

= Jingle All the Way =

Jingle All the Way is a 1996 American Christmas family comedy film directed by Brian Levant and starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sinbad , with Phil Hartman , Rita Wilson , Jake Lloyd , James Belushi and Robert Conrad . The plot focuses on two rival fathers , workaholic Howard Langston (Schwarzenegger) and stressed out postal worker Myron Larabee (Sinbad) , both desperately trying to get a Turbo @-@ Man action figure for their respective sons on a last minute shopping spree on Christmas Eve .

Inspired by real @-@ life Christmas toy sell @-@ outs for products such as the Cabbage Patch Kids and Mighty Morphin Power Rangers , the film was written by Randy Kornfield . Producer Chris Columbus rewrote the script , adding in elements of satire about the commercialization of Christmas , and the project was picked up by 20th Century Fox . Delays on Fox 's reboot of Planet of the Apes allowed Schwarzenegger to come on board the film , while Columbus opted to cast Sinbad ahead of Joe Pesci as Myron . Jingle All the Way was set and filmed in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul at a variety of locations , including the Mall of America . After five weeks filming , production moved to California where scenes such as the end parade were shot . The film 's swift production meant merchandising was limited to a replica of the Turbo @-@ Man action figure used in the film .

Although some critics felt the film was good family entertainment , it was met with a broadly negative response . Much criticism was attached to the film 's script , its focus on the commercialism of Christmas , Levant 's direction and Schwarzenegger 's performance . Nevertheless , it proved a success at the box office , generating \$ 129 million worldwide . In 2001 , Fox was ordered to pay \$ 19 million to Murray Hill Publishing for stealing the idea for the film ; the verdict was overturned three years later .

= = Plot = =

Howard Langston (Arnold Schwarzenegger) is a workaholic mattress salesman , who can 't find time for his wife , Liz (Rita Wilson) , and his 9 @-@ year @-@ old son , Jamie (Jake Lloyd) ? especially when compared to next door " superdad " divorcee , Ted Maltin (Phil Hartman) , who continually puts Howard in a bad light . After missing Jamie 's karate class graduation , Howard resolves to redeem himself by fulfilling Jamie 's ultimate Christmas wish : getting an action figure of Turbo @-@ Man , a popular children 's TV superhero toy that every kid wants . Along the way , Howard meets Myron Larabee (Sinbad) , a postal worker dad with a rival ambition , and the two soon become bitter competitors in their race for the action figure . During his search , Howard repeatedly runs into Officer Alexander Hummell (Robert Conrad) , a police officer who had earlier pulled him over for a traffic violation . After several failed attempts to find the toy in a store , Howard attempts to buy a Turbo @-@ Man from a Mall of America Santa (James Belushi) who is actually the leader of a band of counterfeit toy makers . When he accuses the Santa of undermining the values of Christmas , Howard ends up in a brawl with the gang . He narrowly escapes when the police raid their warehouse and gets out by posing as an undercover detective using a toy badge .

Later , Howard and Myron cross paths again , and while they are drinking coffee at Mickey 's Diner , Myron tells Howard about the time when his father was unable to get him a Johnny Seven OMA toy on Christmas . They hear on the KQRS radio station that the D.J. (Martin Mull) is running a Turbo @-@ Man competition . When they get to the studio they find out they can only win a gift certificate . They are nearly arrested but Myron bluffs the police into backing off by threatening them with a package (which he claims is a mail bomb , unaware that it really is one) . Officer Hummell tries to open it and it blows up in his face . After his car is stripped by thieves , Howard is ultimately forced to return home empty @-@ handed . Upon seeing Ted in his house placing the star on his tree , Howard gets angry and attempts to steal the Turbo @-@ Man doll from Ted 's house that he had bought for his son Johnny (E.J. De La Pena) , but changes his mind at the last moment . He is attacked by Ted 's pet reindeer and the commotion leads him to be caught by Ted and a distraught Liz . Liz and Jamie leave for the local Wintertainment Parade with Ted ; Howard follows , aiming to

make amends . At the parade , Ted makes a pass at Liz , but after seeing what he really is , she turns him down by hitting him with a thermos of eggnog .

