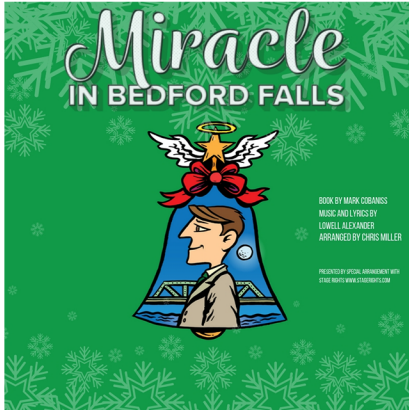


ABOUT THE PLAY



BIG IDEAS IN *MIRACLE IN BEDFORD FALLS*

- Family
- Faith
- Holidays
- Hope
- Finding your way home
- Perseverance
- Community

CONTENT WARNING/ RESOURCES

This play deals with themes of suicide. If you or a loved one suffers from depression, please seek support.

Links to resources:

- o National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Call 1-800-273-8255
- o Mental Health Association of Central Florida: <https://www.mhacf.org/suicide-prevention-orlando-fl/>

CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO BEDFORD FALLS

Main Street is bustling in Bedford Falls, New York. It is Christmas Eve, 1946 ("Christmas is Coming to Town"). At the same time, people from all over town are saying their prayers and specifically for someone named George Bailey. Angels, Franklin and Joseph, are heard discussing these prayers. They agree that George needs help as tonight is his crucial night. They debate who to send. Clarence, an angel who has not gotten his wings yet is up next. They send for him and share that George is a suicide threat. If Clarence helps him, Franklin tells him he will get his wings. In order to prepare him for his job, they go back in time so that Clarence can get to know his charge.

GOWER'S DRUGSTORE, 1919

A young George Bailey is hard at work at Gower's Drugstore. Angel Joseph shares that for George, two events shaped his life from a young age. The first, was the fact that he saved his younger brother from drowning, which caused him to lose his hearing in one ear and the second, was this day at the drugstore. Mr. Gower's son had recently died of influenza and he tried to drown his grief in whiskey. Unfortunately, he mixed up capsules and almost made a deadly mistake for his customers. When George tries to stop him, he grabs him violently, George convinces him to check. Mr. Gower realizes what he has done and thanks George through sobs.

SHAKING THE DUST OF BEDFORD FALLS

The angels leap forward in time to when George is shopping for a suitcase to travel the world before he finally gets to leave for college ("Shakin' The Dust"). His father asks him to stay behind and help with the family business, Bailey Building and Loan, but George does not think he can handle the business of "nickels and dimes." Before leaving town, his brother, Harry takes him to a school dance. They run into their friend Sam, a recent college grad that tries to recruit Harry to play football. Harry shares he will not be going yet, as it is his turn to work at his father's business and let his brother George go.

George ends up dancing the night away with Mary Hatch, stealing her away from her date, Freddie ("Step to the Music"). Frustrated, Freddie and his friend Mickey hatch a devious plan. There is a swimming pool under the gym floor. They turn off the lights and open up the floor during the Charleston competition. Everyone, including George and Mary, fall into the pool.



ABOUT THE PLAY

A STREET IN BEDFORD FALLS

George and Mary walk home in robes. They stop in front of an old deserted building, the Granville House. Mary shares that one day she would like to live there. George throws a rock and shatters the glass of one of the windows, making a wish to dust off the dirt of this town and never look back. Mary throws her own rock, but will not share her wish with George. They sing and dance, which results in her losing her robe ("Lucky Star"). Only wearing a slip, she hides behind a bush. George teases and contemplates not returning the robe. Just then, Uncle Billy comes running. George's father has had a stroke. George runs off.

CHANGE OF FATE

George's father passes away leaving his business without a leader. A meeting is called to identify a successor. Mr. Potter, an evil business man in town, wants to see the business dissolve, making way for him to hold more financial control. George stands up for his father when Potter belittles his abilities as a businessman and in the end, the committee votes for George to take over. Instead of going to college as planned, George stays behind. He even gives the money for his own schooling to his brother who becomes a football star. When Harry returns from school with a wife and job offer from her dad, George is unable to leave once again. In the meantime, Mary left for college and returned home. George's mother encourages him to pay her a visit one night.

THE HATCH HOUSE

George walks by the Hatch House pretending to be disinterested ("Lucky Star Reprise"). Mary invites him. Her mother keeps checking up on them and Mary lies that he is kissing her like mad. Her mother wants him to leave, after all, Sam is supposed to be calling her. Just as George tries to exit, Sam calls and wants them both on the phone to hear his good news. He has the chance of a lifetime for George to get rich and join him in plastics. George gets frustrated with everyone else trying to orchestrate his life and tries to leave, but ends up in an embrace with Mary.

WEDDING BELLS AND BANKS

Mary and George are married right as the Great Depression hits. Before they can leave for their honeymoon, there is a run on the banks. In a panic, everybody tries to take their money out of the Bailey Building and Loan. George shows up to help manage the crowd. People consider going to Potter who is offering 50% of every dollar they have in the bank. George reminds everyone that their money is not sitting in the bank, but spread all over town helping other people. People continue to demand their money. Mary shows up and saves the day by offering their honeymoon money. It's spread across the crowd until only two dollars are left. George, Uncle Billy, and Cousin Tilly celebrate ("It's a Wonderful Life"). George receives a call from the new Mrs. Bailey, which reminds him he is married! She tells him to come home to the old Granville House.

