

The Last Christmas

The North Pole Is Melting!



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TITLE: * *The Last Christmas – The North Pole is Melting!*

LENGTH: * Feature Film

GENRE: * 3D-animated family Christmas fantasy adventure comedy

TARGET AUDIENCE: * Children, families, fans of fantasy movies and animation

THEMES: * Coming of age; inspirational underdog story; love and sacrifice

BUILT-IN IP: * Sequel opportunity, strong character licensing and merchandising potential

SCREENPLAY: * Full line-edited screenplay available

BUDGET: * TBA



TAX OFFSETS

Australian 30% PDV Tax Offset Provisional Certificate issued

NSW 10% PDV Offset available

CONTACT: Roland Kulen **Mobile:** +61 (0)414 429-986 **Email:** roland@appcurate.com



WHAT IF?

What if Santa, the elves and the reindeer lose their home at the North Pole?

What if Vixen can't defeat Santa's mortal enemy, Kroolio Snear?

What if there isn't going to be a Christmas?



LOGLINE

Global warming is melting the ice at the North Pole and Santa's village is crumbling. When the evil toymaker Snear sees his chance to steal Christmas, Vixen, the littlest reindeer, has to become leader of the herd to defeat Snear, find a new home and save Christmas.



❧ A FRESH TAKE ON CHRISTMAS ❧

Blends comedy, fantasy and adventure to offer a new perspective on the traditional Christmas story

- Long ago the elves were defeated by the dark sorcerer, Kroolio Snear. They took refuge at the North Pole and shared their magic with Santa, who brought joy to the world with the first ever Christmas toy delivery.
- Now Santa's village is in desperate danger as global warming melts the ice. He fears he won't be able to deliver any Christmas toys, and he'll let the world's children down.
- Inspirational underdog story. A small protagonist, Vixen, takes on a mighty enemy in what seems an impossible battle - to save Santa, Christmas, and their beloved home.
- Fun villain, Snear, who was turned half-crystal in his battle with the elves long ago. Now an embittered maker of nasty war toys, he wants to steal Santa's magic and take over Christmas.
- Snear's gleefully wicked sidekick, Nocty. She's a shape-changer who can turn into a deadly night gaunt.
- Dasher's powerful but uncontrolled magic that often goes comically wrong.
- Ensemble cast of Santa's reindeer: real characters each with their own hopes and fears, but beset by feuds and rivalries.
- **Even small children can identify with Santa, the elves and reindeer losing their home. And with the fear that there's not going to be a Christmas.**



❧ TARGET AUDIENCE ❧

Four-quadrant movie

An original take on Christmas, whilst still respecting the traditions of the genre. *The Last Christmas* will be enjoyed by both boys and girls, while being complex enough to engage older audiences.

Target audience

Primary – families with children aged 4-12. Themes of adventure, friendship and the joy of Christmas will appeal to young hearts and minds.

Secondary – fans of Christmas and fantasy movies, and animation enthusiasts of all ages.



KEY CHARACTERS - HEROES

Vixen

Small, clever and the best flier among the reindeer, but troubled – as a calf, she saw her family eaten by wolves. Vixen yearns to belong and thinks becoming leader will validate her, but it's not that easy. She loves being one of Santa's reindeer and is determined to save Christmas.

Dasher

Vixen's best friend. Big, brave and magically gifted, but lacks self-control; a smart-alec and rule-breaker. To master his magic, Dasher has to humble himself and appeal to his nemesis, Comet, for help.

Santa

Aided by Lord Tilver and the toymaker elves, Santa has delivered Christmas presents for the past 984 years. But with the loss of his magic and Snear's relentless attacks, Santa fears it's the end of Christmas. Fears he'll let all the children down.

Matilda Claus

Santa's wife is gatekeeper of the village's magic. She's warm, wise and fiercely determined. Vixen's mentor.

