



About the show

White Christmas is a musical based on the Paramount Pictures 1954 film of the same name, which featured Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Vera Ellen and Rosemary Clooney.

The stage adaptation of *White Christmas* opened on Broadway at the Marquis Theatre on 4 November 2008, after several successful engagements throughout the United States. Directed by Walter Bobbie and starring Stephen Bogardus, Jeffry Denman, Kerry O'Malley and Meredith Patterson, the show was an audience favourite.

The heartwarming story is centered around a song-and-dance team, a sister act, and the attempt to save a failing Vermont Inn.

Synopsis

ACT ONE

The story begins with World War II U.S. Army buddies, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, on Christmas Eve 1944 somewhere on the Western Front. The troops have gotten hold of a Christmas tree, and Wallace and Davis are putting on a make-shift holiday show for the troops of the 151st Division (White Christmas/Happy Holidays). Major General Henry Waverly arrives for the end of the show and holds a field inspection before being relieved of command of the 151st Division.

After the war in 1954, the pair, now labelled “America’s favourite song-and-dance-team,” appear on The Ed Sullivan Show (Happy Holidays/Let Yourself Go). Wallace and Davis plug their new show Blue Skies set to open on Christmas Eve in Florida. Before leaving their dressing room, Davis tells Wallace about a letter he received from an old army buddy of theirs asking them to go watch his sisters’ act. Davis convinces Wallace he needs to fall in love and that the Haynes sisters could be good for them (Love and the Weather), so Wallace reluctantly agrees to go watch the girls.

They go to the club to audition the sister act (Sisters), only to discover that Judy actually sent Davis the letter. Wallace and Davis have train tickets to go to Florida for their new show that night, while Betty and Judy are booked to leave for Pinetree, Vermont. Davis and Judy dance together at the club and decide to trick Wallace into going to Vermont so all four of them can be together (The Best Things Happen While You’re Dancing).

Wallace and Davis board the same train as the Haynes sisters, and it doesn’t take long for Wallace to figure out he has been played. The four begin to get excited about arriving in Vermont (Snow), but when the train pulls in, things are not exactly as expected.

CONT.. They discover that the Columbia Inn in Pinetree is run by their former commanding officer, Major General Waverly, and it's about to go bankrupt because of the lack of snow and, therefore, lack of guests. The General has invested all of his savings, pension and hope into the inn, so the foursome want to help out and bring business back (What Can You Do with a General).

Wallace and Davis bring Blue Skies and their entire Broadway cast to Vermont and add Betty and Judy into the show. Martha, Columbia Inn's concierge, also gets in on the show after impressing Wallace and Davis with her talent (Let Me Sing and I'm Happy).

That night, the General's granddaughter, Susan, is upset. She can't sleep because she discovered her grandfather tried to rejoin the army but was rejected and now feels like he doesn't belong. Wallace comforts her until she falls asleep (Count Your Blessings) and then shares a romantic moment with Betty.

After hearing about the General's rejected plans to rejoin the Army, Wallace decides to prove to him that he is not forgotten. He calls his friend and former army cohort, Ralph Sheldrake, at the Ed Sullivan Show to have him send out letters to the men under the command of the General in the war. The letters are part of a "secret plan" to get the men to come to the inn for the holiday and surprise the General. Sheldrake returns Wallace's call to let him know that the "secret plan" is going great, but Martha answers the phone and confuses the message thinking Sheldrake is a real estate bigwig and that Wallace is going to force the General to sell the inn. After Martha tells Betty about the phone call, Betty confronts Wallace about his intentions but still doesn't learn the truth (Blue Skies).

