

Monday, December 9 - Sunday, December 15



"Detroit: Santa Isn't Coming to Town???", a locally produced half-hour Christmas special featuring Detroit-area celebrities, airs Monday, December 16, at 8 p.m. on WJBK-TV 2.

The story unfolds when Santa Claus, played by WOMC-FM morning personality Tom Ryan, announces that he is skipping this year's Detroit Thanksgiving Parade due to a severe economic crunch at the North Pole. Instead, Santa has accepted an offer of "a million billion dollars" to appear in a Thanksgiving Parade in a foreign country.

Stunned city officials begin interviewing possible replacements for Santa, including a deadpan Maurice "Mr. Belvedere" Lezell practicing his best "ho, ho, ho." In the meantime, four local children take matters into their own hands, inviting Santa to come to Detroit on a fact-finding mission with hopes of changing his mind.

The kids escort Santa around town, showing him such highlights as Belle Isle and taking him to see local celebrities who try to convince him to appear in the Detroit parade. The final stop on the tour is a visit to the home of Santa's favorite baseball announcer Ernie Harwell for a last-ditch pitch.

As Santa struggles with the dilemma of disappointing the children of Detroit or taking the million billion dollars, he is reminded by one of the kids that Christmas is about giving, not getting. The story concludes with TV news coverage of the Detroit Thanksgiving Parade, revealing the outcome of Santa's decision.

"Detroit: Santa Isn't Coming to Town???" was written and produced by Tom Delisle and shot at locations in and around Detroit by TV 2 photographer Bob Berg.

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