

Produced by Patrice & Paul Messina, and Jonelle Kop • Directed by Jonelle Kop



FRI NOVEMBER

30

EVENING 7:30pm

THU DECEMBER

EVENING 7:30pm SAT **DECEMBER**

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EVENING 7:30pm

FRI DECEMBER

7
EVENING

7:30pm

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DECEMBER

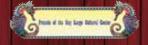
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SAT **DECEMBER**

8 EVENING

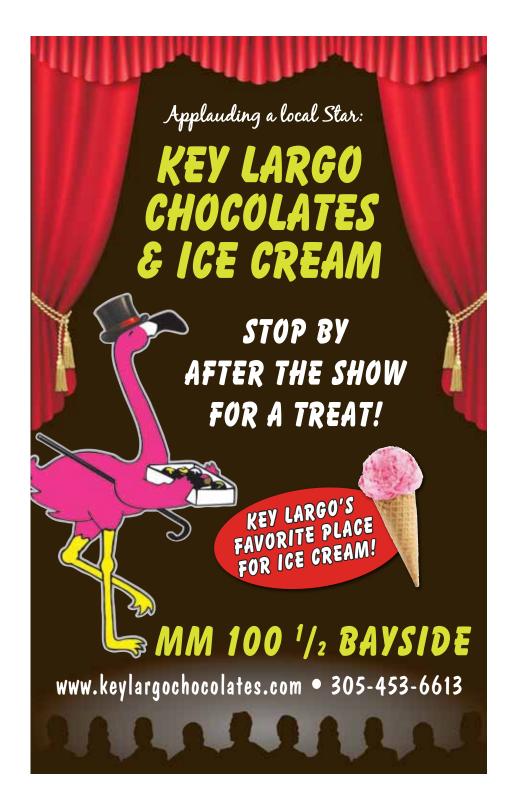
EVENING 7:30pm

Venue opens one hour prior to curtain; seating starts a half-hour prior. Produced in conjunction with



Murray E. Nelson Gov. & Cultural Center 102050 Overseas Hwy. Key Largo

www.thekeyplayers.org



Note from the Producers: Paul & Patrice Messina



Paul & Patrice, originally from New York, made their love of the Keys permanent in 1995. Before long, a friend "tricked" Patrice into an audition in 1997, and so began both their wonderful and enduring courtship with the Key Players.

You'll never see Paul on stage (we gave up!), but he's always behind the scenes and currently President of the Key Players. Patrice you've seen plenty of times on stage and behind, as well as in her role as past President.

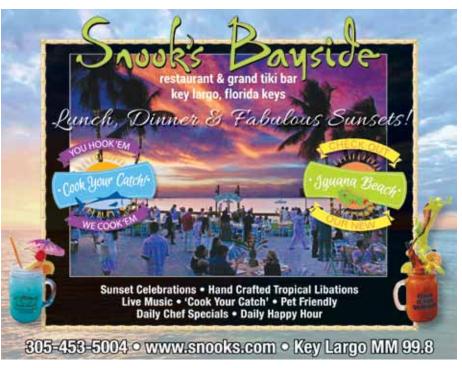
"The Key Players are like family, and we have a great time pulling together to make these shows a success. We are delighted to be producing this popular and heartwarming Christmas classic, sure to enchant the whole family and get you in the Christmas spirit- our mission is always to provide the best entertainment we can for our fabulous community; our reward is your applause and happy faces, so please enjoy, keep coming, and spread the word!"

PS-We're always looking for new family members, so please talk to any one of us and join in the fun; after all, it is *A Wonderful Life!*









A Letter from The Director by Jonelle Kop

This is our 40th year anniversary for Key Players and our 123rd production! WOW! From the Mega Productions like *Shrek The Musical, Sound of Music, South Pacific* and *Fiddler on the Roof* to heart-sweet shows like *Steel Magnolias, Harvey* and *Dearly Beloved,* to the hysterical farces like *There's a Burglar in my Bed, Fox on the Fairway* and *Drinking Habits,* we do them all! So watch for our Anniversary Celebra-



tion coming in January! Personally, this is my 17th year with Key Players and 13th time directing, and I love every minute.

