

## **A Season for Miracles**

1999 dir Michael Pressman

In this Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, Emilie takes her niece and nephew on the run after her sister is jailed for her drug habit. In order to keep the kids together and out of the system, Emilie is willing to do anything including lie to protect the kids. They find themselves stranded in a small town over Christmas And Emilie concocts a quick new identity for herself and the children. But they find shelter, food and warmth freely given by the town's residents. Emilie and the children also find an angel who seems to be helping them over their obstacles. Just when they think they may have found a place to settle in and Emilie finds her true love, the law discovers the truth: Emilie is wanted for kidnapping the children!

The cast includes: Carla Gugino as Emilie; Mae Whitman as Lani Thompson; Laura Dern as Berry Thompson; Kathy Baker as Ruth Doyle; Patty Duke as Angel; Lynn Redgrave as Judge Jakes; and, Faith Prince as Sadie Miller.

## **Season's Greetings**

1953 dir. Greg Garrison

This hour-long musical variety TV special includes special guests: Eddie Albert; Harpo Marx; ballet dancers, Maria Tallchief and Andre Eglevsky, Basil Rathbone, and Paul Winchell, among others. Though forgotten by most TV historians and viewers, this TV special was one of the first color programs on TV—as the FCC had just approved the color television specifications the week before this originally aired in 1953.

## **Seasons of the Heart**

1993 dir. T. C. Christensen

This film takes place in 1862 when a pioneer family moving westward loses their two young daughters to disease. After arriving in their new homestead, the settlers are asked to care for a young

orphan boy, Daniel, who has lost his parents as well. But the mother, Martha is so distraught with her loss that she has difficulty opening her heart to the new son that needs her. That is, until Christmas Eve when she finally sees the goodness within the boy making the Christmas celebration that she is emotionally unable to provide.

The cast includes: Leigh Lombardi as Martha Richards; Sam Hennings as Jed Richards; Claude Akins as the town's preacher; and Yvonne De Carlo as the narrator.

## **Second Star to the Left**

2001 dir. Graham Ralph

When a Christmas present from Santa's sleigh falls into the hands of a rabbit, a guinea pig and a hamster, the animals find themselves with an opportunity to do something meaningful. Their journey to deliver the gift requires an extreme ride on a skateboard and the avoidance of a hungry Siamese cat. But they are also fortunate enough to make friends with a flock of pigeons which aid the difficult delivery of the gift down Polly's chimney. Father Christmas is so impressed with their task that he offers the animals a ride home in his sleigh. This half-hour animated TV special is British-made.

The voice cast includes: Hugh Laurie as Archie the rabbit; Barbara Windsor as Babs the hamster; Mark Williams as Duke the guinea pig; and, Henry Cherrytree as Santa Claus.

## **The Secret in Bubbe's Attic**

1991 dir. Eva Grayzel, Suri Levow-Krieger, prod. Eva Grayzel, Suri Levow-Krieger

A very low-budget hour-long live action program for Jewish children which includes a Hanukkah segment. Exploring in Bubbe's attic, the children discover a magic Storyteller eager to share tales and songs about the traditional Jewish

items found in a trunk. Amongst the cobwebs is an old menorah for which the Storyteller creates a rap song to explain the story behind Hanukkah. Matisyahu she is not, but it is creative and playful. The holiday segment is just one among many various stories in this program that reflect Jewish traditions and history.

### **The Secret Life of Christmas**

2004

This Food Network special hosted by Jim O'Connor documents the history behind the customs of our favorite Christmas foods. This includes the history behind: the yule log and the preparation of the French holiday cake, *bûche de Noël*; an authentic medieval holiday feast; fruit-cake and a contemporary recipe that eliminates some of those intimidating, unidentifiable chunks in your grandmother's version; game meats for holiday meals and the preparation of venison for a modern dinner; egg nog and the more ancient beverage wassail; and, candy canes and their modern manufacture.

