

Paul M. Wash/AP/Wide World Photos

▲ The Millennium Force, the world's tallest and fastest roller coaster, opens in May 2000 at the Cedar Point amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio. The ride has a 300-foot drop and travels up to 92 miles per hour.



Maxis/Electronic Arts

▼ A new computer video game called "The Sims," which simulates the life of a suburban family, develops a fanatical following with teens. Players create the characters and guide them through building a house, furnishing it, finding a career and running a family in their pursuit of happiness.



Everett Collection

▲ Jim Carrey stirs up trouble in the town of Whoville in an adaptation of the Dr. Seuss classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. *The Grinch*, which opens in November, is the highest grossing film of 2000.



Everett Collection

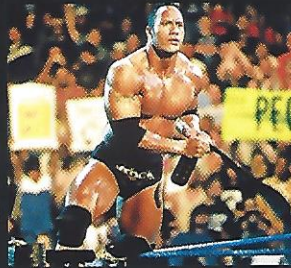
▲ *Meet the Parents*, starring Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller, opens in October. The movie wins Favorite Comedy Motion Picture at the People's Choice Awards, and De Niro earns a Golden Globe nomination.

CBS Photo Archive



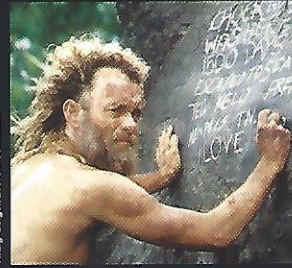
CBS Photo Archive

▲ In July, CBS launches "Big Brother," a reality-based show in which 10 people share living quarters for three months until all but one are voted out. Viewers can monitor contestants 24/7 on the show's Web site.



Keip Gagnier/Everett Collection

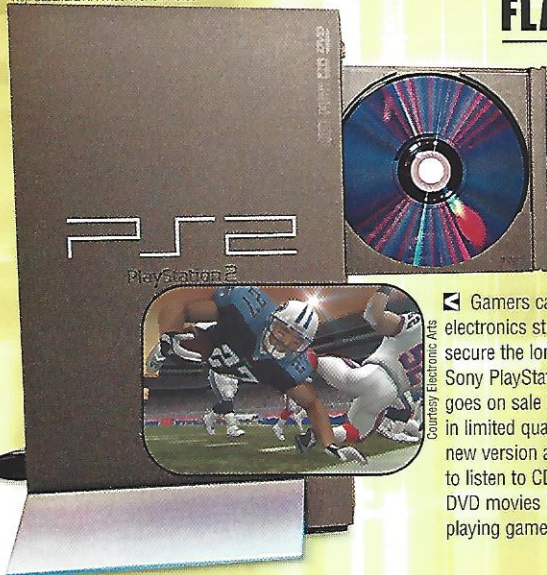
▲ UPN's weekly series "WWF Smackdown!" starring professional wrestler The Rock is the network's most-watched show in 2000, with 7.3 million viewers.



Photofest

▲ In December, *Cast Away* is released, starring Tom Hanks as a crash victim stranded on a desert island for four years. For his nearly one-man performance Hanks wins Best Actor at the Golden Globes.

Koji Sasahara/AP/Wide World Photos



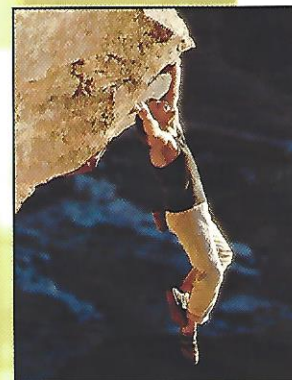
Courtesy Electronic Arts

▼ Gamers camp outside electronics stores to secure the long-awaited Sony PlayStation 2, which goes on sale in October in limited quantities. The new version allows users to listen to CDs and watch DVD movies in addition to playing games.

FLASH >>>

The first big hit in 2001 is *Save the Last Dance*, which opens in January. The teen romance, starring Julia Stiles and Sean Patrick Thomas, earns close to \$50 million in its first two weeks.

Pay It Forward, a movie based on the idea of performing random acts of kindness, opens in October starring Haley Joel Osment, Kevin Spacey and Helen Hunt.



Everett Collection

▲ Tom Cruise reprises his role as Ethan Hunt in the action sequel *Mission: Impossible 2*. The May release is summer's biggest box-office draw and 2000's second-highest grossing film, earning more than \$215 million.