Lord Tilver

Leader of the toymaker elves and Santa's oldest friend. Long ago, after the elves' homeland was destroyed by Snear, the young Santa took Tilver and his elves in. In gratitude, Tilver gave Santa the bottle of golden magic that enables him to do Christmas and allows the reindeer to fly. Once a tall warrior, Tilver is now a wizened, gnome-like creature.

Donner

A teacher reindeer who doesn't believe Vixen can lead the herd, and undermines her at every turn.



HEROES

Vixen struggles to lead a ragtag band of allies in the desperate battle against Snear. These include brave but reckless Dasher, wise old Matilda Claus, the cranky elf-lord, Tilver, a quarrelling team of reindeer, a punning rat who can sniff out danger, a sad elf girl sorcerously controlled by Snear, and an irascible albatross.



KEY CHARACTERS - VILLAINS

Kroolio Snear

A human sorcerer, turned half-crystal in a magical battle with the elves long ago. Now a billionaire toymaker, consumed by juvenile but dangerous resentments. He plans to steal Santa's magic, drive him out and own Christmas. Slow and clumsy but clever and cunning.

Con Spire, Snear's alter ego. Magically disguised as a tubby, grinning huckster, he tries to con Santa himself.

Nocty

Snear's enforcer, a gleefully wicked shape-shifter who can take the form of a bat-like, whip-tailed night gaunt. In human form she's elongated, with a predator's teeth and an electric blue luminosity that glows more brightly when she does evil. Though loyal, she loves to provoke Snear as they bicker about status and power.

Snarley

A black wolf, leader of the wolf pack that killed Vixen's family when she was a calf. Bent on terrorising and eating her.





❧ VILLAINS ❧

Sneer (or his huckster alter-ego Con Spire) brings together a host of minions in his quest to steal Christmas. Wolves and other deadly animals, Nocty, a shape-shifting Night Gaunt, a venomous octopus, an army of deadly war toys. And he drops dynamite on Santa's village from a Zeppelin.



SYNOPSIS

When global warming melts the ice under SANTA'S village, the evil billionaire KROOLIO SNEAR, who makes nasty war toys, steals Santa's magic because he wants to *own* Christmas.

VIXEN, the littlest reindeer, is determined to save Christmas, though it's only weeks away. After Snear's wicked aide, NOCTY, kidnaps RAFE, the reindeer leader, DASHER, who's magically gifted but reckless, replaces him. Dasher and Vixen spy on Snear in his lair but Dasher disobeys orders, his magic goes comically wrong and Vixen has to rescue him. Santa sacks Dasher and appoints Vixen leader.

As Snear's attacks continue, the reindeer fight among themselves – leading is harder than Vixen thought. Santa tells Dasher to master his magic; they're going to need it. However Dasher, who thinks he knows everything, fails again and again.

Assaults by Snear's enchanted animals culminate in Santa's train bridge being toppled by smirking polar bears with chainsaws. While Vixen defends Santa and the village, she slowly learns leadership. Then Snear bombs the village and wrecks it. Vixen and Dasher counterattack but, due to her failure, Dasher is captured. And they're out of time. All seems lost.

On Christmas Eve they locate Snear's hideout, in a volcano in Antarctica, but when the damaged toy workshop crumbles into the sea Vixen faces an agonising choice between saving the Christmas presents – or her friends. She leads the reindeer to Antarctica, to Snear's toy factory worked by enchanted animals, and frees the prisoners.

In a titanic mountainside battle with Snear's army of huge war toys, Vixen must confront her darkest fear, the wolves who ate her family. Dasher finally learns the self-control he needs to master magic and, working together, they defeat Snear. They race home, fearing the worst. But the elves have salvaged the presents and, in the nick of time, Santa flies out to deliver them – they've saved Christmas! Vixen leads everyone to a new home at the South Pole.

❧ SETTINGS ❧

A unique story world that blends the familiar, the magical and the blighted

Santa's magic-powered village at the North Pole. Wooden homes, shops and railway station, all built in the style of a Norwegian stave church. Astounding toy workshop inside a hollowed-out iceberg.

