

Best Bets

Dec. 1



RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

CBS, 8pm

The longest-running holiday special in television history returns as Rudolph and his friends – Hermey the elf, Yukon Cornelius and others – save Christmas in this classic Rankin/Bass special featuring the voice of legendary performer Burl Ives.

THE WITMANS

Investigation Discovery 192, 9pm

In 1998, 13-year-old Greg Witman stepped off the school bus. Eleven minutes later, Greg's older brother, 15-year-old Zach, frantically called 911 to report that he had found Greg lying in a pool of blood. Zach was taken into custody as the police's only lead in Greg's murder, and what followed is a harrowing decades-long journey of one family trapped in tragedy. The harsh realities of the United States sentencing its children to life in prison without parole are exposed in this two-hour documentary that explores the intricacies and evolution of juvenile incarceration. It's a haunting story told intimately through the eyes of two parents on a 20-year odyssey to free their last surviving child.

OUR OWN CHRISTMAS

OWN 189, 9pm

Hosted by Meagan Good and DeVon Franklin, this one-hour special will feature uplifting holiday moments and surprise acts of giving, as well as festive performances by iconic gospel singers Kierra Sheard, Erica Campbell, Tasha Cobbs Leonard and Le'Andria Johnson, legendary award-winning gospel group the Clark Sisters, and many more.

TRANSPLANT: "ORPHANS"

NBC, 10pm

Bash (Hamza Haq) finds himself connecting with an unlikely patient, while Mags (Laurence Leboeuf) strives to find balance in her life. Meanwhile, Theo (Jim Watson) has a difficult discussion with his wife, Melissa (Charlotte Legault), and June (Ayisha Issa) attempts to connect with a closed-off teenage patient.

Best Bets

Dec. 2

THE GOLDBERGS: "HANUKKAH ON THE SEAS"

ABC, 8pm

Pop-Pop (Judd Hirsch) surprises the family with an ill-advised winter cruise to Canada. Meanwhile, Erica (Hayley Orrantia) stirs up holiday trouble at home.

88TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN ROCKEFELLER CENTER

NBC, 8pm Live

NBC will again cover the long-running annual kickoff to the holiday season in New York City with the iconic tree-lighting at Rockefeller Center.



SEAL TEAM

CBS, 9pm

SEAL Team returns with a two-episode Season 4 premiere. Bravo Team enters enemy territory in the snowy Spin Ghar Mountain Range to capture terrorist leader Al-Hazred in "God of

War." Then in "Forever War," Bravo Team goes underground to search for Al-Hazred through booby-trapped tunnels.

TRAFFICKED WITH MARIANA VAN ZELLER

Nat Geo 197, 9pm **NEW SERIES!**

In this eight-part docuseries, journalist Mariana van Zeller explores the inner workings of smuggling networks as she journeys inside the most dangerous black markets on the planet. The series premieres with two back-to-back hourlong episodes. In "Scams," van Zeller travels from Jamaica to Israel to pursue some of the biggest phone, lottery and financial scammers in the world, and learns why Americans are the perfect targets. Then, in "Fentanyl," van Zeller investigates the new bosses, new routes and American communities paying the price for the next wave of fentanyl, which has worsened the country's deadly drug crisis and transformed the black market.

BLACK-ISH: "COMPTON AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE"

ABC, 9:30pm

Dre (Anthony Anderson) realizes he's out of touch with his roots after Junior (Marcus Scribner) claims he's turned into a "valley dad," so he takes the family to his hometown of Compton. Meanwhile, Bow (Tracee Ellis Ross) tries to teach Jack (Miles Brown) and Diane (Marsai Martin) about the spirit of giving by having them volunteer in Compton for Christmas.

Best Bets

Dec. 3

TCM MORNING & AFTERNOON MOVIE: THE ATOMIC AGE

TCM 132, beginning at 7:30am

CATCH A CLASSIC!

The world's entry into the era of nuclear weapons beginning with the dropping of atomic bombs during World War II caused a great deal of anxiety. Those fears, as well as other topics related to the new atomic age, were reflected in films beginning in the 1950s, including the titles seen on Turner Classic Movies this morning and afternoon. First is *Above and Beyond*, a 1952 film that is part drama and docudrama as it relates the events of the Hiroshima bombing.

I HEAR RADIO JINGLE BALL GREATEST MOMENTS

The CW, 8pm

This one-hour special celebrates the annual show's 25th anniversary by taking a look back on performances and special backstage moments from years past.

STAR TREK: DISCOVERY: "SI VIS PACEM, PARA BELLUM"

CBS, 10pm

Season 1 episodes of *Star Trek: Discovery* continue with "Si Vis Pacem, Para Bellum" (a Latin phrase meaning "If you want peace, prepare for war"). The USS *Discovery* is tasked with a high-priority mission on the planet Pahvo to learn the science behind the Klingons' cloaking technology.

THE HOLZER FILES: "BLOOD IN THE WATER"

Travel Channel 196, 10pm

Famed ghost hunter Hans Holzer heard stories of paranormal activity taking place in Staten Island's historic Conference House, a site famous for peace but with a dark and bloody past. Mediums sensed the murder of a young woman on the staircase by an imposing man from the American Revolution, and Holzer felt there was more to the case. Now, when Dave Schrader, Cindy Kaza and Shane Pittman return, the spirits guide them to the water's edge, where a terrible truth awaits.

ROCKET AROUND THE XMAS TREE **NEW SERIES!**

Discovery Channel 182, 10pm

Discovery kicks off the holidays with this explosive holiday-themed rocket competition. Hosted by YouTube star and science aficionado Nick Uhas, teams of super-sonic rocketeers, ranging from thrill-seeking amateurs to aerospace engineers, put their unique backgrounds and skill sets to the test as they take on supercharged challenges and give 2020 the explosive send-off it deserves.

Best Bets

Dec. 4

THE HOLLYWOOD CHRISTMAS PARADE GREATEST MOMENTS

The CW, 8pm

This special will highlight all the greatest and most special moments of the past parades.

TOO CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS

Lifetime 108, 8pm **ORIGINAL FILM!**

When Hayley (Jessica Lowndes) accepts an invitation to spend Christmas with her sister's new in-laws, her seemingly perfect holiday takes a turn when Luke (Chad Michael Murray), Hayley's brother-in-law's brother, unexpectedly shows up. Still harboring a grudge against Luke for ending her last relationship, Hayley reluctantly spends time with Luke and slowly realizes she may have been too quick to judge him.

MACGYVER

CBS, 8pm **SEASON PREMIERE!**

Lucas Till is back as MacGyver in Season 5 of the action crime drama. In the premiere episode "Resort + Desi + Riley + Window Cleaner + Witness," Mac and his team infiltrate a glamorous hotel used as an international hideout for criminals.

MAGNUM P.I.

CBS, 9pm **SEASON PREMIERE!**

Magnum (Jay Hernandez) and Higgins (Perdita Weeks) are back on the case in Hawaii as Season 3 begins. In the premiere episode "Double Jeopardy," the team is caught in a plot for revenge when they're hired to find a missing person.

MACHO: THE HECTOR CAMACHO STORY

Showtime 318, 9pm

This documentary offers an unflinching look at the remarkable life, storied career and unsolved murder of one of boxing's greatest showmen and debuts on Showtime two weeks after the eighth anniversary of Camacho's fatal shooting in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. The film celebrates Camacho's boxing skills and delves into the legendary fighter's troubled mind and spirit, his battle with addiction, and ultimately his demise.

BLUE BLOODS

CBS, 10pm **SEASON PREMIERE!**

Follow Frank (Tom Selleck), Danny (Donnie Wahlberg), Erin (Bridget Moynahan) and the rest of the Reagan family as they work to protect and serve the people of New York City in Season 11 of the police drama. Frank is challenged by City Council Speaker Regina Thomas (returning guest star Whoopi Goldberg) over protests against police brutality in the premiere episode "Triumph Over Trauma."

