

# Two To Go

Everything is falling nicely into place... of course, there are a few minor details to be worked out before Friday's opening, but I would be even more surprised if there were not. I definitely have found a role that rivals even the visitor from another country in terms of ranking. It is so funny that fellow cast members who were at the audition site told me that I nailed the role of Henry F. Potter right then! Am I really that good at playing evil? There's that oxymoron again. I did get my ears lowered this afternoon. I don't think a man in the 1920s-40s would have long hair, particularly a gentleman of stature. I noticed that my goon, admittedly, was looking rather shaggy tonight as well (not to mention his attire). It is rather late in the game so there is really no chance of finding a replacement. I must say that good help is so hard to find!

There was a photographer taking shots for the paper tonight. She noticed my character and mentioned that if this kept up, I would become typecast. Why? Well... you will just have to come and see for yourself.

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## New Edition

Ok... play on words. [\*It's a Wonderful Life\*](#) is about to get even cuter. I know that this has been planned for a while, but tomorrow night will be a rehearsal for a children's choir that will perform prior to curtain time... if there are any eavesdroppers who have elementary-jr. high students who would be interested (6pm at the Huber Opera House. Now if we get 100 kids there, we know who to blame ☹ ). I think this is a

brilliant move! It will not only provide LIVE pre-show entertainment, but will hopefully fill even more seats. I have already been approached by people in E-town about what show I am in this Christmas (if any). I immediately exclaim that I am the sinister Mr. Potter (not to be confused with the boy wizard). Many people from the numerous churches in town (so many for a town this size... long story that I will not get into) have apparently been making plans to get groups together. Nothing on my own church, but who knows. I had at least 3 customers today who are making plans!

We also have an extremely gifted artist in the cast. Our own George Bailey has produced at least one painting depicting a scene from the show that I am assuming will be on display and signed pieces will be available for purchase.

I cannot tell you how excited I am to be part of this GREAT show and the fun and wonderful cast and the director and [producer](#) ain't bad neither ☐

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## Tech Sunday

WAIT A MINUTE! Isn't this a week early?! We still have another full week and a few days before curtain. Weell... that may be but the Huber is always in a bind this time of year: school programs, civic gatherings, etc. So, we must share the space with others. Mr. Potter would definitely find this situation downright despicable. But, I guess we will make nice. Yes, we did have the lights and mics going for the first time four our nearly 4 hour rehearsal... which was to be expected. However, it went rather well for the first time on stage, off book, all the way through with lights, sound, and set thrown in. I was pleasantly surprised how well I did with

the lines. There was only one spot I really noticed where I forgot a line but the same is repeated only two lines later, so I will just pick it back up Thursday night.

Poor George... I'm not entirely sure that I would like to be in his shoes. All those lines. I have a great many, but.. OH, MY! In one of our scenes together, he asked me why I did not have my script. It was in the house being used for prompting.

I am also happy that I have been able to come up with my full costume... minus a hat... in my own personal wardrobe. I had to take my jacket to be cleaned, but that is to be done by Tuesday afternoon... good to go!

I must say that I think we have another heart-melting, scene-stealing little tyke on our hands. It's a good thing Mr. Potter and Zuzu do not share time on stage because I'm not sure I could keep the mean demeanor.

So... another 12 days before curtain. Just need to keep reading over my lines, getting my cues in order. I did get a new line tonight... added from the movie

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## Evilness IS Greatness

I believe we are now in our fourth week of rehearsals and still in the modified crampness that is the Huber's costume shop. BUT, we get the stage tomorrow night... **HOORAH!!!!!!** Tonight, we put everything together... blocking and lines, the whole show start to finish. Not too bad. Travis was very pleased with our efforts. One piece of advice was some of the casts dancing around on stage... which is always difficult the first couple times through... especially when it is a non-musical, non-dancing production. However, this comment did

not apply to me for obvious reasons that will be made quite clear when you come see the show the weekends of December 11 & 18..

Personally, I am quite pleased with my evilness so far. I constantly hear references to "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and Scrooge... I still think Mr. Potter is even more sinister. I have one line that I just love and cast members have commented on my delivery. However, I need to look at my long passages. I get on a devilish roll and then blank out on a line, but I **AM OFF BOOK!**

Still needs work but once we get on the stage it will all come to greatness! And the [Village Players](#) NEW website is up and running... so check it out.. Although, I need to point out that on the online ticket ordering, only the first weekend is up.... something which [Webman](#) and I discovered A small glitch I forgot to mention to the director. Oh, Travis...

I almost forgot to mention the lovely drive home in the fine London fog that has only gotten worse as I make my way to watch the hilarious *I Love You, Man*. Good luck with the drive in the morning or the delay whichever comes your way.

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## Week The Third

Ok... former director and current fellow cast member, this is for you (I expect a comment, btw ☺ ) Tonight began the third week of rehearsals and there was A LOT GOING ON! We have posters to distribute and I grabbed enough to paste all over E-town. We were all informed that Hicks-TV (or is it HIX=TV?) is going to be by tomorrow night to film a piece on the show. My aforementioned former director/current fellow cast member mentioned that this was her least favorite part of her

directorial debut? I thought my debut on the news was a blast. Even Travis said it was very humorous as I threw the interviewer for a whirl. Here is a [link](#), Beth... just for you (you can have something to watch as well as read). I must also commend our director in his continued efforts to step into multiple roles for missing cast members... male and female alike.

As for rehearsal, it is coming along quite nicely (which is subjective... I don't think nice is a good way to describe Mr. Potter). Apparently, my evilness is improving but he said I need to slow down a bit... which I have heard before. Well... as soon as my goon decides to show himself, it will be easier to make my entrances and exits. But even going through the scenes, I am developing even more ideas and with just under a month to go...

