



What makes holiday movies so great?



Riley DeBoer
Copy Editor

'18

If you had to think of your favorite holiday movie, what would it be? For many people, what comes to mind are classic holiday movies that they have watched since they were kids. From *Frosty the Snowman* to *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, people often have a personal favorite. That is why many of these holiday movies have become so ingrained within the holiday season culture. Several are often featured in commercials and advertisements during the winter season. This is because of our fond and nostalgic memories for these movies. But because of all of our nostalgia, we may become blind to the actual quality of our favorite holiday films.

"My Favorite holiday movie is *A Christmas Story*," said Shayla Johnson, senior. "It is a classic in my family that we watch every year. But I would say that nostalgia is the main reason why I like this movie."

The danger of becoming blinded by nostalgia for movies, especially holiday movies, is that we may fall victim to being exploited by advertisers trying to make money during this high spending season. If we see a commercial that features the Grinch snooping around Kmart, then we may be more inclined to purchase something we don't want or need. One of the biggest offenders of this is *A Christmas Story*. The movie's various memorable quotes have been turned into merchandise, from "Oh Fudge" candy you can eat to the Red Ryder BB gun. The film has been milked countless times for monetary gain.

"I really like the movie *Elf*," said Summer Nelson, senior. "Nostalgia is a factor but I think that the movie is still good enough that I would like it without my connection to it."

Nostalgia for something isn't always bad. Watching a holiday movie with family members every year can bring them closer together during a time of togetherness like the holidays. Just be sure that you don't let those memories become exploited for commercial means.

VOYAGER MOVIE REVIEWS



Review by Olivia Hagerty

A Bad Moms Christmas, the sequel to the original *Bad Moms*, is the perfect holiday comedy this year. *Bad Moms*, the first movie, was hilarious and heartwarming, so I had high expectations for the second movie release. A story about three "bad" moms played by Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell and Kathryn Hahn are trying to create the perfect holiday for their families, but are now faced with hosting their mothers for the holidays. These three moms decide to take back Christmas for themselves through wild shopping sprees and obvious bad behavior, but are put to a stop when their mothers show up. The film does an amazing job building off from the first movie by making the addition of veteran actresses Cheryl Hines, Christine Baranski, and Susan Sarandon. The movie focuses on the original moms, but now ties in the relationship between mother and daughter as well as adding a holiday spark.

A Bad Moms Christmas had the audience in laughter throughout the whole movie, but the comedy lacked at times and didn't intrigue me as much as the original *Bad Moms*. The movie used an excessive amount of adult language and references, which at times was overwhelming. Even though it is not kid friendly, it is definitely a movie with a message behind it and left me thinking about the meaning of Christmas, mother and daughter relationships, and family. If you are looking for a new Christmas movie and a good laugh, *A Bad Moms Christmas* is a must see, if you are old enough.



Review by CJ Larson

Daddy's Home 2, the sequel to the 2015 Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg film, is nothing more than an unfunny, coldhearted mess that pits the "alpha male" and "beta male" stereotypes against one another, but unlike *Daddy's Home*, they've dressed it in an ugly Christmas sweater. Not only is it a terrible and boring Christmas movie, it addresses the audience as if they are the most unintelligent people alive. The film dares to unsavoryly touch on controversial social and political problems that we face daily, but it has nothing real to say.

The film starts with Mark Wahlberg's character, Dusty, and Will Ferrell's character, Brad, working together as "Co-dads" to make sure that their kids are happy. Everything is going great until the kids express some anger towards them and Dusty's father, who hasn't been seen for a few years, calls and invites himself over for Christmas.

Dusty's father, played by Mel Gibson, comes into town along with Brad's father, played by John Lithgow. Dusty's father, Kurt, and Mel Gibson are practically the same person. His performance is uncomfortable and it was hard to realize that the hyper misogynistic, openly mean spirited character was just that; a character.

The film's greatest downfall is just the lack of real comedy. Throughout the 98 minute run time there are maybe two or three good jokes. It seems as if the writers forgot what a joke was, for the jokes' setups tended to also be the punchline. The slapstick comedy also fell flat on its face in every instance.

If you have to get a gift for someone you don't like this year, fill their stocking with a copy of *Daddy's Home 2*. Even coal would be more enjoyable.



Review by Karina Castañon

Pixar Animation studios and Walt Disney Pictures released their newest computer animated film, *Coco*, this past November.

Although, it aims to target for a younger audience, people of all ages are excited about the film based on the Mexican holiday, Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

The film starts out by introducing a young boy named Miguel who dreams of becoming a musician inspired by his idol Ernesto de la Cruz. Unfortunately, because of what his music has done to his family, he is prohibited from following that dream.

The film was beautifully edited; there was so much detail in the animations and especially the scene where Miguel sees the Land of the Dead for the first time. It is said that there was over 7 million lights were used in a single still in the movie.