ACT TWO

A full run-through of the show is taking place in the barn (I Love a Piano) while romantic drama ensues: Judy's angry at Davis for his flirtatious manner with all the chorus girls, and Betty is packing for New York because of what she thinks Wallace is going to do to the General (Falling Out of Love Can Be Fun). Susan is also desperately trying to create an act to be part of the show but is turned down by Wallace and Davis. Back in the rehearsal hall, nobody can find the Hayes sisters, so Wallace and Davis rehearse their number for them (Sisters Reprise). Susan tells Wallace that Betty has left for New York, and he goes after her immediately. In New York, Betty is performing at The Regency Room (Love You Didn't Do Right by Me/How Deep is the Ocean). Wallace brings Sheldrake to watch Betty's performance and afterwards they explain the "secret plan" to her. Betty agrees to return to Vermont.

Before leaving New York, Wallace makes another appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show to announce one final time that all the men of the 151st Division should go to the General's inn for Christmas (We'll Follow the Old Man).

Wallace and Betty return to the inn to find that Judy and Davis have gotten engaged, and Susan is going to have an act in the show (Let Me Sing and I'm Happy Reprise).

On the night of the show, Martha convinces the General that all of his suits have been sent to the cleaners, and General Waverly concludes that he'll have to appear in his old uniform. The cast is getting ready in the barn when Wallace and Betty confess their love for one another (How Deep Is the Ocean Reprise). When the General enters the barn where the show is to take place, he is greeted by his former division (We'll Follow the Old Man Reprise). The show is performed without a hitch (Happy Holiday/White Christmas), and snow begins to fall as the foursome celebrate their love (Finale: I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm).

What should you expect...

- Production Team: Director & Choreographer – Nikki Mundell-Poole,
- Musical Director – Gerald Hindes,
- Assistant to the Director – TBA,
- Dance Captain – TBA.

What should you expect...

Please also note there are a large number of speaking roles within this show and due to limitations on microphones it means that the smaller roles may be split up in a different way to how they appear in the script.

Therefore, please do not assume that all dialogue and any solo lines will be definitely associated to the minor characters as listed in the show script.

Rehearsals

- This is a show with a lot of music numbers and dance routines including a tap dancing number. So, we have to spend a decent amount of time learning the notes and the harmonies as well as setting all the routines.
- The company is generally called every week whether it be a music, setting or a revision call. In addition, there are 5 Sundays on the schedule plus dress rehearsal Sunday.
- Sundays will be 25th May, 8th June, 6th July, 14th Sept, 19th Oct
Show Week = 27th October – 1st November. 2025

Accents:

The show is set in America so all accents are American.

Performance style:

This is a full-on Broadway Musical with big dancing numbers & lots of individual characters.

Chorus & Dancing:

The ensemble will be playing dancers and performers in the shows within the show, clients in the nightclub, soldiers, holidaymakers etc etc

There are quite a few dance numbers in the show requiring specific dancers as well as chorus numbers. Chorus and dance numbers include: *Let yourself Go, The Best Things Happen while You're Dancing, Blue Skies, I Love a Piano* as well as other famous songs such as *Sisters, Count Your Blessings* and the title number – *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas*.

Act I

- "Overture" – Orchestra
- "Happy Holiday (1944)" - Bob Wallace and Phil Davis
- "White Christmas (Music Box)" - Bob, Phil, Ralph Sheldrake and Ensemble
- "Happy Holiday / Let Yourself Go" - Bob, Phil and Ensemble
- "Love and the Weather" - Bob and Betty Haynes
- "Sisters" - Betty and Judy Haynes
- "The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing" - Phil and Quintet
- "Snow" - Phil, Judy, Bob, Betty, Mr. and Mrs. Snoring Man and Ensemble
- "What Can You Do With a General?" - Martha Watson, Bob and Phil
- "Let Me Sing and I'm Happy" – Martha
- "Count Your Blessings (Instead of Sheep)" - Bob and Betty
- "Blue Skies" - Bob and Ensemble

Act II

- "Entr'acte" – Orchestra
- "I Love a Piano" - Phil, Judy and Ensemble
- "Falling Out of Love Can Be Fun" - Martha, Betty and Judy
- "Sisters (Reprise)" - Bob and Phil
- "Love, You Didn't Do Right By Me / How Deep Is the Ocean?" - Betty and Bob
- "The Old Man (Prelude)" - Bob and Male Ensemble
- "Let Me Sing and I'm Happy (Reprise)" - Susan Waverly
- "How Deep Is the Ocean? (Reprise)" - Betty and Bob
- "The Old Man" - Bob, Phil, Ralph and Male Ensemble
- "White Christmas" - Bob and Company
- "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm" - Full Company (Post - Curtain Call)

Auditions & Casting

Please note-

Given that many principals are required to Sing, Dance and Act in equal measures it will mean that we may recall certain principals if necessary.

