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THE WORLDWIDE LEADER IN *Celebrations*

'ROUX THE DAY: A GOURMET DETECTIVE MYSTERY' **Cast Bios**

DYLAN NEAL (Henry) – Dylan Neal was born in Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Shortly thereafter, his family moved to Oakville, just west of Toronto, where he spent the remainder of his childhood. As a young student, he attended the prep school Appleby College, where he was introduced to the game of squash. Neal quickly fell in love with the sport and was soon playing for Canada at an international level. Towards the end of his teenage years, after many years of traveling across North America on the amateur squash circuit, Neal decided a professional squash career was not for him.

By this time, Neal was attending Blakelock High School, where he was enrolled in the drama program. At the urging of his drama teacher, Neal signed with a Toronto talent agent and began auditioning professionally. It didn't take long for him to realize this was the direction his career would take and in 1992, he moved to Los Angeles where his acting dreams quickly became realized.

Neal is a well-recognized face on television having secured series' regular roles in a handful of American television programs including "Hyperion Bay," "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch" and Aaron Spelling's "Pacific Palisades." He has had major recurring roles including Dr. Anthony Ivo in The CW's breakout TV series "Arrow," and his five-year stint on "Dawson's Creek" as Pacey's brother, Doug Witter. He has had the good fortune to work opposite some of the biggest names in Hollywood, including a leading role opposite Val Kilmer in the Paramount Pictures thriller *The Traveler* and a supporting role in all three installments of the *Fifty Shades of Grey* movie franchise for Universal Pictures. Neal spent three seasons in the role of Jack Griffiths in Hallmark Channel's hit original primetime series, "Debbie Macomber's Cedar Cove." He also starred alongside Anne Heche in Hallmark Channel's original movie "Looks Like Christmas."

In addition to his acting endeavors, Neal and his wife, Becky Southwell, write and produce their own projects through Southwell Neal Entertainment. They are the creative force behind the "Gourmet Detective" original films for Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, based on the novels by Peter King. Neal serves as executive producer, co-writer and star of the films from the anthology series, with Southwell also executive producing and writing. The pair also executive produced the highly successful "Valentine Ever After" from their original screenplay, which aired in February 2016 and was the network's most watched February original movie premiere among W25-54 since 2009. Most recently, Neal wrote, executive produced and starred in Hallmark Channel's "Truly, Madly, Sweetly."

When not on set, Neal enjoys spending as much time as he can with his family and friends. On occasion, he can also be spotted in his workshop, where Neal, an avid wood worker, has for years recreated 18th and 19th century period furniture.

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BROOKE BURNS (Maggie) – Brooke Burns has worked as an actress, host and TV personality in the entertainment industry since she was 18 years old. Most recently, she was nominated for an Emmy Award® for her work as the host of the hit series “The Chase,” GSN’s speed trivia game show that has attracted nearly 20 million viewers since its premiere in August 2013. She has starred as Maggie in all the “Gourmet Detective” original movies for Hallmark Movies & Mysteries and starred opposite Tom Everett Scott in the Hallmark Channel 2017 original “Christmas Connection.”

A trained ballerina from age two, she showed great promise as a professional ballet dancer by the time she was a teenager. Burns, a Dallas native, and her family moved to Romania when she was 12, and she had the opportunity to study with the Romanian Opera Ballet. Her dance career abruptly ended at age 15, when she badly damaged her knee in a skiing accident. The following year, supporting her love of travel, she moved to Europe and modeled in Paris, Milan and Munich. But her effervescent personality is what caught the attention of television and film producers alike.

Shortly after her move to Los Angeles to pursue acting, Burns landed her first television role on “Ally McBeal.” In her first feature, the Farrelly brothers are said to have seen a disarming and beguiling sense of humor in Burns. They created a tailor-made role for her in the 2001 film *Shallow Hal*, remarking in her audition that she was the “prettiest dorky girl” they’d ever met. Burns has also appeared on “Baywatch,” “Just Shoot Me,” “CSI: Miami,” “Drop Dead Diva,” “Pepper Dennis” and “Melrose Place,” among others.

After the arrival of her first child, Burns segued into the world of television hosting with instant success. At the age of 23, she hosted NBC’s “Dog Eat Dog,” for which she was nominated for a Teen Choice Award, and hosted ABC’s “You Deserve It” with The Bachelor’s Chris Harrison. She also hosted TruTV’s “Motor City Masters,” a competition show for automotive designers.

In addition to her television career, after breaking her neck in 2005 with a miraculous 100% recovery, Burns donates her time to LRO, a program that gives back to people who have spinal cord injuries. In her free time Burns enjoys reading, hiking, stand-up paddling and road trips.

