

## 'ONE STARRY CHRISTMAS'

### CAST BIOS

**SARAH CARTER (Holly)** – Born and raised in Canada, Sarah Sanguin Carter spent her youth as a dancer, award-winning international public speaker and debater before going on to receive a scholarship to study the fine arts in Neuchatel, Switzerland. She returned home to Toronto to complete her education in Ryerson University's acclaimed theater and dance program. Shortly thereafter, Carter made the move to California, booking regular roles on several series including "Evie," Judd Apatow's "Undeclared," "Smallville" and "Shark." Carter has also found great success in feature films, including New Line Cinema's "Final Destination 2" and The Weinstein Company's "DOA."

More recently, Carter played the pivotal role of Diane in "The Vow" alongside Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum and Jessica Lang. She also starred as Maggie in Steven Spielberg's TNT series "Falling Skies" opposite Noah Wyle, Moon Bloodgood, Will Patton and Connor Jessup. Outside of acting, Carter pursues a parallel career in music. Her solo project, *Before Three* is available online and noted for the single "I Want to Know You." With her band 'SanguinDrake,' Carter has released 3 albums: *Carnival Tracks*, *Pretty Tricks* and *Mandragora*.

Carter takes pride in her extensive and varied philanthropic work. This includes working with at-risk youth in Los Angeles to channel their stories and experiences into writing and performance, serving as a spokesperson for The Breast Cancer Fund and Luna Bars, working to inspire children in countries such as India, Cuba, China and Indonesia and building homes with Habitat for Humanity.

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**DAMON RUNYAN (Luke)** - Damon Runyan hails from Toronto. He discovered acting at an early age but instead decided to pursue a career in the financial sector, working as a Futures Trader in the 90's. His love for acting would prevail and he returned to the craft in 2001, studying at The Second City. Shortly thereafter, Runyan landed a series of roles on "Kevin Hill," playing opposite Christina Hendricks, "The Newsroom" with Ken Finkleman and the film "Cheaper by the Dozen 2," working opposite Steve Martin, Eugene Levy and Bonnie Hunt. This experience inspired Runyan to study with the best.

Runyan then moved to Vancouver to work with Michele Lonsdale Smith at the Lyric School of Acting and the great Larry Moss. In Vancouver he guest starred on the CW shows "Supernatural" and "Smallville," along with the Here Network made for television movie, "On the Other Hand, Death," opposite Margot Kidder.

The series "The Bridge" brought Runyan back to Toronto and the role of Coach Carson on "Degrassi: The Next Generation" kept him there. He has since guest starred on "Nikita," "Covert Affairs" and "Call Me Fitz." Runyan also starred opposite Tricia Helfer in the Hallmark Channel Original Movie "Mistletoe Over Manhattan" in 2013.

On stage, Runyan recently finished playing the lead role of Bobby in Neil LaBute's *In a Forrest*

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*Dark and Deep.* He is also a writer and director of the award-winning shorts "Fade IN," "Triple A" and the National Film Challenge winner "Cassidy."

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**PAUL POPOWICH (Adam)** – Paul Popowich has worked predominantly in film and television for the last twenty years, with leads in numerous series such as "Twice In a Lifetime," "The Bridge" and "Angela's Eyes." Most recently, he has appeared in recurring roles the Netflix series "Hemlock Grove," CBC's "Cracked" and TeenNick/CTV's "Degrassi: The Next Generation." He can be seen in the upcoming television movie "My Daughter Must Live" for Lifetime Network, as well as the Hallmark Channel Original Movie, "The Good Witch's Wonder" the next installment in the "Good Witch" franchise. Popowich holds both a B.A. in English and Film Studies, as well as a Bachelor of Education.

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**GEORGE CANYON (Bull)** – With the look of a Hollywood leading man and the build of a professional athlete, people who see George Canyon for the first time often ask "Who is he?" If you were to pose that question to George Canyon himself, he would immediately tell you that he is a dedicated husband and a proud father of two. Family being his first priority, Canyon, a man of faith, at one point abandoned his musical aspirations to work as a bylaw officer in order to support his family.

Canyon's wife, Jennifer, urged him to keep writing songs and performing. This led him to audition for U.S.A Network's "Nashville Star," an internationally televised performance competition similar to the "American Idol" format. Canyon showed up, wowed the worldwide audiences and nearly won the entire contest in 2004. The rest is history punctuated by industry accolades, achievements and sustained success.

In 2007, Canyon took the reins and created his first album, performed and produced entirely by him. *Classics* was his tribute to the traditional country artists and songs which inspired him as a child. The album was enthusiastically received by Canyon's audience and even produced a hit version of the Johnny Cash favorite, "Ring of Fire." *Classics* was certified Gold in October 2011.

With over 375,000 albums sold, Canyon's critically acclaimed music continues to grow with every record. In 2008, multi-platinum artist and pop/rock icon Richard Marx signed on to produce Canyon's *What I Do* album. The record yielded seven hit singles, including "Just Like You," the album's debut single, which was written for his son, Kale. Canyon's young daughter, Madi got her own song too, which appeared on *Somebody Wrote Love* in 2006. "Madi's Song" continues to be one of Canyon's most requested cuts at his live shows.