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 5

RANKIN/BASS ANIMAGIC WEEKEND

AMC 131, beginning at 6am

Today and tomorrow, enjoy several hours each day of classic and beloved stop-motion-animated TV holiday specials from famed producers Arthur Rankin Jr. and Jules Bass. Throughout the weekend, you can enjoy *The Year Without a Santa Claus* (1974), *Rudolph's Shiny New Year* (1976) and more.

BABY CHIMP RESCUE

BBC America 135, 8pm **NEW SERIES!**

In Liberia, West Africa, Jim and Jenny Desmond operate a sanctuary for young orphaned chimpanzees rescued from the illegal pet trade. This three-part series follows the Desmonds as they prepare the chimps for life in the wild by teaching them essential physical and social skills.

KID OF THE YEAR

CBS & Nickelodeon 170, 8pm

Trevor Noah hosts this special featuring the top five finalists for the first ever Kid of the Year honor.

CHRISTMAS IN EVERGREEN: BELLS ARE RINGING

Hallmark Channel 185, 8pm **ORIGINAL FILM!**

As Michelle's (Holly Robinson Peete) wedding approaches, Hannah (Rukiya Bernard) steps up to help finish the launch of the new Evergreen museum while questioning her relationship and future with Elliot (Antonio Cayonne). Also stars Colin Lawrence and Barbara Niven.

SECRETS IN THE SNOW

LMN 109, 8pm **ORIGINAL FILM!**

Christina (Aubrey Reynolds) is looking forward to going to the wintry countryside with her new boyfriend, Ted (Travis Caldwell), and meeting his family for the first time. But an unexpected guest arrives.

PLAY ON: CELEBRATING THE POWER OF MUSIC TO MAKE CHANGE

CBS, 9pm

This one-hour charity benefit concert special features performers from a wide variety of musical genres. Actor/musician Kevin Bacon and hip-hop star Eve host.

HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES: "THE ESCAPE OF JOHN WILKES BOOTH"

History 120, 9pm

Today, surviving members of the Booth family believe Abraham Lincoln's assassin faked his death, reunited with his wife, remarried under an assumed name and eventually revealed his true identity in a series of clues.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 6

CHRISTMAS ON THE RANGE

UPTv 188, 7pm

All Kendall Riley (Erin Cahill) wants for the holidays is to save her family's ranch, but her longtime rival, small-town scrooge Brick McCree (A Martinez), has other plans in mind. The film also stars Lindsay Wagner.

CHRISTMAS SHE WROTE

Hallmark Channel 185, 8pm **ORIGINAL FILM!**

When Kayleigh (Danica McKellar), a romance writer, has her column canceled right before Christmas, she heads home to reconnect with her family.

CHRISTMAS EVER AFTER

Lifetime 108, 8pm **ORIGINAL FILM!**

Popular romance novelist Izzi Simmons (Tony winner Ali Stroker) spends every Christmas at her favorite snowy bed-and-breakfast, but this year, she's faced with an impending deadline and a severe case of writer's block.

A HOLLY DOLLY CHRISTMAS

CBS, 8:30pm

Christmas is Dolly Parton's favorite time of year, and the beloved entertainer is excited to share some much-needed joy and holiday cheer. Performing from an intimate, candlelit set, Dolly brings both powerful, faith-filled hymns and lighthearted holiday classics to viewers, sharing personal Christmas stories and faith-based recollections of the season, interspersed with songs from her new holiday album, *A Holly Dolly Christmas*.

SHAMELESS

Showtime 318, 9pm **SEASON PREMIERE!**

Frank (William H. Macy) confronts his own mortality and family ties in his alcoholic and drug-induced twilight years.

TIME FOR US TO COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Hallmark Movies & Mysteries 187, 10pm **ORIGINAL FILM!**

In this movie from executive producer Blake Shelton, five guests are mysteriously invited to an inn to celebrate Christmas. Stars Stephen Huszar and Lacey Chabert.

YOUR HONOR

Showtime 318, 10pm **NEW SERIES!**

Bryan Cranston (*Breaking Bad*) stars as Michael Desiato, a respected New Orleans judge whose teenage son, Adam (Hunter Doohan), is involved in a hit-and-run accident that leads to impossible decisions and unimaginable choices for the judge. Michael Stuhlbarg stars as Jimmy Baxter, the much-feared head of a crime family also involved in the accident. Hope Davis (*For the People*) plays Baxter's wife — a woman who might be even more dangerous than her husband.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 7



STAR OF THE MONTH: LAUREL AND HARDY
TCM 132, beginning at 12:30pm

Most Mondays this month (except for the week leading up to Christmas),

you can check out plenty of the fine messes that legendary comedy duo Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy got themselves into in their hilarious movies. Today's roughly 16-hour lineup includes two dozen classic Laurel and Hardy films from the late 1920s and early '30s, ranging from their silent shorts like *Do Detectives Think?* (1927) to their early "talkies" like *Night Owls* (1930) to their appearances in feature-length films like *Sons of the Desert* (1933) and *Babes in Toyland* (1934), and many more.

NFL FOOTBALL: BUFFALO AT SAN FRANCISCO
ESPN 140, 8pm Live

Monday Night Football's Week 13 matchup takes place at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, as Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills face the San Francisco 49ers.

THE SANTA SQUAD ORIGINAL FILM!
Lifetime 108, 8pm

Allie (Rebecca Dalton), an out-of-work art teacher, has to accept a job with the Santa Squad to help wealthy widower Gordon (Aaron Ashmore) and his two precious daughters rediscover the magic of Christmas. As Allie is lifting the holiday spirits of the family with Christmas decorations, cookies and shopping, her kindness is rewarded with the most unexpected of gifts: love!

NURSES SPECIAL PREVIEW!
NBC, 10pm

Following the success of the Canadian medical drama *Transplant*, NBC has acquired *Nurses*, another hospital-set series from the Great White North. As its title indicates, the drama, which is filmed and set in Toronto, follows five young nurses working on the front lines of a busy downtown hospital, dedicating their lives to helping others while struggling to help themselves. The series launch of *Nurses* in Canada earlier this year became the most-watched premiere episode of a scripted Canadian series in over two years for total viewers. Preview episodes will air tonight and Dec. 14 before the series takes its regular spot in NBC's Tuesday night lineup starting Jan. 5.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 8

SUPER MONSTERS: SANTA'S SUPER MONSTER HELPERS
Netflix

When GrrBus takes Sami, Zane, Olive and Rocky on a field trip to the North Pole, they accidentally cause a catastrophe at Santa's workshop, and it's up to the eight older Super Monsters to come to the rescue and save Christmas.



DICKENS CLASSICS
TCM 132, beginning at 8pm

CATCH A CLASSIC!

Enjoy an evening of several classic film adaptations of some of Charles Dickens' most beloved and enduring novels. Since the holidays are right around the corner, the

evening naturally begins with one of the best-loved of the countless versions of Dickens' 1843 novella *A Christmas Carol* – MGM's 1938 adaptation starring Reginald Owen as Scrooge. After that, watch Freddie Bartholomew and Frank Lawton as the child and young adult versions of the title character in *David Copperfield* (1935), based on Dickens' 1850 novel; David Lean's Oscar-winning 1946 adaptation of Dickens' 1861 novel *Great Expectations*; another Lean-directed adaptation, 1948's *Oliver Twist*, based on Dickens' 1838 novel; and *A Tale of Two Cities* (1935), the Best Picture Oscar-nominated adaptation of Dickens' 1859 novel.

