

# POLAR OPPOSITES

## Johnson Production Group

### Press Kit

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#### One-Liner

Emma Rivera sneaks onto a research cruise to Antarctica to rescue her father, Ian, a penguin researcher, and unexpectedly teams up with Andy Jackson, a charming but reluctant engineer. As they navigate icy challenges, comedic mishaps, and a growing romantic connection, a shocking twist about Ian's fate threatens to derail both their mission and their budding romance.

#### Synopsis

Emma Rivera, a courtroom illustrator, heads to Antarctica to rescue her father, Ian, a passionate penguin researcher after receiving a cryptic and worrying call from him. In a hurry to get to him, she sneaks aboard a research cruise headed to Antarctica disguised as a crew member where she crosses paths with Andy Jackson, a charming yet flustered mechanical engineer. Initially at odds, Emma's quick thinking and Andy's reluctant complicity bind them in a covert alliance. Amid narrow escapes from the sharp-eyed Chief Officer Ingrid and comedic mishaps, Emma and Andy's banter turns from exasperation to undeniable chemistry, hinting at more than just a shared goal of survival.

As their journey plunges deeper into icy waters, their connection grows. Between shared laughs and heartfelt exchanges about love and loyalty, sparks fly in the most unexpected places. But just as things heat up, a heart-pounding revelation about Ian's predicament throws a wrench in their budding romance. Will their journey leave them out in the cold before love has a chance to heat things up, or can their teamwork light the fire that will bring them together and melt their hearts along the way?

#### Producers

Executive Producers  
TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON  
JOSEPH WILKA

Co-Executive Producer  
LISA ALFORD

Producer  
DAVID BOYLES

#### Key Cast

<u>CHARACTER</u>	<u>ACTOR</u>
Emma	RHIANNON FISH
Andy	MARKIAN TARASIUK
Ian	DEAN McDERMOTT
Peg	MAEVE QUINLAN

## Key Cast Biographies

### RHIANNON FISH



From Australian soap star to Hallmark sweetheart, Rhiannon Fish has range. Getting started on the small screen at the age of 11, the 32-year-old Canada-born Australia-raised actress made her television debut on the hit series *Neighbours*.

Roles that followed were in series such as *As the Bell Rings* and *Satisfaction* before her role of April Scott in *Home and Away*, an Australian soap opera, brought her recognition on a much greater scale from 2010 to 2013.

Later, Fish had a recurring role in the popular science-fiction series *The 100* and appeared in films such as *Occupation, You're Bacon Me Crazy* and *A Love to Remember* before making her debut on the Hallmark Channel in *Aurora Teagarden Mysteries: How To Con a Con*. She has appeared in two of the Hallmark Mystery Signed, Sealed and Delivered films: *The Vows We Have Made* and *A Tale of Three Letters*.

It wasn't until 2021's *Journey of My Heart* that she shined on the Hallmark screen as a leading lady opposite Darien Martin, followed by *A Splash of Love*, *A Picture of Her* and *A Costa Rican Wedding*.

### MARKIAN TARASIUK



Markian Tarasiuk started taking acting classes when he was six years old and performed in his first play at the age of 14 in Winnipeg and it was then he knew he wanted to be an actor. Since that time, his acting career has taken him all over Canada and he has starred in multiple films such as *There's Someone Inside Your House* (UBCP/ACTRA Awards nomination, Best Supporting Actor) and *Christmas Jars* (Canadian Screen Awards nomination, Best Actor). His upcoming movie "Why Can't My Life be a Rom Com?" will be premiering in

2023 on E!. Tarasiuk has also appeared in many television series most recently, "Surface" for Apple TV+, "Family Law" on The CW, "The Night Agent," "Virgin River" on Netflix, "Supernatural" on The CW, in addition to many roles in Hallmark Channel original movies. On stage he performed in the production of *Sex With Strangers* (Mitch and Murray Productions) and has acted in other noteworthy productions such as *Billy Elliot*, *Over the Tavern* (RMTTC), *Vincent River* (Osimous) and *Footloose* (Rainbow Stage). Tarasiuk served as the General Manager and Artistic Producer of *SpeakEasy Theatre* in Vancouver from 2015-2021 and was nominated for five Jessie Awards for the critically acclaimed production of *The Shipment* by Young Jean Lee.

## DEAN McDERMOTT



Dean McDermott (born November 16, 1966) is a Canadian actor best known as a reality television personality with his former wife, actress Tori Spelling, and as the host of the cooking competition Chopped Canada. He played the role of Constable Renfield Turnbull on the TV series Due South.

