Strange Career by Schadenfreude

Solution

Extra letters from wordplay give ROLE, ACTOR’S NAME, NAME OF CO-STAR. Missing letters from wordplay give IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE (cells highlighted here for information only), a film starring JAMES STEWART (replacing his role GEORGE BAILEY in the leading diagonal) and DONNA REED (highlighting required). Note that the second A in BAAED was L in the preliminary grid.

Clue Notes

Clues with letters missing from wordplay shown in bold. Letter shown in front of clue number.

Additional letters from wordplay shown in lower case.

ACROSS

1R GOANNA (GrOAN+A) around N
I5 ADDIOS (A+D+OS) around D
T10 ELATED E+(LAD around E)
12O AIRT A+TRlo<
13L BOOBED I00 in (B+BED)
A14 NYSSA NYS +S
15E BRER R in BEeR
17A NERNST RaN in NEST
19C EATING E+AcTING
O21 DONNEE [N(Umerologists)+NEED]*
D22 DRAGEE RAGEE (2 defs)
25T EMOSS E+MB+tOSS
29O ERATO (UNSTABL)E +RATOo
30R BRANTLE [BR+LEArNT]*
33S UNTHEARD [sHUT+(G)ARDEN]*
35N IAIN IN around AnI
F36 FEAGUE (L)EAGUE
37A GILLS iIl in GaS
38M FITT FIT in mT (Montana)
39E LEVEES E for N(INE) in eLEVENS
E40 ASTERIDS ASS around DIRT<

DOWN

1N GABBED [B+BAnged]*
2A ALOSES ALa+O(LIV)E+S
3M NAB mAN<+B
4E AEDES (SEA< around DEe
5O ADORED DoER< after (A+DO)
6F DONNA DON(E)+[fAN]*
R7 DAYSTARS [AS+A+ST(U)DY]*
S8 ORSON ON after OR (Welles/Hayworth)
W9 STAW S+TA
11C TENGES ENG in SEcT<
16O ROOM (O+M) in ROo
N18 ANON A+ON
20S GEOGNOSY GEO+Gs+NOSY
23T READIER tREADER around I
E24 ETUIS TUI'S
26A BATATA aBA+TAT+A
27R SLEEST ELS<+rEST
L28 BEAGLE B+EAGE(R)
I30 BUFFI BUFF (2 defs)
U31 TRUSS TR+S+S
L32 BALED A in BED
F34 NEIF (I+EN)<