

By Steve Murray

conceived by Mark Setlock, adapted from the screenplay It's a Wonderful Life by Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra, and Jo Swerling

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

# Williamston Theatre

# This Wonderful Life by Steve Murray

conceived by Mark Setlock, adapted from the screenplay *It's a Wonderful Life* by Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra, and Jo Swerling

## **Directed by Tony Caselli**

Member Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

Featuring John Lepard\*

Scenic Design by Bartley H. Bauer

Lighting Design by Dustin D. Miller

Sound Design by Quintessa Gallinat

Props Design by Michelle Raymond

Stage Managed by Stefanie Din\*

<sup>\*</sup> Member Actors' Equity Association

#### **Actor/Playwright/Director Bios**



John Lepard (Actor) is a co-founder of the Williamston Theatre. He was last seen on stage as King Lear at the Michigan Shakespeare Festival and has worked at such venues as The Signature Theatre in New York, St. Louis Rep, Hartford Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The Gem in Detroit, and Ford's Theatre in Washington DC. He received his BA from Michigan State University and his MFA from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. In Williamston, he has appeared in *Rounding Third*, *Outside Mullingar*, *Memoir*, 10:53, *Pulp*, 1984, and many more. He has been featured on *Chicago Fire*, *Detroiters*, *Detroit* 187, and films such as *Scream* 4, *Batman v Superman*, *Liberty's Secret*, *Whip It*, and *Mr. Art Critic*. In his latest film, he

plays Henry Ford in the soon to be released *10 Questions for Henry Ford*. John lives here in Williamston and is a proud member of the Screen Actors Guild and Actors' Equity Association.

<u>Steve Murray</u> (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*.

Tony Caselli (Director) has been honored to direct over 70 professional productions at wonderful places such as the Williamston Theatre, City Theatre, Tipping Point Theatre, Performance Network Theatre, Meadow Brook Theatre, Gem Theatre, Purple Rose Theatre Company, Jewish Ensemble Theatre, Urban Stages (Manhattan) and Studio Arena Theatre (Buffalo, New York). Other notable credits include serving as Associate Artistic Director for The Purple Rose Theatre Company, and directing the World Premiere of Mitch Albom's play *Ernie*, at the City Theatre in Detroit. He's been named Best Director for various productions by several publications including the Lansing State Journal, the Detroit Free Press and the Ann Arbor News, and has won Wilde Awards for directing 1984, boom, Oedipus, It Came From Mars, Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol, Take Me Out and 900 Miles to International Falls. A Michigan native, Tony received his degree in Theatre from Eastern Michigan University, is a member of Stage Directors and Choreographers, the union for professional stage directors, and is a co-founder of the Williamston Theatre and its Artistic Director. He lives in Williamston with his wife Jeanne, children Max and Maggie, and their schnoodle dog FlipFlop. www.tonycaselli.com

#### **Designer and Production Staff Bios**

Bartley H. Bauer (Scenic Designer) has designed over one hundred sets for numerous theatre organizations, and has been involved is hundreds more, both on stage and back stage. Currently he is designing for Tipping Point, Williamston Theatre, Purple Rose Theatre Company, MSU Wharton Center, Lansing Community College, and many area high schools, civic theatres and community organizations. He has received numerous design awards throughout the years, most notably are: *Thy Kingdom's Coming, Stanton's Garage, Blithe Spirit, Annaperna, Talley's Folly, Frankie and Johnny in the Clair De Lune, Miracle on South Division Street*, and several others. He also serves as a faculty member of Interlochen National Music Camp and as designer/technician for Jackson Community College. Bart works for Chelsea Lumber Company as the kitchen and bath department manager. He is a Chelsea native and lives there with his family.

<u>Dustin D. Miller</u> (Lighting Designer) is an Eastern Michigan University Entertainment Design & Technology Program Alum and Technical Director at his Alma Mater. He has worked in the professional theatre and entertainment industry for over a decade. Dustin has worked with Roustabout Theatre Troupe, The Encore Musical Theatre Company, World Crime League, Performance Network, Theatre Nova, The New Theatre Project, Threefold Productions, 8th Wonder Theatre, Pointless Brewery and Theatre and Penny Seats Theatre to name a few. At Williamston his works include Lighting Design for *To Quiet the Quiet*, *A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show* and *These Mortal Hosts* and Technical Direction for *Out of Orbit*, *Silent Sky* and *To Quiet the Quiet*. Dustin is so excited to be back doing LIVE THEATRE again at his favorite theatre for *This Wonderful Life* and can't wait for audiences to join us on this wholesome and magical experince! Dustin lives in a small ranch home with his cat, Chandler.

Quintessa Gallinat (Sound Designer) is grateful for every opportunity to work with exceptional folks at Williamston Theatre. Her previous WT sound design credits include *New Releases*, *Silent Sky* (2019 Thespie Award, Best Sound Design), *Doublewide*, *The Taming*, *The Nerd*, *This Wonderful Life* (2010 Wilde Award, Best Sound Design), and *Music From a Sparkling Planet*. Quintessa has designed for a number of regional companies, including Tipping Point Theatre, Kickshaw Theatre, and The Purple Rose Theatre Company. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Alma College and is a graduate of the Purple Rose Apprentice Program. Quintessa is eternally grateful to Momma for always believing in her, to Dave for all his love, and to Bean for changing everything.

Michelle Raymond (Properties Designer) is pleased to be working at Williamston Theatre. Michelle's property designs have been featured at Williamston Theatre - notable productions include, Silent Sky (2019 Wilde Award & Thespie Award winners), To Quiet The Quiet (2019 Pulsar Award winner), Summer Retreat (2017 Pulsar Award winner), Frankie and Johnny, The Woman in Black, Miracle on South Division Street, Murder for Two, 1984, Pulp, Rounding Third, Blue Door and Five Course Love (Subscriber's Choice Award for Best Property Design). Other property and set dressing designs include Underneath the Lintel (BoarsHead Theater, Chicago's First Folio Theatre and City Lit Theater, IL). Michelle has created props, sound and scenic designs for several productions at Performance Network, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co., Lansing Community College, Stormfield Theatre and BoarsHead Theater.

