

DECEMBER 2021

# OPENING



# STATEMENTS

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317-934-9725 | [INFO@RDLAWOFFICE.COM](mailto:INFO@RDLAWOFFICE.COM)

## FROM THE DESK OF **JOHN RAZUMICH**

It's hard to believe 2021 is nearly over! Hopefully, this year has brought you and yours more joy than sadness.

Here on our end, this year has been marked by significant change. We started the year with our first new law clerk in four years with the idea of having her join our team as an attorney, but fate had other plans. Fortunately, we were able to find Attorney Andrew Redd in early April, and he's been a valuable member of our team ever since.

On the technical side, we have continued to focus on updating our communications system to ensure each of you are getting your questions answered as quickly as possible. This is even more important because, as I am writing this, we've already opened 149 new files this calendar year. That's 149 people whose future and freedom we've protected just this year alone. That's a feat to be proud of. We've also started expanding our education efforts with our YouTube channel, and we even started a podcast.

On the personal side, you may have noticed that my picture on the newsletter has been updated. Change is everywhere!

It's definitely been a busy year, but I wouldn't have it any other way. Here's to an even brighter 2022!

*-John Razumich*



## HOLI-FLOPS

### 3 BAD CHRISTMAS MOVIES YOU HAVE TO WATCH

Holiday movies are a time-honored tradition stemming back decades. From the classics, like the 1964 stop-motion animated TV special "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," to recent favorites, such as Tim Allen's interpretation of Santa Claus in "The Santa Clause," there's no shortage of movies to get you in the holiday spirit this season. (I'm also willing to bet a few of my readers love to binge Lifetime holiday movies! They are so comforting.)

These movies have become ingrained in our culture and traditions, but after two years of pandemic-inspired holiday restrictions, I would like to propose a new movie tradition: bad Christmas movies. In a genre that's overdone, overplayed, and always feel-good, there are bound to be a few duds. So, I've put together a list of some of the worst holiday movies available. I encourage you to pop the popcorn, gather the family around the tree, and watch (read: suffer through) the following movies this year.

(I won't judge you if you actually like the movies. We all have our guilty pleasures!)

#### 'I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS'

Calling all '90s teens! With a cast that includes Jonathan Taylor Thomas from "Home Improvement" and Jessica Biel from "7th Heaven," this movie is a must-watch for the actors alone. Through it all, you'll find yourself laughing at the very improbable plot. It starts when Thomas' character, Jake, receives a warning from his father. Jake has to return

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home by Christmas to receive a classic Porsche as a gift. But on the way, he's left in the desert by the football team, and his girlfriend (played by Biel) thinks he abandoned her! What is a Porsche-seeking, love-sick college kid to do? Find out when you watch "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

#### 'SILENT NIGHT, DEADLY NIGHT'

This one is for the horror fans (and for parents after the kids have gone to sleep). After witnessing the death of his parents at the hands of Santa around Christmas, Billy grows up to eventually become a Santa Claus killer himself. Despite the darkly humorous and odd premise of the movie, "Silent Night, Deadly Night" has amassed a huge cult following. It's become so well-known that multiple sequels were made, and talk around Hollywood suggests a remake is coming in 2022. If you're a fan of bad movies that are actually kind of good, check out "Silent Night, Deadly Night."

#### 'FRED CLAUS'

For a more modern tale, check out this movie starring Vince Vaughn and Paul Giamatti. The "Fred Claus" plot theorizes that St. Nick wasn't the only Claus, and that his brother, Fred, is likely the

opposite of him in every way. Fred gets into legal trouble once again, so his brother punishes him by sending him to the North Pole to make toys. Ultimately, Fred and Nicholas find a way to work together despite their differences, upgrading the Christmas operation to a well-oiled machine. Unfortunately, critics say the humor of "Fred Claus" fails to land with any crowd. Watch it for yourself and see what you think!



If you get a chance to watch these too-terrible-to-be-bad movies, I would love to hear your take, and if you're looking for more holiday movie flops, check out the list put out by Rotten Tomatoes at [RottenTomatoes.com](https://www.rottentomatoes.com).

Happy holidays!

- John Razurich

# RUDOLPH, YOU'LL GO DOWN IN HISTORY

## *Behind the Evergreen Christmas Special*

You know Dasher and Dancer, and you definitely know Rudolph. Everyone's favorite red-nosed reindeer was first born as a 1939 short story, but he truly shot to fame when his tale was adapted into a song by Gene Autry in 1949. Rivaling even the song's fame is the Rankin/Bass stop-motion special that airs like clockwork every year around Christmas.

Generations have now grown up with Rudolph, so it may be surprising to learn that his journey to the small screen started as a General Electric promotion. The company had a running television special on NBC called the "GE Fantasy Hour," which they used to market their products directly to viewers. The better the story they told, the more viewers they got — and the more toasters they could sell.

The script introduced crucial new characters like Hermey the elf, Yukon Cornelius the prospector, and of course, Bumble the abominable snowman. GE hired innovative Japanese animators to create the film using stop-motion techniques that were highly advanced for the time. GE invested the modern equivalent of \$4.5 million into the production of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and the special first aired in 1964.