It's a true pleasure to be back directing such a Classic show like *It's a Wonder-ful Life!* We are bringing the full story and all the tender and memorable moments of the Jimmy Stewart Movie to our stage Key Players style. I am sure that you will enjoy it. This is the radio show version with 23 people on stage (the youngest is 7) and many more behind the scenes who have been working exceptionally hard to bring this show to you tonight. Many of our cast you will recognize but most are new to our stage and we are thrilled to have them! We have our live sound effects team who have been exceptionally creative bringing all sorts of gadgets and instruments to the table. And we have a mop available if they get overly enthusiastic recreating the river – grins.

As we are all volunteers here, please know that the only pay we receive is your joy and laughter. So please feel free to include, as great audiences make great plays and we will all be well rewarded. Thank you for coming and get ready to enjoy *It's a Wonderful Life!!!!*





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Susan Bazin, Director of Live Sound Effects

Susan Bazin is a professional flute player, Piklzthe-Clown, and band director at Key Largo Middle School. As a flautist, she has worked and recorded with Walt Disney World productions, sat principal chair with numerous symphony orchestras, operas and theater groups (including Key Players) throughout Florida, and performed as a soloist for



art galleries and weddings. While in Iceland, her greatest admirers were a flock of lonely sheep. Wow did they love her tooting!

After attending Ringling Clown School, Piklz' audience ranged from 1-year old birthdays to "really big" shows for thousands. She composed a recorder method book (Ricky Recorder) and was instrumental (pun intended) in moving music editing from cut-and-paste to the electronic applications we use today.

As KLS band director, she can play most instruments, from alto sax to zither, but still enjoys the flute the most. She has received numerous honors including Teacher of the Year and Florida Bandmaster Association Grant Award for straight superior ratings for her band at MPA. Look for her in this play, stationed at the Sound FX table, as she shakes, rattles and rolls!

THANK YOU



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Sophia Allen as Sophia

Sophia is 8 and passionate about performance. This is her second theatre production and loves music, hip hop dance and singing and when she's not crafting or doing school work you can find her recording skits online as MajorMess123 and working in her curl-based business CurlPillows.com.





Cathy Austin as Violet Bick & Matilda

Cathy Austin has been a member of our Keys community for over 13 years, where she works as a Counselor. Cathy began in entertainment as a pro cheerleader and dancer, with roles in movies and tv. Since moving to the Keys, Cathy has performed with The Upper Keys Christmas Project for several years and is a

singer with First Baptist Church of Key Largo's worship band. Cathy prefers working in family and faith-based productions, and is very excited for this opportunity to perform with The Keys Players!

Tommy Chambers as Billy Bailey, Mr. Welch, Ernie and Nick

Tommy and his wife, Marylou, are originally from Toronto, Canada. Now they are long-time Florida Keys residents who just love the water and people. This is Tommy's sixth casting for the Key Players. He was in his first play in 2010, Sex Please, We're Sixty, and the bug must



have bitten. He was back in 2011 with a more challenging part in *Men Are Dogs*, as Bob Crowley; then in 2013's *There's A Burglar in my Bed* as Edward Brookstone, in 2012 as Father Chenille in *Drinking Habits* and most recently in *Red*, *White and Tuna* as Amber Windchime and Garland Poteet

Kaley Eickelman as Young George, The Cop and others

Born in St Croix, Kaley lived most of her life in a zoo, with a pilot father and her biologist mother.

This is her first production with Key Players. She was not sure if she wanted to be on stage when she came to auditions, but then had so much



fun that she became a full-fledged member of the cast. It is a pleasure to have her with us!



Jamie Evans as Rose Bailey, Mrs. Thompson and Sadie

Jaimie just moved to Key Largo in May. She is a retired French teacher, an avid golfer and diver, and a yoga enthusiast. This is her first production with Key Players

Analise Fleming as Young Harry, Charlie and others

Analise is 13 years old. She loves theater and has been in a school production of *Mary Poppins*. She is excited to be in her second year with The Key Players having been in *War of the Worlds* and back stage. She enjoys working with the cast and hopes you enjoy the show.









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Cadence French as Young Violet, and Cadence

Cadence French is a seven-year-old second grader from Key Largo, FL. Space and Science are her favorite interests. She enjoys playing soccer, playing with her friends, swimming and snorkeling and spending time with her family in her free time. *It's a Wonderful Life* is her first



theatre experience and she says it has been very fun to be a part of.



