

# Arts & Entertainment

## Holly Jolly Hollywood: Five Films for Feeling Festive

Teressa Berton, Social Media Coordinator

As the semester comes to a close and the holidays draw near and the semester draws to a close, many of us may find ourselves suddenly having some spare time. After you have finished finals and have headed home for the holiday let off some steam, and give some old hollywood favorite a spot on your streaming queue.

**Meet Me in St. Louis** - This film is a classic not only around the holidays, but all year long. The movie follows an American family at the turn of the century, and their ups and downs in St. Louis. The musical starring Judy Garland introduced the world to the Christmas carol "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." In addition to great songs in this movie, you also get a story about family and

love — perfect for the holidays.

**Miracle on 34th Street (1947)** - Do you believe in Santa Claus? Follow the journey of a sweet little girl as she determines the authenticity of a man who claims to be Santa. This film was so successful that it would later be remade in 1994, but the original is equally worthy of your time- if not for the charming story, then at least for the view of a young Natalie Wood.

**Holiday Inn** - This is the original holiday movie, featuring Irving Berlin songs for all of the holidays in the year including "White Christmas". When Berlin wrote the song, he stated that it was the best song ever written. The film stars crooner Bing Crosby and hooper

Fred Astaire as a pair of show biz whizzes and their celebration of a year's worth of Holiday toe tappers. This movie is perfect for getting into the holiday mood.

**White Christmas**- From the OG Christmas movie to the ultimate Christmas extravaganza. Bing Crosby returns to the screen to reprise the song he made famous during the second World War and bring it to the next generation. This movie has got it all from lavish musical numbers to a heartwarming story and even slam bang finish.

**The Bishop's Wife** - As a great reminder of the importance of family, this film shines as a great example of using the gifts you have and appreciating what has

been placed in your life. Follow the angel Dudley, played by the suave and debonair Cary Grant, as he aides a Bishop in finding a way to care for his parish and his family.

**It's a Wonderful Life** - This is a must-see! This film by director Frank Capra, tells the story of George Bailey and his contributions to his community. This film is a great reminder of community and the individuals that live within them. I strongly recommend this film to all the Meredith Angels who are still looking to find their wings.

I hope you'll take the time to enjoy these classics while you are home for the holidays. Maybe you'll find a few new favorites. Merry Christmas!

## It's The Most Wonderful Channel of the Year: Hallmark

Laurie Diggett, Staff Writer

With most of November already gone, it is no wonder that we're in the thick of the festive season. Along with the consistent commercials and Christmas trees, everywhere you look comes a wintry feeling that makes you want to cuddle up with a loved one by a warm fire or watch a movie to get into the holiday spirit.

In a 2015 Variety article, Rick Kissell writes, "Among all cable networks for the week of Nov. 23-29, [2015] Hallmark Channel ranked No. 2 in primetime total viewers (all-time high 2.48 million), behind only ESPN (3.45 million)." Based upon the statistics reported by Kissell, it appears that the Hallmark channel is expected to

be a popular pitstop for holiday channel surfers.

Chances are, if you're near a television it will be turned to the Hallmark channel at some point during these festive times. Not only does Hallmark play an endless number of Christmas themed films throughout the last two months of the year, but the movies are ridiculously easy to follow and, therefore, serve as perfect background noise for some festive baking, gift-wrapping, or online shopping. Let's face it, Christmas is the perfect time of year to be cliché, and Hallmark certainly delivers. If you leave the channel on long enough, the stereotypical plots

and stock characters will begin to run together, but, instead of being bored to tears, you will most likely become further engaged in each film. It will become a competition to see how fast you can pick out which character will end up with another, who will finally get that big promotion, and who will be the antagonist to lose it all in the end.

For many people, the Hallmark channel is at its best during the festive season. Hallmark movies tend to instill the same warm feeling of family and festivities as our classic specials like Santa Claus is Coming to Town and A Charlie Brown Christmas. Whereas the Christmas specials typically seen on Freeform

(formerly known as ABC Family) are a sentimental reminder of our simple childhood, the antics of the often corny characters in Hallmark films tend to be relatable to the craziness of adulthood. The Hallmark channel brings us comfort through its wholesome relatability to us in our adult lives, while the specials bring us back to our simpler innocence. Whether you're looking for a "real" festive film after flipping to Freeform and seeing a "Harry Potter Weekend" for the umpteenth time, or you've worn out your Christmas music halfway into the season and need some background noise while you work, Hallmark's many Christmas movies will not disappoint.

## Web Stars Take on the World

Laurie Diggett and Carolina Brust, Staff Writers

Watch out, stand-up comics, pop artists, and Broadway stars alike. There's a new form of celebrity on the horizon, and they're all coming from a place that no one ever would have expected five years ago. YouTube, a site once seen as a place to go for cat videos and fail compilations (although there continues to be an abundance of both), has been taken over by a new generation of visionaries that go beyond the normal model of entertainment that conventional television and film has long established. Whether they're performing a cool comedy sketch, walking viewers through a week of their daily life or even reviewing the latest beauty product to be put on Sephora's shelves, these YouTubers have made a career out of simply having the courage to sit in front of a camera and start talking. YouTube has been a home for social media influencers from all

platforms. When Vine announced they would be shutting down their site in late 2016, their users flocked to YouTube for refuge. Even before then, a few had made the transition in the hopes of broadening their fame past 6 seconds. Their loyal fans soon followed them during the switch and brought a boost to Youtube's viewer base. Others from Instagram, Tumblr, and Pinterest have also made their home on the site.

These days, people are looking for their daily dose beyond cable television and towards the online realm. Numerous hours can be spent on one specific site, Youtube, with videos ranging from the educational to the ridiculous. While the term "YouTuber" has been in everyday use for a few years now, what is changing is the way these so called YouTubers interact with their followers. These influencers are moving past their

computer screens and out into the real world. What started as a few ticketed conventions in major cities like Orlando, Florida, and California have helped these individuals gain enough attention from the mainstream media and potential followers for them to go on tour, showcasing their particular talents whether it be comedy, improv, or a simple question and answer session. These highly profitable ventures have taken them past their respective countries to meet and interact with their fans worldwide, increasing their reach and supporter base.

Not only that, but these YouTubers have also found fame in almost every outlet of the media and across numerous industries. Besides touring, first in their home country, and later worldwide, they have also skyrocketed their fame by making appearances on our television screens and in independent films like Liza

Koshy on the Hulu Original show Freakish, signing book deals like Tyler Oakley's Binge, producing music like Joey Graceffa and his album Don't Wait, creating a makeup line like beauty guru Michelle Phan's Em Cosmetics, and more. Any new venture is a chance to make a name for themselves and reach out to any current and future fans.

Youtube comedy duos currently or getting ready to go on tour:

- Dan and Phil's Interactive Introverts: Coming to Greensboro, NC on July 11th at White Oak Amphitheatre. Buy tickets at: <http://danandphiltour.com/>
- Rhett and Link's Tour of Mythicality: Tickets in NC are sold out but there are tickets at other venues available at <https://www.tourofmythicality.com>
- Elijah Daniel and Christine Sydelko: (No official tickets available yet)