



Special Holiday Report

The mystifying world of kid culture becomes downright overwhelming during the holidays, especially if you haven't been paying attention to our reports! Behold the **YTV Trend Huntaz Holiday Hints** – we've assembled a list of sure-fire holiday suggestions including must-see movies and gifts. You're sure to be the hip aunt/uncle/grandparent/distant relative this holiday season with the tips we've put together.

Right this way for a quick insiders report - YTV style...

What to Buy

Video Games

Whether the munchkin on your list has a PS2, GameCube, Xbox or all three, here are the big games this Christmas:

- **Mario Kart: Double Dash** - cartoony kart racing geared for groups and younger gamers for the GameCube
- **Prince of Persia: the Sands of Time** - "Best in Show" at E3 ... reverse time to prevent yourself from missing death-defying leaps in a 1001 Nights-type setting (for all systems)
- **SSX 3** - Sequel to the popular over-the-top snowboarding series (all systems)
- **Tony Hawk Underground** - yet another in the genre-defining sports series that allows you to scan in your face (PS2 only), get off your board, and drive different vehicles (all systems)

Music

To appear "down" with the music scene, stuff a stocking with one of our recommended CDs - you won't mind these tunes blaring from the bedroom...

- **Yellowcard**: Described as "pop-punk", Yellowcard is a straight-up rock band who happen to have a violinist as part of their sound.
- **Joss Stone**: Stone, who is a mere 16 years-old from the UK, opted out of being the next pop icon a la Britney & Christina and chose a 'soulful' path instead.
- **Amy Winehouse**: The 19 year-old British sensation is being dubbed "Norah Jones for the hip-hop generation".
- **Fefe Dobson**: Born in Toronto, the 18 year-old signed a deal with Island Def Jam. Fefe also passed on the pop icon image and stuck with her love for rock music.

Toys

Here are some perfect jaw-dropping, "How-did-you-know-this-was-what-I-wanted", gift ideas...

For the Electronics Fan

- Beyblade Remote Control Top With Launcher (Hasbro)

- VideoNow (Tiger Electronics)
- Bratz Karaoke Machine (MGA Entertainment)

For Gurlz and Boyz

- Barbie Of Swan Lake (Mattel)
- Bratz Formal Funk Runway Disco (MGA Entertainment)
- Stretchable Polly Pocket (Mattel)
- Transformers Armada Unicron (Hasbro)
- Power Rangers Ninja Storm Mobile Control Centre (Bandai)
- Hot Wheels T-Wrecks (Mattel)

For the Clothes Hoarse

- Old skool Roots trackies are all the rage – especially the cuffed sweatpants
- Matching scarf and hat set – the longer the scarf the better
- Any apparel with her initials – we're thinking little leather bag
- Sports jersey – think basketball and soccer/rugby shirts

For the Educationally Inclined

- Quantum Pad, ages 8-11 (LeapFrog)
- Powertouch Learning System, ages 3-8 (Fisher-Price)
- Measuring Monkeys Game, ages 5-7 (Learning Resources)

For the Bookworm

- Harry Potter Hardcover Box Set (Book 1-5) - JK Rowling
- Dr. Ernest Drake's Dragonology: The Complete Book of Dragons - Dugald A. Steer
- The Thief Lord - Cornelia Funke
- The Princess Diaries Box Set (Books 1-3) - Meg Cabot
- The Chronicles of Narnia Set - CS Lewis

For the Creative Type

- Crayola Dough & Dough Doodler (Crayola)
- Clikits Trendy Totes & Ultimate Design Studio (Lego)
- Spa To Go (Creativity For Kids)
- BTR – Built To Rule! Action building sets for GI Joe, Transformers and Tonka (Hasbro)
- Rippin Rocket Roller Coaster (K'Nex)
- B*Stylin' Button Designer (Bandai)

Still can't decide... #1 Reco – Board games!

Video games are hugely popular, but good ol' fashion board games are making a comeback. Store catalogues and flyers are devoting pages to them, store shelves are jammed with them, and you can be sure that many a Christmas list includes a few of them.

Here are the ones we suggest:

- The Simpsons Trading Card Game – not a “board game” per se, but kids love the Simpsons so we couldn't resist (Wizards of the Coast)
- What's In Ned's Head? (Fundex Games)
- Survivor: The Game (Rumba Games)
- Canada-Opoly (Outset Media)
- Cranium Cadoo (Cranium)
- **DVD Games** are all the rage! For family fun check out 'Scene It?' (Mattel), Trivial Pursuit Pop Culture (Hasbro) and 'Lilo and Stitch's Island of Adventures' (Disney)

Tips from the Anime Master

- Yu-Gi-Oh! Booster Pack (with collectable tin, Upper Deck)
- Yu-Gi-Oh! Duel Disk Launcher (Mattel)
- Duel Masters comic book (with exclusive gaming card, Dreamwave) – this property is set to be the next huge hit!

What to Watch

Movies

With **Cat in the Hat**, **Elf**, **Brother Bear**, and **Loony Toons: Back In Action** already in theatres, what's left to keep the kids busy during the holiday season? Here's a guide to help you navigate the theatre's crowded, kid-movie marquee.

- For a frighteningly good time, there's **Disney's The Haunted Mansion** based on their popular theme park ride, starring Eddie Murphy.
- A favorite literary character gets the big screen treatment yet again in a new live action retelling of **Peter Pan**.
- Steve Martin is starring in the family friendly **Cheaper By The Dozen** alongside Hilary Duff, Ashton Kutcher, and TV's newest Superman, Tom Welling.
- The Farrelly Brother's sophomoric comedy **Stuck On You** is sure to be crude enough to get kids attention.
- The holiday box office crown will belong to a King. **Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King** is going to have kids, especially boys, begging for their 'precious' ...a ticket to this, the final LOTR film.

Television

As always, the yuletide season is upon us and the airwaves will be filled with Christmas specials galore. Kids love the old perennial favourites as well as some of the esteemed newer ones. Tune in for the likes of "**A Charlie Brown Christmas**"; "**How The Grinch Stole Christmas**"; "**Santa Claus Brothers**"; **Rugrats: Babies In Toyland** and **Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer** – coincidentally, most of them air on YTV.

And last but not least, it wouldn't be a true holiday without a little American Idol. "Aren't they done yet?" you ask. Well no, not since Clay Aiken (the runner-up) is number one on the charts and Kelly Clarkson is still America's sweetheart. This year, the winners of the Idol competitions held around the world compete on Christmas Day and New Year's Day to become **World Idol**. Root for our own Ryan Malcolm as he tries to claw his way out of the pack.

So after the Turkey is done, and the kids have broken all their new toys, take the family, cousins, uncles and step-in-laws, gather 'round the old' boob tube and vote for your favourite pop sensation from around the world! If you need a little more convincing, Justin Guarini won't be in attendance.