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THE WORLDWIDE LEADER IN *Celebrations*

“HALLMARK DRAMA’S CHRISTMAS COOKIE MATCHUP” CAST BIOS

ERIN KRAKOW— Best known for her starring role as Elizabeth Thatcher-Thornton in Hallmark Channel's "When Calls the Heart" and her recurring role on Lifetime Television's "Army Wives," Erin Krakow has graced both the stage and screen during her acting career.

Krakow is a classically trained actor and graduated with a BFA from The Juilliard School. She had starring roles in a number of the esteemed school's productions, including Viola and Sebastian in Twelfth Night, Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream and Yelena in Black Russian. Beyond her work at Juilliard, Krakow has appeared in many prominent stage roles, including Cecily in The Importance of Being Earnest and Shelby in the stage adaptation of Steel Magnolias.

Krakow has transitioned from stage to screen, earning series regular, recurring and guest-starring roles on top television series. On Lifetime's "Army Wives," Krakow played the recurring role of Specialist Tanya Gabriel. She also earned the recurring role of Molly on CBS's hit daytime soap "Guiding Light." Krakow guest-starred on "Castle" for ABC, "NCIS: Los Angeles" and "NCIS" for CBS and "Good Girls Revolt" for Amazon/Sony.

Elizabeth Thatcher-Thornton on "When Calls the Heart" is not Krakow's only beloved character for Hallmark Channel. She also played lead roles Samantha in "Chance at Romance" and Christie in "A Cookie Cutter Christmas." On Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, Krakow played Miranda in "Finding Father Christmas," "Engaging Father Christmas" and "Marrying Father Christmas."

Born in Philadelphia, Krakow grew up in South Florida where she attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts. She continued her dramatic studies at The Juilliard School in New York City. She now resides in Los Angeles when she isn't filming in Vancouver, BC.

JACK WAGNER— During a career that has spanned over 30 years, Jack Wagner has proven himself to be not just a triple, but also a quadruple threat. Though most well known for his work in television, Wagner has achieved great recognition as an accomplished stage actor, musician, and holds the rare distinction of being a scratch golfer. Wagner recently starred in and executive produced the original telefilm "The Wedding March," which has now spawned three additional films within the franchise, and he guest starred on Showtime's "Ray Donovan." Musically, Wagner recently released his long-awaited, sixth full-length album, On the Porch. A collection of 12 original songs, all written or co-written by the Missouri native, the album takes Wagner back to his Americana roots. On the Porch, produced by Dave Darling, has an authentic down-home feel brimming with textured acoustic instrumentation (slide guitar, dobro, mandolin, etc.). The collaboration resulted in a thoroughly gratifying 41-minute listening experience. In 1983, after graduating from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, Wagner landed the starring role on the number one daytime series, "General Hospital." Portraying rocker Frisco Jones afforded him the opportunity to record songs for the show, which eventually led to a multi-album deal with Quincy Jones' Warner Bros. imprint, Qwest Records. Wagner's debut LP released in 1984, spawned a massive hit single in the title track, "All I Need." He would go on to release four follow-up albums, generating four more top 40 singles.

Wagner's draw to the theater led him to star in two widely heralded national touring productions, first as Tony in *West Side Story* in 1987, and next playing Danny Zuko in *Grease* in 1988. His work in theater culminated in 2000 when he was cast in the title role(s) of a lifetime in the Broadway production of *Jekyll and Hyde*.

In the 1990s Wagner jumped to primetime television as Dr. Peter Burns on the hit show "Melrose Place" where he spent five years on the set as, not only an actor, but directing episodes as well. More television opportunities followed, including a nine-year run on the huge national and international hit series "The Bold and The Beautiful," numerous guest starring roles on shows such as "Hot in Cleveland," "Castle," "Monk" and 16 movies of the week, for which he was producer on several of them. Wagner was also featured in Season 14 of "Dancing with the Stars." As a golfer, Wagner has emerged victorious in six club championships at his home course in Los Angeles, The BelAir Country Club. In 1990, partnered with John Cook, he won the Pebble Beach AT&T ProAm event. Additionally, he is a two-time winner of the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship which takes place each July in Lake Tahoe and is broadcasted live on NBC.

