

AROUND TOWN PASADENA

Go back to 1946 with IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY now at the Pasadena Playhouse

DECEMBER 18, 2018 BY [DENA BURROUGHS](#)



It's a Wonderful Life is a favorite Christmas story that years ago (way before Netflix) used to be read live on the radio (and in front of a small audience) during the holiday season. This week you can go back in time as you are transported to Christmas Eve 1946 and to Studio A at WBFR in Manhattan, New York, from your seat at the Pasadena Playhouse.

Five actors take care of the reading (in most cases giving voice to various characters). Simon Helberg, whom you know from *The Big Bang Theory*, reads the part of George Bailey, the man who is helped to understand the true value of his life. Rob Nagle remains busy throughout as he switches between various voices, as are Ryun Yu, Haneefah Wood, and Rebecca Mozo. Also quite active, and definitely focused, is Foley artist Jeff Gardner, who takes care of all the needed sound effects – footsteps, doors that open and close, glass that breaks, and so forth.

It is amazing what six talented people can do. And all that is expected from you is to sit down and get ready for story time... and to applaud when the flashing light comes on. The stage is bright and the lighting warm at the Playhouse for this show that is moving and perfect for the holiday season.

Tickets for IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY start at \$25, available at pasadenaplayhouse.org, by phone at 626-356-7529, and at the box office at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101. The show is about 90-minutes long, performed without an intermission. It performs through Dec. 23 only.

Dena Burroughs photo