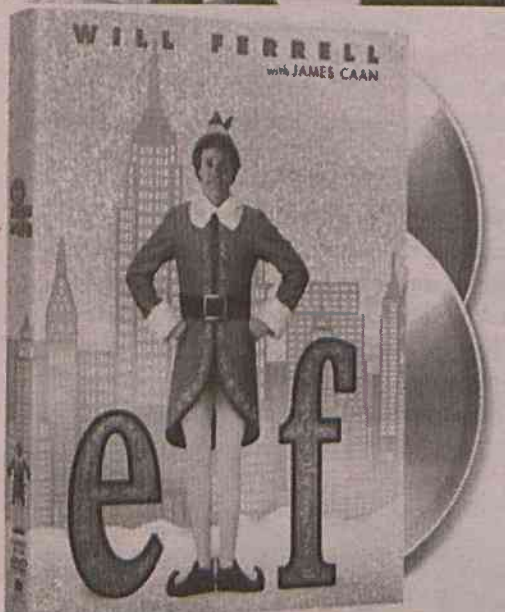


ELON lifestyle

The joy and tradition of Christmas movies

Between decorating the tree and wrapping presents many are finding new ways to celebrate the holidays



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As Buddy, played by Will Ferrell, in *Elf* says, "First we'll make snow angels, then we'll eat a whole roll of Toll House cookie dough ..." It is time for the Christmas season.

After Thanksgiving, Americans will begin planing for the upcoming holiday season. Along with wish lists, blow up Santa Clauses and white icicle lights comes the family movie-night holiday tradition.

For many, watching holiday-themed movies is just as much a part of Christmas memories as decorating the tree.

It's that time again. Get out your red flannel P.J's and snuggle around the television with family to watch some Christmas favorites.

Christmas-themed movies will warm our hearts and get us in the spirit. There have been a number of recent Christmas movies, but there are classics from our childhood that we can't seem to stop watching.

Here are some Christmas favorites. Take a break from studying for your finals and gather your suitemates for a night of Christmas magic. It will be sure to get you in the spirit.

"A Christmas Story": This is a story of a typical suburban American family in the late 40's early 50's. It is a story about a young boy, Ralphie Parker, and his hilarious family as they gear up for Christmas. This movie can be watched on the 24-hour marathon on TBS or TNT. I don't know what people watched on television Christmas Day before this movie came out.

"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation": This is a story of the Griswald family as they struggle to get through the Christmas season. The disastrous plot line is sure to keep you laughing. The family has to survive a kidnapping, an electrocution, a septic system explosion, a visit from unexpected relatives and a squirrel. Chevy Chase plays Clark Griswald, the dad, who

is accident prone and just trying to have a good Christmas for his family.

"Elf": The recent Christmas movie about an orphaned child, played by Will Ferrell, who was raised by one of Santa's elves. As an adult awkward Elf, Will Ferrell is sent to New York to meet his real father. He, of course, turns the city upside down with his bizarre elf ways. This is a movie for the entire family.

"Home Alone & Home Alone 2": Always two favorite for good laughs. A young Macaulay Caulkin plays Kevin McCallister, an 8-year-old who's forgotten at home by his parents as they travel to Europe. Kevin outsmarts the thieves who are trying to steal from all the houses in the neighborhood by setting traps for them in his house. The robbers are played by Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern. In the second *Home Alone*, Kevin is lost in New York City. This time he goes to live in his Aunt and Uncle's house, which is being renovated. The same robbers come back for revenge. This is a movie for kids or students who want to revive a childhood memory.

"Miracle on 34th Street": This is an old classic starring Natalie Wood and Edmund Gwenn. In the movie Kris Kringle gets a job at Macy's and meets a mother and a daughter that don't believe Santa exists. Kris Kringle tries to prove that he is the man from the North Pole. It ends up being an emotional courtroom drama. This story is full of Christmas magic. I haven't been able to watch it without crying at the end.

"A Christmas Carol", "White Christmas", "It's a Wonderful Life" and the cartoon "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer" are classics with uplifting plots.

Visit the video store or invest in these holiday classics. They provide your memories and laughter on even the coldest of winter days.

photos courtesy of <http://amazon.com>

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