### **Secret of Giving**

1999 dir. Sam Pillsbury

This made-for-TV movie is a Western that takes place in Oregon at the turn-of-the-century. Widow Rose Cameron is trying to defend her cattle ranch from rustlers, and the bank is threatening to foreclose soon too. Her life takes a turn for the better when a stranger calling himself Harry Withers helps her defend her ranch from the rustlers. Withers is shot trying to help her, so she asks him to stay on at the ranch while he recovers. His presence in her life allows her to gain some financial advancement, and the town is also inspired to become more generous with the Christmas spirit. What Rose doesn't know is that Withers stole her most valuable possession, a silver tray, and sold it for the money she used to begin paying off her debts. A romantic

relationship between Rose and Withers blossoms, however, the only way he can imagine raising the money to buy back the tray is to turn himself in since there's a bounty on his head. Moreover, the bounty is a large one because Withers is hiding other secrets about his identity.

The cast includes: Reba McEntire as Rose Cameron; Thomas Ian Griffith as Harry Withers; and, Ronny Cox as the banker, Gotch.

### **The Secret of the Nutcracker**

2007 dir. Eric Till

This amazing film made for Canadian television is the most imaginative adaptation of E.T.A. Hoffmann's original book that I've ever seen.

The story begins on Christmas Eve, 1943 in the small village of Snowy Valley, Alberta. Young Clara helps her mother and two younger brothers prepare for another Christmas without their father, a prisoner of war in Germany. On the road from the city, Clara meets the unusual but magical Drosselmeyer, a friendly German man that she invites to the family's Christmas dinner that night. The stranger warms to his new friends and brings gifts for everyone, including Clara's suspicious young brothers. That night, Clara has a series of dreams which include her gift from Drosselmeyer, a fancy plumed nutcracker. Her dreams also take her into the woods at night where she musters the courage to fight nightmarish stormtrooper bears in order to save her family. And, much to her delight, Clara's dreams also transport her to Father in his detention camp where she inspires him with the courage to allow himself the desire to experience his family back home again. This incredible fantasy story so wonderfully reveals itself, it needs to be seen to be fully appreciated.

Unlike most other versions of the Nutcracker, this tale incorporates 617

elements of style and story that include the original attitude and themes of the literary elements of nineteenth-century Romanticism. These include the surreal and layers of dream sequences, the wild, potential threat of nature and elements of horror. There are also brief sequences of elegantly costumed ballet dancers performing to the music that we come to expect in every version of *The Nutcracker*.

This complex, live action movie features special effects and an array of elaborate animal costumes. It also incorporates Tchaikovsky's musical suite performed by the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and dancers from the Alberta Ballet.

The cast includes: Brian Cox as Droselmeyer; Helene Joy as Mother; and, Janelle Jorde as Clara.

### **Secret Santa**

2003 dir. Ian Barry

In this TV movie, ambitious newspaper reporter Rebecca Chandler is sent on assignment to the small town of Hamden, Indiana to cover an annual news story. She's to look into a local Secret Santa who anonymously donates gifts to one deserving soul each year. Rebecca is eager to prove her investigative journalism skills, spending a great deal of time in the city, interviewing many of the residents and making friends. Could the Secret Santa be the wealthiest man in town or the two elderly spinster sisters? or perhaps even someone else? One thing is certain: Rebecca discovers the beauty and value of the true spirit of giving.

The cast includes: Jennie Garth as Rebecca Chandler; Steven Eckholdt as wealthy resident, John Martin Carter; Charles Robinson as Russell; and, Barbara Billingsley as Miss Ruthie.

### **The Secret World of Santa Claus**

618 1997

This is a French made, low budget animated series starring Santa Claus in his year round adventures beyond his Christmas duties. Most episodes show Santa and his elves making toys and preparing for Christmas with some distraction/obstacle, often Balthazar, his nemesis. There are 24 episodes with one two-part special.

