

CHARACTERS



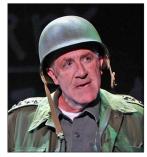




Phil Davis



Ralph Sheldrake



General Henry Waverly



Rita



Rhoda



Tessie



Betty Haynes



Judy Haynes



Martha Watson



Susan Waverly



Ezekiel Foster



Mike Nulty



Ensemble



Ensemble



Ensemble



Ensemble



Ensemble

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PLOT SYNOPSIS

SCENE 1: Somewhere on the Western Front of World War II — Christmas Eve. 1944

Captain Bob Wallace and Private Phil Davis have created a holiday show to entertain the other troops since they're all far from home.

General Waverly enters to end this frivolous celebration. But, he thanks them for their holiday performance before being relieved of his duties to attend to a medical procedure. Waverly is honored to have worked with this 151st Division and hopes for a better holiday season in the future.

Song: "Happy Holidays", "White Christmas"

Watch For: Bells

SCENE 2: The Ed Sullivan Show — 1954

Ten years have passed and we're introduced to Rita and Rhoda who are dancing in a commercial. We see the duo from the previous scene, Bob and Phil, now appearing on "The Ed Sullivan Show" promoting their upcoming performance in Miami, Florida.

Song: "Happy Holiday/Let Yourself Go"



Watch For: Tap dancing

SCENE 3: Backstage at "The Ed Sullivan Show" - after the broadcast; Backstage at Jimmy's, a **None-Too-Classy Nightclub**

Bob and Phil are backstage with their assistant. Tessie. She has booked their arrangements to travel to Florida via train. Corporal Sheldrake, from their army days, is now a tv producer and tells them that "The Ed Sullivan Show" would like to have them back after their show in Florida. Bob and Phil think it will be lucrative. Phil suggests they go to a club before their train ride, to see a sister duo that can potentially be added to their revue. Phil received a letter from a fellow soldier that happens to be the brother of those sisters.

Phil also encourages Bob to find love. However, Bob is reluctant.

Sisters, Betty and Judy, are preparing to perform their act and know that Phil and Bob will be in the audience. We find out Judy may have been less than honest about how she secured their spot at the club and how she got Phil and Bob to see them perform. Judy encourages Betty to be more confident.

Song: "Love and the Weather"

SCENE 4: Jimmy's Back Room — Later that evening

Phil and Bob enter the club and are very impressed with the female duo. They hope to add them to their show. Bob and Betty seem to be too polite in connecting the two separate musical groups together. But, Judy and Phil get down to business. We learn that Judy baited Phil and Bob with a letter she forged to get them to see their show. The gentlemen didn't mind, because they were impressed with the ladies' act. The women can't take the train to Florida with the men, because they have a gig in Vermont. Phil comes up with the plan to trick Bob to go on a train to Vermont instead.

Romantic sparks between Phil and Judy appear and the nightclub melts away into a dreamy 1940s Hollywood movie, while Bob and Betty sit in stony silence. Judy and Phil note the tension between Bob and Betty. But, they still want to trick Bob into taking the train to Vermont while he thinks it's the train to Florida.

■ Song: "Sisters", "The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing"

SCENE 5: A Train Car — Later that night

Bob and Phil are on a very uncomfortable train to Vermont. Bob still thinks they are heading to Florida and is very confused by their tickets and the clothing choices by his fellow train passengers. Betty and Judy enter just as the conductor is announcing the next stop on the train is Providence, RI. Which means Bob realizes he's been hoodwinked into going to snowy Vermont. The whole train is excited about snow. However, Bob is unimpressed. The conductor lets the train know that the temperature in Vermont is a very warm 79°.

■ Song: "Snow"

Watch For: Bells

SCENE 6: The Front Desk of the Columbia Inn in **Vermont** — **Later**

Martha, the concierge of the inn, is fending off the unhappy guests that were hoping for cold and snowy weather. The owner of the inn's granddaughter, Susan, brings in the mail. However, Martha doesn't want Susan's grandfather to see the mail.

Bob, Phil, Betty, and Judy enter arguing. Martha tells the ladies that she will have to cancel their show since most of their audience just left. The inn keeper happens to be General Waverly. He enters looking for the mail and is recognized by Bob and Phil from their time together in the war. Bob and Phil introduce Betty and Judy to General Waverly as the sisters of one of their fellow troops, Frankie Haynes. We discover that the inn isn't doing well financially and General Waverly is expecting to go back into the army due to financial reasons. However, Susan gives Waverly a letter from Washington and it states they will not need his services due to his advanced age. Once Waverly leaves, the others conspire to create a performance that could draw in business for the inn.

Song: "What Can You Do With A General?"