**Stefanie Din** (Stage Manager) could not be more thrilled to open this season, and reopen this theatre, with this beautiful show! Working with John and Tony is an absolute honor, every single day. As well as doing several shows per year, here, Stefanie is an Artistic Associate with, and the Production Stage Manager for, The Michigan Shakespeare Festival, and the Tech Director/Tour Coordinator for their high school tours of **Romeo and Juliet** and **Macbeth**. She was also part of Central Michigan University's Theatre Department, and is grateful for their continued support. Stefanie thanks Tony and the outstanding Williamston staff for continuing to let her do what she loves, and Adam and Aaron for all their hard work. Special thanks to her extraordinary family and friends for their constant love and support, especially her parents, who make every aspect of her life better, and to Brian and Keeley, for being her inspiration every day. Love hard. Be kind. Always.

Aaron Delnay (Technical Director) is a graduate from Eastern Michigan University. He has worked in both academic and professional theatre for the past seven years. In 2017, he helped bring virtual reality design to the theatre department at EMU. He has been a member of the Michigan Shakespeare Festival for their 2015-2018 seasons, working as a Master Carpenter and Technical Director. Aaron began at Williamston as one of its Apprentices in 2018, and now is beyond humbled to call this theatre his home. When he rarely is not in the theatre, Aaron is an avid painter, sculptor, and poet. He is forever grateful for the love and support of his friends and family, and to Theatre!

Adam Kruger (ASM/Apprentice) is thrilled to be a part of this special moment for Williamston Theatre after 20 long months of artistic stalemate. Helping to remount the theatre's opening and Phase 2 renovations has been a time of patience, hard work, and a huge team effort. Adam graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a BS in Entertainment Design & Technology in April 2020, just as the COVID-19 Pandemic began to put us all in a full stop in producing our craft. *This Wonderful Life* is Adam's first production with the Williamston Theatre as an apprentice, and he looks forward to sharing our art through safe, in-person performances now and for the rest of the season!

## **Place**Bedford Falls

## **Time**Now and Then

#### This show is performed without an intermission

The actor will be using the aisles for entrances and exits.

**Food & Drink** are not allowed inside the theatre.

Photography or recording of the show is strictly prohibited.

Please Silence all cell phones or any other devices that might disturb the actors and your fellow patrons.

Babes in arms are not permitted in the theatre out of consideration for the other patrons.

**Smoking** is prohibited in the building.

**Bathrooms** are located at the far side of the theatre.

Late arrivals will be seated by the House Manager at an appropriate time.

#### **Ticket Reservations**

Tuesday - Friday from 12 - 6 p.m. Call 517-655-SHOW (7469) Online 24 hours a day at www.williamstontheatre.org

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SDC is the theatrical union that unites, empowers and protects professional stage Directors and Choreographers throughout the United

States. Our mission is to foster a national community of professional stage Directors and Choreographers by protecting the rights, health and livelihoods of all our Members. To facilitate the exchange of ideas, information and opportunities, while educating the current and future generations about the role of Directors and Choreographers and providing effective administration, negotiations and contractual support. <a href="https://www.sdcweb.org">www.sdcweb.org</a>

#### Williamston Theatre's Staff

Executive Director	Emily Sutton-Smith
Artistic Director	Tony Caselli
Managing Director	Chris Purchis
Technical Director	Aaron Delnay
Box Office Assistant	Holly Iler
Apprentice	Adam Kruger
Accountant	James J. Pechur CPA

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#### **Additional Information for "This Wonderful Life"**

Assistant Stage Manager	Adam Kruger
Lighting Crew	Adam Kruger, Kinza Parker
Stage Crew	Adam Kruger
Lobby Photography	Chris Purchis
Show Graphic Designer	John Donohoe

#### **Land Acknowledgement**

We collectively acknowledge that Williamston Theatre occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. Williamston Theatre resides on Land ceded in the 1807 Treaty of Detroit. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan's twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly removed from their Homelands.

For more information, please visit: https://native-land.ca/

#### **WT Founding Members Bios**

Tony Caselli See bio page 3.

John Lepard See bio page 3.

<u>Chris Purchis</u> is the Managing Director of the WT and has been working in professional theatre for over 25 years. She has worked with many different theatre companies including Cherry County Playhouse, Purple Rose Theatre Company, EMU Theatre Department and Chelsea Area Players. As an actor, Chris appeared on the Williamston stage in *The Woman in Black*, *The Dead Guy* and for two performances of *The Smell of the Kill*. Other favorite productions include *Noises Off!*, *Orphan Train: An American Melodrama*, *Godspell*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* and *The American Plan*. Chris received her Bachelor's Degree in Arts Management from Eastern Michigan University. Special thanks to Tobin and her parents for their continued love and support. <a href="www.chrispurchis.com">www.chrispurchis.com</a>

**Emily Sutton-Smith** is the Executive Director of the WT. She most recently appeared on the WT stage in *These Mortal Hosts*, *Out of Orbit*, and *Doublewide*. She'll be appearing onstage in *Tracy Jones* later this season. She's been in many other productions here and at lots of other theatres around the state. A native New Yorker, Emily is also an audio book narrator, a classically trained pastry chef, and has an MFA from MSU. Proud member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA. She lives here in Williamston with her husband, son, and dog. <a href="https://www.emilysuttonsmith.com">www.emilysuttonsmith.com</a>



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