

The Ultimate Christmas Movie Checklist

Brought to you by



To help with your holiday movie nights, we've curated the **Ultimate Christmas Movie Checklist**—now featuring 100 festive films! Each movie is categorized by genre and ranked by [Rotten Tomatoes](#) Tomatometer score (*as of the writing of this post*), so you can easily spot the highest-rated seasonal picks. You'll also see the official ratings and quick links to each title's [Common Sense Media](#) description for easy, family-friendly reference.

Nostalgic Comedies

- ☐ [Planes, Trains & Automobiles \(R\)](#) – Two mismatched travelers face a series of mishaps and misunderstandings on their journey home for Thanksgiving, finding unexpected friendship along the way. [\(93/100\)](#)
- ☐ [A Very Jonas Christmas Movie \(2025\)](#) – The Jonas Brothers star as themselves in a festive comedy as they try to save their Christmas concert while facing a series of outrageous holiday mishaps. [\(92/100\)](#)
- ☐ [A Christmas Story \(PG\)](#) – This nostalgic classic captures the magic that childhood wishes bring to the holiday season as told from a boy's point of view in 1940. [\(89/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Trading Places \(R\)](#) – This comedic romp featuring Eddie Murphy and Dan Aykroyd uses the holidays as a backdrop to explore fate, class differences, and the possibility of second chances. [\(87/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Elf \(PG\)](#) – This film shows us the joy that comes from embracing our inner child. [\(86/100\)](#)
- ☐ [8-Bit Christmas \(PG\)](#) – Set against a wave of retro video game nostalgia, this movie tells the story of the lengths kids will go to for their ultimate holiday wish. [\(84/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Christmas Eve in Miller's Point \(NR\)](#) – This slice-of-life comedy highlights the chaos and connection that come with family reunions during Christmas. [\(80/100\)](#)
- ☐ [A Christmas Story Christmas \(PG\)](#) – In this sequel, Ralphie returns for new holiday adventures. [\(79/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Get Santa \(PG\)](#) – When Santa lands in jail during his Christmas delivery run, a father and son must work together to save him. [\(77/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Ref \(R\)](#) – A burglar accidentally brings a dysfunctional family together at Christmas in this comedy. [\(73/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Santa Clause \(PG\)](#) – Tim Allen stars as an accidental St. Nick, kicking off a hilarious trilogy. [\(73/100\)](#)
- ☐ [National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation \(PG-13\)](#) – This comedy highlights the hilarious chaos and mishaps that can arise when family members gather together during the holidays. [\(72/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Scrooged \(PG-13\)](#) – This film presents a modern and cynical twist on the redemption story, prompting us to reflect on second chances. [\(71/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Spirited \(PG-13\)](#) – This film offers a modern musical spin on Dickens' Christmas Carol, starring Ryan Reynolds and Will Ferrell as they bring the classic story to life with humor and heart. [\(70/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Night Before \(R\)](#) – Three lifelong friends set out on a wild Christmas Eve in search of the ultimate holiday party, blending outrageous comedy with moments of genuine heart. [\(69/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Home Alone \(PG\)](#) – A clever young boy must defend his home from two bumbling burglars after his family accidentally leaves him behind during the holidays. [\(66/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Santa Clause 2 \(G\)](#) – In this sequel, Scott Calvin must overcome new North Pole challenges to keep the holiday magic alive. [\(56/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Last Holiday \(PG-13\)](#) – Queen Latifah stars as a shy saleswoman who, after receiving unexpected news, decides to live life to the fullest on a lavish European vacation during the holidays. [\(56/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Candy Cane Lane \(PG\)](#) – In this zany neighborhood competition filled with holiday spirit, Eddie Murphy stars as a determined dad aiming to win the grand prize. [\(45/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Red One \(PG-13\)](#) – Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans take on a globe-trotting adventure in this action-comedy inspired by Christmas. [\(30/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Four Christmases \(PG-13\)](#) – A couple's plans for a tropical getaway are upended, so they must spend Christmas visiting the homes of all four of their divorced parents, resulting in chaotic, awkward, and hilariously relatable family moments. [\(25/100\)](#)

- ☐ [Dear Santa \(PG-13\)](#) – When a young boy sends his Christmas wish list to Santa with a crucial spelling error, a mischievous Jack Black arrives to wreak havoc on the holidays in this outrageous comedy from the creators of DUMB & DUMBER. [\(24/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Jingle All the Way](#) (PG) – Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as a desperate father who races against time and rival shoppers to find the most popular toy on Christmas Eve in this slapstick holiday comedy. [\(20/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause \(G\)](#) – In the third installment of the series, Jack Frost stirs up frosty hijinks, challenging Scott Calvin's role as Santa Claus. [\(17/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Christmas with the Kranks](#) (PG) – A couple's attempt to skip Christmas leads to hilarious consequences, showing them what truly matters most. [\(5/100\)](#)

