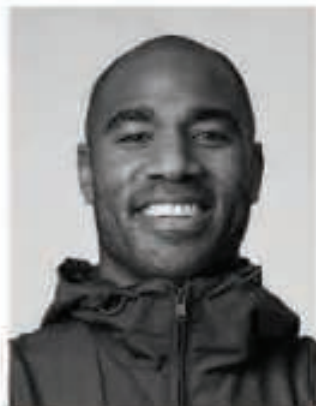


**Amy Brangwyn**

Amy trained at The Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York and her professional credits include: Alex in Steven Green's acclaimed production of 'A Clockwork Orange' with Fourth Monkey Theatre Company, Catherine in Cameron Jack's 'A View From The Bridge' at The Broadway Theatre, and Ensemble in Ann Akins 'Conversations With Love' at The Soho Theatre & Riverside Studios. 'It's A Wonderful Life' is her first production with The New Venture Theatre.

**Abbi Crawford**

Abbi is an actor, rapper, singer and model. His background stems from the four-man rap outfit Scribe Tribe and in recent years has been focussing on his acting. The last 12 months' accolades include 'My Fair Lady', 'Frankenstein' and you might notice his face modelling outside the Brighton i360. Abbi is a new member to NVT and he is ecstatic about the wonderful role. We all hope you enjoy the heart-warming story of love this Christmas.



**Neil Fitzgerald**

Neil originally trained at Strathclyde University's Ramshorn Theatre in Glasgow where he performed semi-professionally on stage, radio and in film alongside having several jazz residencies as a singer. In London he took up voice acting as well as continuing in short films. Having moved to Brighton he is delighted to be acting for the first time at NVT, in this innovative and exciting production.

## Alistair Lock

Alistair Lock is a well-respected actor and sound designer whose credits include the BBC's 'Doctor Who', 'Blake's 7', 'Dan Dare', 'The Martian Chronicles', 'Barred' and acclaimed dramatisation of Asimov's 'I, Robot', plus Audible Originals' recent psychological sci-fi thriller 'The Effect'. His association with Blake's 7 started as director/sound designer on Magic Bullet's controversial 'Kaidor City' series. He is now best known for voicing Zen, a synthetic intelligence, and ORAC, a highly intelligent but erratic computer. For the NVT, Alistair has appeared in many shows including 'Biloxi Blues', 'Dinner', and 'Iron'.



## Aaron Coomer

'It's a Wonderful Life' is Aaron's second production at NVT. Despite being new to NVT, he is no stranger to the stage, having spent most of the last decade working as a teacher and performer (and even longer desperately seeking attention). He's overjoyed to be given the chance to put the 100s of hours he's spent doing voice overs for Russian cartoons to good use and to be working with such a stellar cast.

## Amanda Harman

Amanda has been with the NVT ten years this year. She has been in many productions over that time including 'Medea', 'Seven Jewish Children', 'Decade', 'Love & Information', 'The Miser', 'Richard III', 'Gabriel' and the recent production of 'Turpin' back in June. In between productions she can also be found helping out at the NVT Box Office.



## Elaine Larkin

Elaine is a graduate of The Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College, Dublin. She has performed in various shows in Ireland, Greece and UK. Most notably she has performed for BBC Radio 4 in Christopher Hampton's 'The Prague Trial', as well as numerous appearances in both Brighton Fringe and Edinburgh Fringe. She was a founding member of the successful Scratch That Comedy Improv Show. After an acting and directing hiatus, Elaine is thrilled to be back on stage and working with New Venture for the first time.

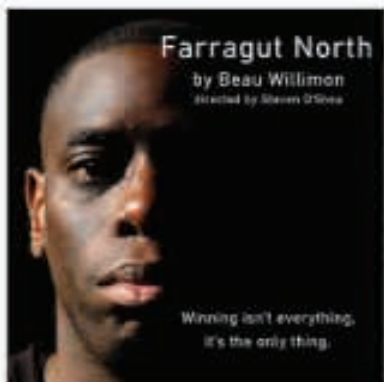
## Elizabeth Kroon

Elizabeth is pleased to return to NVT for this show after performing in 2018's 'Be My Baby'. She was most recently seen in 'Paradise Rocks' at the Brighton Open Air Theatre in May, and 'Frankenstein' at Southwick's Barn Theatre before that. Elizabeth has performed for over 8 years as an actor musician in local theatres here and in Northampton's Royal & Derngate theatre priorly, as well as in Brighton and Edinburgh Fringes.



## Gerry McCrudden

Gerry has directed many plays at the NVT over the last decade including 'Dancing at Lughnasa', 'The Winslow Boy', 'How Many Miles to Babylon' and 'Biloxi Blues'. He has done a bit of acting too. During his work overseas he has directed and acted in shows as far afield as New York, Nairobi, Mexico City, Barbados, New Delhi and Saigon.



20th - 28th January 2023  
In the Theatre Upstairs

## **Farragut North** by Beau Willimon directed by Steven O'Shea

"I don't lose – I win. Even when I lose, I win".

Set against the backdrop of a tight primary race, presidential candidate's press secretary Stephen Bellamy's meteoric rise falls prey to the ruthless backroom politics of more seasoned operatives.

A merciless dissection of the machinations behind getting elected, the lust for power and the costs endured to achieve it in the hubristic world of political campaigns.



Merry Christmas



Why not give an NVT membership this Christmas!

Annual Company Membership: £15

Go to [newventure.org.uk](http://newventure.org.uk) or use the QR code...



## WHY NOT GIVE THE GIFT OF NVT MEMBERSHIP TO A FRIEND OR RELATIVE THIS CHRISTMAS?

For membership benefits, see our website at <https://www.newventure.org.uk/>

### Contacting the NVT

For ticket information only, call the Box Office - 01273 746118. To book tickets or for other information check our website at [www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk). All other enquiries 01273 808353

THE  
PEBBLE  
TRUST

Constantinople  
Bistro

Fusing the tastes of the MiddleEast, the Balkans, Greece, the Caucasus and Central Anatolia.

51 Norfolk Square, BN1 2PA 10am - 11pm, Mon - Sun  
Tel: 01273 777 355

Est 1994  
silverado  
contemporary jewellery

31 Bond Street, Brighton



**MAIL BOXES ETC.**

- Print & Copy
- Office Services
- Stationery
- Packing & Shipping
- Packing Materials
- Post & Parcels

Tel: 01273 79 88 28 [www.mbebrighton.co.uk](http://www.mbebrighton.co.uk)

Email: [print@mbefbrighton.co.uk](mailto:print@mbefbrighton.co.uk)  91 Western Road, Brighton, BN1 2NW

### NVYT - Youth Theatre

NVT welcomes all young people (12-17) with a passion for or an interest in theatre. Fridays 4.30-6.30pm. £50 per 10 week term, first session is FREE!

### NVT Acting Class

Monday evenings at 7.30pm for all levels of acting skills. It will cost you just £5 per session (£2.50 for NVT members) First visit is FREE! See website for details.

### Become a Sponsor

£250: Advertise on the website, in each programme and our newsletter for one year. Plus two free tickets per show. Contact [fundraising@newventure.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@newventure.org.uk) for details.

Or why not become an Angel, Archangel or even Archangel Gabriel to help us support the current and future improvements to our theatre. For further information please contact the Angels Coordinator Gerry McCrudden: [angels@newventure.org.uk](mailto:angels@newventure.org.uk).

### Membership

Company membership - £15 a year. Full participation, discount on tickets & newsletter. Student/Unwaged - £10 a year. As above... Proof of status is required.