McDermott was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, to David and Doreen McDermott. He has three sisters, Dale, Dawn, and Dana. He graduated from North Albion Collegiate Institute in Toronto's Rexdale neighbourhood.

McDermott has performed in films Open Range, Irvine Welsh's Ecstasy and Against the Ropes. He has appeared in several TV movies including Always and Forever, Santa Baby 2: Christmas Maybe and A Christmas Visitor.

McDermott has had a variety of guest and recurring roles on television series, such as Earth: Final Conflict, Tracker, 1-800-Missing, NCIS and CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. 2016 saw McDermott take on a starring role, portraying Iain Vaughn on Slasher.

McDermott is a professionally trained chef. In 2013, he became a member of "Team Guy" on the second season of Food Network's Rachael vs. Guy: Celebrity Cook-Off and was the winner, and in January 2014, McDermott began hosting Chopped Canada on Food Network Canada. McDermott hosted Chopped Canada for two seasons, announcing in March 2015 that he would leave the show.

McDermott released a cookbook The Gourmet Dad, in which he wanted to make intimidating plates more attractive to kids.

## MAEVE QUINLAN



Born in Chicago from Irish parent, blonde, tall and very beautiful, Maeve Quinlan entered in the professional tennis circuit at age 16, appearing in several major tournaments and eventually reaching seed position #95 in world rankings, before turning to acting; she has starred in many films in supporting roles such as The Florentine (1999) with Tom Sizemore, co-star in Totally Blonde (2001) with Krista Allen and also in controversial film Ken Park (2002) in Rhonda's role followed by a role in another film thriller Net Games (2003) with C. Thomas Howell; in 2004, is lead actress in film The Drone Virus (2004) and plays supporting role in film comedy Criminal (2004) with John C. Reilly, while in 2005 she plays another supporting role in The Nickel Children (2005), but

Maeve Quinlan is best known for her role as secretary Megan Conley/Brenda in The Bold and the Beautiful (1987) series Tv; she then went on to work on many other TV series and films as South of Nowhere (2005) plays Paula Carlin, star and product series Tv 3Way (2008), co-star in Not Easily Broken (2009) with Taraji P. Henson, and is the lead actress star in film Tv Teenage Bank Heist (2012); co-star in films as Double Daddy (2015), the thriller The Stalker Club (2017) and in The Sinister Surrogate (2018). Recent appearances have been co-starring roles in My Father's Murder in Greece, Beware the Night Nurse (2023), The Paramedic Who Stalked Me (2023), A Job to Die For (2022), Our Almost Completely True Story (2021) and Riley Parra: Better Angels (2019).

## Production Credits

### Full Cast

Actors	Role
RHIANNON FISH	Emma
MARKIAN TARASIUK	Andy
DEAN MC DERMOTT	Ian
RAISSA XAVIER	Ingrid
MICHEL HERSCH	Martin
MAEVE QUINLAN	Peg
ELENA GOWLAND	Gloria
JOHN SILVERMAN	Boris
DAVID FRIEDLANDER	Boris
DARIA NEFODOVA	Doctor

### Casting

BRIAN LEVY CASTING INC csa

### Composer

RUSS HOWARD III

### Costume Designer

FLOR FONTELES

### Editor

ROB PALLATINA

### Production Designer

OLGA MADRIGAL

### Director Of Photography

BRANDEN MAXHAM

### Written By

BARBARA KYMLICKA

### Directed By

COLIN THEYS

### Full Crew

TRAVIS LASALLE	First Assistant Director
DAVID BOYLES	Producer
DAVID BOYLES	Line Producer
GABRIEL BICO	Brazilian Co-Producer
SERENO BICO	Brazilian Line Producer
TETE DEPETRIS	Argentina Co-Producer