Howard runs into a bandaged Officer Hummell and accidentally drenches him with hot coffee . In the ensuing chase , Howard runs into a preparations room for the parade and is mistaken for a replacement for the actor who will play Turbo @-@ Man on a parade float . As the " real " Turbo @-@ Man , he presents the coveted limited @-@ edition Turbo @-@ Man doll to his awed son . Before he recognizes his father , Jamie is chased by Myron , who has dressed as Turbo @-@ Man 's arch enemy Dementor (having caught and tied up the real actor ? Richard Moll) . As the crowd assume this is all part of the show , Howard attempts to rescue his son by utilizing the Turbo @-@ Man suit 's equipment .

Howard catches Jamie as he falls from a roof and reveals himself to his son . Officer Hummell gives the doll to Jamie , then is shocked to discover that Howard was Turbo @-@ Man , then Howard apologizes to Officer Hummell about everything . Myron is arrested while ranting about having to explain his failure to get the Turbo @-@ Man toy for his son . Touched by Myron 's words , Jamie gives the doll to him and tells Howard that he does not need it since his father is " the real Turbo @-@ Man " . Howard is then crowd surfed away as Liz , Jamie and Myron look on happily .

In a post @-@ credits scene , Howard puts the star on the top of his tree and shares a great Christmas spirit with Jamie and Liz until he realizes he also forgot to get a present for Liz . Howard stares in shock at the camera before the fadeout .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

The film draws inspiration from the high demand for Christmas toys such as the Cabbage Patch Kids and Mighty Morphin Power Rangers in the late 1980s and early 1990s , which often led to intense searching and occasional violence amongst shoppers . Randy Kornfield wrote the film 's original screenplay after witnessing his in @-@ laws go to a Santa Monica toy store at dawn in order to get his son a Power Ranger . While admitting to missing the clamor for the Cabbage Patch Kids and Power Rangers , producer Chris Columbus experienced a similar situation in 1995 when he attempted to obtain a Buzz Lightyear action figure from the film Toy Story , released that year . As a result , he rewrote Kornfield 's script , which was accepted by 20th Century Fox . Columbus was always " attracted to the dark side of the happiest holiday of the year " , so wrote elements of the film as a satire of the commercialization of Christmas . Brian Levant was hired to direct the film . Columbus said Levant " underst [ood] the humor in the material " and " was very animated and excited , and he had a vision of what he wanted to do " . Levant said " The story that was important to me was between the father and son ... it 's a story about love , and a father 's journey to deliver it in the form of a Turbo Man doll . The fact that I got to design a toy line and do the commercials and make pajamas and comic books was fun for me as a filmmaker . But at its root , the movie 's about something really sweet . It 's about love and building a better family . I think that 's consistent with everything I 've done . "

Arnold Schwarzenegger was quickly cast . He became available in February 1996 after Fox 's remake of Planet of the Apes was held up again ; Columbus also exited that project to work on Jingle All the Way . The film marks Schwarzenegger 's fourth appearance as the lead in a comedy film , following Twins (1988) , Kindergarten Cop (1990) and Junior (1994) . Schwarzenegger was paid a reported \$ 20 million for the role . He enjoyed the film , having experienced last @-@ minute Christmas shopping himself , and was attracted to playing an " ordinary " character in a family film . Columbus initially wanted Joe Pesci to play Myron . Comedian Sinbad was chosen instead , partly due to his similar height and size to Schwarzenegger . Sinbad was suggested for the part by

Schwarzenegger 's agent , but the producers felt he was unsuited to the role of a villain as it could harm his clean , family @-@ oriented comedy act and reputation , although Sinbad felt the character would generate the audience 's sympathy rather than hate . Furthermore , he missed the audition due to his appearance with First Lady Hillary Clinton and musician Sheryl Crow on the USO tour of Bosnia and Herzegovina , but Columbus waited for him to return to allow him to audition and , although Sinbad felt he had " messed " it up , he was given the part . He improvised the majority of his lines in the film ; Schwarzenegger also improvised many of his responses in his conversations with Sinbad 's character .

