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Annie: Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun, one of your favorite episodes every year, one of mine as well. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I am so happy to be here with you today.

Intro: Okay, today on the show, they are back, Jenn and Jami, my friends, also part of the Hall of Fun, both of them, because we've been doing this since 2017. They are back and we are talking about the Great American Family Christmas movies that have released this year.

Did we create our own rating system? Yes. Yes, we did. Let me explain it to you. It is called Trees + Cheese. You can go over to my Instagram today and to That Sounds Fun podcast, we have the rating system for you as well. So you can grab it, you can rate some movies, put it back on your socials, share it so that I can share with everybody else. It's Trees + Cheese. You're giving one through five. The trees are, how much do I like this Christmas movie? And the cheese is, how cheesy is this Christmas movie? So every movie is going to get a score from me, Jenn, and Jami, one through five on Trees + Cheese.

If you want to watch these movies as well, check your low-school listings for Great American Family or download the PureFlix app to stream them. You can find all that info at PureFlix.com.

And don't forget, we also created a bingo board for you to fill out while you watch. So you can find that link in the show notes as well. That is also on Instagram that we are sharing it. We are dying to see your Trees + Cheese scoring as well. So please screenshot that, watch some of these movies, tell us about it, send it back.

Listen, we get a lot of response to these episodes because y'all have big feels about these movies, just like we do. We're three totally different women and so we're going to have different ideas. You're going to love this, though. We got a lot of thoughts. We have got a lot of thoughts about these 2024 Great American Family Christmas movies.

So here's this episode with my friends, Christmas movie experts, Jenn and Jami.

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Annie: Ladies, I think it's my favorite episode of the year. Welcome back to That Sounds Fun, Jenn and Jami.

Jenn: Thanks for having us.

- Jami:** Yeah, thank you. I just stole your studio for the day. So I'm having a great time.
- Annie:** I love it. If you're watching on YouTube, I'm in New York, Jenn is at her house and Jami is holding it down at the That Sounds Fun studio. Well done. Just for people... for them to hear your voices and connect your voice with your name, will you start by telling us your name and telling us when you really fell in love with Christmas movies? Give us your first real love of Christmas movies. So, Jenn, why don't you start?
- Jenn:** I'm Jenn. I mean, I think I liked Christmas movies my whole life. But they're like made for TV this genre. When did we start doing these? Like eight years ago?
- Annie:** Oh, yeah. Wow.
- Jenn:** Probably like add a couple years to that. So maybe a decade.
- Annie:** Yes. Okay, Jami, introduce yourself, and then you tell us your birth of your love of movies.
- Jami:** Well, I am Jami. And I can tell you I think my favorite first Christmas movie... well, one is a *Muppets Christmas Carol*. Duh. And then two, there's this movie called *All I Want For Christmas Is You*. And it is Ethan Embry and Thor Birch and their little kids who they're adult actors now. And I think that came out in 1991. I don't know if it was made for TV, but no one's ever heard of it. And I have watched it every year of my life since.
- Annie:** Wow. Yes. OGs. We are really OGs in the Christmas department.
- Jami:** We are. We are.
- Annie:** And we have done this episode multiple times where we watch some of our favorite movies that have come out this year and then we sit and talk about them and we tell the truth. Are y'all ready to actually risk some angry responses? Because we're going to tell the truth about how we felt.
- Jenn:** Yeah, this is hot gossip. Sure.
- Jami:** Got my notes.
- Annie:** Yeah, we all have our notes. So this year, we watched all Great American Family movies. There were a lot that released. We are going to kind of focus on nine of them that we all watched and all scored them and have thoughts on them. But first,

will y'all tell me, are there other Christmas movies you've already watched? Have you had time to watch other ones? Are there any standouts besides *Let It Snow* going over to GAF? Jenn, I thought of you immediately.

Jenn: I mean, really, Jami's the one that has a love for Jesse.

Annie: Oh, Jami, it's you. I thought it was Jenn that loved *Let It Snow*.

Jami: Right?

Jenn: I mean, I do love *Let It Snow*.

Jami: I love *Let It Snow*. Jesse Hutch, you're a very wonderful person. I don't remember him being on my guy list. But either way, happy, excited to see the movie.

Annie: I feel like he has been on all of our lists when we did the bingo... I mean, it wasn't bingo. What was it? The Snake Draft.

Jenn: They created a movie.

Annie: Yeah, The Snake Draft movie creation.

Jami: Yeah, the Mad Lib version.

Annie: Yeah, with the Deck the Hallmark guys.

Jenn: But I do love *Let It Snow*. It is one of my favorites.

Annie: Okay, so Jenn, is there any others besides... We're going to go through nine specific ones, but are there any others you've really loved this year so far?

Jenn: I watched *Christmas Under the Northern Lights*, which has Jesse Hutch.

Annie: Yes, it's Jesse's other one.

Jenn: And Jill Wagner. And I thought it was super cute.

Annie: Give me the synopsis because I haven't gotten to watch that one and both of y'all have.

Jenn: Jill Wagner's character is a historian, I believe. Am I remembering this correctly, Jami?

- Annie:** No, you put a lot of context in your mind.
- Jami:** She's an author, but her books are based on a location.
- Jenn:** Yeah, like historical fiction kind of.
- Annie:** Cool.
- Jenn:** And so she goes back to her hometown.
- Annie:** Shocking.
- Jenn:** Jesse's character is a tour guide that specializes in Northern Light expeditions or sightings.
- Annie:** Fantastic. Okay, that's one of your top ones.
- Jenn:** Lauren Hawley is in that movie too, and she has aged very well. That was a takeaway for me.
- Annie:** Okay, noted. Okay, great.
- Jami:** So she's never been to that town. It's where her dad's from or something. It's her ancestry and she is learning.
- Annie:** She's new to town.
- Jami:** My hot take as the Scandinavian representation here in the group who has seen the Northern Lights several times, there are no Northern Lights the whole movie. And then when they see it at the end, of course, it's like the most epic, fastest... So the Northern Lights dance, essentially, when you look at them, the way the lights move. I was like, if anyone... no one gets that good of a first Northern Lights experience.
- Annie:** I respect you, and that sounds like a bitter response. It feels like-
- Jami:** 100%. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. You heard it. You felt it. You were right.
- Annie:** You don't get love and you don't get Northern Lights like that.
- Jenn:** Are you saying that I can't count me seeing them in my driveway a couple months ago?

Jami: You can. But did they look anything like the film? No, they did not. So anyways, I saw those at the end and I thought, "You are really setting people up for disappointment because if they actually go to Iceland or Norway, which is where I've seen both of them, they are not like that."

Annie: Okay.

Jami: I have a fact check to provide for the group.

Annie: Great. Make it.

Jami: 2017 is the first year we did this podcast.

Annie: Oh, wow. And we missed last year, I think. But y'all are in the Hall of Fun, so you had for sure been on five times before. Y'all are top-tier Hall of Funds. Okay, 2017. We've been doing this a while.

This is our first year that we have focused on GAF movies since it's a newer network. So let's start talking through some of these films. We have nine that we are going to specifically talk about. One of them has not come out yet, so we cannot spoil one of them. All the others you could have already watched them publicly on television and on GAF or on PureFlix.

Now, here's what I'll tell everyone. We have two scoring ratings. Cheese + Trees. Cheese + Trees. You want the trees to be higher because we're telling you how good of a Christmas movie is this. You want your trees to be higher. You want your cheese to be lower because you don't want it very cheesy.

Now, I think something that will help our friends listening. Let's the three of us rank ourselves in Trees + Cheese, because I think-

Jami: Wow, this is a bamboozle, Annie. I was not prepared for this one.

Annie: No.

Jenn: Not prepared for this one.

Annie: No. I'll go first. I'm a three on trees. I'm like an average Christmas movie watcher. I am a four on cheese. I am a cheesy person. And so that probably means my cheese rating will not match y'all's because I won't feel as it was as cheesy as y'all might feel like it is. So, Jenn, how would you rate yourself in Cheese + Trees from one to five? We're doing one to five.