EZEQUIEL LABORDA	Argentina Line Producer
MAYRA SANTOS	Peru Co-Producer
SANDRA DE UGARTE	Peru Production Manager
JOHN SILVERMAN	Unit Production Manager
ELVIA MEGA	Associate Producers
JOHN DILBECK III	
MAURICIO "MAU MAU" FONTOURA	Brazilian Key PA
ICARO MEIRELLES DIAS	Brazilian PA
JAMILLE FORTUNAO SOUZA GÓIS	Brazilian Talent PA
ROBERTO CARLOS	Brazilian Driver
MATIAS TORINO	Argentina Key PA
ALEXANDRO RIVERA	Argentina PA
OLGA MADRIGAL	Production Designer
PAULA DEVITA	Art Director
FLOR FONTELES	Costume Designer
AGUSTIN LITTLE	Canadian Wardrobe assist
FLOR FONTELES	Stylist for Rhiannon Fish
FLOR FONTELES	Stylist for Markian Tarasiuk
KAMILLA AIRES	Brazilian Wardrobe Assist
EMA BOGDANICH	Argentina Wardrobe PA
BRANDEN MAXHAM	Director of Photography
BRANDEN MAXHAM	A Camera Operator
SAM LÜSTED	1st AC / Focus Puller
POLLY CHESNOKOVA	2nd AC / B Camera Operator
DANTE VINCENZO	Brazil Drone Operator
ELVIA MEGA	DIT & Daily
ELVIA MEGA	Set Stills Photographer
IVAN SPIRIDONOFF	Gallery Photographer
JOSE PABLO GUEVARA	Gaffer
DAVID FRIEDLANDER	Key Grip
VINICIUS LUIS LEITE	Brazilian Swing Grip
NICOLAS PETROLI	Argentina Swing Grip
AXEL MASTACHE	Sound Engineer
AXEL MASTACHE	Boom Operator
SEBASTIAN BELTRAME	Argentina co-Location Manager
MARINE ISRAEL	Argentina co-Location Manager
RODRIGO MENDOZA	Peru Mountain Guide
ENZO WALIGORA	Peru Mountain support
DANIEL MORALES	Peru Mountain support
DANIEL SERRANO	Peru Mountain support
ALFREDO ZUÑIGA	Peru On-set Medic
PAULA CARVAJAL	Key Makeup
MARIBEL MORALES	Key Hair Stylist
DONATA MAMANI	Peru Mountain Cook
NIDIO AUCACUSI	Peru Mountain Cook

CEFERINO QUISPE	Peru Mountain Cook
PAULINO QUISPE	Peru Mountain Cook
ALFREDO ZUÑIGA	Peru Safety Coordinator
KAYNE DIPILATO	Snowmobile double
ALEJANDRO RIVERO	Snowmobile double
SOL RODRIGUEZ	Body double
GONZALO GRANERO	Body double
COASTAL CLEARANCES INC	Script Clearances
GREGORY K. BOONE	Legal Services
CHANDLER FOGDEN LYMAN LAW	Legal Services
HOLLYWARE LLC	Production Service Company
MOMENTOUS INSURANCE BROKERAGE	Insurance
ROBIN CONLY	Post Production Supervisor
RUSS HOWARD III	Music
ANDRES BOULTON	Re-Recording Mixer
ANDRES BOULTON	Supervising Sound Editor
JONATHAN MORGAN	Sound Effects Editor
LA COLEMBIA	VFX
LUIS MIGUEL HENAO	VFX Supervisor
CATALINA VIEIRA	VFX Artists
GUILLERMO RESTREPO C	
EMANUEL PALACIOS	
DIEGO A CAMELO P	
FELIPE CONTRERAS	
KEVIN GOMEZ	
OMAR RODRIGUEZ CAICEDO	
DANIEL DAVID LOZANO	
KYOTOCOLOR	Digital Intermediate Services
WENDY CELESTE	Online Editor
BRADLEY GREER	Colorist
BLUELINE FINISHING	Digital Intermediate Services
BLUELINE FINISHING	Post Finishing
DR FREDERIQUE OLIVIER MEDIA	Stock Footage
SWAN HELLENIC CRUISE LINE	Special Thanks
ANDRES ZITO	
PATRIZIA ZITO	
THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF	

## Producer Biographies

### TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON – Executive Producer

Timothy O. Johnson is among the most active and reliable producers in the business thanks to top rate productions and global distribution appeal. He is the managing partner of Johnson Production Group, a Canadian based operation that produces over 100 hours of dramatic television annually with hundreds

of programs running internationally. The company is the leader supplier to Lifetime, Hallmark and other international outlets.

A graduate of the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California, he served as President of the USC Entertainment Management Association and a member of the Advisory Committee of the Center for Entrepreneurial Studies.

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.

Most recently, Johnson has produced the THE NOEL DIARY, being the #1 Film on Netflix's Top 10 list in December of 2022. He was also at the helm of the successful GIRL IN THE SHED: THE KIDNAPPING OF ABBY HERNANDEZ, as well as the V.C. Andrews series of films, to date including TWILIGHT'S CHILD, MIDNIGHT WHISPERS, and DAWN, all produced for Lifetime..

Johnson has produced over 400 movies and 15 globally released series for every major US network - including Netflix, Lifetime, Hallmark, ABC, Disney, CBS, NBC, Netfly, FOX and Sony.

