

*Must Watch
10 Movies on
Christmas*



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

From the Newspaper club





1. It's a wonderful life

This film is considered one of the true classics of American cinema. It is the story of George Bailey, a wonderfully honest and decent young man who has always wanted to leave his small town of New Bedford, New York, in order to travel the world. Unfortunately, George is never able to go, for it seems that whenever he is about to, a new crisis or development keeps him in town.

2. A Christmas Carol

It is about a mean-spirited and selfish old man, Ebenezer Scrooge, who hates Christmas. ... When Scrooge gets home, he is visited by the ghost of his old business partner Jacob Marley — and then by three ghosts! They are the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Future.



5. Newest land

The island nation Kiribati rings in the new year first. Kiribati, also known as Christmas Island, is located in the Central Pacific. They celebrate throughout the nation at each village's maneaba or meeting house, where all social and political activity takes place.



6.

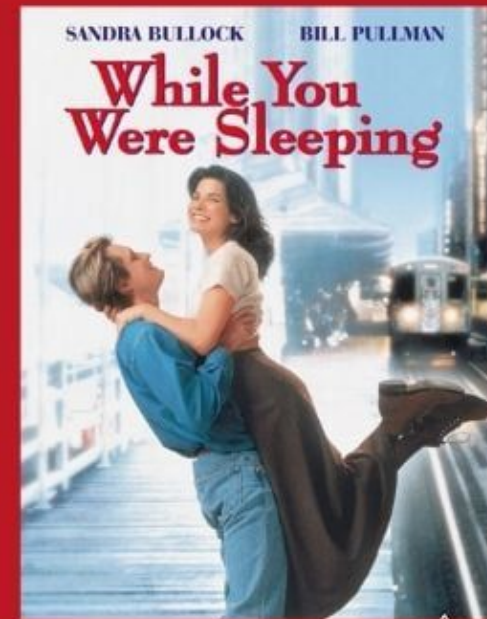
New Balls

Originally, the ball of the new year's ball drop was made from 700 pounds of iron and wood. It was later reduced to just 400 pounds of wrought iron before they switched to an aluminium frame in 1955. The now 11,875-pound ball didn't get its new look (and materials) until the millennium when Waterford partnered with Philips Lighting to create a shimmery LED display.



3. While You Were Sleeping

A hopelessly romantic Chicago Transit Authority token collector is mistaken for the fiancée of a coma patient. Nursing a secret and hopeless crush on the handsome commuter who passes her booth every day, the charming loner and Chicago “L” ticket seller, Lucy, is about to have a second chance at love.



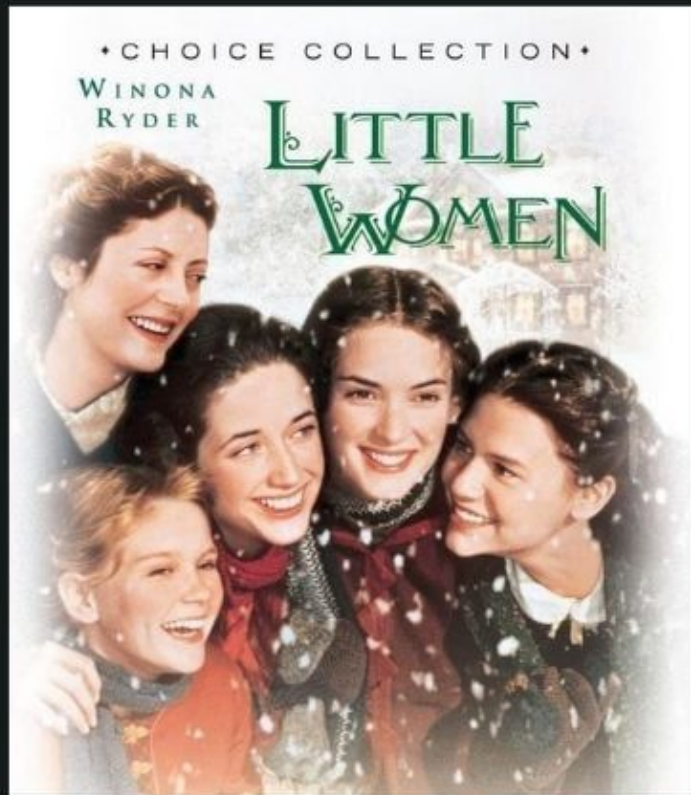
4. Home Alone

The plots revolve around children who find themselves left alone during the holiday season, faced with the challenge of defending themselves and their homes from different types of criminals.



5. *Rise of the Guardians*

The film tells a story about Guardians Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny, and the Sandman, who enlist Jack Frost to stop the evil Pitch Black from engulfing the world in darkness in a fight of dreams.

