

'FINDING CHRISTMAS'

PRODUCTION BIOS

LEWIS CHESLER (Executive Producer) — Lewis Chesler is one of the first producers of material for the alternative television market and since has produced TV shows that stretch the boundaries of the medium beyond the conventional programming of the standard broadcasters. In a field where innovation is often discouraged, Chesler has nonetheless managed extraordinary success. He is now known for Independent features, art action pieces and award winning action adventure pieces for the family.

A native of Cleveland, Chesler attended Amherst College, studying cultural history and graduating with highest honors after writing his thesis on television's impact on political consciousness in the mass society. He worked his way through college, spending summers in the Cleveland steel mills, and his winter vacations working on merchant vessels, traveling around the world. Following college, he joined the Peace Corps.

In the mid-70's, Chesler became artistic director of the Long Beach Performing Arts Centre. He produced a series of plays there, starring, among others, Stockard Channing, Jill Clayburgh, Stacey Keach, James Whitmore and Eddie Albert. He also booked the opera house, the sports arena, two theaters and the rock concert forum.

He started his television career with a series of variety shows and "The Hitchhiker" series for HBO. Chesler conceived the show, its style, look and direction, and brought together the main creative elements, including Academy Award[®]-nominated writers and actors, and internationally prominent directors. One of the most enduring aspects of Chesler's efforts during "The Hitchhiker" was the encouragement of industry acceptance of cable programming as a venue to showcase top film directors and actors such as Paul Verhoeven, Phillip Noyce, Wayne Wang, Willem Dafoe, Klaus Kinski, Kirstie Alley and Helen Hunt. "The Hitchhiker" became HBO's first truly successful dramatic series and went on to be nominated for over twenty-five Cable Ace awards, winning nine.

Chesler joined MGM TV as a producer where he developed and produced movies and series including "The Edge," which also featured some of the industry's leading screenwriters, feature directors and actors including Nicholas Kazan, Luis Mandoki, Rutger Hauer, Bridget Fonda, Christian Slater, Kelly Lynch and Patricia Arquette.

Recently, he has produced feature films and many cable features, TV series and TV movies for Lifetime, HBO, CBS, UPN and USA Network among others. Chesler has co-produced film and television with all major European countries including the U.K., France, Italy, and Germany.

In the early 80's Chesler was one of the founders of First Choice Canadian Communications (now The Movie Network) and a founding partner in the post-production facility Magnetic North.

Since 1989, Chesler has worked in partnership with David M. Perlmutter as Chesler/Perlmutter Productions.

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Through the years Chesler has remained interested in dance and the graphic arts. He is a founder of The Los Angeles' Museum of Contemporary Art and is on the board of numerous ballet and modern dance companies, including the Los Angeles County Music Center Dance Association. Lewis Chesler has also been appointed to the Advisory Board for the Sonoma Valley Film Festival and the Dubrovnik International Film Festival.

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DAVID PERLMUTTER (Executive Producer) David M. Perlmutter graduated from the University of Toronto with the Bachelor of Commerce degree, and from Queen's University as a chartered accountant.

Leaving a partnership in a large Toronto public accounting firm in 1968, Perlmutter became an independent financial consultant for various public companies.

Perlmutter has been involved in the entertainment field since 1971, when, recognizing the Canadian government efforts to encourage film production, he established Quadrant Films to produce theatrical films.

By 1988, he had produced or packaged over \$200 million worth of film and television production. Perlmutter's films during this period ranged from the undersea adventure "The Neptune Factor," released by Twentieth Century-Fox, to the first feature films to star Second City alumni John Candy and Dan Aykroyd. During this time, he was also one of the founders of First Choice Canadian Communications, Canada's first pay-TV network.

In 1988, Perlmutter co-founded Cinexus Capital Corporation, which acquired Panavision Canada, the largest film equipment supplier in Canada. As part of Cinexus, he also became involved in theatrical distribution through a joint venture with Famous Players, the Canadian theatrical subsidiary of Paramount.

Perlmutter's relationship with Lewis Chesler began by arranging financing for Chesler's productions during the 1980's. In 1989, they formed Chesler/Perlmutter Productions. In conjunction with Chesler's creative efforts, Perlmutter has created an enormous range of innovative financing structures combining the benefits available to Canadian producers with international benefits, pre-sales and banking sources.

In 1974 he instigated and chaired the Committee that formulated the rules defining Canadian content. In the 1990's he was co-chair of the Committee that designed the tax credit system adopted in Canada and copied elsewhere in the world.

Perlmutter has been extremely active in many other Canadian entertainment industry activities. He was instrumental in the creation of the Canadian Film and Television Producers Association and has participated in the negotiation of co-production agreements between Canada and Germany and the United Kingdom. He has lectured widely on the film industry, and has served

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as a director of numerous community organizations, including the Toronto Symphony, the Toronto Chamber Orchestra and the Weizmann Institute of Science, served as President of the Jewish Community Centre of Toronto, and as a director of the Jewish Community Centre Association in New York.