- Jenn:** I think I will go higher than you on the trees.
- Annie:** For sure. I would do too.
- Jenn:** So like four, four and a half. Lower on the cheese.
- Annie:** Okay.
- Jenn:** I don't know. What do you think? Three? Three and a half?
- Annie:** Yeah, you're probably a three. Okay. So, Jami, where are you on tree 1 through 5?
- Jami:** Probably a four.
- Annie:** Yes. And then where are you in cheese one through five, Jami?
- Jami:** Between a one and a two or zero and a one. I am the lowest on the cheese of the three of us.
- Annie:** Yeah. You are the most dairy... You have the most dairy sensitivity of the three of us, yeah.
- Jami:** In real life and in movie, yeah.
- Annie:** Sure.
- Jami:** I mean, you heard me just talk about the Northern Lights. So if that sets your expectation on my cynicism, welcome.
- Annie:** Perfect. Exactly right.
- Jami:** Welcome to the party.
- Annie:** That's exactly right. Okay, so the first one, *A Vintage Christmas*. I cannot wait to hear your thoughts on this one. This was released October 2026. And this movie is about a small town post office. The city historian wants to keep the post office open and the building as it is and these new developers have come in and they want to turn it into a total... They want to tear it down, build a high rise so that people don't have to commute to the big city. Okay, just go for it. Tell me some thoughts. We'll do Trees + Cheese at the end. But tell me some thoughts on *A Vintage Christmas*.
- Jami:** My overarching thought on GAF was there was a lot of new actors that I experienced this season that I hadn't met before. But I love this one because I knew

both of these actors from other Christmas movies. Like, I love Merritt Patterson, who's the girl in this one.

Annie: Yeah, I liked her, too.

Jenn: Well, I like Christopher Russell, too, who's in both of them. I like.

Annie: We're doing this real time. Do you think it makes more sense to start with Cheese + Trees so people kind of know our overarching thoughts on the movie and then we'll describe it or dig down into it?

Jami: I don't know that it matters.

Annie: Okay.

Jami: I think it's fine either way. I think you decide. This is your ship to guide.

Annie: No, y'all are great. Let's do Cheese + Trees, because I think that'll help me lead us and think about it. So, Jenn, tell us your Cheese + Trees one through five. Higher the trees for Christmas, lower the trees for cheese... Lower the cheese...

Jami: Wow.

Annie: Higher the score in trees, lower the score in cheese is the goal. So, Jenn, what did you give *A Vintage Christmas*?

Jenn: Okay, this was my first one to watch and score. So I feel like I maybe should have gone back and I readjusted-

Annie: I did go back and readjusted my scores. Yeah.

Jenn: But my original thought was 3.5 trees.

Jami: We're in the point five Z's. Okay, Okay.

Annie: I did not do that. But go ahead.

Jenn: It's really hard for me to give something a score. And cheese. I did 3.

Annie: Interesting. Okay. Jami, what did you give *Vintage Christmas*?

Jami: I gave it... Well, I circled 3, but it might be a 4. Again, I watched it first, as I think, like holistically. I would say between a 2 or 3 on the cheese.

Annie: Interesting. Okay, you guys, in our first film, we aligned perfectly in the cheese. I also gave it two cheeses. I found it to be very low on the cheese spectrum. I'm going to tell you, I started with 4 trees and I bumped it to 5 trees after I finished watching all of them because that's one of my top two of the nine.

Jami: Okay.

Annie: I love this storyline. I love the storyline. And I love that there was a secondary love story the whole way through. I feel like we don't see that very much.

Jami: Yeah. Yeah.

Jenn: Yeah. I did feel like it was kind of random.

Jami: The second one?

Jenn: The storyline. Like just the premise of it felt... random.

Annie: But I like that there was like a library was the secondary main setting. It was like these old, cool buildings.

Jami: That's why it's a 5 for you. There is a library involved and you're a cozy library lover.

Annie: That's right. You're exactly right. That's 100% true. Did you have moments that stood out to you or ideas that stood out to you from this one particularly?

Jenn: I thought in general it was a really cute idea to grant the old Christmas wishes. Your Santa wishes. But my only comp... Not complain. But the thing I wished had been different was that when she got her wish, that it had been a more public.

Annie: Oh, sure. Ringing of the bell? Yeah.

Jenn: Yeah.

Annie: Oh, that's interesting. Yeah.

Jenn: [inaudible 00:12:56] just like with him.

Jami: All I thought was at the end... Well, you know, we live in Nashville and all real estate's turning into "mixed-use". I'm gonna use those. And that was the answer to the movie. And I thought, everything is mixed use.

Annie: I thought the rendering at the end was so ugly. I was like, "This is what you're going to do. This is your solution. Golly." I thought, that's cute. I'm glad they fell in love. Spoiler alert, everyone. I'm glad they fell in love. Also, they kiss very early in this movie. Did y'all notice that?

Jenn: I feel like in several of these movies, there were a little bit earlier.

Jami: Yeah. We've lost that one fifty-eight magic. You know what I mean?

Annie: Yeah. We don't have to do that or we gain the one-twenty magic as well.

Jami: Kissing is early and often.

Annie: Yes. I really loved it. Okay. Any other thoughts of *Vintage Christmas*?

Jami: I like it.

Jenn: That wraps it up.

Annie: Next one. *A Christmas Less Traveled*. This is from November 16th. Now we need to say upfront two of these movies star Candace Cameron Bure, who is a real-life friend of mine. I am still going to tell you the whole truth. Don't you worry. So this movie is a local business owner, Candace, has to sell her dad's truck. She finds a cassette in the truck. Oh, brother. And she plays the cassette and has to obey what it tells her to do before she sells it from her dad who has passed away.

There is a guy who needs a ride to the same town where she is going and he hops in the truck and hijinks and love ensue. Jami, Trees + Cheese on *A Christmas Less Travelled*.

Jami: I gave it a 3 on trees and I gave it somewhere between a 3 and 4 on cheese. But I have some context as to why.

Annie: Go. Tell us. Tell us why you high-cheesed it.

Jami: Well, first of all... so she's selling her truck because her diner's in trouble and she needs money. And when she pulls up to her house to get in the old truck, she is in a brand new Ford Bronco.

Annie: Yeah.

Jami: And so I just have some-

Annie: Your rational brain.

Jami: I need to talk to her accountant before I can go any further into the film, because if you can buy a brand new Ford Bronco, but you don't have whatever it was, 30,000 or 40,000 for your diner, sell the Bronco and keep your dad's old truck.

Annie: Her character's name is Desi. Dear Desi, sell your vehicle first.

Jami: Yeah. So the cheese just skyrocketed at about minute six and then I just couldn't get it to come back down because of that.

Annie: That happened to me a couple of times where I would have a cheese in my mind and something would happen. I'd be like, That's up a slice. That's up a slice."

Jami: Yeah.

Annie: For sure.

Jami: They just threw cheese at my face and then I was just... I couldn't think about anything else. So I'm sure if that moment hadn't existed, the overall cheese would have been lower for me.

Annie: Sure. Fair. Jenn, Trees + Cheese for *A Christmas Less Traveled*?

Jenn: I'm back with percentages or-

Annie: With point fives?

Jenn: Point seven. I did 2.75.

Jami: Oh, my God, Jenn.

Jenn: Originally, I put 2 to 3 question mark, and then I just said 2.75. I'm cheese... Well, context on this is I did watch it with my mom and dad. So I had my dad's commentary throughout, which probably helped bump up the cheese to 4 is where I landed.

Annie: Whoa, you 4 cheesed it. Okay.