Episodes include: 'The Magic Pearl,' 'The Twelve Labors of Santa Claus,' 'Little Geniuses,' 'Rudolph is Missing,' 'The Star Child,' 'Leon's Christmas,' 'A Present for Two,' 'Super-Rabbit,' 'The Boy Who Wished to Be Little Again,' 'A Present for Santa,' 'The Christmas Conference,' 'The Story of the Trolls,' 'The Lucky Charm,' 'The Flying Carpet,' 'Santa Claus' Memoirs,' 'The Magic Wand,' 'Christmas for Dudley,' 'The Return of Santa Claus,' 'The Tall Little Girl,' 'The Teddy Bear,' 'Stolen Christmas,' 'Havoc in Toyland,' 'Message in a Bottle,' 'Balthazar Can't Make Up His Mind,' 'The Longest Night,' and 'Santa Claus' Secrets.'

### **See It Now**

"Christmas in Korea"

1952

CBS correspondent Edward R. Murrow goes to the front lines in the Korean war to broadcast the soldiers' situation and their holiday greetings to family back home. This episode of the early TV documentary was one of the first notable and memorable ones.

### **Seinfeld**

"The Red Dot"

1991

Elaine offers George a position at Pendant Publishing as a reader. He wants to buy her an early Christmas present to thank her but he's too cheap to pay full price for an expensive cashmere sweater. He buys her a discounted sweater with a small flaw: a red dot along the bottom, hoping she'll never notice the damage. Of course,

Elaine spots the flaw and refuses the cheap gesture. Later, George is fired from his new job after having sex with the office's cleaning lady at his desk.

Guest star David Naughton appears as Elaine's new boyfriend, Dick, a recovering alcoholic. At the office Christmas party, Jerry accidentally switches Dick's soft drink with one containing alcohol, where Dick loses his struggle to stay sober, leaving Elaine to wonder if it was an accident at all. There's much discussion about which is the proper terminology: 'off the wagon' or 'on the wagon' to refer to one who drinks.

#### "The Pick"

1992

Kramer helps Elaine take a photo for her Christmas card but unfortunately she doesn't spot the error until she's already sent them all out: her nipple is visible. Kramer is distracted when he learns that his idea for a perfume called 'the Beach' has been adopted by Calvin Klein without his acknowledgment. George regrets breaking up with Susan and convinces her to take him back.

This episode takes its title from Jerry's dilemma: his model girlfriend thinks she saw him in his car with his finger near his nose, engaged in a pick while he claims it was merely a scratch.

#### "The Race"

1994

Dating a woman named Lois, Jerry is happily making repeated Superman references. Lois' co-worker is Duncan Meyer, a guy that went to school with Jerry and George, a man who (correctly) assumes that Jerry cheated in a foot race in the ninth grade. But Jerry has always been able to deflect suspicions away from his win by refusing to race again—until Duncan challenges him this time. Meanwhile, Elaine is dating a communist which inspires George to try dating

communists too. Learning of his political sympathies, George is sent by Mr. Steinbrenner to scout players for the Yankees in Cuba. Kramer and his little person friend Mickey take jobs working as Santa and his elf helper at a department store. But when he begins to be infected by the communist ideology from Elaine's boyfriend, Kramer offends Mickey and the children with his Christmas political propaganda.

#### "The Label Maker"

1995

In an episode about offensive re-gifting, this episode includes the popular story line where Jerry receives a labelmaker as a gift from Tim Whatley in exchange for Jerry's Superbowl tickets. Later Jerry learns that the labelmaker was a re-gift—Elaine had originally given Whatley the labelmaker as a Christmas gift in exchange for the free dental work he had performed on her.

#### "The Gum"

1995

Though Christmas is only a very minor element in this episode, the story is a memorable one. Kramer is working to make a neighborhood movie theater attain landmark status. To get the proper paperwork filed, he's recruited the help of Lloyd Braun, recently released from a mental institution. George is gently confronted by his friend Deena about his own lack of mental stability after making wild accusations and acting paranoid. Jerry is forced to wear a pair of ridiculously thick glasses to help Lloyd feel 'sane.' These same glasses which make Jerry practically blind, lead him to buy \$100 worth of unwanted Chinese gum from Lloyd. Don't miss the brief cameo by Larry David at a news stand that George patronizes.

