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'THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT'

CAST BIOS

MELISSA GILBERT (Vera) – A native of Los Angeles, Melissa Gilbert comes from a long line of entertainers. Her grandfather, Harry Crane, creator and writer of "The Honeymooners," was one of the best-known and most respected comedy writers in the business. Her father, Paul Gilbert, was a respected comedian, actor, musician and dancer.

At the age of two, Gilbert made her on-air debut modeling baby clothes. She then appeared in more than thirty television commercials. In the summer of 1973, the nine-year-old joined the cast of "Little House on the Prairie," continuing with the popular series for ten years alongside Michael Landon.

When Gilbert was fourteen, her personal manager formed Half-Pint Productions, which first produced the Emmy® Award-winning television movie "The Miracle Worker," starring Patty Duke. The company subsequently produced "The Diary of Anne Frank," "Splendor in the Grass," "Family Secrets" with Maureen Stapleton and "Choices of the Heart," all starring Gilbert.

A variety of rich television roles continued, including the drama "Choices" with George C. Scott and Jacqueline Bisset, the true-life drama "Without Her Consent," "Joshua's Heart" with Tim Matheson, USA's "The Lookalike," "Blood Vows: Story of a Mafia Wife," "Killer Instinct," "Donor" and "Forbidden Nights." In 1992 Gilbert made her comeback to series television starring in the comedy "Stand By Your Man" with Rosie O'Donnell. Gilbert also starred opposite Ronnie Cox and Cicely Tyson in the NBC series "Sweet Justice," portraying a headstrong attorney from a well-to-do Southern family.

In 1993, Gilbert starred in the highly rated "Shattered Trust: The Shari Karney Story," the true story of a California attorney whose recollection of early childhood abuse by her father leads her to champion other incest victims and change the state's statute of limitations law. Her portrayal and her own fight to help abused children were honored with a 1994 Inspirational Award from Childhelp USA, with which she has been affiliated for twenty years.

Over the years, Gilbert has continued to bring powerful stories to the small screen including the Hallmark Channel Original Movies, "Sacrifices of the Heart" and "Thicker than Water," in Lifetime's "Against Her Will: The Carrie Buck Story" with Marlee Matlin and the CBS drama "Cries from the Heart." In 1996, she starred opposite Tim Matheson in the feel-good holiday telefilm "Christmas in My Hometown" which was CBS's highest rated MOW for a Tuesday night ever.

In feature film, Gilbert has starred in "Sylvester" opposite Richard Farnsworth, from which she was selected ShoWest's Promising Star of the Year in 1985. She was also honored that year

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when she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, becoming the youngest recipient of such an honor. In 1987 she made her off-Broadway debut as a star of *A Shayna Maidel*, earning an Outer Critic's Circle Award for Best Debuting Actress for her realistic portrayal of a young girl who escapes war-torn Europe. She also starred in such productions as *The Miracle Worker*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Bus Stop* and most recently *Love Letters* at the Canon Theatre in Los Angeles.

Having fully outgrown her "Little House" youth, Gilbert has proven herself a successful adult actress and director. In 1996, she made her directorial debut with the critically acclaimed ABC after school special "Me and My Hormones," starring Marion Ross with special appearances by Bruce Boxleitner, Sara Gilbert and Chad Lowe. Gilbert and Tony Dow teamed up to produce the highly rated A&E documentary "Child Stars: Their Story," which gave an insider's look at the privileges and pain of child stardom. Gilbert's legacy came full circle last year when she starred as Ma in the national tour of *Little House on the Prairie the Musical*.

In 2009, Gilbert shared her story of growing up in front of the cameras, dealing with a complicated family, overcoming addictions, and how she finally learned to move on in her *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Prairie Tale*. In addition to her acting, directing and writing career, Gilbert served two terms as the 23rd President of Screen Actors Guild, two terms as Vice President on the AFL-CIO executive council, Vice President for the California Labor Federation, and commissioner on the California Film Commission.

During her tenure at Screen Actors Guild, Gilbert helped to create and pass anti-runaway legislation as well as laws to protect child performers. Additionally, she helped to fight movie piracy and to implement many other worker and artist protections. Gilbert also served as chair of the 2005 SAG Theatrical/Television Negotiating Committee.

An avid philanthropist, Gilbert is the President of the Board of Directors for the Children's Hospice and palliative Care Coalition, and recently became the first-ever national spokesperson for The Partnership at Drugfree.org. Through her work with the Children's Hospice, she has dedicated her life to ensuring that all chronically and terminally ill children get to live and die with the gentleness, dignity and grace they deserve.

Among her many honors and accolades, Gilbert has received the Media Access Office Award of Merit for her efforts in seeking casting diversity, was one of *Hollywood Reporter's* "Women of the Year" for three consecutive years, and was recently honored with the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award.

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ROBERT MAILHOUSE (Jack) – Actor and musician Robert Mailhouse was born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut. After receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The Catholic University of America in their acclaimed acting program, Mailhouse was cast as a series regular

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on the long-running NBC television soap, "Days of our Lives," for which he was nominated and won the Soap Opera Digest Award for Outstanding Performance in 1992.

