

## The Corsair staff's favorite holiday movies

**"Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" (1991)**  
Sarah Richards, Editor-in-Chief

Even though this was not only a made-for-TV movie, but also produced by Hallmark, it was pure Capra-corn goodness. "Virginia" is about an eight-year-old Irish girl in the 1890s named Virginia O'Hanlon, who writes a letter to "The Sun" (the local newspaper), asking, "Is there a Santa Claus?" The fact that she was answered at all is a miracle, as most editors back then were not only men, but stressed-out curmudgeons. The response to this timeless question by reporter Franklin P. Church is one of the most touching editorials I've ever read. Sure, it's a double scoop of schmaltz, but couldn't we, in a world where there is so much ugliness, where the magic of childhood is so fleeting, use a little more of it?

**"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" (1964)**  
Omar Forty, layout editor

I remember watching this movie for the first time in our apartment in the Bronx, New York. It was a cold night, and the snow was falling over the city--all the hustle and bustle of the busiest city in America came to a halt when this movie came on. I remember my five siblings and I jamming onto a couch--either because we were trying to stay warm inside our cold apartment or because we were trying to get a good seat to watch this amazing movie. I have watched this every year since then. (Well, except when I was away on a deployment in the US Navy.)

**"Eight Crazy Nights" (2002)**  
Mae Flener, graphic designer

Growing up Jewish and with a family that has a sense of humor about themselves, this movie was kind of a staple growing up (especially since Chanukah movies don't really exist). Every year, all the kids in my family would sing our own rendition of Adam Sandler's Chanukah song "Put on your yarmulkes. It's time for Chanukah." Sandler stars in this animated musical about the spirit of no, not Christmas, but Chanukah. Despite its PG-13 rating, you would definitely balk at some of the inappropriate jokes and the amount of profanity used in this movie. What else would you expect from a Sandler movie? If you ever get tired of the usual Hallmark movies about Christmas, this is definitely something different to watch and a good way to learn about that crazy Jewish festival of lights.

**"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989)**  
Rachel Giordano, copy editor

This movie is a must-watch every year during Christmas. The Griswold family will be sure to get you laughing during the sometimes-stressful holidays. "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" is the third installment of the "Vacation" movies, and it's just as good as its predecessors. If you've seen "National Lampoon's Vacation" and "National Lampoon's European Vacation," then you know all about The Griswolds. In this movie, Clark Griswold and his wife, Ellen, host Christmas at their home for both sides of the family--even cousin Eddie and his wife, Catherine, show up in their battered RV with their family dog, Snots. Everything turns comical from the get-go, from the overdone Christmas lights on the house not working, to Clark not receiving his bonus from his boss to cover the check he wrote for a pool. Even the Christmas tree in the Griswolds' home is fair game!

**"Elf" (2003)**  
Aubrey Lea, copy editor

"Elf" is my favorite holiday movie because it is so entertaining and amusing. Will Ferrell was the perfect person to play the goofy elf named Buddy who grew up at the North Pole. When he left Santa's workshop to search for his estranged father, he found that navigating the real world was nothing like navigating the elf world. From Buddy's innocence in a cruel world to his huge belches and his bringing joy to his joyless father, Buddy is an all-around loveable character who reminds us all why we love Christmas.

**"Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" (2000)**  
Jaylen Boyd, writer/photographer

When I was a kid growing up, this movie held a special place in my heart. I remember this playing on repeat whenever December hit on Cartoon Network. "Grandma" is about explaining to a court system that Santa Claus is real because he went to trial for Grandma's disappearance. Something about defying adults who did not believe in a real Santa Claus just made my childhood experience amazing. That and the song that shares the same name as the movie's title was just catchy.

**"The Muppet Christmas Carol" (1992)**  
Enrique Viveros, photographer/videographer

Ah, Christmas. A time when the air is a bit chillier and the "hottest" toys are selling out like hot cakes. When I think of the holidays, the movie that comes to mind is "The Muppet Christmas Carol." This is a rendition of the 1843 novella "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. However, in this version, the Muppets are woven into the story and show Scrooge what the true spirit of Christmas is.

**"The Polar Express" (2004)**  
Taylor Rooney, contributor

"The Polar Express" is my movie of choice due to my fond memories of watching it during the Christmas season. In "Polar," a boy is invited to board a train headed for the North Pole, despite his growing disbelief in Santa Claus. He decides to board, and, through many mishaps, manages to reach the North Pole with the rest of his friends. He finally meets Santa Claus and regains his belief in him, receiving the gift of a bell that would only ring for those who believed in Santa. It's a heartwarming movie that never fails to remind me of the Christmas spirit, even when in a bad mood.

**"Jingle All the Way" (1996)**  
Alan-Mark Miller, writer

In this heartfelt family comedy-adventure, the workaholic father (Arnold Schwarzenegger) promises his son that he will get him anything he wants for Christmas. Arnold ends up forgetting, which means he must risk life and limb to struggle and retrieve the most prized toy on the market, Turbo Man. This daunting task means Arnold must compete against other parents, cops and robbers while not alienating his family in this holiday classic.

**"The Star" (2017)**  
Leilani Penrose, contributor

This witty, animated holiday movie displays the "first Christmas" and its true meaning through the eyes of a donkey named Bo (voiced by Steven Yeun) who is discovering adventure due to his escape from the village mill. Bo is not the only animal on this journey; there are also a sheep, a dove, three camels and many others--all following the star, which they believe is leading them to something bigger. Throughout the characters' journeys, they cross multiple obstacles, which makes them all the unexpected heroes in the story. The star brings all of them together with a young couple, Mary and Joseph (voiced by Gina Rodriguez and Zachary Levi). The couple is expecting their first child who is soon discovered to be the Messiah.

**"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000)**  
Trevor Scott, contributor

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" was a more modern take on the classic Dr. Seuss book of the same name. In this film, the Grinch is a grumpy man with a small heart who has hated all things Christmas since birth. Grinch lives in a home built into a mountain overlooking Whoville--a town filled with people with an obsession for all things Christmas. As one can imagine, this annoys Grinch to no end. After an adventure involving a small girl named Cindy who believes the Grinch is a good person, he decides to steal Christmas. This heartwarming and funny film has been a part of my family's Christmas holiday for years and holds a special place in my heart.

**"The Holiday Calendar" (2018)**  
Camey Woods, contributor

"The Holiday Calendar" is about a young photographer named Abby, whose best friend (also a photographer) came back to town after freelancing. The last day of November, Abby's grandpa gave her a "magical" advent calendar that belonged to her grandma. The doors on this advent calendar would not open until midnight each day in December. On December 1st, she got a figurine; later that day, her best friend gave her some boots. The next day, she got a Christmas tree; that night, a tree fell off a car, and she ran the tree over. Then she met a guy named Ty, with whom Abby went on several dates. The figures she got each day matched something that happened later that day. Abby eventually broke it off with Ty and lost her job. Abby soon realized that all the figures were pointing to her best friend (not Ty). Her best friend bought a studio for them and they ended up together.

Merry Christmas!  
Sarah Richards

Wishing you all a safe and merry Christmas!  
Keechel Yindtan

Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!  
~ Aubrey

Happy  
Holiday  
Trevor

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
Loggys

Jessie

Happy Chanukah  
-Mae

Alan M Miller

Merry Christmas

Enrique Viveros

Ben Murkin

Taylor Rooney

Have a blessed  
Christmas  
-Forty-

