

Rent some cheer Seasonal movies yield cozy options

By Anne Steyer
Senior Reporter

Oh, oh, oh, it's that time of year again. More food, more family, more free time on your hands. To balance out those yuletide blues check out a couple of holiday movies from this stock(ing) of videos.



"A Christmas Story" What would Christmas be without a genuine Red Ryder Carbine Action Two Hundred Shot Lightning Loader Range Model Air Rifle? For little Ralphie Parker (Peter Billingsley) it would be deplorable.

Ralphie wants nothing but the Red Ryder for Christmas. Unfortunately for him, his parents are convinced "he'll shoot his eye out."

A large portion of this film is done with voice-overs, something like television's "The Wonder Years." Also similar is the perfect grasp of what it is like to be a child, especially a somewhat nerdy child.

It has some great scenes, particularly those with the school bully and the triple dog dare.

"Miracle on 34th Street" Six-

year-old Natalie Wood stole America's heart with her portrayal of a pragmatic child who doesn't believe in Santa Claus.

Her mother (Maureen O'Hara) is an executive with Macy's department store. She doesn't believe in Santa either.

Macy's has a new Santa and his name is Kris Kringle. Young Natalie is almost ready to believe in him, but her mother convinces her that Mr. Kringle is "just a nice old man with whiskers."

Kringle has to go to court to prove his name claim and relies on an idealistic lawyer (John Payne) to help him out. In return for the legal aid, he helps Payne out in the romance department, grants the child's wish and gift wraps a little love for her mother.

"Scrooged" Bill Murray has some of his funnier moments in this "A Christmas Carol" inspired comedy.

Murray is Frank Cross, a television network president who has clawed his way from the mailroom to the executive office. All of his hard work has left him a stingy, hardened man with no limits to his miserly ways.

He isn't generous to his employees — he fired one on Christmas. He isn't generous to his family — he gave his brother a shower curtain one year. Frank is a true scrooge.

The ghosts of Christmas decide to make an appearance in Frank's life to



Robert Borzekowski/DN

remedy this. In addition, they show him the true meaning of the holiday and throw a little love and romance his way too.

Cameos abound in this picture, with Carol Kane, Buster Poindexter, John Forsythe and Bobcat Goldthwait making appearances.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" No yuletide celebration would be complete without spending some time with Dr. Seuss, the Grinch and little Susie Who.

Boris Karloff narrates Seuss' story of the nasty Grinch's descent on Whoville and his theft of every bit of holiday decorations, gifts and feasts, down to the crumbs on the floor.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is geared more for adults than for children, as Seuss uses the characters and events to satirize and illustrate the materialism of the holiday.

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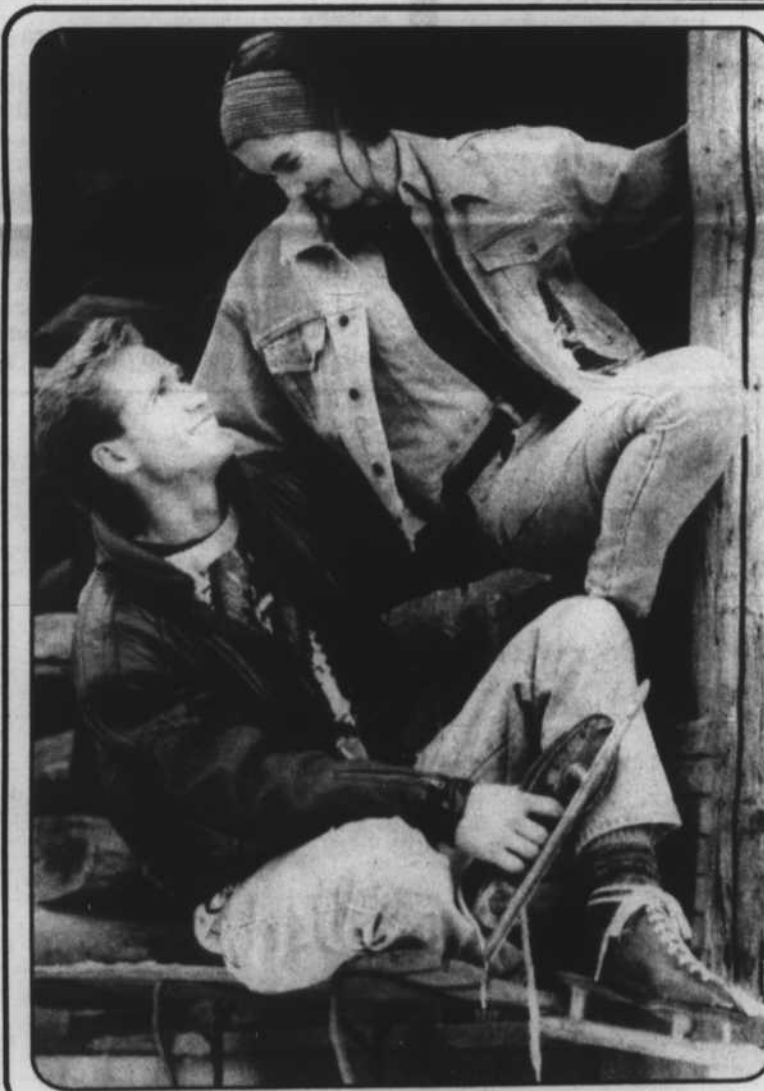
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