

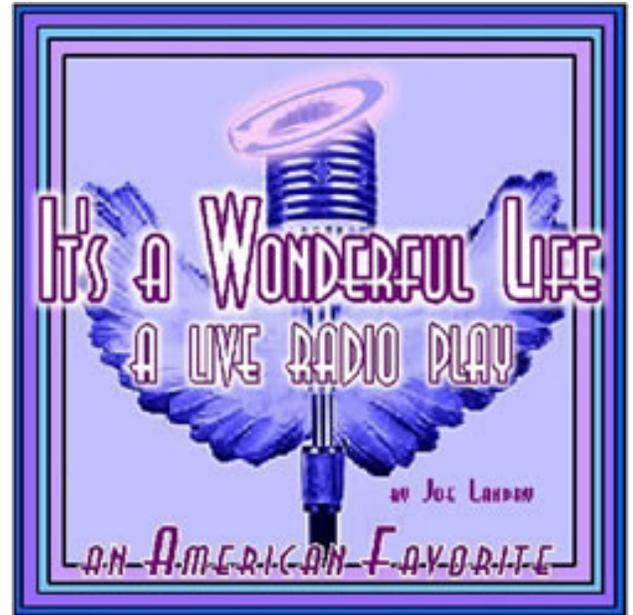


**Spotlight on...**

Nov. – Dec. 2008  
Volume 35, Issue 3

# **Fremont Community Theatre**

This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen characters to the stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he



considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve. Production dates are December 5-7 and 12-14. Call 419-332-0695 to reserve your seats today!

Brittney Forster- Hope Merriwether  
Taya Rohrbacher- young actress  
Cyrus Foos- young actor  
Tracy Armentrout- Lana Sherwood  
Brandon Wurgess- stage manager  
Randy J. Brown- Jake Laurents  
Steve Oberst- Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood  
Tim Bolton- Freddie Filmore  
Hilary Frater- Sally Applewhite  
Leita Rohrbacher- Foley artist  
Ruth Ford- pianist



# Crunch, Crash, Ding, Splash!

Food is probably what comes to mind when you think of corn starch, a child's candy necklace, or a box of corn flakes. I bet you didn't think of walking in snow, pills at a drugstore, or cracking ice! The few sound effects done in most shows are usually handled by an off-stage crew person through the use of a recording or perhaps a simple button push to make a phone ring. "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" requires so many special sound effects that our sound person is a full on-stage cast member. Welcome Foley artist Leita Rohrbacher, new to the FCT stage, who will be handling the many special sounds needed for this special live radio show.

"The Foley artist on a film crew is the person who creates many of the natural, everyday sound effects in a film, which are recorded during a session with a recording engineer. Before the session, a project will be cued, with notes kept about what sounds need to be created during the foley session. Often, the project will have a sound supervisor who will dictate what sounds need to be covered in a foley session and what needs to be created by special (audio) effects, which is generally left to the sound designer. The roles of Foley artists, sound designers, editors, and supervisors are highly specialized and are essential to producing a professional-sounding soundtrack that is suitable for distribution and exhibition.

The term *Foley artist* is named after Jack Foley, one of the earliest and best-known Hollywood practitioners of the art. Foley began his career in the film industry as a stand-in and screenwriter during the silent era, and later helped Universal make the transition from silent movies to talkies." --quoted info from Wikipedia



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## *It's a Wonderful Life* (movie trivia)

- **Lionel Barrymore convinced James Stewart to take the role of George, despite his feeling that he was not up to it so soon after World War II.**
- **For the scene that required Donna Reed to throw a rock into the window of the Granville House, Frank Capra hired a marksman to shoot it out for her on cue. To everyone's amazement, Donna Reed broke the window with true aim and heft without the assistance of the hired marksman!**
- **James Stewart was nervous about the phone scene kiss because it was his first screen kiss since his return to Hollywood after the war. Under Frank**

Capra's watchful eye, Stewart filmed the scene in only one unrehearsed take, and it worked so well that part of the embrace was cut because it was too passionate to pass the censors.