Also philanthropically inclined, Wagner is the National Celebrity Ambassador of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which benefits from the annual Jack Wagner Celebrity Golf Classic. Wagner has spent many tireless hours for this charity, fueled by a personal connection to the disease, having lost his father to blood cancer in 1990, and his brother's leukemia diagnosis in 1999. Equally comfortable on screen, stage, singing and playing guitar for a live audience, or lining up a 30-foot putt, Jack Wagner is a fearless performer just now hitting his stride.

PASCALE HUTTON— Pascale Hutton grew up in Creston, BC, with hippie parents who harvested their own honey and were huge proponents of the vegetarian dishes in the Moosewood Cookbook. Her childhood was spent swimming in the raging Goat River, chasing chickens, and swinging from a trapeze her dad constructed out of old piping and rope. After performing in living room productions of *Winnie the Pooh* and *The Life and Death of Marie Antoinette*, Hutton went on to study in University of Alberta's BFA acting program. Although she studied Shakespeare, contact improv, neutral mask and voice, the exercise she credits with truly honing her craft is walking blindfold with a bowlful of water and picking up a shoe. After graduating she wound up in Vancouver because of her desire to eat great sushi, walk along the seawall and work as an actor. All three aspirations have turned out quite well. Among her many roles on television and in film, Hutton starred in CBC's drama "Arctic Air;" had a recurring role in Syfy's "Sanctuary" and guest starred on USA's "Royal Pains," ABC's "Once Upon a Time," FOX's "Fringe" and ABC's "Rookie Blue," to name a few. In addition to her role on "When Calls the Heart," Hutton also starred in the Hallmark Channel Original Movies "Wedding of Dreams," "The Perfect Bride: Wedding Bells," "The Perfect Bride," "Summer of Dreams" and "Recipe for Love."

KAVAN SMITH— Kavan Smith is an intelligent, thoughtful actor, blessed with a wide and versatile range. Born in Edmonton, Alberta both Smith and his brother were raised by his father when his parents divorced. He excelled in many sports as a child and focused on football and martial arts. During his teenage years he cultivated a love for performing with a friend. They would often skip school to record and rehearse skits they would eventually take public on local busses and to shopping centers. After graduation, Smith attended the University of Calgary and worked towards a degree in Economics but dropped out after a year and-a-half. He spent a year contemplating his next move and then enrolled in the Mount Royal University performing arts program. It was here that Smith developed a love of books and started writing. Soon after graduating he landed a lead role on the Canadian television show "Destiny Ridge" and moved to Vancouver. Smith has been continuously adding versatile film and television roles to his acting repertoire since discovering his passion for performance.

In 1999, he caught the eye of Brian DePalma and was cast in the sci-fi adventure Mission to Mars. Since then he has played key roles in FOX's "Human Target," The CW series "Smallville" and "Supernatural;" SyFy's "The Outer Limits," "Sanctuary" and "Battlestar Galactica;" USA's "Fairly Legal" and DirecTV's "Rogue." Smith has also had large recurring roles in USA's "The 4400" as Jed Garrity, SyFy's "Stargate: Atlantis" as Major Evan Lorne, SyFy's "Eureka" as Deputy Andy, ABC's "Mistresses" as Ellis Boone, The CW's "Supernatural" as Cuthbert Sinclair and recently, in the hit Netflix/BBC show, "Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency." In addition to his role on "When Calls the Heart," Smith recently starred in the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Original "Hello, It's Me" and the Hallmark Channel Original Movies "Wedding Bells," "The Perfect Bride" and "The Perfect Bride: Wedding Bells."

CHRIS MCNALLY– Canadian actor Chris McNally has appeared in several critically acclaimed films and television series spanning his career of more than a decade. He has guest starred on several hit television series, including FOX's "Lucifer" and "Killer Instinct," the Emmy®-nominated TNT series "Falling Skies" and The CW's "Supernatural." Recently, McNally was seen in a recurring role in the hit Netflix series "Altered Carbon."

