

WITH LOVE, Christmas

Johnson Production Group Press Kit

One-Liner

In a game of Secret Santa, they'd better watch out!

Synopsis

Melanie Welsh and Donovan Goodwin are creative executives at Farnsworth Advertising, one of the top agencies in Connecticut. Now the firm has a chance to win the lucrative Evergreen Mobile Christmas account, but Donovan, who Mr. Farnsworth selected to make the pitch, failed to impress the Evergreen executive. Though Donovan's storyboards were sleek, and clearly emphasized the phone's design and functionality, they lacked the most important element – Christmas spirit. Given the chance to make one last pitch, Farnsworth decides to team up Donovan with Melanie, whose earnest and heartwarming campaign style would surely add the homespun appeal Evergreen wants.

Christmas is definitely in Melanie's wheelhouse, especially when it comes to finding perfect presents. But when she draws Donovan's name for the Secret Santa gift exchange, she's totally at a loss. She usually knows what to buy people by getting to know them, but Donovan is as reserved and minimalist as his advertising style, and he never participates in his coworkers' social activities. Discussing her dilemma with her sister Jude, who suggests that she find a secret way of asking Donovan what he likes, Melanie creates a separate Secret Santa email account to communicate with him. But her first message asking him to name some of his favorite things, receives only a terse reply, suggesting all he wants is a simple tie.

Determined to infuse Donovan and the Evergreen Mobile pitch with the joy of Christmas, Melanie keeps emailing him as Secret Santa and takes him to Stamford's North Pole Tree Farm, a holiday extravaganza filled with acres of Christmas cheer. Directing his attention to the excited face of a little girl about to get her picture taken with Santa Claus, Melanie explains how their ad campaign has to tap into that feeling of wonder that the holidays bring. She reminds him that Christmas is supposed to evoke cherished memories of times with loved ones. When he says he never had any moments like that, Melanie begins to understand why he's so closed off, and she makes it her mission to give Donovan a crash course in holiday cheer.

As Donovan opens up to his Secret Santa online, he reveals that after his mother's death, his father dove into his work and stopped celebrating anything. Encouraging Donovan to show his dad his feelings, Melanie discovers she has developed feelings for Donovan, and wonders what he'll think when he learns the true identity of his Secret Santa. But little does Melanie know that Donovan is her Secret Santa as

well, and while she's been secretly finding out about him, he's been picking up clues about her. As the two finally nail the Evergreen campaign and truly enjoy working together, they also nail their Secret Santa gifts to one another, and find that perhaps they'll soon be creating Christmas memories of their own.

Producers

Executive Producer
TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON

Executive Producer
MAURA DUNBAR

Executive Producer
LAURENCE WALSH-HODSON

Executive Producer
OLIVER DE CAIGNY

Supervising Producer
NAVID SOOFI

Key Cast

<u>CHARACTER</u>	<u>ACTOR</u>
Melanie	EMILIE ULLERUP
Donovan	AARON O'CONNELL
Jude	REBECCA DAVIS
Andrew	MICHAEL ST. JOHN SMITH

Key Cast Biographies

EMILIE ULLERUP



Born in Copenhagen, Denmark, to a diplomatic family, Emilie Ullerup grew up all over the world. After graduating, Ullerup knew she had to pursue her ever-growing appetite for acting. She made the choice to leave her native Denmark to move to Vancouver, Canada, where she attended the Vancouver Film School.

Post film school, Ullerup managed to secure a top agent and was sent out on her first real-life audition to book a real-life job. And she did. This out-of-the-gates hot streak continued that same year when she booked leading roles in two TV-shows: “jPod,” which garnered her Best Female Lead in a Dramatic Series at the Leo Awards, a celebration of excellence in film and television, and the worldwide sci-fi success, “Sanctuary.”

Ullerup continued her journey and enjoyed versatility in her work bouncing between genres of drama, horror, action and comedy. She spent three seasons on the hit show “Arctic Air” as the lovably temperamental Swedish pilot, Astrid, for which she earned multiple Leo Awards and UBCP Awards nominations.

Ullerup can be seen in the Netflix feature film True Memoirs of an International Assassin, opposite Kevin James. She’s also in the feature film, Life on the Line, opposite John Travolta and Kate Bosworth. Her other credits include “Battlestar Galactica” (NBC), “Supernatural” (The CW), “Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Home Again” (Hallmark Movies & Mysteries) and Hallmark Channel’s Original primetime series “Chesapeake Shores,” which recently completed its second season.