Coco was praised for having Latino actors play the characters and not white-washing the roles. It was a big step in the Hollywood community to have real representation of the Hispanic community.

The film really touched home with its strong family theme and Mexican culture that was implemented into the story line. It was such a relatable film for many people who have gone through the same dilemma as Miguel. When it comes to following your passion and trying to maintain a close relationship with your family, the audience could definitely connect to that.

There will be many laughs and even some tears but *Coco* is a must see.

CULTURES ON THE BIG SCREEN

An insight on whether Hollywood's portrayal of cultures is offensive and stereotyping

Marie Burns
In-Depth Editor

'18

Often times when someone does not know much about a certain culture, films become their main source of "understanding," despite all the inaccuracies that Hollywood provides to viewers. Movies can be notorious for stereotyping different cultures and lifestyles, which often leads to people having misconceptions of people and traditions from various backgrounds. But how big of an impact do these popular movies leave on the average viewer?

"Viewers just need to realize that a lot of these popular films are not necessarily realistic," said Gianna Dullman,

sophomore. "It is nice to be able to see these exaggerations but it is important to keep in mind what the culture is actually like in the real world."

Many films that depict different aspects of American culture try to give off a more positive spin on the actual situations. Mob films like *Goodfellas*, *The Godfather*, and *A Bronx Tale* are dramatic yet romantic in the sense of the older Italian gangs. The musical *West Side Story*, though it is a tragedy, still attempts to romanticize gang violence and cultural differences within a community.

"In the movie *Catch .44*, it portrays how people from low-income background find themselves in a criminal situation," said Treighton Hoang, junior. "I do not think that low-income directly leads to involvement in bad situations. Anyone would do the same if they had to."

More recently filmmakers are trying to make films that are a little more

accurate in highlighting different cultures and their traditions, both in American culture and heritages around the world. Movies like *Moana* and *Coco*, allow younger viewers to see portrayals created and casted by people of that particular culture, considering they are more knowledgeable of all the different parts that stand out in their heritage.

"Movies now like *Moana* truly brought Pacific Islander culture onto the big screen," said Dullman, "through all different aspects: clothes, characters, and music style."





December 2017

ENTERTAINMENT 3

THREE PENNY THEATRE PRESENTS... THE ONE-ACT FESTIVAL

Brandon Baltis
Reporter

For almost a decade Three Penny One-Acts have been a featured performance by the theatre department. One-acts are short, one-scene plays put on by the third and fourth year acting students and the second year technical theatre students. The production of one-acts begins soon after the end of the fall play and continues until the first week of December when they are performed.

"I'm excited because I get to try designing things," said Alyssa Pagan, sophomore. "It's interesting seeing the steps it takes to put together a regular show."

One-acts normally involve all advanced tech students, but this year the second year tech students are doing all of the

behind the scenes work. Everyone has a role; the tech students have the jobs of scenery, lights, and sound, while actors work on the rest such as movement, lines, and set design.

"I'm a director and it's my job to select actors for certain roles, help them learn blocking and lines," said Synthia Burgess, junior. "We come up with set design for the tech students."

The directors and producers start off by receiving and reading a script and then talking with the actors who will star in their one-acts. The actors are given roles by the directors and producers and then rehearse until the night of their one-act performance. This year, however, will not include the help of third and fourth year technical theatre students as it has in the past. Instead third and fourth year students are helping in their classes where they can.

"I wish we were able to help but I'm excited to see what the second years are

capable of," said Isabella Ibarra, senior and fourth year technical theatre student.

People who come to the one-acts are only charged three pennies to get into the show. This has been a tradition to the theatre that the department takes as a donation so attendees are able to leave any amount of money to help the performing arts department. This tradition goes back to Shakespearian times. People would pay for standing room near the stage while people with more money would sit higher up. The tech theatre students decided to build the stage where actors would perform and the attendees would sit on the stage near where actors perform.

"In Shakespearean times people were charged three pennies when sitting close to the stage which is similar to how we built a stage on a stage and people sit in front of it," said Mrs. Melissa Wolf, acting teacher.

LA CARCHACA - SELENA
YA LO SÉ - JENNI RIVERA
UN IDIOTA - JOAN SEBASTIAN
MIS OJOS LLORAN POR TI - ISABELA

THE 7TH SENSE - NCT U
MONSTER - EXO
A.D.T.O.Y. - 2PM
PLAYING WITH FIRE - BLACK PINK

YOUM WARA YOUM - JONAS BENYOUN
NOE BEDRA - FEIT'N FRA KOLBOTN
FREDAG - KJARTAN LAURITZEN
IKKE SNAKK TIL MEG - MERONE

ON NE VIT QU'UNE FOIS - SIDOINE
L'AIR DE RIEN - MARGUAX AVRIL
ELLE ME DIT - MIKA
DERNIÈRE DANSE - INDILA

GOLDEN BOY - MADAV GUVEDJ
TELAVIV - OMER ADAM
HERMETICO - BALKAN BEATBOX
THE CHANUKAH SONG - ADAM SANDLER



#Harmonics carol to spread HOLIDAY cheer

Isabella Pumo
Opinion Editor

A Capella has been an integral part of Guilford's Fine Arts department since 2016, and it shows no signs of dying down anytime soon. Each year, a capella welcomes students from each grade level to be a part of their family. Whether you hear them carolling in the halls of GHS or catch them at Stroll on State, the #Harmonics (pronounced "sharp harmonics") intend to grab your attention this holiday season.

