

This Wonderful Life

by STEVE MURRAY

Directed by
JUSTIN ANDERSON

STREAMING DECEMBER 17 - JANUARY 1

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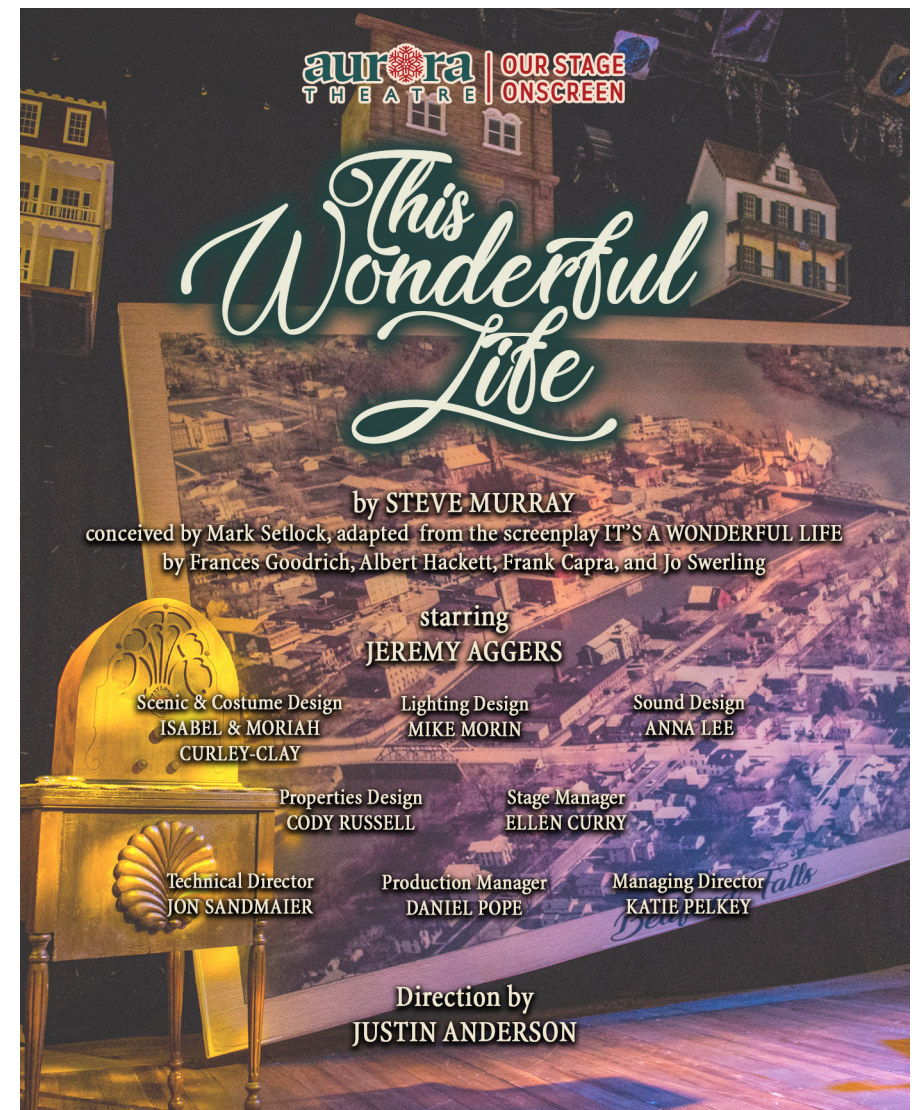
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AURORA THEATRE



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PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Technical Director ASHLEY HOGAN
Scenic Painter..... SARAH THOMSON

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FROM THE PRODUCERS

**"Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable."
-Mary Oliver**

This has been a year of waiting. This pandemic has sent our county, our nation, our world into a state of waiting....perpetual waiting. As Americans, we have grown incredibly impatient. We want results now. We want healing now. We want salvation now. And while waiting, our minds wander. Minds can wander to the joyful memories of past holidays. Or our minds can drive us crazy with despair as we relive our greatest losses. One day, while I was particularly haunted, I stumbled upon poet Mary Oliver. And I used her poetry as prayer:

**"I believe in kindness. Also in mischief. Also in singing,
especially when singing is not necessarily prescribed."
-Mary Oliver**

That's what Christmas is: It is **MUSIC**. It is **JOY**. It is **HEALING**.

