This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying Miracle on 34th Street. With this in mind, please note that the interpretations of the theatrical work may differ from the original source content.
Miracle on 34th Street
Based on the 1947 Film Released by 20th Century Fox
Written and Directed by George Seaton
From the Story by Valentine Davies
Originally Produced by The Lux Radio Theatre
on December 22, 1947.

Directed by
Brad Nies
Technical Theatre Direction by
Kevin Patrick
Costume, Makeup, and Hair by
Jennifer Patrick
Synopsis

When a Macy’s Department Store Santa Claus claims he is the real Kris Kringle, he winds up being put in an institute for the mentally insane. But with a little help from a lawyer friend of his, and a little girl’s belief in the Christmas spirit, Kris is able to make a miracle happen right there in New York City. This Christmas tale is a beloved family classic that will melt even the most cynical of hearts.

This staged audio drama will be recorded and available for viewing by

November 30, 2020
George Seaton

George Seaton was born on April 17, 1911 in Detroit, MI where he grew up. After high school, he auditioned for Jesse Bonstelle's drama school. She hired him for her stock company, and Seaton began his career as an actor. During this time, he worked as a voice actor on radio station WXYZ, and he wrote several plays. One of works was read by an executive at MGM who offered him a contract. Unhappy about being restricted to writing comedies, Seaton left MGM in 1937, and he went to Columbia Pictures where he was credited on several scripts. In the early 1940s, he joined 20th Century Fox where he specialized in musicals and comedies. By the end of his career, he had worked as a screenwriter, playwright, film director, and producer. He lost his battle with cancer on July 28, 1979.

Valentine Davies

Born on August 25, 1905, Valentine Davies was raised in New York City. He graduated from the University of Michigan where he honed in on his writing skills. He later attended Yale Drama School as a graduate student. After graduating from Yale, Davies moved to Hollywood to begin his career as a screenwriter. During the course of his career, he wrote several Broadway plays, many screenplays, and he served as president of the Screen Writers Guild and General Chairman of the Academy Awards program. He wrote the story for the 1947 film Miracle on 34th Street, which was directed by George Seaton. Davies also did a novelization of the story, which was published by Harcourt Brace & Company in conjunction with the film’s release. Miracle on 34th Street earned him an Academy Award for Best Story. Davies died on July 23, 1961.
Other Adaptations of

Miracle on 34th Street

Radio

The Lux Radio Theater produced an adaptation of the work in 1947, and again in 1948. The work was also adapted into a half-hour radio play for two broadcasts of the Screen Director’s Playhouse in 1950. In all of these productions, Kris correctly cites James Monroe as the President for whom Daniel D. Tompkins was the Vice-President.

Theatre

A 1963 Broadway musical version, entitled Here’s Love, was written by Meredith Willson of The Music Man fame. The story was adapted into a stage play by playwrights Will Severin, Patricia Di Benedetto Snyder and John Vreeke in 2000. The work was again adapted for the stage in 2016 and was billed as a live musical radio play. This latest version was written by Lance Arthur Smith and Jon Lorenz.

Television

The Miracle on 34th Street was a 1955 one-hour television adaptation of the movie. This version did not show the drunken Santa, and it was originally aired as an episode of The 20th Century Fox Hour. Later, comedian actor Ed Wynn played Kris in a television adaptation of the film in 1959. A 1973 television version was adapted by Jeb Rosebrook from the George Seaton screenplay, and directed by Fielder Cook. This would prove to be the final version in which the department store was actually Macy’s.

Puppets

The flagship Macy’s Department Store at Herald Square in New York City featured a 30-minute puppet version of the story within its Santaland display in 2009. The display featured the voice talents of Broadway stars Brian Stokes Mitchell and Victoria Clark.
Safety is Our First Concern

Staged radio plays are performed straight out, into microphones, and do not regularly involve actors conversing face-to-face with each other.

All shows will be produced with in-person rehearsals using appropriate PPE.

All shows will be performed with an adherence to social distancing of actors (a minimum of 6’ away from each other) and remote audiences.

Actors will not share microphones, costumes, or props during a taping session.

Performances will be filmed in a closed studio environment without live audiences.
Sources


*Internet Source, www.archive.org, “A Film Clip from ‘Miracle on 34th Street.’”


