

SMALL TOWN CHRISTMAS

Johnson Production Group

Press Kit

One-Liner

When a young novelist travels to the hometown of the man who inspired her book, she reconnects with an old flame and helps restore the town's Christmas traditions.

Synopsis

Author Nell Phillips is happy to finish a long book tour for her bestseller *Small Town Christmas*, but her publisher asks for one last stop, which Nell is reluctant to make. Springdale, Wisconsin, the real-life small town upon which Nell's fictional Derryville is based, is the hometown of her former New York co-worker Emmett Turner. Not only did he dazzle Nell with tales of his idyllic hometown, but also asked her out on a date and never showed up. In fact, Emmett quit his job, moved back to Springdale with no explanation, and never responded to Nell's attempts to contact him. But since arrangements with the owner of PaigeTurner Books, who happens to be Emmett, have already been made, Nell agrees to go.

Arriving in "middle-of-nowhere" Wisconsin, Nell grabs the last rental car, but before leaving, she meets handsome land developer Brad, who's also going to Springdale, so she offers to share the ride. Pulling up to the town's only hotel, Brad takes their luggage inside just as Emmett walks up to greet Nell. Flustered, the two try to chat, but it's awkward, especially when Brad returns and introduces himself to Emmett. Assuming Nell and Brad are together, Emmett leaves dejected, but not before offering to give Nell a tour of the town. Later she asks Brad if he'd like to join her for tomorrow's tour, but he declines, saying he's meeting with the mayor, but will be happy to take her to the tree lighting ceremony afterward.

While Emmett introduces Nell to the locals, she's charmed by all of Springdale, especially PaigeTurner Books. But when Emmett refers to her as merely a "former acquaintance" to his employee Hayley, Nell is hurt and goes to the hotel where she tries in vain to get over her writer's block. Strolling through town, she runs into nine-year old Marnie with Hayley, who says she's watching the child for Emmett. Later, at the tree lighting ceremony, Nell asks Emmett if his little girl takes after her mom, and he says she's just like Paige, who died with her husband in a car accident. Remembering Paige was Emmett's sister, Nell puts two and two together, and realizes he gave up everything to be his niece's guardian, but what she doesn't realize, is Emmett explained this all in a letter he mailed to her old office.

Meanwhile, the mayor is totally onboard after hearing Brad's plans to revitalize Springdale and turn Kringlefest into a go-to holiday destination. To handle the influx of tourists, Brad makes generous offers to property owners to purchase their businesses for upgrading or repurposing, and while most of the

townspeople feel the offers are too good to pass up, Emmett holds out, wanting to save his bookstore for Marnie. But when Brad says all property owners must agree or the deal is void, Emmett feels he must go along with everyone else. Shocked to learn Emmett has caved in, Nell can't bear to see Springdale lose its unique quaintness and she decides to leave, wondering if the man she'd romanticized in her book was just fiction all along.

Producers

Executive Producer
TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON

Executive Producer
BRUCE D. JOHNSON

Producer
NAVID SOOFI

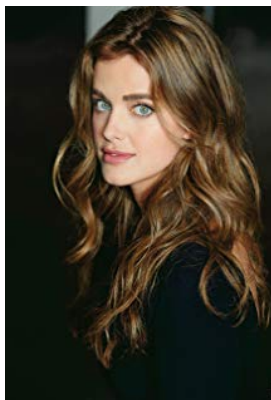
Supervising Producer
OLIVER DE CAIGNY

Key Cast

<u>CHARACTER</u>	<u>ACTOR</u>
Nell	ASHLEY NEWBROUGH
Emmett	KRISTOFFER POLAHA

Key Cast Biographies

ASHLEY NEWBROUGH



Ashley Newbrough, born in Newport, Rhode Island to a Canadian mother and American father, moved to Canada at three and grew up in Ontario. She began her career at the age of 10, appearing in a number of commercials worldwide.

Landing her first starring role on Fox's "The Zack Files" series, Newbrough played Alice in Wonderland alongside Robert Clark, Michael Seater and Jack Epstein. She then landed a minor role in the TV family film "Get a Clue," starring Lindsay Lohan and Brenda Song.

In 2004, Newbrough earned her first starring role in Lifetime's drama pilot "The Coven." Her next role was guest starring in an episode of "1-800-Missing," after which she landed a recurring role in "Radio Free Roscoe" and "The Best Years." She also appeared on "Deglassi: The Next Generation" before getting her big break in the 2007 Syfy film Kaw, opposite Sean Patrick Flannery and Rod Taylor.

Newbrough scored the role on the award-winning Canadian sport comedy “Rent-a-Goalie” and after the third season wrapped she moved to Los Angeles where she captured the lead role as The CW’s drama series “Privileged.” In 2013–14, Newbrough recurred as Kyra on ABC’s “Mistresses” and in 2015, she was the lead in Hallmark Channel’s “Love Under the Stars.”

KRISTOFFER POLAHA



Kristoffer Polaha is familiar to Hallmark Channel viewers for his starring roles in “Rocky Mountain Christmas,” “Hearts of Christmas,” “Dater’s Handbook,” and most recently, “Pearl in Paradise.”

