

Another December day and another batch of Christmas movie recommendations.

Following on from [Part 1](#), here are another 5 festive ways to distract you from spending time with your relatives. You're very welcome.

[6. The Holiday \(2006\)](#)

With so many Christmas films giving former soap stars employment, it's a rarity to see one utilising stars at the top of their game. Workaholic Amanda ([Cameron Diaz](#)) and unlucky-in-love Iris (

[Kate Winslet](#)

) swap houses for Christmas. Romance ensues.

The Holiday

stands up as a decent romance - even outside of my Christmas recommendations - and Iris a lovely fleshed-out example of that great line from The National's

[Vanderlyle Crybaby Geeks](#)

: "All the very best of us string ourselves up for love".

[Eli Wallach](#) is a gem as Arthur and [Jack Black](#) who I have a love ([School of Rock](#)) and hate ([Shallow Hal](#))

relationship with is quite great in this. (Incidentally, the same storyline plays out in the substantially less good

[Finding Christmas \(2013\)](#)

, just in case you find yourself a sucker for holiday house-swap hijinks).

The Holiday (2006) - trailer.

[7. A Charlie Brown Christmas \(1965\)](#)

In 2016 it's all taken a bit for granted that Christmas can conjure mixed feelings of melancholy and ambivalence about all the commercialism. Some 50 years ago however, Charlie Brown was dwelling on these very same issues. Lovely, and perfectly enjoyable even if you had no prior relationship with these characters - I certainly didn't. And only 25 minutes long it's perfect if you're more comfortable with smaller doses of spirit.

The Christmas Film Recommendables - Part 2

Written by Lauren Rosewarne, Senior Lecturer, University of Melbourne

No trailer but you can watch it in full on YouTube.

A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965) - full movie.

[8. The Family Stone \(2005\)](#)

The idea of a “last Christmas” is done quite a bit in film so *The Family Stone* isn’t breaking any new ground. But it’s got some lovely – if at times over-the-top – performances, with the Stone children all back home for Christmas with Mom (

[Diane Keaton](#)

, overacting - and charming - as usual) and Dad (

[Craig T. Nelson](#)

).

Be prepared to keep the tissue box clutched to your bosom.

The Family Stone (2005) - trailer.

[9. Christmas in Connecticut \(1945\)](#)

A magazine writer’s lies are exposed when the perfect provincial life she writes about - and claims as autobiographically - has to be hastily materialised when she is asked by her boss to host a war hero for Christmas. A Christmas screwball comedy with a nicely subversive ending. The film was also my introduction to [Barbara Stanwyck](#) who I’ve developed a fondness for.

(Rumour has it that there’s a [1992 remake](#) directed by [Arnie](#) . Tracking down a copy so far has proven fruitless).

Christmas in Connecticut (1945) - trailer.

[10. A Wonderful Christmas Time \(2014\)](#)

With [Porthcawl, Wales](#) as the backdrop, this is lovely indie film about two people licking their respective wounds after break-ups and taking a sweetly meandering time over Christmas to find their way to each other. Complete with a great indie-pop-folk soundtrack.

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A Wonderful Christmas Time (2014) - trailer.

[Click here to review Part 1 of this series](#) . Part 3 will be published on Monday the 12th of December.

Authors: Lauren Rosewarne, Senior Lecturer, University of Melbourne

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