

## The Cast in Order of Appearance

## A Special Note on the Interpretation of the Third Act

Stage Manager	Dillon Zimmerman
Dr. Gibbs	Alex Gaytan
Joe Crowell	Daniel Ghisolf-Astacio
Howie Newsome	Cori Collatz
Mrs. Gibbs	Camille Nixon
Mrs. Webb	Hannah Mbungu
George Gibbs	Cavan Miller
Rebecca Gibbs	Melody Collins
Wendy Webb	Anna Rorabeck
Emily Webb	Julia Westfall
Professor Willard	John Henri Rorabeck
Mr. Webb	Segio Francisco
Woman in the Balcony	Anna Rorabeck
Man in the Auditorium	Somebody or Another
Lady in the Box	Jacqueline Weiss
Simone Stimson	Victoria Curtis
Mrs. Soames	Jacqueline Weiss
Constable Warren	John Henri Rorabeck
Si Crowell	Daniel Ghisolf-Astacio
Baseball Player	Jason Grellmann
	Aaron Keiser
	Brenden Mutz
Sam Craig	Kelsey Robertson
Joe Stoddard	Ben VanderWaal
Choir Extras	Brooklyn Wood
	D'Angelo Weithers
	Matthew Silva
Funeral Extras	Kyle Whiteside
	Jeshua Moore
	Zach Reichert

The entire play takes place in Grovers Corners, New Hampshire, between 1901 and 1913. The audience views events in the lives of two families, the Gibbs family and the Webb family. Dr. Gibbs is the town physician. Mr. Webb is the editor and publisher of the town newspaper, *The Grovers Corners Sentinel*

The first act of the play outlines the history of the town, Grovers Corners, New Hampshire. The audience becomes very well acquainted with the households of the Gibbs and Webbs, who are, as the author says, “substantial folks.: In Act One, the audience follows the two families from breakfast through the entire day.

The second act portrays the romance between George Gibbs and Emily Webb, concluding with a wedding. The scene attempts to convey all the possibilities for what Thornton Wilder calls “poignant sorrow and abundant happiness.” As he does in Act One, the stage manager invites members of the audience to reflect on their days as young people who fell in love and married.

The third act could easily be misunderstood unless the audience remembers Wilder’s intent. He wants to tell all who will listen that the life they now live is the only one they have; that every moment, regardless of how unimportant it may seem, is packed with meaning and significance; that the past cannot be relived.

Hence, Emily’s journey from death to life is a *dramatic device* for impressing this truth on the audience. In this context Emily asks the stage manager, “Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it—every, every minute?” The fact is that humans do not, and this truth infuses every action of the play with a tone of sadness.

Consequently, we the producers ask the audience not to take the return from death and the speaking of the dead literally, but instead to remember that Luke records the parable of “The Rich Man and Lazarus” to remind us that we have only one life to live. Wilder’s presentation you view this evening is also a parable about what it means to be alive.