



# Christmas on Television (Praeger Television Collection)

*Diane Werts*

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Christmas just isn't Christmas without Christmas on TV. Whether it's the made-for-television specials of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *Frosty the Snowman*, a *M\*A\*S\*H\* Christmas in Korea*, Kramer playing Santa on *Seinfeld*, or the annual holiday disaster on *The Simpsons* or *South Park*, television's many representations of this beloved holiday have become as essential a part of our holiday season as lights, gifts, or mistletoe. In this entertaining chronicle of television and the Christmas season, former Television Critics Association President Diane Werts weaves discussion of the many programs that have appeared during the holiday season throughout the years with interviews with writers, producers, and stars. Not only are readers given a chance to re-live their favorite holiday moments on TV, but also to gain illuminating cultural insights into the increasingly strong bond that unites these two American traditions.

Diane Werts's book is the first to cover the entire history of the depiction of Christmas on television, and includes a discussion of programs that celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the winter solstice. An introductory overview helps readers to understand the basis on which television's success with the holidays is based, and chronological chapters go on to consider the many different ways in which the season has been celebrated in variety shows, sitcoms, specials, and dramas of the past six decades.

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