## Seinfeld

### “The Millennium”

1997

“Come celebrate the Millennium with Newmannium.” Though this episode aired in Spring 1997, it attempts to capture the inevitable party fever that would eventually come.

Though two and a half years early, Kramer begins planning his New Year’s Eve Millennium party and stores folding chairs and balloons in Jerry’s apartment. Unfortunately, Newman has already been planning his Millennium party as well (he claims he’s been planning since 1978) and has even sent an invitation to Elaine. The two men agree to merge their parties—as long as Jerry isn’t invited!

In the other story lines, Jerry is dating a woman who puts his number on speed dial on her telephone—prioritized above her stepmother. Elaine tries to put a South American imported goods store out of business and George wants to get fired from the Yankees so he can be the head scout for the Mets.

### “The Strike”

1997

This is THE Festivus episode. The gang go to Tim Whatley’s Hanukkah party where Jerry meets his latest girlfriend whom he nicknames “Two-Face;” Elaine gives Denim Vest a fake phone number on the back of her Atomic Sub card—one more purchase and she gets a free sub. George tries to scam his co-workers by appearing generous by claiming he’s donated money in their names to a fictitious charity “The Human Fund.” And, Kramer’s twelve year strike against the Bagel shop is over but they won’t give him time off for Festivus, the holiday George’s father Frank Costanza invented in rejection of the commercialism of Christmas. Though George is humiliated by the customs from his youth, we learn that Festivus involves “feats of strength”

and “the airing of grievances” around an aluminum pole instead of a Christmas tree.

“A Festivus for the rest of us!” A testament to the popularity of this new holiday is that ice cream company Ben and Jerry’s came out with a seasonal ice cream flavor called “Festivus.” They changed the name of the flavor to “Gingerbread Cookie” but have since retired the flavor.

## Serendipity

2001 dir. Peter Chelsom

Jonathan and Sara meet at Bloomingdale’s while each is Christmas shopping. Despite their obvious attraction and chemistry, they decide to tempt fate into determining if they belong together. But ‘fate’ separates them for several years. When Jonathan is about to marry someone else, both Jonathan and Sara begin to see the signs of destiny that they belong together again. Will they put their faith in destiny and be able to find each other after all? This feature film begins and ends at Christmas, in the world famous department store, Bloomingdale’s.

The cast includes: John Cusack as Jonathan; Kate Beckinsale as Sara; Molly Shannon as Eve; Jeremy Piven as Dean; and John Corbett as Lars Hammond.

## Sesame Street

### “A Special Sesame Street Christmas”

1978

This musical special features your favorite Sesame Street residents Maria, Bob and Mr. Hooper with Oscar the Grouch and Big Bird as well as special guest Leslie Uggams. As the Sesame Street gang prepares for Christmas, they notice Oscar’s unpleasantness about the holiday. They sing songs and try to cheer him up but he’s too grouchy. Maria finds an abandoned kitten with an injured paw she names Tiny Tim but Oscar will not share with the needy cat. So Leslie devises a plan to get Oscar into the

holiday mood based on Charles Dickens' book 'A Christmas Carol.' Leslie sends Anne Murray to play the Ghost of Christmas Past, Imogene Coca as the Ghost of Christmas Present and Dick Smothers as the Ghost of Christmas Futures to inspire Oscar. But her plan fails until Oscar realizes that his friends need to believe in him and him in them. Leslie gives Oscar the little kitten and he's now in the holiday mood.

This musical special features original songs sung by Leslie Uggams as well as 'You Needed Me' by Anne Murray, 'Tomorrow' from the Broadway show 'Annie' sung by Ethel Merman, Oscar sings 'Yakety Yak,' and in the end the cast gathers to sing a medley of Christmas songs including 'Jingle Bells,' 'Sleigh Ride' and 'Winter Wonderland.' There are also VERY brief cameo appearances by Henry Fonda and Michael Jackson.