Maddie French as Young Mary, Janie and others

Madelyn (Maddie) French is 11 years old and a 7th grade student at Treasure Village Montessori. A few of her favorite interests are theatre, art and music. She also enjoys swimming, doing water activities and spending time with her friends, family and pets. She loves participating

in theatre and is very excited to be a participant in *It's A Wonderful Life* for Christmas, her favorite holiday!

Kai Guth as Zuzu

Kai is thrilled to be performing in her first show with The Key Players. Last year she was in the chorus of CSHS's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Kai is a 6th grader at Treasure Village Montessori and loves performing and playing tennis every chance she gets. She thanks Jonelle and the cast for this amazing experience.







Performing

Arts

Center

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

7pm

2pm

April 6

April 7

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

7pm

2pm

March 30

March 31

Russell Holmes as Clarence the Angel

A veteran of Key Players productions, Russell stars as Clarence the Angel in this one. His comical antics are loved by all and he has won numerous peer-favorite honors. His handiwork can be seen on every Key Players stage for the last several seasons as Russell has led the set building team with his skills. He loves being in front of



audiences laughing and enjoying themselves, so make sure this happens.



Madeleine Hull as Patty

Madeleine, age 8, is currently a 3rd grader at Treasure Village Montessori. She is a graduate of The Brainery's Theatre Production Academy summer program and held a supporting role in their original production of *The Crisis*. She has also appeared in The Florida Keys & Key West nationally syndicated television commercial ad

campaigns. In addition to stage performance, Maddie loves swimming as a member of the Florida Keys Swim Club, baking for her friends and family, and playing with her tabby cat Taco.

Kathy Miller as Frannie Filmore, Giuseppe Martini and Live Sound Effects Tech

Kathy has been entertaining audiences from an early age and has been an active volunteer of The Key Players since 2007. Involved in practically every show in some way, her favorite thing is to bring comedy to the stage. Kathy's Key Players



credits range from sweeping the floor to being the board's secretary to producing entire shows.

Kathy freelances as a personal assistant, and twists balloons for local events. She wishes to thank the fans of The Key Players for their loyalty and support and wants them to know that the greatest gift she can ever receive is bringing laughter to others.

CAST

Sophia Allen Cathy Austin Tommy Chambers Kaley Eickelman **Jamie Evans Analise Fleming** Cadence French Maddie French Kai Guth Russell Holmes Madeleine Hull Kathy Miller Tayler Miller Jerry Nussenblatt Jimmy Pardinas Eleanor Pershalski Mathew Pontefroct Charlene Sammis Marinka Stuval Christina Von-Essen Craig Zabransky

SOUND EFFECTS

Susan Bazin,
Director of Live Sound Effects
Kathy Miller
Brad Shank

Please turn off all cell phones during this performance.

Special Thanks

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The Ticket Outlets

And many other helping hands – it takes a village!

And special recognition to all those who stepped up to help after this playbill went to press: all those last-minute and front-of-house helpers!



CREW

Director/Producer: Jonelle Kop

Producers: Patrice and Paul Messina

Director of Live Sound Effects: Susan Bazin

Lights & Sound: Bob Auer and Paul Messina

Set Construction: Russell Holmes

Set Decoration: Jonelle Kop,

Props and Costumes: Jonelle Kop, and the cast and crew

Front of House: Patrice and Paul Messina, Suzanne Mason,

Artwork/Playbill: Sue Beal, Jonelle Kop

Promotion: Sue Beal, Patrice Messina, Jonelle Kop



To Our Audience

The Key Players can't <u>THANK YOU</u> enough for your support and applause!

Taylor Miller as Young George and others

Taylor loves Theater and while this is the first show with the Key Players, she has had lead roles *Charlotte's Web* and *The Wizard of Oz* as well as others. She is very active after school scholastics. She has made all the rehearsals and is taking a number of roles in this show. We are



very happy to have her as a new member of Key Players.



Jerry Nussenblatt as Henry Potter

Jerry moved to Key Largo in 2004 with his wife, Donna, after singing with various ensembles in NY & NJ for many years, and currently works at Hawks Cay Resort in Duck Key. This is his 6th production with The Key Players, and he has also been in a number of productions at the Marathon Community Theater. He is happy

to have the chance to play mean old Mr. Potter in this adaptation of the classic movie. Purely against type, of course.

