

'A DREAM OF CHRISTMAS'

Cast Bios

NIKKI DELOACH (Penny) – One of the stars of MTV's "Awkward" for the past five seasons, Nikki DeLoach also starred in Fox's "North Shore," and has had recurring roles in the TV series "Days of Our Lives," "Windfall" and "Misery Loves Company." DeLoach starred in last year's Hallmark Channel Original movie "Christmas Land," and her other TV movies include "The Jury" and "A Golden Christmas 3." She has guest-starred in episodes of numerous popular series as well, including "Grey's Anatomy," "Criminal Minds," "Castle," "Mad Men," "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and "NCIS: Naval Criminal Investigative Service," among others.

On the bigscreen, DeLoach was featured in *Love & Other Drugs*, *The House Bunny* and *Longshot*. She has also appeared in a number of independent features, including *A Kind of Magic*, *The Hunted*, *The Devil's in the Details* and *Gunfighter's Moon*, among others.

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ANDREW W. WALKER (Stuart) – Andrew Walker started his acting career in Montreal as a recurring lead on the series "Student Bodies" from 1996-1997, and then was cast as a series lead on "Back to Sherwood" and "Radio Active." Shortly after moving to Los Angeles, he was cast as a series lead on The WB's "Maybe It's Me" and later on "Sabrina the Teenage Witch." Walker then appeared in the Lifetime movies "Wicked Minds" and "Lies and Deception" and later the ABC show "Hot Properties." In 2006 he starred alongside Academy Award nominee, David Strathairn in the film *Steel Toes*. This performance earned Walker the 2008 ACTRA Best-Actor Award, along with the Phillip Borsos Award at the Whistler Film Festival. Andrew was a series lead on the Lifetime series "Against the Wall" and also guest starred on hit TV shows, including "ER," "CSI: Miami," "CSI: New York," "Without a Trace," "Big Bang Theory," and the Hallmark Channel's mini series "When Calls The Heart." Recent credits include the lead in the feature films *Psychophonia*, *Loaded* and *Penthouse North* opposite Michelle Monaghan and Michael Keaton as well as a supporting role in the TV film "Wedding Planner Mystery."

Walker starred earlier this year in the Hallmark Channel Original Movies "Date with Love" and "Appetite for Love," and last year's Christmas presentation "Debbie Macomber's Dashing Through the Snow."

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LISA DURUPT (Nicky) – Hallmark Mysteries and Movies viewers will instantly recognize Lisa Durupt as Andrea Todd from the four original "Murder She Baked" movies in which she has co-starred with Alison Sweeney. Lisa starred for four seasons in the popular Canadian TV series "Less Than Kind," and has appeared in episodes of the series "Motive," "Supernatural," "Psych" and "Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce."

Lisa has appeared in a long list of TV movies, including "Run for Your Life," "Honor Student," "The Color of Rain," Hallmark Channel's "Hitched for the Holidays," plus "the Pastor's Wife," "On Strike for Christmas" and "Everybody's Doing it." She has appeared in a number of independent feature films as well, including "Preggoland," "The Convenient Groom," "The Movie Out Here" and "The Lazarus Project," and was a featured dancer in the Richard Gere starrer "Shall We Dance."

A natural athlete and talented ice hockey player growing up, Lisa began her on-camera performing stunts in series and TV movies, including "Category 7: The End of the World" and "Category 6: Day of Destruction."

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PAUL ESSIEMBRE (Bryan) – Paul Essiembre has appeared in more than 50 film and television projects, including the feature *Steel and Stilettos* for Buffalo Gal Pictures and supporting roles in *Strings* as well as *Chopin's Heart*. He starred in 2012's Hallmark Channel Original movie "The Christmas Heart;" other television favorites include "Jack: The Jack Layton Story" (CBC); "Less Than Kind" (HBO Canada); "Covert Affairs" (USA Network); "Bunks" (Disney), as well as the TV movie "Good Fences," starring Whoopi Goldberg and Danny Glover, and "The Piano Man's Daughter," "Plague City: SARS in Toronto" and "Coast to Coast."

Essiembre has guest-starred in episodes of numerous popular series, among them "Perception," "Flashpoint," "Covert Affairs," "Warehouse 13" and "Queer as Folk," as well as the Canadian series "Republic of Doyle," "Murdoch Mysteries" and "Degrassi: The Next Generation." For four seasons, Essiembre was the voice of Gil Gripper on CBS's animated "Rescue Heroes," and he was the voice of the Silver Surfer in Marvel's animated series of the same name.

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CINDY WILLIAMS (The Angel) -- Cindy Williams is best known for her role as Shirley Feeney in the television series "Laverne and Shirley," which won the TV Land Award for Fan Favorite. In addition, she was honored with a star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame (2004). In April she won Best Actress at the L.A. Comedy Film Festival for the Indy film "Stealing Roses". She recently completed the First National Tour of "Nunset Boulevard," a sequel to "Nunsense" in which she reprised her role as Reverend Mother. Williams' other stage credits include "The Drowsy Chaperone" (Broadway), "Death Trap," with Elliot Gould (National tour), and "Moon over Buffalo" and "The Odd Couple" with Joanne Worley.

Her film credits include *Travels with My Aunt* directed by George Cukor, *The Conversation*, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, and George Lucas's *American Graffiti* for which she received a British Academy award nomination in 1974 as Best Supporting actress. Unfortunately she was beat out by Ingrid Bergman, and Williams still wonders how the heck that happened!

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