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Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play
Los Angeles Premiere
Friday, November 1, 2019 - Sunday, December 15, 2019

Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play, adapted from the 1947 Lux Radio Broadcast by Lance Arthur Smith, original songs and arrangements by Jon Lorenz, directed by Joseph Leo Bwarie, with musical direction by Anthony Lucca and produced by Kyle Montgomery. The musical runs Friday, November 1, 2019 - Sunday, December 15. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm; Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm; Additional Saturday Matinees: November 9 at and November 16 at 2:30 pm. The theatre is dark Thanksgiving Weekend. Actors Co-op David Schall Theatre is located at 1760 N. Gower Street on the campus of First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood.

The cast features the talents of Kristen Cook: (Mrs. Mara/Miss Pierce/ Various), Phil Crowley (Announcer/Mr. Macy/Variou), Callie Chae Pyken (Susan Walker), Sal Sabella (Kris Kringle/ (Judge), Matthew Solomon (Fred Gailey/Variou), Jack Tavcar (Mr. Gimble/Variou), and Lauren Thompson (Doris Walker/Variou).

The production design team includes Tayna Orellana (Scenic Design), Martha Carter (Lighting Design), Jessica Champagne-Hansen (Costume Design), Lori Berg (Prop Design), Robert Ramirez (Sound Design), Jessica Mills (Hair Design), Joanna Reyes (Stage Manager),

ABOUT THE MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET: A LIVE RADIO PLAY

The film was released in 1947 with Maureen O'Hare, John Payne, Natalie Wood, and Edmund Gwenn as the primary actors. It was broadcast in 1947 as a radio production as well and starred the original cast. Since then, it has also been adopted into Broadway musical versions in the theatre, television adaptations in 1955, 1959, and 1973, and even as a puppet show at the flagship Macy's Department Store in New York.

"At one of our earliest meetings we spoke of the need for faith in something; not necessarily religious faith, but the kind of faith from which hope springs. All the characters in Miracle On 34th St., from young Susan up to Mr. Macy himself, suffer from a crisis of faith. Our job was to help them out of the dark labyrinth and shine a light on the discovery of the miracle; here less a fateful stroke of magic, but rather the result of how faith and support in your fellow human can lead to the unexpected, extraordinary joy." – Lance Arthur Smith & Jon Loren

As the San Diego Union Tribune put it, “Just when you think there’s nothing new under the sun (or inside the snow globe), along comes a Christmas show that reminds even the Scrooge-iest soul how rewarding holiday theater can be.”

ABOUT THE SHOW’S CREATORS

Lance Arthur Smith (Book) received his BA in Theatre with concentrations in Writing and Acting at the University of New Mexico under Emmy-winning writer Digby Wolfe (Laugh-In). His interstitial musical shorts appeared in the first three years of the University's Dionysus In The Round festival of one acts, and his plays *True Blue* and *BrushingTheCenter* (co-written with Phillip Hughes) were produced there. Commissions include *The Price of Peace* (New Village Arts) and *Miracle On 34th Street* (San Diego Musical Theatre). His play *The Two Wisemen of Las Cruces* was a Eugene O'Neill Theater Center Semifinalist and Princess Grace Award Semifinalist. Head Writer of the sci-fi pilot *Orbital Broadcast One* for TFK/Wavebreaking, he also appeared as a series regular alongside Star Trek veterans George Takei, Walter Koenig, and Tim Russ. His book *Princess Geek* was recently published, a non-fiction account of parenting a girl in the age of geek chic.

Jon Lorenz (Music & Lyrics) is a composer, lyricist, arranger and playwright from San Diego. His musical *Alice* was selected for the ASCAP/Disney Musical Theater Workshop and optioned by NBC/Universal Live Theatricals. He co-created the award-winning hit 80s musical revue *Mixtape*, named San Diego's longest running homegrown musical by the San Diego Union Tribune. *Oz, An American Musical Fairy Tale* received five Craig Noel Award nominations from the San Diego Critic's Circle. Commissions include *Miracle On 34th Street* and *Pump Up The Volume: A 90s-Palooza*, for San Diego Musical Theatre. His original score for *Wit* (Lamb's Players) was nominated for a Craig Noel Award. His musicals for young performers are produced nationally and available through Russell House. Since 2007, he's been the lead composer/arranger for Lamb's Players' Festival of Christmas, creating over 40 critically acclaimed original holiday songs and arrangements. An album of select holiday material is available on iTunes.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

JOSEPH LEO BWARIE (Director) is one of the Artistic Directors of the non-profit Garry Marshall Theatre in Burbank, California. He is a Sherman Oaks native and a recording artist popular on *Siriusly Sinatra* on SiriusXM Radio. JLB is widely known for his record-breaking turn as Frankie Valli in the Tony Award-winning musical *Jersey Boys* (over 2,000 performances - Las Vegas, 1st National Tour and Broadway). Bwarie's career began at age nine, appearing in the television series *Highway to Heaven* and *Mama's Family*. He is a longtime member of Troubadour Theater Company (recent: co-director and 'Ziggy' in *Little Drummer Bowie* and 'Octavius' in *Julius Weezer*). A directorial highlight was serving as associate director alongside Garry Marshall for the world premiere of *Billy & Ray* and its New York premiere at the Vineyard

