

# TV Holiday Joy Means 'Wonderful Life,' Reba, Romance, Santa

Stations and streaming services line up old favorites alongside new fare

By Lynn Elber  
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LOS ANGELES — In need of a jolt of holiday joy? Or a comforting spot of romance or silliness or spirituality?

Television has you covered. There are classic old movies ("It's a Wonderful Life") and a sleigh full of new wannabes; Christmas carols galore; the majesty of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; and, for New Year's Eve homebodies, Manhattan's Times Square ball drop among the possibilities.

Here are some of the highlights to consider (all times EST):

**MOVIES:**

"The Christmas Chronicles," streaming now on Netflix. A scheme by a

sister and brother (Darby Camp, Judah Lewis) to get videotape of Santa (Kurt Russell) in action turns into a wild Christmas Eve. Oliver Hudson and Kimberly Williams-Paisley also star.

"Christmas at Pemberley Manor," 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, Hallmark. New York party planner Elizabeth Bennett (Jessica Lowndes) finds her plans for a small town's holiday festival threatened by a billionaire (Michael Rady) lacking good cheer. But, shades of Jane Austen, love may save the day.

"Holiday Inn," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, Turner Classic Movies. Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby star in this 1942 classic as entertainers who compete in romance.

"Santa's Boots," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, Lifetime. Holly (Megan Hilty) is trying to rescue her family's department store and solve the mystery of the handsome Santa (Noah Mills) who bolted, leaving only a boot.

"It's a Wonderful Life," 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, NBC. Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed star in Frank Capra's 1946 fable about appreciating one's life, whatever path it takes. Lionel Barrymore's Mr. Potter and Henry Travers' Clarence the angel are part of the journey.

**STOCKING STUFFERS**

"Great Performances: Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn — The Broadway Musical," 8:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, PBS. A stage



This image released by Freeform shows Francia Raisa, left, and Tyra Banks in a scene from "Life-Siz 2: A Christmas Eve," airing on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 9:00 - 11:00 p.m. EST/PST on Freeform.

## Film

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edged driver in the face of their racial and class differences. The movie represents a bit of a departure for director Peter Farrelly, whose name has long been associated with lowbrow comedies like *Dumb and Dumber*, *Shallow Hal* and *There's Something about Mary*.

The relatively-sophisticated "Green Book" proves to be far more reminiscent of "Driving Miss Daisy" (1989) than of Farrelly's earlier bottom-feeding fare. In fact,



'Green Book'

the palpable chemistry generated by co-stars Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen will not be forgotten by the Academy come Oscar season.

A touching biopic with a timely universal message about brotherhood

and tolerance.

Excellent ★★★★★

Rated PG-13 for violence, mature themes, profanity, racial slurs, smoking and suggestive material

adaptation of the 1942 movie features "White Christmas" and more of Berlin's score.

"A Charlie Brown Christmas," 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, ABC. Charles M. Schulz's timeless crew is back in the 1965 special that confronting the materialism of Christmas with the help of Linus and, less successfully, Lucy.

"Ken Jeong Cracks Christmas," Wednesday, Dec. 12, BuzzFeed's YouTube channel. The self-labeled holiday fanatic explores holiday

pop-culture myths and more with guests Angela Kinsey, Joel McHale and Harry Schum Jr.

"Lidia Celebrates America: A Heartland Holiday Feast," 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, PBS (check local listings). Renowned chef Lidia Bastianich hits the road to seek holiday inspiration from different cultures and regions.

"A Home for the Holidays: The 20th Anniversary," 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 21, CBS. The spotlight is again on adoptions of children in foster care, with families sharing

their stories and music stars providing the soundtrack.

"A Christmas Story Live!" 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, Fox. Maya Rudolph, Matthew Broderick and Jane Krakowski star in this repeat airing of the 2017 TV musical inspired by the 1983 movie and a Broadway production. Andy Walken plays BB-gun loving Ralphie.

**SOUNDS OF THE SEASON**

"CMA Country Christmas," 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, ABC. Host Reba

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