Ullerup now splits her time between Los Angeles and Vancouver.

AARON O’CONNELL



Born in Dayton, Ohio, Aaron John O’Connell grew up with his sisters, Amy, Abby and Anna. While studying health, fitness and nutrition at Purdue University, O’Connell was signed with Ford Models in Chicago. His quick success moved him to New York City where he worked with magazines such as GQ, Vanity Fair, and the German and French publications of Vogue. He also worked with the designer Carolina Herrera, and on such iconic clothing lines as Hanes, Lucky Brand Jeans, Jockey and Abercrombie & Fitch.

After booking a few successful national commercials, O’Connell caught the eye of writer, producer and director Tyler Perry and in 2013, he was cast in Perry’s first television drama, “The Haves and the Have Nots.” His portrayal of Wyatt Cryer in the series garnered him much attention and he has appeared in more than 86 episodes.

In 2014, O'Connell was offered his first supporting role in the TV movie "A Prince for Christmas" alongside Viva Bianca, which led to a starring role in the 2015 Hallmark Channel original movie "12 Gifts of Christmas." Most recently, he wrapped production on two upcoming feature films, "Take Two for Faith" and the action thriller, "Black Water", alongside Dolph Lundgren and Jean-Claude Van Damme.

When O'Connell gets a break from the entertainment business, he loves to fly. In 2013, he earned his private pilot's license and the following year became an instrument-rated pilot. While he enjoys flying his Cirrus SR22 recreationally, he also flies for the nonprofit charitable organization, Pilots N Paws, which ferries dogs from kill shelters to their new families. He currently resides in Los Angeles, where he continues to work on his craft.

REBECCA DAVIS



Rebecca's first role in a major film came in Academy Award-nominated director, Atom Egoyan's *Where the Truth Lies*, in which she played a power-hungry publicist opposite Kevin Bacon and Colin Firth. The film had its world premiere in Cannes before making its North American debut at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Rebecca was born in the small town of Cobourg, Ontario, where her childhood years were devoted to figure skating, horseback riding, and writing and performing plays with her friends. In her teens, Rebecca continued to pursue her interest in drama, performing in regional and youth theater productions. However, her talent at figure skating began to turn into a full time pursuit, and at 16, she moved to Toronto for high level training. By 18, Rebecca was a nationally ranked skater, leading to a contract with Disney On Ice which took her on an extensive tour through the United States, Japan and South East Asia.

After retiring from figure skating at the age of 21, Rebecca turned her attention back to acting. Her formal training began in Sydney, Australia studying acting with John Noble (*Fringe*, *Lord of the Rings*), and voice with Bill Pepper (National Institute of Dramatic Arts). She also landed roles in a series of short films. After a year and a half in Sydney, Rebecca returned to Toronto where she continued to study acting and pursue her career. At the same time, she also completed a degree in History and English, graduating with distinction from the University of Toronto.

Rebecca has landed roles in feature films and major network television series including "Battlestar Galactica", "Smallville" and "Supernatural". In 2010 she worked opposite Heather Locklear in Lifetime Television's "He Loves Me" and in 2012, her comedy and improv skills were showcased playing a fed up publishing executive alongside Emmanuelle Vaugier and Carson Kressley in Hallmark Channel's "It's Christmas, Carol!"

In 2013 Rebecca starred in leading roles in the sci-fi thriller "The Woods" and the comedy "Focus", while also guest-starring opposite acclaimed comedian Harland Williams in the CTV sitcom "Package Deal", produced by Andrew Orenstein (*Malcolm in the Middle*, *3rd Rock from the Sun*) and Denise Moss (*Frasier*, *Roseanne*).

She now splits her time between Toronto, Vancouver and LA

MICHAEL ST. JOHN SMITH



Michael St. John Smith is an actor and writer, known for I, Robot (2004), The Core (2003) and Shooter (2007).