Theatre. GMT directorial: *A Funny Thing Happened ... Forum* starring Paul C. Vogt and Joey McIntyre, and *The Root Beer Bandits: A Rootin' Tootin' Wild West Musicale* - an original family musical he co-created with Lori Marshall and Rachael Lawrence. Solo albums: *Nothin' But Love*, *The Good Stuff* and *A Little Christmas*, all with legendary record producer/arranger Charles Calello. Thank you to Heather. @josephleobwarie

ABOUT ACTORS CO-OP

In its 28th Season of transforming theatre, Actors Co-op operates two 99-seat Equity-approved theatres on the campus of First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. Actors Co-op began in 1987 with a dozen actors. Currently, its membership exceeds 50 professionals. Called “a 99-seat miracle” by Daily Variety, Actors Co-op’s numerous awards for theatre excellence include the Los Angeles Drama Critics Polly Warfield Award for “Outstanding Season” (2013) in a small to mid-sized theatre, sixteen Ovation Award nominations including “Best Season” (2013-2014), the Margaret Harford Award for “Sustained Achievement” in smaller theatre from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle as well as the Charlie Award for “Excellence in the Arts” by the Hollywood Arts Council.

Actors Co-op is located at 1760 N. Gower Street, Hollywood, CA 90028, on the campus of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, one block north of Hollywood Boulevard, just off the Gower Street exit of the 101 Hollywood Freeway. Free, well-lit parking is available on Carlos Street (1/2 block east of Gower).

RECENT AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS FOR ACTORS CO-OP THEATRE COMPANY

Actors Co-op recently won the 2018 Ovation Award for Direction of a Musical by Richard Israel for their critically acclaimed production of *Violet*. The company takes pride in Four 2017 Ovation Awards for their Critics Pick production *33 Variations*: Best Production of a Play, Intimate Theatre, Best Lighting, Intimate Theatre – Andrew Schmedake, Best Scenic Design, Intimate Theatre - Nicholas Acciani, and Best Direction of a Play – Thomas James O’Leary; Two Robby Awards *33 Variations*, Nan Martin Award Best Production and Sally Kemp Award Best Actress Drama - Nan McNamara. In addition, Actors Co-op Theatre Company garnered Five 2017 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle nominations for *33 Variations*. In addition, *Steel Magnolia*’s director, Cameron Watson, became recipient of this year’s Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Milton Katselas Award for Distinguished Achievement in Direction at the LADCC Awards Ceremony at the Pasadena Playhouse. For more than a quarter century, ACTORS CO-OP has been bringing audience members world-class theatre.

ABOUT ACTORS CO-OP’S 2019-2020 SEASON

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET: A LIVE MUSICAL RADIO PLAY; A BODY OF WATER, A PLAY IN THREE DAYS written by Lee Blessing with a world premiere new ending, directed by Nan McNamara (February 7 – March 15, 2020); MARVIN'S ROOM written by Scott McPherson, directed by Thomas James O'Leary (March 20 – May 3, 2020); and THE MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE, with book by Terence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, directed by Richard Israel (May 8 – June 14, 2020) presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

**Calendar listing for *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play*
Based on the 1947 "Lux Radio Hour",
Adapted by Lance Arthur Smith, original song and lyrics by Jon Lorenz
A Los Angeles Premiere
Directed by Joseph Leo Bwarie**

Venue: David Schall Theatre at Actors Co-op, 1760 N. Gower Street, Hollywood, CA 90028
on the campus of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood

Dates: November 1- December 15, 2019
Free Preview Wednesday, October 30, 2019, 8:00pm (Reservation required)

Performance Schedule: Friday, Saturday at 8:00pm, Sunday at 2:30pm,
Additional Saturday Matinees: November 9 and November 16 at 2:30pm

Run Time: 1 hour 35 Minutes

Tickets: Prices start at \$30.00
Adults: \$39, Seniors (60 & over) \$35, Students w/ ID: \$30.00
Group Rates Available. Call (323) 462-8460 for more information.
Student Rush tickets are available at Friday performances (excluding opening nights)
on a first-come, first-serve basis subject to availability.

Online -- www.actorsco-op.org
By phone at 323-462-8460 ex. 300

In person: the day of a show starting 45 minutes before curtain at Actors Co-op
1760 N. Gower, Hollywood CA 90028,

Information: For more information about Actors Co-op and future productions visit
www.actorsco-op.org

Description: Making its Los Angeles debut, *Miracle on 34th Street* brings a heartwarming and classic tale of faith, love, and the gift of miracles to the Actors Co-op stage this holiday season. Featuring live Foley effects and original music, this beautiful

story is sure to ring in Christmas for all.

For anyone who has a difficult time getting into the true spirit of Christmas, Miracle on 34th Street is the show to see. You will want to bring the entire family to enjoy this classic, told in the style of a live 1940's era radio broadcast. Staged with live Foley effects and a score of favorite holiday tunes, Miracle on 34th Street is sure to be a highlight of the season.

Originally commissioned and produced by San Diego Musical Theatre.

Presented by special arrangement with Stage Rights.