## **JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP**

Johnson Production Group packages, finances, and distributes television content to networks, studios and streamers. The company specializes in various types of programming including romances, thrillers, holiday and true crime TV movies.

The company has been involved in the production of over 3000 hours of network television, with over \$1 billion spent on production. JPG specializes in value, efficiency, protection of creative elements, and delivery of a quality finished product.

## **JOSEPH WILKA – Executive Producer**

Joseph Wilka is the Head of Production for Johnson Production Group. Los Angeles-based, Joseph had already produced and directed several feature films before serving as the senior marketing executive for Gravitass Ventures. While at Gravitass, Wilka helped pioneer new distribution models for independent films including day-and-date theatrical releases. It was also at Gravitass where Joseph first worked with Johnson Production Group to facilitate the release of their films to the worldwide Video On Demand audience. After serving as the Director of Distribution and Production for Viva Pictures, where he produced English-language versions of foreign animated titles for DirecTV, Wilka officially joined Johnson Production Group. As Head of Production, he oversees the development, production, and distribution of films from multiple production units for release on broadcast and streaming platforms.

## **LISA ALFORD – Co-Executive Producer**

Lisa Alford is a development executive at Johnson Production Group. A Massachusetts native, Lisa has lived and worked in Los Angeles for over a decade, always in support of excellent storytelling. Prior to joining Johnson Production Group, Lisa worked as an executive at TriStar television where she specialized in identifying IP that supported TriStar's mission to feature diverse, authentic characters and

champion underrepresented voices. Lisa came up at Sony Pictures Television where she worked as a production coordinator in the Television Movies and Miniseries department and in the writers room on the WGN hit series OUTSIDERS. In her current role, Lisa shepherds projects from the concept phase through story development, production, and post.

**DAVID BOYLES – Producer**

David is the primary producer for Hollyware LLC. He has over two decades of experience in developing, implementing and producing award winning projects in the entertainment industry. (Concept through Distribution) His extensive experience in international production of Film, Television, Commercials, Games, and mixed media enables him to deliver timely, on budget, and magical visuals mixed with compelling content.



**Billing Block**

HALLMARK MEDIA Presents In Association With JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP  
**POLAR OPPOSITES** Starring RHIANNON FISH MARKIAN TARASIUK DEAN McDERMOTT  
RAISSA XAVIER MICHEL HERSCH With MAEVE QUINLAN Casting BRIAN LEVY CASTING  
INC CSA Composer RUSS HOWARD III Costume Designer FLOR FONTELES Editor ROB  
PALLATINA Production Designer OLGA MADRIGAL Director Of Photography BRANDEN  
MAXHAM Co-Executive Producer LISA ALFORD EXECUTIVE Producer JOSEPH WILKA  
Executive Producer TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON Producer DAVID BOYLES  
Written By BARBARA KYMLICKA Directed By COLIN THEYS

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## Meta Data

### LONG (max 3000 characters) synopsis

Emma Rivera, a courtroom illustrator, heads to Antarctica to rescue her father, Ian, a passionate penguin researcher after receiving a cryptic and worrying call from him. In a hurry to get to him, she sneaks aboard a research cruise headed to Antarctica disguised as a crew member where she crosses paths with Andy Jackson, a charming yet flustered mechanical engineer. Initially at odds, Emma's quick thinking and Andy's reluctant complicity bind them in a covert alliance. Amid narrow escapes from the sharp-eyed Chief Officer Ingrid and comedic mishaps, Emma and Andy's banter turns from exasperation to undeniable chemistry, hinting at more than just a shared goal of survival.

As their journey plunges deeper into icy waters, their connection grows. Between shared laughs and heartfelt exchanges about love and loyalty, sparks fly in the most unexpected places. But just as things heat up, a heart-pounding revelation about Ian's predicament throws a wrench in their budding romance. Will their journey leave them out in the cold before love has a chance to heat things up, or can their teamwork light the fire that will bring them together and melt their hearts along the way? (1181)

### MEDIUM (max 500) synopsis

Emma Rivera sneaks onto a research cruise to Antarctica to rescue her father, Ian, a penguin researcher, and unexpectedly teams up with Andy Jackson, a charming but reluctant engineer. As they navigate icy challenges, comedic mishaps, and a growing romantic connection, a shocking twist about Ian's fate threatens to derail both their mission and their budding romance. (369)

### SHORT (max 100 characters) synopsis

Emma sneaks onto a cruise to Antarctica to rescue her dad, teaming up with Andy, sparking romance. (97)

### 5 KEY WORDS

Cruise, Antarctica, Penguins, Romance, Engineer