

WHITE CHRISTMAS SYNOPSIS

The show begins in a World War II camp on Christmas Eve 1944. Captain Bob Wallace and Private Phil Davis are performing a Christmas show for their fellow soldiers, accompanied by their friend Corporal Sheldrake. They are interrupted by their commander, the gruff General Waverly, whose pride in his men is clearly matched by their respect for him.

Ten years later Bob and Phil, now Broadway stars, are performing on the Ed Sullivan Show. After the show, Bob looks forward to their Christmas vacation in Miami but Phil is more interested in going to a nightclub where two sisters of an old Army friend – the Haynes Sisters – are doing a act.

The Haynes sisters perform their number and Bob and Phil are impressed, both with the girls themselves and with their talent. Phil and Judy immediately hit it off and while Bob and Betty begin awkwardly and end worse. So Judy and Phil develop a scheme to get them together – Phil will get Bob on the train up to Vermont, where the sisters are booked to perform at an inn.

On the train later that night, still thinking that he's bound for Miami, Bob is mystified to see everyone dressed in cold-weather gear. Once the girls come into the car, Bob realises he has been conned. Attempting (unsuccessfully) to get him to cheer up, Phil and Judy, and then the entire train, sing of the joys of a snowy winter. These dreams are dashed, though, with the news that there is a heat wave hitting Vermont.

When the foursome arrives at the inn, the men are surprised to see that General Waverly, their old Army commander, is the innkeeper. But Martha Watson, the manager, tells them that the inn and the General are in dire financial straits. To help the old man out, Bob and Phil decide that they will stage their new show, chorus and all, at the inn. They will also send out letters to the old Army unit asking them to come up as a surprise tribute to their old commander.

A few nights later, Bob come across Susan, the General's visiting granddaughter, who cannot sleep. He explains "the Bob Wallace method" for dealing with insomnia. Betty, watching by chance from the shadows, sees a side of Bob she has not seen before. Things are look up for them. They kiss.

The next day, Martha takes a phone call from Sheldrake, who is now a producer for the Ed Sullivan show. Martha misunderstands his message for Bob and thinks that Bob is scheming to take over the inn from the General, without his knowledge and against his will. She has also intercepted a telegram inviting Betty to perform a solo act at a fancy New York City nightclub. Out of loyalty to the inn and her growing feelings for Bob, Betty decides to turn down the offer, but decides when Martha tells her what she thought she overheard from Sheldrake to accept the job in New York.

Having learned of Betty's departure, Bob follows her to the nightclub in New York where she's performing to find out what's wrong. Bob, still championing Betty's talent has invited Sheldrake to hear her perform. When Betty learns this, and hears from Sheldrake the true nature of Bob's plans for the Army unit's arrival at the inn, she realizes just how many misunderstandings there have been.

Back at the inn, Judy and Phil are now engaged. Bob tries to get himself in the holiday spirit. But he is still pining for Betty, and cannot understand what he could have done to push her away. He then hears Betty's voice. She has realised how wrong she was about Bob. She has come back.

And the Christmas show begins. The General is pushed onstage and is surprised and touched to see his old unit there with their families. He reveals that he has asked for a post back in the Army and gotten it, but, moved by the show of support, he will stay at the inn instead. The show continues with Bob leading everyone in song. As he does, the doors of the barn theatre open to reveal that it is finally snowing.