

# Johnson Production Group Press Kit

## **One-Liner**

When champion figure skater Claire becomes injured she is sent to a rehabilitation center in the snowy mountains where she meets and falls for a local ice fisherman who shows her there is more to life than competition.

## **Synopsis**

Since she was a young girl of just seven Claire has been in competition. A star figure skater from the moment she laced up her first skates Claire has only known a life of ice cold rinks, relentless training and holidays spent in hotels in cities and towns all over North America. Now twenty-seven-years-old Claire is growing tired of this life. But her driven coach - and boyfriend - Vlad has his eye on the prize and continues to push her until just weeks before Christmas exhaustion wins and Claire stumbles on the ice and injures her ankle. She is prescribed rest and rehab. Wanting a speedy recovery because the next competition is just after Christmas, Vlad is quick to send her to a renowned rehab and wellness center in the snowy mountain regions of the state.

Claire is thrilled to have some time alone as well as some much needed peace and quiet. But as she rests by the hot springs she is rudely pulled from her peace and quiet by the sound of a snow mobile. This is how she meets Paul - a local single dad who owns and operates a fishing shop and ice hut rental. The rough and burly - albeit handsome - Paul rubs the pampered yet fiery Claire the wrong way and the two butt heads instantly. She ignores his warnings about the dangers of the ice on the lakes and ventures out on the frozen water on her skates. When the ice cracks and she falls into the frigid waters it is Paul who saves her. He takes her to his cabin to warm up where she meets his sweet young daughter Izzy. A fan of figure skating Izzy is in awe of Claire - recognizing her as the champion figure skater she is. For her part Claire sees a different side of Paul. He warms Claire's heart when she sees what a doting father he is and what a lover he is of the nature surrounding them. Time and again Claire finds herself seeking him out - especially after seeing that her coach and "boyfriend" has a new ingénue and prized skater to devote himself to. For his part Paul at first finds Claire "girlie" ways bothersome - until he is witness to her skating one night on the frozen lake. He is mesmerized by her grace and beauty. After that he too

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finds himself seeking her out and he patiently teaches her how to ice fish, snowmobile and even snow shoe. She in turn teaches his daughter how to figure skate and Izzy proudly shows her dad her first ice skating jump. Claire is surprised to learn that despite his expertise at ice fishing, Paul never learnt how to skate. Together, she and Izzy coax Paul into a pair of skates and onto the ice.

As Christmas approaches the small local town is abuzz with excitement for the annual Christmas Eve gathering where everyone laces up and hits the ice while hot ciders and cocoa await along with warming bonfires.

It is not long before Claire finds herself falling in love with Paul. But her other world soon beckons. Vlad arrives to whisk her away to the next competition overseas. Not used to standing up for what she wants, Claire relents. She sadly packs her bags and leaves the mountain. Paul is just as heartbroken. On Christmas Eve Izzy tries to cheer him up by encouraging him to skate with her. His eyes light up when he sees a familiar figure on the frozen lake. Claire glides along as everyone watches in awe as she performs a figure skating routine. When she is finished she skates up to Paul and Izzy and proclaims that there is no place that she'd rather skate then with the lake beneath her blades and the snow capped mountains at her back. Paul and Izzy share their first kiss on the Eve of Christmas and then on either side of Izzy they hold hands and glide across the lake under the snowy star studded sky.

## Producers

Executive Producer TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON Producer OLIVER DE CAIGNY

## **Key Cast**

CHARACTERACTORClaireLEAH RENEELukeNIALL MATTERJullianMICHAEL TEIGENChamonixGRACYN SHINYEI

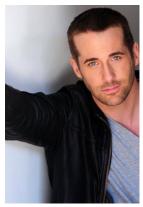
## **Key Cast Biographies**

### LEAH RENEE



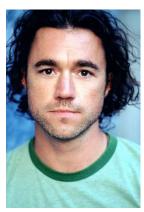
Leah Renee was born on October 1, 1985 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada as Leah Renee Cudmore. She is an actress, known for Interstate 60: Episodes of the Road (2002), Love by the Book (2014) and A Snow Capped Christmas (2016).

#### NIALL MATTER



Niall Matter was born on October 20, 1980 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He is an actor, known for Watchmen (2009), Eureka (2006) and Primeval: New World (2012).