I anticipate that certain characters/auditionees may be required to be seen together after their initial audition. Please check on the audition day if you are free to leave after your audition or whether you are needed to be seen again.

Given the range of dance styles for this show, I anticipate casting sets of dancers for each individual dance number so if you can dance but not tap or vice versa then you can still be in certain dance numbers.

Pre Audition Rehearsals

Our Welcome Introduction Evening will take place on Tuesday 15th April at Spring Lodge, where you can meet the production team and learn about our Directors vision for the show.

At the pre-audition rehearsals you will learn the music with the Musical Director and the movement and dance audition routines with the Director

Introduction Evening –	Tuesday 15 th April, Spring Lodge
Pre- audition rehearsals –	Wed 16 th April, Witham Public Hall
	Tues 22 nd April, Spring Lodge
	Wed 23 rd April, Witham Public Hall
Early Auditions –	Wed 23 rd April, Witham Public Hall
Auditions –	Sunday 27 th April, Spring Lodge

Bob Wallace

Playing age 30 - 45.

A former army captain and half of the song-and-dance duo Wallace and Davis, Bob is a world-wise, cynical yet charming individual with a strong sense of loyalty and duty. He falls for Betty, the elder of the Haynes sisters. He is the singer in the duo. Despite occasional gruffness, he is a deeply kind and principled man who is searching for true love. A superb singer with a crooning style who although not a dancer will be required to move well.



MUSIC AUDITION:

Song 24	White Christmas	[bars 15 – 30]
Song 11	Count your blessings	[bars 1-33]
Song 13	Blue Skies	[bars 1 – 57]



DIALOGUE:

pg 1-5-23 "Ski's in Florida" to 1-5-24 "pathetic little shows".
pg 1-8-49 "Say there Miss Susan" to 1-8-50 "try the Bob Wallace method"



DANCE: Chorus movement as a minimum, ideally the dance movement

Phil Davis

Playing age 30 - 35

Phil, the other half of the duo, is Bob's complete opposite - a fun-loving, adventurous, and somewhat mischievous individual who's always on the lookout for a good time and romance. He's instantly smitten with Judy Haynes. An irrepressible clown, operator, and incorrigible ladies' man who has a boyish charm and sex appeal. This is a role for a dancer/strong mover.



MUSIC AUDITION:

Song 7 The best things happen when you're dancing [bars 1-31]
Song 15 I love a piano [bars 8 – 67]



DIALOGUE:

pg 1-3-9 from Bob's line "Philly Dilly" to 1-3-10 "get a massage or Something"



DANCE : dancers audition

Betty Haynes

Playing age – 30 - 35

Betty is the older Haynes sister. She's independent, pragmatic, and protective of her younger sister Judy. She is the sensible, responsible half of the Haynes sisters act. Classic elegance, quiet beauty and charm. Despite her scepticism, she finds herself falling for Bob. Must move well.



MUSIC AUDITION:

- Song 5a Love and Weather [part 2], [bars 1-37]
- Song 6 Sisters [bars 1-52]
- Song 18 Love, you didn't do right by me/ How deep is the ocean [bars 5 -35]



DIALOGUE:

- pg 1-3-11 from Judy's line "I told Jimmy" to 1-3-12 "when I meet him"
- pg 1-8-51 "another insomniac" to "try the new Betty Haynes method"



DANCE: Chorus Audition

Judy Haynes

Playing Age 25 - 30.

