



## Best Christmas Village Videos of 2017

Once a village videoist (yeah, I think I made up a word!) makes it onto my small personal all-time favorites list, it would be like unlearning to ride a bicycle for them to make a bad video. By 2017 there were quite a few that we can count on for an entertaining video, certainly worth watching all the way through, and probably worth watching more than once.

Be sure to check out all the other topnotch and timely columns on TheVillageCollector.com – the always interesting “*Just So You Know (JSYK)*” by David Spears, Brian Vaill’s “*The Train Station*,” Thea Heyink’s “*The Creation Station*,” “*Phil & Sue’s Village*” (from England!), “*From Italy: Villaging in Europe*” by Peppe Apuleo (fascinating!), “*Scratchbuilt*” by Alan K. Rogers, “*Villagers’ Café*” for guest columns, “*Christmas Corner*” by Art Kilmer (NEW!), and “*Coach is Here*” by webmaster Bill Channell. **Please keep visiting the Village Videos page and watch, watch, watch.** There will be a new batch of village videos starting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month! So many ideas, so little time... and not enough money.

We’ll start out with the “old timers,” my tried-and-true village videoists, the folks whom I look forward to watching their annual or biennial videos.

2017 Caddington Square Christmas Village (4:53)  
mastersullivan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiZlAse0xX4&t=146s>

Once again, check out his people mover! Aside from the marvels of that, this video checks all my boxes for excellence: 1) title, 2) music, 3) short video clips, 4) steady camera, 5) brings us into

his village, 6) time to view details, 7) all 16x9 aspect ratio (no black edges), and 8) an outro or end screen. Bravo!



My Christmas Village 2017 (5:42)

pammyj100

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PxEfAkOhEo&t=25s>

Always inventive and interesting, pammyj100 (I call her The Queen) has an eye for vignettes and scenes. She is a muse for using a different or even common song to illustrate her scenes. I always see things I've never seen before – can you count how many surprises there were for you? About 50 to 70 seconds in she wedges in a facsimile of her house as well as her catering business. Free advertising!



Steve's Xmas Village 2017 (11:29)

Steve F

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4GrYYFccWI>

The video composition and village construction are always topnotch. Again, you can check all the boxes for excellence. His first scene shows a videography gift of how to shoot with a moving camera and maintain steadiness. He shows that it takes a lot of work to make a village look good. Aside from his over-the-top construction, he tells us in the YouTube Description section, "It has been filmed entirely with an iPhone 7 then edited in Final Cut Pro. About 3 - 4 hours of filming work yields roughly 50 to 60 seconds of usable video."



Polly, Cory & Einstein's Christmas Village 2017 (6:28)

Polly Daugherty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XokW8BN1isY&t=219s>

This was their third video, and here they became different and innovative! Their use of captions for neighborhoods and individual buildings is fun to watch and helps us focus on details with their use of zoom. I believe they've been watching mogas98 and borrowed his use of captions and neighborhoods, but who would know? They hide their non-16x9 black bars well, but why not just turn the camera sideways or adjust the aspect ratio to 16x9?





A Christmas Façade 2017 (2:39)

Madison Sebastian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJbpknPwHFQ>

Here is a relatively small, linear village of Lemax façades shot with short video clips and still photos. The vignettes and videography are so well done! I asked in the comments how his lighting and composition was done, he responded, "The entire video was shot with an iPhone 8 in 4K on a tripod. The video was done in Final Cut Pro. As far as lighting, the facade displays are all under artwork. We simply removed the paintings and used the picture lighting as extra illumination."



Madastiville Christmas Village 2017 (5:03)

Madison Sebastian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzbjCSJv79U>

A second video done with excellent video composition and the addition of snow effect.



LEMAX CHRISTMAS VILLAGE 2017 (11:00)

Vaggelis Kokalis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sb9pmxXXLfo>

The video composition and village construction are pure box checkers. His Christmas videos are always on my to-do watch list.





2017 Mogasville finished (18:47)

mogas98

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqbZR83D12c>

If you like crazy detail and a rock 'n roll Christmas, this is the place!



2017 Department 56 Snow Village (11:02)

Dan Kuzma

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNOFn2aXF1A&t=2s>

Always good videography and D56 Snow Village make this also a must watch every year.



Here are some newcomers that might make you stand up and take notice.

Christmas Village 2017 (4:28)

Candida Rosa Castillo

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k58Qi\\_NVIE0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k58Qi_NVIE0)

Check out her water feature!

Villagio Lemax 2017 (from Italy) (7:48)

Cesare Villa

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3i2RIm6e34>

This was Cesare's first village video posted on YouTube. He has become one of my favorites to look forward to each year.

2017 Christmas Village (13:27)

HPCrazy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fwh4dJzEE80>

This video has great video angles and music. Another videoist I now look forward to watching each year.

Christmas Village 2017 (5:24)

Eric Hensley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2vyrsQoIWM>

If you like trains, this video is for you! The videography is excellent, too.



Lemax, Luville Christmas village 2017 (8:33)

Yannick Carré

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpyArdJMAB4>

Europeans do set design best, and this is a good example of that.

Lionel Trains and Christmas Village – Stevens (12:03)

Michael Stevens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzdTMZmMVN8>

if you like trains, here are 5 levels of trains!

2017 Bethel's Christmas Village (18:49)

JazE .GB

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JwYhg2JMdI&t=960s>

In this video there is lots of stuff never before seen. It's a giant video flyover (I prefer short clips) but the camera is reasonably steady, and he dwells with close shots so you can see the details. He uses a child's car track system for vehicles, which works surprisingly well.



2017 It's A Wonderful Life Bedford Falls Christmas Village (7:04)

Tony Rigby

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjnMXa2W0HI>



Inventive! Tony recreated his favorite Christmas movie with the Hawthorne Village collection and layout. He interspersed photos from the movie with photos of his village (with Ken Burns Effect), all in black-and-white.



In my next column on The Village Collector, I don't know what I'm going to write about. I'm out of words for today and I'll try to do better next time.

Questions, comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. You can contact me at: [jpetersgolfpro@gmail.com](mailto:jpetersgolfpro@gmail.com), 419 Washington Avenue, Newport, KY 41071.



Photo by award-winning vignette artist Linda Roberts