During each Yuletide season, Aurora Theatre has endeavored to create unique events that everyone can rejoice in: where every person, of every age, of every faith, of every race, can join together in praise. Whether it's Anthony's socially distanced *A Christmas Carol* at Aurora Theatre, or Jeremy Aggers' streaming *This Wonderful Life*. Or SURPRISE!!! You can join us for *Christmas Canteen*, filmed in front of a live audience (just like an old television special of the 70's.) Our staff joined together to create various events to remind you that we are still here. We have not given up. And the New Year brings life. You see, we have all been waiting.... waiting to come back to work again, waiting to tell stories, waiting to christen a new building, waiting to publicly acknowledge our gratitude, waiting to share this dream with our community, waiting to celebrate the miracle of creation.

Many of us, as Believers, celebrate the miracle of creation every day. And in our loneliest times, our faith remains unshaken. Our year of waiting has brought unimaginable challenges. So as Mary Oliver suggests, if in some way your heart has room this season, if Aurora has brightened your day, lightened your load, given you a small sliver of hope, or provided a moment of peace, please help us carry the weight of this dream we began 25 years ago, which right now is just too heavy to carry alone.

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" -Mary Oliver

We made a promise to our city, one we intend to keep. Long after any election, we will still be here serving our community, not with optimistic promises that often go unanswered, but with a vibrant center for the arts that promises to welcome everyone. We don't mean a physical building. We mean a **CENTER** - the point from which all activities are focused.

But right now.... we are waiting: waiting for the opening of a new building, waiting to be able to go back to work, waiting for the grace of healing.



**"You can have the other words - chance, luck, coincidence, serendipity. I'll take grace. I don't know what it is exactly, but I'll take it."
- Mary Oliver**

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Noche de Velas, Happy Kwanza! Whatever you celebrate, may we celebrate together.



Anthony Rodriguez
Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder



Ann-Carol Pence
Associate Producer/Co-Founder



Bella Rodriguez
Box Office Manager

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



JEREMY AGGERS Thank you so much for tuning in. You're helping to keep this ship afloat. You might have seen Jeremy in Aurora's *Singles in Agriculture*, or *Hands on a Hardbody*. Other Atlanta credits include *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* (Georgia Ensemble), *Small Mouth Sounds*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Edward Foote* (Alliance Theatre). Jeremy is currently in the drive-in radio play of *A Christmas Carol* for the Alliance Theatre. It's also available streaming. Check it out! He has three albums of his music under the Brash Music label, and has narrated somewhere around 400 audiobooks under Jeremy Arthur and other pseudonyms. All his love to KJW and AEWA. BLM. Merry Christmas!

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

STEVE MURRAY's (Playwright) nationally produced plays include *This Passion Thing*, *Hungry to Bed*, *Cupid's Bones*, *Body Politic*, *Lost*, *Rogue*, *Rescue & Recovery*, *The Algae Eaters*, and *Manna*.

JUSTIN ANDERSON (Associate Artistic Director/Director) has served as Aurora Theatre's Associate Artistic Director since 2014. His directorial work has earned 12 Suzi Bass Award Nominations for Outstanding Direction (Winner for *The Bridges of Madison County* and *Les Misérables* at Aurora Theatre, in 2017 and 2013 respectively). He is also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia where he directs and teaches courses in acting and musical theatre. He holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Campbell University and an M.A. in Theatre Studies from Regent University, with additional course study at Rutgers. Much love to Michael.

ELLEN CURRY (Stage Manager) is excited to be back at Aurora Theatre for the holidays! She received her B.A. in Theatre from The University of Georgia and is a proud alumna of Horizon Theatre's 2017-2018 Apprentice Company. She has previously stage managed in Atlanta for Georgia Ensemble Theatre, The Atlanta Lyric Theatre, Synchronicity Theatre, and Out Front Theatre Company. Past Aurora stage management credits include *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End*, *Rock the Presidents*, *Beat Bugs* (Tour), and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Tour).

ISABEL & MORIAH CURLEY-CLAY (Scenic & Costume Designers) work can be seen on stages around Atlanta as well as on several regional stages. Recent designs at Aurora include: *Native Gardens*, *Be Here Now*, *Maytag Virgin*, *I'm not Rappaport*, *Abigail/1702*, and *Clybourne Park*. Other recent Atlanta area

designs include: *Book of Will*, *I Love To Eat* and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* (Theatrical Outfit), *A Dolls House Part 2* (Co-Pro with Aurora) *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Appropriate* and *Murder Ballad* (Actors Express), *The Magic Negro* and *Other Blackity Blackness As Told By An African American Man Who Also Happened To Be Black* (Alliance Theatre), *Skeleton Crew*, *Dot*, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *American Buffalo*, *Exit Strategy*, *Smart People* (Kenny Leon's True Colors), *Nomad Motel*, *Citizens Market*, *The Cake*, *The Wolves*, *Pipeline*, (Horizon Theatre). Recent Regional favorites include *Two Trains Running* (Triad Stage), *Lumberjacks in Love*, *Elf*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Penobscot Theatre Co), *Top Dog/Underdog* (North Carolina Black Rep.), *Honor Killing*, *A Gentleman Guide to Love and Murder*, *Wednesday's Child*, *One Man Two Guvnors*, *Butler* (Florida Studio Theatre), *Dot* (The Billy Holiday Theatre NYC) Isabel and Moriah are the recipients of multiple Suzi Bass Awards and Critics' awards, Resident Scenic Designers at Horizon Theatre, Artistic Associates at Theatrical Outfit, and members of IATSE, United Scenic Artists 829.

