



Holiday Movie Tropes (Check them off as they occur; you could have a sip of “nog” each time too!)

CHRISTMAS ROM-COM

- Interrupted Kiss (extra points if it is a running joke)
- Meet-Cute Event—turns out he/she is the love interest!
- Unexpected proposal
- Third Act “Complication” from lame Misunderstanding so it can be resolved in the final scene (see *White Christmas*)
- Kiss is the End
- The “Moment” when they have unexpected “feels” (extra points if it happens with Accidental Intimacy)
- Accidental Intimacy
- Mistletoe Awkward Kiss

PLACES

- Ice Skating Rink
- Christmas Tree Lot
- Carriage Ride
- Lighting the Town Tree
- Town Square/Gazebo
- Holiday Dance
- Holiday Outdoor Market
- Department Store Santa Visit
- Ridiculously Small Upscale Town
- Local Coffee Shop/Diner
- Overdecorated Abodes
- The Scenic View Only Known by Local Protagonist
- Magical Town Not on the Map
- Impossibly Upscale Kitchen

PEOPLE

- Scrappy Granny
- Smart-ass Poorly-Written-and-Acted Child
- Seemingly Treacherous Ex or Rival
- BFF Confidant who “knows” the 411
- Gay, interracial or ethnic stereotypical background character that proves how “woke” the movie is
- Unconventional Aunt Who Gives Advice Over the Phone
- Dead Spouse
- Kidnapped/abducted/devil’s bargain faux boyfriend or girlfriend
- Royal from Vague European Country (extra points if he/she is hiding true identity)
- “A” Santa is Really “The” Santa
- “Kiddo” is parent/grandparent endearment to protagonist
- Steady/fiancé who is clearly the “wrong” one to everyone *except...*
- Male protagonist demonstrates potential worthiness by liking animals, helping old folks, or getting female protagonist out of a jam
- Comic-relief Business Assistant/ Partner to Protagonist Boss
- Carolers
- Look for: Alicia Witt, Candace Cameron Bure, Danica McKellar, Lacey Chabert
- Former star of 90s sitcom who still gets a “with” at the end of the cast credits

HOLIDAY MOVIE THINGS

- Snowy B-Roll Titles (extra points if it’s a big city)
- Glissando=Magic (one is OK, after that it is just a cheap way to avoid special effects)
- It is Obviously Summertime When This is Shot—fake snow, no breath, green trees
- Special Ornament(s)
- Accident/Blizzard/Mix-up strands protagonist with rival/potential love interest (extra points if it is in a Magical Town)
- One commercial break in the first hour, three in the next 45 minutes; then three in the last 15 minutes
- Terrible Original Christmas Song
- Unsuspected Live Mic/Recording in Progress
- Public Confession of Love (extra points if it’s at Holiday Dance or Unsuspecting Live Mic)
- The “There isn’t going to be any Baroness” reveal (see *Sound of Music*)
- Generic stock “Dooop-Da-Boop-Da-Boop” incidental music (see—it’s *supposed* to be a rom-COM)
- Decorating/baking/gift wrapping montage
- Baking and decorating cookies (see “I am really not good at this...”)
- “I really am no good at/ have never done this...”
- Obviously empty coffee cup props
- Suddenly Snowing (extra points if it’s the end)
- Hanukkah Cameo
- It’s a classic Christmas movie *but with a twist* (esp. *Christmas Carol*—Scrooge is a spoiled Diva played by Vanessa Williams!)

Additional Fun Things to Do While Watching (Because if you can’t mock it, where’s the fun in that?)

Figure Out the Real Movie the Plot is Stolen From:

“It’s *Groundhog Day*, but at Christmas!”

“It’s *Peggy Sue Got Married*, but at Christmas!”

“It’s _____, but at Christmas!”

Now, Choose a Real Show and Try to Describe the Plot:

“It’s *Alien*, but at Christmas!”

“It’s *Game of Thrones*, but at Christmas!”

“It’s _____ but at Christmas!”

Suggest the A-list movie stars the producers wish they had, but then settled for B-list Canadian TV actors:

Male Lead _____

Female Lead _____

Spunky BFF _____

OTHER _____

Check for product placements: Balsam Hill, Folgers (and of course Hallmark), etc. and **product cover-ups:** Cars with no insignia, Apple computers with the Apple logocovered up. etc.