

# Films Classics to Rev Up Holiday Spirit

Families often have their own unique traditions when it comes to the holidays. Lately, families have begun to include films in many of those traditions. That's thanks largely to the array of classic holiday films that have consistently put people in the holiday mood. Among those classics are any of the following films.

\* "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989) - Led by an all-star cast including Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo, the Griswold family Christmas should be merry, but natu-

rally turns into a hilarious disaster. Look for appearances by "Seinfeld" veteran Julia Louis-Dreyfus and legendary comedienne Doris Roberts in supporting roles.

\* "A Christmas Story" (1983) -- Growing up in 1940s America, young Ralphie has his heart set on a Red Rider BB gun for Christmas, but it seems like Mom, teacher and even Santa are certain he'll "shoot his eye out" with such a gift. Will Ralphie find his heart's desire under the tree? Watch to find out.

\* "It's a Wonderful Life"

(1946) -- When distraught George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) meets a compassionate angel, he learns what life would have been like if he'd never existed. Holiday magic wins out in the end.

\* "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947) -- Another classic that can't be missed! When a man claiming to be Santa Claus is deemed insane, a young lawyer and a headstrong young girl come to his rescue.

\* "A Christmas Carol" (1951) -- Yet another movie that has spawned a series of more recent remakes. This one stars Alastair Sim as Mr. Scrooge, a bitter, miserly man who doesn't give a bah humbug about the holiday season. But will a haunting by three ghosts change his mind and ill will?

\* "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (1965) -- Charlie Brown is depressed and can't



Even Santa Claus carves out some time from his busy holiday schedule to watch some of his favorite holiday films.

find the Christmas spirit. When he is put in charge of the school's holiday pageant and comes in with a meager Christmas tree, the schoolkids ultimately learn about the true meaning of Christmas.

## Did You Know?

Though it might seem as though it's been around forever, the beloved holiday song "Frosty the Snowman" actually wasn't produced until 1950. Written by Jack Rollins and Steve Nelson, the song was first recorded by legendary country singer Jack Autry and the Cass County Boys. Once they finished penning the now classic Christmas tune, Rollins and Nelson shipped the lyrics to Autry, who just a year earlier achieved great success with another holiday favorite, "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." While Autry's version remained the most successful, and arguably most recognizable, version of "Frosty" for many years, its success in terms of charting was actually outdone just a year ago. However, the 2007 rendition by former American Idol partici-

pant Kimberly Locke reached #1 on the Billboard U.S. Hot Adult Contemporary chart.

The television adaptation of "Frosty the Snowman" remains a staple of the television schedule each holiday season.

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