Jenn: But if Richard Colquitt had not been in the room, I don't know that I would have quite picked up on-

- Annie:** On some of the cheese.
- Jenn:** The amount of the cheese.
- Annie:** Sure. Certainly. Okay. And then how many trees?
- Jenn:** That was my 2.75.
- Annie:** Oh, wow. 2.75. I gave it 3 trees and I gave it 2 cheese.
- Jami:** Oh, yeah, you kept that cheese low.
- Jenn:** Interesting.
- Annie:** Well, I'll tell you, it was a one cheeser and then she let a stranger get in a vehicle with her to go across state lines.
- Jenn:** I had a big problem with that.
- Annie:** I have a big problem with that. I was like, it's a cute story... And then they sleep in the same room at an inn and they've known each other for all day.
- Jami:** I like that. I'm so financially-focused and you're safety-focused. And this is our entire personalities wrapped up...
- Annie:** That's exactly right. And also Delilah on the radio.
- Jami:** That's what I was going to say. That honestly kept me in because I listened to lights out love songs on the radio to fall asleep. Years.
- Annie:** Now, listen, I love Candace Cameron Bure movie where she runs a restaurant or a cafe, though, or a coffee shop. I love those. These are some of my favorite Candace tropes in this movie. They're like a total stranger. I do like when it's a total stranger. I'm thinking of that one... Y'all might remember there's the one-
- Jenn:** The road trip? The airport?
- Jami:** Well, it's her and Paul Green is, right, the road trip one?
- Jenn:** That's the road trip one.
- Annie:** No, that's not the one I'm thinking of. I'm thinking of the one where she works in a cafe and there's an adoption story and it's the guy from *Schitt's Creek*. It's Mutt.

- Jami:** Oh, yeah, I don't remember what that one's called, but I know you're talking about.
- Annie:** Yes, we'll look it up. We'll look it up. We need a fact checker with us live. We just don't have one.
- Jenn:** I do think this one had a sweet forgiveness lesson.
- Annie:** Yeah, I did, too. So I wrote down 5 minutes in and I have no idea why Greyson is here. I didn't know. Did y'all suss out why he had gone on... We knew it was ulterior motives from the start as the watcher of the movie. Did y'all have guesses of why he was following her?
- Jenn:** I mean, I figured it was something to do with her dad's business or like who he was, because he kept his phone calls with his brother, and then anytime he met someone that knew her dad, he would be like, Did he ever get in trouble or?
- Jami:** I thought it was going to be, again, something that had to do with more his business, not himself.
- Annie:** And what we find out toward the end of the movie that Candace's character's mom dies in a car accident and is killed by a drunk driver, and once we heard that, I thought, Oh, this guy's mom killed Candace's mom.
- Jenn:** I thought the same thing.
- Annie:** That's what I thought. I was like, "She's going to fall in love with the guy whose mom killed her mom in a drunk driving accident?" And then that's not exactly it. It's not super far from that. His mom did not do the do that... was not involved in that accident. But he said... I thought, what world have we entered?
- Jami:** That is a true crime movie.
- Annie:** Yes. I thought we were going to parlay into a true crime film. Any other thoughts on *A Christmas Less Traveled*?
- Jami:** No.
- Annie:** Love a cafe. Love a cafe.
- Jami:** But we're coming back to Candace soon.
- Annie:** Oh, yeah, we are.

[00:19:42] <music>

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That link and pretty much every other link you could ever hope for are in the show notes below, or we will send them straight to you Friday in the AFD Week in Review, which we hope is the best email you get all week. So make sure you've signed up for that in the show notes as well.

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Sponsor: This is the time of year where we start to tell ourselves we'll get back on track with our spiritual disciplines in the new year. And I get it. This month is so full of all the things, but I know when I feel disconnected from God I feel disconnected in a lot of other areas of my life too. That is so profoundly true about me. So even the simplest thing that helps me spend some time with Him are so, so worth it. And [Glorify app](#) is one of the resources that is just an easy way to help you kick off time with God.

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Okay. Now back to continue our conversation with Jenn and Jami.

[00:23:33] <music>

Annie: Okay, November 23rd, *A Little Women's Christmas*. I may have some... how do we say intimate knowledge of this film, but I also scored it very honestly. Just in case anyone hasn't watched it, *A Little Women's Christmas* takes the four March sisters. They reunite at Christmas. It's a modern-day version of the book and we follow mostly Joe March as she is trying to write a book. Trevor Donovan plays her love interest. He has come to town to try to help her write her book correctly. The publisher sent him undercover to Franklin, Tennessee. So do not hold back everybody just because I'm in the film. Do not hold back on your Trees + Cheese. Jenn, go. Trees + Cheese on *A Little Women's Christmas*.

Jenn: Trees, 4.

Annie: Oh.

- Jenn:** Cheese, 2.
- Annie:** Okay. Tell me why it was 4 trees. What did you love so much?
- Jenn:** I just thought it was a cute, simple Christmas movie. Like it's what I want when I think I'm going to sit down and watch one of these Christmas movies.
- Annie:** Great point. I agree with you. I loved it. And your cheese was 2.
- Jenn:** Yeah. I think this was one that I watched towards the end of my viewing some movies. And so I think it was a lot less cheesy.
- Jami:** You were desensitized.
- Jenn:** Yeah.
- Annie:** That's exactly right. Did you have a favorite March sister, Jenn, of the four in this particular storyline?
- Jenn:** I don't think so.
- Annie:** Okay, great.
- Jami:** That's a leading question. Because I think Annie does have a favorite-
- Annie:** Oh, actually, I mean, it's just one of my notes. I just didn't know if y'all had also written it down. So yes, there is. Jami, Trees + Cheese on *A Little Women's Christmas* where you were on set for a filming.
- Jami:** I was going to say I was. Yeah. I was there. I just wasn't on camera. I gave it 4 trees as well. And I'm going to pull a Jenn Colquitt and call it a 2.5 on the cheese because I have two and three circles. So we'll give 2.5.
- Annie:** I gave this movie the most cheese of all of us. I cannot believe I out cheesed both of you.
- Jami:** Do you think you're, do you think you were harsher because you're in it and you were trying to be more of overly objective?
- Annie:** No. I can tell you exactly why this movie got 3 cheeses for me is because the parents are on a mission trip to Mexico. That sent me so far out of the cheeses. I mean, I was macaroni and cheese level cheese just by them being in Mexico on a mission trip over Christmas. I was like, What? That is the only part. I love the

movie. I also gave it 4 trees. I love the movie, but the parents... where the parents were set me to 3 cheeses.

Jenn: They covered veterans, at-risk youth, God, faith, and Gladys Knight. They did have a lot of like-

Annie: DJ Bob?

Jami: That was the most-

Annie: There's also a DJ?

Jami: Yeah. That was the most random part for me was Gladys Knight in the whole film.

Annie: Gladys Knight was more random than DJ Bob for you?

Jenn: No, I thought the DJ was the most random.

Jami: Yeah. That at least had a through line. It just felt like-

Annie: It's nice, little throughline, yeah.

Jami: ...you got just kind of thrown in on a scene. I loved watching her perform, but it just felt a little like...

Annie: That song is written for the movie.

Jami: Oh.

Annie: I know. It's awesome. The music in this movie is awesome. That's why it's a 4 tree movie to me is like, there's... now, do I love this movie a lot? Yes. Do I love the people involved? Yes. Do I care what they think when they listen? Yes. And so to be fair, that is informing this as well. But I genuinely really liked the layout of this movie. I loved Beth's storyline. I just thought how Laura Osnes has played. It was really beautiful. I like Beth Living. I thought that was great. There was a lot of God in this movie. Probably the most of all the ones we watched, yeah?

Jami: Yeah. It's also an ensemble cast. So there's just a lot more people and storylines, which I kind of liked. You know, a lot of these movies are just one guy and one girl. And so that you kind of get to be around a bunch of people. And it was all actors that we knew for the most part too.

Annie: Yeah, that's right. Jesse Hutch, Laura Osnes.

