

Irving Berlin's  
**WHITE CHRISTMAS**



*Pre-Show  
Materials*

**THURS., NOV. 21ST at 7:30PM**



**RELAXED  
PERFORMANCE**



# Pre-Show Materials



Character Narratives

## Main Characters



**Bob Wallace** is one of the main characters in the story and Phil Davis's best friend. Bob is serious, hardworking, and always focused on doing the right thing. He cares a lot about helping others, especially his former army commander, General Waverly. Even though Bob seems reserved, he is kind and has a big heart. Throughout the story, Bob slowly falls in love with Betty Haynes, though a misunderstanding makes things difficult. In the end, Bob helps save the General's inn by organizing a Christmas show and clears up the misunderstanding with Betty, finding happiness along the way.



**Phil Davis** is one of the main characters in the story and Bob Wallace's best friend. Phil is funny, carefree, and always looking for ways to have fun. He loves making jokes and doesn't take life too seriously. Phil enjoys helping others, especially Bob, and tries to set him up with Betty Haynes. Phil has a big heart and wants to make sure everyone is happy. He also likes Judy Haynes and flirts with her throughout the story. Phil is full of energy and helps organize the Christmas show to save the General's inn, all while keeping things light and fun.



**Betty Haynes** is one of the main characters and part of the singing duo with her sister Judy. Betty is smart, independent, and cautious when it comes to trusting people. She cares deeply about her sister and wants to protect her. Betty starts to develop feelings for Bob Wallace, but a misunderstanding makes her unsure if she can trust him. Even though she seems reserved at times, Betty is kind and thoughtful. By the end of the story, she realizes Bob's true intentions and they clear up the misunderstanding, allowing her to find happiness with him.



**Judy Haynes** is one of the main characters and the younger sister of Betty Haynes. Judy is lively, fun, and full of energy. She's always looking for ways to make things happen and loves to take the lead, especially when it comes to her sister's happiness. Judy has a playful personality and quickly develops a flirtatious relationship with Phil Davis. She's optimistic and helps keep the mood light, especially when things get tough for Betty and Bob. Judy supports her sister throughout the story and enjoys being part of the Christmas show that helps save the General's inn.

# Pre-Show Materials



Character Narratives

## Supporting Characters



**General Waverly** is a former army commander who now runs an inn in Vermont. He is kind, proud, and cares deeply for the people around him. The General has fallen on hard times because his inn is struggling to stay open, but he doesn't want to ask for help because he's used to being strong and independent. Even though he doesn't show his emotions much, the General is touched by how much Bob, Phil, and the others care about him. In the end, he's grateful when they organize a Christmas show to save his inn, showing that he is loved and respected by his old friends.



**Martha Watson** is the inn's resourceful housekeeper and former performer, is a vital character in *White Christmas*. Her warmth, wit, and practical skills are invaluable to the team working to save the General's inn. With unwavering loyalty and a knack for problem-solving, Martha ensures the show runs smoothly, providing both support and comic relief. Her unique blend of kindness, humor, and efficiency makes her a beloved and memorable character.



**Susan Waverly** is General Waverly's granddaughter. She is a bright, enthusiastic young girl who loves to perform and looks up to the adults around her. Susan is eager to help out at the inn and is very excited about the Christmas show. She looks up to people like Bob, Phil, and the Haynes sisters, and her youthful energy and excitement bring a sense of hope and joy to the story. Susan's love for her grandfather is clear, and she's determined to see the inn succeed and make him proud.

## Secondary Characters (cont. on pg. 3)



**Ralph Sheldrake** is a friend of Bob and Phil from their time in the army, and he now works as a TV executive. Ralph is practical and business-minded, always looking for good opportunities. He's the one who helps set up the idea of bringing their Christmas show to a larger audience through television.

Though he's not as involved in the personal relationships of the other characters, Ralph plays an important role in helping the Christmas show succeed. He is supportive of Bob and Phil's efforts to help General Waverly.

# Pre-Show Materials



Character Narratives

## Secondary Characters



**Rita** is one of the showgirls who works with Bob and Phil. She is confident, glamorous, and enjoys being part of the entertainment world. Rita is friendly but also a bit flirtatious, and she, along with her fellow showgirl Rhoda, adds a touch of humor and lightness to the story. While she isn't deeply involved in the main plot, Rita helps bring energy and fun to the performances.

**Rhoda** is one of the showgirls who works with Bob and Phil. Like her friend Rita, Rhoda is confident, fun, and enjoys the glamorous life of performing. She brings humor and a playful attitude to the scenes she's in. While Rhoda doesn't play a major role in the main storyline, she helps add a lively, light-hearted feel to the show.

## Minor Characters (cont. on pg. 4)



**\*Jimmy** is a fun and lively character who works as the inn's stage manager. He's responsible for helping set up the Christmas show and making sure everything behind the scenes runs smoothly. Jimmy is upbeat and efficient, always eager to help and get things done. Though he has a smaller role, Jimmy's energy and positive attitude contribute to the success of the show and the overall spirit of teamwork at the inn.



**Ezekiel Foster** is typically portrayed as a local handyman or caretaker at the inn. He has a dry, deadpan sense of humor and provides some comedic moments with his slow, deliberate responses. His interactions with the main characters are brief but memorable.