Heartwarming Classics

- ☐ [Holiday Inn \(NR\)](#) – This classic musical introduces the song “White Christmas” and celebrates making every holiday brighter with music, dance, and joy. [\(100/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Shop Around the Corner \(NR\)](#) – This film tells a charming story about love, misunderstanding, and connection during the holidays. [\(99/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Meet Me in St. Louis \(NR\)](#) – This musical classic tells the story of a family's experiences with change and the enduring spirit of Christmas. [\(99/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Miracle on 34th Street \(1947\) \(NR\)](#) – This story reminds us of the incredible things that can happen when we truly believe. [\(96/100\)](#)
- ☐ [It's a Wonderful Life \(PG\)](#) – This classic reminds us that every life touches countless others and that hope shines brightest at Christmas. [\(94/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Apartment \(NR\)](#) – In this witty romantic comedy, the holidays serve as a backdrop for new beginnings and heartfelt connections. [\(93/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Christmas in Connecticut \(NR\)](#) – This screwball romance features mistaken identity and holiday hijinks. [\(89/100\)](#)
- ☐ [A Christmas Carol \(NR\)](#) – This faithful 1951 adaptation of Dickens' classic reminds viewers that it is never too late to change for the better. [\(86/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Bishop's Wife \(NR\)](#) – An angelic visitor arrives to help mend hearts and bring love back to a troubled family during the holidays. [\(85/100\)](#)
- ☐ [White Christmas \(NR\)](#) – This film celebrates friendship and the magic that music brings to the holidays. [\(76/100\)](#)

Kid-Friendly & Animated Delights

- ☐ [An Almost Christmas Story \(G\)](#) – This charming animated tale is about finding hope and joy in unexpected places during the holidays. [\(100/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Mickey's Christmas Carol \(G\)](#) – Mickey and his friends deliver a colorful, family-friendly retelling of the Dickens classic in this animated holiday special. [\(100/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Klaus \(PG\)](#) – This film demonstrates how a single act of kindness can spark a chain reaction of goodwill. [\(95/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Nightmare Before Christmas \(PG\)](#) – This animated classic encourages us to embrace our unique identity, even if it leads us in unexpected directions. [\(95/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer \(NR\)](#) – This stop-motion favorite tells us that what makes us different is often what makes us shine. [\(95/100\)](#)
- ☐ [A Unicorn for Christmas \(G\)](#) – When a young girl discovers a real-life unicorn at a Christmas carnival, she must protect her magical new friend from a greedy fair owner in this wholesome family film that offers adventure for the youngest viewers. [\(Audience Score: 94/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Arthur Christmas \(PG\)](#) – Arthur embarks on a quest to save Christmas, highlighting the importance of family, kindness, and believing in holiday miracles. [\(93/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Best Christmas Pageant Ever \(PG\)](#) – Chaos and laughter fill the holiday when the town's naughtiest kids join the Christmas play, leading to a heartwarming and unexpected celebration. [\(92/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Year Without a Santa Claus \(G\)](#) – In this Rankin/Bass animated classic, Santa decides to take a break from Christmas, so Mrs. Claus and a cast of memorable characters set out to prove to him that the world still believes in holiday spirit. Cheerful and nostalgic, it's a perennial family favorite. [\(90/100\)](#)
- ☐ [A Charlie Brown Christmas \(G\)](#) – This beloved classic prompts us to reflect on what really matters and discover the true meaning of Christmas. [\(86/100\)](#)
- ☐ [A Boy Called Christmas \(PG\)](#) – This imaginative adventure offers an update on the origins of Santa Claus, filling the screen with wonder and excitement. [\(83/100\)](#)
- ☐ [A Muppet Christmas Carol \(G\)](#) – In this festive retelling, kindness, empathy, and Muppet fun come together to show how a generous heart can transform lives. [\(78/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Little Drummer Boy \(NR\)](#) – This heartfelt animated tale explores the gifts we give and the true meaning of generosity at Christmas. [\(75/100\)](#)