Perlmutter lives in Toronto with his television producer wife, Renee. They have two sons, Mark and Dean.

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ROBERT VAUGHN (Executive Producer) — A veteran in the television movie genre, Robert Vaughn has been involved in the production of television series and movies for over 15 years. No stranger to the Hallmark family, Vaughn was an executive producer on a number of recent Hallmark Channel Original Holiday Movies, including "Baby's First Christmas" starring Casper Van Dien, "Christmas Song" starring Natasha Henstridge, "Christmas Magic" starring Lindy Booth, "The Case for Christmas" starring Dean Cain, "Cancel Christmas" starring Judd Nelson, "The Santa Suit" starring Kevin Sorbo, and many others. In addition to The Hallmark Channel, Vaughn has produced movies for Lifetime, Lifetime Movie Network, Universal Pictures, Animal Planet and Syfy.

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DOMINIQUE TELSON (Executive Producer) — Dominique Telson is an accomplished Executive Producer, independent producer and Emmy® Award winning senior level network development executive. Telson has produced over 25 films for television, acclaimed series and most recently films for theatrical release. Under her guidance these films have garnered many awards including the Peabody Award, Emmy® Awards and both Writers & Directors Guild nominations and wins.

As a consultant for Canadian producers Chesler/Perlmutter Productions, Telson developed many acclaimed and highly rated films and series for the company. Specifically, Chesler/Perlmutter's holiday films for Hallmark Channel and Lifetime Television Network. These films have resulted in the highest ratings on both networks. The result: a renewed three-picture deal for Chesler/Perlmutter productions now three years and counting.

Prior to being an independent producer, Telson was the Vice President of Original Programming for Showtime Networks. While there, she was responsible for the development and production of various award winning and critically acclaimed Original Movies and Series for the company. During her tenure, she had the privilege of working with the industry's top talent including Robert Redford for the Sundance Channel, Jamie Foxx, Dustin Hoffman, Mimi Rogers, Bernadette Peters, Michael Clarke Duncan, Ally Sheedy, Ed Harris, Ryan Gosling and countless other stars like Danny Glover, whose directorial debut was guided by Telson and received a Daytime Emmy® Nomination. She also dared to discover new talent like an unknown, at the time, Brittany Murphy who starred alongside Kirsten Dunst in "The Devil's Arithmetic." The film was produced by Telson and won the Emmy® for Best Screenplay and Best Director.

Ever pioneering to create opportunities for minorities, Telson was instrumental in the creation of
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Showtime's Black Filmmaker Showcase, which featured short films from several previously unknown filmmakers such as Malcolm Lee and Sid Quashie. In 2003 Telson received Multichannel News' prestigious "Wonder Woman of the Year" award in recognition of her outstanding achievements as a leader in the cable television industry. Telson's wealth of industry experience and industry relationships make her a priceless part of any production team.

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HARVEY CROSSLAND (Director) – Harvey Crossland has been a director, screenwriter, and producer of drama, documentary and docu-drama for more than 25 years. He holds dual Canadian and Irish citizenship and is able to travel and work on both a Canadian and an EU passport.

In 2013, Crossland has finished directing "They Walk With You," a short film permanently installed in the Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles-Sur-Mer, France. He also directed an episode of CTV's psychic crime series "The Listener." Starting in August, Harvey will direct another block of two episodes in his sixth season on the hugely popular period crime series "Murdoch Mysteries."

Crossland began his film and television career in Vancouver, Canada where he co-founded two production companies - Hy Perspectives Media Group and Siren Films. His production of the feature docu-drama "Close To Home," about the continuum of sexual abuse, runaways and juvenile prostitution, became a nationally acclaimed MOW.

After the release of his Genie nominated feature film, "The Burning Season," which he wrote and directed in Canada and India, Crossland moved to Toronto, Canada in 1993.

Harvey Crossland has directed nominated and award-winning episodic drama and family comedy series, documentary and docu-drama features and series, for National Geographic, History, Discovery, CBC, CTV, CITY, A&E, PBS, BBC, ALIBI, W, ITV, Vision, TLC, Family Channel, Noggin, Disney, Nickelodeon, Discovery Health, Fox Kids, Fox U.S., YTV, Canal Plus, Canal J, ZDF, France 3, ABC Australia and many more networks.

Shoots have taken him across Canada, into the Arctic and around the world to Brazil, Thailand, Okinawa, South Africa, Japan, India, France, England, United States, Holland, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Belgium, Turkey, Cuba, Hong Kong, Argentina, Russia, Estonia and Ukraine.

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LEE VENTURA (Writer) - Lee Ventura is a writer and development executive at Chesler/Perlmutter Productions. Some of Ventura's credits include, his award winning short film "The Great Maldini," which was ranked by the Toronto International Film Festival as one of the ten best student films in Canada in 2012. Currently, Lee Ventura has many projects in various stages of development.

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