A CHRISTMAS FOR MARY
OWN 189, 9pm ORIGINAL FILM!

Vivica A. Fox stars in this holiday tale of rediscovery and renewal. The film follows up-and-coming journalist Lena Jones (Morgan Dixon), who is tasked with delivering a story by Christmas that will wow her boss, magazine editor Vivian Vaye (Fox).

TRANSPLANT SEASON FINALE!
NBC, 9pm

Transplant ends its first season with two back-to-back episodes. In "Relapse," Bash (Hamza Haq) must figure out whether a young mother addicted to opioids is using again, or if something else is causing her deadly symptoms. Then, in "The Only Way Out Is Through," Bash and Mags (Laurence Leboeuf) race to save a woman nearly killed by their team's medical error.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 9

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS LIGHT FIGHT SEASON PREMIERE!
ABC, 8pm

ABC's tree-mendously popular decorating competition series returns for its eighth season with back-to-back episodes. America's brightest houses bring joy to the world with the help of celebrity judges – lifestyle expert Carter Oosterhouse and famed interior designer Taniya Nayak. This holiday season, we will once again see four fantastic families face off in each one-hour episode and compete to win \$50,000 should they "sleigh" the competition.

DR. SEUSS' THE GRINCH MUSICAL!
NBC, 8pm

Dr. Seuss' beloved classic children's book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* has become a Christmas staple for generations. This musical version, with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, and featuring the hit songs "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome Christmas" (by Albert Hague and Dr. Seuss), breathes new life into this timeless story. This fun-filled two-hour production will air from the Troubadour Theatre in London, and stars Matthew Morrison (*Glee*) as the Grinch.

I CAN SEE YOUR VOICE SEASON FINALE!
FOX, 9pm

Ken Jeong hosts the Season 1 finale of FOX's musical game show series.

GREATEST HOLIDAY COMMERCIALS COUNTDOWN 2020
The CW, 9pm

Kevin Frazier and Keltie Knight from *Entertainment Tonight* return to host this holiday special that counts down the 12 best holiday commercials ever – one for each of the 12 days of Christmas. In addition to the top 12, the special features other great commercials from both the U.S. and abroad that capture the true spirit of the holiday season – from the heartfelt to the hilarious, from the outstanding to the ridiculous.

TRAFFICKED WITH MARIANA VAN ZELLER: "COUNTERFEITING"
Nat Geo 197, 9pm

Journalist Mariana van Zeller ventures deep inside the Peruvian underworld to meet the gangster craftsmen who make and sell the world's finest counterfeit U.S. dollars. Along the way, she learns that many of these counterfeiting operations are run by criminal families in Lima who are making a fortune despite the anti-counterfeiting efforts of the U.S. Secret Service and the Peruvian National Police.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 10

TCM MORNING & AFTERNOON MOVIE: ROSALIND RUSSELL TCM 132, beginning at 9am

CATCH A CLASSIC!

Acclaimed actress Rosalind Russell headlines this morning and afternoon's 11-hour lineup of memorable films. Watch the star in her Best Actress Oscar-nominated title role in *Sister Kenny* (1946); in another Best Actress Oscar-nominated performance in *Mourning Becomes Electra* (1947); in the 1941 comedy *The Feminine Touch*; with Natalie Wood in the musical comedy/drama *Gypsy* (1962); and in one of her best-known films alongside Cary Grant in *His Girl Friday* (1940).

NFL FOOTBALL: NEW ENGLAND AT L.A. RAMS FOX & NFL Network 154, 8pm Live

Week 14 of the NFL season kicks off at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, as the New England Patriots visit the L.A. Rams on *Thursday Night Football*.

LIVE FROM DARYL'S HOUSE: "THE O'JAYS"

AXS TV 167, 8pm

SEASON FINALE!

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame R&B group the O'Jays teams up with host Daryl Hall to perform hit songs like "Love Train" and "I Can't Go for That (No Can Do)."

SILENT NIGHT – A SONG FOR THE WORLD

The CW, 8pm

This special is a musical film documentary about the creation and cultural impact of the world's most famous Christmas carol, composed in 1818 in Salzburg, Austria. Translated into 140 languages, "Silent Night" caused a Christmas ceasefire in World War I, while Bing Crosby's version is one of the bestselling singles ever. The film, narrated by Hugh Bonneville, tells the story of "Silent Night," with new recordings by global stars in different languages and a cast including Kelly Clarkson, Joss Stone, John Rhys-Davies, David Foster, Katharine McPhee, Randy Jackson, Gavin Rossdale, Shéléa, Ailee, Josh Groban, the Vienna Boys Choir, Anggun, Lina Makhoul, the Tenors, Rolando Villazón and many more.

THE HOLZER FILES: "DEVIL IN THE ROCK"

Travel Channel 196, 10pm

The team ventures to the Massachusetts coast to follow up on legendary ghost hunter Hans Holzer's 1964 investigation of the Bates Ship Chandlery. As they delve deep into the property's past, they uncover a chilling undercurrent of darkness anchored in the rocky shores.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 11

THE CHRISTMAS CAROLER CHALLENGE

The CW, 8pm

SEASON PREMIERE!

Hosted by Dean Cain and Laura McKenzie, the three-episode Christmas caroling competition event series features 10 extraordinary Christmas carol groups, each with their own stylized brand of performance, celebrating the great Christmas music we have all come to love.

MY LOTTERY DREAM HOME: HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

HGTV 112, 8pm

David Bromstad will show fans how to deck the halls like a lottery winner – but on a realistic budget – in *My Lottery Dream Home: Holiday Extravaganza*. The popular HGTV designer will transform a living room into a lush Christmas tree forest, set a spectacular tablescape for a festive dinner party and adorn a home's exterior with so much holiday razzle dazzle that the whole neighborhood will cheer.

INN LOVE BY CHRISTMAS

Lifetime 108, 8pm

ORIGINAL FILM!

Mandy Leeds (Jonna Walsh), a successful young woman living in Miami, is climbing her way up the corporate ladder in the hotel industry. Though she doesn't get back to her small Northern hometown much, this year her Gram (Jayne Eastwood) is able to finally convince her to come home for Christmas. Mandy has another reason, too – the quaint local inn is for sale, and she wants to acquire it for her company. With her eyes on the prize, Mandy travels back home, but on her way there, she runs into Lucas Menzino (Jesse Hutch) – her high school rival – who has his eye on the inn as well.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

USA Network 105, 8pm

CATCH A CLASSIC!

Frank Capra's beloved, Oscar-nominated 1946 holiday classic stars Best Actor Oscar nominee Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, a discouraged and despairing building-and-loan manager who contemplates suicide before a guardian angel named Clarence (Henry Travers) intervenes and allows George to see what his small town of Bedford Falls would be without him – and all that is right in his world. Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore also star in the iconic film whose Oscar nominations also included Best Picture and Best Director for Capra. The film re-airs tomorrow morning on USA Network, and will also air Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) on NBC.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 12

MLS CUP 2020

FOX, 8pm Live

The MLS Eastern and Western Conference finalists meet for the 2020 MLS Cup championship match.

CROSS COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

Hallmark Channel 185, 8pm

ORIGINAL FILM!

Former classmates Lina (Rachael Leigh Cook) and Max (Greyston Holt) are traveling home for the holidays, until a storm hits and they have to work together to make it home in time, no matter the mode of transportation.

THE CHRISTMAS SETUP

Lifetime 108, 8pm

ORIGINAL FILM!

The Christmas Setup follows the story of New York lawyer Hugo (Ben Lewis), who heads to Milwaukee with his best friend Madelyn (Ellen Wong) to spend the holidays with his brother Aiden (Chad Connell) and his mom Kate (Fran Drescher), who is also in charge of the local Christmas celebrations. Ever the matchmaker, Kate arranges for Hugo to run into Patrick (Blake Lee), Hugo's high school friend and secret crush.