#### **MICHAEL TEIGEN**



Michael Teigen is an actor, known for TRON: Legacy (2010), Good Luck Chuck (2007) and Nightwatching (2007).

#### **GRACYN SHINYEI**



Gracyn was/is home-schooled by her parents and acts, dances and sings, like her older brother Valin Shinyei. She started in toy commercials at age 3 and then progressed into film and TV work at age 5, Landing some fun roles along the way, she has been able to play contrasting characters like the sweet Emily Montgomery and the evil Amara.

## **Production Credits**

**Directed by** Christie Will

#### **Writing Credits**

Barbara Kymlicka

#### Cast

Leah Renee	Claire
Niall Matter	Luke
Michael Teigen	Jullian
Gracyn Shinyei	Chamonix
Amélie Will Wolf	Young Claire
Rhonda Dent	Reporter
Benita Ha	Female commentator
Sean Carey	Male Commentator
Ann MacDonald	Louise

### Produced by

Oliver De Caigny	Producer
Timothy O. Johnson	executive producer
Navid Soofi	line producer

# Cinematography by

Anthony C. Metchie

#### Art Direction by

#### Patrick Macht

#### **Costume Design by**

Claudia Da Ponte

#### Art Department

Justin Delima	props
Dustin Lange	property master
Gina MacKay	assistant set decorator
Brittany Towson	assistant property master

#### **Camera and Electrical Department**

Andrey Chimkovitch	dolly grip
Laurent Danis	second assistant camera
Chase Fletcher	key grip
Clyde Harrelson	Gaffer
Tatiana Hopcraft	electrician
Tom Issac	generator op
Justin Jay Kamal	first assistant camera
Alex Lutzmann	second assistant camera
Gabriel Medina	director of photography: second unit
Emma Osmond	Grip
Montana Pete	Grip
Daniel Pitts	best boy grip
Damir Ticak	Grip
Andrew Wunder	best boy electric
Michael Yeung	first assistant camera: a camera

#### Other crew

Sean Cummings	location manager
Brian McWha	assistant location manager

## **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 an 'on time, on budget' reputation. Previously, he managed the production of ABC's THE DAYS (MINDSHARE/TOUCHTONE.) Prior to forming Johnson Production Group and Ignite Entertainment, Tim served as Head of West Coast Programming Executive and Iaunched the successful series DOC (88 episodes,) SUE THOMAS, FBI, MYSTERIOUS WAYS, JUST CAUSE,

#### PONDEROSA, CHRISTY, ITS A MIRACLE AND MIRACLE PETS.

Johnson is also responsible for producing the international hit series, DR. QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN for CBS PRODS/SULLIVAN COMPANY for over 5 seasons. During his 100-episode tenure, he also launched LIVE FROM THE RANCH with Orson Bean - a nationally syndicated talk show focusing on family values in America. He also developed and produced the original docudrama COLD CASE for CBS network, which was the very first program to integrate television with the Internet.

#### **Recent Projects:**

For Better or For Worse – Executive Producer Baby Bootcamp – Executive Producer Ring By Spring – Executive Producer Sole Custody - Executive Producer The Cheating Pact – Executive Producer Deadly Spa – Executive Producer Walking the Halls – Executive Producer June In January – Executive Producer Christmas in the City – Executive Producer Snow Bride – Executive Producer Dirty Teacher – Executive Producer The Surrogate – Executive Producer Merry In-Laws – Executive Producer A Bride for Christmas – Executive Producer Naughty or Nice – Executive Producer Christmas Crush- Executive Producer Teenage Bank Heist– Executive Producer How to Fall in Love – Executive Producer Home Invasion (2011) - Executive Producer Final Sale (2011) – Executive Producer Confined (2010) – Executive Producer Tornado Valley (2009) – Executive Producer The Wedding Dance (2009) – Executive Producer Trust (2009) – executive producer Toxic Skies (2008) – executive producer Storm seekers (2008) – executive producer Making Mr. Right (2008) – executive producer Love Sick (2008) – executive producer Just Breathe (2008) – executive producer

Devils Diary (2007) – executive producer Swarm (2007) – executive producer

### 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.

### **OLIVER DE CAIGNY** - Producer

Oliver De Caigny is a Canadian producer originally from Belgium, his background in financing, production, and post production makes his a well-rounded producer for any type of production. His experience in financing and production agreements (film and TV series and movies-of-the week), distribution agreements (both domestic and foreign) as well as international co-productions, Canadian tax credit, Telefilm Canada and Canada Media Fund incentives provides him with a well-rounded background in development, production and distribution for motion pictures, television series and productions.

