

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

**BOB WALLACE** – (late 20's to mid 30's) 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 superb singer with a crooning style who moves very well. Baritone.

**PHIL DAVIS** – (late 20's to mid 30's) The fun-loving, go-getting song-and-dance partner of the team of 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—a song-and-dance comic performer. Bari-Tenor.

**BETTY HAYNES** – (mid to late 20's) 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.

**JUDY HAYNES** – (early 20's) 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—a major song-and-dance performer. Chest Mix.

**GENERAL HENRY WAVERLY** – (late 50's to mid 60's) 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 an 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.

- With the exception of one line, a non-singing role.

**MARTHA WATSON** – (late 40's to mid 60's) Once a Broadway star, now the general's housekeeper at the Inn, Martha has a very dry, wry, wisecracking sense of humor. Bighearted but completely 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.

**SUSAN WAVERLY** – (9-12 years old to play 9 years old) The General's granddaughter, Susan is a lovable and outgoing real kid. She is very smart, wise beyond her years, and cares deeply about her grandfather. Once bitten hard by the showbiz bug, she demonstrates everything that is winning in the ultimate child performer.

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

**RALPH SHELDRAKE** – (mid to late 30's) Army buddy of Bob and Phil's, now a major television executive with the Ed Sullivan Show. Fast-talking, New York professional.

- A Baritone.

**RITA AND RHODA** – (mid 20's to early 30's) Bob and Phil's two star chorus girls, they are brash, sexy, and fun, although perhaps not the smartest.

EZEKIEL FOSTER – (mid 40's to late 50's) The ultimate taciturn New Englander, who helps out at the inn and takes life at a very slow pace. Can be double-cast with the role of SNORING MAN.

MIKE – (mid 20's to late 30's) 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. Can be double cast with the role of ED SULLIVAN ANNOUNCER.

### ENSEMBLE ROLES

TESSIE – Bob and Phil's extremely competent assistant. Can be double cast with the role of ASSISTANT SEAMSTRESS.

JIMMY – The proprietor of "Jimmy's Back Room," a none-too-classy nightclub.

CIGARETTE GIRL

SNORING MAN

MRS. SNORING MAN – Can be double cast with the role of SEAMSTRESS

TRAIN CONDUCTOR

DANCE CAPTAIN

SEAMSTRESS

ASSISTANT SEAMSTRESS

ED SULLIVAN ANNOUNCER

REGENCY ROOM ANNOUNCER (OFFSTAGE VOICE)

SHELDRAKE'S SECRETARY (OFFSTAGE VOICE)

ENSEMBLE: Male & female ensemble of dancers. Early 20's to Mid 30's. Must be equally strong in ballroom, jazz and tap. Must sing very well. This is 1950's Hollywood movie musical dancing. Covers for principle roles will come from this ensemble. The ensemble will, over the course of the show, play:

- "JIMMY'S BACK ROOM" CLUBGOERS
- TRAIN PASSENGERS / INN GUESTS
- CHORUS KIDS
- PATRONS OF THE REGENCY ROOM