

# CrownMedia



THE WORLDWIDE LEADER IN *Celebrations*

## **'A WINTER GETAWAY'**

### **Cast Bios**

**NAZNEEN CONTRACTOR (Courtney)** – Born in Mumbai, India and raised in Nigeria, Africa until the age of seven, Contractor quickly became well versed in world travels and a variety of cultures at a very young age. She attended boarding school in London before her family moved to Toronto, Canada where she spent the majority of her young adulthood and studied classical ballet. It wasn't until the age of 16 when she realized she wanted to pursue acting seriously. One year into her studies at University, Contractor went to an open call audition for the play *Pericles* at the prestigious Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Ontario, Canada, landing the female lead role. Contractor was immediately offered the opportunity to enroll in Stratford's conservatory program, shortly thereafter joining the cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Hermia.

By the third season with the company, Contractor set her sights on a career in film and television, quickly booking a regular role in the Anthony Hines (Borat, Bruno) produced Fox pilot, "The Papdits." While the show didn't end up getting picked up to series, soon after Contractor landed the role of Layla Hourani in "The Border," a Canadian produced drama for CBC. The series aired worldwide, garnering Contractor a Golden Nymph Award nomination at The Montecarlo Television Festival.

Upon moving to Los Angeles, Contractor booked the role of Kayla Hassan in the eighth season of the hit Fox drama series, "24." Other roles soon followed including a recurring role on CBS comedy "Rules of Engagement" starring David Spade. Contractor later joined the cast of the final season of hit drama "Covert Affairs," opposite Piper Perabo, before landing the role of Farah Nazan in NBC's revival, "Heroes Reborn." On the film front, Contractor appeared as Rima Harewood in the record-breaking Paramount feature film, *Star Trek Into Darkness*, directed by another one of her industry heroes, JJ Abrams.

Contractor most recently starred as "Zara Hallam" in the Frank Spotnitz produced drama series, "Ransom." She also proudly voiced the role of "Synara San" in "Star Wars Resistance."

When not working, Contractor is an avid runner and yogi. Philanthropy is a huge priority for her and she supports such organizations as Second Harvest to feed the homeless, and Look Good Feel Better, supporting women with cancer. Contractor lives in Los Angeles with her husband, children, and border terrier.

**BROOKS DARNELL (Joe)** – The eldest of three sons, Brooks Darnell, named by his father after the late baseball great Brooks Robinson, signed with a talent agency at the age of 16, and soon after tested his skills at the nationally acclaimed IMTA talent showcase, New York City

competition. Darnell placed third out of more than four hundred monologue contestants, winning an invitation to study at the prestigious Conservatory theatre school in San Francisco.

Darnell appeared in the 2012 feature film Total Recall, and in the 2016 Hallmark Channel original movie "All Yours" along with 2019's "A Christmas Miracle" on Hallmark Movies & Mysteries. He also he had a recurring role in Freeform's "Shadowhunters" and has appeared in episodes of "Bones," "Breakout Kings," "Nothing Personal," "Nikita" and "Ghostly Encounters."

-- HALLMARK CHANNEL --