

# CHRISTMAS SUMMER

Written by John Taylor



Don't these pictures just scream Christmas?

They do in CHRISTMAS SUMMER, a hot new movie for the holidays. It's a Christmas Movie and a Beach movie rolled into one!

It's the story of two college besties, who head to Melbourne for some fun and sun over the Christmas holiday.

Australia in the summer is awesome. 85 degree days, bikinis and board shorts. And it gets even more amped up over Christmas because school's out, holiday events are in full swing and the beach is party central.

It's also the site of a giant outdoor concert, an annual Christmas Woodstock featuring top music stars from around the world rockin' out and playing the Christmas hits.

Visually stunning, emotional and appealing, CHRISTMAS SUMMER brings feelings of fun, happiness, and warmth, mixed of course with some family drama (what would the holidays be without that?) and ultimate Christmas joy for the girls, their parents and everyone in Melbourne.



It's the music event of the year! It's Candlelight Carols.

Every Christmas Eve, tens of thousands of revelers get together all over the country to celebrate the holiday in song. National and international stars rock Christmas favorites, lit by the power of 10,000 candles. Magical! It's part live show, part TV show and one gigantic sing-a-long.





Who WOULDN'T like to spend Christmas in the sun? No shoveling snow, no rain, no cold. Just beaches, barbecues and swimsuits as far as the eye can see. Sign me up!

In our story, Hannah meets up with her best friend Claire in freezing cold Chicago after volleyball practice. Suddenly, Hannah's holiday plans with her parents explode, and she is left with no place to go. Claire invites Hannah to spend Christmas with her "perfect" family in Australia, complete with bright sunshine, family togetherness and a giant music festival. Yes, please!

The girls arrive. It's 90 degree, with Santa roller blading by in board shorts, convertibles filled with people in sunglasses and bikinis, and oh that water! At Claire's house, they arrive right in the middle of a huge, very fancy kickoff party for the annual Candlelight Carols event, which Claire's parents run. Claire and Hannah quickly discover things are far from "perfect" with the family - Claire's Mom, the CEO of Candlelight Carols, has fired her father, the long-time technical director for the show. They are now living apart. Claire and Hannah are both crushed.

Trying to salvage the trip, Hannah and Claire go to the annual School's Out beach party, including an iconic scene with Hannah and Claire's brother Bryan swimming in the ocean, where the plankton leaves incredible tracks, like 100,000 lightning bugs in the water.

Meanwhile, Claire visits her Dad, who lets her know there is little chance for reconciliation. BUT, to try to insert some "normalcy", he has set up an exhibition beach volleyball match between the girls and some local guys. The girls prevail in spectacular style. Right after the match, they learn there are MASSIVE problems with the Christmas show, and go to help.

The whole event is completely messed up, mostly due to the absence of their long-time TD, Claire's Dad. But he shows up with the kids, and they get to work to set things right

With everyone having done their best and fingers crossed, the show begins. And it KILLS. Great songs, old favorites, new songs, big stars. And yes, some near disasters. Roxie, played by someone like Taylor Swift or Ariana Grande, sings a very emotional song, like Silent Night, to close the show. Not a dry eye in the house.

On Christmas morning, the kids are up first. Soon Mom enters. Dad follows with loads of presents. After pulling off the show with huge success, the family is back together. There is a knock on the door, which Hannah answers. It is her own parents, just in from the Midwest to say they are sorry. Tears, hugs, and a Merry Christmas to us all!

Fade out to the Beach Boys LITTLE SAINT NICK over the credits.





Christmas movies show us lots of scenes of mountains and snow and mittens and heavy coats and icicles.

That's one way to do it. Or we can hang with these people!

Time to brighten up Christmas. Lots of colors, blue water, starry skies, beautiful fit people having a blast. The look is always casual Christmas chic, whether at a cocktail party or a bonfire at the beach. Everywhere the girls go, you want to go. You want to go to that fancy party. You want to sit by a bonfire at the beach and swim on a warm night. You want to kick some butt in beach volleyball. And you want to be behind the scenes at the best holiday concert in the world.

Music will play a huge part in this. It's summer, so music and energy is everywhere. Especially on the beach and at the concert, where you can see some of the greatest performers in the world doing some crazy Christmas stuff. The cast of Beetlejuice singing ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH? Hell yes!



The typical holiday movie revolves around themes of love and family, lots of snow, Christmas spirit and traditions. It's a tried and true recipe. CHRISTMAS SUMMER has the same bones, but flips everything on it's head by doing it in a place that is just starting their summer in 90 degree weather.

Santa may arrive on a surfboard instead of down the chimney. You go to an outdoor concert instead of seeing A Christmas Carol on stage. Barbecued skewers on the grill outside with some cold beers instead of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding with mulled wine. Shrimp cocktails, oysters and a Pimms Cup on the beach instead of gathering around a fireplace. Pavlova instead of pumpkin pie. And a HUGE fireworks display after the show. Fireworks, barbecues, beers on the beach - now THAT'S a fun Christmas!





COWABUNGA!

Starting in the 1960's with stars like Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon, the beach movie had light-hearted, teen-oriented story lines, beach scenes, surfing, dance parties and music. CHRISTMAS SUMMER will have all of that on steroids, with spectacular beaches, hot girls and sexy guys celebrating and partying with their family and friends. And instead of Cap'n Geech and The Shrimp Shack Shooters, they get the the best Christmas concert ever.





Picture yourself with your best friend, sand between your toes on a sunny beach, on vacation halfway around the world, with your troubles left behind. Who's in?

CHRISTMAS SUMMER is, at its core, a buddy movie. The story of two close girlfriends who go on an adventure, have fun, laugh and overcome challenges together.

