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THE WORLDWIDE LEADER IN *Celebrations*

'CHRISTMAS AT DOLLYWOOD'

Cast Bios

DANICA MCKELLAR (Rachel) – Actress, author, producer and speaker Danica McKellar was first introduced to us as Winnie Cooper on the iconic television classic “The Wonder Years,” and has since built a longstanding career. She produces and stars in “MatchMaker Mysteries,” a new franchise for Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, which premiered October 6th. “Christmas at Dollywood” marks McKellar’s 12th Hallmark film.

In addition to a busy acting career that includes cartoon roles such as Miss Martian on “Young Justice,” McKellar is a New York Times bestselling author with her groundbreaking books including Math Doesn't Suck and Kiss My Math. Her message to girls? Smart is sexy. A summa cum laude graduate of UCLA, McKellar earned her undergraduate degree in mathematics. She has testified before Congress about the importance of women in math and science and was named Person of the Week by ABC World News for tackling math education while simultaneously breaking the stereotype of the “math nerd” with her highly entertaining and illuminating books. Her entire collection can be found at McKellarMath.com

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NIALL MATTER (Luke) – 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 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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DOLLY PARTON (Dolly Parton) – Dolly Parton is the most honored and revered female country singer-songwriter of all time. Achieving 25 RIAA certified Gold, Platinum, and multi-Platinum awards, she has had 26 songs reach No. 1 on the Billboard country charts, a record for a female artist. Parton recently became the first Country artist honored as Grammy MusiCares Person of the Year given out by NARAS. She has 41 career Top 10 country albums, a record for any artist, and she has 110 career-charted singles over the past 40 years. In 2014, the RIAA recognized her impact on recorded music with a plaque commemorating more than 100 million units sold worldwide – and in 2016 her No. 1 album Pure & Simple, which topped the Billboard Top Country Albums and Americana/Folk Albums charts and debuted at No. 1 in the U.S., Canada, U.K. and Australia, added to that massive tally. She has garnered eight Grammy Awards, including a 2017 win with Pentatonix for their collaboration on her iconic 1974 hit "Jolene"; 10 Country Music Association Awards, including Entertainer of the Year; five Academy of Country Music Awards, also including a nod for Entertainer of the Year; four People's Choice Awards; and three American Music Awards. In 1999, Parton was inducted as a member of the coveted Country Music Hall of Fame.

In 2008, Parton launched her return to touring on a global scale with Backwoods Barbie World Tour, the first of many sold-out arena tours, returning her to Billboard Boxscore's Top 10 Country Tours of the Year. Her 2016 movie "Dolly Parton's Christmas of Many Colors: Circle Of Love," was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Television Movie. In 2017, Parton released her first children's album, I Believe In You, on Dolly Records through her partnership with Sony Music Nashville; the project's proceeds benefit The Dollywood Foundation's Imagination Library, a non-profit that in August 2019 gave away over 1.4M books, and has given away a total of over 125M books to date to children from birth to five years of age in the United States, Canada, Australia and the UK. In 2018, Parton received her first two Emmy Awards as the organization recognized her lifetime of giving with the Governor's Award and the award for Best Community Service Program lauding her 2016 telethon "Smoky Mountains Rise," which raised more than \$13 million for her My People fund, which provided financial assistance to victims of massive wildfires in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Parton recently collaborated with producer Linda Perry on the soundtrack for the Golden Globe nominated film *Dumplin'* starring Jennifer Aniston and Danielle MacDonald. In addition, Netflix will be releasing an eight-part anthology film series called "Heartstrings" through her Sandollar Productions in association with Magnolia Hill Productions, with each individual film based on one of Dolly's masterful songs. This will be released on Netflix in the fall of 2019.

Up next, Dolly has partnered with IMG on an exclusive marketing/branding deal for 2020. This year will also mark the 33rd anniversary season for Dollywood, her theme park in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, which has hosted more than two million visitors annually since 1986.

-- HALLMARK CHANNEL --