Watch For: Airhorn

SCENE 7: The Barn Rehearsal Hall — The next day

The barn is being set up as a performance space with the help of a farmhand named Ezekiel. Phil and Judy are continuing their budding romance, unlike Bob and Betty. The stage manager, Mike, is anxious about putting up such an elaborate show in such a short amount of time. Waverly doesn't love the idea of people donating their time to perform in a show for

him. Martha mentions the local woman that may be a good addition to the cast. That local woman is Martha, a former Broadway performer!

■ Song: "Let Me Sing and I'm Happy"



Watch For: Whistle & dogs howling

SCENE 8: The Front Porch of the Inn — That night

Susan is worried about her grandfather. So, she prays for him. Bob helps ease Susan's anxieties by teaching her to count her blessings before going to bed instead of counting sheep. Betty finds Bob's lesson endearing and decides to adopt this method. Ultimately, Bob and Betty win each other over and kiss.

■ Song: "Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep"



Watch For: Kissing

SCENE 9: Ralph Sheldrake's Office, New York; Martha's Switchboard — Morning

The secretary from "The Ed Sullivan Show" is fielding phone calls. Sheldrake is frustrated with a seal act that is refusing to follow a mouse act. Sheldrake calls the inn and speaks with Martha about Bob's secret scheme. Martha misinterprets the scheme that Bob will try to take over the inn.



Watch For: Telephone ringing

SCENE 10: The Barn Rehearsal Hall — Later that day

Martha fills Betty in on the scheme she heard. Susan tells Martha that her grandpa found the mail which contained bills that Martha was hiding. Betty confronts Bob about his scheme without getting all of the details. Bob seems confused, but agrees that there is a scheme that will help Waverly. The performers continue to rehearse while Waverly is trying to track down Martha to explain the bills she's been hiding.

■ Song: "Blue Skies"

SCENE 1: The Barn Rehearsal Hall — The next day

The performers are rehearsing. Susan wants to perform in the show. Phil admires Rita and Rhoda but is turned down because he's "taken." Phil is unsure how to feel about this. Martha explains that Betty is packing to leave Vermont for New York. Waverly confronts Martha again about the bills she hid. She says she thought they'd be able to pay them off if she helped make the inn some money.

Watch For: Tap dancing

SCENE 2: Betty's Room at the Inn — Soon after

Judy confronts Betty about leaving Vermont. Both women seem to be having second thoughts about their relationships with Phil and Bob. Martha also encourages them to have fun while falling out of love.

Song: "Falling Out of Love Can Be Fun"

SCENE 3: The Barn Rehearsal Hall — Shortly thereafter

Judy and Betty are nowhere to be found. So, Bob and Phil need to stand in for them and perform their routine, "Sisters," in partial drag for the rehearsal. Betty has gone back to New York because Bob isn't the man she thought he was. Waverly and Susan suggest Bob chases after Betty to win her back.

Song: "Sisters (Reprise)"

Watch For: Bird noise

SCENE 4: The Regency Room, New York — The next evening

Betty is back in New York performing her first solo. Bob makes it to the performance as it starts. After Betty performs, Bob confronts her. Betty is still upset about Bob's scheme, but won't give him any clarification about it. Bob feels defeated and leaves. Sheldrake appears and Betty is less than impressed, because she still thinks Sheldrake is in real estate. It's revealed that he's a producer for "The Ed Sullivan Show" and the scheme actually was that he would like to invite the 151st division to the inn!

Song: "Love, You Didn't Do Right By Me/How Deep is the Ocean"

SCENE 5: "The Ed Sullivan Show" — The evening after

On "The Ed Sullivan Show," Bob implores members of the 151st division to help General Waverly by heading to his inn in Vermont.

Song: "The Old Man"

SCENE 6: The Front Desk at the Columbia Inn — The next day

Bob makes it back to Vermont without Betty. Susan sings the song she would like to perform in the show. Waverly gets a letter from Washington D.C., stating that he can be stationed in Europe.

✓ Song: "Let Me Sing and I'm Happy (Reprise)"

SCENE 7: Backstage at the Barn Theater – that evening, Christmas Eve

Ensemble members exchange gifts: an ugly sweater. cigarettes, laundry detergent, a toy gun, maple syrup, and a massage. Mike celebrates that they've put a show together in 5 days! A music box is gifted to Bob and when he plays it, Betty appears to apologize for the misunderstanding. The show begins and Waverly sees many of his former troops in the audience that have come to support him. Waverly announces that he has been invited back to work in the army. While his time was honorable there, he wants to stay where he is at the inn. As the audience joins in singing "White Christmas," it begins to snow.

Song: "How Deep is the Ocean (Reprise)", "The Old Man (Reprise)", "White Christmas"



Watch For: Toy gun & kissing

SCENE 8: Curtain Call

Now that Vermont finally has snow, they all sing about how love will keep them warm.

Song: "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm"