

Treatment

Jimmy Comes March Home

(Feature)

by

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Logline: Jimmy Stewart, fresh from the horrors of aerial combat missions over Germany in WWII, returns to Hollywood, a place that he no longer recognizes, and apparently no longer wants him. The big question: Can the seemingly idyllic Fonda family and their farm provide the environment Stewart needs to recover? Having rejected Mayer's attempts to get him back into the MGM fold, will Stewart accept Frank Capra's offer to star in a film that everyone says is going to fail? Does Stewart have a chance to heal his war wounds and resurrect his Hollywood career?

Synopsis:

Jimmy Stewart, fresh from the horrors of aerial bombing missions in WWII, returns to Hollywood, a place that he no longer recognizes. No longer the same Oscar-winning "Bon Vivant" actor squiring around starlets pre-WWII, Jimmy not only has recurring nightmares, and undiagnosed severe PTSD, but is returning to a Hollywood that has moved on and no longer wants him.

Refusing to return to Mayer's studio factory of manufactured stars, and not willing to do movies that capitalize on his WWII heroism and bombing missions over Berlin, he finds himself with suicidal thoughts, and tremendous guilt at having survived the war when many of his fellow comrades didn't. Fortunately for Stewart, he has an open-ended invitation to live in Jane and Peter Fonda's "dollhouse" in back of best pal Henry Fonda's sprawling 24-acre ranch in Brentwood. Caught between the living and the dead and an unknown future in Hollywood, Stewart has to navigate a new world in both his personal and

professional life, while trying to heal from the horrors of bombing missions over Germany.

His only saving grace, besides the nurturing Fonda family environment in best friend Hank's Brentwood "farm," is that there is one offer in Hollywood that might just save his career and his life. Old pal and frequent collaborator Oscar-winning director Frank Capra wants to meet with Stewart to convince him to star in a film that would change both of their destinies and their post-WWII Hollywood careers—the fantasy film *It's a Wonderful Life*. Will Stewart take the gamble and make a film that no one is betting on, produced by Capra's own newly formed Liberty Pictures, or succumb to the horrors of the memories of his wartime experiences and a Hollywood machine that has moved on without him?

MAIN CAST:

JAMES STEWART (JIMMY) – A movie star that has been floundering since he's returned home from WWII. He's haunted by memories of fellow pilots who had died, not sure if he wants to act anymore, and not sure if he's ever going to fly again.

FRANK CAPRA – An Oscar-winning director who is determined at all costs to have Jimmy Stewart star as George Bailey in an upcoming fantasy-drama *It's a Wonderful Life*. Jimmy is reluctant.

MARY ROBERTS – Capra's overly efficient secretary, that wants to see her boss back in business but is also a huge Jimmy Stewart fan.

HENRY FONDA (HANK) – A movie star. Cold and distant with his family, he was Stewart's lifelong best friend. Father of Peter and Jane. He lets Stewart stay in Jane's "dollhouse" when he moves back to Hollywood.

FRANCES FONDA (Frances Ford Seymour Brokaw Fonda) – A vivacious, troubled socialite. Possessive of Henry, addicted to sleeping pills, but trying her best to make a happy family environment for Peter and Jane.

LELAND HAYWARD – Jimmy’s former agent turned producer. Leland was married to the love of Jimmy’s life, actress Margaret Sullivan, but still unofficially acting as Jim’s agent. He tells Jimmy no one wants to hire him.

JANE FONDA – Henry and Frances’s daughter, 9 years old. Reluctant to share the guesthouse with Uncle Jimmy.

PETER FONDA – Henry and Frances’s son, 6 years old. Doesn’t believe in Santa Claus. Jimmy will convince him otherwise.

Ginger Rogers – CAMEO

Lana Turner – CAMEO

Olivia DeHavilland – CAMEO

The “MGM girls” and Olivia who is in the middle of a well-publicized lawsuit with Warner Bros. The girls come over to say “hello” to Jimmy, not seeing him since he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1941. They are dining at Formosa Café.