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# For an extra dose of cheer, spirit: holiday video rentals will fit the bill

Christmas is less than a month away, and favorite holiday films are available at local video stores. Anticipating another prosperous holiday season, video store employees broadly display Christmas classics as well as new favorites. The holiday season means money for the video rental industry, due to vacationing students and holiday-inspired sentimentality.

Sonia Combs, Blockbuster Video employee, said the most popular movie rentals during the Christmas season are *Miracle on 34th Street*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *White Christmas* and *A Christmas Story*.

*Miracle on 34th Street* is the classic film starring Nathalie Wood as a little girl who discovers Santa Claus working at Macy's. Her mother, however, is not convinced that Mr. Kringle is the real thing. Ultimately, Santa must prove himself in court before



Photo by Sean Poston

The most popular of Christmas classics are available for rent at most local video stores.

a cynical American public.

*It's A Wonderful Life* is a classic fable of small town life, directed by the master of Americana, Frank Capra. Jimmy Stewart is George Bailey, a solid citizen of Bedford Falls, who finds himself facing financial ruin just before

Christmas.

Overwhelmed by guilt and self-pity, he wishes he had never been born. A guardian angel, played by Lionel Barrymore, grants him his wish. He shows George what Bedford Falls would be like if he had never existed. Nominated for five Academy Awards, *It's A Wonderful Life* is a wonderful film in which a man discovers the value of family.

Blockbuster offers the colored version for \$9.95; die hard movie fans can buy the original uncut version for \$19.95.

Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye sing Irving Berlin tunes in *White Christmas*. The title song, an American anthem, is one of many in the entertaining story of two song-and-dance men who join up with a sister act and spend Christmas in Vermont.

*A Christmas Story* has been recently deemed a classic, said an employee of Premiere Video. The "hilarious" film stars Peter Billingsley as Ralphie Parker, growing up in 1940s Indiana, with parents who just don't understand the importance of his getting a BB gun for Christmas. The movie follows Ralphie's efforts to defeat the dreaded "you'll shoot your eye out" philosophy of the older generation.

Other videos available include television classics like *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, and *Frosty the Snowman*.

*National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, starring Chevy Chase as the ill-fated Clark Griswold, is another popular rental at Blockbuster Video. The film satires Clark's holiday-from-hell, with visits from repulsive relatives and an exploding turkey.

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is available in its 1938 black-and-white version, in addition to the Bill Murray version, *Scrooged*. Murray stars as Dickens' miser, who is visited by the ghosts of present, past and future.

The ultimate anti-Christmas film is also available, but it is not in the holiday section. *Silent Night, Deadly Night*, a rip-off of John Carpenter's *Halloween*, follows the murderous rampage of Billy, dressed as Santa Claus. Billy reappears in the film's sequel, and his crazy brother is the killer in the latest version.

—Katy Lain

Tuesday, December 4, 1990



# BASEMENT



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