- ☐ [LEGO Star Wars Holiday Special \(TV-G\)](#) – This animated adventure features Star Wars magic as favorite characters celebrate in a festive galaxy far, far away. [\(74/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Frosty the Snowman \(G\)](#) – This tells the story of Frosty, who brings magic, friendship, and joy to life. [\(73/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Prancer \(G\)](#) – This heartfelt story follows a child who discovers an injured reindeer she believes to be Santa's own, inspiring belief, hope, and holiday magic. [\(68/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Jack Frost \(PG\)](#) – In this stop-motion classic, Jack Frost longs to become human and, through wintry magic and adventure, learns what it truly means to give. [\(67/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Christmas Chronicles \(PG\)](#) – Siblings go on a wild adventure to save Christmas after they catch Santa in the act of delivering gifts. [\(67/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Christmas Chronicles 2 \(PG\)](#) – In this festive sequel, danger threatens the North Pole, and only teamwork can save the day. [\(66/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Dr. Seuss' The Grinch \(PG\)](#) – This animated retelling of the holiday classic shows that kindness and inclusion can change even the grumpiest heart. [\(60/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Polar Express \(G\)](#) – This fantastical journey to the North Pole teaches about friendship and the wonder of believing. [\(55/100\)](#)
- ☐ [How the Grinch Stole Christmas \(PG\)](#) – In this live-action adaptation, Jim Carrey plays the mischievous Grinch who hatches a plan to steal Christmas from Whoville. [\(50/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Star \(PG\)](#) – In this animated adventure, a determined little donkey named Bo breaks free from his daily grind and, along with his quirky animal friends, helps shape the nativity story as they follow the star to become accidental heroes of the first Christmas. [\(45/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Elliot: The Littlest Reindeer \(PG\)](#) – When Blitzen retires, Elliot dreams of joining Santa's team and, with his friend Hazel, races in the North Pole try-outs, discovering courage, friendship, and belief in himself. [\(30/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Beauty & the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas \(G\)](#) – Belle and her friends celebrate the season in this magical animated holiday adventure. [\(11/100\)](#)

Action-Packed Holidays

- ☐ [Die Hard \(R\)](#) – This action favorite shows that heroism and sheer determination can help overcome even the most impossible situations. [\(94/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special \(PG-13\)](#) – In this festive Marvel tale, friendship and out-of-this-world adventure bring heartfelt laughs. [\(94/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Gremlins \(PG\)](#) – This mischievous holiday tale shows the chaos unleashed when mysterious creatures run amok, reminding us of the importance of responsibility and caution during the season. [\(86/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang \(R\)](#) – This clever neo-noir mystery is wrapped in the glitz of the holidays and reminds us that the season can spark unexpected connections. [\(86/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Batman Returns \(PG-13\)](#) – Set against Gotham's snowy cityscape, this film tells a story of loneliness, courage, and redemption as Batman faces new adversaries over Christmastime. [\(82/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Lethal Weapon \(R\)](#) – This film shows how friendship and personal redemption can develop, even in the midst of explosive and unpredictable circumstances. [\(81/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Violent Night \(R\)](#) – This is an over-the-top action comedy that mixes mayhem, holiday spirit, and a very unconventional Santa. [\(74/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Silent Night \(R\)](#) – In this tense, dialogue-free action film by John Woo, a grieving father goes on a relentless quest for vengeance after a Christmas Eve tragedy, delivering a unique, gritty, and adrenaline-packed option for those seeking an unconventional holiday movie. [\(60/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Fatman \(R\)](#) – In this darkly comedic, violent spin on the Santa Claus legend, a disillusioned and gritty Chris Cringle becomes the target of a hitman hired by a vengeful child who is upset over receiving coal for Christmas, making for an unconventional holiday film. [\(43/100\)](#)

Horror or Dark Thrillers

- ☐ [Edward Scissorhands \(PG-13\)](#) – This magical Tim Burton fantasy uses a wintry setting to tell a story about belonging, love, and what it means to be different. [\(91/100\)](#)
- ☐ [White Reindeer \(NR\)](#) – This dark comedy explores how one woman finds hope and new beginnings after a personal loss during Christmastime. [\(90/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale \(R\)](#) – This mischievously dark comedy reinvents the classic Santa legend with a thrilling and twisted edge. [\(89/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Better Watch Out \(R\)](#) – This holiday horror-comedy combines yuletide cheer with sharp twists and suspense for a chilling seasonal experience. [\(89/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Anna and the Apocalypse \(R\)](#) – This film blends horror, comedy, and musical elements in a wildly inventive story set during a zombie-infested Christmas. [\(77/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Krampus \(PG-13\)](#) – This holiday horror film serves as a cautionary tale when a dysfunctional family loses sight of the true spirit of Christmas. [\(67/100\)](#)

