

CrownMedia



'A GODWINK CHRISTMAS: MEANT FOR LOVE'

Cast Bios

CINDY BUSBY (Alice) – Cindy Busby has been making waves in Hollywood both on the big and small screens. Growing up in Montreal, Canada, Busby always dreamed of becoming an actress. From the time she was a child, she loved performing for an audience, and throughout her elementary school and high school years, she devoted herself to every theater school production. Upon graduating from high school, Busby was accepted into the Professional Theater Program at Dawson College in Montreal and was admitted from amongst hundreds of applicants. The rigorous, three-year training allowed Busby to demonstrate her professionalism, hard work and devotion and was presented with an award of academic excellence.

Busby notes her first passion in the business was theater as she honed her acting skills on the stage while in school and right after graduation. In 2005, Busby crossed into television and film and was given her first lead in the story of the Canadian medical hero Norman Bethune in the television series "Bethune." She filmed in rural China for two and-a-half months and the series attracted several million viewers. In 2006, Busby played a supporting lead in the Lifetime original film "A Life Interrupted" opposite Lea Thompson and landed a series regular role on the series "Heartland." Cast as Ashley Stanton, a rich, self-righteous, competitive horseback rider, the series took off and has been nominated for several Gemini Awards as well as winning a Director's Guild of Canada prize, all while becoming one of the most popular shows on Canadian television as well as syndicated in over 81 countries around the world.

Throughout the following years Busby continued having success booking roles, first landing the lead antagonist in the film *Picture This* alongside Ashley Tisdale, Shenae Grimes and Kevin Pollack, and appearing on the smash hit series "The Vampire Diaries" on The CW. In 2011, Busby appeared on the big screen in Fox 2000 Pictures' *The Big Year*, in which she was seen opposite Hollywood heavy hitters such as Steve Martin, Jack Black and Owen Wilson.

Busby's resume also features guest starring roles on The CW shows, "Supernatural," "The LA Complex" and "The Secret Circle," a guest star spot on USA's "Rush," TNT's "Proof" and she was seen heavily recurring on Hallmark Channel's "Debbie Macomber's Cedar Cove." Most recently, she starred in the Hallmark Channel Original Movie "Wedding March 5: My Boyfriend's Back" and starred in Hallmark Channel Original Movies "Royal Hearts" and "Marrying Mr. Darcy." In addition, she was as a series regular on ABC's "Somewhere Between" and UpTV's "Date My Dad."

Up next, Busby will be seen in the TV movie "The Wrong Stepmother," opposite Vivica A. Fox, and she will star as the lead in "Web of Dreams."

#

KATHIE LEE GIFFORD (Olga) – Kathie Lee Gifford is the four-time Emmy award winning former co-host of the fourth hour of “TODAY,” alongside Hoda Kotb. After 11 years together, Gifford recently stepped down from that role to pursue other creative endeavors. The Gifford-Kotb hour had been hailed as “appointment television” by Entertainment Weekly, and “TODAY’s happy hour” by USA Today.

Prior to NBC News, Gifford served as the co-host of “Live with Regis and Kathie Lee” for 15 years, where she received 11 Emmy nominations. In 2015 Gifford was inducted into the Broadcast & Cable Hall of Fame. She has been chosen to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2020.

A playwright, producer, singer, songwriter and actress, Gifford has starred in numerous television programs and movies in her 45-year career. She has her own record label and has written several musicals including Broadway’s *Scandalous*, which received a Tony nomination for Best Actress in 2012. Gifford also starred on Broadway in *Putting it Together* and *Annie*. In the fall of 2018, she wrapped post production on *Then Came You*, a film she has written, produced and starred in alongside Craig Ferguson. She co-wrote the score with Brett James. In April of this year she made her directorial debut with *The God Who Sees* short film, shot in Israel and based on a song she co-wrote with Grammy-nominated Nicole C. Mullen. The song is currently nominated for a Dove award.

Gifford authored four New York Times bestselling books including [The Rock, The Road and the Rabbi](#), [Just When I Thought I’d Dropped My Last Egg](#), [I Can’t Believe I Said That](#), and the popular children’s book [Party Animals](#). In October of 2018, she released the children’s book, [The Gift That I Can Give](#) with all proceeds going to Childhelp. She also launched GIFFT, a line of wine with the Scheid Family Vineyards in Monterey, CA.

Gifford lends support to numerous children’s organizations including Childhelp, the International Justice Mission, and the Association to Benefit Children, which spawned Cassidy’s Place and Cody House, named after her two children. She received an honorary degree from Marymount University for her humanitarian work in labor relations.

Gifford is on Twitter and Instagram at @KathieLGifford.

#

BENJAMIN HOLLINGSWORTH (Jack) – A classically trained actor and native of Canada, Benjamin Hollingsworth graduated from the National Theatre School of Canada (NTS), a prestigious three-year acting conservatory program in Montréal.

In his first professional role under the direction of NTS alumnus Ted Dykstra, Hollingsworth was nominated for a Robert Merritt Award for his on-stage portrayal of Lance Corporal Dawson, in *A Few Good Men*, by Aaron Sorkin. Hollingsworth shifted his focus from theater to film and television and quickly found footing in the Toronto film industry, guest starring on several popular Canadian TV series, including “Degraasi: The Next Generation,” “Heartland” and HBO Canada’s “The Line” by George F. Walker.

Hollingsworth's breakout role came when he landed the lead in his feature film debut alongside Demi Moore, David Duchovny and Amber Heard in the highly acclaimed film feature *The Joneses* in 2010. Following *The Joneses*, he was cast in a new series for The CW called "The Beautiful Life" (2009) starring Misha Barton, Sara Paxton and Gal Gadot. The series, produced by Ashton Kutcher, cast Hollingsworth in the lead role of Chris Andrews, a character that was loosely based on Kutcher's own experiences in the industry. Shortly after, Hollingsworth went on to recur in several TV series, including a memorable turn as Kyle Durant on the first season of USA's "Suits;" followed by multiple recurring roles on The CW's "The Tomorrow People" and "Cult."

Hollingsworth made his return to network TV as a series regular in CBS' medical drama "Code Black" (2015) in which he played Dr. Mario Savetti – a performance that earned him a Golden Maple Award nomination for Best Actor in a TV series. In 2019, the actor made his return to the big screen with two feature films; Lionsgate's revenge thriller *Hard Powder* starring Liam Neeson, Laura Dern and Emmy Rossum, and the David Cronenberg remake of the 1977 cult classic *Rabid* from the Soska Twins. He will soon be seen in his series regular role of Brady in the new Netflix original series "Virgin River."

-- HALLMARK MOVIES & MYSTERIES --