Production Credits

Full Cast

Actors	Role
EMILIE ULLERUP	Melanie
AARON O'CONNELL	Donovan
REBECCA DAVIS	Jude
LINDSAY WINCH	Alicia
KAZUMI EVANS	Tracey
MILO SHANDEL	Mr. Crawford
RUSTIN GRESIUK	Steve
JETT KLYNE	Zach
AVA JULIEN	Jacqueline
JASON TEMBLAY	Eric
DEVIELLE JOHNSON	Paul
MICHAEL ST. JOHN SMITH	Andrew
QUINNIE VU	Beth
ANDREA WHITBURN	Photographer
TAYLOR NASH	Vendor
CHERYL MULLEN	Bea
CHAD SAYN	Stunt Coordinator

Produced by

TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON	executive producer
MAURA DUNBAR	executive producer
LAURENCE WALSH-HODSON	associate producer
OLIVER DE CAIGNY	executive producer
NAVID SOOFI	supervising producer

Directed by

MARITA GRABIAK

Written byDANNI HODSON
MARCY HOLLAND**Music by**

RUSS HOWARD III

Director of Photography

MIKE KAM

Film Editing by

RICK MARTIN

Casting By

JUDY LEE

Production Design by

LLYOD STONE

JAMES CRAWFORD	associate producers
LEAH MYERS	

NAVID SOOFI	production manager
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
RYAN GOBERT	dressers
GREG RYAN	
JEFF PETERS	
EVAN KEHOE	

LAUREN DOMINCZUK	property masters
DARCY BUTLER	
ELIZABETH MCLEOD	make-up artist
KATELYN ABBOTT	hair stylist
TAYLOR BARRON	swings

JESSICA HAWKINS

STACEY BRADDER	costume designer
LINDEN WATT	set supervisor
CECILIA IGNACIO	truck costumer
MYRA GONZALEZ	background costumer

GREGORY BROWN	camera operators
PETER PLANTA	
KYLE VOLLSTAEDT	first assistants camera
CHRISTIAN LAI	
VALERIE LOPEZ MENDOZA	second assistants camera
TITOUAN FOURNIER	
DIANA PARRY	
PIERRE CRUZ	gaffer
GARETH JONES	best boy electric
SLATIE CHU	electric
KEVIN SCHNEIDER	

PAT PETERSON	generator operators
MICHAEL JOHNSTON	key grip
MARK KENT	dolly grip
IAN NOLAN	best boy grip
MITCHELL ROWLAND	grips
BRYCETON COTE	
MATTHEW CARSON	
MARTIN CALVO	

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	

GARRETT VANDUSEN	location manager
ANDREW ARMOUR	assistant location manager
ABDULLA DAIANI	key location assistants
STUART BROWNE	

JAMES BURKE

CHRISTOPHER O'BRIEN	production sound mixer
HERALDO ABREU	boom operator
ROSE KATCHÉ	script supervisor
PARALEE COOK	payroll accountants

JEFF DESMAIRAIS	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 CHESTER	extras casting assistants
JENNIFER ROBERTS	
MATT TINGEY	background wrangler
ANDREA WHITBURN	stand in

COASTAL CLEARANCES	script clearances
CHANDLER FOGDEN	legal services
ALDOUS LAW	
CORPORATION	
FRONT ROW INSURANCE	insurance
BROKERS	

LEAH MYERS	post production supervisor
DEVIN TAYLOR	assistant editor
RON PENCHALAIYA	second assistant editor
NOLAN GUERRIERO	visual effects
SEÁN TRAVERS	colourist

ANNUIT COEPTIS ENTERTAINMENT FINALÉ POST	picture post production additional post services
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CINESCOPE SOUND GREGOR PHILLIPS GREGOR PHILLIPS AARON OLSON CRAIG GEORGE ALEX MACIA DEVON QUELCH	audio post production supervising sound editor re-recording mixers dialogue editor sfx editor foley artists
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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 Paradise 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 – 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.

OLIVER DE CAIGNY - Producer

Oliver De Caigny is a Canadian producer originally from Belgium, his background in financing, production, and post production makes him 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
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

LAURENCE WALSH-HODSON – Executive Producer

Laurence Walsh-Hodson, (recently hyphenated) holds BAs in English and Philosophy from UCLA and a Masters in Psychology from the University of Santa Monica. She spent numerous years writing hit network shows such as CSI: MIAMI and NCIS plus critically acclaimed shows such as THE DRESDEN FILES and AGAINST THE WALL. She recently sold a half-hour comedy that she co-created to Mar Vista. Also, the hilarious short film she wrote, directed and produced, FOR THE RECORD, won the Excellence Award at the Best Shorts Film Festival. When she's not writing film and television, she produces a webseries called Ways2Heal and writes self help blogs, books and meditations

MAURA DUNBAR – Executive Producer

Maura Dunbar is the President & CEO of Engage Entertainment(TM). She has over 25 years of extensive television programming experience as a senior level broadcast/cable executive, a creator and producer of original programming, and a highly successful media consultant. Her rich and diverse experience has made her a recognized expert in programming strategies, development, packaging, and production of original programming with a proven track record of identifying, buying, developing and overseeing production of over 250 television movies and mini-series, as well as an expertise in building a community around programming using new media and marketing platforms.