BABY CHIMP RESCUE: "BREAKING POINT"

BBC America 135, 8pm

Jim and Jenny Desmond's Liberian chimpanzee orphanage faces a difficult challenge when a potentially deadly sickness breaks out among the young chimps in the new episode "Breaking Point."

HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES: "ROSWELL: FIRST WITNESS – THE JOURNAL"

History 120, 9pm

In 1947, a New Mexico farmer discovered strange debris in one of his fields. Though the government claimed it was a crashed weather balloon, it wasn't long before speculation that the object was actually a UFO caught the public's imagination – a theory that some still believe today. Now, new evidence, including the diary of the man first on the scene of the crash, may shed light on what really was found in Roswell.

A GLENBROOKE CHRISTMAS

Hallmark Movies & Mysteries 187, 10pm

ORIGINAL FILM!

As Christmas nears, heiress Jessica Morgan (Autumn Reeser) seizes what seems like her last chance to experience a relaxed Christmas and heads off to the small town of Glenbrooke, where she meets a handsome fireman (Antonio Cupo).

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 13

COUPLES THERAPY: THE COVID SPECIAL

Showtime 318, 8pm

This one-hour documentary features renowned therapist Dr. Orna Guralnik as she and her patients grapple with the realities of the COVID-19 shutdown and its impact on their lives and relationships. During stay-at-home orders in New York this spring, couples struggle through remote therapy sessions and push Dr. Guralnik to the limits of her insight and skill.

A STAR IS BORN

TNT 138, 8pm

The movie phenom makes its premiere tonight on TNT. Produced and directed by, and starring, Bradley Cooper, this 2018 drama earned eight Academy Award nominations. Cooper stars as a hard-drinking musician who stumbles upon a young singer (played by music powerhouse Lady Gaga), and the two embark on a unique yet tragic love story. Gaga was awarded a Best Original Song Oscar for "Shallow." The film's soundtrack won three Grammy Awards.

PENNYWORTH

EPIX 380, 9pm

SEASON
PREMIERE!

Season 2 of the drama series centered around Bruce Wayne's butler (and other DC Comics regulars) adds two new characters: Lucius Fox (Simon Manyonda) is a young American scientist, deliberately calm, honest and direct to a fault, while Melanie Troy (Jessica de Gouw) forms an instant connection to Alfie when they meet. New series regulars this season include James Purefoy, Edward Hogg, Jessye Romeo, Ramon Tikaram and Harriet Slater.

THIS IS LIFE WITH LISA LING: "UNDER THE GUN"

CNN 200, 10pm

In this episode of her docuseries, journalist Lisa Ling looks at families who have been affected by gun violence.

UNLOCKING CHRISTMAS

Hallmark Movies & Mysteries 187, 10pm

ORIGINAL FILM!

When a mysterious key and a holiday riddle arrive on their doorsteps, Kate (Taylor Cole) and Kevin (Steve Lund) embark on a Christmas romance adventure they'll never forget.

MOONBASE 8

Showtime 318, 11pm

SEASON
FINALE!

Cap (John C. Reilly), Skip (Fred Armisen) and Rook (Tim Heidecker) face a crisis when they find out their relocated base is in the path of a rancher's cattle drive in the Season 1 finale episode "Beef."

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 14

COOL HAND LUKE

TCM 132, 10:15am

CATCH A
CLASSIC!

Paul Newman gives one of the defining performances of his career, and cemented his place as a beautiful-rebel screen icon, with his Best Actor Oscar-nominated role as stubbornly tough and independent Lucas "Luke" Jackson in this famed 1967 prison drama. George Kennedy took home a Best Supporting Actor Oscar as Dragline, the brutal chain-gang boss who tries to beat loner Luke's cool out of him in this film's classic rebel-against-the-repressive-institution story. The movie is filled with iconic moments like the hard-boiled egg-eating contest, and lines like Strother Martin's sadistic prison officer, the "Captain," stating, "What we've got here is failure to communicate." *Cool Hand Luke* certainly does not fail to communicate its message, or to entertain, after nearly 60 years.

LONESTAR CHRISTMAS

Lifetime 108, 8pm

ORIGINAL
FILM!

When single mom Erin (Stephanie Bennett) takes her daughters to spend Christmas with her estranged dad on his Texas ranch, she unexpectedly falls in love with local restaurateur Mateo (Marco Grazzini) while learning to forgive her father for the past.

NFL FOOTBALL: BALTIMORE AT CLEVELAND

ESPN 140, 8pm Live

Week 14 in the NFL concludes with an AFC North Division battle between Lamar Jackson's Baltimore Ravens and Baker Mayfield's Cleveland Browns on *Monday Night Football*.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE TABERNACLE CHOIR

PBS, 9pm

In this event recorded last year, the award-winning Tabernacle Choir, Orchestra at Temple Square and Bells at Temple Square join Tony Award-winning Kelli O'Hara and renowned *Waltons* star Richard Thomas to celebrate the holidays in a nostalgic musical spectacle that exudes the warmth and peace that the season can bring. "It's not like anything you've ever experienced, I guarantee you," Thomas tells us. "It's sort of the Grand Canyon of concert experiences."

NURSES

NBC, 10pm

SPECIAL
PREVIEW!

NBC airs another preview episode of this acquired Canadian drama that follows five young nurses working on the front lines of a busy downtown Toronto hospital. The series takes its regular spot in NBC's Tuesday night lineup starting Jan. 5.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 15

TCM MORNING & AFTERNOON MOVIE: LANA TURNER

TCM 132, beginning at 6am

CATCH A
CLASSIC!

Legendary actress Lana Turner, one of the most glamorous stars of Hollywood's golden age, is celebrated with 14 hours of her movies from morning to evening today. The day begins with *Rich Man, Poor Girl* (1938), one of Turner's earlier films and featuring her second appearance as an MGM star. The rest of the lineup is a nice mix of very recognizable Turner classics – such as *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, the 1946 film noir classic with Turner as a quintessential film femme fatale; the Oscar-winning drama *The Bad and the Beautiful* (1952), with Turner starring alongside Kirk Douglas; and *Peyton Place* (1957), the drama that netted Turner her only Best Actress Oscar nomination – as well as lesser-seen films, like *The Big Cube*, a psychological (and somewhat psychedelic) thriller from 1969.

ELLA WISHES YOU A SWINGING CHRISTMAS WITH VANESSA WILLIAMS

PBS, 8pm

Enjoy an evening celebrating Ella Fitzgerald's entire iconic album of holiday classics presented by the American Pops Orchestra. Featuring appearances by Dee Dee Bridgewater, Norm Lewis, Carmen Ruby Floyd, Nova Payton, Dave Detwiler and Morgan James.

COOKING UP CHRISTMAS

OWN 189, 9pm

ORIGINAL FILM!

Meagan Holder (*Pitch*) stars in this family-centric holiday story as Chloe, an Atlanta-based chef at a fine dining restaurant who gets fired just weeks before Christmas and reluctantly takes a job with pro baseball player Donovan Jackson (Lamman Rucker, *Greenleaf*), a single dad of three needing a live-in chef to get him through the holidays with the kids. As she gets closer to the family, Chloe's heart takes on a mind of its own.

All Times Eastern

Watch Now!

On Demand

AMMONITE

Kate Winslet, Saoirse Ronan

Drama

CH. 514



Ammonite © 2020 Fox Searchlight Pictures

Best Bets

Dec. 16

TCM SPOTLIGHT: BERNARD HERRMANN: "HERRMANN & HITCHCOCK"

TCM 132, beginning at 8pm

CATCH A CLASSIC!