Polaha has also starred in a number of network TV series over the past 10 years, including “Life Unexpected,” “North Shore,” “Miss Guided,” “Made in Jersey,” “Ringer,” “Valentine,” and “Backstrom.” Last year he appeared in the Epix limited series “Get Shorty” and, most recently, in the MGM Television limited series “Condor” opposite William Hurt and Max Irons.

Next up for Polaha is the upcoming Tim Tebow film Run the Race and a featured role in the Warner Bros. film Wonder Woman 2 opposite Gal Gadot.

Born in Reno, Nevada, Polaha is married to actress Julianne Morris. They have three sons.

Production Credits

Full Cast

Actors	Role
Ashley Newbrough	Nell
Kristoffer Polaha	Emmett
Preston Vanderslice	Brad
Bailey Skodje	Marnie
Veronika Hadrava	Jenny
Linda Sorensen	Mrs. Ferguson
Daniel Bacon	Mayor Roy Deakins
Debs Howard	Hayley
Lucia Walters	Caroline
Ronald Patrick Thompson	Lance
Michelle Choi-Lee	Julia
Serge Jaswal	Hotel Clerk
Alison Araya	Rick

Alex Zahara	Reporter
Barbara Patrick	Clerk
Nhi Do	Stacey
Chris Francisque	Kevin
Anesha Bailey	Store Manager

Executive Producers

Timothy O. Johnson
Bruce D. Johnson

Producer

Navid Soofi

Directed by

Maclain Nelson

Story By

Bruce D. Johnson

Teleplay by

Dana Stone
Samantha Herman

Production Manager

Darren Robson

Supervisor Producer

Oliver De Caigny

Associate Producer

Leah Myers

Director of Photography

Mike Kam

Production Designer

Heather Coutts

Costume Designer

Claudia Da Ponte

Set Decorator

Natalia Peixoto

Location Manager

Garrett VanDusen

Editor

Rick Martin

Casting Director

Judy Lee

Producer Biographies**TIM JOHNSON** – Executive Producer

Tim Johnson is among the most active and reliable producers in the business thanks to top rate productions and global distribution appeal.

Johnson is also responsible for producing the international hit series, DR. QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN for CBS for over 5 seasons. During his 100-episode tenure, he also developed and produced the original docu-drama COLD CASE for CBS network, which was the very first program to integrate television with the Internet.

Johnson has produced over 150 movies, 15 globally released series for every major US network - including ABC, Disney, CBS, NBC, Netflix, FOX and Sony.

JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP

The Johnson Production Group contracts globally to produce television and motion picture content for international networks, studios and distributors. Based in Los Angeles and Vancouver, British Columbia, the company manages production, facilitates development and financing, procures distribution and guarantees quality and timely execution of its programs. While costs have gone up, so has the demand for quality. No longer is good enough, good enough. Johnson Production Group serves that segment when a show needs to be "A" quality, but produced efficiently enough to meet a locked budget. JPG specializes in value, protection of creative elements, and delivery of a quality finished product.

NAVID SOOFI –Producer

Navid's passion for creative film making along with his business and engineering background plays an important role in creating a successful and transparent business model. Navid has been in the Entertainment industry for past 11 years and produced and Line Produced many films, shows and commercial that have been featured on national television, international Theatres, and new media platforms in Vancouver, Canada.

Billing Block

Johnson Production Group Presents "SMALL TOWN CHRISTMAS"
ASHLEY NEWBROUGH and KRISTOFFER POLAHA Director of Photography MIKE KAM
Production Designer HEATHER COUTTS Costume Designer CLAUDIA DA PONTE
Set Decorator NATALIA PEIXOTO Editor RICK MARTIN Casting Director JUDY LEE
Executive Producers TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON BRUCE D. JOHNSON Producer NAVID SOOFI
Supervisor Producer OLIVER DE CAIGNY Story By BRUCE D. JOHNSON
Teleplay by DANA STONE SAMANTHA HERMAN Directed by MACLAIN NELSON

With the participation of the Province of British Columbia
Film Incentive BC

The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit

Canada 

© MMXVIII Hometown Productions Inc. All Rights Reserved



JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP

Meta Data

LONG (max 540 characters) synopsis

Nell isn't thrilled about reading Small Town Christmas at Emmett's bookstore. He'd stood her up in the past with no explanation. After seeing Nell in town with Brad, a developer, Emmett assumes they're together. As Nell walks around town and meets Emmett's niece, she hears he'd written about his sister's death but Nell never received the letter. Seeing Emmett in a new light, Nell thinks she could fall for him. But when he caves into Brad's offer for his bookstore, Nell wonders if Emmett was just romanticized fiction all along. (533)

MEDIUM (max 180) synopsis

Novelist Nell, travels to the hometown of the man who inspired her book "Small Town Christmas," she reconnects with an old flame and helps restore the town's Christmas traditions. (179)

SHORT (max 54 characters) synopsis

Nell promotes her novel; reconnects with an old flame (53)

5 KEY WORDS

Novelist, bookstore, romance, developer, spirit