#### "Christmas Eve on Sesame Street"

1979

After an ice skating party, Big Bird seeks an answer to the question of how a fat Santa can squeeze down so many narrow chimneys? Bert and Ernie enact their own version of "The Gift of the Magi" sacrificing their valued possessions in order to purchase gifts for the other. Cookie Monster wants to write a list for Santa for the cookies he wants.

Songs include: "True Blue Miracle," "Keep Christmas With You," "I Hate Christmas" and "Feliz Navidad,"

#### "A Monster's New Year's Eve Party"

1993

It's New Year's Eve on Sesame Street and they have to explain to Telly why we celebrate this holiday. This explanation includes segments on the traditions in other parts of the world for New Years, such as Mexico, Portugal, Japan, Israel, Germany and Norway.

Specials guests: Lily Tomlin and

Savion Glover.

#### "Elmo Saves Christmas"

1996

Maya Angelou serves as storyteller, sharing the story of the time Elmo saved Christmas. One Christmas Eve, Elmo helps free Santa Claus who was stuck in a chimney. As a reward, Elmo receives a magic snowglobe which gives him three wishes, one of which he uses to make it Christmas everyday. Santa encourages Elmo to consider the consequences of this action and sends him into the future to see how Christmas everyday would effect Sesame Street and all his friends. They grow weary of eating turkey, watching "It's a Wonderful Life" on TV everyday and no one is able to go to work except Santa who is so overworked, he retires! Christmas stops being a special celebration—instead making people long for their normal lives. Elmo uses his final magical wish to make Christmas once a year again.

Look for Broadway legend, Harvey Fierstein as the Christmas Bunny without an Easter to celebrate.

Also, notice that everyone keeps watching the movie "It's A Wonderful Life" on TV when it's Christmas everyday. There's a wonderful scene with Bert and Ernie walking past a stack of TVs just when the famous scene in the movie where Jimmy Stewart refers to the characters named Bert and Ernie airs—both puppets just look at each other in astonishment!

Special guests: Maya Angelo; Charles Durning; Harvey Fierstein; and, 14 Carat Soul.

#### "A Sesame Street Christmas Carol"

2006

Oscar the Grouch finds himself being visited by three Ghosts on Christmas Eve. They want to inspire him to feel good at the holiday. The Ghost of Christ-

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mas Past shows him two clips: Bert and Ernie in “The Gift of the Magi” and Big Bird singing “All I Want for Christmas is You” to his friend Snuffy over the phone. The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Oscar a vision of Elmo visiting Santa at the North Pole and singing “Everyday Can’t be Christmas.” This Ghost even shows Oscar how some families celebrate Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. The final visit, the Ghost of Christmas Future shows Oscar an animated segment of an automated, computerized future. Oscar wakes up Christmas morning, happy that tomorrow is the day after Christmas and the holiday will soon be over.

This TV special features clips from: “Christmas Eve on Sesame Street,” “Elmo Saves Christmas” and “Elmo’s World” episode “Happy Holidays”

Special guests include: Kristen Chenoweth and Tim Curry.

### **Sesame Street**

“Elmo’s Christmas Countdown”

2008

Stiller the Elf tells Stan the Snowball the story about the time Christmas almost didn’t arrive because the magic countdown went ‘kablooey.’ Stiller explains that someone is chosen each year to open ten little windows on the Christmas Countdown to start off Christmas. Behind each window is a special surprise but if the countdown isn’t complete, Santa Claus can’t arrive. Unfortunately, the counterdowner accidentally breaks and the ten windows must be found. Elmo makes a wish on the Christmas star and the miracles begin as each of the ten boxes are found.

