C2340 CALL ME CLAUS (USA, 12/2/2001) [TV]

Credits: director, Peter Werner; writers, Sara Bernstein, Gregory Bernstein, Brian Bird; story, Paul Mooney, Sara Bernstein, Gregory Bernstein.

Cast: Whoopi Goldberg, Nigel Hawthorne, Brian Stokes Mitchell.

Summary: Comedy set in contemporary Los Angeles. When Lucy Cullins (Goldberg) was a child, she asked Santa to bring her father back from Vietnam. When her family got home, there were two soldiers waiting to inform them of her father’s death. For Lucy, this event triggered a lifelong cynicism about Christmas. Thirty years later, she has become a producer of Christmas infomercials for the Shop-a-Lot channel, hawking tacky holiday tchotchkes to the masses. When she hires an actor named Nick (Hawthorne) to play Santa Claus on the network she gets more than she bargained for. Nick really is Santa Claus, and he faces mandatory retirement after 200 years on the job. Nick must find his replacement by Christmas Eve or the world will face dire consequences. He has his sights set on Lucy. In publicity statements for the film, Goldberg remarks on the influence of Walter Cronkite’s Christmas Eve broadcasts during the Vietnam War on her thinking about Christmas as a child.
Pennington, Gail. “This Santa is challenged by a retirement clause” St. Louis post-dispatch (Dec 2, 2001), A&E, p. G4.
Pierce, Scott D. “Whoopi! She’s Santa; Goldberg plays Claus in made-for-cable movie” Deseret news [Salt Lake City, UT] (Nov 28, 2001), Business, p. C8.
Sherrow, Rita. “‘Frosty’ returns; Whoopi becomes Santa” Tulsa world (Nov 30, 2001), Spot, p. 23.
Storm, Jonathan. “Claus call; Goldberg takes reindeer reins in Nick of time for holidays” Houston chronicle (Nov 30, 2001), Houston, p. 10.

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