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Miracle

ON 34TH STREET

by John Cook

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March 20 - 23, 2024

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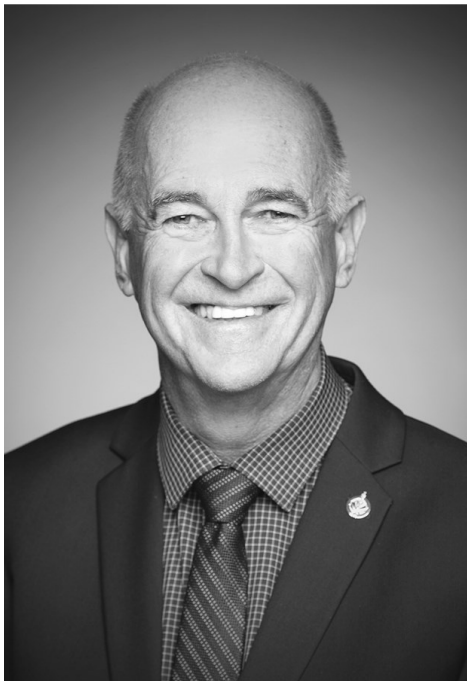
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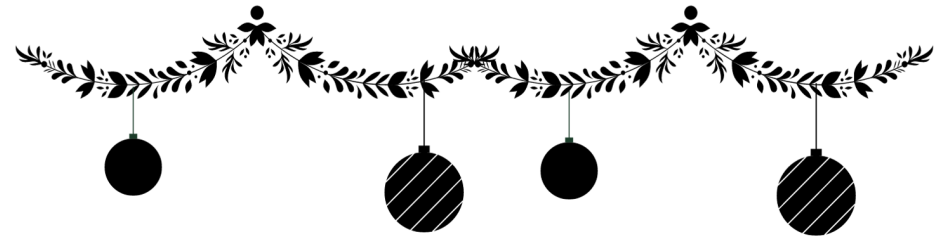
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Miracle on 34th Street by John Cook

Produced by special arrangement with
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Crew:

Director	Gordon Billard
Producers	Susan Bonnell, Jacqueline Cook
Stage Manager	Matt Christian
Technical Director	John Bonnell
Sound/ Lights	Frank Maloney
Set	John Bennett, Brian Billard, Stephanie Morgan
Properties	Jaclyn Dimmer
Costumes	Bernadette Hiscock
Marketing/ Sales	Jacqueline Cook, Jodie Goodyear, Matt Christian, Brenda Hynes, Gordon Billard, Susan Bonnell
Front of House	Colleen Keiley, Dallas Tilley, Ann Marie Whelan, Tessa Crosbie

Special Thanks to:

Deborah Clarke (Arts and Culture Centre); Phonse King (King's Photography and More); Mark Strong; Aaron Noseworthy (and Town of CBS staff).

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**Mother; Dr. Pierce; Clerk; Bailiff:**

This is Loretta Crisby's third performance with Theatre CBS, including Dr. Harvey (Ageless) and Peter Cratchit (A Christmas Carol). Since first participating in a TCBS workshop, she is having a ball, enjoying the mentorship and camaraderie with new friends and fellow actors. Miracle is a long time Christmas movie favorite. She is enjoying watching the growth of talent especially in the children.

**Mr. Macy:**

Judson Parsons hails from Bay Roberts. Although new to acting he is no stranger to the stage. He has been playing country music with "The Parsons Boys" for 30+ years. This is his second performance with Theatre CBS. In May, he performed in Ageless. He enjoyed his inaugural dive into acting so much that he eagerly put his hand up to continue with his new endeavor and hone his acting skills.

**Mrs. Sawyer:**

Jaclyn Dimmer is originally from the Burin peninsula, but moved to CBS in 2020. Previously, she worked with Theatre CBS backstage for The Hollow, and on stage in The Christmas Carol and Ageless. She has also worked back stage with the St. John's Players in their production of Calendar Girls. She is glad to back with Theatre CBS - it's sure to be a great show! Enjoy!

**Mr. Gimbel; Mr. Mara:**

Since 2004, Chris Panting has worked on almost 40 productions; acting, designing and building sets, making set pieces and props, stage managing, and, most recently, producing. His previous roles with Theatre CBS include Clarence in It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play (2021), John Cristow in The Hollow (2022), and Jimmy in Ageless: Backfire (2023). Enjoy the show!

**Judge Henry X. Harper:**

John Pius Bennett was a founding member of the Centre Stage Players and Starlight Express Theatre He also worked with Beothuck Street Players, St. John's Players, and Peter McDonald Productions. Previously he appeared in The Hollow and A Christmas Carol with Theatre CBS. John credits his wife Mary Jane for her support and thanks Gord Billard and crew.

Notes from the Director:

Welcome to the TCBS studio for our third annual on-stage radio play! We are thrilled and grateful that you have come out to support local theatre by taking in this Christmas classic which challenges us to believe "even when common sense tells us not to."

There are many stories out there that tackle the old question of whether Santa Claus is "real" including *Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus*, *The Polar Express*, *One Magical Christmas* and this evening's offering of *Miracle on 34th Street*.