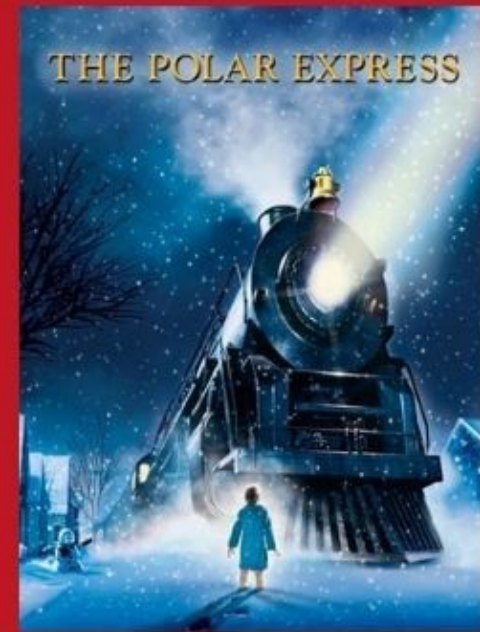


6. *Little Women*

With their father fighting in the American Civil War, sisters Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth are at home with their mother, a very outspoken woman for her time. The story tells of how the sisters grow up, find love, and find their place in the world. Four sisters and their mother at home.

7. *The Polar Express*

The film tells the story of a young boy who, on Christmas Eve, sees a mysterious train bound for the North Pole stop outside his window and is invited aboard by its conductor. The boy joins several other children as they embark on a journey to visit Santa Claus preparing for Christmas.



8. *Jingle All The Way*

It stars Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sinbad as two rival fathers, workaholic Howard Langston (Schwarzenegger) and postal worker Myron Larabee (Sinbad), both desperately trying to purchase a Turbo-Man action figure for their respective sons on a last-minute shopping spree on Christmas Eve.

9. Klaus

A simple act of kindness always sparks another, even in a frozen, faraway place. When Smeerensburg's new postman, Jesper, befriends toymaker Klaus, their gifts melt an age-old feud and deliver a sleigh full of holiday traditions.



10. The Nutcracker Prince

The film centers on a girl named Clara who is gifted a special nutcracker by her uncle. The gift draws her into a world of magic and wonder, and she brings about the conclusion to the legend of The Nutcracker, Prince of the Dolls: a young man named Hans who was transformed into a nutcracker by mice and can only break the spell if he slays the Mouse King.





Ten Symbols of Christmas

1. The Star



The star is one of the most recognizable symbols of Christmas. It represents the star that appeared in the sky when Jesus Christ was born. The star led the Wise Men to Jesus and reminds us to follow the light of the Savior just as the Wise Men followed.

2. Lights and Candles



Christmas lights can remind us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. They can also remind us to be lights to others and to help others come unto Christ.

4. Trees



Even before Christ's birth, trees that stayed green all year long carried special meaning for people. Because of Jesus Christ, we can have everlasting life, so we can choose to see the evergreen tree as a natural symbol of Him and His gift to us.

3. Holly



Because its red berries and prickly green leaves last all year round, holly is used as a Christmas decoration all over the world. The sharp edges of the holly leaf can remind us of the crown of thorns placed on the Savior's head.

5. Poinsettias



The poinsettia originates from Mexico, and like the evergreen tree, it is a plant that thrives during the winter and symbolizes new life.

6. Bells



For centuries, bells have been rung to announce the arrival of the Christmas season.

7. Candy Canes



Perhaps a better name for the candy cane is “candy crook.” They can remind us of the staff carried by the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus.

8. Wreaths



Traditionally, wreaths are made of evergreens. Their circular shape can represent eternity. Wreaths hung on doors or in windows are like a symbolic invitation for the spirit of Christmas to fill our homes with the joy .

9. Stockings



This symbol connects with the story of St. Nicholas who wanted to help the old man. He helped in secret threw three bags of gold through an open window, one landed in a stocking. When the old man and the girls woke up the next morning they found the bags of gold and of course, overjoyed.

10. Gifts



Christmas is the season of giving. Remember the Wise Men who came to see Jesus? They “presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh” As you open your brightly wrapped presents on Christmas morning, remember that the Savior is the true gift of Christmas.

Weird, Forgotten Christmas Traditions Nobody Does Anymore

SOME CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS HAVE LASTED FOR CENTURIES, BUT THESE ODD ONES HAVE FADED WITH TIME.

Every holiday season, families around the world trim their trees, sing carols, and hang their stockings in the hopes they'll find them filled with goodies by Christmas morning. However, for all the customs we follow today, there are just as many weird Christmas traditions that have been cast by the side, falling out of favour and being remembered less and less each year.





