Johnson Production Group

Press Kit

# One-Liner

How does an aspiring romance novelist attempt to realize her dream of being published?

# Synopsis

Kim Rossi is an aspiring romance novelist with dreams of becoming published. When Kim’s boyfriend Garth dumps her citing his need to seriously focus on his writing and wanting someone who seriously focuses on theirs, Kim decides to do something bold: she courageously faces her fear of criticism by signing up for a week-long, winter romance novelist writer’s conference in beautiful, majestic Vermont. Kim is beyond excited: not only will publishers and agents read her raw manuscript; there is a contest where the winner is awarded a meeting with her literary idol: the famous and enigmatic romance novelist H.T. Cowell.

While waiting to check into the beautiful, snow covered Mistletoe Inn, Kim meets Zeke, a handsome and fellow aspiring writer whose luggage collides with hers, making for an awkward introduction. They bump into each other again as next-door neighbors checking into their respective rooms and again at the first cocktail mixer, where after some small talk, Kim turns around to find her ex, Garth, standing there wondering why she, of all people, would be at a writer’s conference. Garth tells her to lower her expectations, declaring he will win this contest. She readily accepts his challenge, wanting to prove him wrong for not believing in her.

During the conference, Kim attends several workshops where she is paired up with Zeke – who seems to know quite a bit about romance writing. At one point, despite her adamant protest, he hijacks her laptop and begins to read her not-even-close-to-being-ready manuscript, reminding her she needs to be more resilient to feedback. While she panics, he tries to offer constructive criticism and it’s later announced to the entire conference that she, not Garth, wins the first round of the competition! A small victory, but she still doubts herself.

As Kim and Zeke work together during the week, she confesses she lacks confidence and he admits post-divorce, he’s suffering from writer’s block, signing up for the conference as a way to knock it loose. During an evening stroll through the decorated streets, they share a heartfelt talk, which turns into a playful snowball fight and there is a charged moment between them. She begins to trust him – and finally takes a leap – allowing him to read her entire rough manuscript; she pleads for him to be nice, and he promises to be truthful. He tells her it’s solid, but needs perspective, and surprises her with airline tickets to New York for the day to see the world through her characters’ eyes. As the competition heats up, Kim makes a startling and astonishing discovery about Zeke and despite finally feeling more confident about her work, leaves the conference feeling betrayed and rejected. When Zeke unexpectedly arrives at her doorstep Christmas morning with a mysterious envelope, Kim realizes the only person needed to believe in herself is her, and along the way also opens up her heart for unexpected love.

# Producers

Executive Producer

TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON

Executive Producer
NORMAN STEPHENS

Producer
OLIVER DE CAIGNY

Key Cast

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CHARACTERKim RossiZeke |  | ACTORALICIA WITTDAVID ALPAY |

# Key Cast Biographies

## ALICIA WITT

## Alicia Witt's primary photoStarting with her debut in 1984 at the mere age of seven as Alia in David Lynch’s science fiction classic, Dune, Alicia Witt has garnered nearly a three-decade long career as an actor and singer-songwriter.

## Witt recently received rave reviews for her role as Paula in AMC’s critically acclaimed series “The Walking Dead.” Witt is currently appearing and singing on ABC’s hit drama series “Nashville” as country star Autumn Chase, and seen on cult favorites “Supernatural” (CW) and returning to David Lynch’s long anticipated “Twin Peaks” on Showtime, reprising her role from the original series. In 2016, Witt starred in Hallmark Channel’s original movie “The Christmas List.”

## In 2014, Witt joined the cast of the Emmy® Award-winning FX series “Justified” as Wendy Crowe, the smart and sexy paralegal sister of crime lord Danny Crowe. She made a provocative addition to this critically acclaimed series.

## Off screen a classically trained pianist and phenomenal singer, Witt is one of those rare talents whose passion as a singer-songwriter is also gaining tremendous attention from both the industry and her fans. Alicia is currently in the studio recording her newest album, 15,000 Days, with Grammy® Award-winning producer Jacquire King (Kings of Leon, Norah Jones, Ingrid Michaelson, Tom Waits, James Bay). She recently made her debut at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and has also performed live as a musical guest on CBS’s “Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson” and “The Queen Latifah Show.” Witt released her first full-length studio album, Revisionary History, in May 2015, which has garnered comparisons to Elton John, Fiona Apple and Carole King. She has opened for Ben Folds Five, Jimmy Webb and John Fullbright to name a few.

