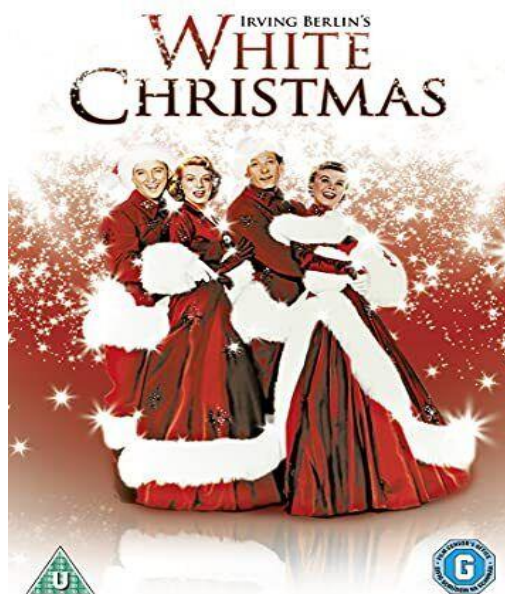


REF: 268

# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **White Christmas** (Colour)

[1 Disc]  
Sealed nice!  
Library Image



ISBN: 5014437970039

## Information

Release Title: **White Christmas**– 27<sup>th</sup> December 1954 (United Kingdom)  
Publication: White Christmas is based on a screenplay written by American film-makers Norman Krasna, Norman Panama, and Melvin Frank. It features music composed by American composer and lyricist, Irving Berlin (1888-1989), considered to be one of the greatest songwriters of the 20th century.

Origin: United States

Release date: United States – 14<sup>th</sup> October 1954 (New York City Premiere)

AKA: Also known as: Irving Berlin's White Christmas

Genres: Comedy, Music, Romance

Disc Nos. 1

Certification: U

Duration: 2hr

Region Code:

Region:

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English

Filming locations: Paramount Studios - 5555 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, USA(Studio)

Sound mix: Dolby Mono

Colour – *Black & White – Colour enhanced Version also Available on Paragon Shelf*

Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1

Note: Not Available for Purchase, Rent or Loan – Private Collection – Reference ONLY

**White Christmas**

Theatrical release poster for 'White Christmas' featuring the title in a large, stylized font at the top. Below the title, the names of the lead actors are listed: BING CROSBY, DANNY KAYE, ROSEMARY CLOONEY, and VERA-ELLEN. The central image shows the four main characters in festive red and white winter attire, standing in a snowy landscape. The background is a soft, glowing white with falling snow. At the top left, there is a 'VISTAVISION' logo, and at the top right, there is a 'TECHNICOLOR' logo. At the bottom, there is a 'PARAMOUNT PICTURE' logo.

Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Michael Curtiz
Written by	Norman Krasna Norman Panama Melvin Frank
Produced by	Robert Emmett Dolan
Starring	Bing Crosby Danny Kaye Rosemary Clooney Vera-Ellen Dean Jagger
Cinematography	Loyal Griggs
Edited by	Frank Bracht
Music by	Gus Levene Joseph J. Lilley Van Cleave
Production company	Paramount Pictures
Distributed by	Paramount Pictures
Release date	October 14, 1954
Running time	120 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$2 million <sup>[2]</sup>
Box office	\$30 million <sup>[3]</sup>

# Title: White Christmas

## Storyline

On Christmas Eve in Europe in 1944, at the height of World War II, former Broadway star Captain Bob Wallace and aspiring performer Private Phil Davis entertain the 151st division with a soldier's show. The men have just received word their beloved Major General Thomas F. Waverly has been relieved of his command. Waverly arrives and delivers an emotional farewell. The men send him off with a rousing chorus of "The Old Man". After Waverly departs, enemy bombers attack the area and everyone takes cover. Phil pulls Bob away from a collapsing wall and is wounded by debris. Bob asks how he can pay back Phil for saving his life, and Phil suggests they become a duo act. Bob is not fond of the idea, but feels obliged to agree.

After the war, the two make it big, first as performers, then as producers, launching a hit musical, *Playing Around*. They receive a letter supposedly from their old Mess Sergeant, Ben "Freckle Face" Haynes, asking them to view his sisters' act. They watch Betty and Judy sing at Novello's, a Florida nightclub. Phil, who likes to play matchmaker, notices Bob is interested in Betty. After the performance, the four meet, and Phil and Judy immediately hit it off. Betty and Bob, however, argue about Bob's cynicism, and the fact it was actually Judy who wrote the letter instead of Ben.

