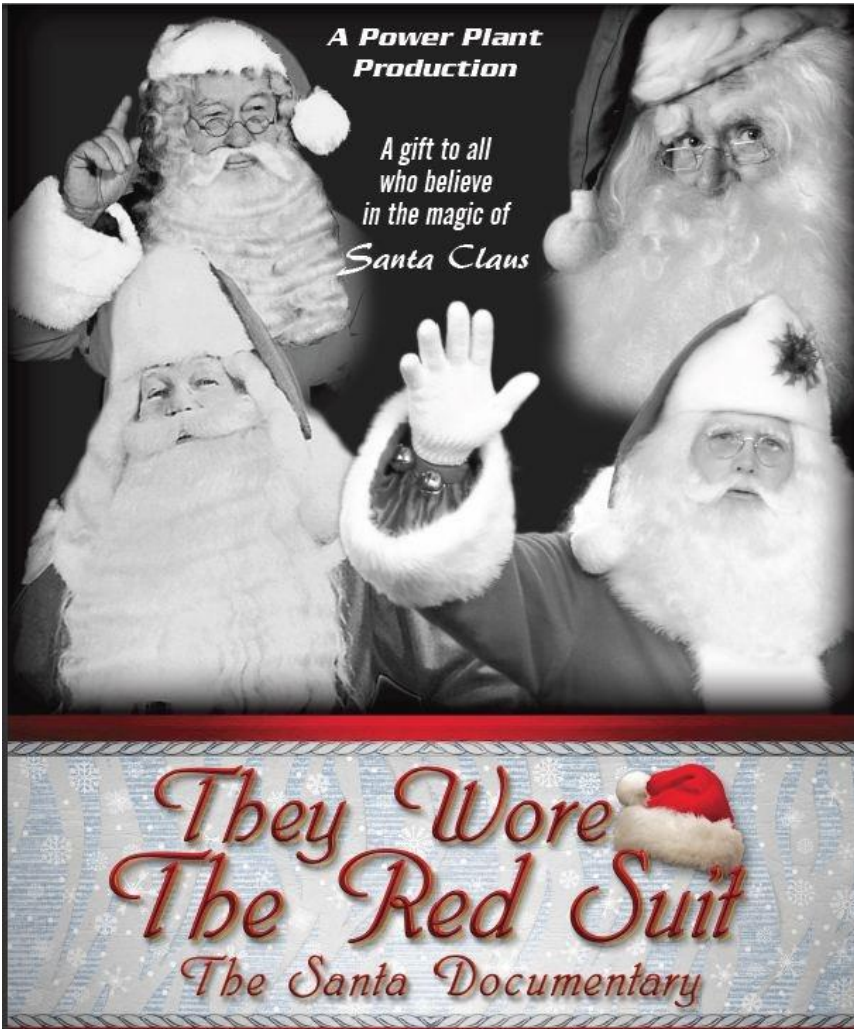


## *They Wore The Red Suit*



They Wore The Red Suit - Top left Jim Yellig of Santa Claus, IN, top right James D. Rielly of Bristol, RI, bottom left Charles W. Howard of Albion, NY, and bottom right Phillip L. Wenz of Crescent City, IL.

Every year, tens of thousands don the Red Suit for parties, parades, family, and events...but only a few have devoted their entire lives to actually *being* the Jolly Old Elf. ***They Wore The Red Suit*** is the story of those rare individuals who bring the living magic of Santa to us every day of the year. Paying tribute to the original career-Santa, the legendary Jim Yellig (1894-1984) of Santa Claus Land, IN, you will discover how his portrayal of Santa helped to define the American Santa Claus image we know today.

The documentary will also look at Charles W. Howard (1896-1966), the other legendary Santa of the 20th century. His teachings have had a lasting impact on the folklore of the Santa Claus tradition. Howard had a larger perspective on Santa as an industry by developing the first Santa Claus School in Albion, New York. He was also the Macy's parade Santa in New York City for 18 years.

Howard and Yellig only met once, at a Santa School in Santa Claus, IN in 1938. Recently discovered documents and photos from that historic meeting have been uncovered and is a part of the rich history of the Santa industry. We will also examine the Santa Claus Oath that is dedicated to both these men and the impact the Oath has on the Santa Clauses of today.

This film will examine the legend, the vocation, and the industry of Santa Claus. You will visit Santa conventions, Santa schools, and Santa meetings. You will also hear from the only man who learned the Art of Being Santa directly from the master Santa Jim Yellig; Phillip L. Wenz of Crescent City, IL.

Professional Santa Phillip L. Wenz has been Santa at Santa's Village theme park in Dundee, IL for over 25 years, the longest fulltime year-round career of any living Santa. The overall length of his career is second only to Jim Yellig's 38 years as Santa at Santa Claus Land, IN. As author of the Santa Claus Oath, Wenz is one of the original 14 charter members, along with Yellig and Howard, of the International Santa Claus Hall of Fame. His knowledge of the Santa legend and profession is unmatched, as is his dedication to the vocation.

Learn about a Rhode Island community Santa, James D. Rielly (1908-1991) who for 60 years at Christmas time entertained at military bases, orphanages, schools, and hospitals. You will meet some of today's Santas from across the nation and find out what compels a man to don the Red Suit seasonally at Christmas? You'll hear stories that will bring laughter, tears, and awe narrated by the Santas themselves. ***They Wore The Red Suit*** is a gift to all who believe in the magic of Santa Claus.

***They Wore The Red Suit*** was produced by Power Plant Productions in conjunction with the National Documentary Association and was released in March of 2013 to theaters and film festivals. It will also be released nationally to television stations around North America in November of 2013.