- Jenn:** One thing I wrote down, I thought Jesse, when he was in the Zoom calls, looked so much like Ben Affleck with a beard.
- Annie:** Yeah. He does kind of look like Ben Affleck, doesn't he?
- Jenn:** Like I've never had that thought except when in those scenes. I thought... and maybe it's like Ben Affleck in *Argo* when he was... or I don't know if something specific.
- Annie:** So Jesse is in this new movie and this new TV show called *Homestead*. It comes out I think December 20th in theaters. And he kind of dresses like a military person for most of the movie and he looks so much like Ben Affleck now that you're saying that. That's fascinating. Good.
- Jami:** The thing I will also note that about this one that ties into another Christmas movie is that anyone who's listened to CCM music may remember the band Anthem Lights. And we have not one, but two members of Anthem Lights in-
- Annie:** I didn't know that. Who's the second one? I know Kyle Kupecky's in it.
- Jami:** Yeah. Kyle Kupecky is in this one. And then Alan Powell is in the one that comes out, that hasn't come out yet, on the 14th, *Get Him Back for Christmas*.
- Annie:** Fascinating.
- Jami:** So Anthem Lights and GAF are really in partnership here.
- Annie:** Yeah, they're tight. They are tight.
- Jami:** Anyways, I just laughed at two different movies had two different guys in it.
- Annie:** I need you to give Trees + Cheese to the receptionist at the start of the movie.
- Jenn:** Five trees. How many trees did we have?
- Annie:** Jami?
- Jami:** Six trees because you hid your Birkenstocks well since we were filming in the dead of summer with no air conditioning on because you can hear it when they film.
- Annie:** July 26. I looked it up this morning. We were on set July 26. I genuinely love all the humans in this movie. The people who made the movie like these are some of the

best people I've met this year. This is a big time 4 plus trees for me, but I'm going to tell the truth that it's a 3 cheese because of the parents being on a mission trip to Mexico.

Jami: You also now kind of get to have been in a movie a year, so I can't wait to see what 2025 holds for you.

Annie: Dear everyone who makes movies, dear Candace, dear director of this movie, dear everyone, give me... be an Easter egg, all the time.

Next movie, November 28th, *I Heard the Bells*. Now *I Heard the Bells* is the story behind the Christmas Carol. That is called *I Heard the Bells* and it written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Now this is not an original for GAF. This was an acquired movie that has already been out, that people have already watched. I thought this one was really interesting. So different. So Jenn Trees + Cheese for *I Heard the Bells*.

Jenn: Okay. For a Christmas movie, I gave it 1 tree. However, I think for a movie, it was very well done and very good. I did not read the notes before I started.

Annie: Oh, whoops. Surprise.

Jenn: Which I think is probably also affecting my score. Because I was like-

Annie: Because it's a period piece.

Jenn: It's a period piece.

Annie: And it's a civil war.

Jenn: It's pretty sad.

Annie: Yes.

Jenn: And so it was Wednesday night of Thanksgiving, I had like driven in, I was like... after dinner, I was like, I'm going to watch one of these movies. And it was just not what I was expecting.

Annie: 100%.

Jenn: But I think it just wasn't what... it wasn't the Christmas movie that I was thinking it would be, but I thought it was a beautifully done story. I only gave it one cheese.

- Annie:** Jenn, I circled two 2 and 5 trees because I was like, this is a great movie. It's not a Christmas movie per se at all. But it's a great movie. I also gave it no cheese. I went below the 1 cheese and I gave it no cheese because I was like, This isn't cheesy at all, but it also is not like a Christmas movie necessarily. Except that the one piece at the end of it is that he writes a Carol that I don't even know how to sing, honestly. Do y'all know how to sing *I Heard the Bells*?
- Jenn:** I know. I mean, I think I've sung it before, but I wouldn't be able to do it without all the words.
- Jami:** I'm not going to [inaudible 00:30:46] for you right now or anything like that.
- Annie:** Also next big reminder, everyone, sorry to spoil it, but it's history, the wife dies in the movie, because of a candle in her house that sets her dress on fire, which is why I do not believe in candles. Just an entire movie reinforcing don't have open flames in your home. Golly. Jami Trees + Cheese for *I Heard the Bells*.
- Jami:** Really quickly. There is another GAF movie that we are not featuring called *Christmas by Candlelight* that is making candles the whole time. And I thought of you and I thought, wow, Annie would be giving that no trees because candles are not in your future.
- Annie:** No trees. No.
- Jami:** Well, I wasn't thinking, is this a Christmas movie? I just was like, do I like the movie as just... and these are all Christmas? I ended up giving it 4 trees because I love a period piece.
- Annie:** Certainly. Same. That's why I gave it 2 or 5.
- Jenn:** I do too.
- Jami:** And I gave it one cheese.
- Annie:** Wow. You guys, our cheeses are aligning far more than I expected them to. I was prepared for me to be low cheese and Jami to be high cheese and Jenn to be both. And I out cheese y'all already once. That is wild. That is surprising.
- Jenn:** I will say on this one, I looked it up online after, because I was just confused by the whole thing. On Rotten Tomatoes, it has a 98% audience score, which is incredibly high for a movie.
- Annie:** Yeah. No kidding.

Jami: What I will tell listeners is that like, if you have a family member that kind of like dislike severely this love genre of Christmas movie, *I Heard the Bells* feels like a good one to watch together because you can kind of like... it's a real little entry in, but it's not as-

Annie: There is no love story in *I Heard the Bells*.

Jami: Yes. Mm-hmm. And so if you want to watch something on GAF, but you have someone who's like, "I'll never watch those," this feels like the one you could probably get a yes from.

Annie: You know, at the Great American Family Christmas Festival with all the *Little Women's Christmas* stars, we did a Q&A, and one whole family had come because they love Louisa May Alcott and they love *Little Women* and they loved the movie, much like we did. It was really interesting. Because it's that same thing, Jami, if they're going to be people who love history or love the civil war or love Longfellow's poetry, and this will be their entry into it, just like *A Little Women's Christmas* is where you go if you love Louisa May Alcott and the *Little Women* already. So yeah.

Jami: That's a great point.

Jenn: This was very like PBS masterpiece film.

Annie: Yeah. Yeah. I thought so too.

Jenn: Which I love a PBS masterpiece.

Annie: Same. They've come to the right place. Okay, November 29th, *A Cinderella Christmas Ball*. This is Danica McKellar's movie for this year. She wants to find her birth family, so she travels to the Royal Hamlet of Havenshire for Christmas. She sneaks into the castle. She teaches the Prince how to dance. Tell me, Jami, your Trees + Cheese for *A Cinderella Christmas Ball*.

Jami: Danica, I love you. I gave this 2 trees in a generous spirit and 4 1/2 cheese.

Annie: Yes. Yes. Jenn, Trees + Cheese. And then we're going to talk about it.

Jenn: Okay. Trees. I gave it 4.

Annie: Wow. Okay.

- Jenn:** Cheese I also gave 4.
- Annie:** Danica, I love you as a person. I gave this 1 tree and I gave it 5 cheese. I am the most severe of all of us again. I'm not a Royal... I don't like the Royal trope.
- Jenn:** I love the Royal trope.
- Jami:** That's how that 4 cheese stuck in there.
- Annie:** Yeah. That's right. But we all gave it pretty high cheese. Why did y'all give it such high cheese? T
- Jami:** There's just not a world where you're traveling to a country to try and find your mom's birth background and then you like stumble into a pub and meet the prin... Was it the Prince or the King?
- Annie:** The Prince.
- Jami:** The Prince. And then you're teaching him dance lessons, which Danica was pulling from her *Dancing with the Star* days for.
- Annie:** She was.
- Jami:** She was getting that eight count, which I loved her on *Dancing with the Stars*. But I just thought this is the most implausible.
- Annie:** Yes.
- Jenn:** The Royal ones are always implausible or whatever. Implausible. I do feel like she has been in these Royal storylines before. It was just a little different twist on the story, which I don't mind. I like them all. So I think the Royal ones are always cheesy, but I like them.
- Annie:** Yeah. I don't ever watch the Royal ones. So as soon as I... I mean, I felt like the guy standing at the gate and opening the door to the castle, I felt like I was at Disney world and that's where they go backstage. I was like, that guy looks like a toy soldier and this looks like where the characters go backstage.
- Jenn:** I did think the closing line was painfully cheesy.
- Jami:** Can you remind us what the line was?
- Jenn:** I wrote it down. He said, "My Queen." And she said, "My King." And they kissed.