Bing Crosby as Bob Wallace and Danny Kaye as Phil Davis

Finding out from Judy that the girls' landlord is falsely suing them for a damaged rug, and has even gone so far as to call the police to get his money, Phil gives them tickets he and Bob had purchased to spend Christmas in New York City. Bob and Phil improvise a performance to buy the girls time, then flee to the train, where they now have to sit up in the Club Car, much to Bob's chagrin.

The girls convince Phil and Bob to forgo New York and spend Christmas with them in Pine Tree, Vermont, where they are booked as performers. Upon arriving in Vermont, they find all the tourists have left due to no snow and unseasonably warm weather. They arrive at the empty Columbia Inn and are aghast to discover that General Waverly is the landlord of the hotel, has sunk his life savings into it, and is on the verge of bankruptcy. Phil and Bob decide to invite some of the cast of *Playing Around* to Pine Tree to stage a show to draw in the guests, and include Betty and Judy in the show. Betty and Bob's romance starts to bloom.

Later, Bob discovers Waverly received a humiliating rejection letter to his request to rejoin the army. Bob determines to prove to the General he is not forgotten, and calls up Ed Harrison, another old Army buddy who now has his own variety show, for help. Ed suggests they put the general on the show and make a big scene of his misfortune and Bob's kindness, which would be free advertising for Bob and Phil. Bob strongly rejects the idea. Unfortunately, the housekeeper Emma eavesdrops on the other phone for the first half of the conversation. She relays Ed's idea to Betty, who becomes suddenly cold towards a baffled Bob.

Phil and Judy stage a phony engagement, thinking Betty is trying to avoid romance because she does not want to leave Judy unprotected. However, this backfires when Betty accepts a gig in New York and leaves. Phil and Judy admit the truth to Bob, who becomes enraged and hurries to New York to tell Betty. They partially reconcile, but Bob meets up with Harrison before he has a chance to find out what really was bothering her. Betty sees Bob go on Harrison's show and invite the entire 151st division to secretly join him at Pine Tree to surprise General Waverly, at Bob and Phil's expense. Realizing she was mistaken; Betty returns to Vermont just in time to be in the show.

Once again on Christmas Eve, the soldiers surprise General Waverly with another rousing chorus of "The Old Man" when he arrives at the show, bringing him to tears. During the performance, Betty and Bob become engaged, and Judy and Phil decide to go through with their own engagement. As everyone sings "White Christmas", a thick snowfall at last blankets Vermont.

**Quick Storyline:** Having left the Army following W.W.II, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis team up to become a top song-and-dance act. Davis plays matchmaker and introduces Wallace to a pair of beautiful sisters (Betty and Judy) who also have a song-and-dance act. When Betty and Judy travel to a Vermont lodge to perform a Christmas show, Wallace and Davis follow, only to find their former commander, General Waverly, as the lodge owner. A series of romantic mix-ups ensue as the performers try to help the General. — Norman Cook IMDb

# Cast

Bing Crosby as Bob Wallace  
Danny Kaye as Phil Davis  
Rosemary Clooney as Betty Haynes  
Vera-Ellen as Judy Haynes  
Dean Jagger as Major General Tom Waverly  
Mary Wickes as Emma Allen  
Johnny Grant as Ed Harrison  
John Brascia as John/Johnny, Judy Haynes' dance partner  
Anne Whitfield as Susan Waverly  
Percy Helton as Train conductor  
I. Stanford Jolley as Railroad stationmaster  
Barrie Chase as Doris Lenz  
George Chakiris as Betty Haynes' background dancer  
Sig Ruman as Landlord  
Grady Sutton as General's guest  
Herb Vigran as Novello  
Leighton Noble as Novello's (Florida) bandleader (uncredited)  
Dick Stabile as Carousel Club bandleader (uncredited) <sup>Wiki</sup>

## Parental Guidance

### Certification

Argentina:Atp Australia:G Brazil:Livre Canada:G (Manitoba/Nova Scotia/Quebec) Canada:PG (Ontario) Denmark:7 (DVD and Blu-ray rating) Finland:S Finland:K-7 (VHS and DVD rating) France:Tous publics Iceland:L Israel:8+ (self-applied) Italy:T Japan:G Netherlands:AL Netherlands:AL (1954, original rating) New Zealand:G (DVD rating) Norway:A (recommended rating) Norway:7 (1997, video rating) Norway:A (1954, cinema rating) Poland:7 (self-applied) Russia:0+ Russia:6+ (new rating) South Korea:All Spain:A Spain:7 (re-rating) Sweden:Btl United Kingdom:U United States:Not Rated United States:TV-G (DVD rating) United States:Approved (pca #16919) United States:TV-PG (TV rating) United Arab Emirates:G (Blu-ray rating) West Germany:12 (f, fr.nf)