- In 2004 the BBC TV listings magazine "Radio Times" conducted a poll into the Best Film Never to Have Won an Oscar. "It's a Wonderful Life" came second (The Shawshank Redemption (1994) was first).
- James Stewart cited George Bailey as being his favorite character.
- Two of "Sesame Street" Muppets, Bert and Ernie, share their names with the film's cop and cab driver, respectively, but this is said to be just a coincidence.
- The scene on the bridge where Clarence saves George was filmed on a back lot on a day where the temperature was 90 degrees Fahrenheit. This is why James Stewart is visibly sweating in a few scenes.
- Despite being set around Christmas, it was filmed during a heat wave. It got to be so hot that Frank Capra gave everyone a day off to recuperate.
- Ginger Rogers was offered the role of Mary, but turned it down.
- It's a Wonderful Life was a box office flop. One of the main reasons for the movie's enormous success is the failure of RKO to renew the copyright. Back then, copyright only lasted for 27 years. So 1946 +27 years brings us to 1973, when the copyright should have been, but wasn't renewed. TV stations quickly noticed this and began to run the movie, especially at Christmas, which brought the movie to broad audience, who loved it. No one person has ever stepped up and taken responsibility for the failure to renew. Wonder why?
- The original story "The Greatest Gift" was written by Philip Van Doren Stern in November 1939. After being unsuccessful in getting the story published, he decided to make it into a Christmas card, and mailed 200 copies to family and friends in December 1943. The story came to the attention of RKO producer David Hempstead, who showed it to Cary Grant's Hollywood agent and, in April 1944, RKO Pictures bought the rights to the story for \$10,000 hoping to turn the story into a vehicle for Grant. RKO created three unsatisfactory scripts before shelving the planned movie with Grant going on to make another Christmas picture, The Bishop's Wife. At the suggestion of RKO studio chief Charles Koerner, Frank Capra read "The Greatest Gift" and immediately saw its potential. RKO, anxious to unload the project, sold the rights in 1945 to Capra's production company, Liberty Films, which had a nine-film distribution agreement with RKO, for \$10,000 and threw in the three scripts for free. Capra along with writers Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett (with Jo Swerling, Michael Wilson and Dorothy Parker brought in to "polish" the script) turned the story and what was worth using from the three scripts into a screenplay that Capra would rename "It's a Wonderful Life.



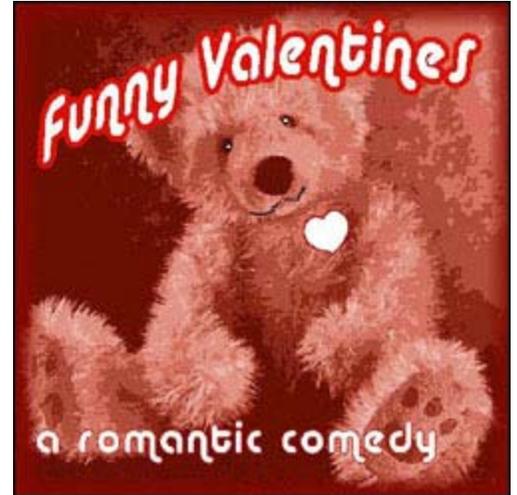
November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

Cast = 2 males, 3 females

Production = 1/30-2/1, 2/6-2/9

Directed by Claire Zimmerman

Children's book author Andy Robbins has been an unhappy bachelor since his divorce eight months before from his former collaborator, Ellen. On one incredible day, Ellen re enters his life eight months pregnant; his agent arrives with a TV contract that needs both Andy's and Ellen's approval, a beautiful lawyer appears to wrap up the TV deal and seduce Andy, and Ellen's mother makes an unexpected appearance. Completely rattled, Andy lies and introduces the lawyer as his agent's fiancée while he tries to get Ellen to sign a contract she opposes. By the final curtain, Andy has grown up just enough to straighten out the mess and win back his wife.



