

CrownMedia



THE WORLDWIDE LEADER IN *Celebrations*

'THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE'

Cast Bios

ROBERT BUCKLEY (Mike) – Robert Buckley is no stranger to playing the sexy leading man. Known for his role as Clayton 'Clay' Evans on one of The CW's longest airing drama series *One Tree Hill*, Rob played a brash young sports agent who represented star NBA basketball player Nathan Scott (played by James Lafferty). Rob also starred recently in another hit series on The CW, the Rob Thomas developed DC comic book-based series, *iZombie* for 5 seasons.

A native southern-Californian, Robert grew up in Claremont, California before moving to San Diego to attend the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). After earning a degree in Economics, he spent a year and a half working as an Economic Consultant before throwing in the towel to head off to LA to pursue a career in entertainment.

Buckley's other roles include "Kirby Atwood" on the NBC series *Lipstick Jungle* opposite Brooke Shields and Kim Raver, as well as a recurring role on the CW comedy *Privileged*, as magazine Editor in Chief "David Besser."

He also played the successful playwright on ABC's *666 Park Avenue* opposite Vanessa Williams and as Jaime King's love interest "Peter" on CW's hit series, *Hart of Dixie*.

Other credits include *Flirting with Forty* where he starred alongside Heather Locklear playing surfer entrepreneur, "Kyle Hamilton" and *The Christmas Contract*. Rob will be seen this holiday season in *Christmas House* which he developed for Hallmark and stars as well as serving as Executive Producer.

Rob also has worked as a writer and free-lance producer for E! News.

He currently resides in Los Angeles.

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ANA AYORA (Andi) – Ana Ayora was last seen recurring as "Sarah Barnes" in the CW's hit drama *IN THE DARK*. She appeared in a supporting role in Disney/Marvel's *CAPTAIN MARVEL* as S.H.I.E.L.D Agent "Whitcher." Previously, Ayora recurred as "Nina Cruz" on the final season of Cinemax's neo-noir, cult hit crime drama *BANSHEE*. Her breakout role was alongside co-stars Diane Keaton, Robert De Niro and Katherine Heigl in the Lionsgate feature film, *THE BIG WEDDING*. She was also seen in the lead role of Hallmark's TV movie, *MEDDLING MOM*.

Other recent credits include a recurring role on MAJOR CRIMES (TNT) and a supporting role in the Universal feature RIDE ALONG 2. Ana also recurred on LINCOLN HEIGHTS.

Ayora's first acting gig was in 2008, opposite Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston in Fox 2000 Pictures' heart-warming comedy MARLEY & ME.

Born in Columbia and raised in Miami, Florida, Ayora is fluent in English and Spanish and is proficient in Portuguese. Her hobbies include ballet, dance, boxing, horseback riding, and yoga. She currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

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TREAT WILLIAMS (Bill) – Treat Williams stars as Mick O'Brien in Hallmark Channel's "Chesapeake Shores," which just completed its fourth season on the air. Recently, Williams appeared in lead roles on both NBC's "Chicago Fire" and "American Odyssey" as well as in a recurring role in NBC's "Blue Bloods." He recently co-starred with Jennifer Lopez and Vanessa Hudgens in STX's "Second Act." Treat can currently be seen starring alongside Alec Baldwin, Salma Hayek, Jim Gaffigan and Joe Manganiello in Vertical Entertainment's "Drunk Parents." He will next be seen in Netflix's "Christmas on the Square" with Dolly Parton and "12 Mighty Orphans" opposite Robert Duvall, Luke Wilson and Martin Sheen.

Williams began his professional career as an understudy in Grease on Broadway. After his 1976 film debut in Deadly Hero, he returned to Broadway and Grease, this time in the starring role. Spotted on stage by film director Milos Forman, he was cast in Forman's Hair, for which he earned a Golden Globe® Award nomination. Over the course of his career, he has appeared in over 75 films, along with a number of critically acclaimed roles on television. Some highlights from Williams's expansive career include roles in Steven Spielberg's 1941, a Golden Globe Award®-nominated performance in Sidney Lumet's Prince of the City, Sergio Leone's Once Upon a Time in America and Danny Boyle's 127 Hours.

Williams's many television projects include a Golden Globe® Award-nominated performance in "A Streetcar Named Desire," an Emmy® Award-nominated performance in HBO's "The Late Shift," Hallmark Hall of Fame's "Front of the Class" and the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Original "Beyond the Blackboard" as well as Lifetime's "The Staircase Murders." He has also appeared in such series as The CW's "Heartland," ABC's "Brothers & Sisters" and had a lead role in The WB's "Everwood," for which he earned two SAG Award nominations.

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SHARON LAWRENCE (Phylis) – Sharon has a co-starring role in THE LOST HUSBAND currently on Netflix and has been recurring on several series including ON BECOMING A GOD IN CENTRAL FLORIDA opposite Kirsten Dunst and the Apple series HOME BEFORE DARK. She has continuing recurring roles on CRIMINAL MINDS, DYNASTY and Ava DuVernay's QUEEN SUGAR. She was recently a series regular on the CBS comedy ME, MYSELF & I, had a recurring role opposite Ashton Kutcher and Sam Elliott in Netflix's THE RANCH, and starred as Jenny Mollen's acerbic mother in the comedic web series I LIKE YOU JUST THE WAY I AM. She is a multiple Emmy nominee from NYPD Blue and GREY'S ANATOMY as Best Guest Actress.