Some film directors and composers have creatively gelled so memorably that they became frequent collaborators and sometimes remain legendary pairings. That was the case with Alfred Hitchcock and Bernard Herrmann, who teamed on seven films from the mid '50s to early '60s. You can enjoy six of those titles in tonight's lineup, which features *Vertigo* (1958), with Herrmann's appropriately swirling music; *Marnie* (1964), the last film Herrmann made with Hitch; *The Trouble With Harry* (1955), Herrmann's first score for the director; *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1956); *The Wrong Man* (1956); and *North by Northwest* (1959).

PARANORMAL CAUGHT ON CAMERA: "FACE OF A WITCH, UNSIGHTLY GUESTS AND MORE"

Travel Channel 196, 8pm

A face transforms into the unimaginable inside a former prison for witches; two friends witness a fleet of UFOs in the night sky; a home tour reveals a horrifying shadow person; ghostly soldiers are captured on camera in Gettysburg; and more.

THE MASKED SINGER

FOX, 8pm

SEASON FINALE!

Season 4 of *The Masked Singer* concludes with the unmasking of the winning performer in this two-hour finale. Nick Cannon hosts with panelists Jenny McCarthy, Ken Jeong, Nicole Scherzinger and Robin Thicke.

SISTAS: "THE HOT STOVE"

BET 124, 9pm

Gary (Chido Nwokocha) forces a conversation with Andi (KJ Smith), but later he gets drunk and his anger boils over. Meanwhile, Zac (Devale Ellis) is pursued by a new love interest.

TRAFFICKED WITH MARIANA VAN ZELLER: "STERIODS"

Nat Geo 197, 9pm

In the age of social media, the demand for illegal steroids is booming. In this episode, journalist Mariana van Zeller searches out producers and users in an attempt to understand the vanity, insecurity and greed that's driving this dangerously unregulated, billion-dollar black market in body-enhancing drugs.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 17

DOGS OF THE YEAR

The CW, 8pm

This special counts down the top 10 dog stories of 2020, celebrating the dogs that go above and beyond, leave their mark on society, and achieve the nearly impossible.

RELIGIOUS FAVORITES

TCM 132, beginning at 8pm

CATCH A CLASSIC!

As we near Christmas, those of faith may be seeking out religious titles, and TCM airs several this evening that are entertaining for anyone no matter what their beliefs. The four-film lineup is a combination of biblical epics and contemporary (for their times) dramas. First up is Leo McCarey's 1944 Best Picture Oscar-winning musical comedy/drama *Going My Way*, with Best Actor Oscar winner Bing Crosby as Father Charles "Chuck" O'Malley, an unconventional priest transferred from East St. Louis to a parish in New York City. Crosby croons five songs in the film, including the Oscar-winning "Swinging on a Star." Also airing tonight are two dramas about the life of Jesus Christ: 1961's *King of Kings*, starring Jeffrey Hunter as Jesus; and *The Greatest Story Ever Told* (1965), the Oscar-nominated film with Max von Sydow, in his American film debut, portraying Christ. The evening ends with *Boys Town* (1938), the Best Picture Oscar-nominated biographical drama based on Father Edward Flanagan's (Best Actor Oscar winner Spencer Tracy) work with underprivileged and delinquent boys (one of whom is played by Mickey Rooney).

CHRISLEY KNOWS BEST

USA Network 105, 10pm

SEASON FINALE!

Season 8 of the series that follows Todd Chrisley and his family concludes tonight.

MIZ & MRS

USA Network 105, 10:30pm

SEASON FINALE!

Married WWE Superstars Mike "The Miz" Mizanin and Maryse Ouellet end the second season of their family-focused reality series this evening.

All Times Eastern

Watch Now! On Demand

FREAKY

Vince Vaughn, Kathryn Newton
Comedy
CH. 516, 533



Freaky: © 2020 Blumhouse Productions, Universal Pictures.

Best Bets

Dec. 18

MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM

Netflix **ORIGINAL FILM!**

Chadwick Boseman's final film role before his passing is in this drama based on August Wilson's Tony-nominated play.

HOLIDAY BAKING CHAMPIONSHIP

Cooking Channel 113, beginning at 8pm

Get in the holiday spirit with a night of *Holiday Baking Championship* episodes. The night begins with "Getting Gifty With It" and "North Pole Vaulting" and continues with "Traditions With a Twist" and "Christmas Day Delights."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

FOX, 8pm Live

FOX has coverage of the Pac-12 football championship game between the conference's North and South Division champions.

CHRISTMAS ON THE MENU

Lifetime 108, 8pm **ORIGINAL FILM!**

Josie Jennings (Kim Shaw), a celebrated, romantic, 35-year-old chef in the city, heads home to spend the holidays at the quaint, magical bed-and-breakfast where she grew up, and where her mother Shannon (Cynthia Gibb) has just opened a new restaurant.

SHREK THE HALLS

ABC, 8:30pm

Shrek the Halls features the voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz and Antonio Banderas. It's Christmas Eve and everyone is filled with holiday cheer – except for Shrek. He isn't exactly the picture of Yuletide joy, but for the sake of Fiona and the kids, he tries to get into the spirit of things as only an ogre can. Unfortunately, everyone seems to have their own ideas about what Christmas is all about, so when Donkey, Puss in Boots, Gingerbread Man and the whole gang try to join in on the fun, Shrek's plans for a cozy family celebration end up spiraling into one truly unforgettable Christmas.

YOU'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

HGTV 112, 10pm

As the countdown to Christmas ticks on, Albie Mushaney, world-famous strongman and Salem, Oregon-based real estate agent who moonlights as a Santa impersonator, will help first-time homebuyers find their forever home in time for the holidays. Alongside his festive family, Albie will make the houses extra "ho-ho-home-y" by adding special seasonal touches.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 19

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ABC/ESPN 140, CBS & FOX,
beginning at 12pm Live

College football conference championship Saturday features title games for the Big Ten (FOX), the ACC (ABC or ESPN) and the SEC (CBS).

BABY CHIMP RESCUE

BBC America 135, 8pm

**SERIES
FINALE!**

In the finale episode "A New Beginning," Jim and Jenny Desmond's rescued baby chimpanzees get their first taste of life in the forest.

A CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL

Hallmark Channel 185, 8pm

ORIGINAL FILM!

When Lila (Rachel Boston) is hired by the royal family of Marcadia to repair a carousel, she must work with the prince (Neal Bledsoe) to complete it by Christmas.

STOLEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

LMN 109, 8pm

**ORIGINAL
FILM!**

Escaping an abusive husband, Melissa (Gracie Gillam) takes her baby, Ryan, to her parents' cabin in a small Louisiana town where she and her sister spent most of their childhood summers. But when Ryan is abducted, and the local authorities are less than helpful, Melissa is forced to take matters into her own hands and in the process discovers the dark secret the town is hiding.

THE WIZARD OF OZ

TNT 138, 8:30pm

Because, because, because, because, because – because you know you can't let a year go by without seeing it again. The 1939 Victor Fleming classic adventure of Dorothy and all of the pals she meets in the merry old Land of Oz continues to be a holiday delight.

HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES: "ROSWELL: FIRST WITNESS – THE MEMO"

History 120, 9pm

New evidence and advanced technologies are employed in the search for answers about the object found crashed in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. Was it a weather balloon, as the government said? Or was it a UFO, as many people still believe?

SWEPT UP BY CHRISTMAS

Hallmark Movies & Mysteries 187, 10pm

ORIGINAL FILM!

