

Top 5 must-see Christmas movies

By Jordan Huneke

1.



A Christmas Movie is a comedy about a young boy who is trying to talk his parents into getting him a red BB gun. His mom is extremely against it and is afraid he will "shoot his eye out." He has a lot of obstacles to overcome if he wants to get his dream gift. He has to deal with being bullied and with his parents fighting over a sexy lamp.

2.



Bad Santa is about two con men who dress up as Santa Claus to rob department stores. They know no understanding of Christmas or family until they meet an eight year old boy who teaches them the meaning of Christmas.

3.



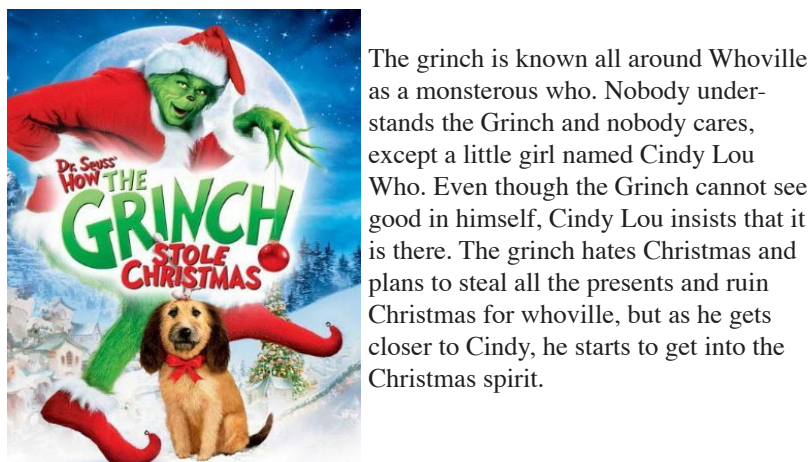
Elf is a movie about an orphan baby named Buddy who stows away in Santa's gift bag and goes to the North Pole where he grows up and is raised by elves. When Buddy becomes an adult, he becomes curious about his birth father and leaves the North Pole to reunite with him.

4.



Four Christmases is about a couple who try and stay as far as possible from their families during the holidays. They plan on going to a tropical island for Christmas until the weather puts a halt to their plans and they are forced to go to both of their divorced parents' houses.

5.



The grinch is known all around Whoville as a monstrous who. Nobody understands the Grinch and nobody cares, except a little girl named Cindy Lou Who. Even though the Grinch cannot see good in himself, Cindy Lou insists that it is there. The grinch hates Christmas and plans to steal all the presents and ruin Christmas for whoville, but as he gets closer to Cindy, he starts to get into the Christmas spirit.

Christmas Recipes



Baked Snow Balls
Rating: 1 2 3 4 5

Ingredients:
12 vanilla cookies or six 1/2-inch-thick slices of your favorite cake
6 scoops of vanilla ice cream
3 egg whites at room temperature
1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
Chocolate syrup, sprinkles, and Maraschino cherries

1. Break each cookie into several small pieces and divide them evenly among six 3-inch cups, pressing them into the bottom of each. Fill each cup with ice cream, using the back of a spoon to smooth it level at the top. Place the cups on a cookie sheet in the freezer while you prepare the meringue.

2. Heat the oven to 500°. Place the egg whites in a medium-size bowl and whip them with an electric beater set at medium-high speed until they look like soap bubbles. Add the cream of tartar and continue beating until soft peaks form (now it will look like whipped cream). While you continue beating, add the sugar 1 tablespoon at a time and then the vanilla extract. Continue beating until shiny, stiff peaks form, about 2 minutes.

3. Remove the cups from the freezer and spread the meringue over the top of each with a spatula, making sure to completely cover the ice cream. This meringue is what insulates the ice cream, keeping it cold in the hot oven. Bake the snowballs on the cookie sheet until the tops are golden brown, about 1 to 3 minutes. Watch them carefully. They brown quickly. Add the chocolate syrup, sprinkles and cherries. It serves 6.



Peppermint Bark
Rating: 1 2 3 4 5

1 cup milk chocolate
1 cup white chocolate
Peppermint candy canes

1. Melt the chocolate over a double boiler until smooth. Spread in an even layer on a wax paper-lined baking sheet. Place in freezer to harden, approximately 30 minutes.

2. Melt the white chocolate over a double boiler until smooth. Pour on top of the dark chocolate layer. Working quickly before the white chocolate sets, sprinkle the crushed candy canes on top and gently press into the chocolate. Refrigerate until complete hard and set, at least 2 hours.



Pineapple Upside-down cake
Rating: 1 2 3 4 5

Topping: 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 can pineapple slices
Maraschino cherries

Cake:
Yellow cake mix
3 large eggs
1 cup water
1/2 cup oil
Preheat oven to 350°F.

For topping, melt butter over low heat in 12-inch cast-iron skillet or skillet with oven-proof handle. Remove from heat. Stir in brown sugar. Spread to cover bottom of skillet. Arrange pineapple slices, Maraschino cherries and walnut halves in skillet. Set aside.

For cake, combine cake mix, eggs, water and oil in large mixing bowl. Beat at medium speed with electric mixer for 2 minutes. Pour batter evenly over fruit in skillet.

Bake at 350 °F for 1 hour or until toothpick put in center comes out clean. Put onto serving plate.



What is the best present you have ever received?
The wii!
-Christina Edwards, Junior

What is your favorite part about Christmas?
Opening presents!!!(:
-Kayla Daniels, Senior

Do you believe in Santa?
Well, I did, until I caught my mom wrapping presents.
-Devon Sanders, Junior

What do you think the meaning of Christmas is?
Being with family, being happy and spending time together.
-Melissa Estrada, Junior

What is your favorite part about Christmas?
Getting to eat a bunch of candy and cookies... and getting gifts I would never really use, like socks.
-Chuy Rodriguez, Junior

What do you think the North Pole looks like?
Well... I think it's white with a lot of snow and a big pole with elves running around everywhere.
-Brian Hicks, Senior

What are you most looking forward to in 2012?
College! And getting away from home.
-Pricilla Mora, Senior

What is your favorite Christmas movie?
Bad Santa because it's really funny.
-Rosa Sotello, Junior

Do you believe in Santa Claus?
Yes, I do, I have had many experiences around Christmas that make me believe.
-Louis Fisher, Junior

What are you doing this year for Christmas?
I am going to L.A. to spend Christmas with my family.
-Rodolfo Palacio, Junior
I am going to hang out with my grandma.
-Jimmy Corona, Junior

What are you doing for New Years?
I am going to a party with my new "besties" Jordan, Danielle, Melissa, Kerissa, Alicia and Ashlee. (:
-Lynsey MacDonald, Junior