



holidays, movies and popcorn

What's better than the whole family curling up on the sofa to watch a quintessential holiday movie together? Here's a list of much-loved Christmas classics, for you and the kids. by **RITIKA JAIN**

★ **A Charlie Brown Christmas** (1965) Based on the cartoon strip Peanuts, this animated film is the longest-running cartoon series in history. Whimsical, melancholic, and full of wonder, it is a holiday favourite for countless families. Repelled by the commercialism he sees around him, Charlie Brown tries to find the true meaning of Christmas. Revisit it with your kids.

★ **Frosty the Snowman** (1969) A magician is hired to perform for some school children, following which, the kids go outside for recess and build a snowman named Frosty. They decide to put the magician's hat on top of Frosty's head. To their surprise, the magic makes Frosty to come to life. This animated film is a fun-filled watch for all ages.

★ **Edward Scissorhands** (1990) The first collaboration between Johnny Depp and Tim Burton, this film is a modern fairy tale. A gentle man, with scissors for hands, is brought into a new community after living in isolation with his inventor, who's now dead. At first he's trusted and admired for his work but a mishap sparks rumours and he's banished to live in a forsaken hilltop ruin. This film will surely tug at your heartstrings and add magic every time you witness falling snow.

★ **The Muppet Christmas Carol** (1992) In this musical fantasy, an adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel *A Christmas Carol*, the Muppets tell their version of the classic tale of an old and bitter miser's redemption on Christmas

Eve, wherein Michael Caine plays Scrooge. A delightful watch!

★ **The Nightmare Before Christmas** (1993) This animation masterpiece is a dark fantasy conceived by none other than Tim Burton. A resident from Halloween Town stumbles through a portal to Christmas Town and decides to celebrate the holiday, with some dastardly and comical consequences. The boldly imagined, entirely new worlds are a visual treat for everybody.

★ **The Santa Clause** (1994) Tim Allen made his big screen debut with this light comedy, the first in *The Santa Clause* trilogy. He plays Scott Calvin, who's distressed to learn that his ex-wife has informed



his son that there is no Santa Claus. While a sullen Charlie visits his dad on Christmas Eve, a noise on the roof brings them outside. A startled Santa tumbles from the roof and dies in the accident. Because of a technicality known as 'the Santa Clause', Scott inherits the jolly old man's job. In the ensuing year, Scott rapidly gains weight and grows a beard. In addition, he has to deal with a suspicious ex-wife while trying to keep his secret safe. This movie is a laughter riot!

✦ **Miracle On 34th Street (1994)** Macy's departmental store hires fake Santas every year. This particular year, a man named Kriss Kringle does a remarkably convincing job and soon reveals that he actually is Santa. The authorities threaten to place the old man in an asylum but a lawyer and a little girl come to his rescue and prove that the man is for real. Families will find every bit of this remake of the 1947 holiday classic as entertaining as the original film.

✦ **How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)** Based on the children's story by the same name (authored by Dr. Seuss), and starring Jim Carrey, the film revolves around

a revenge-seeking Grinch who lives on the outskirts of Whoville. He hates the townsfolk and despises Christmas. A little girl who believes in the spirit of the festival, sets out to reform him.

✦ **The Polar Express (2004)** A young boy embarks on a magical adventure to the North Pole on the Polar Express. During his adventure he learns about friendship, bravery, and the spirit of Christmas. And you learn too!

✦ **Super Sleuth Christmas Movie (2007)** Christmas is just a day away, and Pooh and his pals can hardly wait! But when Santa's magic toy sack goes missing along with his reindeer Holly, it's up to the sleuths to work together and solve the clues to reach the North Pole in time to help Santa deliver presents. Along the way, they meet new friends, make new discoveries and share in the true spirit of Christmas. Hummable songs and beloved characters make this film a family favourite.

✦ **A Christmas Carol (2009)** An enjoyable, animated retelling of the Dickens' classic novel about a Victorian-era miser on a journey

of self-redemption, courtesy of several mysterious Christmas apparitions.

✦ **The Santa Incident (2010)** After his sleigh is shot down while flying through restricted military airspace, an earthbound Santa is sought for questioning by a pair of overzealous Homeland Security agents. The fate of Christmas is now in the hands of the disbelieving duo. Their faith in Santa can be restored by two children and a trio of elves who have arrived from up North to help out a friend in need.

✦ **Arthur Christmas (2011)** Santa delivers all those presents in one night due to his high-tech operation hidden beneath the North Pole. This is a story about an unlikely hero, Arthur, who gets roped into an urgent mission that must be completed before Christmas morning dawns. It's will be a real entertainer for all of you!

✦ **Get Santa (2014)** Days before Christmas, the streets of London find reindeer running loose. Meanwhile an astonished kid discovers Santa in his garden shed, who's crash-landed while test-driving his new sleigh. Will he be able to help Santa get back in time for Christmas? Watch it for a thrilling experience! ●