Snear's world has a dieselpunk vibe – grim, noisy toy factories in devastated landscapes. Visual and sound themes are metal, coal and oil, fire and fumes.



MARKET ANALYSIS

Strong demand for original Christmas family films. Top films are perennial. We analysed the plots and themes of 45 Christmas family films, plus many other relevant children's and family films. We identified no major similarities in theme or plot between *The Last Christmas* and related films.



2022
Budget \$90-110 m
Box office \$485 m



2019
Budget \$40 m
30 m views (Netflix)



2018
20 million views in
first week (Netflix)



2006
Budget \$100 m
Box office \$384 m



2003
Budget \$33 m
Box office \$225 m



UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

Pathway to wide audience and profitability with loads of IP. And a fresh origin story for Santa, his magic, his elves and reindeer

1. Strong franchise potential. *The Last Christmas* can readily be turned into a multi-film franchise. Sequel in progress.
2. Great character licensing and merchandising potential - toys; games; posters; calendars; board, card and electronic games; collectibles; clothing etc. The reindeer, key elves and the villains Snear and Nocty are unique characters being given fresh and appealing designs.
3. Release of picture book, chapter book and other formats to help drive pre-launch and continuing awareness. Discussions in progress.
4. Many sponsorship and product placement opportunities. Discussions in progress.



STORY TEAM

Ian Irvine – Co-created the story, wrote the book, treatment and screenplay

Australian author of 35 novels, including the internationally bestselling Three Worlds epic fantasy sequence. Other works: an eco-thriller trilogy in a world undergoing catastrophic climate change; 13 novels for younger readers, including humorous fantasy; undeveloped screenplays adapted from his novels. Ian has a Ph.D. and 40+ years' experience in marine science, including climate research.

Roland Kulen – Story and outline co-creator and editor, screenplay reviewer

30 years' experience in publishing (Variety US), movie, home entertainment (ReelTime Media / Ezy DVD), mobile app and the venture capital industries including content negotiations and licensing. The Story Development Studio (SDS) P/L is developing a film content pipeline with IP against a defined target audience slated for wide release.

Simon Irvine – Screenplay additional writing and editing

3D-animator working in film, most recently at Scanline VFX on shows including *Joker: Folie à Deux* and *The Grey Man*. Previous employers include Cinesite Montreal (*Mary Poppins Returns*), Dneg London (*Mission Impossible - Rogue Nation*), Weta Digital, NZ (*The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*), and Animal Logic Sydney (*Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Gahooole*).



DEVELOPMENT TEAM

David Booth – VFX Supervisor, SlateVFX

Co-Founder of Animal Logic. Co-Founder, SlateVFX, Sydney. Primetime Emmy Winner, Alice in Wonderland (1999); Nominee Primetime Emmy (2000, 2001 and 2005); Nominee AACTA Award (2012 and 2015); across 42 years industry experience. David has directed, supervised and worked on a diverse range of productions from feature films (live action and 3D-animation), prime time drama and major TV series.

Prue Fletcher – Executive VFX Supervisor, SlateVFX

Co-Founder, SlateVFX, Sydney. Nominee AACTA Award (2015); across 25 years industry experience including Post-production Supervisor. Prue and Bryn manage the technology and infrastructure required to deliver large workflows.

Bryn Farrelly – Supervising Lead, SlateVFX

Co-Founder, SlateVFX, Sydney. Bryn has a breadth of technical knowledge with the ability to understand, develop and apply new tools and techniques to projects. More than 30 years technical systems/protocols and pipeline management.

LEGAL TEAM

Australian Legal:

Sam Berry
Creative Lawyers
Studio 4, 2-14 Bayswater Road
Potts Point, NSW 2011 Australia
Tel: +61 (02) 7903-0353

Australian Corporate Legal:

Chris McArdle
McArdle Legal
Level 13, 276 Pitt Street
Sydney, NSW 2000 Australia
Tel: +61 (02) 8262-6200



Merry
Christmas