# Pre-Show Materials



Character Narratives

## Minor Characters



**\*Mike** is a minor character in *White Christmas*. He works as a stage manager or assistant, helping with the technical aspects of the performances. While he doesn't have a large role, Mike is responsible for coordinating things behind the scenes to make sure the show runs smoothly. He's practical and efficient, contributing to the success of the performances by managing the logistics that are critical to the production.

**Mrs. Snoring Man** is a humorous and quirky character who appears as a guest at the inn. She's often seen falling asleep at the most unexpected times, which adds comic relief to the story. While her role is small, her sleepy nature and funny moments bring light-heartedness to the scenes she's in, making her a memorable part of the show.

**The Train Conductor** is a minor character who appears during the journey to Vermont. He is responsible for helping the passengers, including Bob, Phil, Betty, and Judy, during their train trip. While his role is small, the Train Conductor helps set the scene for their travels and adds a touch of realism to the journey with his brief but important interactions.

## Ensemble and Additional Roles

**Ensemble Members:** These roles include singers, dancers, and townspeople who help create the large production numbers, such as guests at the inn or additional performers in the Christmas show. They are often involved in musical numbers and group scenes.

\* One actor plays more than one character and, so that they look different, they change the way they move and talk and they change their costume (a costume is the name for the clothes actors wear onstage). Both characters, **Mike**, and **Jimmy**, are played by the same actor.



# *Pre-Show Materials*



**SPOILER  
ALERT**

The remaining pages are for those who would benefit from being prepared for some of the more dramatic or emotional elements of the performance.

# Pre-Show Materials



Social Narrative

## WHAT ELSE MIGHT YOU NEED TO KNOW?



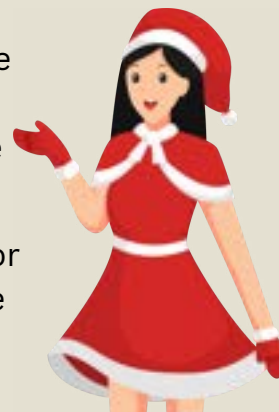
### MUSIC AND SINGING

White Christmas includes several big musical numbers. There will be live music, which might get loud at certain points. If you think this might be too loud, feel free to use your headphones, Loops, or let a staff member know when you arrive, and they can offer you earplugs if needed.

### CHARACTER MOVEMENTS AND COSTUMING

The first opening scene will have soldiers on a battlefield but there will not be any battle or fighting. They will be wearing American military uniforms WWII soldiers. They will return in the final scene to support the General in running the inn.

During some scenes, characters might walk through the audience or enter from the back of the theater. Don't worry if they come close to where you're sitting—they are just part of the show! phones, Loops, or let a staff member know when you arrive, and they can offer you earplugs if needed.



### DANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY

There will be several dance performances during the show. These will feature tap dancing, which can be loud because of the sound of the dancers' shoes tapping on the floor. If you think the noise might be too much, let a staff member know and they can provide earplugs. The tap dancing will add energy and rhythm to the performance.

# Pre-Show Materials



Social Narrative

## Emotional Scenes



### **BOB AND BETTY'S MISUNDERSTANDING**

There's a moment where Betty misunderstands Bob, and they seem upset with each other. Although they feel hurt, everything gets resolved in the end, and they both realize it was a misunderstanding.

### **PHIL AND JUDY'S ROMANCE**

Phil and Judy have a fun, light-hearted relationship. They flirt and joke with each other throughout the show.

### **SAVING THE INN**

The characters work hard to help General Waverly save his inn. There may be moments where characters seem worried or stressed about the inn closing, but by the end, everyone comes together to make sure the Christmas show is a big success.

### **THE BIG SHOW**

The Christmas show at the end of the performance is full of energy, with lots of singing and dancing. There will be changes in the scenery, but it's all part of the joyful celebration.

### **SNOW ON STAGE**

During the finale, fake snow may fall into the audience to create a festive winter atmosphere. It's not real snow, so it won't be cold!





# Pre-Show Materials



Social Narrative

## Humorous Moments

### EZEKIEL'S DRY HUMOR

Ezekiel, the inn's handyman, has a dry, slow way of speaking. He says funny things without smiling much, but his words are meant to make the audience laugh.



### HUMOROUS ADULT MOMENT

There is a playful conversation between General Waverly and Martha where the General tells her, "You know what you're acting like right now? You're acting like a wife." Martha responds with a joke, saying, "Well, I've had enough practice. We fight all the time and we never have sex—people think we are married!" It's a light-hearted moment between two long-time friends that adds humor to the show.

## Romantic Moments



Throughout the show, you will see Bob and Betty, as well as Phil and Judy, growing closer to each other. There are some romantic moments between them, but these are sweet and gentle.

During some of the musical numbers, characters sing together as a group. You might hear familiar songs like "White Christmas" and other holiday favorites. If you feel like humming along, that's okay!

## Group Singing



# Pre-Show Materials



Social Narrative

## Lighting Changes



The lighting on stage will change throughout the show, but there will be no sudden bright flashes or strobes. It's all done gradually to match the mood of the scenes.

Between scenes, the scenery on stage will change. Some sets will show the inside of the inn, while others will create the interior of a barn. These changes will be smooth and are part of the performance. There are several scenes that feature vignettes; during these scenes, most of the stage will be dark except for the area that is being used, which will generally have three or fewer actors.

## Set Changes

