

FUN CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

Enjoy some classic holiday movie trivia. Find out the answers to these six work-related Christmas trivia questions.

Q: In the 1988 film “Die Hard,” police officer John McClane (played by Bruce Willis) travels from New York City to Los Angeles on Christmas Eve to spend the holidays with his wife and children. During the Nakatomi Corporation’s office Christmas party, German terrorists seize the building and hold employees hostage. What is the terrorists’ objective?

A: \$640 million in bearer bonds locked in the Nakatomi Corporation’s vault.

An unforgettable office holiday party with lots of fun and lots to cheer about – until the bad guys show up. When you achieve a goal – small or large – remember to celebrate.

Q: In the 1942 film “Holiday Inn” in which the song “White Christmas” was first performed, the character played by Bing Crosby hatches an idea to buy and run a country inn that’s open only on holidays. What steady job does he give up to become an entrepreneur?

A: Jim Hardy (played by Bing Crosby), Ted Hanover (Fred Astaire) and Lila Dixon (Virginia Dale) form a popular New York City-based singing and dancing act. On Christmas Eve, Hardy decides this will be his last performance before heading to his country place in Connecticut.

Bing’s character is proof that the characteristics of a successful business owner include vision, passion and persistence. In this case, it doesn’t hurt that the CEO is a good guy and great singer.

Q: “A Charlie Brown Christmas” first aired on TV in 1965 with a terrific jazz soundtrack by Vince Guaraldi. Charlie Brown is despondent about the commercialization of Christmas and turns to Lucy in her outdoor make-shift office to help him come to terms with what’s happening around him. What conclusion do they reach?

A: Lucy: Are you afraid of responsibility? If you are, then you have hypengyophobia.

Charlie Brown: I don't think that's quite it.

Lucy: How about cats? If you're afraid of cats, you have ailurophasia.

Charlie Brown: Well, sort of, but I'm not sure.

Lucy: Are you afraid of staircases? If you are, then you have climacaphobia. Maybe you have thalassophobia. This is fear of the ocean, or gephyrobia, which is the fear of crossing bridges. Or maybe you have pantophobia. Do you think you have pantophobia?

Charlie Brown: What's pantophobia?

Lucy: The fear of everything.

Charlie Brown: THAT'S IT!

OK, so Charlie Brown is not a business leader...but he does direct the Christmas play. Even business leaders have feelings. I recruit executives for my advisory groups and then human beings show up.

GREG BUSTIN • BUSTIN.COM

Strategic Planning • Keynote Speeches • Private Workshops

Contact Greg at 214.720.3707 or greg.bustin@bustin.com

FUN CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

Enjoy some classic holiday movie trivia. Find out the answers to these six work-related Christmas trivia questions.

Q: In the 1947 film “Miracle on 34th Street,” Kris Kringle (Edmund Gwenn) is hired by Doris Walker (Maureen O’Hara) of Macy’s as the retailer’s Santa Claus. In the course of listening to the Christmas requests of children, Kris does something that causes the head of the toy department to demand his immediate firing. What does Kris do?

A: Ignoring instructions to steer parents to items Macy’s wants to sell, Kris directs parents to stores other than Macy’s, including its arch-rival Gimbels. The response is so overwhelmingly positive, that R. H. Macy (played by Harry Antrim) – believing the move has been initiated by Doris and her boss – instructs the heads of Macy’s throughout the U.S. to adopt the same policy. “I admit this plan sounds idiotic and impossible,” says Macy. “Imagine Macy’s Santa Claus sending customers to Gimbels. But, gentlemen, you cannot argue with success. Look at this. Telegrams, messages, telephone calls. The governor’s wife, the mayor’s wife, other thankful parents expressing undying gratitude to Macy’s. Never in my entire career have I seen such a tremendous and immediate response to a merchandising policy. And I’m positive if we expand our policy we’ll expand our results as well. Therefore, from now on, not only will our Santa Claus continue in this manner but I want every salesperson in this store to do precisely the same thing. If we haven’t got exactly what the customer wants we’ll send him where he can get it. No high pressuring and forcing a customer to take something he doesn’t really want. We’ll be known as the helpful store, the friendly store, the store with a heart, the store that places public service ahead of profits. And, consequently, we’ll make more profits than ever before.”

Sometimes the best way to win a customer is by admitting that you can’t give them exactly what they’re looking for. Just be sure your concern is genuine.

Q: In the 1989 film “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation,” Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) is expecting a Christmas bonus to help cover the cost of a swimming pool he’s installing. What happens with his bonus?

A: The bonus arrives late and instead of money it’s a one-year membership to the Jelly of the Month Club. Clark’s cousin Eddie (played by Randy Quaid) says, “Clark, that’s the gift that keeps on giving the whole year.” Clark’s boss Frank Shirley is played by Bill Murray’s older brother, Brian Doyle-Murray, and the reaction to the “bonus” by Frank’s wife (Natalie Nogulich) is, “Well, of all the cheap lousy ways to save a buck!” Ultimately, Frank Shirley reinstates the bonus.

Every leader makes bad decisions. The question is: Can you admit you’ve made a mistake and correct your bad decision?

Q: In the 1946 film “It’s A Wonderful Life,” George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) believes his talents have been wasted and his dream of making a mark on the world has come to naught. By the end of the movie, however, George has a new perspective on life and is toasted by his younger brother Harry as the “richest man in town.” What’s the moral of the story? (Hint: It’s summarized in the final scene when George receives a first-edition copy of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer with an inscription from his guardian angel, Clarence.)

A: “George: No man is a failure who has friends.” Leaders make their mark on the world in ways that can be far-reaching, hugely significant and invisible for months or years.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!