## Witt’s many film credits include 88 Minutes alongside Al Pacino, Warner Bros’ hit Two Weeks Notice opposite Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant, Last Holiday with Queen Latifah, Urban Legend, The Upside of Anger, Mr. Holland’s Opus, Four Rooms, Fun and Vanilla Sky, directed by Cameron Crowe.

## Witt received the Special Jury Recognition Award for Acting at the Sundance Film Festival for Fun, in addition to being nominated for an Independent Spirit Award in the category of Best Debut Performance. She also won Best Actress at the US Comedy Arts Festival for Playing Mona Lisa.

## Other significant roles that fans may recognize Witt from include Showtime’s “House of Lies,” NBC’s Emmy® Award winning “Friday Night Lights,” CBS’ “The Mentalist” and NBC’s “Law & Order:

## Criminal Intent,” alongside Chris Noth. She spent four years on the CBS hit show “Cybill” and has appeared on the HBO series “The Sopranos,” CBS’s “Two and a Half Men,” “Ally McBeal” and David Lynch’s “Twin Peaks.”

## On stage, Witt starred in Neil LaBute’s Tony nominated play Reasons to be Pretty at the Geffen Playhouse. She also appeared at London’s Royal Court theatre in Terry Johnson’s Piano/Forte and made her West End debut with Neil LaBute’s The Shape of Things. She has also performed at Williamstown Theatre Festival and is a regular participant in the 24-Hour Plays on Broadway and the 24 Hour Musicals off-Broadway.

## Witt is a triple threat in the business and no signs of slowing down are present in either her demeanor, nor her actions and hunger for more.

## DAVID ALPAY

David Alpay is best known for his recurring role on the CW series “The Vampire Diaries” and being a regular on Showtime’s “The Borgias” and “The Tudors.” Alpay was also a series regular on the Canadian series “Billable Hours” and starred in Hallmark Channel’s original movie premieres “Ice Sculpture Christmas” and “Sleigh Bells Ring.”

Alpay starred in the feature film They’re Watching as well as in the Sundance film Ten For Grandpa and had a supporting lead in Man of the Year, alongside Robin Williams, Christopher Walken, Laura Linney and Lewis Black. He also played a lead role in his first film, Atom Egoyan’s Ararat, alongside Christopher Plummer and appeared with Plummer again in Richard Attenborough’s Closing the Ring, which also starred Shirley MacLaine. He will soon be seen in the independent features Birdland and Prodigals which is set to premiere at the Whistler Film Festival.

On television, Alpay has guest starred in a number of hit television series, including Lifetime’s “Drop Dead Diva,” CBS’ “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation,” USA’s “Royal Pains,” TNT’s “Rizzoli & Isles,” USA’s “Fairly Legal,” Starz’s “Crash” and FOX’s “Dollhouse.” Most recently, Alpay starred in Lifetime’s drama series, “The Lottery,” guest-starred in an episode of “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” and had a recurring role in “Quantico.” He was recently set as a lead in the SyFy pilot “The Haunted.”

# Production Credits

### Full Cast

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [**Actors**](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm7589451/?ref_=ttfc_fc_cl_t1)Alicia WittDavid AlpayLucie GuestCasey MandersonLinden BanksTiffani Timms Benita HaShiren Van CootenMarion EismanKrzysztof BryjakNatalie Von RotsburgScott McGrathRhonda DentKen Lawson | **Role**Kim RossiZekeSamanthaGarthRobert RossiLuanneKarenEmmaCatherine McCullenTweedy GuyRegistrarMan with packagesBook AgentNorman |
| Sarah LindsayChad Sayn | Kim stunt doublestunt coordinator |

### Produced by

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Timothy O. Johnson |   | executive producer |
| Norman Stephens |   | executive producer |
| Oliver De Caigny |   | producer |
| Leah Myers |  | associate producer |
| Navid Soofi |  | production manager |

