

Christmas at the theaters

Three movies with three views of that special time of year

by Danette Parrett
Entertainment Editor

"The Santa Clause"

To anyone in the Christmas spirit head to the movie theater because now showing is the latest Outlaw production "The Santa Clause."

"The Santa Clause" stars Tim Allen as toy designer and producer, Scott Calvin, and later as the good ol' boy of Christmas, Santa Claus.

Late on Christmas Eve Calvin and his son, Charlie (Eric Lloyd), hear "such a clatter" on their rooftop. They run outside only to see a round, plump red-suited man slide from the chimney to a sound "thud" at their feet.

After looking for his identification, they find a quaint business card stating, "Santa Claus, North Pole." On the back it read, "Put on the suit. The reindeer will know what to do."

Not only do they find a business card, but also ten, not-so-tiny reindeer, on the roof. After Santa Claus mysteriously disappears, Scott and Charlie go to the rooftop to investigate.

After meeting all the reindeer, Scott and Charlie take off for the ride of their lives delivering toys. In the midst of toy delivery Scott puts on the Santa suit.

Little did he know that by putting on the suit he fell under

"The Santa Clause." It states that by putting on the suit you assume all the responsibilities, liabilities and possibilities of being Santa Claus.

Upon returning home after his wonderful tour of the North Pole, Scott brushes the whole incident off as an amazing dream. Charlie, on the other hand, proceeds to tell everyone he sees that his father is Santa Claus.

Charlie's mother Laura (Wendy Chewson) and stepfather Neil (Judge Reinhold) seem to believe that Charlie's "hallucinations" are definitely unhealthy for him. They believe Scott is becoming delusional and turning himself into Santa Claus.

Over the course of the next year, it's obvious that something weird is happening to Scott. He can't stop his urges for cookies and milk. He shaves every morning and by the afternoon a full grown beard appears on his face.

After Laura files to have Scott's custody privileges taken away, Scott falls into a deep depression. This depression is lifted when Charlie takes off with his father on Christmas Eve. In response, Laura and Neil head up a man hunt with the help of the local police.

In the end Laura and Neil, however irrational it seems to them, believe that Scott is Santa Claus too.

"The Santa Clause" is a fantastic tale that is appealing to all ages. It's lighthearted comedy and underlying story of the closeness between parent and child lead to a delightful tale.

If you go to see "The Santa



Richard Attenborough is Kriss Kringle and Mara Wilson is Susan Walker in "Miracle On 34th Street."

Clause" take an active imagination and the Christmas spirit with you.

"Trapped in Paradise"

It was a town that gave so much...even the Firpo brothers couldn't take anymore.

Twentieth Century Fox's latest release, "Trapped in Paradise," will be opening in theaters soon.

It's Christmas Eve and Bill, Alvin and Dave Firpo (Nicholas Cage, Jon Lovitz and Dana Carvey), three small-time crooks from New York, are spending the holidays in the small town of Paradise.

The wayward brothers are desperately trying to get out of town, but their big city craftiness is no match for the good people of Paradise who are slowly killing the Firpos with kindness.

The Firpo brothers believe that basically everyone is up to no good and when they go to Paradise, they try to apply that thinking on those townspeople. But it doesn't work for them and, through a series of comic misadventures, they are ultimately changed by the townspeople's goodwill. It's a mixture of lunacy and action, with a touch of sweetness thrown in for good measure.

With old "Saturday Night Live" buddies, Carvey and Lovitz's humor scatters the plot.

"Trapped in Paradise" is a hilarious redemption comedy in the tradition of Frank Capra.

"Trapped in Paradise" opens in Erie on December 6.

"Miracle On 34th Street"

Twentieth Century Fox presents "Miracle On 34th

Street," the remake of the 1947 motion picture screenplay by George Seaton. Everyone, especially children, knows that the holiday season is for miracles.

However, 6-year-old Susan Walker (Mara Wilson) has doubts about childhood's most enduring miracle...Santa Claus.

Susan's mom, Dorey (Elizabeth Perkins), tells her the "secret" about Santa, and it seems that Susan's holiday wishes won't even come close to being granted.

This holiday season Susan is going to receive the most precious gift of all--something to believe in. And she's about to discover that miracles do exist.

The story relates the arrival of one Kriss Kringle (Richard Attenborough), a department store Santa who believes he's the genuine article and who subsequently turns a skeptical child's world upside-down. When Kriss is put on trial to prove he's Santa, Susan and everyone around her, learn the true meaning of faith, the importance of family and that even today we all need something to believe in.

"Miracle On 34th Street" brings one of the most beloved tales into the '90s with the same combination of humor and innocence that made the original film a cinematic treasure.

"Miracle On 34th Street" opens in Erie tomorrow.



Jon Lovitz, Nicholas Cage and Dana Carvey star as the Firpo brothers in Twentieth Century Fox's "Trapped In Paradise."