Jimmy Pardinas as Joseph and Peter Bailey

Jimmy is a recent retiree to the Islamorada area. He is a licensed boat captain who loves to be on the water. This is Jimmy's 4th appearance on stage with The Key Players. Previous shows include Move Over Mrs. Markham, Who's In Bed With The Butler? and Shrek! The Musical. He is



excited to be part of the cast and looks forward to on stage once again, with his wife Marinka.

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Eleanor Pershalski as Tammy

Eleanor Marie Perchalski is seven years old and attends Ocean Studies Charter School. While Eleanor has enjoyed dancing and gymnastics, this is her first performance. Eleanor also enjoys everything the salty Keys Life provides: fishing, snorkeling and boating. Funny faces and a flair for the dramatic are Eleanor's cup of tea, and she



is excited to fine tune her skills during her first stage experience. Thank you The Key Players!



Mathew Pontefroct as Harry Bailey, Sam Wainright, Bert, and others

This is Matthew's second time on stage. He played brother Levi in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; his first performance. This is the first role with The Key Players. Matthew has always had a passion for acting as well as personal fitness and hopes to bring a

lot of smiles to a lot of faces!

Charlene Sammis as Old Woman Gower and Old Woman Collins

The last on-stage performance for Charlene was in *War of the Worlds*. Prior to that she had a role in other various Key Players productions: *Unmentionables, Daddy's Dying Whose Got the Will, Dearly Beloved,* and the musical, *Bingo!*, to name just a few. She also has worked behind the



scene as co-producer of the Key Player musical production of *A Taffetas Christmas* and as stage manager for various Key Player productions including *Shrek! the Musical*.

She is a retired Captain for a major airline and enjoys boating, volunteering for community organizations and taking care of her BFF, Dakota, a handsome golden retriever. (Psst! Now you know her password for various websites!)

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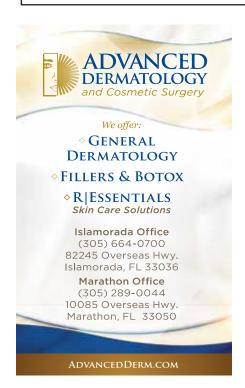
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for another successful season.

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Brad Shank, Live Sound Effects crew

Brad has been involved with Key Players since 1991, when he played Curly in *Oklahoma!* Since then he's worn many hats, sometimes literally. He's been an actor, director, set builder, stage manager, sound man and lighting technician, but his stint tonight at the sound effects table is a first for him. He's usually making noises by



hitting things as percussionist for the Keys Community Concert Band at their monthly "Pops in the Park" concerts.

He and his lovely wife Susan [also at the sound effects table] look forward to seeing you sitting on the blankets soaking up the Sun and listening to pop music, later this month! Go to keyscommunityconcertband.org for the schedule, or check their ad on page 6.



Marinka Stuval as Ruth Bailey, Mrs. Hatch, Bernice the Teller, the Bridgekeeper, Dr. Campbell, & others

Marinka is excited to revive her childhood hobby in Theater. She was born and raised in Holland where she spent a lot of time around the theater with her father, who starred in, and directed many local shows. She is thrilled that

he will be in the audience for this show. Marinka has previously been seen on The Key Players' stage in *Move over Mrs. Markham*, *Who's In Bed With The Butler*, and *Shrek! The Musical*.

A South Florida resident for almost 30 years, Marinka is the mother of three children: Kara, Dominic and Sonny, and is a teacher at Coral Reef Senior High. She lives with her husband, Jimmy, in Tavernier.



Who are The Key Players?

Who are The Key Players?... a group of Upper Keys people interested in live theater who organized in 1978 for their first show. The play, "Curse You Jack Dalton," was a hit as were the refreshments served at intermission.

Over the years the group has grown in membership and presented over 100 plays, musicals, revues, and concerts. Literally hundreds of people have been Key Players members or have been affiliated with the group since it began.

Where do you fit in?
... as a Key Players member, perhaps ...
as a continuing supporter ... or as an
enthusiastic audience member ... maybe all three!!!



Visit Our Website and Join Our Mailing List!

www.thekeyplayers.org

Get behind-the scenes info about the Key Players. Be informed about upcoming opportunities to audition and participate!

The Key Players, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to present quality theatrical productions for the Upper Keys Community, thereby offering the opportunity for self-expression in the dramatic arts and other cultural endeavors.