MIKE MORIN (Lighting Designer) is a lighting designer based out of Atlanta. He is excited to be returning to the Aurora after designing last year's production of *This Wonderful Life* as well as this fall's production of *The Roommate*. Off-Broadway design credits include *Here I Sit Broken Hearted: A Bathroom Odyssey* as well as *Alcestis Ascending*, which also performed in Havana, Cuba. Favorite design credits include *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Parade*, *Urinetown*, and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. He is a graduate of The University of Alabama holding his MFA in Lighting Design and Technical Production. In 2014 he was selected to participate in USITT's Young Designer Forum. Currently he serves as the Technical Director and Resident Designer at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School. Website: www.MikeTMorin.com

CODY RUSSELL (Properties Designer) is happy to be back with the Aurora Crew. Some past prop designs include: *Christmas Canteen*, *Space Girl*, *Damn Yankees*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Bring it On*, and *Heidi*. Recent scenic design credits: *Zombie Prom*, *Addams Family*, and *...Spelling Bee*. When not backstage or teaching with the Aurora Academy, Shakespeare Tavern and Alliance Summer camps you may find him music directing emerging artist apprentice showcases at GET or Serenbe. Or on stage himself; most recently as Cooper Barlow in 7Stages' *Angry Fags*. Cody is a proud alumnus of Aurora's AppCo17.

ANNA LEE (Sound Design) is thrilled as always to be back designing at Aurora. She graduated from Kennesaw State University with a B.A. in Theatre and Performance Studies. Her credits include *Zombie Prom*, *Addams Family* (GGC), *Spring Awakening* (Oglethorpe), *Ragtime* (KSU), *Christmas Canteen*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Suzi Nominated), and *Children of Eden* (Aurora Theatre). Big thanks to Justin, her family, Jeffrey, CB, and all the Katies she knows.

DANIEL POPE (Production Manager) is proud to be a member of the team at Aurora Theatre as Production Manager. Daniel has been a sound designer and engineer in the Atlanta area for the past eight years. He's had the pleasure of designing sound for the Aurora Theatre on many occasions on shows such as: *Into the Woods*, *Christmas Canteen*, *Sweep*, and most recently *The Bridges of Madison County*. Additionally, he's worked on countless other productions in the Atlanta theatre community including: *Evita* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* as Sound Designer and Production Manager at Serenbe Playhouse. Daniel received a Bachelors in Marketing with a specialization in sales and a minor in Music from The University of West Georgia in 2010.

JON SANDMAIER (Technical Director) has worked as Master Carpenter at Aurora for the last couple years. After graduating from IPFW at the end of the last millennium, Jon spent most of his time designing and building sets for various arts orga-

nizations in and around Fort Wayne, Indiana. He and his wife relocated to Georgia in the summer of 2016.

ASHLEY HOGAN (Assistant Technical Director) is excited to officially join Aurora's family as a staff member. She has enjoyed working her summers at Aurora the past few years while pursuing her degree at Georgia State University. After graduating summer of '18, she has spent the past year expanding her skill craft as an over-hire carpenter at Aurora.

AURORA THEATRE STAFF

Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder.....	ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ
Associate Producer/Co-Founder.....	ANN-CAROL PENCE
Managing Director.....	KATIE PELKEY
Associate Artistic Director.....	JUSTIN ANDERSON
Director of Cross-Cultural Programs.....	JUAN CARLOS UNZUETA
Director of Education	RENITA JAMES
Director of Corporate & Individual Giving	KELLY CRISS
Production Manager.....	DANIEL POPE
Technical Director	JON SANDMAIER
Assistant Technical Director	ASHLEY HOGAN
Director of Sales and Marketing.....	AL STILO
Marketing & Retention Manager.....	AMEE VYAS
Graphic Design & Marketing Associate	ARI MCBRIDE
Director of Patron Relations	JENNIFER OWENS
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is back and
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A Christmas
Carol

Adapted for performance
by TONY BROWN

Directed by
JUSTIN ANDERSON

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