

Another Miracle

Tonight while watching the first snow of the season continue to fall, I checked the tv listings and discovered two movies that piqued my interest: *Santa Claus The Movie* and the 1973 made-for-television version of *Miracle on 34th Street*. Since I have seen Santa Claus (the rather disappointing movie made by Alexander Salkind, producer of the Christopher Reeve Superman films), I decided to check out one of at least 2 remakes of the 1947 classic. It is a virtual who's who of 1970s television stars. [Sabastian Cabot](#) (Mr. French from Family Affair), Tom Bosley (Mr. C from Happy Days), [David Hartman](#) (whom I remember as the co-host of Good Morning America back in the day... can't say much for his acting ability), Jim Backus (Thurston Howell III and Mr. Magoo, himself), [Roddy McDowell](#), and David Doyle (Bosley from the Charlie's Angels tv series) were just a few of the actors that made the whole thing seem like a bad Love Boat/Fantasy Island episode. I think the best thing about watching remakes is the fun in which one can have discussing the merits of the different versions. I must correct myself; there are actually a total of 4 remakes. Three television versions (1955, 1959, and 1973) as well as the 1994 theatrical version.

One tidbit I learned from [imdb.com](#), Mr. Cabot had to shave the trademark beard from his role on Family Affair and wear an "official" Kris Kringle beard. Another tidbit... upon the release of the [1994 version](#), 20th Century Fox offered a complete refund for anyone who did not enjoy the film. Over 1500 tickets were refunded. Not sure how many were legitimate refunds or if they just had a bunch of Scrooges. One thing is clear... one should not mess with an original.

Now if I could just locate a copy of that FINE classically bad classic [Santa Claus Conquers the Martians](#). I've seen bits of this what I am sure is a totally misunderstood gem but have never seen it in its entirety.