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THE WORLDWIDE LEADER IN *Celebrations*

'COUNTRY AT HEART' Cast Bios

JESSY SCHRAM (Shayna Cook) – American film and television actress Jessy Schram was born and raised in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. She appeared in numerous commercials and stage productions before taking the bold step of moving from Chicago to Los Angeles at the age of 18. Since then, she's had the privilege of working with some of the very best in the business.

Schram is familiar to Hallmark Channel viewers from her starring roles in "A Royal New Year's Eve," "The Birthday Wish" and last November's "Road to Christmas." Her other television credits include leading series regular roles in Steven Spielberg's TNT drama "Falling Skies" and ABC's "Last Resort." She also completed a major arc on the popular series "Nashville" and was critically acclaimed for her role as Bonnie Whiteside on the award-winning drama "Mad Men." She played opposite Christina Ricci in the TV miniseries "Lizzie Borden" and recurred as Cinderella on the ABC fairytale drama "Once Upon a Time." Other recurring roles include "Veronica Mars" and "Medium."

As a film actress, Schram is continually drawn to the world of independent film. She recently appeared opposite Lake Bell and Jon Bernthal in *Shot Caller*. Schram has also worked alongside Finn Wittrock and Emilie de Ravin in *The Submarine Kid* as well as Jeff Garlin, Sarah Silverman and Amy Sedaris in the ensemble comedy *I Want Someone to Eat Cheese With*. She has also worked with the late Tony Scott, playing opposite Chris Pine in the action-thriller blockbuster, *Unstoppable*.

A singer/songwriter, Schram has shared her passion for music in clubs and concert venues all over the country.

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NIALL MATTER (Grady Connor) – Originally from small town Alberta, Canada, Niall Matter started out working on the oil rigs before pursuing a career in film and television. He got his first break when he signed on as Trent Hamilton for the hit Canadian TV series "The Best Years."

Matter is perhaps best known for his series regular role as Zane Donovan on Syfy's "Eureka" and as the lead, Evan Cross, on Syfy's "Primeval: New World." Matter maintains a balance of work on Canadian as well as American projects; he recently guest starred on ABC's "The Good Doctor" alongside Freddie Highmore and Nicholas Gonzalez, NBC's "Constantine" and The CW's "Supernatural" and "iZombie." Matter also played a lead role alongside Julia Stiles in TNT's pilot "Guilt by Association," directed by Nelson McCormick.

Previous credits include a major recurring role as ER doctor Peter Cutler on the Canadian drama "Remedy," with Enrico Colantoni and Sara Canning. He had a starring role in the independent feature film *Chokeslam* alongside Amanda Crew and Michael Eklund, as well as in *Ally Was Screaming* opposite Camille Sullivan. Notably, Matter was hand-selected to portray the Mothman in Zach Snyder's feature film *Watchmen* and he had major recurring roles on "Melrose Place" and The CW's "90210."

Matter previously appeared in the Hallmark Channel original movies "Stop the Wedding" with Alan Thicke and Rachel Boston and "Frozen in Love" with Rachael Leigh Cook. On Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, Matter played Ian in "Finding Father Christmas," "Engaging Father Christmas," and "Marrying Father Christmas." He has also recently appeared in the latest three installments of the "Aurora Teagarden Mysteries" franchise, portraying Nick Miller.

Last year, Matter had a large supporting role in *The Predator*, filming every scene opposite Emmy® Award-winning actor, Sterling K. Brown.

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LUCAS BRYANT (Duke Sterling) – Lucas Bryant has made a name for himself in both Canada and the United States. Born and raised in Elmira, Ontario, Bryant studied theatre and drama at Sheridan College in Oakville.

He starred on Syfy's popular mystery series "Haven" for all five seasons. Based on the novella *The Colorado Kid*, by author Stephen King, Bryant played Nathan Wuornos, the wry, hardened local cop who somewhat reluctantly becomes the partner of new-to-town FBI agent Audrey Parker, played by Emily Rose.

Bryant has numerous television credits to his name, including "Queer as Folk" for Showtime; "M.V.P." for SOAPnet and CBC; "Sex, Love and Secrets" for UPN; and CTV's "The Eleventh Hour." He has also starred in the Hallmark Channel Original Movies "Tulips in Spring" and "Summer Love," in addition to Lifetime's "More Sex & The Single Mom" and "A Very Merry Daughter of the Bride," and he played the lead role of Ken Read in "Crazy Canucks," inspired by the true story of the World Cup Downhill Circuit during the 1974-1976 seasons. He had a lead role in "Playing House," based on Canadian author Patricia Pearson's bestselling novel of the same name. Later, he appeared in the film *The Vow*, starring Rachel McAdams and Channing Tatum, shot a movie for television called "Merry In-Laws," directed by Leslie Hope and guest starred in the popular CBC period series "Frankie Drake." Lucas also recurs on the comedy procedural, "Private Eyes," starring Jason Priestly

On the stage, Bryant has acted in numerous theatre productions across Canada including *The Crucible*, *The King & I* and Alumnae Theatre's *Your Tricks Might Be Poison*. Bryant flexed his funny bone and joined forces with some pals to form the Skarsgard Players theater company, named in honor of veteran Swedish actor Stellan Skarsgard, and launched an all-male production of *Are You There God? It's Me Margaret*, based on the Judy Blume novel.

During his hiatuses, Bryant worked with director Mika Kaurismäki on festival darling, *The Girl King* starring Sarah Gadon and Michael Nyqvist and made guest star appearances on The CW show "Beauty and the Beast," CBS's legendary series "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," and the CBC

series "Cracked." He also starred in the TV movie "Secret Summer" and went on to lead a talented cast in the critically acclaimed CBC/WGN series from Jennifer Holness and Sudz Sutherland, "Shoot the Messenger."

This season, Bryant recurs on ABC's fan-favorite Marvel's "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." and can also be seen in the upcoming comedy feature, *Walk to Vegas*, starring alongside Jennifer Tilly, for director Eric Balfour.

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