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## ISSUE



MAN AT HIS BEST

DECEMBER 2009

# ROBERT DOWNEY JR.

PRESENTS

## THE BEST & BRIGHTEST

### Radicals & Rebels Who Are Changing the World

# WTF?!

A LIVING, BREATHING, MOVING, TALKING MAGAZINE?

FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO USE THAT THING DOWNEY'S SITTING ON, SEE PG. 21 AND VISIT [ESQUIRE.COM/AR](http://ESQUIRE.COM/AR)

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OUR GIFT GUIDE, PG. 75

THROW A GREAT PARTY, PG. 67

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FUNNY JOKES FROM A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

BROUGHT TO YOU IN LIVING

AR

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS THING?

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\*Wow, That's Fantastic!

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# HOW TO ENTERTAIN KIDS

It's the holidays. Children are all over the house. Somehow, for a couple hours, you're in charge of keeping them occupied. It's not too hard.

**Ages 0-1:** You will not be responsible. ♦ **Ages 2-4:** Have them cut out (with safety scissors) pieces of wrapping paper and tape them to other pieces of wrapping paper. Applaud. ♦ Play the game in which they close their eyes and you tap a different part of their face every time, generating incomprehensible but undeniable mirth. ♦ Make a fort. The more elaborate-seeming, the better. Use a couch as the anchor, and build off of it with the cushions, an ironing board, bedsheets, upside-down chairs, pillows. ♦ Chase them. Anywhere. Exhausting activity helps when bedtime comes. ♦ Pop in a DVD. ♦ **Ages 5-7:** Pitch a tent in the basement. Supply flashlights. ♦ Hangman, with short words. ♦ Stand in front of the garage and let them try to hit you with tennis balls. ♦ Ask them to show you stuff. At this age, they're learning new tricks every day. Writing cursive. Making a sandwich. Peeing their name in the snow. Encourage them to show off. Act impressed. ♦ Pop in a DVD. ♦ **Ages 8-10:** Teach them to play hearts. Or poker. Crazy 8's, gin, whatever. Let them gamble with some real money. Cards teach kids strategy, humility, the value of money, and how to keep their cool. ♦ Take them sledding, or at least sliding around the backyard. Bad sleds: garbage bags, doormats, Esquire back issues. Good sleds: trash-can lids, flattened cardboard boxes, actual sleds. ♦ Pop in a DVD.



## THE SUGGESTION: QUALITY PG

Because at some point, everyone—Grandma, the kids, you—will gather around to watch a PG-rated movie. And that movie shouldn't be horrible.



**1. Young Frankenstein:** Slapstick for kids, double entendres for grown-ups, Teetotal for everyone. **2. Rudy:** Is there a movie with more heart? There is not. **3. The Efficiency Expert:** A con-ning Russell Crowe, Anthony Hopkins with hair, and the triumph of the human spirit. **4. Oh, God!** George Burns as God? Two thumbs up before it even starts. **5. Ghostbusters:** Make the kids cover their ears at the Mayor: "Is this true?" Dr. Peter Venkman: "Yes, it's true.... This man has no dick." **6. Uncle Buck:**

There's no better way to cook a pancake—or funnier man to watch do it. **7. The Gods Must Be Crazy:** Because what better time of year to want to believe in a magic Coke bottle? **8. Gremlins** (pictured): If nothing else, it'll teach the kids to take better care of their presents.

## HOW TO STUFF A WOMAN'S STOCKING

This is not a metaphor

BY RYAN D'AGOSTINO



**The first step in filling a Christmas stocking is:** Remember to do it. Women tend to love us for performing gestures that are thoughtful, time-consuming, and surprising. This one is (potentially) all of the above.

**The clue:** A small piece that represents a greater whole. If you bought her a new flat-screen, put the remote in her stocking. A new bike? The key to the lock.

**Ticket:** Nothing delivers more excitement while taking up less space. Plane tickets are thoughtful. But so are movie tickets for December 26.

The old "box-with-a-map-to-the-closet-where-the-big-expensive-gift-is-hidden" trick.

**A gadget:** An option your dad never had—camcorders

didn't fit in stockings. Digital cameras and iPod Nanos do."

**Perfume:** Small. Smells good. No-brainer. A good heavy anchor to place in the toe.

**Something old-timey:** A candy cane and some clementines poking out will make it look like a stocking in the movies.

**Filler:** Candy. (Obvious and unavoidable. Go right now to bespokechocolates.com and order the pretzel-covered caramels.) Matchbooks from restaurants you two ate at this year. A few pairs of the running socks she likes. The earbuds she's always losing.

**Something funny:** A meat thermometer, because she overcooks the steak? A nutcracker and some walnuts? You know her better than we do.

"SOUND THE TRUMPET," the Wailers featuring Bob Marley (download at Amazon.com) | "DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR," Shawn Lee's Ping Pong Orchestra M