IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

An angel helps a compassionate but despairingly frustrated businessman by showing what life would have been like if he never existed.

Release date December 20, 1946
Directed by Frank Capra
Screenplay by Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Jo Swerling, Frank Capra -- Based on "The Greatest Gift" by Philip Van Doren Stern
Music by Dimitri Tiomkin
Cinematography by Joseph Walker

STARRING:

James Stewart as George Bailey
Donna Reed as Mary Hatch Bailey
Lionel Barrymore as Henry F. Potter
Henry Travers as Clarence Odbody
Beulah Bondi as Mrs. Bailey
Frank Faylen as Ernie Bishop
Samuel S. Hinds as Peter Bailey
Gloria Grahame as Violet Bick
H. B. Warner as Mr. Gower
Todd Karns as Harry Bailey
Lillian Randolph as Annie
Ward Bond as Bert

FUN FACTS:

1. Filming started on April 15, 1946 and ended on July 27, 1946, exactly on deadline.

2. *It's a Wonderful Life* was nominated for five Oscars without winning any, but the film has since been recognized by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 best American films ever made, and placed number one on AFI's most inspirational American films of all time.

3. Vincent Price was considered for the role of Mr. Potter; Ginger Rogers and Jean Arthur for the role of Mary, and Cary Grant for the role of George Bailey.

4. In 1947, an FBI analyst submitted, an addition to a running memo on "Communist infiltration of the motion picture industry," recording the opinion of an industry source who said that the film's "obvious" attempt to discredit bankers "is a common trick used by Communists."

5. There are only two surviving locations from the film. The first is the swimming pool. It is located in the gymnasium at Beverly Hills High School and is still in operation as of 2008. The second is the "Martini home", at 4587 Viro Road in La Cañada Flintridge, California.