

# Review

Continued from Page C1

have turned it into a cynical parody rather than a loving sendup of live radio broadcasts that were done in by the advent of television. The decision to have the actors give up their scripts in the second act and face each other gives the final, climactic moments of the story a touching intimacy.

For those few who are unfamiliar with the film, "It's a Wonderful Life" is the story of George Bailey, who works for his father at the Savings & Loan in Bedford Falls, U.S.A. He faces a crisis one Christmas Eve, but is able to overcome it when an angel named Clarence shows him how different the town would be if George had never been born.

Landry's radio version has an actor named Jake Laurents (Tony Larkin) portray George Bailey and an actress named Sally

Applewhite (Blythe Coons) plays Mary Hatch, his eventual wife. Three performers — Freddie Filmore (Mark Chambers), Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood (Ben Layman) and Lana Sherwood (Jennifer Shepard) — take on all the other parts. There is a Foley artist, Francois "Francis" des Bruits, onstage doing all the sound effects and three "cadets," Bobby, Betty and Dottie, who sing the commercials.

Although he's probably too young and too handsome to be George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart in the movie, Larkin is delightfully sincere in the role. His biography in the program says that this is the fourth holiday season he's been in a production of the play and it shows.

Larkin is comfortable and natural in the play within a play. He makes George's despair so palpable, theatergoers almost leap from their seats to keep him from jumping off the bridge into the icy

water below. Larkin's energy and enthusiasm in the role infect his fellow actors and the audience so that by the end of the play, the audience is as happy to be alive as George Bailey is.

Coons as the actress Sally Applewhite at times seems to be channeling Donna Reed, who played the part in the film. Mary truly is a good woman in an old-fashioned sense, but Coons brings out the woman's strength and ingenuity. The actress and Larkin have a quiet chemistry that gently wafts off the stage and envelops the audience.

The three actors who portray other major characters and minor ones are equally effective and entertaining. As Freddie Filmore, Chambers of San Francisco is wonderfully evil as Ol' Man Potter, the villain of "It's a Wonderful Life." Local actor Layman's Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood creates a blundering, foolish, but still

lovable Uncle Billy. And Shepard, who co-founded ImprovAcadia in Bar Harbor, is equally charming as Bedford Falls' bad girl Violet and the Baileys' little girl, Zuzu.

Luke Cote, a Bangor High School graduate, as the Foley guy is fascinating to watch as he makes the sound of men's and women's high-heeled footsteps, breaking ice, ringing phones, money being counted and sounds too numerous to list. By the end of the show, theatergoers are convinced he's the hardest working guy or gal on stage.

Local students Robert Brangwynne, Elisabeth Budd and Lana Sabbagh as singing cadets Bobby, Betty and Dottie, respectively, are terrific.

The design team of: Sean McClelland, scenic; Jonathan Spencer, lighting; Brandie Larkin, sound; Kevin Koski, costumes; and Meredith Perry, properties, have given the production a classy and classic

look and feel. The three-piece band, under the direction of Larrance Fingerhut on piano, with Scott Rapaport on reeds and Lori Wingo on trumpet, gives just the right amount of musical support to the players to convince the audience it really is radio and not theater on stage.

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" is a much needed antidote to recent violence at home and abroad. In this drama, George Bailey learns that he makes a difference in the lives of many in small ways every day. PTC's gift to the community this December is a welcome reminder that most days the good people do far outweighs the evil deeds of a few.

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" will be performed through Dec. 27 at the Bangor Opera House, 131 Main St. For more information visit <http://www.penobscottheatre.org/> or call 942-3333.

# Family

Continued from Page C1

and Celtic inspired Christmas music to set the holiday mood.

Belfast will host a "Join-in Nutcracker" at the Belfast Dance Studio for children of all ages 11 a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 19. Anyone can come dressed in costumes of any kind and dance to different songs from the classic performance. The event is \$5 for an individual or \$10 for families. Ballet dancers will be there to help with their own dance moves for inspiration.

But "The Nutcracker" — a favorite during this time of year — can be found all over the state.

There's still plenty of time to catch Robinson Ballet's "Nutcracker," which has performances scheduled for 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Grand in Ellsworth. The ballet also will return to the Collins Center for the Arts with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra and Bangor Area Children's Choir for 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20.

Portland Ballet's "The Victorian Nutcracker," which is set in Victorian era Portland, will pair up with the Portland Ballet Orchestra at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12 and 13, at Westbrook Performing Arts Center and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, at Merrill Auditorium.

In Bath, "A Christmas Carol: The Musical" will entertain audiences at 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 17-19, and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 19 and 20, at the Chocolate Church Arts Center.

In Caribou, the Heart of Christmas Benefit Concert will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at the Caribou Performing Arts Center. Proceeds will benefit Homeless Services of Aroostook.

For more holiday events, visit the events page at [bangordailynews.com](http://bangordailynews.com), or the events calendar, which is on page C3 of the paper every day.

# Music

Continued from Page C1

the middle part of a quarter portion of a log. "That will be my big guitars. And then in between that you see these [smaller] pieces here. They don't quite make the grade because of the size, but I'll make those into mandolins or fiddles."

Though Cyr specializes in supplying the wood for the soundboards of acoustic guitars for C.F. Martin & Co., he also buys materials for mandolins, fiddles, ukuleles and even banjos. For banjo necks he uses mahogany, which is supplied to

him by a reputable family with foresters in Peru.

Cyr learned parts of his business while living in Tennessee, where he not only picked up tricks of the trade but also picked banjo along the way.