An antique seller and a cleaner clash over how to downsize a magnificent estate right before Christmas. Stars Lindy Booth and Justin Bruening.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 20

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SELECTION SHOW

ESPN 140, 12pm Live

The final College Football Playoff rankings of the season are revealed today on ESPN, and we'll know which four teams will be competing in the CFP semifinal games taking place Jan. 1. Hoping for a spot in the top four are Alabama, Ohio State, Clemson, Notre Dame, Texas A&M, Florida and Cincinnati.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

ABC, 7pm

Celebrate the Rodgers & Hammerstein cinematic treasure and Oscar-winning classic with popular favorites "Edelweiss," "My Favorite Things," "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," "Do-Re-Mi," "Sixteen Going on Seventeen," "The Lonely Goatherd" and "The Sound of Music."

LOVE, LIGHTS, HANUKKAH!

Hallmark Channel 185, 8pm

ORIGINAL FILM!

As Christina (Mia Kirshner) prepares her restaurant for its busiest time of year, she gets back a DNA test revealing that she's Jewish. The discovery leads her to a new family and an unlikely romance. Also stars Ben Savage and Marilu Henner.

GARTH & TRISHA LIVE! A HOLIDAY CONCERT EVENT

CBS, 8:30pmET Live / 8pmPT

Following up on the success of their CBS concert special in spring of this year, Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood will perform live by request from their home recording studio, Studio G, singing songs of the season for viewers looking for the comfort and shared joy of music during the holidays.

THIS IS LIFE WITH LISA LING: "PSYCHEDELIC HEALING"

CNN 200, 10pm **SEASON FINALE!**

Journalist Lisa Ling concludes the seventh season of her docuseries in which she travels across America to explore communities that are often unknown or misunderstood with a look at the rising popularity of psychedelic healing.

PROJECT CHRISTMAS WISH

Hallmark Movies & Mysteries 187, 10pm

ORIGINAL FILM!

For years Lucy has played Santa to her small town's community by making their holiday wishes come true. But when Lucy grants a little girl's wish for a Christmas like she used to have with her mom, she unexpectedly finds her own wishes coming true in life and love.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 21

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: MYRTLE BEACH BOWL

ESPN 140, 2:30pm Live

ESPN has coverage of the Myrtle Beach Bowl from Brooks Stadium in Conway, South Carolina.

GRANDMA GOT RUN OVER BY A REINDEER

The CW, 8pm

Based on the hit song that became a worldwide holiday phenomenon, this goofy and heartwarming adventure features young Jake Spankenheimer on the quest of a lifetime to track his missing grandma down on Christmas Eve to prove that Santa Claus is indeed real. Michele Lee provides the voice of Jake's greedy Cousin Mel, and recording artist Elmo Shropshire provides the narration.

NFL FOOTBALL: PITTSBURGH AT CINCINNATI

ESPN 140, 8pm Live

AFC North rivals battle at Cincinnati's Paul Brown Stadium as Ben Roethlisberger leads the Pittsburgh Steelers against Joe Burrow and the Bengals on *Monday Night Football*.

SPOTLIGHT ON CHRISTMAS

Lifetime 108, 8pm **ORIGINAL FILM!**

Dumped two weeks before Christmas, actress Olivia O'Hara (Tori Anderson) secretly returns to her tiny hometown to hide out, eat cookies and avoid the press. What she doesn't expect is to be faced with the family she left behind, meet a charming new guy, Casey Rawlins (Victor Zinck Jr.), and have a noisy reporter following her every move. Completely overwhelmed, Olivia contemplates running away from her life once again, but with a newfound confidence and freedom, she bravely steps up to take the starring role in her own life, realizing that home is where the heart is and that she deserves to be loved for exactly who she really is.

DR. PIMPLE POPPER: SEASON'S SQUEEZINGS

TLC 183, 9pm

OK, they got us on the title again. Everyone's favorite pimple popper, Dr. Sandra Lee, offers up a holiday-themed special before moving into its regular time slot with new episodes the following Monday.

PARANORMAL DECLASSIFIED

Travel Channel 196, 10pm **NEW SERIES!**

In the premiere episode of this series that explores the unexplained, host Paul Beban sets out to bring the truth about sea monsters to the surface.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 22

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ESPN 140, beginning at 3:30pm Live

College football bowl season continues on ESPN with the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl at Albertsons Stadium in Boise and the Boca Raton Bowl at FAU Stadium in Boca Raton, Florida.

NBA BASKETBALL

TNT 138, 8pm

The NBA tips off the 2020-21 regular season, which has been shortened to 72 games due to COVID-19. The game schedule wasn't available at presstime, but TNT has traditionally broadcast an opening-night doubleheader that has included the reigning NBA champion. In October, the L.A. Lakers won the franchise's 17th title with a 4-2 NBA Finals series win over the Miami Heat.

CITY HALL

PBS, 8pm

Explore the role of city government and see how Boston provides services for its citizens. Mayor Marty Walsh and his administration grapple with their policy priorities, which include racial justice, affordable housing, climate action and homelessness.

CHRISTMAS IN CONNECTICUT

TCM 132, 8pm **CATCH A CLASSIC!**

This beloved 1945 holiday farce stars Barbara Stanwyck as single New Yorker Elizabeth Lane, who in her job as a food writer has been pretending to live the life of a perfect farmer's wife and mother, earning the admiration of real housewives nationwide under false pretenses. But when Elizabeth's editor (Sydney Greenstreet), who is unaware she is lying, insists that she host a Christmas dinner for returning war hero Jefferson Jones (Dennis Morgan), a big fan of Elizabeth's recipes (which she has been getting from someone else), she needs to scramble and cobble together both a farm and a "family" to pull off the dinner. Things get even more complicated when she meets Jones and it's love at first sight.

FIRST CHRISTMAS

OWN 189, 9pm

ORIGINAL FILM!

Given up for adoption and placed in foster care at a young age, writer Halle Downing (Idara Victor) receives the blessing of a lifetime when she is invited to spend Christmas in New Orleans with the biological family she never knew. Halle soon faces the hard reality that finding her place in this close-knit family is going to take longer than she thought.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 23

THE MIDNIGHT SKY

Netflix

ORIGINAL FILM!

George Clooney directed, coproduced and stars in this postapocalyptic tale based on Lily Brooks-Dalton's acclaimed novel *Good Morning, Midnight*. The film follows Augustine (Clooney), a lonely scientist in the Arctic, as he races to stop Sully (Felicity Jones) and her fellow astronauts from returning home to a mysterious global catastrophe. David Oyelowo and Kyle Chandler also star.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ESPN 140, beginning at 3:30pm Live

ESPN airs a pair of college football bowl games with the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome and the Montgomery Bowl at Alabama's Cramton Bowl.

BELL, BOOK AND CANDLE

TCM 132, 6pm **CATCH A CLASSIC!**

Magic and mirth abound in this 1958 romantic comedy, which received Oscar nominations for its lovely and colorful art direction and costume design. It's the second big-screen pairing of James Stewart and Kim Novak from that year, coming out about six months after *Vertigo* and featuring a much lighter tone than that classic Hitchcock psychological thriller. Here, it all seems like good fun when Greenwich Village witch Gillian "Gil" Holroyd (Novak) casts a spell on publisher Shepherd "Shep" Henderson (Stewart) in a plot to get back at his fiancée, a snooty former schoolmate. However, complications arise when Gil begins to have actual feelings for her human plaything, along with the fact that her reckless warlock brother Nicky (Jack Lemmon) is planning on exposing their witchy world by writing a book on magic with egomaniacal author Sidney Redlitch (Ernie Kovacs) for Shep's publishing company.

TRAFFICKED WITH MARIANA VAN ZELLER: "PIMPS"

Nat Geo 197, 9pm

In an eye-opening journey through her home state of California, journalist Mariana van Zeller embeds with pimps, victims, undercover cops and private investigators to understand the ugly business of illicit sex in America. How do pimps recruit? How do they think? Where do they get their power? And just how far will they go to grab their share of this billion-dollar black market?

