

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

"It's a Wonderful Life"
Adapted for the stage by
PHILIP GRECIAN

Based on the film by
FRANK CAPRA

It's a Wonderful Life is based on the story
The Greatest Gift by
PHILIP VAN DOREN STERN

AUDITION SIDES

SIDE 1:

TILLY (*affected phone voice*). Bailey Building and Loan. (*Drops phone voice.*) Oh hi, Maude. No, he's in a meeting! (*Lowering voice...heavy with foreboding.*) With Potter. I got a bad feeling about it. "Tilly," I sez to myself, "that Potter's up to no good." Well, no, Maude, every time he comes here, I start looking through the want ads for another job. Hey, I got skills, and I'm still young. Mostly.

SIDE 2:

GEORGE. Just a minute, just a minute now, hold on, Mr. Potter. You're right when you say my father was no businessman. But neither you nor anybody else can say anything against his character! Why, in the twenty-five years since he and Uncle Billy here started this thing, he couldn't even save enough money to send Harry to school, let alone me, but he did help an awful lotta people get out of your slums, Mr. Potter! Doesn't that kind of ownership in a town make people better citizens? You're all businessmen here; doesn't it make 'em better customers? You said they should wait. Wait for *what*? Just remember, Mr. Potter, that this...this rabble you talk about does most of the working and paying and living and dying in this community! What's wrong with helpin' 'em work and pay and live and die in a couple of decent rooms and a bath? People were human beings to my father, but to you, a warped, frustrated old man, they're cattle! Well, in my book, he died a richer man than you'll ever be!

SIDE 3:

POTTER. I'll go further than that. I'll say that, as far as the public was concerned, Peter Bailey *was* the building and loan. But he wasn't a businessman. Oh, I don't mean any disrespect to him, God rest his soul. He was a man of high ideals—so called—but ideals without common sense is bad business. Now you take this loan here to Ernie Bishop...you know that fella that sits around all day in his taxi. I happen to know the bank turned down this loan.



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SIDE 4:

GEORGE. Not just one wish, Mary...a whole hatful. I'm gonna see the world... Then I'm going to college and see what they know...and then I'm gonna...I'm gonna build things. I'm gonna build skyscrapers a hundred stories high and bridges a mile long and... Hey, whatcha doing with that rock?

SIDE 5:

POTTER (*snorts*). Look at you! You were so cocky! You were going to go out and conquer the world. You once called me a warped, frustrated old man. What are you but a warped, frustrated *young* man? A miserable little clerk crawling in here on your hands and knees begging for help. No securities, no stocks, no bonds...nothing but a miserable little five-hundred-dollar equity in a life insurance policy. You're worth more dead than alive. And since the state examiner is still here, as a stockholder of Bailey Building and Loan, I'm going to swear out a warrant for your arrest. Misappropriation of funds—manipulation—malfeasance. In fact, I'm calling the sheriff's office right now...