I AM HOME

Mary waits for George's arrival and works to tidy the old Granville House, which is in disrepair ("I am Home"). George comes home and they embrace. Mary shares that the night they broke the windows in this old house, she wished for this moment. Jumping forward in time, George and Mary work to make a home in the old Granville House. He even develops a neighborhood called Bailey Park full of affordable homes. George's life is busy. One day, Mr. Potter calls George to his office.



ABOUT THE PLAY

POTTER'S OFFICE

Potter starts the meeting by flattering George. He then offers to hire George to manage his properties and affairs for \$20,000 a year. When George asks what will happen to the Bailey Building and Loan, Potter deflects. As George leaves to think about it, he suddenly hears his conscious and refuses the offer.

ON MY SHOULDERS

George wanders the streets of Bedford Falls thinking about his decision ("On My Shoulders"). George makes his way home and Mary asks him if he is okay. He asks her why she ever married a man like him and she says because she wanted her babies to look like him. Mary is pregnant! Much changes over the next few years, Mary has four babies, works on the house, and even helps with the USO during the war. George continues to work for the Bailey Building and Loan unable to fight due to his ear. His brother, Harry, on the other hand becomes a war hero, shooting down 15 planes.

THINGS TAKE A TURN

At the Bailey Building and Loan, George shows everyone the newspaper featuring his brother getting the Congressional Medal of Honor. Uncle Billy enters completely disheveled. He has lost money he was supposed to deposit at Potter's Bank, over \$8000. George blames Uncle Billy and calls him stupid. This could mean bankruptcy or even prison. What neither man realize is that Potter is to blame. Uncle Billy accidentally gave him the money rolled up in a newspaper with the article about Harry. Corrupt and evil Mr. Potter did not say anything when he realized Billy's mistake.

CHRISTMAS EVE

George heads home where his whole family is getting ready for Christmas. George is irritable with everyone. Janie plays the piano, Pete, Tommy, and Mary decorate, and Zuzu is upstairs not feeling well after walking home from school in the cold. Zuzu comes downstairs wanting George to fix her flower. He faces away from her and puts the fallen pedals in his pocket. Zuzu goes back to bed and the phone rings. It is her teacher, Mrs. Welch. George ends up yelling at her and her husband about sending Zuzu out in the cold. George snaps at the whole family, apologizes, and quickly exits. Mary, Tommy, Pete, and Janie all pray for him.

ALL IS LOST

In desperation, George goes to Potter asking for the money. Potter asks whether he has a life insurance policy and tells George that he is worth more dead than alive. When George begs him again, Potter tells him that he is going to go to the police. Potter dreams of the town without George Bailey ("Pottersville").

THE BRIDGE

Meanwhile, the angels are almost caught up to the present. Joseph tells Clarence that George ended up at a bar with Mr. Welch who hits him because of what he said to his wife, Zuzu's teacher. George leaves the bar and heads to a bridge, looking down at the icy water.

Contemplating suicide, George feels worthless ("Every Dream I Ever Dreamed"). Just then, Clarence jumps in the water. George jumps in to save him. George learns that Clarence is an angel, sent here to save George's life. George asks about his wings. Clarence explains he has not earned them yet. George wishes he had never been born. Clarence grants his wish and suddenly George Bailey has never existed.



ABOUT THE PLAY

POTTERSVILLE

George wants a drink, so they head into town where he learns that it is not Bedford Falls anymore, but Pottersville. It is a nightmare of a town ("Swell"). They pass a Salvation Army bell ringer, who rings when Clarence drops a coin in his bucket. Clarence tells George that every time a bell rings an angel gets their wings. Suddenly, a drunk Mr. Gower, stumbles by looking for a drink. George learns that because he was not there to stop him, Mr. Gower's mistake in the drugstore poisoned someone and he ended up in jail. A number of unnerving things happen to George. No one else seems to recognize him. His family is gone and when he is almost arrested, Clarence steps in so he can get away. Clarence finds George distraught when his own mother does not know him. George learns that because he was not there to save him, Harry died when he fell through the ice. Because of that, all the people Harry saved in the war died too. Desperate, he asks Clarence about Mary. Clarence tells him she is just about to close up the library ("Those Moments").

George finds Mary who does not know him ("Don't You Recognize Me?"). He scares her and a mob of people chase him. He finds himself again on the bridge with Clarence and prays ("Every Dream I Ever Dreamed (Reprise)"). He prays for his life and when Bert, the police officer finds him on the bridge, he asks if he is okay. George hears his name and realizes he is back! He finds Zuzu's petals in his pocket and runs home calling for Mary ("I am Home Reprise").

I AM HOME

When he gets home, he finds the Bank Examiner there to arrest him. But that is when he also discovers that everyone in the town has rallied for him and raised the money he needs. Even his own brother came home to be with him, instead of attending his Congressional banquet.

They all sing and when the cathedral bells ring, George realizes that Clarence got his wings ("Finale Ultimo").