

# CrownMedia



THE WORLDWIDE LEADER IN *Celebrations*

## **'SWEET AUTUMN'** **Cast Bios**

**NIKKI DELOACH (Maggie)** – Born in a small town in South Georgia, Nikki DeLoach always knew she wanted to be an entertainer. She started dancing at the age of three, eventually adding singing, modeling and acting to her repertoire. All her hard work paid off when at age 12, DeLoach became a member of “The Mickey Mouse Club” alongside Justin Timberlake, Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera and Ryan Gosling. After “MMC,” DeLoach spent several years in Los Angeles pursuing acting and landed a starring role opposite Mark Wahlberg and Bill Paxton in the feature film *Traveller*, and the TV series “Misery Loves Company.” She also played Anthony LaPaglia’s daughter in the television movie “Never Give Up: The Jimmy V Story.” In 1997, DeLoach put her acting career on hold to enter the world of pop music, signing with RCA and BMG Records to become part of the girl group Innosense. When the group disbanded in 2003, DeLoach returned to Hollywood and has gone on to enjoy a successful and diverse acting career.

DeLoach’s recent credits include her starring role on MTV’s critically acclaimed series “Awkward,” where she was considered one of television’s “hottest moms” with her portrayal of Lacey Hamilton. Although she is perhaps best known for her roles on “Awkward” and the iconic “The Mickey Mouse Club,” DeLoach has also guest starred on some of TV’s biggest hit shows, including “NCIS,” “Criminal Minds,” “CSI,” “CSI: NY,” “Cold Case,” “Mad Men” and “Without a Trace,” among many others. She was also a series regular on the popular show “North Shore.” Her films include *Love & Other Drugs*, *Flying Lessons*, opposite Maggie Grace and Hal Holbrook, and the French comedy *Hollywood*. Hallmark Channel viewers will also recognize DeLoach from her starring roles in the network’s original movies “The Perfect Catch,” “Christmas Land,” “A Dream of Christmas,” “Truly, Madly, Sweetly,” and “Love Takes Flight,” which premiered as a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation. She also developed, executive produced and starred in “Reunited at Christmas.” In 2019, DeLoach starred in the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries original “Two Turtle Doves,” opposite Michael Rady.

Outside of acting, DeLoach is dedicated to sharing her passions and ideas with others. She co-founded What We Are, a community of women that celebrates their unfiltered selves. She is also a passionate supporter and spokesperson for Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and The Alzheimer’s Association. DeLoach also shares her love for acting by coaching at the renowned Warner Loughlin Studios. She currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband and two young sons, Hudson and Bennett.

# # #

**ANDREW WALKER (Dex)** – Andrew Walker was a lead on the Lifetime series “Against the Wall” and has guest-starred on hit TV shows, including “ER,” “CSI: Miami,” “CSI: New York,” “Without a Trace,” “The Big Bang Theory” and the Hallmark Channel original series “When Calls the Heart.” Walker starred alongside Jodie Sweetin in “Merry & Bright,” which premiered last year during

Hallmark Channel's "Countdown to Christmas" as well as opposite Ashley Greene in "Christmas on My Mind," which premiered on Hallmark Movies & Mysteries last year during the network's annual "Miracles of Christmas" programming event.

Walker won the Borsos Award at the Whistler Film Festival for his performance in the feature film *Steel Toes* alongside Academy Award® nominee David Strathairn. More recent feature film credits include *God Bless the Broken Road*, *Loaded* and *Penthouse North*, opposite Michelle Monaghan and Michael Keaton. Walker also starred in several recent Hallmark Channel original movies, including "The Perfect Catch," "Love on Ice," "A Dream of Christmas," "Love Struck Café" and "Bottled with Love."

Walker can next be seen starring in the science fiction feature *Oxalis*, which he also produced.

# # #

**DAINA LEITOLD (Judy)** – Daina Leitold has previously played the roles of Charlotte in Hallmark Channel's "Secret Ingredient" and Corrie in "12 Days to Love," to be released this Christmas. "Sweet Autumn" is Leitold's third Hallmark movie.

Leitold's other favorite film and television roles include Sarah in *The Interrogation M.A.*, Sweet and Salty Films (Best Actress Award – ACTRA Manitoba Awards 2018), Nora in *A Mazing Winter Romance*, Lifetime Network and Janet Jones in *The Exorcism of Molly Hartley*, Fox Films.

Her most notable performances for stage are Woman in *Tender Napalm* (Best Lead Actress Nomination, Evie Awards 2018), Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Shakespeare in the Ruins and Laurel in *The Good Daughter*, Eew Gross Productions.

Leitold has been nominated for four Best Actor Awards and won Best Actor at the 2018 ACTRA Manitoba Awards.

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**EUGENE BAFFOE (Zachary)** - Eugene "GeNie" Baffoe is a Hip Hop Dancer, choreographer, educator, actor and filmmaker originally from Montreal Québec. He is the co-creator of a non-profit charity dance showcase, Dance 4 MS, which has raised over \$5,000 towards multiple sclerosis research. GeNie has choreographed 2 Blue bomber halftime shows and 2 opening numbers for WeDay.

Last year, GeNie was selected by the National Ballet School in Toronto as one of 2 Canadian choreographers to create the Sharing Dance flash mob routine for Canada's 150th anniversary performed by communities across the country. This year, he has created and directed his first documentary called *Our Scene The Movie*, a film about the history of hip-hop dance in Winnipeg. GeNie had appeared numerous projects such "Bravetown Lovesick," "One Winter Weekend," "Ruthless Souls," "Tales from the Hood 3," "Sweet Autumn," "Ruthless Souls" and "WYNTER." Honored by the City of Winnipeg with the Youth Role Model Award in 2009 and now a CBC future 40 under 40 finalist, GeNie is a dedicated artist passionate about his community, and continues to educate and spread the culture through dance and film.

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