

â??Itâ??s a Wonderful Lifeâ??: 16 Surprising Facts on the Filmâ??s 70th Anniversary

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

This is one of my all-time favorite holiday films!

TheWrap takes a look at some fun trivia about â??Itâ??s a Wonderful Lifeâ?• directed by Frank Capra, courtesy of Alonso Duralde, IMDb and Old Hollywood biographer Robert Matzen in his new book, â??Mission: Jimmy Stewart and the Fight for Europe.

From Beatrice Verhoeven and Alonso Duralde, provided by The Wrap

According to Alonso Duraldeâ??s book, â??Have Yourself a Very Movie Christmas,â?• Uncle Billy actor Thomas Mitchell was actually considered to play Mr. Potter, but Lionel Barrymore got the role because of his popularity after radio versions of â??A Christmas Carol.â?•

Jimmy the Raven appeared in Capraâ??s â??You Canâ??t Take It With Youâ?• (1938) and other post-â??Wonderful Lifeâ?• Capra movies.

The film was such a financial disappointment that it busted Capraâ??s production company, Liberty Films.

â??Itâ??s a Wonderful Lifeâ?• was the first and last time Capra produced, financed, directed and co-wrote a film.

The original screenplay began with a scene in Benjamin Franklinâ??s workshop in heaven.

Yes, Bert and Ernie from â??Sesame Streetâ?• have the same names as the cop and the cab driver in â??Itâ??s a Wonderful Life.â?• But itâ??s just a coincidence, â??Muppetâ?• insiders have claimed.

Itâ??s a Wonderful Lifeâ?• was Jimmy Stewartâ??s first picture after 20 months on the front lines of WWII. He was suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder while filming.

IMDb â? Wonderful Lifeâ?• was ranked as the #1 Most Inspiration Movie of All by the American Film Institute in 2006.

to originate from a greeting card.

James Stewart has said that while filming the scene in which George prays in the bar, he began to sob and later, Capra re-framed the now much closer shot to capture his expression. Thatâ??s why the shot appears grainy compared to the rest of the film.



Nick the Bartender (left) in a scene from *Itâ??s a Wonderful Life.* (Photo via Bost*onhassle.com)*

Actor and producer Sheldon Leonard said that he only agreed to play Nick the bartender so he could buy baseball tickets with his paycheck.

Robert J. Anderson said H.B. Warner really was drunk in the scene in which Mr. Gower slaps George. The real slaps caused real blood to ooze out of Andersonâ??s ear. After the cameras stopped rolling, he comforted Anderson.

(Source: Excerpt from http://m.chron.com)

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