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JONATHAN BENNETT (Brandon) Though his striking good looks may have made JONATHAN BENNETT an object of affection for the “plastics” in *MEAN GIRLS*, his talent and commitment are what have led them to his becoming one of the most sought after young actors in Hollywood. Diversifying his talent, he just released a best-selling Mean Girls parody *Burn Cookbook*, became a fan favorite on *DANCING WITH THE STARS*, *CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER*, and also demonstrated his hosting skills on MTV’s competition series *COPYCAT*, which helped pave the way to his latest turn as host of Food Network’s assortment of *CAKE WARS* specials inclusive of ratings powerhouse *HALLOWEEN WARS* and *HOLIDAY WARS*, official host of Times Square’s New Year’s Eve Countdown, as well as his role with NBC’s Winter Olympic coverage. Additionally, he remained a part of the Viacom family with recurring arcs on VH1’s *HIT THE FLOOR* and MTV’s *AWKWARD*. More recently, he guest starred on Shondaland’s *STATION 19*, wrapped the original telefilm, *HARVEST OF THE HEART* which was one of the first vehicles to film amidst the pandemic, and next stars in the Hallmark original telefilm, *THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE* (November 22nd).

Bennett’s first foray into a studio film was, in fact, Paramount’s smash hit *MEAN GIRLS* from producer Lorne Michaels and writer Tina Fey in which he starred opposite Lindsay Lohan. In the romantic comedy *LOVEWRECKED* for Weinstein Co., Bennett transitioned into the love interest of Amanda Bynes. He has since starred as Bo Duke in Warner Bros. prequel to *THE DUKES OF HAZZARD*; the comedy romp *BACHELOR PARTY VEGAS*; as the title role of *NATIONAL LAMPOON’S VAN WILDER: FRESHMAN YEAR*, in FOX’s sequel to the hit comedy, *CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN*, as Steve Martin’s antagonistic son-in-law; and reunites with *CHEAPER* co-star Hilary Duff for *THE HAUNTING of SHARON TATE*. He most recently starred in Hallmark’s original Holiday film, *CHRISTMAS MADE TO ORDER*.

Bennett executive produced and starred in the film *AUTHORS ANONYMOUS* opposite Kaley Cuoco. Continued to wear his producing hat as well as carry a supporting role in feature *PAWN* with Ray Liotta and Academy Award-winner Forest Whitaker, starred in IFC Films’ dramatic thriller *SUBMERGED*, the comedy *DO OVER*, the crime thriller *PAID IN FULL*, the Lifetime telefilm *ROMANTICALLY SPEAKING* opposite *GLEE* star Heather Morris, the indie drama *DO YOU TAKE THIS MAN* opposite Anthony Rapp, and the Hallmark original telefilm *LOVE AT FIRST GLANCE* opposite Amy Smart and Adrian Grenier.

He previously reunited with *MEAN GIRLS* co-star Lacey Chabert in the Hallmark telefilm *ELEVATOR GIRL*, starred in the indie comedy *THE ASSISTANTS*, *SLIGHTLY SINGLE IN L.A.*, the drama *MEMORIAL DAY* with James Cromwell, the thriller *CATS DANCING ON JUPITER*, the romantic comedy *DIVORCE INVITATION* opposite Jamie-Lynn Sigler, and lead role in Lifetime’s *HOLIDAY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION*.

Outside of the occasional guest star role on the likes of *SUPERGIRL*, *DECEPTION*, *CANE*, Dick Wolf’s *LAW & ORDER: SVU*, David E. Kelley’s *BOSTON PUBLIC*, *SMALLVILLE* and *VERONICA MARS*, Bennett’s first and only foray into series television was on the Emmy Award-winning *ALL MY CHILDREN* after less than a month of having moved from his native Ohio to New York City.

No stranger to winning awards, Bennett took “Best Actor” honors at the 2003 Palm Beach International Film Festival for his lead role in the independent feature *SEASON OF YOUTH*.

Originally from Ohio, Bennett currently resides in Los Angeles where he continues to hone his craft.

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BRAD HARDER (Jake) – Born in a small town in northern Alberta, Brad Harder grew up in Grande Prairie and moved to Edmonton at 18 where he started modelling and doing commercial work. Pursuing a passion for performing that started in elementary school, Brad started training at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre in New York, then moved to Vancouver to continue his studies and build his acting career. There he quickly amassed a number of credits including CW's *Supernatural* and DC's *Legends of Tomorrow*, Bravo's *Girlfriend's Guide to Divorce*, Syfy's *The Magicians*, CBS's *Twilight Zone* and a large recurring on Hallmark's *Aurora Teagarden Mysteries*. To date, Brad's most special experience in the industry has been his groundbreaking supporting lead role in Hallmark's *The Christmas House*, where he and Jonathan Bennett play the first married gay couple on Hallmark with his real-life son, Kael, in the role of their son. In a case of art imitating life, Brad and his partner are looking forward to the birth of their second child this coming spring. There is so much to look forward to for this bright star.

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MATTIA CASTRILLO (Noah) – Mattia Castrillo is a Canadian/Italian/Ecuadorian actor living in Vancouver, BC. He first realized his love of acting at the Young Moviemakers program three years ago and landed his first role in a commercial for the David Suzuki Foundation one year later and has since appeared in several commercials. When Mattia isn't acting, he loves to read—Harry Potter and *The Hobbit* being two of his favourites—play the guitar and make stop motion videos.

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