Putting a fruitcake under your pillow
Fruitcake has gotten a bad rep lately, (to be honest with you I never even tasted fruitcake before). But placing fruitcake under your pillow actually has some pretty sweet origins. If you ate a piece of fruitcake—especially if it was from a wedding—and put it [the remainder] under your pillow at night, legend said you'd dream of the person you will marry, or so they say.

And this isn't the only antiquated Christmas tradition involving love. Christmas in the 17th century would also do things like throw food at the wall to see if what stuck spelt the name of a lover. They'd also toss shoes into a tree—and if they hung there, the thrower would be married within the year. Today, English royalty continues to serve fruitcake at Christmastime gatherings as a nod to the tradition.



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Wearing costumes

This is my favourite one. Wearing costumes used to be a traditional part of the Christmas celebration. Unfortunately or fortunately in one famous instance, a group of 13th-century nobles burned to death when the tar on their "forest savages" costumes caught on fire. King Charles, meanwhile, narrowly escaped the incident, and the practice was hence banned within his court.



Carolling extortion

I found out that Christmas was a lot like Halloween than I thought it was. For instance, carolling used to look a lot more like trick-or-treating. In fact, in 19th-century Europe, it was an occasion for poor folks to request gifts from wealthy landowners. According to a British Earl, "They'd go from house to house and say, 'OK, we're going to sing you a song and you can either invite us in for food or a drink... but if you don't, you never know what's going to happen to your yard."



*It's that time of the year
Everybody put on your cheerful
smiles and make your new year
resolution because it's going to be
the end of troubled times.*

** Today I will tell you facts about
New Year's tradition*

Telling scary ghost story

"In the song 'It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,' you hear the line 'there'll be scary ghost stories and tales of the glories,' and may wonder why there would be scary ghost stories on Christmas. Also, you might be curious as to why "A Christmas Carol," one of the most famous Christmas stories of all time, is a ghost story.

Well, the Victorians—who helped cement many of modern American ideas of Christmas—loved scary stories. In fact, "A Christmas Carol" was far from the only Christmas-themed ghost story Charles Dickens wrote. So yes, Christmas was once more spooky and scary rather than warm and fuzzy like we know today.

There are a lot more that I couldn't cover but I encourage you to check it out if you're curious. Lastly please be safe and spend the holidays with your loved ones dearly. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



1. The first year it was celebrated

In 45 B.C., New Year's Day is celebrated on January 1 for the first time in history as the Julian calendar takes effect. Soon after becoming a Roman dictator, Julius Caesar decided that the traditional Roman calendar was in dire need of reform.

2. The first Times Square New Year's party was thrown for a newspaper. It's no secret that New York's Times Square is the hotspot in New Years. The annual tradition of gathering in Times Square for New Year's started as a party to celebrate the opening of the New York Times building in 1904. Over 200,000 people attended. It's been a spectacle every year since, except for during World War II. Wartime restrictions put the tradition on pause in 1942 and 1943. Times Square revellers observed a moment of silence at midnight instead.



3. The “MAGICAL KISS”

Although things got a little friskier back then, ancient Romans are credited with the kissing tradition because of their

Saturnalia festival. It was a celebration honouring Saturn, the god of time,

where all social norms went out the window. Many of the celebrations influenced the Christmas and New Year's festivities that became the focus when Christianity took over the Roman Empire.

3. Your super move (Buy mistletoe)

One of the more common meanings is that mistletoe is seen as a symbol of fertility and life - and that this could be why we kiss underneath it. In winter, when all the trees are bare and many plants have died away, mistletoe stays green and you can still see it growing around tree branches quite happily. In other words its tradition they must kiss because and refusal to accept was considered bad luck.



7.

Time balls were invented to help sailors. Long before it was used on New Year's Eve, a ball on top of England's Royal Observatory in Greenwich was dropped at 1 p.m. every day (starting in 1833) to help ship captains coordinate their navigation equipment. Similar balls were set up in coastal areas around the world.

8.

No today's New Year
New Year's is terrifying for
children in Akita, Japan.

There's a local tradition called
Namahage where grown men
dress up like demons to scare
children into behaving for
their parents. They go from
house-to-house yelling things
like "Are there any crybabies at
home?" or "Are naughty kids
around?"



9.

Music of the North

Antarctica hosts an Annual New Year's Music Festival. Antarctica's annual may be one of the coolest (pun intended) ways to spend New Year's. The event is held at McMurdo Station, Antarctica when the local population balloons to over 1,200 people during their summer months.

