



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 8, 2019

PRESS OPENING:
Saturday, November 30, 2019 at 7:00pm

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GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY RINGS IN THE HOLIDAYS WITH *MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET*

Greater Boston Stage Company cheerfully presents *Miracle on 34th Street* – based on the much-loved motion picture from Twentieth Century Fox. Directed by Associate Artistic Director, Ilyse Robbins, *Miracle on 34th Street* reminds us that if you really believe, anything can happen. Performances run **November 29 – December 22, 2019**. The Press Opening is **Saturday, November 30, 2019 at 7:00pm**.

Miracle on 34th Street celebrates the season by taking us to Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in the 1940's where Kris Kringle steps in as a last-minute replacement. When he claims to be the true Santa Claus, he needs to convince the doubters, including a little girl longing to find something to believe in.

"The miracle of 34th street is that people learn to believe - both in oneself and in the kindness of others. It is about faith. Not necessarily in the religious sense, but rather faith in what is possible," shares Robbins. She continues, "Stories about kindness and goodness are needed now more than ever. There is such importance simply in the telling of stories like these."

The design team is comprised of Scenic Designer Jon Savage, Lighting Designer Andrew Andrews, Costume Designer Deirdre McCabe, Sound Designer David Wilson, and Props Master Cesara Walters.

The cast features Barlow Adamson, Juliet Bowler, Margaret Ann Brady, Sara Coombs, William Gardiner, Sarah Gazdowicz, Arthur Gomez, Jade Guerra, Michael Jennings Mahoney, David Jiles, Jr., Gary Thomas Ng and Emme Shaw. As part of The Young Company Meets Mainstage program, the cast also includes Young Company actors Mia Galego, Shea Killeen, Graham Layton, Addison McWayne, Gwendolyn Symes, Norah Symes and Young Company Alum Stephen Zubricki IV, making his GBSC Mainstage debut.

The Young Company Meets Mainstage program provides students through grade 12 with the experience of working professionally on Greater Boston Stage Company's Mainstage productions. As part of this program, the creative team and cast includes an Education Liaison and Education Deputy committed to ensuring continued education, support, and safety of these Young Company students.

Greater Boston Stage Company is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and accessible environment for all. A sensory-friendly performance of *Miracle on 34th Street* will be offered on **December 21, 2019 at 2:00pm**. The sensory-friendly production will be a performance dedicated to creating a more welcoming space for individuals with sensory-input disorders. There will be modifications throughout the theatre that create a friendly and supportive environment, encouraging patrons to experience the magic of theatre in their own way. Families, friends and caregivers of individuals with sensory-input disorders are also encouraged to attend. Please visit https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/sensory_friendly.html for more information.

Single Tickets for *Miracle on 34th Street*: \$47-57 Adults; \$42-52 Seniors; \$20 Students (with valid ID). *Thrifty Thursday* tickets cost \$15 at the door and are available for a very special Friday performance on November 29, 2019 performance at 8:00pm. Group Discounts are available. Contact Bryan Miner, Audience Development Manager, at 781-587-7907 or bryan@greaterbostonstage.org. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Box Office at Greater Boston Stage Company at (781) 279-2200, or visit www.greaterbostonstage.org.

PRINCIPAL ARTISTS:

ILYSE ROBBINS (*Director*) is the Associate Artistic Director at GBSC where she has directed, choreographed or performed in over 25 shows. Directing highlights include *Million Dollar Quartet*; *Being Earnest* (East Coast Premiere); *She Loves Me* (IRNE—Best Direction); *Dames at Sea* (IRNE—Best Choreography); *Sweet Charity*; *How to Succeed...* (IRNE—Best Choreography); *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Elliot Norton—Best Director); *42nd Street* (IRNE—Best Choreography). Other credits: United Solo NYC, SpeakEasy, Hanover, Lyric Stage, New Rep, Underground Railway, Modern Theatre, Hope Rep, Wheelock. Ilyse holds a B.S. from Northwestern, certification from the British American Drama Academy and an Ed.M. from Harvard. She teaches at Brandeis and Northeastern and coaches presentation skills for business. Upcoming: Staging/choreographing the World Premiere of the jazz/tap ballet *Swan Lake in Blue* by Steve Bass and directing/choreographing *Matilda*, both for GBSC. Ilyse is an Associate Member of SDC.

MARGARET ANN BRADY* (Judge Harper/Ensemble) loves Christmas in Stoneham! Previously: *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Christmas on the Air*, *Something's Afoot*, *The Full Monty*, *42nd Street*. She is also sometimes Mrs. Shubert in *Shear Madness* and has appeared at Wheelock Family Theater, Lyric Stage Company, American Repertory Theater, Boston Playwrights Theatre, and with Ryan Landry's Gold Dust Orphans. She has written, produced and performed sketch comedy in Boston and on various festival stages. Margaret Ann is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, SAG-AFTRA and serves on the board of StageSource, the New England Alliance of Theater Artists and Producers.

SARA COOMBS (Doris Walker) is an actress/choreographer/teaching artist based in NYC. She has choreographed Off-Broadway shows, national tours, and many musicals in regional theatres. As a performer, she was most recently seen on the GBSC stage as Gwendolyn Fairfax in the new musical *Being Earnest*. Other GBSC credits include: *42nd Street*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Dames at Sea*, and *She Loves Me*. With over 15 years of teaching experience, Sara has taught dance and theatre at Broadway Dance Center, Peridance Capezio Center in NYC, and at multiple theaters in New England. She holds a B.F.A in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory.