## OHIO COMMUNITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION NEWS

By Ginny Wise, FCT OCTA delagete

The first meeting of the Northwest Region delegates and regional reps was held at Kostumes LTD in Holland, OH. It was hosted by OCTA Board members Gary Buerk and Joe Barton. Joe presented a program on 'costuming your productions'.

New Regional reps Cathy Williams, Lori Demres, and Matt Zwyer were introduced along with reps John Aiello, Robin Stemm and Christi Thomas.

AACT Fest will be held Feb. 20-22, 2009 at the Columbus Performing Arts Center. Region III (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin) will be held in South Bend, IN, April 17-19; and the 2009 National AACT Fest will be June 23-27 in Tacoma, Washington. NW Regional Fest will be held on June 13-14 at Ft. Jennings High School hosted by Jesters Roving Players.

The next meeting is March 28 at Ft. Findlay Playhouse.

# **SUPPORT FREMONT COMMUNITY THEATRE BECOME AN FCT PATRON**

## **FREMONT COMMUNITY THEATRE PATRONS**

### **INDIVIDUAL**

\_\_\_\_\_ ***SAINTS \$200 or More***  
Includes name on Saints Board  
Name in program, 2 season tickets

\_\_\_\_\_ ***ARCHANGELS \$100 to \$199***  
Includes name in program  
1 season ticket

\_\_\_\_\_ ***ANGELS \$15 to \$99***  
Includes name in program

### **CORPORATE/BUSINESS**

\_\_\_\_\_ ***SPOTLIGHT \$1,000 or More***  
Includes name on Corporate/Business  
Board, Name in program, full-page ad

\_\_\_\_\_ ***CURTAIN CALL \$500 to \$999***  
Includes name on Corporate/Business  
Board, Name in program, ½ page ad

\_\_\_\_\_ ***DRAMATIST \$250 to \$499***  
Includes name in program, ¼ page ad

\_\_\_\_\_ ***THESPIAN \$150 to \$249***  
Includes name in program, 1/8 page ad

\_\_\_\_\_ ***STAGELIGHT \$60 to \$149***  
Includes name in program

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ Patron(s)

**Mail to: Fremont Community Theatre  
P.O. Box 24  
Fremont, OH 43420  
ATTN: PATRON PROGRAM**



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO DONIELLE &  
STEPHEN YATES  
ON THE BIRTH OF  
ELLA ELIZABETH  
PEARL YATES  
(8/20/2008)**

## *Play reading Committee*

*Play reading committee meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Theatre. We are always looking for new members!*



Beginning with this issue, we are using a new mailing list. If there were any mistakes with your name or address please contact Scott via email ([shavice@woh.rr.com](mailto:shavice@woh.rr.com)) or call FCT (419-332-0775) and leave a message with any corrections. If you receive a paper mailing, please consider signing up for the electronic version (not recommended for those with dial-up). You get it faster, it saves FCT money, and it really helps the environment. Email Scott with your request.

Fremont Community Theatre  
P.O. Box 24  
1551 Dickinson Street  
Fremont, OH 43420

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- November 18.....FCT board meeting, 7pm (all welcome)
- November 23, 24.....Auditions for *Funny Valentines* (7pm)
- December 2.....*It's a Wonderful Life* press dress
- December 5-7, 11-14.....*It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*
- December 9.....Play reading committee
- December 16.....FCT board meeting, 7pm (all welcome)
- January 3.....Membership meeting and holiday celebration
- January 18, 19.....Auditions for *Leading Ladies* (7pm)
- January 20.....FCT board meeting, 7pm (all welcome)



## Happy Birthday...

NOVEMBER: 2-Stephen Yates, 19-Mindie Ottney, 22-Ann Cain

DECEMBER: 4-Linda Rich, 13-Scott Havice, 30-Liz Stetzel

JANUARY: 8-Michael PJ Foos, 20-Judy Smith

[www.fremontcommunitytheatre.org](http://www.fremontcommunitytheatre.org)

**This newsletter produced and edited by Scott Havice**