Annie: Also, the other reason that is so painful is there is a chess playing throughline. And he always says... well, he gives a warning before he takes the Queen. He says some warning, like, watch out or something like that when he's playing chess. And when they start to dance the last dance before he says my Queen and my King, he says, watch out or whatever. Brutal.

My sentence was... people will love this one. It's just not for me. Just not for me.

Jenn: Fair.

Annie: This one was not for me. I do think there are people like you, Jenn, who are going to love this one.

Jenn: Yes.

Annie: Also, she got a job for four days. I mean, I could just keep going on. She had a job for... she had a job. She teaches children how to dance back in America and they hired her at the castle, the paperwork. Jami, why am I doing this and not you?

Jami: Well, yeah, you jumped in and I let you go for it. The amount of background check one would have to work in a Royal building. And she just willy-nilly is getting lifted by him and they're doing like a spin and there's some hip action.

Annie: The taxes. The taxes you'd have to pay.

Jami: Yeah. I think it would be a fun practice to write all of the jobs that Danica McKellar has had in Royal homes in films, in Christmas films.

Jenn: She's been a nanny a couple times.

Jami: She's been a nanny. I feel like she was a chef. She was an event planner.

Annie: She was my favorite part of the movie. And I thought their chemistry was actually really cute. I liked the two of them together. And I thought she was very good.

Jami: The guy was on another show that I used to like that I can't remember the name.

Jenn: Oliver Rice is his name.

Jami: Okay. I can't remember the name of the show. It was like an ensemble show. But I remember recognizing him and being like, Oh great. There's also a pretty large height discrepancy between the two of them. So there's-

- Annie:** Which usually is your joy.
- Jami:** No, I mean for dancing. It's a little like your arms are just sort of up in the air and you're just sort of hoping for the best.
- Annie:** She was so good at the dancing part. Oh my gosh.
- Jami:** She is. She is great.
- Annie:** She posted some behind-the-scenes.
- Jenn:** I saw that.
- Annie:** I loved it. I mean, her head was always in the right spot. She was my favorite part of the movie by far. Are we all going to go to Havenshire next year and visit this Royal Hamlet?
- Jenn:** Yes.
- Annie:** Never.
- Jami:** There's still time for one of us to teach a prince how to dance.
- Annie:** Yeah. Because we're all about to have Christmas break from work. And apparently you get other jobs over your Christmas break. Who knew? In foreign countries. Can't deal. Okay. Okay, November 30th, what released is *Christmas Wreaths and Ribbons*. A wreath maker slips on ice, injures her arm, puts her holiday wreath deliveries, and puts them in jeopardy. Her neighbor is there. He steps in to help keep her business afloat. He's a local baker. Jenn, Trees + Cheese for *Christmas Wreaths and Ribbons*.
- Jenn:** Okay. This was one I watched early and I feel like in my memory I might change this, but I'm just going to tell you what I put. Three question mark.
- Annie:** For trees?
- Jenn:** For trees. It would be tending towards the lower than that probably.
- Annie:** Oh, okay.
- Jenn:** If... I don't know, 2 1/2, 3 was probably fair.

- Annie:** Oh, okay.
- Jenn:** Just based on my other scoring. And then I did 4 cheese.
- Annie:** Interesting. Also, you can't cuss on our show, but would you like to write the one note you share? Would you like to share a version of the one note you shared with us about the main character?
- Jenn:** I thought she was very rude and controlling.
- Annie:** It's a nice way to say that. It's a nice way to say that. Jami, Cheese + Trees for Christmas Wreath and Ribbons.
- Jami:** 2 trees, 5 cheese.
- Annie:** Wow. Wow. Okay. Why? Why are y'all so s...? Well, I'll tell you my score and then y'all tell me the high cheese. I gave it 3 trees. It was one of my average ones. I gave it 1 cheese. I was very low on the cheese. Okay, tell me why y'all's cheeses were so high. Jami, why was your cheese a 5?
- Jenn:** It's a twofold. One, a wreath business that just stays in business all year long?
- Annie:** I did think about that.
- Jenn:** There used to be one next to Baja Burrito.
- Annie:** That's exactly right.
- Jami:** But it's no longer in business, correct?
- Jenn:** I don't know.
- Jami:** Yeah, it's gone. That's a store that would exist... I think I made Annie do a spit-take.
- Annie:** I almost spit take. Yeah, that's exactly right. I drank a sip of water right then.
- Jami:** So one, a restore. It's not like it's a restore inside of a floral shop or whatever.
- Annie:** No, it's a pure restore.
- Jami:** I would love to believe that humanity would be this way, but in what world does a stranger just run her business while she bosses him around and tells him he's doing

it wrong and belittles him, and then all of a sudden she's got a profitable Christmas season?

Annie: With one arm.

Jami: Yeah. Like why didn't a family member help? Has she never had an employee?

Annie: Should I have a friend?

Jami: Does she not have an intern?

Jenn: She might not if she treats everybody that way.

Annie: She and Jenn are not hanging out later. That was for sure.

Jami: The cheese just kept going up because of, again, how unlikely this could ever have happened in a world. And if I get to be mean and somebody just runs my business, I'm doing life wrong because I need to really switcheroo and try that out.

Annie: Yeah.

Jenn: I did think they get some creativity. I don't think we've ever had a wreath store as a business.

Annie: Yes. I agree.

Jenn: And I also don't think a broken arm has been a major plot point.

Annie: I agree. Except it shows up in another one of the movies we're going to talk about. There's another arm injury. So I thought that was really interesting. Jenn, I, how do you feel about the neighbor trope? I really liked the idea. I probably should have to cheesed it instead of one cheese it because they go to the same church, they own small businesses in the same town and they live next door and she doesn't know him? I mean, come on. I'm looking everywhere I go for single men. There's no world where they're in the same... Have we all been single in church? Yes, we have. There's no world where two single people in that size church do not know the other exists.

Jenn: That is true.

Jami: Especially in the size towns that these movies take.

Annie: Yeah. And she's their next door neighbors and go to church together.

- Jenn:** The other part that I thought was like painfully cheesy was when they were wrapping the present and then they touched hand.
- Annie:** I loved it.
- Jenn:** It lasted... We got to have screeners. So I did confession on this one. I was not watching it at one speed. I'd sped it up a little bit and I thought if this... that felt painfully long-
- Annie:** At one point.
- Jenn:** For everyone else watching it on TV, like this is even more painfully slow.
- Annie:** Okay. Okay.
- Jenn:** I don't know.
- Annie:** Okay. Great. Jami, any other thoughts on Christmas Wreath and Ribbons? No. But I would just like to know... we're like 40 minutes in and we haven't noted to the people watching on YouTube that we're all in the same color.
- Annie:** Oh yeah. Dear everyone listening, what you're missing is we're all in green today because the two of them showed up in green and I went and changed clothes because I wanted to match. Well done.
- Jami:** And Jenn and I did not plan it. That's just-
- Annie:** No.
- Jenn:** No.
- Annie:** You're just that holiday-centric. Okay. Christmas Wreath and Ribbons. I also liked the eavesdropping, that like the conflict comes because she overhears him talking. And I love when that happens. Because I think that happened... I think what we don't know affects our love lives all the time. And what people say to the dude that we don't know they say, I think all that affects our love lives all the time. Because it does for the three of us. I mean, I'm not going to talk about y'all's dating relationships. But in our real lives, none of us are married, and we know what other people say to us and how that affects how we feel about the dude we're particularly talking to at the time.

