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Holiday Flicks

HOLIDAY MOVIE IDEAS

For those among you who believe cuddling up to a warm television set is better than cuddling up to a fire or a loved one, this list is for you.

Perhaps you're overwhelmed by the sheer bulk of holiday offerings available as soon as the weather turns cold. I suggest you take a long walk among the newly fallen leaves and watch the breath come out of your mouth as you spend time with an important person.

In lieu of that, we have the following suggested holiday movies. One important note. You will not find *It's a Wonderful Life* on this list. Everyone has seen it already, and it's overrated besides. The list that follows aren't all the best choices aesthetically speaking but provide a myriad of choices for all the moods of winter.

A Christmas Story: Say what you will, but this is my all-time favorite seasonal movie. It tells the simple story of a young boy who only wants a Red Ryder BB gun. His request is always met with the same response: "You'll shoot your eye out." It's hilarious any time of the year with great period flavor for the 1940s although produced in 1983. It's based in part on Jean Shepherd's book *In God We Trust, All Others*



Most local video stores have a vast collection of holiday movies filmed over the years.

Photo by Dylan Coulter

It is my hope that your time spent is in a manner that reminds you of the best things in life.

Pay Cash: If you haven't seen it, make sure you do.

Ernest Saves Christmas: In case you can't follow the difficult plot progressions of the Christmas episode of *Three's Company*, then this is the movie for you. Like the title character, the movie is goofy, manic and harmless. If you can keep from being too embarrassed

to rent this, you might be pleasantly surprised.

Home Alone: A crazy, unbelievable story about a boy who is left at home by his forgetful parents. While the family goes to Europe for the holidays, young Macaulay Culkin remains at the homestead viciously fighting off two burglars.

Scrooged: This hilarious take on Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* has Bill Murray perfectly cast as the Scrooge-like character who is a modern-day, top-level television executive. It's a little bitter and vulgar for your grandparents, perhaps, but in its own way, it gets the message through. There's not a lot of warmth in this picture, but a lot of laughs for

those with a cynical view of the season of joy.

Miracle on 34th Street: And you thought I only watched color movies. I'll admit, I'm a sucker for this movie in which a kindly old man takes a free-thinking young girl who questions authority and sets her straight in line with the beliefs of the rest of society. It may be a bad message, but it's a great movie.

Simpsons Christmas Special: I can pick this because it's available on tape. This special premiered before the actual show did. It's funny, sad, derivative, hard-edged and is a new Christmas tradition in my home. Any-

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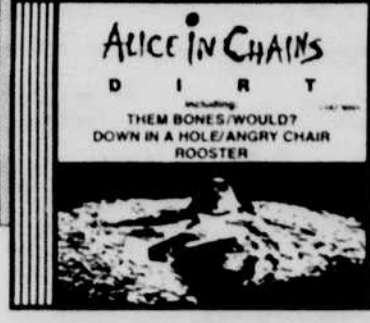
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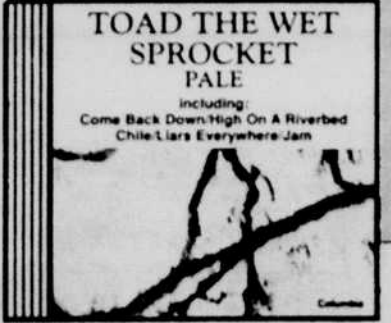
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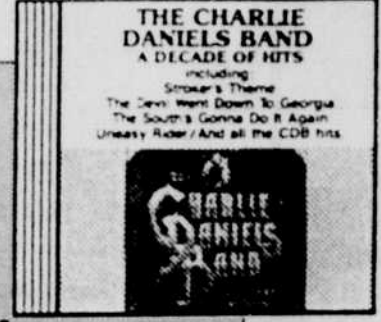
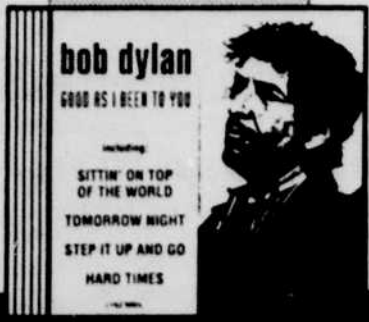


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