Oh, yes. On the way to my car following rehearsal, I was flashed by said cast member and she had her young son with her as well... SHAME ON YOU! I AM SHOCKED! ☐

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## Not So Evil... YET!

So... we are now in week two of rehearsals. Last night was exceptionally fun. We had our first injury and it wasn't even stage related. It seems that our director had a bit of a spill earlier in the day and had a humongous gash on his forehead. Someone made the crack that he should have dialed 9-1-1 and he could have answered his own call.

We rehearsed a few of Mr. Potter's scenes and while I tried my best to be good and evil, I was having a bit of difficulty. For one thing, I kept hearing someone humming the "Imperial March" (or Darth Vader's theme) from *The Empire Strikes Back*.

No goon to lead me in so I improvised which did not help matters at all. So, while fun, I don't think we got a great deal accomplished.

After rehearsal, I went home and watched my new rental, the second X-Files big screen extravaganza entitled, [I Want to Believe](#). It was definitely the uncut director's edition because there were a few rather gruesome scenes that would have NEVER made it to movie screens rather long the television series. But, being a fan of Agents Mulder and Scully, I enjoyed it.

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## Day Planning

A Saturday off with nothing scheduled?! What am I to do? Nice to have one off every other week, but then I go crazy coming up with fun things to do. Well... I volunteered myself to help in the reorganizing of the Huber costume room so we can begin blocking scenes while we await the usage of the grand stage. What's this you say? A costume room large enough to rehearse in? Sounded unbelievable to me, too until last winter when I saw for myself while looking for costume pieces for Grandpa Prophater. I had grown accustomed to a small, cramped closet full of things that by a show's end is always in need of an overhaul. Well... maybe once that \$5 million complex is built...

Of course, there is the OSU/Penn State game today at Happy Valley at 3.30. With 2 weeks to go until **THE GAME** at the so-called Big House. My Saturday off better not be screwed up. the Bucks are 7-2 (4-1 in the Big 10) A rematch of last year's conference co-champs and they are neck and neck for second place in the Big 10 behind Iowa.

Later tonight, I am filling in as song leader at mass. There

really are so many there that each person only does one mass every month or so. I will be singing one of my favorites: "Prayer of St. Francis" (*Make me a channel (instrument) of your peace/ Where there is hated, let me bring your love, etc*).

Plus, it sounds like it i going to be a beautiful day with sun and near 60 degrees. Not bad for November 7.

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## Back to the Bronx

After returning from being booed at rehearsal... second time we have read through and I'm already being booed... **I'M LOOOOOVIN' IT!!!!** I Returned to see the Yanks down 3-1 in the second and it did not get much better after. I'm pleased to say that they never gave in. That dratted combination of Lee-Utley killed us again. Mr. Utley tied Mr. October (Reggie Jackson... even named a candy bar after him) for the most home runs in a single World Series with five... so far, **NO MORE FOR YOU!!!**

So tomorrow night, we go back to 'da Bronx for the magic game six. I have said for the past week or so that it would be six and **BACK TO THE NEW DIGS!**

Final: Yanks 6... Philllies 8.

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## Deliciously Evil

Today at our second rehearsal, we got to watch the original 1947 classic film starring Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed, and

Lionel Barrymore. I now wonder why *It's A Wonderful Life* has not been a holiday tradition along side the myriad versions of *A Christmas Carol* and other movies. I thought it was extraordinary for the first time. Primarily, Travis wanted us to watch and listen to line inflection and deliveries since many of the lines in the script are taken verbatim from the film, but I think watching Mr. Barrymore's performance will help even more in developing my take on Mr. Potter. Producer Mare asked if I could channel Drew's great-uncle. I thought the performance was stupendous and I can see why many in the cast have congratulated me on getting the role.

I also had time today to highlight my lines with the extremely cool erasable highlighters. Whatever genius at Crayola came up with these deserves millions. I highly recommend them to every actor.

And **ONE MORE WIN TO GO!** but I will not be so bold as to predict a five game series. But I will ask... how many HBPs does it take before it becomes intentional? In his first at bat, A-Rod was hit for the third time in two games. A warning was immediately given to both pitchers. Coincidental? I realize that pitchers like to come inside to him but jeez...

Final score... Evil Empire 7... Defending Champs 4

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## A Character Of Pure Evil

Tonight, the cast of *It's a Wonderful Life* met to have a mass read-through of the script. I must say that I did not know that there were so many characters of such evil intentions in the literature surrounding what is traditionally known as the "most wonderful time of the year." First, we have Ebenezer Scrooge (I really want to see the new version coming next



weekend). Years later, the Grich very nearly stole Christmas from "every Who down in Whoville." Now, I have been introduced to a character who has so many unredeemable qualities that he puts both of them to shame. Henry F. Potter is going to be a magnificent role to portray. I have been an evil HENCHMAN before; however, I have never before been **THE** evil character with his own entourage. Just reading the script, I could tell how delicious this will be.

I will once again be on the glorious Huber stage with a large cast both young and older and some of which I have been fortunate to work with before. Another WCCTer will be making his debut on the stage. He was even taking pictures of the bare stage and marveling at the size. People have asked me where I prefer to perform: anywhere they will have me. How's that for a diplomatic answer?

I did manage to get home by the third inning of Game 2. I had to call my pals and relate my excitement! Sorry I interrupted *The Office*. I could not believe that they were actually able to watch as it was broadcast. And I am extra excited because the series is now tied 1-1 and tomorrow is a travel day to the City of Brotherly Love. **Four Games to go!!!**