I really liked that part of it. That's why the cheese was low. I was kind of like, besides there's no way they don't know each other, this actually could really happen in some ways. The relationship, maybe not the wreath store.

Jami: I also will say the one other note that I saw is these two actors to me didn't feel like they had a ton of chemistry. And sometimes that's... I mean, they're all great actors, but sometimes that just comes a little more naturally than not. But these two weren't my favorite love story.

Annie: Yeah. Great. Okay, December 1st Home Sweet Christmas. Again, let everybody know up front this is Candace Cameron Bure and Cameron Mathison, who I love deeply both as humans. Not going to stop me from telling the truth because this is my all-time favorite, by the way. This was my favorite. Spoiler alert. This was my favorite of everything we watched besides *A Little Women's Christmas*.

So these two childhood friends reunite back after one of Candace's family members passes away and now the maple farm is at risk. You guys, Jami, Cheese + Trees, give it to me. Give me Cheese + Trees for Home Sweet Christmas.

Jami: 4 trees and 2 cheese.

Annie: Okay.

Jenn: I did 3 1/2 trees and 4 cheese.

Annie: Whoa, Jenn.

Jenn: And I really didn't make any notes as to why I did that. It just was like an in the moment... I did this one... I will say though, I was watching part of it with my 10-year-old nephew and then my dad came in at the end. Again, I was getting-

Annie: Richard Colquitt affects your cheese level. That is for sure true.

Jenn: His quote that I wrote down was "the background music is so corny".

Annie: Oh, okay, Richard.

Jami: Wow.

Annie: As I just said, besides *Little Women's Christmas*, this is my favorite. This is my favorite. I love this one. This is a 5 treer. I absolutely loved it. And it's a 2 cheese. And I'll tell you why. It was a 1 cheese and then they played hide and seek and I

went double the cheese. That is a two-cheese moment. So that sent me. Okay, tell me what you thought about the movie, Jami.

Jami: I liked it. But I love kind of... My two favorite tropes are fake romance and childhood stories, and their childhood friends who then kind of reconnect. I do have a question. If we ever talked to Cameron Mathison, I would like to know if he did his own stunts in this film. There is a scene where he's in... he lives in an airstream and he's doing like yoga or something but he's standing on his head. And then when Candace opens the door, he falls down. And I thought, yeah, did he do that himself?

Annie: I bet he did.

Jenn: You could break your neck doing that.

Annie: I bet he did.

Jami: I bet he did. But anyway. So there's some stunts in this film, if you're interested in that.

Annie: My favorite part of the airstream was that there was a holly jolly pillow on the bed and an advent calendar on the wall. And I was like, in a world where Cameron Mathison decorates his own airstream, he bought a holly jolly pillow? Love it.

Jami: The other thing I found really interesting that I noted is that there's like divorce in the storyline of this one. That is like not a topic that I feel like a lot of these movies bring up. It's like a widow or you're just single. Anyways, I thought that was really interesting and important.

Annie: I thought that was helpful. I like that, too. And I really like the drama of there being another woman in the story. We don't see that very much either where there's the other girls like, you want to get a drink sometime, to Cameron Mathison. And he's, "Yeah." And I'm like, let's go. We don't ever see that happen.

Jami: Yeah. Yeah. They got to fight for that love. I also really loved what's the... there's a coffee shop where the woman that's the lawyer in town also runs a coffee shop, and it's called Barista Embarrassers. I love that. I thought that was very clever.

Jenn: That was cute, too.

Annie: Jenn, what are your thoughts on this one?

Jenn: I really like Candace and Cameron.

Annie: I do.

Jenn: They are two of my favorites. Like long term have been.

Annie: I love their chemistry.

Jenn: Yeah, the chemistry is very believable.

Annie: They're pros.

Jenn: Also, my 10-year-old nephew who was watching it for part of it, I thought this was actually high praise coming from him. At one point I was like, "Are you not liking it?" I was kind of like, "This isn't really your kind of thing, is it?" And he was like, "Well, it's not really my type of Christmas movie. I like *Home Alone*. But if you like an emotional Christmas movie, I think it's not bad."

Annie: That's really sweet. That is a really sweet response.

Jenn: That's high praise from a 10-year-old boy.

Annie: Jami, how did you feel about the hide-and-go-seek?

Jami: Weird dot com.

Annie: That was the only part that got me.

Jami: If I'm honest, I blocked it out a little bit until you said it again. And I thought, oh, yeah, that was there.

Annie: I want to try the maple candy canes that they make where they just dip them in the sugar and the snow. I thought, That looks cool. I didn't know that was a thing. Overall, truly one of my top two. I love that movie. But at the end, we're going to give everyone a do not miss. And so hold on to your top movie and we'll tell the one that they do not need to miss.

[00:50:00] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation one more time to tell you about one of our incredible partners, [Thrive Causemetics](#). Listen, if you're looking for some stocking stuffers for the girls in your family or your teenager has asked for some makeup, I swear by Thrive Causemetics Liquid Lash Extensions mascara. It is their bestselling product with 30,000 five-star reviews. And get this. One is sold every 11 seconds. I love it so much. I get it.

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And now back to finish up our conversation with Jenn and Jami.

[00:53:59] <music>

Annie: Okay. December 7th. So just released *Once Upon A Christmas Wish*. The mayor, played by Mario Lopez, discovers his childhood wishes are coming true and his childhood friend, they start inspiring residents to show the town's warmth and values. There's a major developer who's coming in, who's trying to steal or buy this land. They're doing a Christmas festival. Jami, Cheese + Trees for *Once Upon A Christmas Wish*.

Jami: Trees 3 and cheese 2 1/2.

Jenn: Really?

Annie: Really? What spirit were you in when you watched this movie?

Jami: Well, I will say I have a lot of love and grace for Mario Lopez because he is AC Slater in my heart forever and ever in *Saved By the Bell*. So there's a bias there. I will also confess I was watching this while I was doing other things like folding laundry. So it was being absorbed, but it wasn't like laser eyes on it.

Annie: Jenn, what did you Trees + Cheese for *Once Upon A Christmas Wish*?

Jenn: 2 1/2 trees and 5 cheese.

- Annie:** Whoa. This everybody's got a 5 cheeser. We all three had a 5 teaser. Wow. Jenn. I gave it 2 trees and also 4 cheese. It's a high cheese for me too. I mean, he puts a letter to Santa in a box and he wants to know how to dance and then there's a flash mob.
- Jenn:** The flash mob... at that point, I was already at like, I don't think this movie will recover from 5 cheeses.
- Jami:** I don't know. I kind of love a flash mob, guys.
- Annie:** So yeah. And his wife plays opposite him. His son is in the movie. My thinking when I watched it, I was like, I love these actors. Like there's a scene where Mario and his wife are sitting on a stage talking to each other about Christmas and I was like, this is very good acting. And his son was very good.
- Jenn:** The son was so good. That was one of my favorite characters.
- Annie:** I feel similar about this as I do the Royal ball one of like, these actors are great, this just isn't my type of storyline. I didn't love the storyline. But if you like the storyline, like Jami with her low cheese on this one, then it's a good movie.
- Jenn:** I also thought this was the only one that we watched of these, where there was a Kris Kringle character.
- Annie:** I wrote that down too. It's our only Santa one that we were watching.
- Jenn:** And I feel like you used to see that a lot in these movies. And this was the only one where this Kris Kringle character just happens to be in town and makes things happen.
- Annie:** Fascinated by that as well. Jami, other thoughts about *Once Upon a Christmas Wish*.
- Jami:** I don't think so. Now I'm thinking about all the other ones where there's been Santas and I kind of like those too. Like, you know, a character that could be. And so maybe that's why it didn't feel as cheesy.
- Annie:** I did love Mario Lopez being the mayor because everybody complained to him constantly. Like, can you do something about my sidewalk? And he'd just pull out his pad and write down. "Let me add that to the town repair list." I was like, "Is this what it's like to be a mayor of a small town? People just tell you what they need you to fix and you have to fix it?"

