

## *Make Memories For The Holidays*

By Richard Diaz

By the time you read this it'll be the holiday season, and probably the last thing on your mind is making video. You're thinking of family dinners, parties, Christmas events, New Years Eve - all the things that make December such a special month. But I want you to consider the possibilities you have to make this season something different.

It's not often we have a chance to make a memory, much less record it. If you think about it, most of our lives is dedicated to the day-to-day monotony and minutiae we wrestle through to create personal time for ourselves, or our family. And of that time, how much is even dedicated to choices that make us happy? But December is different; for many of us, this is when we have the most personal time, and the most people to share it with. So this can be an ideal time to make a video.

Seriously, this IS a good time for video. Carolers, parades, street parties, Christmas lights, there's a ton of stuff out there. So why not grab a camera and record it? And by all means, make it a group project- stick the folks in front of the camera and have them introduce your show. Who cares how good (or bad) they are? Now we do have a few guidelines on what is or isn't a show, but we're pretty lenient...If you went door to door to all your family and friends, and had them say what Christmas meant to them, you'd end up with a nice little documentary for our channel, AND a memento you can treasure. If you're going to spend hours roasting(?) that turkey anyway, why not add a bit of fun, some microphones, and do a goofy, impromptu cooking show-thing? It may end up being only ten minutes long, but we'll take it, and now you have a video you can watch with the family every year. The point is, you can make this year something special, and give us a program at the same time.

One more thing... you'll probably be taking lots of photos this month, so I wanted to give my thoughts on cameras. A picture is a frozen moment in time, woven into a memory that slowly turns warm and fuzzy. They become the idealized representation of that moment, offering you a pure- and sometimes false- image. And generally, we *want* that smiling face and sugary memory. Video is a warts-and-all slice of history, that simply is what it is. It's jerky and not as convenient, but truer to the moment. It may show you it actually took 45 minutes to open the Christmas gifts (and not everyone liked them), or it may capture mom singing an impromptu Christmas carol. Each medium has their advantages, so before you grab the camcorder or shoot Polaroids, seriously think about what effect you want to achieve.

Enough said, have a good holiday, send me a Christmas gift, and see you next year!