

Catching Fire a must-see

By KANAN SHAH

Based on the bestseller by Suzanne Collins, "Catching Fire" did anything but disappoint- in some ways, the movie was as good as the book.

Its story unfolds after Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark won the 74th annual "Hunger Games. The movie encompasses a rebellion against the tyrannical Capitol government and how the 75th annual "Hunger Games" affected them in ways they had never even imagined.

"Catching Fire" contained the right amount of everything- action, romance, suspense, and humor. I felt as if I were on an emotional roller coaster during the movie. The romance between Gale and Katniss or Katniss and Peeta was awe striking; however, the sadness overwhelmed me.

I was sucked into the "star-crossed lovers" story between Peeta and Katniss during the Games. The districts and arena

were full of so much action that I felt as if I journey through Katniss and Peeta's adventures with them.

In addition, while the plot

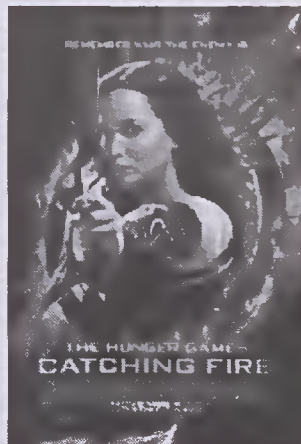


Photo courtesy of forbes.com

of the movie was serious, "Catching Fire" incorporated humor into the story very well, especially Finnick Odair's charming personality.

The costumes and cast were also mind-blowing. Katniss's dresses, especially the one

that transformed as she spun into the symbolic mocking jay, were gorgeous. "I thought Jennifer Lawrence was very nice in her role as Katniss," said Junior Neeraj Suresh.

Other members of the cast did amazing job- new additions like Lynn Cohen for Mags and Jena Malone for Johanna Mason portrayed their characters well.

The movie also followed the book closely under the supervision of the books' author, Suzanne Collins- although a few details, such as Katniss's pond by the lake, were deleted.

"It was good- maybe I should have finished the book," said Junior Praruj Pant.

Overall, "Catching Fire" is a must see, both for Hunger Gamers and non-Hunger Gamers.

Favorite holiday movies: a mix of new and old

By AVA GRUCHACZ

With the upcoming holidays, what better way to celebrate than by watching a fun uplifting movie with your family?

Hollywood has built a firm foundation of holiday movies and continues to make classics. Below I have listed and described some of my favorite holiday movies and I hope you get the chance to watch over break.

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer was first aired in

another holiday classic. It was made in 1947 and tells the story of a man who claims to be Kris Cringle (Santa Claus).

Though this may sound insane, the movie shows how the man truly has all the characteristics of being Santa Claus and how all non-believers end up accepting his declaration. If you enjoy classics, charming humor, and want to re-believe in Santa Claus, this movie is for you.

Elf has to be one of the funniest holiday movies ever created. Will Ferrell stars as Buddy the Elf, an average height human being that grows up in the North Pole with Santa's elves.

When Buddy is told he is actually not an elf like the rest of his peers, he is determined to find his real father and form a relationship with him.

Buddy journeys to New York City and comes across several unfamiliar barriers while trying to find and to bond with his father.

This is a great family film and can be enjoyed by anyone with a sense of humor.

Frozen is Disney's most recent animated film. The movie, which is still in theaters, is about a kingdom that has been cursed into wintry conditions infinitely. A young girl must find her sister, the Snow Queen, to reverse the enchantment.

According to Rotten Tomatoes, 91% of viewers enjoyed the movie and stated it was "Beautifully animated, smartly written, and stocked with sing along songs," Frozen adds another worthy entry to the Disney canon.