- Jenn:** Probably.
- Jami:** Probably.
- Annie:** Probably. Okay. Last one. This is not out yet so we cannot spoil it. This is December 14th. You get to watch *Get Him Back for Christmas*. This movie is Alexa and Carlos PenaVega together, who we know and love around here too. She is a famous singer. He is a hometown guy who works at the Salvation Army and she has a heartbreak. She comes home. She wants help writing a song. He sits down and helps her. What happens next? Only you can imagine. Jenn, Trees + Cheese for *Get Him Back for Christmas*.
- Jenn:** 3 trees and 3 cheese.
- Annie:** Okay, great. Jami, before you tell your score, Jenn, I have the exact same score. 3 cheese, 3 trees. Jami?
- Jami:** 3 trees, 4 cheese.
- Annie:** Okay. So we're pretty simpatico here about this movie.
- Jami:** There's two words in the cheese that won't spoil the film. Line dancing. And that bumped my cheese up. There's a line dancing scene and I couldn't recover.
- Jenn:** That is interesting that line dancing does it, but a flash mob or a solo straight dance.
- Jami:** I can't be understood. Also, this one's like a music industry thing and I feel like I'm always a little more harshly since it's an industry I have worked in. I also don't know if this is a spoiler, but a really fun cameo was Candace's daughter.
- Annie:** Yes. There's a ton of cameos in this one.
- Jami:** Natasha Bure.
- Annie:** There's a ton of cameos in this one. Natasha Bure is in this one. Marcus Johns is in this one.
- Jenn:** Mario Lopez.
- Annie:** Who? Mario Lopez is in this one, yes.
- Jami:** As himself on Access Hollywood.

- Annie:** That's right. And I think her name is Abby from *Love on the Spectrum*. I loved the-
- Jenn:** That storyline.
- Annie:** Yes. There's an autistic co-worker... It's Carlos PenaVega's brother in the movie. And she is from *Love on the Spectrum*. I loved that storyline. That was one of my favorite parts of this movie. I love Carlos and Alex. I think they're very good acting together. But I thought that was really cool. So actually, I'm going to go 4 it. I'm changing it live. This was a 3 tree. I'm going to take it to a 4 tree because of how much I loved that part of this storyline.
- Jami:** I also really want Alexa's hair. So if someone could figure out how to do that.
- Annie:** Best hair of the entire thing we watched. Best hair.
- Jami:** Yes. Yeah. Best hair. Every time I watch a movie with her-
- Annie:** And they're singing...
- Jami:** I know. Yeah, they do sing.
- Annie:** So good.
- Jami:** I don't know if this is true, but did Carlos write the song? I feel like maybe he wrote that.
- Annie:** Yes. Every single song, I paused it at the end because I wanted to see where the songs came from. He wrote all of them.
- Jenn:** Oh, wow.
- Jami:** Which I think is also really cool.
- Annie:** I'm glad we're doing this before it comes out so that people can schedule and plan to watch this one because I think this is a fun watch. I mean, it's a 4 tree and a 3 cheese. But I think-
- Jenn:** Because they're married they have chemistry.
- Annie:** Yeah, that's right.
- Jenn:** And then the brother storyline is cute and has chemistry. Worth watching.

- Annie:** I'll tell you what moved me from two cheese to three cheese was when they went into the Dallas Cowboys Stadium and the Dallas Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders are there.
- Jami:** They're just hanging out, you know?
- Annie:** Just hanging out.
- Jami:** With the cheerleaders.
- Annie:** I also like Victoria Jackson being in it from Saturday Night Live. She is the agent. She's Alexa's agent.
- Jenn:** Oh.
- Jami:** Oh, yes.
- Jenn:** I did think she looked familiar. And I was like, I don't know where I know her from.
- Annie:** I mean, this one is full of guest appearances.
- Jami:** It is.
- Annie:** Okay, any other thoughts?
- Jenn:** Not on that one.
- Annie:** Okay, then here we go. I want you to give everyone listening the "do not miss" movie of your 2024 GAF offerings that we watch now. There are more movies. There are more stations. There is a gazillion Christmas movies to watch. But what's your do not miss of these nine that you tell people to make sure they get to watch?
- Jami:** Since I partly work for Annie F. Downs, I'm going to say *A Little Women's Christmas*.
- Annie:** Do you really mean that, though? Is that the one?
- Jami:** Yeah. I actually would say that or of the nine that we just talked about, it would be that one or the Carlson Alexa one.
- Annie:** Okay. The one coming out. *Get Him Back for Christmas*.

- Jami:** Yeah.
- Annie:** Great answer. Jenn.
- Jenn:** My highest ranking ones were *The Little Women's Christmas* and *A Cinderella Christmas Ball*.
- Annie:** Shocking. That is so good because that is true for a lot of people. A lot of people say my favorite trope is the royal trope.
- Jenn:** That's a royal trope. Do not miss.
- Annie:** Do not. 100%. All three of us. Jami, can I speak for you? We all agree. If you love a royal trope, do not miss that movie.
- Jami:** 100%, yeah. I will also say I watched that one after I had started the bells. What was that called?
- Annie:** *I Heard the Bells*.
- Jenn:** *I Heard the Bells*. And I paused it because it was just not what I was wanting in that moment. And then I went to Cinderella. And so it was even... that is what I wanted.
- Annie:** Yes. Yes. That was within the evening that you watched it. Okay, I would say I am also going to say *A Little Women's Christmas* because I genuinely think it is so good. It is so well made. It is so well acted. And then my other highest score is Home Sweet Christmas. Candace and Cameron. I love that movie. I like that they repaired the house together. I'm going to watch *Home Sweet Christmas* and *Little Women Christmas* again. Those are the two that I'll for sure watch again this Christmas season. What did we not say about these movies? Jami's got a-
- Jami:** Well, I'm looking through the list of other ones that aired and there is one called *Coupled Up for Christmas*. It's got Marcus Rosner, who we've seen in other shows. But it's a fake relationship. And that is my favorite trope where you're pretending to be in love and then you really fall in love. And that's on the bingo board here at the That Sounds Fun, Annie F. Downs' bingo board, whatever we're calling this thing.
- So all that to say, *Coupled Up for Christmas*, we did not discuss, but I would like to make note that if you're recording these, add that one to your Tivo, as Eddie said on the pod recently, which made me laugh. Like 1998.
- Annie:** I loved it. Yes, Jenn.

- Jenn:** No, I was going to say that one's one of those that isn't Great American Family original.
- Jami:** It was not.
- Jenn:** They got it. And I looked it up and on IMDB, they have a 6.3 rating, which I think is high.
- Annie:** Yeah, that is high.
- Jami:** What year did I finally come out, Jenn?
- Jenn:** 2023.
- Jami:** Oh, okay, last year. I don't know where it came out but...
- Annie:** Jenn, great research. Okay, overall, how do you feel about Cheese + Trees? Is this a good direction for us to keep going with these movies?
- Jami:** 100%.
- Jenn:** Yes. This is exactly the two categories that we need.
- Annie:** And the other truth is sometimes the higher the cheese, the more I just sit on the couch and do not move. And that is exactly what I signed up for. Okay, do you have any other thoughts, anything we didn't talk about you want to make sure we say?
- Jami:** No, I'm just seeing there's two more royal ones as well, Jenn. You've got to get on some more royal business.
- Jenn:** I know. There's a royal Christmas ballet and a Christmas castle.
- Jami:** Yeah, that's what I wrote down on my list. And I thought, wow, Jenn's really got some scheduling.
- Annie:** Are there any more home repair ones like *Home Sweet Christmas*?
- Jami:** I don't know.
- Annie:** Can I tell you why else I loved *Home Sweet Christmas*? They're our age. Like that's like people in their 40s actually like doing it, you know, like actually like falling in love again. And I really like that, too. I could go on.