### Directed by

Alex Wright

### Written by

Michael Nourse

### Cinematography by

Mike Cam

### Film Editing by

Jason Nielsen

### Casting By

Judy Lee

### Production Design by

Heather Coutts
Lloyd Stone

### Crew

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Troy Scott | first assistant director |
|  |  |
| Jeff Croft | second assistant director |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Tim Lanham | set decorator |
| Laura Maier | assistant set decorator |
| Rob Van Poelgeest | lead dresser |
|  |  |
| Charlene Irani | on set dresser |
| Lauren Dominczuk | dressers |
| Ryan Gobert |  |
| Greg Ryan |  |
| Jeff Peters |  |
| Boris Mashenkov | graphic artist |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Rory Tucker | property masters |
| Darcy Butler |  |
|  |  |
| Elizabeth Mcleod | make-up artist |
| Katelyn Abbott | hair stylist |
| Taylor BarronLaura Sluggett | swings |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Yana Konteft | costume designer |
| Linden Ligertwood | set supervisor |
| Cecilia Ignacio | truck costumer |
| Myra Gonzalez | background costumer |
| Stacey Bradder | buyer |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Andy Hodgson | camera operator |
| Kyle VollstaedtChristian Lai | first assistants camera |
| Andy Alvarez | second assistants camera |
| Warren Tiplady |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Pierre Cruz | gaffer |
| Gareth Jones | best boy electric |
| Sepehr Mahbob | electric |
| Slatie Chu  |  |
| Noah Penner |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Steele Murdoch | generator operator |
|  |  |
| Michael Johnston | key grip |
| Mark Kent | dolly grip |
| Ian Nolan | best boy grip |
| Martin Calvo | grip |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Peter Gibson | transport coordinator |
| Tracy Murray | transport captain |
| Sam Sodeyf | drivers |
| Jeff Charlton |  |
| Doug Halvorson |  |
| Gord Mackay |  |
| Barry Hunt | security coordinator |
|  |  |
| Steve Woodley | animal wranglers |
| Darcy Woodley |  |
| Macayla Woodley |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Garrett Vandusen | location manager |
| James Burke | assistant location manager |
| Djamal Johnson | key location assistants |
| Kyle Jensen |  |
| Pejvak Fard |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Christopher O’Brien | production sound mixer |
| Heraldo Abreu | boom operator |
|  |  |
| Anita Reilly McGee | script supervisor |
|  |  |
| Megan Turnbull | payroll accountants |
| Paralee Cook |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Paralee Cook | production coordinators |
| Laura Geluch |  |
| Alex Zahara | production assistants |
| Taylor Hastings |  |
| Kristopher De Caigny | office clerk |
|  |  |
| Darren Devlin | third assistant director |
|  |  |
| Quinn Lewis-Bresch | craft service/first aid |
| Chelsea Bresch |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Austin Gourmet | catering |
| Brandon Crewe  | caterers |
| Nabil Minnikh |  |
| Konstantin Minnikh |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Ciarra Cook | casting assistant |
| La Hilts | extras casting |
| Diane ChesterJennifer Roberts | extras casting assistants |
| Lisa D’Allessandro | background wrangler |
|  |  |
| Andrea Whitburn | stand in |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Coastal Clearances | script clearances |
| Chandler Fogden Aldous Law Corporation | legal services |
| Front Row Insurance Brokers | insurance |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Leah Myers | post production supervisor |
| Devin Taylor | assistant editor |
| Ron Penchalaiya | second assistant editor |
| Evan Graves | visual effects |
| Sean Travers | colourist |
|  |  |
| Annuit Coeptis Entertainment | picture post production |
| Finalé Post | additional post services |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Cinescope Sound | audio post production |
| Gregor Phillips | supervising sound editor |
| Gregor Phillips | re-recording mixer |
| Aaron Olson | dialogue editor |
| Ryan Thompson | sfx editor |
| Alex Macia | foley artists |
| Devon Quelch |  |
|  |  |

# 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 launched 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 docu-drama COLD CASE for CBS network, which was the very first program to integrate television with the Internet.