Previously, she was Senior Vice President of Original Programming and Development for the Hallmark Channel, where she launched the channel's franchise of original two-hour movies. Prior to that, Maura worked for 16 years as a creative executive in the program development department of ABC Entertainment. During her tenure at the network, she developed more than 300 hours of original made-for two-hour movies and minis. As Vice President of mini-series and special projects, Maura distinguished herself for her ability to develop and produce content that achieved both ratings and critical success as well as garnering numerous Emmy nominations and awards, such as Stephen King's The Stand, The Shining, Me and My Shadow: The Judy Garland Story (with Judy Davis), and Rear Window (starring Christopher Reeves).

Maura is a member of the Producer's Guild of America.

NAVID SOOFI – Supervising Producer

Recent projects:

Sleepwalking in Suburbia (TV Movie) (supervising producer) (post-production)
2016 A Snow Capped Christmas (line producer)
2016 The Mistletoe Promise (TV Movie) (supervising producer)
2016 Lord Jones Is Dead (producer)
2016 Tulips in Spring (TV Movie) (supervising producer)
2016 Hearts of Spring (TV Movie) (supervising producer)
2015 Becoming Santa (TV Movie) (line producer)
2015 A Gift Wrapped Christmas (TV Movie) (supervising producer)
2015 A Mother's Instinct (TV Movie) (supervising producer)
2015 Ice Sculpture Christmas (TV Movie) (supervising producer)
2015 Family for Christmas (TV Movie) (supervising producer)
2015 Her Infidelity (TV Movie) (supervising producer)
2015 A Gift of Miracles (TV Movie) (supervising producer)
2014 Paper Angels (TV Movie) (supervising producer)
2014 A Cookie Cutter Christmas (TV Movie) (supervising producer)
2014 For Better or for Worse (TV Movie) (line producer)
2014 Skye & Chang (TV Movie) (line producer)
2014 Baby Boot Camp (TV Movie) (line producer)
2014 Ring by Spring (TV Movie) (line producer)
2014 The Town That Came A-Courtin' (line producer)
2014 June in January (TV Movie) (line producer)
2013 One Foot in Hell (TV Movie) (line producer) / (producer)
2011 The 13th Annual Leo Awards (TV Special) (red carpet producer)
2011 Real Estate 101 (TV Series) (collaborating producer)
2011 Pressed (line producer) / (producer)
2010/I Transparency (executive producer)
FMA Entertainment Weekly (TV Series) (line producer - 13 episodes, 2010) (producer - 13 episodes, 2010)
2009 Inscribed (Short) (producer)
2009 Me and Myself (Short) (producer)
2009 Bad Girls (Short) (executive producer)
2009 Together We're Heavy (co-producer)
2009 Last Flowers (Short) (executive producer)

Billing Block

Johnson Production Group Presents "WITH LOVE, CHRISTMAS"
Emilie Ullerup and Aaron O'Connell Edited by Rick Marin Casting by Judy Lee
Production Design by Llyod Stone Music by Russ Howard III
Director of Photography Mike Kam Executive Producers Timothy O. Johnson
Oliver De Caigny Maura Dunbar Laurence Walsh-Hodson
Written by Danni Hodson Marcy Holland Directed by Marita Grabiak



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

The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit

Canada

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JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP

Meta Data

LONG (max 540 characters) synopsis

Ad executive Melanie is teamed up with uptight coworker Donovan to come up with the ultimate Christmas commercial for a new cell phone. To complicate matters, Donovan is also Melanie's Secret Santa recipient in the annual office gift exchange. Keeping her identity secret, Melanie sends him emails from "Santa" to determine the perfect gift for him. When Donovan mistakenly assumes another co-worker is his Secret Santa, Melanie must work to show Donovan that she's the only Santa for him. (489)

MEDIUM (max 180) synopsis

Donovan is Melanie's Secret Santa recipient in the annual office gift exchange – as they work together on a new ad campaign, can she shown him she's the only Santa for him? (172)

SHORT (max 54 characters) synopsis

Playing Secret Santa in the office gift exchange (48)

5 KEY WORDS

Secret Santa Gift Romance Commercial