

2009 SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE*, SAINT PAUL HOTEL'S NEW HOLIDAY TRADITION

Performances scheduled for December 14-17 and 20-23, 2009 performances

Saint Paul, Minn. (August 2009) – The Saint Paul Hotel has announced the schedule for the 2009 holiday season's performances of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, the live performance and holiday tea that debuted at the hotel three years ago. From December 14-17 and 20-23, 2009, The Saint Paul Hotel will invite audiences to enjoy playwright Joe Landry's acclaimed take on the classic 1946 Frank Capra film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, accompanied by a multi-course tea menu for afternoon performances and a dinner menu for evening performances.

The *Wonderful Life* holiday teas and dinners will be offered on:

- Monday, December 14 – dinner show at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 15 – dinner show at 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 16 – dinner show at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, December 17 – dinner show at 7 p.m.
- Sunday, December 20 – tea show at 2 p.m.; dinner show at 7 p.m.
- Monday, December 21 – tea show at 2 p.m. and dinner show at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 22 – tea show at 2 p.m. and dinner show at 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 23 - tea show at 11 a.m.

One hour prior to the beginning of each show, there is a social time with a cash bar. To enjoy a live performance of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and the accompanying tea, the cost is \$55.00 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. For the performance and dinner, the cost is \$70 per person (parking is not included in the price). Special packages are available for groups of 20 or more. **Tickets for *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* are now on sale and can be purchased by calling (651) 228-3860.**

It's a Wonderful Life tells the story of George Bailey, a good man thrust into self-doubt by financial setbacks. He learns that his self-worth comes from his big heart, not his shrunken finances, with help from his friends, his loving family, and a guardian angel named Clarence. The American Film Institute (AFI) selected *It's a Wonderful Life* as its "Most Inspiring Movie of All Time" in a 2006 "100 Years—100 Cheers" retrospective.

Local actor and director Jim Cunningham will produce and act in The Saint Paul Hotel's presentation of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. Cunningham has cast the production with other well-known Twin Cities actors, all of whom are returning from last year, including Phil Callen as George Bailey, Adena Brumer as Mary Hatch Bailey, Jim Cunningham as Harry Bailey, Jennifer Edwards as Violet, and Ross Young as Clarence/Mr. Potter. Chris Whiting will perform the live sound effects and Kevin Dutcher will serve as the musical director and provide piano accompaniment. In addition to their primary roles, Jim Cunningham, Jennifer Edwards, and Ross Young will also perform voices for multiple additional cast roles.

Saint Paul Hotel Executive Chef Lance Kapps has created a special menu for the *It's A Wonderful Life Tea* and it begins with Butternut Squash Sipping Soup; Goat Cheese Crustini with Fig Compote, Poached Salmon with Tangy Dill Mayonnaise and A Chocolate Chip Rum Raisin Scone with Orange Butter. The second course is a Duck Mushroom Pot Pie. The tea is topped off with a Chocolate Dipped Ginger Snap; a Mini Cranberry Trifle Martini and a Candy Cane Chocolate-Raspberry Roulade.

The dinner menu, also developed by Executive Chef Lance Kapps, begins with Sliced Roasted Beets with Feta Cheese and Haricot Verts with Baby Greens served with Horseradish Vinaigrette. Guests will enjoy a Chicken Breast filled with Spinach Mousse with Roasted Shallot Demi-Glace, Parmesan Risotto and Cranberry Glazed Baby Carrots for the main course. For dessert, a Holiday Trio will be offered, featuring a Chocolate Dipped Ginger Snap; a Mini Cranberry Trifle Martini and a Candy Cane Chocolate-Raspberry Roulade.

Built in 1910, The Saint Paul Hotel is the Twin Cities' most established and elegant hotel. The Saint Paul Hotel, a member of the Historic Hotels of America and the Preferred Hotels and Resort Group, is located at 350 Market Street on Rice Park in downtown Saint Paul, Minnesota. For additional information, please call 651-292-9292 or 1-800-292-9292, or visit www.saintpaulhotel.com. The Saint Paul Hotel is managed by Morrissey Hospitality Companies (www.morrisseyhospitality.com).

###

Media Contact: Peg Roessler, Roessler PR, 952-949-6550, PROess@aol.com

New color photos are available.