= = = Filming = = =

Filming took place in Minnesota for five weeks from April 15 , 1996 ; at the time , it was the largest film production to ever take place in the state . Jingle All the Way was set and filmed in the Twin Cities metropolitan area of Minnesota at locations such as Bloomington 's Mall of America , Mickey 's Diner , downtown Minneapolis , Linden Hills , residential areas of Edina and primarily downtown Saint Paul . Unused shops in the Seventh Place Mall area were redecorated to resemble Christmas decorated stores , while the Energy Park Studios were used for much of the filming and the Christmas lights stayed up at Rice Park for use in the film . The Mall of America and the state 's " semi @-@ wintry weather " proved attractive for the studio . Although Schwarzenegger stated that the locals were " well @-@ behaved " and " cooperative " , Levant often found filming " impossible " due to the scale and noise of the crowds who came to watch production , especially in the Mall of America , but overall found the locals to be " respectful " and " lovely people . " Levant spent several months in the area before filming in order to prepare . The film uses artistic license by treating Minneapolis and Saint Paul as one city , as this was logistically easier ; the police are labeled " Twin Cities Police " in the film . Additionally , the city 's Holidazzle Parade is renamed the Wintertainment Parade and takes place on 2nd Avenue during the day , rather than Nicollet Mall at night . Levant wanted to film the parade at night but was overruled for practical reasons .

The parade was filmed at Universal Studios Hollywood in California on the New York Street set , due to safety concerns . The set was designed to resemble 2nd Avenue ; the parade was shot from above by helicopters and stitched into matte shots of the real @-@ life street . It took three weeks to film , with 1 @-@ 500 extras being used in the scene , along with three custom designed floats . Other parts of the film to be shot in Los Angeles , California included store interiors , and the warehouse fight scene between Howard and the criminal Santas , for which a Pasadena furniture warehouse was used . Turbo @-@ Man was created and designed for the film . This meant the commercials and scenes from the Turbo @-@ Man TV series were all shot by Levant , while all of the Turbo @-@ Man merchandise , packaging and props shown in the film were custom made one @-@ offs and designed to look " authentic , as if they all sprang from the same well . " Along with Columbus and Levant , production designer Leslie McDonald and character designer Tim Flattery crafted Turbo @-@ Man , Booster and Dementor and helped make the full @-@ size Turbo @-@ Man suit for the film 's climax . Principal production finished in August ; Columbus " fine @-@ tun [ed] the picture until the last possible minute , " using multiple test audiences " to see where the big laughs actually lie . "

= = Soundtrack = =

TVT Records released the film 's soundtrack album on Audio CD on November 26 , 1996 . It features only two of composer David Newman 's pieces from Jingle All the Way , but features many of the songs by other artists included in the film , as well as other Christmas songs and new tracks by the Brian Setzer Orchestra . Intrada Music Group released a Special Collection limited edition of Newman 's full 23 @-@ track score on November 3 , 2008 .

= = = Track listing = = =

= = Release = =

As Schwarzenegger only signed on for the film in February and the film was shot so quickly , only six and a half months were available for merchandising , instead of the ideal year . As such , merchandising was limited to a 13 @. @ 5 inch replica \$ 25 Talking Turbo @- @ Man action figure and the West Coast exclusive Turbo @- @ Man Time Racer vehicle , while no tie @- @ in promotions could be secured . Despite this , several critics wrote that the film was only being made in order to sell the toy . Columbus dismissed this notion , stating that with only roughly 200 @, @ 000 Turbo @- @ Man toys being made , the merchandising was far less than the year 's other releases , such as Space Jam and 101 Dalmatians .

The world premiere was held on November 16 , 1996 at the Mall of America in Bloomington where parts of the film were shot . A day of events was held to celebrate the film 's release and Schwarzenegger donated memorabilia from the film to the Mall 's Planet Hollywood . Opening in 2 @, @ 401 theaters on November 22 , Jingle All the Way made \$ 12 @. @ 1 million in its first weekend , opening at # 4 behind Star Trek : First Contact , Space Jam and Ransom ; it went on to gross \$ 129 million worldwide , recouping its \$ 75 million budget . The film was released on VHS in October 1997 , and in November 1998 it was released on DVD . It was rereleased on DVD in December 2004 , followed by an extended director 's cut in October 2007 , known as the " Family Fun Edition " . It contained several minutes of extra footage , as well as other DVD extras such as a behind the scenes featurette . In December of the following year , the Family Fun Edition was released on Blu @- @ ray Disc .

