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Cliché holiday movie gains laughs

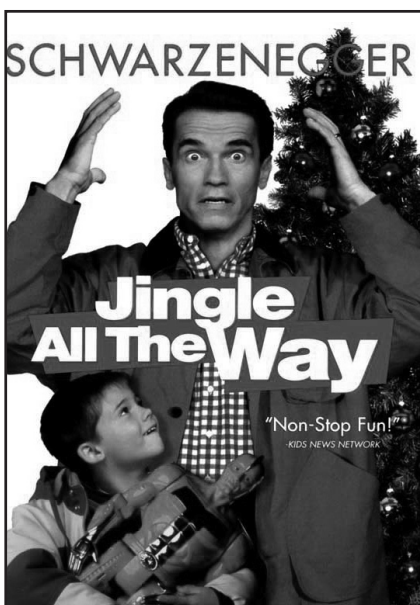
By Dalton Carver
Staff reporter

It's Christmas Eve. The forgetful father forgets his son's present. The disapproving wife is quickly losing faith in her husband, while another man is after her affections. The son, who used to believe in his father, begins to expect the worst from him. Is there anything for a dad to do to save the day and make it up to his family?

Released in 1996, "Jingle All the Way" is a typical holiday movie, but boasts some differences to the expected Christmas movie cliché. The most noticeable is the starring of action movie veteran Arnold Schwarzenegger as a procrastinating Howard Langston, looking for a sold-out toy that his son Jamie, played by Jake Lloyd, desperately wants.

Unfortunately, Jamie isn't the

only kid who wants a Turbo Man action figure. The superhero toy has been sold out for several



weeks leading up to the holidays, severely limiting Schwarzenegger's chances for finding one in time.

The main joke is watching the former governor of California

rush around toy stores and malls, desperately searching for Turbo Man action figures. Throughout his quest, he's accosted by fellow shoppers, a policeman, an army of sleazy Santas and a mailman, played by Sinbad.

Although it was funny as a kid, some of the laughs have worn off with age. Despite my hard-earned maturity, a smile did find its way onto my face at some parts.

The Santa warehouse battle brings a few chuckles, as well as Schwarzenegger's and Sinbad's visit to the radio station and an encounter with a reindeer. In addition to the jokes, you might laugh at the 90's hairstyles and clothes that are showcased throughout the Christmas feature as well.

Along with these moments, the acting in "Jingle All the Way" is laughable, and not in the good way. "The Governator" has some lines that don't make sense or make you shake your head. The script is also expectedly lame and sappy.

Schwarzenegger is at his best when pretending to be Turbo Man for his son, the action that ultimately saves Christmas Eve for the Langstons. This scene enforces the fact that Schwarzenegger is just better in action-type roles.

The movie includes all the Christmas clichés, such as holiday music montages, parades, reindeer and extremely happy endings. If you saw it as a kid, "Jingle All the Way" also earns some bonus points in the nostalgia category. Add all these things to Turbo Man and "Jingle All the Way" is a holiday feature for young audiences everywhere.

Ordinarily, "Jingle All the Way" wouldn't be worth your time to even rent. However, you might have to make an exception for the combination of Schwarzenegger, Turbo Man and the holidays.

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Familiar family film provides pleasant escape

By Jonahs Joudrey
Staff reporter

The radio stations are playing Christmas music. Officially, the season is upon us. The snow and chilly weather is a perfect reminder to warm up the hot chocolate and sit back and enjoy some movies with loved ones.

It is no doubt that Christmas movies are a dime-a-dozen. Christmas celebrates family, togetherness, and fun.

In case you haven't seen it in a while, "Home Alone" is worth your time as a potential Christmas movie candidate. "Home Alone" is basically a live-action cartoon. Kevin McCallister, played by Macaulay Culkin, is a mischievous 8-year-old who is accidentally left at home by his vacationing family. Kevin has to defend his family and house from the blundering bandits, Marv and Harry, played by Daniel Stern and Joe Pesci, respectively.

Kevin's family tries desperately to get back to Kevin. In the pro-

cess of fending off the bandits, Kevin realizes how important his family is to him and how much he needs them. "Home Alone" journeys through shenanigans and cartoon-esque escapades to emphasize the importance of family love.

"Home Alone" is a hilarious family movie, one that most can find humor in. The jokes aren't always clever, but it's hard not to find humor in a good slap-stick bit.

Kevin also drops a hot iron on Marv's face.

And lights Harry's head on fire with a blowtorch.

Did I mention Kevin shoots the bad guys in the crotch with a BB gun?

Every year it seems Hollywood bombards the box office with Christmas movies. According to the National Association of Theatre Owners, Thanksgiving has been historically the busiest day for movie theatres, however, Christmas comes in close second.

What is it about "good" Christ-

mas movies that are able to stand the tests of time?

Why is it that movies like "Home Alone," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "A Christmas Story" and other classic Christ-

Better people than I have tried to solve that riddle, I'm sure.

What I do know is that watching good ol' fashioned family movies with my family has become grandfathered into our hodgepodge of Christmas activities.

My family and I spent a memorable Christmas together last year. We huddled around the living room Christmas day sipping a.m. mimosas and picking at slightly stale Christmas cookies baked the night before. We talked and laughed through a marathon of Christmas movies, quoting through our favorites.

When "Home Alone" finally aired and the "merry Christmas ya filthy animals" part came on, we all said it in unison. My mom still texts me about it.

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mas movies run basic cable during the holidays?