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 24

"DOCTOR WHO" CHRISTMAS SPECIALS MARATHON

BBC America 135, beginning at 6:15am

Spend Christmas with the Doctor as BBC America presents a marathon of *Doctor Who* Christmas specials throughout the day and continuing Friday.

"WHITE CHRISTMAS" TAKEOVER

SundanceTV 126, beginning at 2pm

CATCH A CLASSIC!

Beginning this afternoon, SundanceTV airs eight consecutive showings of the 1954 musical *White Christmas*. The movie takes its title, of course, from Irving Berlin's classic song made famous by Bing Crosby in the 1942 film *Holiday Inn*. Crosby also stars here, and performs a new version of the iconic tune, as he and Danny Kaye play veterans who become famous song-and-dance men after World War II. Soon, they join forces with singing sisters (Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen) to help save their former Army general's Vermont inn. Along with the title song, *White Christmas* also features other memorable Berlin toe-tappers, including "Sisters," "Snow" and "Count Your Blessings (Instead of Sheep)," which was nominated for an Oscar.

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

ABC, 8pm

In the network broadcast premiere of this 2017 musical, Hugh Jackman stars as P.T. Barnum, a visionary who rose from nothing to create the "Greatest Show on Earth," a spectacle and celebration of his larger-than-life imagination that captivated audiences around the globe.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

NBC, 8pm **CATCH A CLASSIC!**

Spend Christmas Eve watching Frank Capra's beloved 1946 holiday classic. Jimmy Stewart stars as George Bailey, a discouraged and despairing building-and-loan manager who contemplates suicide before a guardian angel named Clarence (Henry Travers) intervenes and allows him to see what George's small town of Bedford Falls would be without him – and all that is right in his world. Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore also star.

24 HOURS OF "A CHRISTMAS STORY" MARATHON

TNT 138, 9pm

"You'll shoot your eye out!" All 9-year-old Ralphie Parker wanted for the holidays was a Red Ryder air rifle, but the days leading up to Christmas where he is surrounded by his less than perfect family and all sorts of setbacks make this one of the most memorable and funny holiday classics of all time.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 25

JEOPARDY!

Syndicated, check local listings

Legendary *Jeopardy!* host Alex Trebek passed away Nov. 8 at the age of 80 due to complications from pancreatic cancer. Even during his nearly two-year battle with the disease, Trebek valiantly continued the hosting duties he had performed for nearly 40 years. The last episode of *Jeopardy!* that Trebek recorded airs today, and it may be the only time in history that a game show has made viewers cry.

DISNEY PARKS MAGICAL CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION

ABC, 10am

Disney's annual Christmas celebration airs Christmas morning on ABC and features heartwarming stories and amazing celebrity performances.

NBA BASKETBALL

ABC & ESPN 140, beginning at 12pm Live

The full game schedule wasn't announced as of presstime, but the 2020-21 NBA season tipped off just in time for the league to continue its tradition of leaving a full Christmas Day of marquee matchups under the tree for all the good basketball fans.

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

NBC, 8:30pm

Jim Carrey plays Dr. Seuss' titular meanie in this 2000 live-action adaptation directed by Ron Howard.

SURPRISING SANTA CLAUS

HGTV 112, 9pm

Lara Spencer, known to television fans as a regular contributor on *Good Morning America* and host of the hit series *Flea Market Flip*, will work with a team of designers, contractors and volunteers to give the town of Santa Claus, Indiana, the biggest Christmas present it has ever received. It will be a race against the clock as the team tackles two surprise home renovations and a special bonus for the town square that will spread holiday cheer to the whole community.

"CALL THE MIDWIFE" HOLIDAY SPECIAL

PBS, 9pm

It is December 1965. Everyone at Nonnatus House is looking forward to traditional celebrations with all the trimmings, but nothing goes quite to plan. Sister Monica Joan is rushed to hospital, and Trixie is incensed to receive a subscription to a Marriage Bureau as a Christmas gift.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 26

"DOCTOR WHO" MARATHON

BBC America 135, beginning at 6am

Travel through time and space with BBC America's year-end *Doctor Who* marathon, with Saturday and Sunday episodes featuring Matt Smith as the Doctor. The marathon continues with Peter Capaldi on Monday, David Tennant on Tuesday, the best of the Daleks on Wednesday, the best of Timey Wimey on Thursday and Jodie Whittaker on New Year's Day.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ESPN 140 & ABC, beginning at 12pm Live

A full day of college football postseason games features the Union Home Mortgage Gasparilla Bowl (ABC), the Cure Bowl (ESPN), the SERVPRO First Responder Bowl (ABC), the Lending Tree Bowl (ESPN), the Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl (ESPN) and the Guaranteed Rate Bowl (ESPN).

CHRISTMAS LEFTOVERS

IFC 133, beginning at 1:30pm

Not ready to say goodbye to Christmas yet? Spend the day after watching nearly 12 hours of holiday movies on IFC. Things start with the 1945 Barbara Stanwyck classic *Christmas in Connecticut*, and continue with *A Dennis the Menace Christmas* (2007), *A Christmas Story 2* (2012) and *Jack Frost* (1998; back-to-back showings).

MEMORABLE GOODBYES

TCM 132, beginning at 8pm

CATCH A CLASSIC!

It's never easy saying goodbye, even for movie characters, but it can be memorable. Tonight's double-feature features two films that close with iconic tear-jerking moments when their lovers had to separate. The night begins with what is probably Hollywood's most enduring and quotable farewell scene, when Best Actor Oscar nominee Humphrey Bogart's Rick assures Ingrid Bergman's Ilsa that they'll "always have Paris" as he reluctantly, but for the greater good, sends her out of his life at the airport in the Best Picture Oscar-winning *Casablanca* (1942).

HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES: "ROSWELL: FIRST WITNESS – THE WRITER"

History 120, 9pm

The exploration of the latest theories about the 1947 crash of an unidentifiable object in Roswell, New Mexico, comes to a conclusion. The diary of the man first on the scene of the crash may reveal important information – if it can be decoded.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 27

SWING TIME

TCM 132, 1:15pm

CATCH A CLASSIC!

The famously fancy footwork of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers – choreographed by the legendary Hermes Pan – highlights this fun 1936 musical directed by George Stevens. Astaire plays "Lucky" Garnett, a roguish gambler/dancer who is challenged by his fiancée's (Betty Furness) father to come up with \$25,000 to prove he's worthy of her hand. But after he falls in love with a dance instructor (Ginger Rogers), Lucky will do anything to keep from earning the bucks. Along with great dance numbers, the film also boasts a memorable score by composer Jerome Kern and lyricist Dorothy Fields, including the classic tunes "A Fine Romance," "Never Gonna Dance," "Pick Yourself Up" and "The Way You Look Tonight," which won an Oscar for Best Original Song.



THE MASKED DANCER ▲

FOX, 8pm **NEW SERIES!**

Comedian Craig Robinson hosts this twist on *The Masked Singer* where, instead, celebrities compete on the dance floor in elaborate costumes and are unmasked every week in front of a panel of judges, including Ken Jeong, Brian Austin Green, Paula Abdul and Ashley Tisdale.

All Times Eastern

Watch Now! On Demand

THE WAR WITH GRANDPA

Robert De Niro, Uma Thurman

Comedy

CH. 505, 527



The War with Grandpa: © 2020 UFI Studios. Credit: Ben Redman. Masked Dancer: Michael Becker/Fox

Best Bets

Dec. 28

MORNING FABLES

TCM 132, beginning at 7am

CATCH A CLASSIC!