= = Reception = =

The film received generally negative reviews from critics , garnering a 17 % " Rotten " rating at Rotten Tomatoes , with 35 negative reviews out of 42 counted . Emanuel Levy felt the film " highly formulaic " and criticized Levant 's direction as little more advanced than a television sitcom . Although he felt Hartman , Wilson and Conrad were not given much opportunity to shine due to the script , he opined that " Schwarzenegger has developed a light comic delivery , punctuated occasionally by an ironic one @- @ liner , " while " Sinbad has good moments " . Neil Jeffries of Empire disagreed , feeling Schwarzenegger to be " wooden " and Sinbad to be " trying desperately to be funnier than his hat " but praised Lloyd as the " saving grace " of the film .

The New York Times critic Janet Maslin felt the film lacked any real plot , failed in its attempt at satire , should have included Myron 's only mentioned son and " mostly wasted " Hartman , while Levant 's direction was " listless " . Similarly , the BBC 's Neil Smith criticized the film 's script , its focus on the commercialization of Christmas , as well as Schwarzenegger 's performance which shows " the comic timing of a dead moose , " but singled out Hartman for praise . Chicago Tribune critic Michael Wilmington panned the film , wondering why the characters (primarily Howard) acted so illogically : " Howard Langston is supposed to be a successful mattress manufacturer , but the movie paints him as a hot @- @ tempered buffoon without a sensible idea in his head . " Jack Garner of USA Today condemned the film , finding it more " cynical " than satirical , stating " this painfully bad movie has been inspired strictly by the potential jingle of cash registers . " He wrote of Levant 's directorial failure as he " offers no ... sense of comic timing , " while " pauses in the midst of much of the dialogue are downright painful . " Trevor Johnston suggested that the film " seems to mark a point of decline in the Schwarzenegger career arc " and the anti @- @ consumerism message largely failed , with " Jim Belushi 's corrupt mall Santa with his stolen @- @ goods warehouse ... provid [ing] the film 's sole flash of dark humour . "

IGN 's Mike Drucker praised its subject matter as " one of the few holiday movies to directly deal with the commercialization of Christmas " although felt the last twenty minutes of the film let it down , as the first hour or so had " some family entertainment " value if taken with a " grain of salt " . He concluded the film was " a member of the so @- @ corny @- @ its @- @ good genre , " while " Arnold delivers plenty of one @- @ liners ripe for sound board crank callers . " Jamie Malanowski of

The New York Times praised the film 's satirical premise but felt it was " full of unrealized potential " because " the filmmakers [wrongly] equate mayhem with humor . " Roger Ebert gave the film two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars , writing that he " liked a lot of the movie " , which he thought had " energy " and humor which would have mass audience appeal . He was , though , disappointed by " its relentlessly materialistic view of Christmas , and by the choice to go with action and (mild) violence over dialogue and plot . " Kevin Carr of 7M Pictures concluded that while the film is not very good , as a form of family entertainment it is " surprisingly fun . "

Brian Levant was nominated for the Razzie Award for Worst Director , but lost to Andrew Bergman for Striptease ; Sinbad , however , won the Blockbuster Entertainment Award for Favorite Supporting Actor in a Family film .

= = Lawsuit = =

In 1998 , Murray Hill Publishing sued 20th Century Fox for \$ 150 @,@ 000 , claiming that the idea for the film was stolen from a screenplay they had purchased from high school teacher Brian Webster entitled Could This Be Christmas ? . They said the script had 36 similarities with Jingle All the Way , including the plot , dialogue and character names . Murray Hill President Bob Laurel bought the script from Webster in 1993 , and sent it to Fox and other studios in 1994 but received no response and claimed the idea was copied by Kornfield , who was Fox 's script reader . In 2001 , Fox were found guilty of stealing the idea and ordered to pay \$ 19 million (\$ 15 million in damages and \$ 4 million in legal costs) to Murray Hill , with Webster to receive a portion . Laurel died a few months after the verdict , before receiving any of the money . On appeal , the damages figure was lowered to \$ 1 @.@ 5 million , before the verdict itself was quashed in 2004 , with a judge deciding the idea was not stolen as Fox had bought Kornfield 's screenplay before he or anybody else at Fox had read Could This Be Christmas ? .

= = Sequel = =

A sequel , Jingle All the Way 2 , was released straight @-@ to @-@ DVD in December 2014 . Directed by Alex Zamm and produced by WWE Studios and 20th Century Fox , the film has a similar plot to the original , but is otherwise not connected and none of the original cast or characters returned . The lead roles were instead played by Larry the Cable Guy and Santino Marella .