The first one, Box #10, is returned by Abby, the fairy in training, revealing the surprise inside: Jennifer Hudson singing “The Carol of the Bells.” The next two missing boxes are returned by Bert and Grover. Box #8 reveals Big Bird and Anne

Hathaway singing “I Want a Snuffleupagus for Christmas.” Big Bird returns the next box which opens to reveal “The Bert and Ernie TV Christmas Special” starring Tony Sirico as Bert and Steve Schirripa as Ernie. Out of order, Box # 5 is returned by Ernie, but miraculously Box # 6 arrives when Alicia Keys stops by to sing “Do You See What I See?” Box #5 opens to reveal Jamie Foxx entertaining with a hip hop, Nutcracker medley. The Three Bears return boxes # 4, 3 and 2 which reveals The Count and Ty Pennington performing an extreme version of “I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In,” and Brad Paisley singing “Jingle Bells” with Grover and some penguins in a sleigh. The last one, box #1 is miraculously found by Stiller himself and opens to reveal a Christmas cookie that Cookie Monster immediately devours—along with the Christmas Counterdowner! Can Santa come if the countdown isn’t complete?

This Sesame Street special also includes: Sheryl Crow singing “Almost Christmas Day” with Elmo at the beginning, news anchor Charles Gibson lending his voice to a reindeer TV anchor delivering news updates on the counterdowner, and Kevin James appearing as Santa Claus singing “You Gotta Just Believe.”

Special guests: Ben Stiller; Kevin James; Sheryl Crow; Alicia Keys; Jennifer Hudson; Jamie Foxx; Anne Hathaway; Ty Pennington; Charles Gibson; Brad Paisley; Steve Schirripa; and, Tony Sirico.

### **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers**

“Christmas Song”

1982

Ford and Guthrie find coyote puppies left by their mother who was killed as a predator by a rancher. They bring the pups home but Adam says they have to put the puppies down too. Another brother stands up for a woman who’s car he’s fixing. She is being harassed by her ex-husband who wants her to return. What will happen to her children when

# New Holidays & Holiday Mashups

Most TV viewers have become acquainted with the invention of the new holiday traditions of Festivus from *Seinfeld* and the amalgam of Christmas and Hanukkah called Chrismukkah on *The O.C.* However, there are many more creative options from our favorite TV characters. See also:

*The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron* (Pule)  
*Arthur* (Baxter Day)  
*Bear in the Big Blue House* (Winter Berry)  
*The Big O* (Heaven's Day).  
*Chalk-Zone* (Chris-Hanukah-mas Rama-Kwanza-dan)  
*Chowder* (Knishmas)  
*Cyber Chase* (Starlight Night)  
*Dilbert* (Dogbert Day)  
*Dinosaurs* (Refrigerator Day)  
*Emperor's New School* (Giftmas)  
*Fraggle Rock* (The Festival of the Bells)  
*Hogfather* (Hogswatch)  
*Jungle Junction* (Zipsmas)  
*Land of the Giants* (Night of Thrombeldinbar)  
*The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack* (Low Tides Day)  
*New Adventures of Old Christine* (Kinder Clausen)  
*The O.C.* (Chrismukkah)  
*PB and J Otter* (Hoo Haw Hoo)  
*Ren & Stimpy* (Yaksmas)  
*Rolie Polie Olie* (Jingle Jangle Days)  
*Sealab 2021* (The Feast of Alvis)  
*Seinfeld* (Festivus)  
*The Star Wars Holiday Special* (Life Day)  
*30 Rock* (Luda Christmas)  
*Tripping the Rift* (Clownza)  
*Watership Down* (Feast of Frith)  
*Yin Yang Yo!* (Hanu-Chrima-nuk-Kahmas)

she disappears with him?

This episode's story also includes young actor River Phoenix's real-life siblings Joaquin and Liberty Phoenix as Travis and Christie.

### **17 Kids and Counting**

"O Come All Ye Duggars"

2009

The Duggar family decides to participate in the local Christmas parade. 'Happy Birthday Jesus' signs with lights decorate the family bus while it tows a flatbed trailer with the children enacting a living Nativity. The local drive-thru wild animal safari donates a few animals to the parade float including a little goat, a baby donkey and a camel while the seventeen Duggar children are costumed as Mary, Joseph, three wise men, several angels and many, many shepherds. For all their effort, the family wins the parade's judging contest for best religious-themed float.

See also: '19 Kids and Counting' for the next Duggar family holiday episode.