McNally has appeared in television movies, including the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Originals "The Sweetest Heart," "Rocky Mountain Christmas," "Eat, Drink & Be Buried: A Gourmet Detective Mystery" and "Hearts of Christmas;" PixL Entertainment's "Same Time Next Week" and ABC's "Beauty and the Beast: A Dark Tale." In 2019, McNally will appear in a starring role in "Heaven," Lifetime's highly anticipated television movie based on the VC Andrews Book of the same name. On the big screen, McNally starred in the critically acclaimed features John Apple Jack and The Orchard.

KEVIN MCGARRY– Kevin McGarry was recently seen on season 11 of CBC's hit show "Heartland," and will be in the upcoming season 12. Recent credits include guest spots on Freeform's "The Bold Type," NBC's "Taken," CBS's "Ransom," FX's "Man Seeking Woman" with Jay Baruchel, Paramount Pictures xXx: The Return of Xander Cage with Vin Diesel and Global's "Private Eyes" starring Jason Priestly. This past summer saw him working with Kerry Condon in the television movie "Final Destiny" by Incendo Prod, and with William Shatner on CBC's "Murdoch Mysteries." He also starred in the series "Open Heart" (YTV, Teennick, and ABC Spark). Some of McGarry's past film and television credits include the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Originals "A Song for Christmas" and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered: To Paris With Love," Hallmark Channel's "Love at First Bark," Saw 7 and CBC's "Being Erica".

McGarry also has a strong theatre background with seasons at the renowned Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-lake as well as a season at the Charlottetown Festival. Other theatre credits include A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Complete Work of William Shakespeare and She Loves Me, to name a few.

PAUL GREENE– In 2004, Paul Greene's passion for acting brought him to Los Angeles. After studying in New York at Stella Adler, Uta Hagen's HB Studios and Susan Batson's Black Nexus, Greene's commitment to developing his craft continued in Los Angeles at Improv Olympic West, The Groundlings, Ivanna Chubbuck, Margie Haber and Sandy Marshal. Greene has appeared in Sofia Coppola's Somewhere and in the hit HBO series "The Newsroom."

His television experience reveals a broad range of characters and considerable versatility including 42 episodes on FOX's "Wicked Wicked Games" as Tatum O'Neal's love interest, appearances on ABC's "Freddie," "Eastwick" and "The Whole Truth" (Jerry Bruckheimer); CBS's "CSI: NY," "CSI," "Shark" and "NCIS;" NBC's "My Own Worst Enemy," and "Harry's Law;" FOX's "The Wedding Bells" (David E. Kelley);Lifetime's "The Client List;" HBO's "The Newsroom;" Adult Swim's "NTSF:SD:SUV;" SyFy's "Bitten" and Bravo's "Girlfriends Guide to Divorce." Greene has also starred in more than 100 television commercials.

Recently, Greene starred in the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Original "Christmas in Angel Falls," and the Hallmark Channel Original Movies "My Favorite Wedding," "Campfire Kiss," "A Wish for Christmas," "Anything for Love," "A Christmas Detour" and "Perfect Match."

From a small family farm in Alberta, Canada, Greene was discovered by renowned talent agent Kelly Streit. He is an avid pilot, accomplished musician, singer and filmmaker. He was recently featured in and helped film a documentary following five riders on motorcycles through the Himalayas from north India to the Tibetan plateau called The Highest Pass.

In November, Greene took the stage at Carnegie Hall in a performance benefitting Kate Winslet's Golden Hat Foundation. Greene has worked to help find a cure for ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) through the creation of Art for ALS. Paul Greene lives in Los Angeles with his partner, Kate and his son, Oliver.

ANDREA BROOKS— Andrea Brooks is a Canadian film and television actor. She can regularly be seen in her quirky portrayal of Miss Eve Tessmacher on The CW's "Supergirl," and for her longstanding role of Faith Carter on the Hallmark Channel's original series "When Calls the Heart." Andrea has guest starred in a number of acclaimed shows including "Bates Motel," "Once Upon a Time," "Unreal," "The Flash," "Supernatural," and "iZombie." In addition to her television credits, Andrea is a frequent player on the Hallmark Channel, having appeared in eleven original movies to date. Growing up Andrea trained in figure skating, dance, music, and theatre. Andrea holds both a B.A. and M.A. from The University of British Columbia's department of theatre and film. She is also fluent in French.