As you might well imagine, there is a ton of reading online about the pros and cons of believing or not believing in Santa Claus. Some people, on both ends of the spectrum, take it extremely seriously. In 2022, Matthew A. MacDonald wrote *Santa Claus is Real: A Philosophical Polemic* in which he states, "The story of Santa embodies our innate longing for magic, mystery, comfort, and joy. This longing is real, profound, and fulfilled whenever we share the story of Santa with each other and participate in this magical tradition, no matter how old we are. ...re-discovering one's sense of child-like innocence and wonder, can be a recipe for levity and, ultimately, joy. Why rob kids of that?" On the other end of the spectrum, in 2018 Joseph Brean wrote a piece in *The National Post* called *Why it's morally wrong to lie to your children about Santa Claus and other fairy tales*. Mr. Brean tears apart the "annual low point in parents ceremonially lying to children."

Anyway, you get the idea. Theatre is all about creating miracles and magic, and the eternal optimist in me hopes you agree more with MacDonald than Brean... Why rob yourself of that?

Most of our cast tonight will be familiar to our regular audience members. However, you will meet some new talent as well. We are delighted to have three young performers acting alongside their parents. I hope the seeds planted here will blossom into future roles. We have also had several new folks helping us behind the scenes for whom we are extremely grateful. It has been a true pleasure and a lot of fun working with this incredibly supportive cast and crew.

Here's wishing you miracles and magic this Christmas. May you always believe and embrace the wonder and innocence of the season.

Gord Billard



Could this be you?

Theatre CBS is looking for people interested in community theatre. Experience is NOT required! If you're an adult with passion, commitment and a desire to be part of a fun team, we want to hear from you! Email us at TheatreCBS@gmail.com.

Cast (In Order of Appearance)

**Jake:**

Gabriel White grew up in the world of theatre. Being raised by a drama teacher, he attended rehearsals and production meetings before he learned to walk. He is now excited to step back onto the stage as an actor in his second performance with Theatre CBS. Outside of his love of acting, he is a bright young student in Grade 7 who has a passion for reading. He hopes you all enjoy the show!

**Poppa:**

Greg White is thrilled to be back on the stage, especially in his first Theatre CBS show. He currently teaches English and Drama at St. Kevin's High. With a BFA in Acting from MUN, Greg has numerous credits and his most recent projects focus on creating original plays for youth. Today, he is overjoyed to share the stage with his son for the first time and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Foley Artist:**

Leah McDonald is 26 and lives in Kelligrews. Performances include Artemis Keats in Playlude To Terra Nova (Terry Nova Productions), A Christmas Carol and The Hollow (Theatre CBS). This year, she has been stepping out of her comfort zone. She is in Autism Society circus school and recently directed a preview of "Understanding Wonderland" a play she co-wrote with Peter Halley.

**Announcer:**

Christine Young has been involved in theatre since the 1980s and has had many roles both on and off stage. This is Christine's fourth production with Theatre CBS and she is thrilled to be performing in one of her all time favorite Christmas classics. So sit back, relax and tune into the days of radio as we present Miracle on 34th Street. Enjoy the show!

**Mrs. Shellhammer; Al:**

Bridget Russell has always loved theatre. Her passion for the stage began in high school and has only grown with each role she has had the pleasure and opportunity to accept. She's also enjoyed working behind the scenes as a stage manager and costumer. This year, she is grateful to be performing again with Theatre CBS alongside her son Josh, which makes it extra special!

**Doris Walker:**

This is Brenda's fourth show with Theatre CBS (The Hollow, A Christmas Carol, Ageless). Brenda also performed at the Provincial Drama Festival in Calendar Girls and works as a background performer on A Son of a Critch, Hudson & Rex, Departure, Hallmark Christmas, Only the Night Knows, and others. But Brenda's biggest thrill yet is sharing the stage tonight with her daughter Camille.

**Cloe; Miss Parker; Mrs. Henderson; Charlie Halloran:**

Sarah Saint-Claire is an actress originally from St. John's. Notable theatre credits: Adelaide Dupont in Anything to Declare; Hedda in Hedda Gabler; Phyllis in Bedlam; Alice in Alice in Wonderland (Grenfell Theatre); Virgilia in Coriolanus (Shakespeare by the Sea); Ours, Dead Man Walking (Opera on the Avalon). Sarah trained at Grenfell and Stratford Festival's Shakespeare School.

**Fred Gayley:**

Originally from Central, Chris Langdon now lives in Mount Pearl. Selected stage credits include: Salt Water Moon and Pericles, Prince of Tyre (Shakespeare by the Sea); Billy Elliot & A Call to Arms (Atlantic Light Theatre); Cowboy Mouth (Riveting Productions); Jane Eyre & Pride and Prejudice (DW Productions); Secret Garden (The Performing Arts Group). He is excited to be back with Theatre CBS.

**Susan Walker:**

Camille Christian is a talented and fun-loving Grade 5 student at St. George's Elementary. She spends her free time being creative. She was a background actor in the Hallmark movie Everything Christmas. This time of year, her love of Christmas shines in everything she does so this is the ideal setting for her to make her theatre debut. She's performing alongside mom, Brenda. She hopes you enjoy the show.

**Kris Kringle:**

Andrew Halliday has been active in Newfoundland theatre for over 25 years with Shakespeare by the Sea, DW Productions, School Zone, Nothing On and St. John's Players and more. He's happy to be back again with Theatre CBS (Radio!). He hopes you will be inspired to believe in Kris Kringle as well, and hold that magic of the season close to your heart. A Merry Christmas to you all, Ho Ho Ho!

**Little Boy; Tommy Mara:**

Josh Rodgers likes to draw and make phonk music. He also likes to do impressions because it "makes me feel free with my voice." He says, "I got the acting genes from my mother (Bridget Russell)." One day he would love to be in a comedy "because most of the people I know find me funny which makes me feel good. I just keep following my dreams and hope to become famous one day."

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