She currently resides with her husband and three girls in a suburb of Los Angeles.

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BRUCE BOXLEITNER (Jim Ross) — As one of Hollywood’s leading men, Bruce Boxleitner has starred in a major motion picture franchise, numerous feature films, several popular television series, produced a major network film and TV series, performed on Broadway and authored two science fiction novels.

Boxleitner received his formal acting training on stage. A native Midwesterner, he is an alumnus of Chicago’s prestigious Goodman Theatre. In 1972, he starred in the Broadway production of *Status Quo Vadis* with Ted Danson. He then relocated to Los Angeles and quickly landed a guest spot on the legendary TV series “The Mary Tyler Moore Show,” as well as numerous guest roles on series, including “Hawaii 5-0,” “Baretta,” “Police Woman” and “Gunsmoke.”

Boxleitner's big break occurred when he was cast opposite James Arness in the pilot for the epic TV series "How the West Was Won." He went on to star in the CBS series "Bring 'em Back Alive," mini-series "East of Eden" and TV movie "The Last Convertible."

In 1982, Boxleitner was cast as the title role in Disney's cult film *TRON* which garnered him science fiction fans worldwide. However, it was in Boxleitner's four-year run for CBS' "Scarecrow and Mrs. King," starring opposite Kate Jackson, which endeared him to fans everywhere and made him a household name. In 1994, Boxleitner joined the cast of the popular TV series "Babylon 5" as John Sheridan, President of the Interstellar Alliance, a war hero-turned-diplomat at the helm of Earth Alliance Space Station in the year 2259. The show aired for five seasons.

Boxleitner starred with Jeff Bridges in *TRON: Legacy*, the popular motion picture sequel to *TRON*. The cast includes Garrett Hedlund and Olivia Wilde. In addition, Boxleitner reprised his role in "TRON: Uprising" on Disney's XD TV network, his first animated TV series. The multi-talented cast includes Elijah Wood, Mandy Moore, Lance Henriksen, and Paul Reubens. The original *TRON* recently celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Several motion pictures include *Gods and Generals* with Robert Duvall, Jeff Daniels, Stephen Lang and Mira Sorvino; *The Babe* with John Goodman and Kelly McGillis; *Kuffs* with Christian Slater; and *The Baltimore Bullet* with James Coburn. Numerous TV movie credits include "The Secret" with Kirk Douglas; "Perfect Family" with Jennifer O'Neal and Joanna Cassidy; "Double Jeopardy" with Rachel Ward, Sally Kirkland and Sela Ward; "Passion Flower" with Barbara Hershey and Nicol Williamson; and Hallmark Channel movies "Love's Resounding Courage" and "Falling in Love with the Girl Next Door," among many others. The veteran actor has appeared in numerous recurring roles on TV series including "GCB" and "Heroes," and has guest-starred on "NCIS" and "Chuck," among others.

A skilled horseman, Boxleitner utilized his talents in numerous Western TV series and films, including Kenny Rogers television movie series "The Gambler" that aired on CBS and NBC, starring opposite Kenny Rogers; "Gunsmoke V: One Man's Justice" with James Arness (Arness' final film); CBS' remake of "Red River" with Gregory Harrison, James Arness and Laura Johnson; "Wyatt Earp: Return to Tombstone" with Hugh O'Brian; and "Down the Long Hills," based on legendary western author Louis L'Amour's novel of the same name.

Boxleitner was inducted into the Hall of Great Western Performers at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City in April 2012, honoring him for his illustrious career in western films. He is a two-time recipient of the Wrangler Award.

In 2013, Boxleitner co-starred with Andie MacDowell and Dylan Neal for three seasons in Hallmark Channel's #1-rated cable program and first-ever prime-time series, "Debbie Macomber's Cedar Cove" to rave reviews and an average of two million viewers. In 2017, Boxleitner joined Neal once again, along with Brooke Burns, in "Eat, Drink & Be Buried: A Gourmet Detective Mystery," the fourth installment of the successful Hallmark Movies & Mysteries movie franchise, "The Gourmet Detective." He starred in the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries original "MatchMaker Mysteries: A Killer Engagement" and, most recently he starred in the Hallmark Channel original "Holiday Date."

Boxleitner has authored two novels, Frontier Earth in 1999, and its sequel Frontier Earth: Searcher in 2001, both published by The Berkley Publishing Group.

Bruce Boxleitner resides in Los Angeles with his wife, publicist Verena King, and has three sons and a granddaughter: Sam, Lee, Michael and Lulabelle.

-- HALLMARK MOVIES & MYSTERIES --