"Prior to our performance at Stroll on State, we performed at the Dasher Dash," said Ms. Olivia Guido, a capella's advisor. "People like us to perform at holiday parties and we also sing at the holiday concert here at Guilford."

Every year since they began, the #Harmonics have been featured at the Stroll on State festivities. They ring in the holiday season, performing songs such as "Have



A Capella members posed after their performance in City Hall during Stroll on State. Guilford Choir Twitter Page. (@GuilfordH-SC choir)/PHOTO

Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," "Silent Night," "Noel," and more.

"Last year, we were right on the main stage by the tree and everyone was there, but this year we were caroling in City

Hall," said Ms. Guido.

Furthering their efforts to bring some holiday cheer to their peers, the #Harmonics sell Christmas carols every year, where you can pay to send a serenade to a friend, or even a teacher.

"I love to see people's faces when we surprise them and sing for them," said Evandia Penix, senior. "I can't wait."

These carols will be sold starting the week before Christmas break, and the 30-40 available spots usually sell fast.

"For the past couple of years, we have had people buy repeated Christmas carols.

For example, last year the swim team bought around 10 for Mr. Miner alone," said Ms. Guido. "So it's been kind of fun to see how people utilize those Christmas carols."

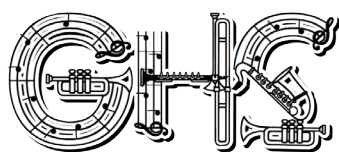
The money made from these carols goes back into the a capella program and supports costs for the regionals competition in February.

"There's an entrance fee," said Ms. Guido. "We have to purchase our outfits, the music we use, and so that money goes towards all of the things we need in order to compete."

Though a capella is prominent during the holiday season, the #Harmonics are hoping to maintain their momentum throughout the remainder of the year.

"We are planning to start rehearsing for our competition season and hopefully we'll make it to the state competition," said Penix.

GET TO KNOW YOUR



Brandon Baltis
Reporter

Guilford has a very large band program run by Mr. Rick Derango, who has been teaching for thirty three years. This year the music department welcomed a new teacher, Mr. Josh Jacobo. The GHS band participates in many school events including the concerts, the spring musical, and sporting events.

"Concerts are really fun and simple," said Angelina Vernola, junior. "I've been doing it for such a long time that they are just very casual nowadays."

People who take band continue it throughout high school. After one year in band students progress to a higher level within the band program.

"I enjoy going out into the public," said Vernola. "It gets to show off Guilford's band and it helps to draw people to the concerts."

At the end of this year, Mr. Derango

will be retiring. Mr. Jacobo will take over teaching his classes and also directing for the band and orchestra classes in performances at both school and non-school related events.

"I'm sad to see him go," said Gabby Roth, Junior. "He's such a great teacher and he makes the class a lot of fun."

Many of the students who have spent multiple years with Mr. Derango are upset to see him go. Mr. Jacobo, however, has been training with Mr. Derango since the beginning of the year. He has helped



Viking Band and Concert Band join together to play during the Varsity basketball game. Karina Castañon/PHOTO

lead concerts for the band while Mr. Derango watches from the audience.

"I'm going to miss Mr. Derango," said Will Thorton, sophomore. "He always made class fun for everyone, and I wish I could have another year with him."

GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

POPS Concert
March 8th, 2018
7PM - GHS Auditorium - FREE

Spring Musical
March 15-18th, 2018 @ 7PM
March 19th, 2018 @ 2PM
GHS Auditorium - \$10

Choir Concert
March 22nd, 2018
7PM - GHS Auditorium - \$2

Spring Piano Recital
April 11th, 2018
7PM - GHS Auditorium - FREE

Talent Show
April 18th, 2018
7PM - GHS Auditorium - \$5

Fashion Show
TBA

Fine Arts Festival
April 26th & 27th, 2018
GHS Gym - FREE

Spring Choir Concert
May 3rd, 2018
7PM - GHS Auditorium - \$2

Spring Orchestra Concert
May 7th, 2018
7PM - GHS Auditorium - FREE

Spring Jazz Band Concert
May 8th, 2018
7PM - ROOM 100 - FREE