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M&S drops celebrities for 2014 Christmas advert with focus on two fairies carrying out good deeds across the country



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By Graham Ruddick, Retail Editor, video source Marks & Spencer
11:27AM GMT 07 Nov 2014







Marks & Spencer has dropped celebrities for its 2014 Christmas advert, instead focusing on two fairies carrying out good deeds across the country.

M&S's 2014 advert shows the two fairies - called Magic and Sparkle after the company's tagline - flying around London giving people presents and even playing cupid.

The television advert is backed up by a substantial social media campaign, with M&S running a Twitter account for the fairies that will give people a chance to nominate friends and family who deserve a good deed. During the last week the "two fairies" have given out gifts across the UK, sparking speculation who was behind the idea.

The campaign marks a departure from M&S's tradition of including celebrities in its Christmas adverts. Last year's lavish advert included Rosie Huntington-Whitely, David Gandy and Helena Bonham-Carter. Other celebrities to have appeared in recent M&S adverts include Take That, Stephen Fry, Peter Kay, and Antonio Banderas.

M&S will hope its advert makes a similar impact to John Lewis, whose Monty the Penguin advert has already been viewed millions of times on the internet and has not even made its television debut yet.

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Patrick Bousquet-Chavanne, executive director of marketing and international at M&S said; "The magic of Christmas is how it brings out that little part in all of us that wants to believe in the extraordinary. It's a moment to escape the realities of every day and give in to the joyfulness of the festive spirit



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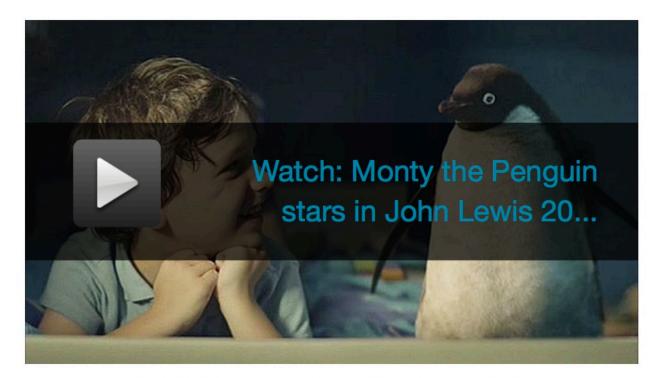
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"We wanted to capture that feeling and bring Magic and Sparkle to life in a fun and light-hearted way that spreads a little cheer."



M&S is understood to have spent broadly the same amount on this year's campaign as last year, but the lack of celebrities means it is spending more on digital elements of the campaign.

The company desperately needs a successful Christmas to boost its clothing business. M&S food sales are outperforming the traditional supermarkets, but its clothing sales are still falling.

However, Marc Bolland, chief executive, said there were signs of progress this week when the company reported a growth in clothing margins in its interim results.

The Christmas advert will make is TV premiere during the X Factor on Saturday night.



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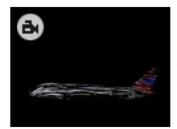


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