

EDITOR'S NOTE: Hallmark Channel has Breaking News, go to www.crownmediapress.com for more information.

TWITTER: @HallmarkChannel, #ChristmasAtCartwrights, @aliciawitty, @PatriciaHeaton, @ChristmasOnHC, #CountdownToChristmas

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A STRUGGLING SINGLE MOM'S HOLIDAY WISHES COME TRUE WHEN A REAL-LIFE ANGEL TURNS HER LIFE AROUND IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS, ALICIA WITT, GABRIEL HOGAN AND VETERAN ACTOR WALLACE SHAWN STAR IN 'CHRISTMAS AT CARTWRIGHT'S' A HALLMARK CHANNEL ORIGINAL MOVIE WORLD PREMIERE DECEMBER 7 EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY EMMY® AWARD WINNER PATRICIA HEATON

**Part of Hallmark Channel's COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS
the #1 Most Treasured Holiday Destination by Television Viewers**

With Christmas approaching, a struggling single mom finds herself working as a department store Santa Claus, as a real-life angel delivers good fortune and holiday romance in "Christmas at Cartwright's," a Hallmark Channel Original Movie World Premiere Sunday, December 7 (8pm ET/PT, 7C). Alicia Witt ("Justified"), Gabriel Hogan ("Heartland") and veteran actor Wallace Shawn ("The Princess Bride") star in this delightful holiday film Executive produced by Emmy® Award winner Patricia Heaton. "Christmas at Cartwright's" is part of Hallmark Channel's annual COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS, the #1 most treasured holiday destination by television viewers.

"Christmas at Cartwright's" is a charming movie about the magic of Christmas that fits perfectly in line with the networks' holiday schedule," said Michelle Vicary, Executive Vice President of Programming, Crown Media Family Networks "being able to work again with Emmy® Award winner Patricia Heaton as Executive Producer and the talented Alicia Witt in the unexpected role of Santa Claus to bring this touching story to life is a gift for viewers."

With the holiday season at hand, single mom Nicky Talbot (Witt) is unemployed and struggling to afford a nice Christmas with her 8-year-old daughter. Hearing that Cartwright's Department Store is hiring temporary holiday help, Nicky rushes in to apply, but is rejected by Senior VP Fiona Aldrich (Gabrielle Miller, "Debbie Macomber's Trading Christmas"), who considers Nicky a threat to the relationship she hopes to have with Bill (Hogan), a charming and handsome store manager. In a whimsical turn of events, Harry Osbourne (Shawn), claiming to be a consultant from corporate headquarters, encourages Nicky to dress up and begin working as Cartwright's store Santa Claus. With the magical help of Harry, who turns out to be a real-life angel, Nicky keeps the job and despite Fiona's attempts at sabotage, becomes the most popular store Santa Claus in Cartwright's history; however, nobody knows Cartwright's Santa Claus is a woman and Nicky fears she will lose her job if her secret gets out.

(more)

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Before long, feelings develop between Nicky and Bill, who keeps crossing paths with Nicky when she's not in her Santa costume. With Christmas a few days off and Harry called away on another "assignment," Santa's true identity is revealed and everyone at Cartwright's is shocked to learn that Nicky is the department store Santa. Fiona fires Nicky on the spot and Bill, feeling deceived, questions whether or not he wants to continue their relationship. With her life falling apart again, Nicky is going to need a Christmas miracle to save the holiday season.

"Christmas at Cartwright's" is a Double H Television, Inc. Production. Patricia Heaton, David Hunt and Howard Braunstein are the executive producers. Steve Solomos is the producer. Deborah Marks is the supervising producer and David Anselmo is the co-producer. Graeme Campbell directed from a script by Margaret Oberman.

Hallmark Channel, owned and operated by Crown Media Holdings, Inc., is a 24-hour basic cable network that provides a diverse slate of high-quality family entertainment available in high definition (HD) and standard definition (SD) to a national audience of 85 million subscribers. Hallmark Channel is the nation's leading destination for quality family programming featuring an ambitious slate of original content, including movies; scripted series, such as *Cedar Cove* and *When Calls the Heart*; annual specials like *Hero Dog Awards* and *Kitten Bow!*; and a daily 2-hour lifestyle show, *Home & Family*. Hallmark Channel is also home to annual holiday franchise, *Countdown to Christmas*, featuring a lineup of 24/7 holiday programming, including *The 12 New Movies of Christmas*. Rounding out the networks' lineup are television's most beloved sitcoms and series, including *The Golden Girls*, *The Middle*, *Little House on the Prairie*, and *Frasier*. Hallmark Channel's sibling network, Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, available in HD and SD, features a unique mix of content including original movies and acquired series that are dramatic in tone and focus on the lighter side of the mystery genre, as well as classic presentations from the acclaimed Hallmark Hall of Fame library.

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