### **7th Heaven**

"Here Comes Santa Claus"

1998

Eric and Annie play out their own version of "the Gift of the Magi" only to have the pawnbroker recognize their sacrifices and return the items. Lucy's church Nativity pageant falls apart so the family plays all the parts; Mary helps a homeless boy she meets at the soup kitchen reunite with his family; Matt works as the mall Santa to earn money for the Winter Ball; and the young Ruthie's belief in Santa Claus is reaffirmed.

Special guest: Tim Conway and Ruth Buzzi.

"X-mas"

2005

Sandy and Rose are both staying at the Camden house yet unfamiliar with the family's traditional Christmas celebra-

tion. While Rose quizzes the twins about the people in the Nativity story, pregnant Sandy is inspired by the family's generosity and embraces their spirit. Meanwhile, the Camdens spend the holiday donating their time to help others including Olivia who visits people in the hospital suffering with cystic fibrosis. Lucy's husband Kevin wants a dog for Christmas but she's not sure the holidays are a good time to adopt a Great Dane. Though the electricity was out all day, Simon's fiancée Rose is delighted when she's asked to cook dinner for the Camdens on Christmas Eve. Don't miss the family enacting a living Nativity at the mall in both the opening of the episode and at the end.

Some viewers might find it interesting that Eric defends the importance of Santa Claus in the Christmas tradition in a lengthy discussion within this episode. He claims that the character of Santa is sometimes criticized for being confused with Jesus, arguing that rarely ever happens in his experience. He also says that Santa embraces the values of Christianity in being loving and giving, especially to children and the needy.

"Christmas!"

2006

In the previous episodes leading up to Christmas, Eric had been diagnosed with a terminal illness. Now Eric finds himself unexpectedly in Heaven greeted by his mother-in-law. They do a little Christmas shopping for the family while his guardian angel fills out the paper work. He's introduced to a lot of people there who share how much Eric has influenced and improved life on Earth for others. But his guardian angel returns with news that Eric still has unfinished business and is still needed by others.

Meanwhile, Annie and the kids decorate the family Christmas tree, having faith that Eric will soon come home again. They all agree to donate

three days of their time to others this Christmas: one for themselves, one for their father Eric, and one to honor the Baby Jesus.

### 77 **Sunset Strip**

“Bullets for Santa”

1961

### **Sex and the City**

“The Perfect Present”

2003

Although it’s July, Charlotte puts up her Christmas tree one last time before she converts to Judaism and gives up the Christian traditions of her past.

In this episode’s other story lines: Carrie tells Big no more late night phone sex calls from California as she becomes more involved with Berger. And, Miranda feels uncomfortable when she finds Steve’s condoms in their baby’s diaper bag.

### **Shalom Sesame: Chanukah**

1987

“Chanukah” is the holiday episode of the TV series “Shalom Sesame”—the “Sesame Street” series in Israel. This episode is available on video. This episode is hosted by actor Jeremy Miller and comedian David Brenner. It also includes the voices of Nell Carter, Joan Rivers, Alan King and Joshua Rifkind. This episode is sponsored by the numbers 2 and 8. There are live action segments with people making jelly donuts, latkes and lighting a menorah. “Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?” considers Israel during Judah Maccabee’s era. There’s a stop motion animated segment about an oil jar in a spoof of “This is Your Life.” There is recurring news sports coverage with Kippi the porcupine on a Chanukah torch run. And, a spoof of “Wheel of Fortune” that becomes “Dreidel of Fortune” which teaches about the dreidel.

### **Shameless**

“#2.0”

2004

This is the first episode of the second season of the British TV series.

### **The Shanty Where Santy Claus Lives**

1933 dir. Rudolf Ising

This sepia-toned short is a Hugh Harmon and Rudolf Ising Production and an early Warner Brothers’ Merrie Melodies cartoon. A young waif is walking around alone in the cold on Christmas Eve when he comes across an old empty shanty. Santa Claus arrives at the shack singing ‘The Shanty Where Santy Claus Lives’ and takes the young boy with him in his sleigh. They arrive at Santa’s home in the North Pole that is filled with lively toys for the boy to play with. The toys continue the song’s melody singing ‘We’re the Toys in the Shanty Where Santy Claus Lives.’