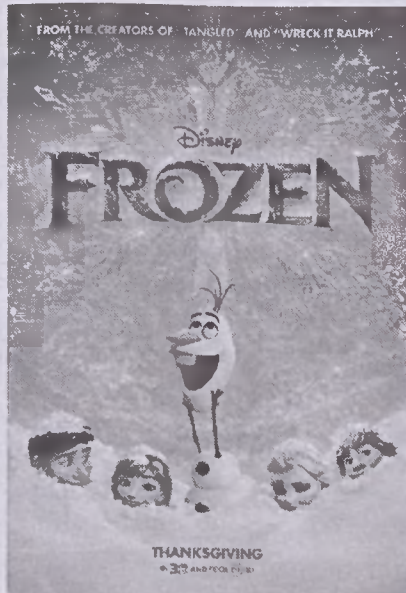


Photo courtesy of wikipedia.org

1964 as a TV special on NBC every holiday season.

If you're not familiar with the plot (which is basically the lyrics from the legendary song), the story follows a reindeer with- you guessed it, a red nose.

The film was made using "stop motion" animation instead of what you typically see in most modern animation films. Its adorable characters and wholesome message make it a great choice to watch over the holidays.

Miracle on 34th Street is

Fun things to do for the holidays

By ADDY LIU

for another interpretation.

The holiday season is my favorite time of the year. I love everything about winter, from the weather (if it snows) to the spirit of the season, but most of all, I love the traditions that go along with the winter festivities.

Everyone has his or her own holiday traditions, unique to one's family or group of friends. (or All people have their own holiday traditions, unique to their families or groups of friends.)

To give you some ideas to make your holidays a little happier, I've put together a list of some of my old and new favorite holiday traditions and activities.

Making holiday playlists - Good, seasonal music never fails to get me in a good mood.

Making gingerbread houses - You can find kits at Harris Teeter. This is a lot of fun to do with a group of friends - make it an occasion by wearing 'ugly' Christmas sweaters and playing your holiday playlist.

Secret Santa - In middle school, my class called this Secret Armadillo to make it secular. Put the names of your friends into a container and draw a name to determine to whom you are giving a gift! Price limits can be set as a challenge.

Caroling - You only need one other person for my favorite, Ringing of the Bells (Carol of the Bells?). One person can sing the "ding-dongs" while the other can sing the melody! Look up the Muppets version of this song

Decorating - Making your dorm room festive is an enjoyable way to spend some more time with your roommate! Stock up on decorations at a local dollar store.

Figure skating - The American Tobacco District's new Ice Factory is the largest outdoor skating rink in NC. For hours of operation, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ATDskating>

Reading holiday themed comics - my favorites are Calvin and Hobbes and Peanuts.

Making hot chocolate - Escape/Evade the cold weather with this.

Watching holiday movies - ABC Family is now airing their annual "25 Days of Christmas Movie Countdown."

Decorating your own ornament - My family and I like to sign our names on an ornament every year.

Operation Toy Drop - Drop off new, unwrapped toys in boxes on your hall to be donated to Duke Children's Hospital

Donating clothes to local shelters - Heavy winter coats are especially useful around this time of the year.

Ring in the New Year with family and friends. At the beginning of each year, I like to start with an empty jar and fill it as the year goes on with items associated with memorable things that happened.

At the end of the year, you can take out the strips of paper and other souvenirs and remember the things that made you happy that year.

Also, see the Stentorian website for a fun recipe.

TEDx

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Angrist, Assistant Professor of the Practice, Institute for Genome Science Policy at Duke University; Catherine Clabby, a science journalist and editor of the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity foundation and American Scientist magazine; and Jeff Polish, executive director of The Montis-Unscripted and Real.

Two TED videos will be shown between speeches from the invited speakers. Breaks and refreshments are provided between talks, allowing audience members to mingle and network with each other.

Students were sent an email with sign-up information.

Mr. Uni draws a crowd



Much of the ETC auditorium was filled Dec. 7, for the annual Mr. Uni pageant. This years Mr. Uni winner was Aaron Cheshire and the runner-up was Elliot Holliday. Vinay Kshirsagar won Baby Uni and the runner-up was Arnab Subramanya. Perhaps the most talked-about though was Matias Horst's act which brought up the idea of gender inequality inherent in Mr. Uni. It remains to be seen if any future changes will occur.



Photos courtesy of Zihui Yang