Those who are familiar with the film know that it ends with Rudolph enlisting Santa to save the Misfit Toys from earlier in the movie — but it didn't originally. The version that aired in 1964 concludes with Rudolph leading Santa's sleigh but forgetting all about his homeless friends. The backlash was swift, and viewers wrote in to express displeasure at the



heartless resolution. GE decided the special had to be corrected and played again with the proper ending in 1965. And so, a tradition of annual airings was born.

Today, "Rudolph" is the longest-running Christmas special in history, and our favorite misfit deer shows no signs of slowing down after 57 years. The movie has transformed into a marketing bonanza, with new Christmas decorations, figurines, and toys being produced each year.

Though it's somewhat shocking to our modern sensibilities to see Santa bullying his reindeer employees and their children, fond childhood memories mean that parents continue to pass the special down to their kids. Even as we recognize its flaws, the dazzling animation and famous songs continue to bring joy and Christmas spirit to households around the country. Just as sure as Santa comes every year, so does Rudolph.

# NO MONKEYING AROUND

## HELPING HANDS MONKEY HELPERS FOR THE WIN

You've heard of service dogs, but what about service monkeys? For many years now, capuchin monkeys have been lending helping hands to people with disabilities!

Helping Hands Monkey Helpers, located at Monkey College in Boston, Massachusetts, is a nonprofit organization designed to help people with disabilities and mobility issues, such as quadriplegia, by pairing them up with a monkey service animal. These simian helpers are specifically trained to help with daily tasks while providing companionship, happiness, and a renewed sense of purpose that many struggle with when navigating an injury or disability. When monkeys graduate, they will have developed the ability to navigate major household appliances and electronics as well as basic items within the home. They can even retrieve a canned beverage from the refrigerator, open it, and put a straw in it!

A service monkey can also assist with retrieving things that are dropped or out of reach, turning pages in a book, scratching an itch, pushing buttons on electronic devices, and performing other menial tasks within the home.

Each human applicant and the capuchin monkeys undergo a pairing process to find the best fit for placement! A social worker and placement specialist work together to sift through applications and determine which monkeys will be the right choice for the applicants based on



lifestyle preferences and the tasks that will be most helpful to the person with disabilities. Plus, Helping Hands Monkey Helpers ensures that the monkeys are completely free of charge to the recipients!

The human-animal bond created along the journey after placement is absolutely beautiful. Helping Hands Monkey Helpers brings love, companionship, and laughter to many who are fortunate enough to work with the organization. These monkeys are the best, hands down. And, monkeys, thank you for going to monkey college, and thank you for your service!



Inspired by JoCooks.com

### Ingredients

- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1/2 green pepper, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp yellow mustard
- 2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- Salt and pepper, to taste

### Directions

1. In a large skillet, melt butter and brown beef over medium heat.
2. Add onion and pepper, stirring occasionally. Cook for 4 minutes and add garlic.
3. Mix in remaining ingredients, then bring mixture to a boil.
4. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
5. Serve on your choice of bun!

## TAKE A BREAK!



Candles	Mistletoe	Sleigh
Celebration	Ornament	Stocking
Jingle	Present	Wassail
Jolly	Santa	Wreath

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## Katy Perry's Legal Battle With Nuns

### FIGHTING FOR CONVENT REAL ESTATE

Katy Perry is known around the globe for having multiple No. 1 hits, including "I Kissed A Girl," "Teenage Dream," and "Firework," but two nuns in Los Angeles know Perry for a completely different reason. They were in a multiyear legal battle with Perry and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles over the purchase of a convent.

In 1972, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary pooled their money and purchased an 8-acre, French-style chateau in Los Angeles. Sisters Rita Callanan and Catherine Rose Holzman lived in the chateau-turned-convent until 2011, when the Archdiocese of Los Angeles reportedly forced them to relocate.

Two years later, Archbishop José Gomez sold the property to Perry without any input from the sisters, but the nuns felt that the archdiocese did not have the right to do this. Gomez accepted a \$14.5 million cash offer from Perry, but the nuns refused to sell to her. Believing they had sole ownership of the convent, they instead sold it to restaurateur and developer Dana Hollister.

The archdiocese and Perry both sued Hollister for her involvement, claiming she took advantage of the nuns, and a judge invalidated her purchase months after it was made. A Los Angeles Superior Court judge ruled in favor of the archdiocese, creating an opportunity for

Perry to buy the estate due to the fact that the nuns did not have the approval of the pope, the Holy See, or the archbishop.

In 2017, a jury found that Hollister intentionally interfered with Perry's legal purchase. She was ordered to pay both Perry and the archdiocese millions of dollars. The sisters continued to support Hollister, and they both accompanied her to bankruptcy court, where Sister Holzman collapsed and died during the court proceeding. Sister Callanan blamed Perry for the death of Holzman.

The convent is back on the market, and it does not appear that Perry will move forward with the purchase.