Mailhouse, an accomplished musician and drummer, spent the next twelve years touring the world with his alternative rock band, Dogstar, with another notable actor and musician, Keanu Reeves. Dogstar recorded three full-length albums and toured with Bon Jovi, appeared in numerous films and performed on the "Tonight Show" and "The Late Show with David Letterman."

In 2009, Mailhouse composed the award-winning hit web series, "Easy To Assemble," starring Ileana Douglas. The show went on to win a Streamy Award for best ensemble cast in 2010. Never one to rest on laurels, Mailhouse then conceived, created, wrote and starred in the Webby Award winning short film, "The Triumph of Sparhusen" with Keanu Reeves.

Over the years, Mailhouse has appeared in over 45 television shows, including such iconic shows as "Seinfeld," "The Larry Sanders Show," "Melrose Place," "Battery Park," "Becker," "Judging Amy," "Without a Trace," "Caroline in the City," Aaron Sorkin's "Sports Night" and all three "C.S.I." dramas. Mailhouse's film credits include "Kimberly" with Gabriel Anwar, "Speed," "The Glimmer Man" and "Just A Little Harmless Sex." Mailhouse also has starred in numerous made for television movies, including "All I Want for Christmas" and the Hallmark Channel Original Movies "Love Is A Four Letter Word" opposite Teri Polo and "Thicker than Water" opposite Melissa Gilbert.

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EDWARD HERRMANN (Garrett) – Tony and Emmy® Award-winning actor Edward Herrmann boasts an impressive career that spans more than 30 years in the theater, film and television.

His work on Broadway includes *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, for which he won a Tony® Award, *The Philadelphia Story*, for which he earned a Tony® nomination, *Plenty* and *Love Letter*.

His feature film roles include "Nixon," "Richie Rich," "The Purple Rose of Cairo," "A Little Sex," "The Great Gatsby," "Annie," "Reds," "The Great Waldo Pepper," "The Day of the Dolphin," "Critical Care," "Overboard," "Big Business," "Mrs. Soffel," "Takedown," "The Paper Chase," "Double Take," "The Cat's Meow," "Down," "The Emperor's Club," "Intolerable Cruelty," "Welcome To Mooseport" and Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator."

Other recent film credits include "Born to be a Star" from writer Adam Sandler for director Tom Brady, "Son of Mourning" with Heather Graham and Lorraine Bracco, "The Six Wives of Henry Lefay" with Tim Allen and Jenna Elfman, "Factory Girl" with Sienna Miller and Guy Pearce and opposite Chris Rock in the film "I Think I Love My Wife." Other credits include, "Relative Strangers" with Danny DeVito, "The Skeptic" opposite Tim Daly and "The Pleasure of Your Company" opposite Isla Fisher and Jason Biggs. Herrmann will next be seen in the film "Price Check" opposite Parker Posey and Eric Mabius.

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In 2007, Herrmann ended his seven-season run on the critically acclaimed series, "The Gilmore Girls" in which he starred as the patriarch, Richard Gilmore. Other television roles include guest starring on "The Good Wife," "Law & Order," "Better With You" and "30 Rock," and recurring on ABC's hit show, "Grey's Anatomy" and on NBC's "Lipstick Jungle." Herrmann also appeared in a six episode story arc on "The Practice" which earned him a 1999 Emmy® Award. He also guest-starred in the 200th anniversary episode of "Law & Order" and in a recurring role on "Oz." Herrmann received additional Emmy® nominations for his work on "St. Elsewhere," the movie "Concealed Enemies" and "Eleanor and Franklin: The White House Years."

Herrmann recently starred in The Disney Channel movie, "Hatching Pete." Highlights of his television movie credits include "Atomic Train," "Vendetta," "Saint Maybe," "Pandora's Clock," "Soul of Sentence," "Fire in the Dar," "Morrow," "The Lawrenceville Stories," "Electrical Grandmother," "A Love Affair: The Eleanor and Lou Gehrig Story" and "Last Act is a Solo."

Herrmann also carries a full schedule of recording books on tape having recorded over 50 thus far. In 1999, he was awarded an AUDIE Award for his work in the complete recording of the King James Bible.

Additionally, he serves as the narrator for the A&E Channel's "History Lost and Found" and the series "Founding Fathers," among other programs. He also continues his work as the announcer for the History Channel as well as hosting the series "The Ultimate Auto," which has established Herrmann as a leading figure among automobile hobbyists. With six automobile restorations to his credit, Herrmann is an active participant in rallies and car shows.

In 2001 Herrmann was honored by his alma mater, Bucknell University, for outstanding achievement in his chosen profession.

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LENNON WYNN (Kristen) – Ten-year-old actress Lennon Wynn already has an impressive resumé of television, commercial and voiceover work. She is most known for her recurring role of Charlie Benford in the ABC drama, "FlashForward." Wynn has also co-starred on "Parks and Recreation" alongside Amy Poehler and the Golden Globe nominated series "The Starter Wife."

Wynn's voiceover and commercial work includes commercials for such national brands as Verizon, Walgreens, Toyota, Nascar and Advil, among many others. She also made an appearance in the Jonas Brother's music video, and had a voice role as Young Jennifer in the feature film "Jennifer's Body" starring Megan Fox.

In addition to Wynn's acting and voice talents, she is also a dancer, trained in ballet, tap and flamenco dance.

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