



The Twelve Films of Christmas

Selections by Vince LePlavy

HO HO HO!

It's that most wonderful time of year! When it comes to Christmas movies, they're just as treasured as the holiday itself. Millions of families every December return to those feel-good classics that they remember watching as kids. You know the ones: *It's A Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Story*, *Elf*, *Christmas Vacation*, *White Christmas*, *Scrooged* along with many others. There's nothing wrong with these titles (I cherish them all myself!) yet what about the more overlooked bunch, that proverbial island of lost Christmas films? For the viewer filled with good cheer and wanting an unexpected gift under their tree, look no further than *The Twelve Films of Christmas*. There's always the age-old debate about Christmas movies vs. movies that happen to take place at or around Christmastime; you'll find plenty of both in the list below. From romance drama to laugh-out loud comedy (and yes even some horror!), there's a stocking stuffer here for everyone who's looking to be entertained by something new this holiday season. Throw a log on the fire, pour up some egg nog and enjoy some of these more unconventional Christmas flicks. You'll shoot your eye out, kid!

The Apartment (1960)



A chatty insurance clerk trades corporate favors for letting his bosses use his snazzy upper west side apartment to carry out their extramarital affairs. When he starts to fall for the cute elevator operator in his building, things get complicated.

Director: Billy Wilder

Starring: Jack Lemmon
Shirley MacLaine
Fred MacMurray

Includes: -raucous office Santas
-philandering business execs
-unfinished gin rummy games

Favorite Quote: "Shut up and deal..."



Better Watch Out (2016)



A teenage girl takes a babysitting gig in the days leading up to Christmas and is soon forced to defend herself and the twelve-year-old boy she's watching from unknown assailants.

Director: Chris Peckover

Starring: Olivia DeJonge
Levi Miller
Virginia Madsen

Includes: -aloof parents
-cringy seduction attempts
-deadly paint cans

Favorite Quote: "A thousand and one uses for duct tape."



Black Christmas (1974)



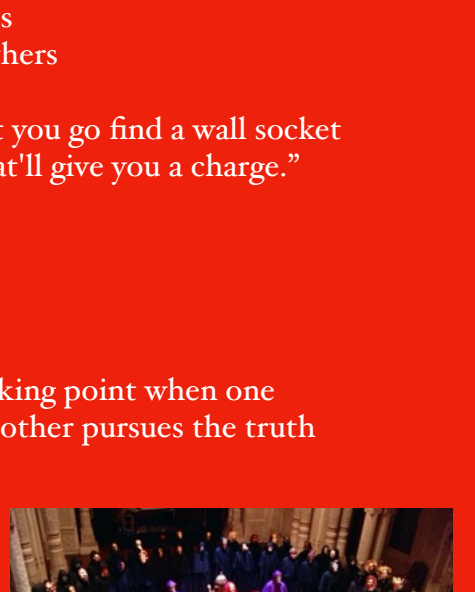
A group of young sorority students get picked off one by one by an unseen slasher during the final semester weekend before holiday break.

Director: Bob Clark

Starring: Margot Kidder
Olivia Hussey
Keir Dullea

Includes: -plastic-bag suffocation
-hidden booze stashes
-overly concerned fathers

Favorite Quote: "Oh, why don't you go find a wall socket and stick your tongue in it? That'll give you a charge."



Eyes Wide Shut (1999)



A youthful couple reach a breaking point when one contemplates an affair and the other pursues the truth behind a secret organization that's been ever-looming in the lovers' midst.

Director: Stanley Kubrick

Starring: Tom Cruise
Nicole Kidman
Sydney Pollack

Includes: -floozy piano bars
-masked group orgies
-gratuitous Christmas trees

Favorite Quote: "No dream is ever just a dream."



Fanny & Alexander (1982)



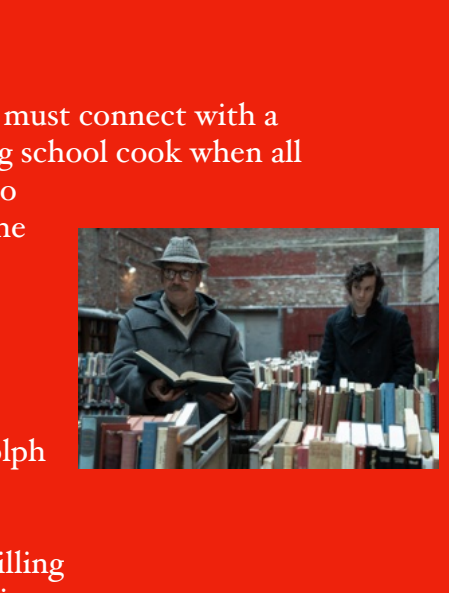
A year in the life of the Ekdahl family in the early 20th century told through the cyclical seasons of life, death, family, adolescence and most importantly Christmas.