Recent Projects Strange Empire (2014, 13 episodes) – Producer Her Infidelity (2014) - Producer Paper Angels (2014) - Producer A Cookie Cutter Christmas (2014) - Producer For Better or For Worse (2014) – Producer A Ring By Spring (2014) – Producer June In January (2014) – Producer Baby Bootcamp (2013) – Producer A Badge Of Betrayal (aka Sole Custody) (2013) – Producer R.L. Stine's: The Haunting Hour (53 Episodes) – Associate Producer A Bride For Christmas (2013) – Producer Radio Rebel (2012) – Executive Producer

Seattle Superstorm (2012) – Producer

## **CHRISTIE WILL** – Director

Christie Will studied at Emerson College in Boston MA, and the College of Charleston in SC. She earned a BA in Business Arts Management, in addition to a BA in Theatre Performance (concentrating in Music Theatre and Film). Christie also earned a BFA in Art History, along with receiving a 'Leadership in the Arts' Distinction Award, upon graduation.

Following University, Christie graced stages across North America, before moving to Los Angeles where she worked as an actress, model, and emerging director and writer. During this time, she split the year by living between Vancouver Canada and Los Angeles California. In Vancouver, Christie founded the first avant-garde black box theatre; The Beaumont Playhouse (based on the teachings of Sanford Meisner; Christie was a long time student of Robert Carnegie's 'Playhouse West' in Los Angeles). It was during her time back in the theatre that Christie honed in on her writing and directing for the stage. After finding success and audiences within the theatre scene, Christie soon transposed her efforts into film.

Career: Her first short film 'Dysfunction' was received with critical acclaim, encouraging Christie to focus her creative aspirations to further writing and directing for the big and small screen. She worked as Peter Berg's director's assistant (Smokin Aces, Friday Night Lights, Hancock, The Rundown), before moving into Senior Executive in Business Development for singer/ entertainer Paula Abdul (responsible for the development of Paula's first reality show 'Hey Paula'). From this position, Christie focused her sights on directing electronic press kits for feature films, and learning the business of movie production. Her sharp story telling, and creative approach to these electronic press kits, made for happy distributors and producers. She quickly moved into a producers seat, after earning the respect from her colleagues and peers.

After successfully producing (co-producing & associate producing) on various film and televised projects, Christie naturally segued into writing and directing feature films.

As a new female writer, director, producer on the Hollywood scene, Christie's work has been described as "fresh, often providing an uncontrived social commentary on Hollywood" (ref: TS 2006). Her writing and directing has also been described as "authentic, uncensored, and female centric; Christie Will is one of those emerging talents to keep your eye on" (The Sun)

Christie lives on the West Coast between Los Angeles California USA, and Vancouver British Columbia, Canada.

# JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP

## **Billing Block**

Johnson Production Group Presents "FALLING FOR CHRISTMAS" Leah Renee Niall Matter Michael Teigen Gracyn Shinyei

Edited by Clayton Woodhull Music by Steve Gurevitch Executive Producer Timothy O. Johnson Produced by Oliver de Caigny Cinematography by Anthony C. Metchie Art Direction by Patrick Macht Costume Design by Claudia Da Ponte Written by Barbara Kymlicka Directed by Christie Will



# ENTERTAINMENT

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## **META DATA**

## LONG (max 540 characters) synopsis

When champion figure skater Claire becomes injured she is sent to a rehabilitation center in the snowy mountains where she meets and falls for a local ice fisherman who shows her there is more to life than competition. But her other world soon beckons as boyfriend/coach Vlad arrives to whisk her away to the next competition overseas. Will Claire choose career or love? (371)

## MEDIUM (max 180) synopsis

Champion figure skater Claire is injured and sent for rehab in the snowy mountains where she falls for a local ice fisherman who shows her there is more to life than competition (177)

## SHORT (max 54 characters) synopsis

A figure skater finds more in life than competition (51)

## **5 KEY WORDS**

Romance, Figure Skating, Snowcapped Christmas