"Luckily I knew how to pick banjo. And if you can go to a jam and hold your own and keep your mouth shut, after awhile you get to know people. And they say there's a Yankee down the street here that's got some spruce. And he'll come and other guys come," Cyr said.

That's how he began making connections in Tennessee and making his name and business pros-

"I like to think that I really know how to talk to loggers. They're a different breed."

MICHAEL CYR

pects known.

"I sold a lot of mahogany to the Gibson custom shop in Nashville. They make the Les Paul guitar. B.B. King played one. It's a classic — it's like a Mustang. ... They're really, really picky about their mahogany. That helped me get started," Cyr said.

Cyr since has developed important relationships with Maine mill yards and loggers. Perhaps his favorite part of the job is creat-

ing these connections.

"I like to think that I really know how to talk to loggers. They're a different breed," Cyr said.

Cyr's job isn't only important to him, it's important to those who help him pull logs.

"These guys have so many things to do every day — they've got tons of wood to move, but they really look out for what I'm trying to do. They ask me 100 questions," Cyr said.

"It's important to them, too. For them to take out a big fat log and know it went for a guitar or guitars, means a lot to them," he added.

Cyr's finished product for a soundboard is two

pieces of flat, rectangular wood with a beautiful straight grain and a consistent coloring. He traces out the shape of the acoustic guitar's soundboard with a pencil and an example soundboard he uses. Finally, he grades their quality and sends them out and the company takes it from there, constructing beautifully made guitars.

For Cyr, this undertaking has been a combination of all the important parts of his life, and he plans to continue supplying tone-wood from Maine for high-quality acoustic guitars.

"I'm a musician, I'm a forester and I love wood," he said.

# Christmas

Continued from Page C1

"[The] writing was beautiful. It was very lyrical," said Butterfield. "It was an homage to families, at least in my mind, and my husband is one of eight ... so it felt very personal."

So how does one collaborate on a book project using text created by a writer who died in 1955? Through lots of research. Butterfield began by researching historical context for the text, but ultimately it was decided to go for a more timeless approach — something that bridged the modern and historic context.

"I probably started with a more literal definition of the time period that I needed to," said Butterfield, a Bar Harbor native.

She created sketches for the illustrations, and then used them to create mirror-image templates that she'd draw again before carving.

Since its release in Octo-

ber, Butterfield says the response to the book has "been very positive."

Butterfield will be doing a reading, Q&A and book signing at Jesup Memorial Library at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. Books will be available for purchase there. She's also giving a wood carving and printing demonstration as well as a

book signing at Freeport Community Library at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16. She will sign books at the L.L. Bean flagship store in Freeport from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19.

"Christmas in Maine" is available wherever books are sold, including The Briar Patch on Central Street in Bangor.

**Dunnett APPLIANCE & MATTRESS**

**Serta 2 YRS INTEREST FREE FINANCING** (see store for details)

**FREE DELIVERY • FREE SETUP • FREE HAULAWAY**

After a long night of delivering toys to children around the world, Santa's back needs a break and a good night's sleep. To help ease his aches and bring on the visions of sugarplums, the Jolly Man turned to the new Serta line at Dunnett Appliance and Mattress. The dual action memory foam provides Santa with just what he needs for a good night's sleep before he has to start reviewing next year's naughty and nice list.

**Penobscot Plaza, Bangor**  
947-4572 • 800-649-5214  
[www.dunnettinc.com](http://www.dunnettinc.com)

**PENOBSCOT BOOKS & ASIAN ANTIQUES**

**IMARI BY THE HUNDREDS**

**25% OFF ALL BOOKS & ASIAN ANTIQUES**  
DEC. 8 - DEC. 22

BOOKS ON ART, ARCHITECTURE, AND MOST EVERYTHING ELSE

**164 WEST MAIN ST. SEARSPORT** SALE HOURS TUE-SAT 10 - 4

**BANGOR BIRTHDAY BASH AT HOLLYWOOD!**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 5PM - 9PM**

Marquee Rewards members with a birthday in the month of December are invited to visit Player Services on Friday, December 11 between 5PM - 9PM to receive a \$10 Free SlotPlay offer!

**50 WINNERS**

**Mystery Snowmen**

**WIN UP TO \$200 FREE SLOTPLAY**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 5PM - 8PM**

5 winners will be drawn every 20 minutes to select a Mystery Snowman marked with a prize or Free SlotPlay. Play with your Marquee Rewards card for your chance to win!

**HOLLYWOOD Casino**  
BANGOR, ME

500 Main St. ★ Bangor, ME 04401 ★ I-95 Exit 182A  
877-779-7771 ★ [hollywoodcasinobangor.com](http://hollywoodcasinobangor.com)

\*Birthday Bash is only valid for the month of December. Limit one Birthday Bash offer per patron. Visit Player Services for complete details. Must be present to win. No purchase necessary. Must have Marquee Rewards card and valid government issued I.D. to be entered/claim any prize or when using Marquee Comp®. Management reserves the right to change or cancel any offer or promotion at any time without notice. Marquee Comp earned will be purged after 6 months of inactivity. If you have any questions regarding your Marquee Comp balance, please contact Marketing at 207-874-3400. Persons under 21 years of age may not enter the gaming area unless licensed employees. Do you or anyone you know have a gambling problem? For help, services, & counseling please call 1-800-522-4700. Maine residents may contact 2-1-1 for information and resources. ©2015 Penn National Gaming, Inc.