This morning, Turner Classic Movies transports you into the realm of fairy tales courtesy of some terrific fantasy films. The lineup will include a few short films, plus two memorable feature-length titles. One of the latter is Jean Cocteau's surreal, dreamlike 1946 feature *Beauty and the Beast*, based on the famous tale, with Josette Day playing Belle and Jean Marais as the Beast. This classic of French cinema features English subtitles, if you aren't too engrossed with the gorgeous images to read them. The other feature-length fairy tale film airing this morning is 1962's *The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm*, co-directed by fantasy film master George Pal. This movie not only offers a biographical drama about famous fairy tale-collecting brothers Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm (portrayed by Laurence Harvey and Karlheinz Böhm), but also brings to life some of their legendary tales.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: MILITARY BOWL

ESPN 140, 2:30pm Live

Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland, hosts the 2020 Military Bowl on ESPN.

NFL FOOTBALL: BUFFALO AT NEW ENGLAND

ESPN 140, 8pm Live

The season finale of *Monday Night Football* has a Week 16 AFC East rivalry game between the Buffalo Bills and the New England Patriots at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts.

DR. PIMPLE POPPER

TLC 183, 9pm

SEASON PREMIERE!

This new season features Dr. Lee's most challenging cases to date. Some of the cases are so extreme, Dr. Lee teams up with specialists in order to provide the best outcome possible, including for an adorable 8-year-old girl – the youngest patient yet on the series – with an extreme case of psoriasis who would like to be a dermatologist when she grows up; a man with severe keloids on the back of his head and scalp; and an incredibly rare case of nevus sebaceous that covers much of a woman's face.

VERNON JORDAN: MAKE IT PLAIN

PBS, 10pm

This film chronicles Jordan's modest origins through his rise to national renown as a pioneering attorney, businessman, civil rights leader and counselor to presidents spanning the eras from LBJ to Barack Obama.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 29

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ESPN 140, beginning at 2pm Live

College football bowl game action on ESPN continues with the New Era Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, New York; the Cheez-It Bowl in Orlando, Florida; and the Valero Alamo Bowl in San Antonio.

POPSTAR'S BEST OF 2020

The CW, 8pm

Host Elizabeth Stanton will count down the greatest and most memorable moments and trends of 2020.

IN MEMORIAM

TCM 132, beginning at 8pm

CATCH A CLASSIC!

Throughout this evening and into late tomorrow afternoon, Turner Classic Movies will air movies starring notable actors and other film personalities who have passed away this year, and who have not already been honored by the network with separate film tributes (as Kirk Douglas has been, for example). First up is the iconic 1967 comedy *The Graduate* in honor of Buck Henry, who cowrote the Oscar-nominated screenplay and also appeared in a role. Among the others remembered in this tribute: actress Shirley Knight, with her Best Supporting Actress Oscar-nominated role in the drama *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1962); actor Fred Willard, with his small but hilarious role in the comedy *This Is Spinal Tap* (1984); actor Brian Dennehy, with the drama *The Belly of an Architect* (1987); composer Ennio Morricone, with the Italian war film *The Battle of Algiers* (1966); actress Honor Blackman, with the 1958 British war comedy *The Square Peg*; actress Diana Rigg, with the Agatha Christie mystery *Evil Under the Sun* (1982); and actor Wilford Brimley, with the drama *The China Syndrome* (1979); among others.

AMERICAN MASTERS: "LAURA INGALLS WILDER"

PBS, 8pm

This documentary presents an unvarnished look at Laura Ingalls Wilder, whose autobiographical fiction helped shape American ideas of the frontier and self-reliance. A Midwestern farm woman who published her first novel at age 65, Wilder turned her frontier childhood into the bestselling *Little House* series. Featuring never-before-published letters, photographs and family artifacts, this film explores the context in which Wilder lived and wrote, as well as the true nature of her personality. Historians, scholars, fans and stars Melissa Gilbert, Alison Arnglim and Dean Butler provide additional perspectives.

All Times Eastern

Best Bets

Dec. 30

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ESPN 140, beginning at 12pm Live

ESPN has coverage of college football's Duke's Mayo Bowl in Charlotte, North Carolina; the TransPerfect Music City Bowl in Nashville; the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic in Arlington, Texas; and the LA Bowl in Inglewood, California.

HEROES ON THE FRONT LINE

The CW, 8pm

Hosted by Dean Cain, the one-hour television event celebrates the on-the-ground heroes who dared to make a difference in the midst of the unprecedented and unforeseen worldwide pandemic.

TCM SPOTLIGHT: BERNARD HERRMANN: "MORE HITCHCOCK & THRILLERS"

TCM 132, beginning at 8pm

CATCH A CLASSIC!

After a break for Christmas last week, Turner Classic Movies returns to its Wednesday spotlight on legendary film composer Bernard Herrmann for its final installment. Tonight's films feature more of Herrmann's collaborations with director Alfred Hitchcock, as well as the composer's work on other thrillers. The evening begins with Hitchcock's *The Birds* (1963), which did not have a conventional score, but on which Herrmann was a sound consultant who helped guide the electronic creation of the eerie sounds made by the titular threats.

TRAFFICKED WITH MARIANA VAN ZELLER: "COCAINE"

Nat Geo 197, 9pm

Journalist Mariana van Zeller retraces one of the world's most intractable smuggling routes, following cocaine's path from a remote Peruvian valley through Colombia's Caribbean coast, all the way to the streets of Miami. Despite the decades-long U.S. war on drugs, cocaine production is at an all-time high, and Mariana meets some of the makers, smugglers, drivers and teenage backpackers who risk their lives to deliver.

All Times Eastern

Watch Now!

On Demand

HONEST THIEF

Liam Neeson, Kate Walsh

Action

CH. 505, 527

Honest Thief © 2020 Open Road Films



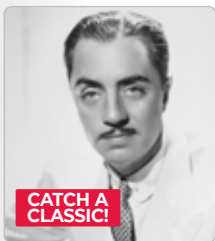
Best Bets

Dec. 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE STEPHEN KING MARATHON

HDNet Movies 130, beginning at 6am

Stephen King stories are a hot property in film and television nowadays, but this is not the first time Hollywood has been drawn to the horror master. In the 1980s and '90s, adaptations of King works frequently appeared in movie theaters, and you can ring in the new year by watching several of those in today's nearly 24-hour marathon. Tune in for *Stephen King's Graveyard Shift* (1990), *Stephen King's Thinner* (1996), *Silver Bullet* (1985), *Cujo* (1983), *Pet Sematary* (1989) and *The Dead Zone* (1983). Some films air more than once; check listings for more details.



"THIN MAN" MARATHON

TCM 132,
beginning at
9:15am

Spend part of your New Year's Eve with Nick and Nora Charles (William Powell and

Myrna Loy) – the witty, hard-drinking, fun-loving, high-society couple who often find themselves embroiled in solving mysteries – and their lovable dog Asta for a day of all six of the comedy/mystery *Thin Man* films, beginning with the 1934 original, *The Thin Man*. The marathon also includes *After the Thin Man* (1936), *Another Thin Man* (1939), *Shadow of the Thin Man* (1941), *The Thin Man Goes Home* (1944) and *Song of the Thin Man* (1947).

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ESPN 140, beginning at 12pm Live

New Year's Eve college football bowl games are the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas; the AutoZone Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tennessee; and the Texas Bowl in Houston.

UNITED IN SONG: CELEBRATING THE RESILIENCE OF AMERICA

PBS, 8pm

As part of a national PBS broadcast for New Year's Eve, these performances, filmed at George Washington's Mount Vernon as well as at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, encourage our nation to come together and celebrate our irrepressible strength as Americans. From the enormity of COVID-19 to the significant presence of social injustice, this special evening brings us together in the ever-present pursuit of our uniting as one America.

All Times Eastern