

REMAKE

BY DAVID OWEN

"It's a Wonderful Life" (2003): The sentimental tale of George Bailey, who has selflessly dedicated his life to his family and his beloved Bedford Falls. It's George's seventy-fifth birthday and his fiftieth wedding anniversary, and he has just announced to a large gathering of friends that he is turning over the presidency of his thriving Chevrolet dealership to his forty-year-old adopted son and only child, George, Jr., who, on this same evening, has married, finally, a considerably younger and stunningly beautiful former homecoming queen, who, a moment ago, whispered to George and his adored and adoring wife, Mary, that she is eager to begin producing grandchildren. George, full of happiness, steps away from the crowd, and, alone on a terrace, looks up in wonder at the star-filled sky, thanks God for his astonishing good fortune, and, feeling a tap on his shoulder, turns and meets Clarence Oddbody, an angel (second class), who has been sent to Earth to earn his wings. Clarence asks George if he would be interested in knowing what Bedford Falls would be like today if George had never been born, and George, who has occasionally permitted himself, with uncharacteristic though justifiable pride, to wonder this very thing, says he would. They set off on foot, and George spots a young man in uniform who—can it be?—looks exactly like a private from the platoon George led in Korea, a private who died in the ambush that led to George's being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, for repelling an enemy attack single-handed after ripping a machine gun from the back of an overturned jeep and dragging the private's dead body back to a secure position with his teeth. The man in uniform, it turns out, is the grandson of the dead private—who didn't die after all, because the platoon, without George to lead it, didn't go on patrol that day and instead lolled around playing cards until lights-out. On the

next block, where Bailey Chevrolet ought to be, George sees the Potter Medical Center, inside which George, Jr.—although that's not his name, since he was adopted not by George and Mary but by a guy who, George realizes, once worked briefly in his body shop—discovered the cure for cancer a few days ago, to the delight of his beautiful wife, a theoretical physicist and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, and their three lovely children, the eldest of whom just skipped straight from seventh grade to ninth grade and loves to go fishing with his grandpa. The hospital turns out to have been built by and named for Henry F. Potter, Bedford Falls' richest man, whom George has always thought of as a "money-grubbing buzzard" and foreign-car driver but who, under the benevolent influence of his wife, Mary—yes, George's own Mary, who looks fitter, better dressed, and ten years younger than she did at the party George just left—has devoted the past fifty years to giving away his fortune and paying besotted attention to the five lovely daughters whom Mary, fertile after all, bore him. One of those daughters is now the mayor of Bedford Falls; one is an astronaut; one is the chief executive of a global software company that has never enriched its top executives with unfairly priced stock options; one is a chemist, who just came up with an easy way to reverse global warming; and the youngest, Zuzu, is the President of the United States. Last week, Zuzu negotiated a sweeping disarmament treaty with the world's other nuclear powers, and earlier today she announced that the federal government would stop collecting income taxes, because the Treasury is full. George swoons. When he recovers, Clarence hands him a revolver, tips his hat, and strolls down the street, whistling. As the scene fades to black, we hear a single gunshot, followed, in the distance, by the tinkling of a bell. (PG, English, Color) ♦

QVC is proud to join Circle of Friends, an initiative designed to raise awareness about the toll tobacco-related disease takes on women, and the importance of offering support to loved ones trying to quit smoking.

In America today, one out of every five women is a smoker. Quitting isn't easy, but evidence shows that when friends are there to help each other, they're more likely to succeed.



The Circle of Friends Sunburst represents a new movement of people joining together in support of women struggling with tobacco addiction. Now you can help shine light on this important cause by wearing the Sunburst Pin. Created by world-renowned jewelry designer Angela Cummings, the sterling silver Sunburst Pin is now available exclusively through QVC for \$16.00 (shipping and handling \$3.97).

A portion* of the sale price from each pin will help fund services for women who are dedicated to living smoke-free lives, both for their own sake, and for the sake of their families and friends.



Circle of Friends

Uniting To Be Smoke-Free

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