Recent Projects:

Eat, Play, Love – Executive Producer

Sleepwalking in Suburbia – Executive Producer

The Stalker Club – Executive Producer

Infidelity in Suburbia – Executive Producer

Hunter's Cove – Executive Producer

Double Mommy – Executive Producer

Hearts of Christmas – Executive Producer

The Rooftop Christmas Tree – Executive Producer

A Snow Capped Christmas – Executive Producer

A December Bride – Executive Producer

The Mistletoe Promise – Executive Producer

Stalked by My Mother – Executive Producer

Stalked by My Doctor: The Return – Executive Producer

Backstabbed – Executive Producer

The Convenient Groom – Executive Producer

Killer Coach – Executive Producer

Tulips in Spring – Executive Producer

Hearts of Spring – Executive Producer

Stalked by My Doctor – Executive Producer

Becoming Santa – Executive Producer

Magic Stocking – Executive Producer

Just in Time for Christmas – Executive Producer

A Gift Wrapped Christmas – Executive Producer

A Mother's Instinct – Executive Producer

Ice Sculpture Christmas – Executive Producer

The Reckoning – Executive Producer

Bad Sister – Executive Producer

Family for Christmas – Executive Producer

Double Daddy – Executive Producer

Her Infidelity – Executive Producer

Stalked by My Neighbor – Executive Producer

Babysitter's Black Book – Executive Producer

A Gift of Miracles – Executive Producer

Strange Empire – Executive Producer

Sugar Daddies – Executive Producer

Paper Angels – Executive Producer

A Cookie Cutter Christmas – Executive Producer

Stranded in ParadiseFor 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 – Executive Producer

Final Sale – Executive Producer

Confined – Executive Producer

Tornado Valley– Executive Producer

The Wedding Dance– Executive Producer

Trust – executive producer

Toxic Skies– executive producer

Storm seekers – executive producer

Making Mr. Right – executive producer

Love Sick – executive producer

Just Breathe – executive producer

Devils Diary – executive producer

Swarm – 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.

## NORMAN STEPHENS – Producer

Norman Stephens began his producing career with Krost/Simon Productions overseeing television movies and miniseries, including six films for CBS starring Elizabeth Montgomery. In 1985 he was recruited by Warner Bros. Television as VP Movies and Miniseries. Under his watch the Studio was the most prolific supplier of long-form programming to the major networks. His highlights included PROMISE, the most awarded program in television history, the multiple Emmy Award-winning biography of the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, MY NAME IS BILL W., and the miniseries NORTH AND SOUTH. He was promoted to Senior Vice President, Creative Affairs in 1990 and supervised the development and production of over 100 pilot scripts and more than 25 pilot productions. Product under his supervision garnered dozens of Emmy Awards, including "bests" for picture, director, writer, actor and actress.

Following ten years at Warner Bros., Stephens joined Village Roadshow Pictures in 1995 as Executive Vice President, Film and Television where he supervised all creative matters for this multi-faceted international exhibitor, distribution and production company.

In 1999 Stephens elected to form his own independent production company under which he produced the miniseries THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS based on the iconic Orson Welles' film. Directed by Alfonso Arau, the film for A&E Networks starred Madeleine Stowe, Bruce Greenwood, Jennifer Tilly, Gretchen Mol, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers and James Cromwell.

Stephens produced BANG BANG YOU'RE DEAD for Showtime Networks. In 2001, the film won four Emmy Awards including Best Picture, Best Writer, Best Director, and Best Actor for its star, Ben Foster, and also received the George Foster Peabody Award for excellence in television programming. In 2002, he produced BENEDICT ARNOLD: A QUESTION OF HONOR for A&E Networks. The film starred Aidan Quinn and Kelsey Grammer, and was directed by Mikael Salomon. It was the most-watched movie on A&E in the 2002 - 2003 television season.

Independently, Stephens completed the remake of the classic television movie, SYBIL. Directed by Joseph Sargent and starring Tammy Blanchard, Jessica Lange, and JoBeth Williams, and with a script by John Pielmeier, the film aired on CBS and Lifetime Networks in the 2007-2008 season. Also for Lifetime in 2010, he produced MY NAME IS SARAH, starring Jennifer Beals about a woman who pretends to be a recovering alcoholic to pursue a romantic interest until the burden of her lie requires her confession in an AA meeting.

In June, 2009 Stephens completed a dramatic film, DARWIN'S DARKEST HOUR, based on the life of Charles Darwin and his wife Emma for National Geographic Television and Nova. The film stared Henry Ian Cusick (LOST) and Frances O'Connor (MANSFIELD PARK, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST, ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE). The film won the prestigious History Makers' Award for Best Historical Drama.