Director: Ingmar Bergman

Starring: Bertil Guve
Jan Malmstj
Jarl Kulle

Includes: -luxurious banquet feasts
-ornate winter architecture
-villainous stepfathers

Favorite Quote: "Alexander does not wish the Bishop a good night."



The Holdovers (2023)



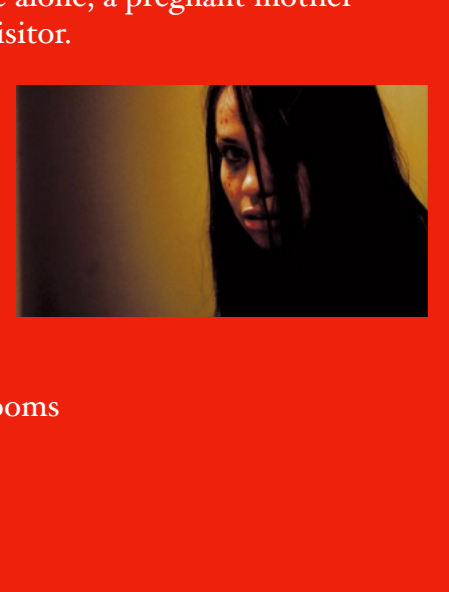
A stale old history professor must connect with a deserted youth and a grieving school cook when all three find themselves with no home to go back to during the week of Christmas.

Director: Alexander Payne

Starring: Paul Giamatti
Da'Vine Joy Randolph
Dominic Sessa

Includes: -copious booze-swilling
-prep school nepotism
-1970's Boston

Favorite Quote: "I thought all of the Nazis were hiding in Argentina."



Inside (2007)



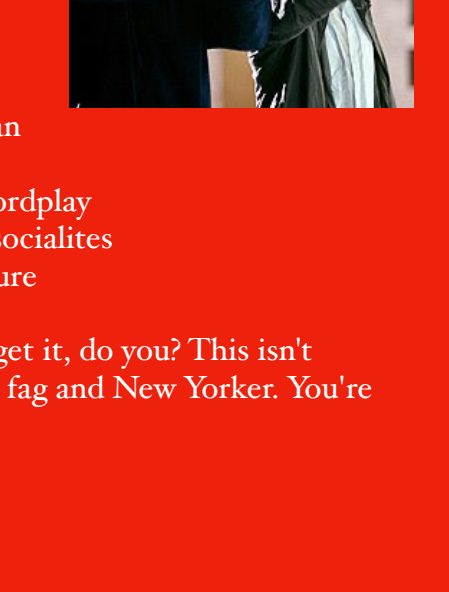
While spending Christmas Eve alone, a pregnant mother-to-be receives an unwelcome visitor.

Director: Julien Maury
Alexandre Bustillo

Starring: Béatrice Dalle
Alysson Paradis
Tahar Rahim

Includes: -overdue babies
-photographic darkrooms
-cantankerous cops

Favorite Quote: "I want one."



Kiss Kiss Bang Bang (2005)



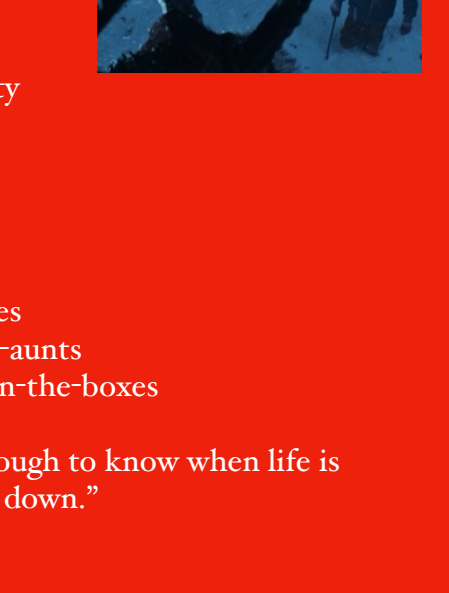
A P.I.-turned-actor in a murder-in-cheek detective become embroiled in a tongue-in-cheek conspiracy involving the P.I.'s childhood sweetheart.