Do you recognize the Kate Smith reference? She’s the doll that inflates to say ‘Hello Everybody!’ the name of Smith’s 1932 film. She also sings ‘Shine on Harvest Moon.’

### **The Shari Lewis Show**

“December 24, 1960”

1960

Ventriloquist, Shari Lewis and her friends are eager to go Christmas shopping. At Thimble’s department store, each has five dollars to spend for all their gifts but Charlie Horse finds a top hat he wants to buy for himself that costs his entire budget. He convinces the others that they should each spend the whole amount on one good gift for themselves rather than splitting the money to buy smaller, less desirable gifts for each other. While looking at himself in the mirror admiring his new top hat, Charlie Horse’s conscience begins to talk to him about the spirit of gift-giving. Everyone learns the joy of sacrifice and generosity in a moment surely inspired by O. 625

Henry: Charlie Horse returns his hat to buy gifts for the others while they spend their money buying a black tuxedo to match Charlie's top hat!

See Shari and Jump Pup decorate the Christmas tree and play with jingle bells while singing "Christmas Wouldn't Be Christmas, Without a Christmas Tree." Later, she sings "Jingle Bells" and "I Feel Christmas in the Air" with Lamb Chop and Charlie Horse.

### **The Shari Lewis Show**

"December 23, 1961"

1961

Shari and her friends are excited to sing Christmas carols. Charlie Horse prides himself on being able to sound just like Hush Puppy when he sings. But when Hush Puppy loses his voice, he becomes sad and disappointed that he can't contribute to the singing party. Charlie however, sacrifices his moment to shine in order to provide his voice for Puppy to be seen singing. Shari rings her set of Christmas bells on "Ring Those Bells," the same set of bells Santa brought her last Christmas. Santa's note said that only those with the Christmas spirit could make the bells ring. After many tries, Charlie is only able to hear the bells after he sacrifices his voice for Hush Puppy's happiness.

Also, Lamb Chop attempts to sing "Randolph, the Red-Nosed Rootbeer," Shari sings "How Can I Be the Santa Claus?" with Mr. Goodfellow and Jump Pup, and later, the three dance as wooden soldiers to "The Parade of the Toy Soldiers."

"December 22, 1962"

1962

Because Mr. Goodfellow's family is far away, Shari and her friends throw him a surprise Christmas party. Mr. Goodfellow shares his British holiday tradition of performing a drama for his friends—he

acts out a rhyming story of a knight rescuing the maiden from a dragon. Lamb Chop doesn't want to open presents and disappears. Mr. Goodfellow discovers that she feels she doesn't have a gift for him that expresses her love. He feels touched by Lamb Chop's affection and convinces her that her love is the most wonderful gift at Christmas.

Shari sings "Christmas Wouldn't Be Christmas, Without a Christmas Tree," "Oh, What a Big Tree," "I Feel Christmas in the Air," and "I Love Toys" with Mr. Goodfellow and Jump Pup.

### **She's the Sheriff**

"New Year's Eve"

1988

This originally aired in January of 1988 during the first season.

### **Shelley Duvall's Bedtime Stories**

"The Christmas Witch"

1994

This animated episode, narrated by Angela Lansbury, is from the bestselling author and illustrator Steven Kellogg. It tells the story of Gloria, a misfit witch who has more success with Christmas magic, uniting two groups of feuding peoples to be friends.

### **Shelley Duvall's Faerie Tale Theatre**

"The Snow Queen"

1983

Shelley Duvall narrates this classic Hans Christian Andersen tale. The friendship between young Kay and Gerda is threatened when a goblin's spell curses Kay to see the worst in everyone around him. The Snow Queen takes him to her ice palace in the North Pole to live. Uncertain what has happened to her dear friend, Gerda makes a long journey to find Kay and bring him back home. Along her journey, she meets a talking pine tree, the Snow Queen's sister: the Lady of Summer, and the Robber Girl who offers