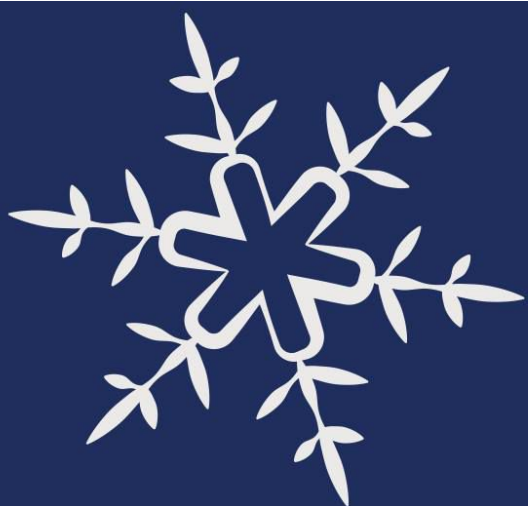


10.

The reason January is called January is kind of deep.

✦ **It's been widely reported that the month was named for the Roman god Janus, but it's rooted in the Latin word "ianua," which means door.**

✦ **The name was chosen to symbolize the opening of a new door that happens when the new year begins.**



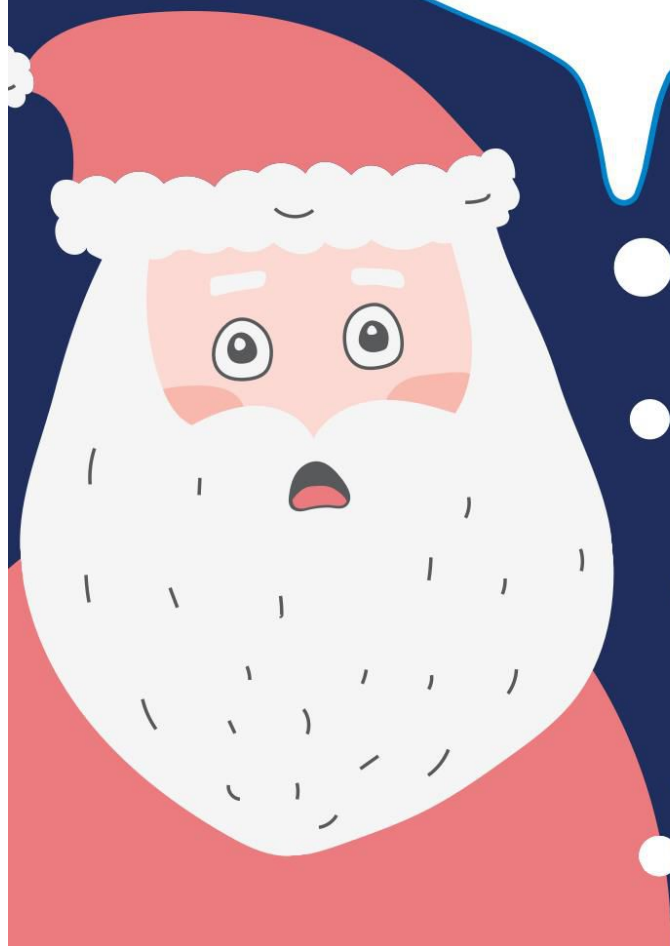
新的一年已经来到了
我们面前今晚我
来给大家讲一个小
故事一起欢迎这个
新的一年吧！



到了1822年，一位荷兰传教士把这位伟大慈善家的故事传到美国之后，美国商人更以特殊的行销手法，每年利用这个节日大张旗鼓地宣传广告，大赚一笔，在亚洲的日本及其它各国也群起效尤。因此装扮圣诞老人来庆祝圣诞节的风俗习惯也就渐渐地流行到世界各国了。



据说平安夜的晚上，圣诞节老公公会驾着驯鹿雪橇满载着礼物准备送点这一年来表现很好的小朋友，他会悄悄地从烟囱爬进屋内，礼物塞在挂在床头的袜子里。所以孩子总会把一条条色彩缤纷的袜子挂在床头，并在袜子旁边放杯热牛奶给劳苦功高的圣诞老人解渴，并送份大礼给自己。隔天每一个小朋友都迫不及待地打开礼，想知道自己得到什么奖励。



圣诞节是令人雀跃期待的日子，尤其是小孩子。相信大家对圣诞老公公的事都耳熟能详吧？从前有一个老人，名叫尼古拉斯，他一生最爱帮助贫穷的人家。其中有一次他帮助三个贫穷的少后送他们三袋金子以逃过被卖的不幸。当尼古拉斯偷偷把其中一袋金子送给其中一名女子时，他把金子从其中一个窗户扔进去，恰好掉进景在壁上的一长袜中。于是，将礼物放在圣诞袜子的送礼方法家挨户地去要糖果哟！



今晚就到这儿
吧！明年见！情
爱的孩子们，
新年
快乐！



***MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!***