Marx and Canyon teamed up again to write and record songs for the 2011 album *Better Be Home Soon*. The enhanced digital version of the album includes songs written and co-written by the likes of Marx, Matt Scannell, Johnny Reid and Kenny Rogers. *Better Be Home Soon* was certified Gold in April 2011, making this album his fastest selling album to date.

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May 2012 brought the announcement of worldwide music publisher, ole, signing George Canyon to a co-publishing and Worldwide Admin deal. In November 2012, Canyon released the highly anticipated *Classics II* album and embarked on a supporting tour through much of the country, wrapping up in the Spring of 2013. Canyon performed his much-anticipated single "Slow Dance" on the Canadian Country Music Awards in September to rave reviews and released it on iTunes Canada in October 2013. His latest single, "Crazy Love," was released on March 18, 2014 and along with "Slow Dance" will appear on the forthcoming album scheduled for release in Fall 2014.

In the past two years, Canyon has been recognized as the most played Canadian artist on Canadian country radio. He is also one of the most recognizable and requested stars on CMT (Country Music Television). Canyon's videos garner hundreds of thousands of hits on YouTube and he has won multiple Juno, East Coast Music Awards and Canadian Country Music Awards, including a "Humanitarian of the Year Award" for his philanthropic endeavors.

In his acting career, Canyon has appeared on some highly rated Canadian television series, such as CBC-TV's "Heartland" and Showcase's "Trailer Park Boys." He has starred in many television programs and specials, including the made for TV Movie "A Mile In His Shoes" alongside Dean Cain and Luke Schroder, which aired in September 2011 in the U.S. on GMC and in November 2011 in Canada on Showcase. Canyon also hosted "The Gift Of Giving," a star-studded show that raised funds for food banks across Canada through the sale of a compilation album. This special aired on CMT, YTV and OWN in December 2011. Recently, Canyon appeared in "The Dawn Rider" with Christian Slate and Donald Sutherland, and Thomas Kinkadee's "A Christmas Miracle" with Aaron Pearl and Allison Hossack.

George Canyon regularly tours Europe, the US and engages his fans the old fashioned way: by playing over 100 shows a year in his home country.

Canyon's integrity and dedication to his family lives as a theme through the songs he writes and the stories he tells with his music and the way he lives his life. It is also the same force that drives him to inspire youth through his role as a national spokesperson for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Canyon, affected by the disease himself, took his inspiring personal story and his own plane across Canada to inspire youngsters afflicted with type 1 diabetes. He also performed and spoke to over 20,000 people at Dodger Stadium at a 2010 JDRF fundraising event and appeared on Good Morning America to further his charitable efforts. Canyon's 2010 hit single, "I Believe in Angels," which received a SOCAN award for being one of the most played songs on Canadian Country Radio in 2010, has been adopted as a theme song by the JDRF in the United States.

For all of his philanthropic efforts, George Canyon was appointed as the first-ever Colonel Commandant of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets in 2011. As Colonel Commandant, Canyon has responsibilities of developing, promoting and sustaining strong community ties, fostering esprit de corps and acting as a spokesperson and role model.

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When he is not recording, performing live onstage, acting or contributing to charitable initiatives, Canyon is mostly at home. He has the entire audience in the palm of his hand and you just can't help but want to be a part of his unique family. Canyon is one of Canada's favorite country music artists and one of the most successful entertainers in the country today.

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**KATHLEEN LASKEY (Betsy)** – Kathleen Laskey began her professional acting career as a member of Second City in Toronto. After two successful years on the main stage and a Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination for "ensemble comedy acting," she went on to guest star on the acclaimed television series "SCTV." Laskey then embarked on a diverse career in film, television and voiceovers. She has voiced numerous television and radio commercials as well as animated television shows.

Some of Laskey's most recent acting projects have included a role on the upcoming Hallmark Channel Original Movie "The Good Witch's Wonder," a series regular role on the hit television series "Being Erica" and "Blue Murder," roles on the miniseries "At the Hotel" and "Good Dog," a guest starring role on the series "Lost Girl" and a role in the film "New York Minute."

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**DANIEL KARASIK (Mark)** – Daniel Karasik is an actor, writer and artistic director of the indie theatre company Tango Co. His acting credits include two seasons on NBC/Discovery Kids' "Darcy's Wild Life," guest appearances on "Life With Derek," "Flashpoint" and "Missing" and film roles in "Saint Ralph" and "Prom Queen."

Karasik is the author of three books: A collection of plays called *The Crossing Guard* and *In Full Light* (Playwrights Canada Press), a play for young audiences called *The Remarkable Flight of Marnie McPhee* (Playwrights Canada Press) and a poetry collection called *Hungry* (Cormorant Books). He's worked as an actor and writer from coast to coast in Canada, the United States, England and extensively in Germany, where his plays have been produced in translation.

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