The difference is that, this time, the “buddies” are women. They unite to resolve a huge dilemma for their family. And have a summer-fun blast doing it! The backdrop is Australia and Christmas, but as a buddy movie, the story of Hannah and Claire supporting each other, their delightful interplay and firm resolve to get things done could take place anywhere and at any time.



CLAIRE DAVIS grew up in an affluent part of Melbourne with her parents and one older brother. She went to a private school, more for sports than anything. Claire has been, since she was very young, a volleyball protegee. She has been part of the National Development Program, which helps prepare young athletes to represent Australia internationally. But she is a little bit stubborn, and with the mixed blessings of her coaches, was recruited and has travelled to the US to play collegiate volleyball in Chicago.

Smart, worldly but a little reserved except with people she knows. She has been in the public eye for a long time and is a little wary sometimes. She always attracts every eye everywhere she goes. She has an easy manner, UNTIL she steps on the court. Then she is all business, focused, and takes no prisoners. Ferocious and fiery. She has a lot of friends back home and is of famous in Melbourne, but she didn't have one "special" friend until fate put her and Hannah in the same dorm room. From day 1, they have been very close.

She is very excited to make her first trip back home since she moved, see her family and take part in all the sun and comfort and traditions that home offers.



HANNAH JOHNSON is from Minneapolis. She grew up in an upscale suburb, went to a good public school. She is funny, a smart aleck, full of energy and life. She is always the one getting everyone going. Wicked smart student, good athlete. High voltage, but not high maintenance. Her parents were nice enough, but didn't shed many tears when she went away to Chicago for college. The brightest light for her is her best friend Claire, her roommate, who she consistently tortures about being Australian and tall and just in general. While Claire has a lot of superstar qualities, so does Hannah, which they both see clearly in each other. She is (shockingly) pretty homesick and missing her weird parents. She is excited to be going home for Christmas.





HANNAH'S PARENTS are hippies, no two ways about it. Back to nature types who rebel against many of societies' norms. They are very, very self centered. The arrival of Hannah, seen in the beginning as a blessing, has grown into a time-and-effort burden for them, curtailing their spontaneous, free wheeling lives. They were not-so-secretly delighted to see her go away to college in Chicago. They both teach, her father teaches art at a local high school, her mom is a full time yoga instructor. They love their time off, and go traveling whenever and wherever they can. They have a pretty large group of like-minded friends who they hang out with, take trips together and visit in other cities. They are close, but they never married.



CLAIRE'S PARENTS have been a formidable team for a while now. Her Mom came from Canberra, daughter of a high ranking government official. Her Dad was from Sydney, smartest kid in his public school. They met at the University of Melbourne, the Harvard of Australia, she the sophisticated beauty and he the kind of bumbling smart guy who never studied, got straight A's and could always be counted on to fix things. They started their lives together and were very successful, he in a series of startups that surprisingly did very well. With, as he says, "enough money", he has devoted most of his later life to his passion, Candlelight Carols. He is one of those Dads - at every match, play, art opening, whatever. He puts his wife and kids ahead of everything, and they love him like crazy.

Her Mom rose quickly up the corporate ladder in sales, marketing and management, first in television, later with major corporations. When she was done guiding her latest company through their gigantic sponsorship deal with Candlelight, Mom was not surprisingly the choice of the Candlelight board to run the show. With her experience in TV, in sales, and her status in the Melbourne business and political community, she was the perfect fit. She loves her husband, loves her kids, but is just SO BUSY!



Melbourne, the Most Livable City in the World, is located on the southeastern coast. It has a population of about 5 million people, just under the population of Sydney and about the same as Boston. It has kind of a San Francisco vibe, known for its historic architecture, culture, arts, universities, beautiful parks and beaches and festive atmosphere.

In addition to the natural beauty of the city, it has a very lively cafe and food scene, and in fact it calls itself the Coffee Capital of the World. It is a diverse, cosmopolitan city, filled with world class shops, bars and cafes, with great summer weather and awesome beaches.





Aussies are sporty. This is no surprise to anyone. How else do you explain a country that is 54th in population finishing 6th in total medals at the Paris Olympics? Swimming, golf, tennis, auto racing, football, soccer, rugby and... Beach volleyball.

Beach volleyball is huge here. No surprise. It's a simple game. All you need are two-person teams, a net, a ball, and a beach. All plentiful. They have won Olympic Gold Medals in it, it was showcased at the Sydney Olympics, and fits in as a perfect outdoor summer sport. As a spectator sport, with a required uniform of bikinis and swimsuits, there is no shortage of sex appeal from the athletes. The crowds are sun-soaked and lively, the action fast paced, and it all makes for an incredible live and television experience.



The potential for this as a franchise lies in the pairing of the two girls. Sparks fly off these two. As soon as they get themselves into trouble, they have a way of somehow getting out of it. If one of them needs some help, anywhere in the world, the other is right there to bail them out. This unique pair can be the centerpiece for many other stories. Christmas on the Riviera? Paris? London? Christmas on Safari? All of them are places these two crazy girls might find themselves around the holidays, ready for an adventure.



This is a one-of-a-kind Christmas movie. It has all the traditional elements, like family and the search for joy at Christmastime, but in a totally unique setting. The two girl leads can be breakout stars, carrying the franchise forward for who knows how long. The adult roles also have star potential. They are very likable characters who people will absolutely root for. It's even got a Bad Guy - who doesn't love/hate a pushy, obnoxious executive villain? It's got the music, a festival celebration bringing together stars from around the world. And it's got the beach. And the water. And the sunshine. An amazing mix that will have people dying to be there with them.

So pop a cold one, crank up the Sabrina Carpenter ESPRESSO video, and imagine you are on the beach for CHRISTMAS SUMMER!