Director: Shane Black

Starring: Robert Downey Jr.
Val Kilmer
Michelle Monaghan

Includes: -self-referential wordplay
-pretentious L.A. socialites
-electroshock torture

Favorite Quote: "You don't get it, do you? This isn't 'good cop, bad cop.' This is fag and New Yorker. You're in a lot of trouble."



Krampus (2015)



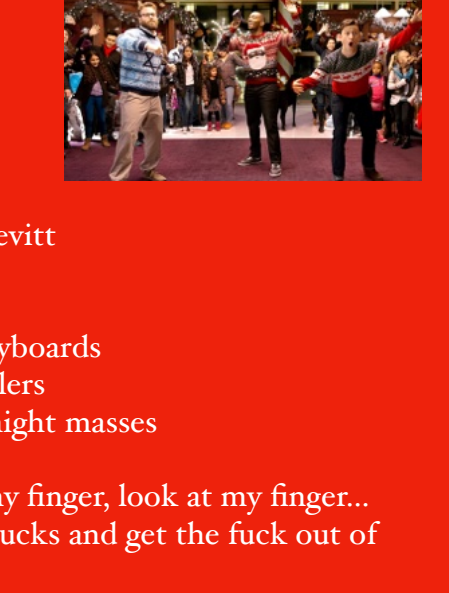
An ill-tempered family reunite at Christmas only for the supernatural Krampus (the shadow of St. Nick) and his demonic minions to pass final judgement on who's been nice and who's been naughty.

Director: Michael Dougherty

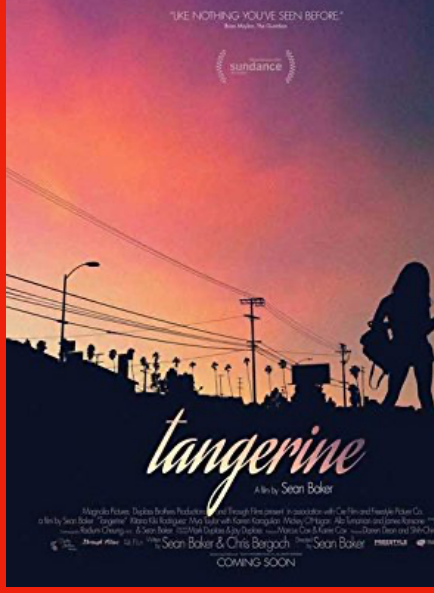
Starring: Adam Scott
Toni Collette
David Koechner

Includes: -spooky snowglobes
-rum-sipping great-aunts
-child-eating jack-in-the-boxes

Favorite Quote: "I'm old enough to know when life is coming at me with its pants down."



The Night Before (2015)



A trio of aging friends spend one last Christmas Eve together searching for a secret holiday bash hidden somewhere in downtown New York City.

Director: Jonathan Levine

Starring: Seth Rogen
Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Anthony Mackie

Includes: -giant foot-tap keyboards
-ghostly weed dealers
-psychedelic midnight masses

Favorite Quote: "Look at my finger, look at my finger... you need to give me \$100 bucks and get the fuck out of my car!"



Tangerine (2015)



It's Christmas Eve in Hollywood and sex worker Sin-Dee Rella is on a mission to track down her adulterous pimp boyfriend along with the help of her loyal friend Alexandra.

Director: Sean Baker

Starring: Kitana Kiki Rodriguez
Mya Taylor
James Ransone

Includes: -holiday donut shops
-Armenian taxi drivers
-awkward open-mic nights

Favorite Quote: "Merry Christmas Eve, bitch."



Trading Places (1983)



The lives of a high-stakes broker and a low-class street hustler are switched around when the pair of miserly businessmen who own the brokerage firm make a bet for the fun of the holiday season.

Director: John Landis

Starring: Eddie Murphy
Dan Aykroyd
Jamie Lee Curtis

Includes: -incognito swedish girls
-lusty gorillas
-beard-crustal salmon

Favorite Quote: "Say man, when I was growing up, if we wanted a jacuzzi, we had to fart in the tub."



MERRY XMAS FROM BAFS!

