

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Festive Films, Games, and Books for 2021

Our Friends · Friday, November 26th, 2021

As we approach the holiday season, we again roll our eyes at how much earlier supermarkets seem to start playing festive music. As annoying as this might be, we can at least feel some comfort in the fact that we'll soon be digging into a new range of media to enjoy. With an eye on historical and contemporary trends, we want to look at what could be the big hits in 2021, for you or your loved ones.

Books

Books are some of the best gifts a person can give or receive, entertaining us or relaying the importance of supporting your fellow human. If somebody you know already has a wish list to buy from then great, but otherwise, here's a few titles that could be great in the 2021 holiday season.

- **The Lord of the Rings – JRR Tolkien**

Sometimes the best story is a classic, and few classics can top the appeal of Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings. Needing no introduction, this story is a must-have for those who have somehow missed out, even if they've already seen the films.

- **A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens**

In terms of books that illustrate the spirit of generosity and love, it's hard to do better than A Christmas Carol. As one of Dickens' most famous, this story explores the positivity that comes with adopting a more caring attitude – the perfect encapsulation of the holiday spirit.

- **Klara and the Sun – Kazuo Ishiguro**

For a more challenging story for avid readers, then what's festive might be a little more out there. Klara and the Sun is a thoughtful tale like few others, which in itself can be the perfect surprise for the right reader.

- **There's Someone Inside Your House – Stephanie Perkins**

If festive means snuggling under the covers, reading in warmth and wonderment, then There's Someone Inside Your House might be a strong choice. Now a major Netflix film, there's no doubt this story has appeal.

Interactive Entertainment

If you want to be more active in your appreciation of the season then digital entertainment can be the best choice. Just be sure your batteries are charged before you jump in.

- **Daze Before Christmas**

For fans of classic games, Daze Before Christmas is a festive classic. [Available free online](#) with one or two players, this title is great for all ages.

- **Home Alone**

In a similar vein, the Home Alone game for SNES is another great festive title with a fun bend. Protect your house from robbers with traps as you compete for the high score, and wonder how much trouble Kevin's parents must have been in.

- **Online Slots**

Another unusual but much-loved choice, holiday-themed slots from [New Jersey casinos online](#) are consistent hits. Bolstered by bonuses like deposit matches and free spins, games like Fat Santa and Santa's Riches work equally well on mobiles and desktop systems.

- **Christmas Cookie**

Available on mobile, this classic match-three title rounds out the list with an experience [any Candy Crush player](#) will love. Don't expect to be done in one season though, this is a very long game.

Films

Sharing in watching a film is something many of us have grown to love in the holiday seasons. With the following choices, you can be sure you'll spread some of the much-needed holiday cheer.

- **It's a Wonderful Life**

It might be 75 years old (in fact it is), but this film still easily stands the test of time. Built on the value of generosity and finding meaning in the truly important things, It's a Wonderful Life is a must-see.

- **The Nightmare Before Christmas**

Getting a little bit weird with it is this film that was based on a Tim Burton poem. This bizarre and dark tale nonetheless illustrates the most important parts of what Christmas is really about. Plus, a little [Halloween never hurt anyone](#).

- **Die Hard**

A man, a skyscraper, and a machine gun, what else needs to be said? Die Hard might not be the most traditional holiday tale, but in terms of action and spectacle, it's undeniably fun.

- **Tokyo Godfathers**

Taking anime stylings, this underrated gem from Satoshi Kon is festive, entertaining, inspiring, and a little heart-breaking. Definitely a strong choice for those after something different in their festive

movies.

- **Elf**

A straight comedy, *Elf* lifts the mood with the hallmark ridiculous antics of Will Ferrell. Great for the whole family, and a modern holiday classic.

Of course, these choices are just the tip of the iceberg of what's available in festive holiday cheer. Ultimately, the best choice is that which gels with your taste and values. Just remember to buy your gifts as early as possible, to avoid that traditional last-minute stress.

Photo by Tom Hermans on Unsplash

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