Since 2006, Stephens has also been affiliated with producers David Skinner and Tom Gorai of ShadowCatcher Entertainment in Seattle, Washington and is a producing partner on six projects ranging from theatrical feature films like DARK SURF, the story of the collision of vampire sharks on the surfing beaches of Southern California, and WHISTLER IN THE DARK about a dysfunctional family that finds reunion and healing during a harrowing bear hunt in Alaska.

Also in 2014, Stephens, with producing partner, Beverly Nero, produced NOBODY NOWHERE, the extraordinary true story of Donna Williams who survived neglect and abuse to emerge as the world's leading spokesperson for the vast variety of human beings on the autistic spectrum. In 2015 came a contemporary remake of BUTTERFIELD 8 written by JF Lawton (PRETTY WOMAN).

From 2009 through 2012, Stephens was affiliated with Evergreen Films based in Alaska and Los Angeles. His responsibilities included participating in the development of theatrical feature films that stretch the human imagination through the marriage of heroic story-telling and-cutting edge technology.

MY MOTHER'S FUTURE HUSBAND starring Lea Thompson for the UP Channel was completed in 2013. This touching coming together of a mother and daughter to explore new opportunities to love again after the loss of their husband and father was the network's Mother's Day feature in 2014.

Stephens is a graduate of Princeton University and attended Cornell Law School. He lives in northern Nevada where he, his wife and daughter are avid skiers in the Tahoe region of the Sierras.

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

Eat, Play, Love – Producer

Sleepwalking in Suburbia – Producer

Woman on the Run – Producer

Infidelity in Suburbia – Producer

Sleigh Bells Ring – Producer

The Rooftop Christmas Tree – Producer

A Snow Capped Christmas – Producer

A December Bride – Producer

The Mistletoe Promise – Producer

The Convenient Groom – Producer

Tulips in Spring – Producer

Hearts of Spring – Producer

Becoming Santa – Producer

Magic Stocking – Producer

Just in Time for Christmas – Producer

A Gift Wrapped Christmas – Producer

A Mother's Instinct – Producer

Ice Sculpture Christmas – Producer

The Reckoning – Producer

Family for Christmas – Producer

Her Infidelity – Producer

A Gift of Miracles – Producer

Strange Empire (13 episodes) – Producer

Her Infidelity - Producer

Paper Angels - Producer

A Cookie Cutter Christmas) - Producer

For Better or For Worse – Producer

A Ring By Spring – Producer

June In January – Producer

Baby Bootcamp – Producer

A Badge Of Betrayal (aka Sole Custody) – Producer

R.L. Stine’s: The Haunting Hour (53 Episodes) – Associate Producer

A Bride For Christmas – Producer

The Dating Coach – Producer

Radio Rebel – Executive Producer

Seattle Superstorm – Producer

## Billing Block

Johnson Production Group Presents “THE MISTLETOE INN”
 Alicia Witt and David Alpay Edited by Jason Nielsen
Casting by Judy Lee Director of Photography Mike Kam
Production Design by Heather Coutts Lloyd Stone
Executive Producers Timothy O. Johnson Norman Stephens
Produced by Oliver De Caigny Written by Michael Nourse Directed by Alex Wright

 

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

The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit
![Canada_Color-[Converted].png]()

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Meta Data

LONG (max 540 characters) synopsis

At thirty-two Kimberly Rossi, a finance officer at a Lexus car dealership, has had her heart broken more times than she wants to remember. With two failed engagements, a divorce and again alone with no prospects, she hardly seems the type to dream of being a published romance author. Dreading another holiday alone, she signs up for The Mistletoe Retreat, a nine-day writing retreat in Burlington, VT. Deep inside Kimberly knows she’s at a junction in her life and it’s time to either fulfill her dream or let it go. The other reason she decides to attend the conference is because famed romance writer, H.T. Cowell, once the best selling romance writer in America, and the author whose books instilled in her the desire to be a writer, will be speaking in public for the first time in more than a decade... (514)

MEDIUM (max 180) synopsis

When aspiring romance novelist Kim Rossi is unceremoniously dumped by her soon-to-be-published romance novelist boyfriend, Garth, Kim takes stock and decides to take a leap. (173)

SHORT (max 54 characters) synopsis

A romance novelist pursues her dream of being published (54)

5 KEY WORDS

Christmas Romance Writer Novelist Vermont