



**'YOU, ME & THE CHRISTMAS TREES'**  
**Cast Bios**

**DANICA MCKELLAR (Olivia)** – 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 enjoyed a longstanding career in entertainment and beyond. In addition to starring in the “MatchMaker Mysteries” franchise for Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, McKellar serves as executive producer. She stars in “You, Me & The Christmas Trees,” which kicks off the 2021 Hallmark Channel’s “Countdown to Christmas” programming event, and in 2019, she starred opposite Dolly Parton in “Christmas at Dollywood,” which she also executive produced. Next up, she will star as a judge on “Domino Masters,” which premieres on Fox in January 2022.

In addition to acting and producing television, McKellar is a New York Times bestselling author of 10 educational and humorous math books including her recent elementary school hits Do Not Open This Math Book, The Times Machine and her original, groundbreaking middle school books Math Doesn’t Suck and Kiss My Math. Danica’s 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 and simultaneously breaking the stereotype of the “math nerd” with her highly entertaining and illuminating books, all of which can be found at [McKellarMath.com](http://McKellarMath.com). She also hosts a weekly inspirational livestream on her social media accounts called “McKellar Motivation” where she interacts directly with her fans.

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**BENJAMIN AYRES (Jack)** – Benjamin Ayres’ career has spanned both television and feature films. On the film side, he was most recently seen opposite Catherine Keener and Matt Craven in Alan Gilzenan’s *Unless*, which premiered at the 2016 Toronto International Film Festival. On the small screen he starred as Dr. Zachary Miller in the highly acclaimed, CTV/NBC medical drama “Saving Hope,” which ran for five seasons. Ayres has recently been seen in a recurring role on “Detention Adventure” and has had guest starring roles on “The Good Doctor” and The CW series “Burden of Truth,” and in Hallmark Channel’s “Falling for Vermont.”

Ayres is widely known for his role as Cancer Cowboy, the chain-smoking sex addict with a morbid death obsession, in the critically acclaimed cult hit CBC series “jPod,” based on the Douglas Coupland novel of the same name. The role garnered him a Leo nomination in 2008. After two seasons as a series regular on the CTV hit series “Dan for Mayor,” he then landed the role of Eric Blake on HBO Canada’s Gemini Award winning series “Less Than Kind,” for which he received a Canadian Screen Award nomination.

Ayres has appeared in more than 40 television series and television movies, including the Hallmark Channel original movie "Love by Chance." His other credits include various guest star and recurring roles on SyFy's "Battlestar Galactica," "Bitten" and "Lost Girl," The CW's "The Vampire Diaries," CBS's "Flashpoint," ABC's "Combat Hospital," "Diamonds" and "Impact," and The WB's "Smallville."

During his early 20s, Ayres studied at The Lyric School of Acting under the direct mentorship of studio head Michele Lonsdale Smith. He later collaborated with her as a performer in a wide range of theatrical productions, including multiple mountings of Eric Bogosian's one-man play *Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll*, Judith Thompson's *Lion in the Streets* and August Strindberg's *Miss Julie*. Ayres became one of Vancouver's most in-demand stage actors and was approached to originate the role of Tench in the world premiere of Raul Inglis' *In the Eyes of God*, and again in Inglis' next original play, *Surveillance*.

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**JASON HERVEY (Dwayne)** – Jason Hervey is an award-winning producer and executive, who started his career in entertainment at the age of four when he began appearing in commercials. He went on to appear in feature films such as *Back to the Future*, *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*, *Back to School*, *Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment*, *Meatballs Part II* and *The Monster Squad*. In addition to numerous guest starring roles on television, Hervey spent two seasons on the hit comedy series "Diff'rent Strokes" before landing the role that would forever change his life – Wayne Arnold, the bullying older brother to Kevin, in the Emmy-winning hit series, "The Wonder Years." In addition to multiple Golden Globe and People's Choice Awards, the show has also been inducted into the Smithsonian Institute as one of the greatest shows in the history of television.

After six seasons and 124 episodes of "The Wonder Years," Hervey transitioned into producing full time and has enjoyed a successful career behind the camera. He has produced more than 1000 hours of programming, beginning at age 17 when he created, starred in and produced 26 episodes of the NBC Saturday morning series, "Wide World of Kids." In his 20s, Hervey launched his first production company, independently financing and producing a collection of 52 episodes of sports biographies for various FOX outlets, profiling athletes including Reggie White, Jerry Rice, Don Sula and Brett Favre, among others.

He later founded Bischoff Hervey Entertainment Television, a full-service, independently owned production company that specialized in unscripted and scripted television. Through BHE, Hervey executive produced over 300 two-hour original episodes of iMPACT Wrestling, which aired 52 weeks a year on Spike TV and became the longest-running, highest-rated series in the history of the network. Additionally, he executive produced dozens of domestic and international iMPACT Wrestling pay per view events. Some of Hervey's other credits under the BHE banner include Nickelodeon's "See Dad Run" starring Scott Baio, "Hardcore Pawn: Chicago" for truTV and "The Devil's Ride" for Discovery Channel.

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