- Jenn:** Well, Annie, there is a *Christmas in Scotland*.
- Jami:** That's what I was just going to say. That's a title.
- Annie:** Oh, very interested.
- Jenn:** So it's not home improvement, but Scotland.
- Jami:** I did also watch *A Cozy Christmas Quilt*. The man is a firefighter and he will not let her burn candles. So, Annie, you could watch that one because-
- Annie:** I need to watch that one. That's right on.
- Jami:** ...you'd be aligned on that one.
- Jenn:** Do they make a quilt? Did you watch it?
- Jami:** Yes. So this the guy's... I can't remember if both parents have passed or just the mom. And the guy's little sister's getting married at Christmas, and I guess the mom used to make a quilt for them every year, and so he wants to make a quilt for his sister for her wedding gift. It's like a family tradition. So he hires this girl who teaches quilting classes at the community center to teach him how to make a quilt and then teaches him how to love, you know, as one does.
- Annie:** Adorable.
- Jenn:** As one does.
- Annie:** Okay, those are the ones from GAF. Now, I want y'all... I don't know if we've ever done this. Tell me your all-time Christmas movie. What's the movie you do not miss or if it comes on, you don't stop watching it or you make a plan to watch it every year? Is there one that you do not miss?
- Jami:** Okay, this isn't technically a Christmas movie, but I watch it every year at Christmas. And it's really going to wrap up this episode well. I didn't even plan this. It is *Little Women* from 1995 or 96 with Wynonna Ryder and Claire Danes and Kirsten Dunst. I love that movie so much. I watch it every Christmas. Is there a scene at Christmas? Yes. Is it a Christmas movie? No. But now that's my answer. Final.
- Annie:** Jenn.

- Jenn:** The one that this year I'm like wanting to watch is *The Holiday*. I just I'm feeling like it's time to watch that movie again. I love it. I don't know that it's my favorite all-time Christmas movie, but for this year, that is what I am wanting.
- Annie:** I saw someone share a post from Nancy Meyers and she said the year *The Holiday* came out, it was actually a disappointing release in the studios. I'm sorry. It was actually a disappointing release in the theaters. And now it's the number one movie on Netflix. And she did this really beautiful post. I'll see if I can find it and share it. She did this really beautiful post. I'm like, hey, when you make something, you have no idea the length it will matter to people and how it could end up being a bigger deal later than it is in the moment. I thought that was so cool. And that she's like, yeah, it's the number one Netflix Christmas movie and it almost failed in the theaters in like 2016 or whatever.
- Jenn:** I saw it in the theater. I contributed to something.
- Annie:** And it's not even a royal movie and you did. It kind of is. It's England. So it's close enough.
- Jenn:** I did go to that town where they filmed it.
- Annie:** Aw.
- Jami:** You did?
- Jenn:** I had lunch in that pub.
- Annie:** Have you heard Jude Law talk about how they built that house and then tore it down?
- Jenn:** Yeah. It doesn't exist.
- Annie:** It doesn't really exist.
- Jenn:** When I was in London with my cousin, she was like, "We need to go see *The Holiday* house." And I was like, "I hate to break it to you. We can go to the town but it does not exist."
- Annie:** But that house was torn down as soon as they were done filming. That's exactly right. My favorite "do not miss" Christmas is *The Santa Claus*. I freaking love that movie. Tim Allen. I love it. I think that movie is so funny when he goes to be Santa. So that's my answer.

Okay. So we got to end with this. Y'all have answered this a lot. Jami Crockett, you begin. Because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.

Jami: Ooh. It's gotten cold here. We're like finally in winter weather, which I'm not saying happily, but we are here. It just took a longer time. So that's the final. I really want some hot chocolate.

Annie: Okay. So just a little cup of hot cocoa feels fun to you?

Jami: Yeah. Hot cocoa, but we better pile those marshmallows in there. Do not be skimpy on the marshmallows for me.

Annie: Do you like little ones or big ones?

Jami: I am an equal marshmallow opportunist.

Annie: Beautiful. Jenn, what sounds fun to you?

Jenn: What sounds fun to me is to finish decorating my house for Christmas. I now need to go get the real greenery to add in. Like I got most of my stuff done.

Annie: It looks beautiful. For anybody watching on YouTube, it really is a beautiful mantle you've done here.

Jenn: There's part of it. The mantle in the front room needs some real greenery and I need wreath. So this week I'm going to go to the Christmas tree lot and-

Annie: You can just head over to our girl at Christmas Wreath and Ribbons and get you a... the Baker will be making you a wreath at any point, if you would like.

Jami: Maybe you could get cinnamon rolls and a wreath at the same time. Just really double down on-

Jenn: Hey, you know what? That doesn't sound like a bad combo.

Annie: Sorry to bring this up again, but y'all remember the part of that movie where he showed her the restaurant he wants to open and just had access?

Jenn: How did he have the key? I had that written down actually. I was like, how does he have a key to that?

Annie: I was like, He's just allowed to walk into a building he hopes someday to buy? He doesn't even have a lease on it. Okay. You guys, well done again. Thumbs up to

these Christmas movies. I think you guys are going to really enjoy them. I loved watching them. Thank y'all for your Cheese + Trees ladies. Well done.

Jenn: Thank you for having us.

Jami: Yes. Thank you. And a merry Christmas.

[01:07:29] <music>

Annie: Okay, you guys, aren't they the best man? I love talking about these movies with them. And remember high cheese does not mean it's not a movie you're going to love. You may absolutely love it. It's just we'd love to score the movies.

So we want to see your ratings for all these films as well, any of them that you have watched. You can rate any Christmas movie you've watched this year with Trees + Cheese. We would love to see it. Just grab that off of social media. It's on my Instagram. It's on That Sounds Fun Podcast, Instagram. And then tag me as you watch the movies so we can see your results. The three of us are dying to hear if your Trees + Cheese matches our Trees + Cheese.

If you've enjoyed this episode, we've reviewed other Christmas movies in previous years. So we've linked all those for you in the show notes. You can go back and listen to all those and see some other movies you might want to catch this Christmas break.

If you have any questions from this episode, drop them in the Q&A box on your Spotify app if you're a Spotify listener like me or send them to us on Instagram @ThatSoundsFunPodcast and we will answer them there.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find. Any F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, TikTok. Anywhere you need me, that's where you can find me.

And I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home, do something that sounds fun to you and I will do the same. Today, what sounds fun to me? Well, while I'm recording this, I am in New York and what sounds fun to me is going outside and seeing some of the Christmas lights around my neighborhood that I have not seen yet. So that is on my to-do list today.

Y'all have a great week. I cannot wait to hear your thoughts on Trees + Cheese and for y'all to blow up the comments. We want to hear what you think and to see your Trees + Cheese score. So I cannot wait. Y'all have a great week. We'll see you back

here on Thursday. We're going to talk about some holiday food with one of my favorite chefs and cookbook writers, Danielle Kartes. We'll see you on Thursday.

[01:09:22] <music>

Greer: Hey, I'm Greer, host of the Unfinished Idea Podcast, where listeners and I get to journey together to better understand the neurodiverse world. Together with my husband, we have two boys and two dogs, and raising a child with additional needs. Our day-to-day experience isn't being talked about in everyday life, and I see a gap in those leading people who are neurodivergent. Whether you're a parent, a friend, a teacher, or a neighbor, the neurodivergent world is all around us, so this podcast is for you.

I have conversations over a cup of tea or coffee, helping to bring awareness about how neurodivergent people experience the world, as well as families who are raising children with different needs. This podcast will share practical help, tips, and the joys, struggles, and differences in being neurodivergent or raising a child who is.

Each week, I will spend 30 minutes talking and interviewing others in the neurodiverse space and giving you the opportunity to learn and grow and feel seen and heard by how we interact with each other and the world. Search for the Unfinished Idea in your favorite podcast app and come learn about the neurodivergent world. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.