**Sex & Nudity** – None, **Violence & Gore**- None, **Profanity**- None, Alcohol, **drugs & Smoking**- Mild, Frightening & **Intense Scenes** -None

# Soundtrack

"White Christmas" (Crosby)  
"The Old Man" (Crosby, Kaye, and Men's Chorus)  
Medley: "Heat Wave " / "Let Me Sing and I'm Happy" / "Blue Skies" (Crosby & Kaye)  
"Sisters" (Clooney & Trudy Stevens)  
"The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing" (Kaye with Trudy Stevens)  
"Sisters (reprise)" (lip synced by Crosby and Kaye)  
"Snow" (Crosby, Kaye, Clooney & Trudy Stevens)  
Minstrel Number: "I'd Rather See a Minstrel Show" / "Mister Bones" / "Mandy" (Crosby, Kaye, Clooney & Chorus)  
"Count Your Blessings (Instead of Sheep)" (Crosby & Clooney)  
"Choreography" (Kaye)  
"The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing (reprise)" (Kaye & Chorus)  
"Abraham" (instrumental)  
"Love, You Didn't Do Right By Me" (Clooney)  
"What Can You Do with a General?" (Crosby)  
"The Old Man (reprise)" (Crosby & Men's Chorus)  
"Gee, I Wish I Was Back in the Army" (Crosby, Kaye, Clooney & Stevens)  
"White Christmas (finale)" (Crosby, Kaye, Clooney, Stevens & Chorus)

All songs were written by Irving Berlin. The centrepiece of the film is the title song, first used in *Holiday Inn*, which won that film an Oscar for Best Original Song in 1942. In addition, "Count Your Blessings" earned the picture its own Oscar nomination in the same category.

The song "Snow" was originally written for *Call Me Madam* with the title "Free", but was dropped in out-of-town try-outs. The melody and some of the words were kept, but the lyrics were changed to be more appropriate for a Christmas movie. For example, one of the lines of the original song is:

Free – the only thing worth fighting for is to be free.  
Free – a different world you'd see if it were left to me.

A composer's demo of the original song can be found on the CD Irving Sings Berlin.

Rosemary Clooney as Betty Haynes and Bing Crosby as Bob Wallace

The song "What Can You Do with a General?" was originally written for an un-produced project called Stars on My Shoulders.

Trudy Stevens provided the singing voice for Vera-Ellen, including in "Sisters". (The first edition of Vera-Ellen's biography by David Soren made the mistake of suggesting that "perhaps" Clooney sang for Vera in "Sisters". The second edition of the biography corrected that error by adding this: "Appropriately, they sing "Sisters" with Rosemary Clooney actually dueting with Trudy Stabile (wife of popular bandleader Dick Stabile), who sang under the stage name Trudy Stevens and who had been personally recommended for the dubbing part by Clooney. Originally, Gloria Wood was going to do Vera-Ellen's singing until Clooney intervened on behalf of her friend.") It was not possible to issue an "original soundtrack album" of the film, because Decca Records controlled the soundtrack rights, but Clooney was under exclusive contract with Columbia Records. Consequently, each company issued a separate "soundtrack recording": Decca issuing Selections from Irving Berlin's White Christmas, while Columbia issued Irving Berlin's White Christmas. On the former, the song "Sisters" (as well as all of Clooney's vocal parts) was recorded by Peggy Lee, while on the latter, the song was sung by Clooney and her own sister, Betty.

Berlin wrote "A Singer, A Dancer" for Crosby and his planned co-star Fred Astaire; when Astaire became unavailable, Berlin re-wrote it as "A Crooner – A Comic" for Crosby and Donald O'Connor, but when O'Connor left the project, so did the song. Another song written by Berlin for the film was "Sittin' in the Sun (Countin' My Money)" but because of delays in production Berlin decided to publish it independently. Crosby and Kaye also recorded another Berlin song ("Santa Claus") for the opening WWII Christmas Eve show scene, but it was not used in the final film. Their recording of the song survives, however, and can be found on the Bear Family Records 7-CD set titled Come On-A My House.

**Note: Not Available for Purchase, Rent or Loan – Private Collection – Reference ONLY**

