



Submitted Photo
Local resident Kelli Maguire achieved her goal of performing on Broadway.

Local resident goes on Broadway

BY JEFF BARRON

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She finally did it.

Wheelerburg High School graduate Kelli Maguire accomplished a life-long goal of appearing on Broadway when she portrayed Dorothy Wanwright in "It's a Wonderful Life" on Dec. 12 at New York's Shubert Theater.

"I had a nice-sized scene," Maguire said. "It was great fun."

While the show ran for just one night, she said there is a chance it will return to a Broadway theater.

Maguire got the role in "It's a Wonderful Life" after auditioning for another production.

"It was slow during the week after Thanksgiving," she said. "But I got a call asking if I wanted to do 'It's a

Wonderful Life,' and I took it."

Maguire has performed in numerous Off-Broadway productions, including "Tom Sawyer" and "Swingtime Can-teen." She has appeared on TV in "Copsop" and "How to Get Your Prince," as well as shooting various commercials. Maguire has also performed her own show on Carnival and Norwegian cruise ships.

Before moving to New York, she lived in Los Angeles for several years.

"I love the weather in L.A., but I hated the traffic," Maguire said. "And in New York I hate the weather, but I love the arts and culture. It's just a totally amazing place to live."

While Maguire said she has reached the pinnacle of her profession by appearing on Broadway, her career began by taking voice lessons from local

teachers Shirley Crothers and Lucy Dye.

"Shirley didn't take high school students," Maguire said. "But my dad talked her into taking me and I went down there every week."

Maguire made her stage debut at Portsmouth Little Theater.

While Maguire loves New York, there was one day she didn't love.

"I was in the city on 9/11," she said. "I'll never forget it."

She was appearing in "Goodtime Charlie" at the time.

Maguire was in a building about a mile from the World Trade Center and watched the events on television. She said she couldn't hear much, but she did hear the first tower collapse.

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"It just sounded like a lot of things breaking up," Maguire said.

Finally, the dust and smoke from the explosions started creeping up the streets where she was staying.

"I couldn't believe the silence after it happened," Maguire said.

"As a musical person, I'm used to a lot of sound always around me. So it was so surreal not to hear anything."

The following days found Maguire donating blood and staying with a friend until she could reach her apartment on 181st Street in upper Manhattan.

But four years after the terror attacks, life has returned to normal for Maguire. For the future, she is working on her fourth one-woman show.

"Since I've been on Broadway, not I can move on to other dreams," Maguire said.

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