ANNA SIMEONIDES— As the granddaughter of a professional pastry chef, Anna's had a passion for baking for as long as she could remember. At age 10, her younger brother was diagnosed with many chronic illnesses and allergies, so Anna began experimenting with recipes to create treats he could safely eat and enjoy. She fell in love with serving others and bringing joy through food, which she now does daily at her allergy-friendly shop, To Your Health Bakery, a popular destination in Winston-Salem, NC. Though this hard-working, self-taught entrepreneur specializes in gluten free, vegan, keto and paleo products, she adapts her recipes to please any palate, especially when she donates her time to produce thousands of cookies for various charities. A self-proclaimed Hallmark Channel fanatic, Anna also celebrates "Christmas In July" at To Your Health Bakery, allowing her to equally embrace her eternal Christmas spirit, her talent for baking and inner Hallmark fan girl.

MONICA HICKS-JENKINS— Growing up on an Air Force Base, Monica showed such an affinity for biochemistry, that one of her first paying jobs was at NASA. Her passion for art eventually won out, leading her to earn a MFA in Fine Art from California Institute of the Arts. Monica applied her artistic talents to baking and cookie decorating, launching two online sweet shops -- Pent Up Cookie Company and Mack and Jane. Her baking style is less scientific and more intuitive, producing customizable treats that are as fun and bright as her smile. But Monica's greatest source of joy is her family, including husband Josh, teenage daughter Jordyn and new baby Aspen. Besides being a tenacious mom and baking entrepreneur, Monica is an integrative nutritionist and an avid acoustic shower singer.

RICKY WEBSTER— Influenced by his mom and grandmothers, cooking interested Ricky early in life. At age 11, he enrolled in cake decorating classes and knew instantly that this was going to be a lifelong passion. He worked his way up from bakery apprentice to Executive Pastry Chef, eventually becoming a Corporate Executive Chef at several posh hotels. As his skills and confidence blossomed, his creativity took flight, even fulfilling a lifelong dream of building a life-sized Gingerbread House! By day, Ricky works as a chef consultant, helping restaurateurs develop best practices. But his whimsical culinary style and community involvement has made Ricky a local celebrity in Washington state where he lives with his partner Andrew and two adopted rescue dogs, Ponzu and Gandalf.

LAURA MUSEKAMP— Throughout her childhood in Northeast Wisconsin, Laura enjoyed being in the kitchen, whether it was helping her mom make cookies or simply as the official “taste tester” of mom’s dough. She also loved expressing her creativity, mostly through arts, crafts, and sewing. Laura eventually earned a degree in clothing design at the University of Minnesota and has been designing menswear professionally ever since. She began baking in her free time about five years ago, gifting decorated sugar cookies to friends and loved ones. Perfecting her favorite sugar cookie recipe was as rewarding for her as it was for the recipients who were surprised with detailed and delicious samples. She loves being able to express her design skills and eye for detail in different mediums -- clothing by day, and cookies by night!

JODI JOHNSTON— Jodi Johnston is from Wenatchee, Washington and has been baking professionally for over 10 years. She owns and operates Cake Chic Studio with her mother-in-law-turned-best-friend, Sandy. When she’s not drumming up extravagant wedding cakes, you can find her in the kitchen as the executive pastry chef at Chateau Faire Le Pont Winery. She has a secret recipe that she’ll NEVER spill, but will pass down to her beloved baby granddaughter, Penelope.

JC GREGG— JC grew up in Louisberg, Kansas, a small farming town with a population of 1,500. As a child, JC’s beloved mother taught him to bake. She’d always say, “dessert is a must,” and JC still carries on that tradition with gusto. By day, JC works as an auditor for Costco Wholesale, but he’s famous around Kansas City for his decadent desserts. When his partner developed Type B Lymphoma in 2012, JC stayed home to care for him. Baking once again was a source of comfort. Then, as his partner’s health improved, JC spent his free time donating homemade cookies and desserts around the community. JC’s now specializes in custom cakes and handcrafted macaroons. Every single day, he “accidentally” whips up extravagant desserts to share with loved ones, clients and his favorite charities.