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Cristina Von-Essen as Mary Hatch

Cristina recently moved to the Keys and is working on her first production with The Key Players. Music has been an important part of her life since very young, participating in choirs, operas, and musical theatre. She also is very handy with a hammer and loves building sets.





Craig Zabransky as George Bailey

Craig is so completely "over the moon" portraying the starring role of George Bailey, an iconic American dreamer, in the heartwarming Christmas favorite *It's A Wonderful Life*, that the rumor is he may just lasso it. In recent years Craig has also appeared in the Key Players productions of *The War of the Worlds*, *Move*

Over Mrs. Markham and local fundraising-focused murder mysteries. He is also a newly elected member of the theater group's board.

Off stage Craig continues to live a creative life from his island home in Islamorada with acting in Miami, guiding Florida Keys food tours, writing freelance, and producing his travel blog and podcast aimed to inspire others to take and make adventure in life. You can read (or listen) to his work at StayAdventurous.com.



The Key Players Retrospective

1978 - 1979

Curse You Jack Dalton Last of the Red Hot Lovers **Tight Spot**

1980

Blythe Spirit

1981

Come Blow Your Horn California Suite

1982

Rich Have No Money Oh! Coward - Musical Revue Night of January 16th

1983

Rodgers&Hart Revue

Picnic

The Drunkard - Melodrama

1984

Mousetrap

Grandma and the Mistletoe

Some Enchanted Evening - Revue Never Too Late

Cole Porter - Musical Revue Everybody Loves Opal Lo and Behold

1986

Sing For Your Supper -Revue The Enigma

1987

Opals Million Dollar Duck 2x5 - Musical Revue

1988

Forty Carats Arsenic and Old Lace Sound of Music

1989

Fantastiks Oh Mama, No Papa

Trilogy

1990 Plaza Suite Oliver

Dirty Work at the Crossroads Broadway to Hollywood - Revue

1991

Oklahoma!

Prisoner of Second Ave. The Curious Savage

My Fair Lady Divorce Me. Darling Dracula

Man of La Mancha

You're a Good Man. Charlie Brown (Kids)

A Night of Music - Revue

Rumors

1994

Fiddler on the Roof

Wizard of Oz (Kev Players Kids)

Nunsense

Norman, Is That You?

1995

A Funny Thing Happened

On The Way To The Forum Cinderella (Kev Plavers Kids)

The Night of January 16th

Lend Me A Tenor

1996

Kiss Me Kate

Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast (Key Players Kids)

M*A*S*H

Wait Until Dark Rarefoot in the Park

1997

South Pacific

Hurricane Smith (Kev Players Kids) Dreadful Doings at the Cider Mill

The Odd Couple

1998

Little Shop of Horrors Aladdin (Key Players Kids) Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In You Can't Take It With You

1999

Heartbeats — A Musical Robin Hood (Key Players Kids)

TomFoolery

Arsenic and Old Lace

2000

Annie - A Musical Murder at the Banquet Nifty Fifties (Key Players Kids) Cactus Flower

2001

Annie Get Your Gun

Stop The World I Want to Get Off

The Secret Garden (Kids)

The Nerd

2002

Personals

Kokonut Kapers (Key Players Kids) The Affections of May

Don't Dress for Dinner

Over The River and Through the Woods

The Magical Pied Piper (Kids)

The Odd Couple

2004

I Love You, You're Perfect...

Now Change!

Steel Magnolias

Sheherizade (Key Players Kids)

Harvey

2005

The Sound of Music

Give My Regards to Broadway (Kids)

Daddv's Dvin' Who's Got the Will? 2007

A Night at the Theater Nobody's Perfect The Taffeta's Memories

2008

Kitchen Witches

Radio TBS

Last of the Red Hot Lovers

2009

Meshuggah-Nuns! Weekend Comedy Don't Hua Me

2010

Dearly Beloved Dixie Swim Club Sex Please, We're Sixty

2011

Bingo

Unmentionables Men Are Dogs A Taffeta Christmas

2012

'Til Beth Do Us Part Drinking Habits

2013

On Golden Pond Song Man. Dance Man There's a Burglar in My Bed

2014

Fox on the Fairway Three One Act Plays George M. Cohan Tonight

2015

Nunsense Jamboree Red. White & Tuna Who's in Bed with the Butler

2016

Shrek: The Musical Move Over, Mrs. Markham!

Midlife! The Crisis Musical The Games AFOOT

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