

Coming soon to a theater near you...

MARK PIRAS Staff Writer

As the holidays approach, and every storefront becomes overrun with Christmas trees, wreaths and other yuletide adornments, some of the most anticipated movie releases of the year ready themselves to hit the theaters.

Studios clamor to get certain movies they feel worthy of Oscar nominations in the theaters before the end of the year.

Christmas is also the time the big screen is overloaded with mega-stars, big-budget action films, romantic tearjerkers, farcical satire and fantastical science fiction.

Holiday movies will include Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Tom Cruise, Madonna, Woody Harrelson, Courtney Cox and Drew Barrymore; there are films from creative geniuses of past blockbuster films, such as Oliver Stone and Wes Craven.

Here's some of what can be seen around Christmas, or shortly thereafter:

Daylight—Action/Adventure. Not yet rated. Sylvester Stallone stars as an ex-Emergency Medical Services chief trying to save motorists from the devastating after-effects of an explosion

in an underwater tunnel between Manhattan and New Jersey. Directed by Rob Cohen. Also starring Amy Brenneman, Stan Shaw, Viggo Mortensen, Claire Bloom, Renoly Santiago, Marcello Thedford and Sage Stallone.

Jingle All The Way—Comedy. PG rating. A father tries to find the perfect gift for his son during the busy holiday season. Stars Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sinbad and Phil Hartman.

People v. Larry Flynt—Drama. Rated R. A controversial film that chronicles the trials and tribulations of wheel-chair ridden Larry Flynt, the founder and publisher of Hustler magazine. Woody Harrelson stars as Flynt, crippled after being struck by bullets from a would-be assassin. Also stars Courtney Love, Crispin Glover, Edward Norton and Brett Harrelson. Produced by Oliver Stone. This film is scheduled for release Dec. 27.

Evita—Drama. Not yet rated. Featuring the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and the acting of Madonna, this film tells the story of the life of Argentine icon Eva "Evita" Peron. Filmed mostly in Argentina drawing much criticism from the Argentine government and public, Madonna is thrust into the spotlight as she depicts Peron's struggle against the odds of poverty and despair

to become one of the country's most enduring and loved figures. Scheduled for release Christmas Day in New York and Los Angeles, with nationwide release in January.

101 Dalmations—Family. Rated G. This live-action remake of the classic animated Disney tale will try to challenge Space Jam for the family holiday theatergoers. The evil Cruella De Ville is portrayed by Tony Award winner Glenn Close. Also stars Jeff Daniels, Joely Richardson, Joan Plowright and just more than 100 cuddly, little dalmations. Scheduled for release Nov. 27.

Albino Alligator—Drama. Rated R. This is a movie about the typical robbery-gone-bad, focusing on its inevitable aftermath. Matt Dillon, Gary Sinese and William Fichtner star as a trio of criminals, with the plot thickening after the three take a bar full of patrons hostage. Also starring Faye Dunaway, Viggo Mortensen and Joe Montegna.

Jerry Maguire—Tom Cruise is a sports agent and a man with a mission and an identity crisis. After he is fired for committing the unforgivable sin of caring for clients more than money, he signs with a second-string athlete, putting his future on the athlete's successes, with the help of a single mother. Also stars Cuba Gooding Jr., Renee Zellweger and Kelly Preston. Scheduled for release Dec. 13.

Crucible—Drama. Rated PG-13. Based on the Arthur Miller play about the Salem witch hunt of 1692. Winona Ryder is Abigail Williams, a defiant young woman whose affair with a married farmer, played by Daniel-Day Lewis, leads to accusations of satanism. Screenplay by Arthur Miller. Also starring Paul Scofield, Joan Allen, Bruce Davidson, Rob Campbell and Jeffrey Jones.

Everyone Says I Love You—Art/Foreign. Not yet rated. This musical is the latest film from Woody Allen, shot on location in New York, Venice and Paris. The cast includes Woody Allen, Alan Alda, Drew Barrymore, Lukas Haas, Goldie Hawn, Gabby Hoffman, Natasha Lyonne, Edward Norton, Natalie Portman, Julia Roberts and Tim Roth.

Citizen Ruth—Art/Foreign. Not yet rated. The town wallflower, Laura Dern as Ruth Stoops, gets pregnant, and the entire community goes crazy. People from all walks of life emerge and, suddenly, want a piece of Ruth Stoops. Also stars Swoosie Kurtz, Kurtwood Smith, Mary Kay Place, Kelly Preston and Burt Reynolds.



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Arnold Schwarzenegger as Howard Langston battles postal worker Myron Larabee, Sinbad, in "Jingle All The Way." The two dads search for the ideal gift for their sons. "Jingle All The Way" will hit theaters for the Christmas season.



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Winona Ryder and Daniel-Day Lewis star in the screen version of "The Crucible."

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RANSOM (R) 1:10 3:40 7:25 9:50	SPACE JAM #2 (PG) 2:00 4:05* 6:05 8:00 10:00
HIGH SCHOOL HIGH (PG-13) 3:40 5:40* 7:40	LOOKING FOR RICHARD (PG13) 1:20 3:55 7:15 9:45
JINGLE ALL THE WAY #1 (PG) 1:30 3:30 5:30* 7:30 9:30	THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES (PG13) 1:00 3:45 7:05 9:35
JINGLE ALL THE WAY #2 (PG) 12:30 2:30 5:30* 6:30 8:30	

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STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT (PG13) 1:30 4:10 7:10 9:50
MIRROR HAS TWO FACES (PG-13) 1:05 4:05 7:00 9:40
ROMEO AND JULIET (PG13) 1:20 4:20 7:15 9:50
JINGLE ALL THE WAY (PG) 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:20 9:30
SET IT OFF (R) 1:40 4:25 7:10 10:00

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