

# Holiday

## MOVIE LINEUP



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he holiday season brings many traditions, including holiday baking, decorating and parties. But when the day is done, continue the holiday cheer by cozing up on the couch with a great holiday movie.

Alone or surrounded by your favorite people, here is a sampling of holiday movies you should watch at least once.

### ANIMATED

**A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965):** Follow the whole Peanuts gang as Charlie Brown tries to understand what Christmas is all about.

**The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993):** A Tim Burton holiday masterpiece follows Jack, a skeleton bored with his own holiday of Halloween, who tries on Christmas for size.

**How the Grinch Stole Christmas (two versions) (1966 and 2000):** Incomparable and fantastic in their own way, both will undoubtedly make your heart grow three sizes.

**The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992):** If you ever doubted that Kermit the Frog and Charles Dickens could create magic, this film is here to prove otherwise. Kermit as Bob Cratchit and Michael Cain as Ebenezer Scrooge make this film a casting win.

**Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964):** This stop-motion animation is a classic. It's time to introduce a whole new generation to Rudolf and his misfit friends.

**The Polar Express (2004):** This recent classic features breathtaking animation and Tom Hanks as the voice over for several characters, following a young boy on a train ride to the North Pole.

### FEEL-GOOD FAMILY MOVIES

**A Christmas Story (1983):** We all had that one toy we wanted desperately as a child. For Ralphie Parker, this was the Red Ryder carbine action 200-shot range model air rifle with a compass in the stock and "this thing which tells time."

**National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989):** Clark Griswold has big holiday plans. But like most plans, things don't go as expected. In other words, disaster, Griswold style.

**Home Alone (1990):** Left at home at Christmas by mistake, Kevin McCallister is left to fight off two reckless burglars with creative pranks only a child could imagine.

**The Family Man (2000):** One Christmas night, Jack wakes to find

his lavish bachelor lifestyle replaced with the life he would have had, had he stayed with his college sweetheart. Think a modern twist of the "what if" plot of "It's a Wonderful Life."

**The Santa Clause (1994):** Tim Allen provides a whole new (comedic) possibility to the origins of Santa Clause.

**Prancer (1989):** A farm girl finds a wounded reindeer she believes is Prancer, hoping to nurse it back to health in time for Christmas.

### CLASSICS

**It's a Wonderful Life (1946):** George Bailey has a wonderful life, and he will leave you feeling like yours is pretty great, too.

**White Christmas (1954):** Starring Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney, two of the greats remembered year after year for their renditions of Christmas classics.

**Miracle on 34th Street (1947 and 1994):** It's OK to believe in Santa — after all, faith is what Christmas is all about.

## THE HOLIDAYS

### by the numbers

Our love of the holiday season can be measured in numbers — how we spend our money and how much we spend decorating our living spaces.

Here are **10 interesting details** about how we celebrate the holiday season.

- Christmas is the most observed federal holiday, with **94 percent** of Americans celebrating.
- The United States imported approximately **\$1 billion** worth of Christmas ornaments from China in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

• The average person **spent \$805** during December in 2015, according to the National Retail Federation. This is **up from \$681** in 2009 — the low experienced directly after the Great Recession.

• According to the National Retail Federation, almost **50 percent** of holiday shopping will happen online.

• Consumers try to keep their costs low by taking advantage of free shipping. According to the National Retail Federation, **93 percent** of online shoppers take advantage of free shipping on online orders, while **47 percent** of consumers stated that the offer of free shipping directly dictated where they would spend their dollars.

• Saving on shipping is a must when gift shopping. According to the National Retail Federation, spending on gifts surpasses food spending **six times** over.

• While people travel more for Thanksgiving, they are willing to travel further for Christmas. The average person travels **275 miles** for Christmas.

• According to the National Christmas Tree Association, approximately **26 million** live Christmas trees were purchased in 2015. Of these, **76 percent** were pre-cut, while **24 percent** were retrieved from people who prefer to cut their own.

• We all know retailers increase their staffs during the holiday season, but none more so than toy and game stores. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, toy and game retailers increase their staffs by **38 percent** during the holidays. This is more than double the increase of other retailers.

• **Seventy-seven percent** of consumers also treated themselves in 2015 while completing their holiday gift shopping.