

## **White Christmas – CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS**

**Bob Wallace** (variable age) A major singing star, Bob is the guiding force behind the song and dance team of Wallace and Davis. He wears his fame easily and is a born leader, but has some trouble with social and romantic interactions. Despite his occasional gruffness, he is a deeply kind and principled man who is searching for his true love.

\*A very good singer with a crooning style who moves well. Baritone

Songs: *Blue Skies (Part 1), How Deep is the Ocean, Love and the Weather, Part 2, White Christmas*

**Phil Davis** (variable age) The fun-loving, go-getting song-and-dance partner of the team Wallace and Davis. An irrepressible clown, operator, and incorrigible ladies' man who is determined to see his friend happy, even if it requires scheming and outright deception. He has a boyish charm and sex appeal.

\*Strong jazz and tap-dancing needed; baritone-tenor

Songs: *The Best Things Happen When You're Dancing, I Love a Piano*

**Betty Haynes** (variable age) The sensible, responsible half of the upcoming song-and-dance team, the Haynes Sisters. Destined to be a star in her own right, she is nonetheless hesitant to take the spotlight for herself. A woman of decent, upstanding principles, she is devoted to her younger sister. Like Bob, she hides her yearning for true love under a protective shell.

\*A female singer of quiet beauty and charm with a rich chest mix sound and a soprano extension. Must move well.

Songs: *Love You Didn't Do Right By Me, How Deep is the Ocean, Sisters, Love and the Weather Part 2*

**Judy Haynes** (variable age) The younger, more ambitious, slightly scheming Haynes sister. While wholesome and adorable, she is sexy and flirty – a winning charmer whom no man can resist.

\*Strong jazz and tap dancing needed; chest mix.

Song: *Sisters, I Love a Piano*

**General Henry Waverly** (older) A retired U.S. Army General, adjusting to returning to civilian life in post World War II America. Once a powerful leader, he now struggles to run a struggling inn in Vermont. He remains a man of great principle and dignity. Beneath his curmudgeonly military exterior lies a warm, compassionate man in need of family and love.

\*He sings a portion of one song, but this is a non-dancing role.

Song: *Count Your Blessings, White Christmas*

**Martha Watson** (variable age) Once a Broadway star, now the General's housekeeper and receptionist at the inn. Martha has a very dry, wry, wisecracking sense of humor. Bighearted but rather unsentimental, she runs the General's life in spite of his protestations. She is an irrepressible meddler, but always for what she believes to be the other guy's best interests.

\*A winning, appealing character-comedienne with a clarion belt voice

Song: *Let Me Sing and I'm Happy*

**Susan Waverly** (9-15 years old, must play and appear as a 9-year-old) The General's granddaughter visiting from her home in California, Susan is a lovable and outgoing real kid. She is very smart, wise beyond her years, and cares deeply about her grandfather. She has been bitten hard by the showbiz bug and demonstrates everything that is winning but not self-conscious in the ultimate child performer.

\*She must have an excellent belt voice, and be able to move well.

Song: *Let Me Sing and I'm Happy*

(Note – this role **may** be double-cast.)

**Ralph Sheldrake** (variable age) Army buddy of Bob and Phil's, now a major television executive with the Ed Sullivan Show. Fast-talking New York professional.

\*Baritone (he will be singing and possibly dancing in some of the production numbers)

Song: *White Christmas*

**Rita and Rhoda** (variable age) Bob and Phil's two star chorus girls, they are brash, sexy and fun, although perhaps not the smartest.

\*Sing passably well and must move well

Song: *White Christmas*

**Ezekiel Foster** (variable age) The ultimate taciturn New Englander who helps out at the inn and takes life at a very slow pace; definitely has a wry sense of humor; may be double-cast with the role of Snoring Man

\*This is non-singing, non-dancing role, but if cast with a singer, might be in some chorus vocal numbers

Song: *White Christmas*

**Mike** (variable age) Bob and Phil's Stage Manager. Has a tendency to be over-dramatic and completely hysterical, but will get things done. Never seen without his whistle and clipboard which he uses to attempt to keep order.

\*This is a non-singing, non-dancing role, but if cast with a singer, might be in some chorus vocal numbers

Song: *White Christmas*

**Children's Chorus** – (ages 6-13) Will be in two production numbers, *Snow* and the finale, *White Christmas/I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm*. Will be singing in the lobby prior to the show and at intermission.

\*Must be good singers and able to move well

Song: *White Christmas*

**Vocal Chorus** – members that sing in the Train Scene, Inn scenes, finale, Clubgoers, patrons of the Regency Room, **basically non-dancing roles**, but a part of all the larger scenes. For the finale there will be movement for the Chorus but not the major dancing that the Tap and Dance Ensemble will do.

Song: *White Christmas, Blue Skies*

**Ensemble** – **Male and female Tap Ensemble and Dance Ensemble of dancers;** (need to be able to play the age of a chorus actor from 1954 – able to appear approximately 16 yrs old) There will be several styles of dance including jazz, tap and ballroom; also will be singing in the major production numbers. All men and women auditioning for the Tap Ensemble need to wear tap shoes for the audition, as well as clothes that allow you to move freely for the dance portions. Tap Ensemble will be in the two tap numbers, *I Love a Piano* and *Happy Holidays/Let Yourself Go*. Dance Ensemble will be in *Blue Skies* along WITH the Tap Ensemble.

Song: *Blue Skies, White Christmas*

**Ensemble/Chorus supporting roles:**

**Tessie** - Bob and Phil's extremely competent assistant

**Jimmy** – the proprietor of Jimmy's Back Room, a none-too-classy nightclub

**Cigarette Girl**

**Snoring Man** – Song: *Snow* (has solo lines)

**Mrs Snoring Man** – Song: *Snow* (has solo lines)

**Train Conductor**

**Dance Captain**

**Seamstress and Assistant Seamstress**

**Ed Sullivan Announcer**

**Regency Room Announcer**

**Sheldrake's Secretary (offstage voice)**

Tap Ensemble, Dance Ensemble and Vocal Chorus will also play Jimmy's Back Room clubgoers, train passengers, Inn guests, chorus "kids", patrons of Regency Room, soldiers in the opening scene; there will no doubt be doubling among these various roles.