

**FreeView**  
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**Memories of a Wonderful Life**

By

Jonathan M. Zaley

**ACT ONE**

**ZUZU:** Well, good afternoon (evening) everyone. Merry Christmas to you all (pause) and a very blessed New Year as well. Today I must tell you a lovely story. A story of a typical American. It might be you it might be me. This American dreams of glory. He lives in hope. And only the heavens above put a final value on his service to humanity. My story is about George Bailey ... a citizen of Bedford Falls, New York ... who wanted more than anything to see the world. The wonderful, exciting world that was just beyond the city limits of his small home town. Although, my story doesn't begin in Bedford Falls ... in fact, it doesn't begin anywhere in this world of ours. It begins (pause) in heaven, where the superintendent of the angels has just called for an apprentice angel named Clarence.

**CLARENCE:** (looking excited, wearing a red hat with purple sash ... a bowler. derby, cowboy hat or some other. and looking (0 the heavens) Oh, I'm ... I'm really going down to earth, sir? Ob., how splendid!

**JOSEPH:** (with lots of heavenly reverb but not so much that the audience cannot understand him) Yes. There's a very discouraged man down there, Clarence. George Bailey's his name. At exactly 10:45pm, earth time, he'll be thinking seriously about taking his life.

**CLARENCE:** Oh, dear. Not his life.

**JOSEPH:** Now, I want you to stop him if you can, but please sit down, sit down. I need to give you George Bailey 's case history.

**CLARENCE:** Sir, if er ... if I should accomplish my mission ... may I perhaps get my wings? I've been waiting over 200 years now and, well, people are beginning to talk.

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