Judy is the more vivacious and adventurous of the Haynes sisters. She's a romantic at heart and often the driving force behind many of their decisions, including the one to Vocals. This is a strong dancing role.



MUSIC AUDITION:

Song 6	Sisters	[bars1-52]
Song 15	I love a piano	[bars 8 – 67]



DIALOGUE:

pg 1-3-11 “I told Jimmy” to 1-3-12 “you lost me”
Pg 11-2-69 “but we have a contract here” to 11-2-70 “tear Phil’s head off”



DANCE: dancers audition

General Henry Waverley

Playing age 50 - 60

The General is a stern, authoritative figure with a gruff exterior but a kind and caring heart. He's the owner of the failing Vermont Inn and was the commanding officer of Bob and Phil during World War II. He doesn't have any solo songs, but his character plays a significant role in the plot.



MUSIC AUDITION: Mens Chorus Audition



DIALOGUE: pg 11- 7-91 "Lieutenant Boyle" to "Merry Christmas"



DANCE: Chorus Movement Audition

Martha Watson

Playing age 45 - 50.

Martha is the General's lovable and nosy housekeeper with a flair for the dramatic. Once a Broadway star with a big belt voice, now the General's housekeeper. Very dry wit and frank with a wisecracking sense of humour. She has a heart of gold and only wants what's best for the General.



MUSIC AUDITION:

Song 16 Falling out of love can be fun [bars 3 -40]



DIALOGUE:

pg 1-7-39 start of scene to 1-7-40 "he came with the barn"



DANCE: Chorus Movement Audition

Susan Waverley

Playing age 9.

Susan is the General's 9 year old curious and intelligent granddaughter with dreams of becoming a performer. She's wise beyond her years but still has a childlike innocence about her. Lovable and outgoing. She sings a solo number: "Let Me Sing and I'm Happy." Ideal for an older girl who can pass as aged 9 on stage.



MUSIC AUDITION:

Song 20 Let me sing and I'm happy [bars 1 – 32]



DIALOGUE: pg 1-8-49 "Dear God" to 1-8-50 "All I think about is Grandpa"



DANCE : Chorus Movement Audition

Ralph Sheldrake

Playing age: mid 30's to early 40's

Jokester Army buddy of Bob and Phil's, now a major television executive. Fast talking, loud, brash New York professional with a good head on his shoulders.



MUSIC AUDITION: Chorus Audition



DIALOGUE:

pg 1-9-52 "Let me get this straight" to 1-9-53 "Scheme is going great"



DANCE : Chorus Movement Audition

Rita & Rhoda

Playing age: 20 – 30

Bob and Phil's two star chorus showgirls. Brash, sexy and fun. Required to sing, act and dance. They do wear quite revealing costumes – please see picture



MUSIC AUDITION: Women's Chorus Audition



DIALOGUE:

Read both parts – 1-7-43 “hiya Philly” to 1-7-44 “Ooooh!”



DANCE: Dancers Audition

Cameo Roles

- Snoring Man
- Mrs Snoring Man



MUSIC AUDITION:

8 Snow

[bars G +1 - 44]



DIALOGUE:



DANCE: Chorus Audition

Smaller Cameo Roles

- Ezekiel - Practical, the ultimate laid back New Englander. A man of few words.
- Mike - Bob and Phil's Stage Manager. Can be overly dramatic and often hysterical, but gets the job done.
- Tessie – Young Character woman to play Bob and Phil's secretary.

To be selected from other auditionees

CHORUS

Chorus play various roles throughout the show.



MUSIC AUDITION:

Men - Song 19 The Old Man [bars 3 – 45]

Women - Song 24 White Christmas [bars 33 -47]



DANCE: Chorus Movement audition

DANCERS

There are quite a few dance routines in the show, one which includes some tap dancing. You can audition for both a regular dancer and a tap dancer or just one of those.



MUSIC AUDITION: Chorus Audition

DANCE: Dancers audition

Tap dancers audition





Irving Berlin's
WHITE CHRISTMAS
THE MUSICAL