WILLIAM GARDINER* (Kris Kringle) is thrilled to be back at Stoneham to play Kris Kringle yet again! He has been seen in many other holiday productions at GBSC: *It's a Wonderful Life*/ Clarence, *Twas the Night Before Christmas*/Santa, *Nutcracker*/Uncle Drosselmeyer, *Christmas on the Air*/Perceval B. Frank and *Meet Me in St. Louis*/Uncle Propheter. Other productions at GBSC include, *Guys on Ice*/Ernie the Moocher, *Lumberjacks in Love*/Dirty Bob, *Lobster Girl*/Ole' Joe and *The Irish and How They Got That Way*. Bill has worked with many other regional companies including; Wheelock Family Theatre, New Repertory Theatre, Boston Playwrights, Actor's Shakespeare Project, North Shore Music Theatre and the Publick Theatre. Bill is a proud member of StageSource and is currently the drama instructor at Boston University Academy.

DAVID JILES, JR.* (Mr. Adams) is thrilled to be back at GBSC. Last Holiday Season, he was In GBSC's *It's A Wonderful Life*. David loves playing with the folks up here, it has become a Theatre Home for him. He has also worked with SpeakEasy Stage (*The Color Purple*) and Wheelock Family Theatre (*James and The Giant Peach*). When he isn't on stage, David is in the classroom molding the next generation of performers.

MICHAEL JENNINGS MAHONEY* (Fred Gailey) is thrilled to be back at the Greater Boston Stage Company having previously appeared in *Onegin*, *Being Earnest* and *Altar Boyz*. Broadway: *Camelot* (concert) *Oliver!* (concert) *Brigadoon* (concert) *Something Wonderful* (concert) Off Broadway/NYC Theatre: *College: The Musical!* (Chernuchin Theatre), *The Secret Garden* (APAC) *Pericles* (Anti-matter Collective) *Hamlet*, *Joan of Arc* (Gorilla Rep) *Irene*, *Ernest In Love*, *Naughty Marietta*, *Roberta*, *Half A Sixpence* (Musicals Tonight!) Regional: The Guthrie Theater (MN), Trinity Repertory Company (RI), Hudson Stage Company (NY), Martha's Vineyard Playhouse (MA), Savannah Repertory Theatre (GA), Ocean State Theatre Company (RI), White Heron Theatre Company (MA), Kentucky Repertory Theatre (KY), Tennessee Williams Festival (MA), The Here And Now (VT), Media Theatre (PA). BFA: Musical Theatre, University of Michigan. MFA: Acting, Brown University/Trinity Rep. (Stephen Sondheim Fellow).

ADDISON MCWAYNE (Susie), 12, is ecstatic to be joining Greater Boston Stage Company for her eighth show! She has been a part of The Young Company for the last six years. Her most recent performances were as Herb in *Junie B. Jones*, Dr. Joan Doolittle in *Dr. Doolittle, Jr* and as Princess Rhyme in *Phantom Tollbooth, Jr*. In addition to acting, Addison finds joy in playing competitive soccer, softball, and basketball, playing saxophone in the Forestdale school band, reading fantasy/mythology, adventures, and historical fiction, camping in the White Mountains of NH with her family, and spending downtime with her friends and her little sister, Emme.

*Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association

Performance Schedule:

	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
			8PM	7PM	2PM
	NOV	28	29	30	DEC 1
2019	2PM 4	10AM 7:30PM 5	8PM 6	2PM 7PM 7	2PM 8
	2PM 11	2PM 7:30PM 12	10AM 8PM 13	2PM 7PM 14	2PM 15
	18	10AM 7:30PM 19	8PM 20	2PM* 7PM 21	2PM 22

*** Sensory-Friendly Production**



Student Matinee (Additional Student Matinee available on **Tuesday, December 17th at 10AM.**)



Thrifty Thursday



Specialty Drink Tastings (21+)



Talkback



Senior Matinee



Girls' Night Out



Young Professionals

ABOUT GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY:

We bring vibrant professional theatre and dramatic education beyond the boundaries of Boston, featuring world and regional premieres alongside fresh interpretations of familiar work. Within this setting, we uniquely foster the artists of tomorrow by providing ongoing performance and employment opportunities to our company of current and former students. Now in its 20th Season of live theatre in Stoneham, MA, Greater Boston Stage Company produces six Mainstage shows, presents a series of Special Events, and runs year-round classes, lessons, and fully staged productions through The Young Company for students in grades 1–12.

Box Office: (781) 279-2200

Box Office Hours: Mondays – Fridays, 11am to 6pm; Saturdays, 1pm to 6pm

Location: 395 Main Street, Stoneham, MA 02180

Website: www.greaterbostonstage.org

Flagship Season Sponsors: StonehamBank and the Salem Five Charitable Foundation

Show Sponsor: The Savings Bank

Media Sponsor: The Stoneham Independent

Thrifty Thursday Sponsor: Melrose Bank

SEASON 20 PRESS OPENINGS:

THE MOORS

Press Opening: Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 8pm

<https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/moors.html>

ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL

Press Opening: Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 7pm

<https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/matilda.html>

MISS HOLMES RETURNS

Press Opening: June 6, 2020 at 8pm

<https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/missholmesreturns.html>