- ☐ [Silent Night \(R\)](#) – When Nell and Simon invite their closest friends for Christmas dinner at their idyllic home, festivities hide a sense of dread as the group quietly faces the impending end of the world in this very British blend of comedy, horror, and bleak drama. [\(67/100\)](#)
- ☐ [It's a Wonderful Knife \(R\)](#) – After saving her town from a Christmas Eve killer, Winnie wishes she'd never been born

and finds herself in a nightmarish parallel universe, where she must team up with the town misfit to stop the killer and return to her own reality, blending slasher chills with holiday mayhem. [\(55/100\)](#)

- ☐ [Black Christmas \(R\)](#) – This boundary-pushing horror makes Christmas haunting and suspenseful. [\(41/100\)](#)

Romantic Escapes

- ☐ [Carol \(R\)](#) – This film is a powerful holiday romance that celebrates acceptance and the courage to follow your heart. [\(94/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Let It Snow \(PG-13\)](#) – In this feel-good, interconnected story, a group of teens in a small town come together as they weather a Christmas Eve snowstorm. [\(85/100\)](#)
- ☐ [While You Were Sleeping \(PG\)](#) – This romantic comedy tells the story of surprises, second chances, and finding love in the most unexpected places. [\(81/100\)](#)
- ☐ [A Castle for Christmas \(TV-G\)](#) – After escaping a scandal, a writer finds friendship, a sense of home, and love in the Scottish Highlands. [\(75/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Something from Tiffany's \(PG\)](#) – A holiday mix-up sets the stage for romance and new beginnings in sparkling New York City. [\(72/100\)](#)

- ☐ [Love Actually \(R\)](#) – This ensemble romantic comedy reminds us that love, in all its forms, truly is all around us, especially during the holidays. [\(65/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Falling for Christmas \(TV-PG\)](#) – After an accident, a spoiled heiress discovers love and a sense of belonging in a small-town Christmas community. [\(62/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Holiday \(PG-13\)](#) – This romantic comedy starring Kate Winslet and Cameron Diaz invites viewers to embrace new beginnings and discover that love can appear when least expected. [\(51/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Last Christmas \(PG-13\)](#) – Young Kate, stuck in a rut while working as an elf in a year-round Christmas shop, finds her life beginning to change when she meets the mysterious Tom, leading to unexpected hope and new beginnings during the holiday season. [\(46/100\)](#)

Drama/Indie Flicks

- ☐ [Christmas with the Chosen: Holy Night \(NR\)](#) – This music-filled retelling of the Nativity story blends drama, faith, and Christmas tradition into an inspiring holiday presentation. *(no score available)*
- ☐ [The Holdovers \(R\)](#) – This thoughtful and bittersweet dramedy portrays loneliness, growth, and unexpected friendship during the holiday season. [\(97/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Tangerine \(R\)](#) – This unique and vibrant comedy follows an unforgettable Christmas Eve adventure through the streets of Los Angeles. [\(96/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Little Women \(2019\) \(PG\)](#) – Thiss retelling of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel brings the March sisters to life across many Christmases as they pursue their hopes, ambitions, and the enduring bonds of family. [\(95/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Tokyo Godfathers \(PG-13\)](#) – On Christmas Eve, three unlikely friends set out together and discover hope, forgiveness, and the true meaning of family. [\(92/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Little Women \(1994\) \(PG\)](#) – This adaptation of the beloved novel examines the enduring bonds of sisterhood as the March sisters grow up and celebrate many Christmases together. [\(92/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey \(PG\)](#) – This imaginative and vibrant musical follows a toymaker, his

adventurous granddaughter, and the magical power of believing. [\(91/100\)](#)

- ☐ [Spoiler Alert \(PG-13\)](#) – This heartfelt film explores love, family, and the importance of cherishing the special moments the season brings. [\(87/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Man Who Invented Christmas \(PG\)](#) – This film offers a creative retelling of how Charles Dickens came to write "A Christmas Carol." [\(79/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Happy Christmas \(R\)](#) – This heartfelt indie film explores grown-up relationships and the possibilities for new beginnings over the Christmas break. [\(75/100\)](#)
- ☐ [Merry Christmas \(NR\)](#) – This poignant drama explores the power of hope and reconciliation when soldiers on opposite sides of World War I lay down their arms to share Christmas Eve together. [\(74/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Preacher's Wife \(PG\)](#) – During the holidays, an angel arrives to help a struggling preacher rediscover his faith and strengthen his family bonds. [\(61/100\)](#)
- ☐ [The Family Stone \(PG-13\)](#) – Big families, big personalities, and even bigger traditions show how Christmas can lead to unforgettable moments. [\(52/100\)](#)