

# CrownMedia



THE WORLDWIDE LEADER IN *Celebrations*

## **'USS CHRISTMAS'** **Cast Bios**

**JEN LILLEY (Maddie)** – Jen Lilley is a star on both the silver and small screens, including the Academy Award®-winning film *The Artist*, the iconic daytime television series “Days of Our Lives” and “General Hospital.” An actress/singer/philanthropist, Lilley has tackled countless roles throughout her illustrious career. Her Hallmark Channel Originals include “Yes, I Do,” “Harvest Love,” “Eat, Play, Love,” “A Dash of Love,” “Mingle All the Way,” “Winter Love Story,” “Paris, Wine & Romance” and “Love Unleashed.”

Lilley’s creative prowess does not end when the director yells cut, since she is also a renowned singer and songwriter. She released her first original single, “King of Hearts” in the fall of 2018, with 100% of her initial proceeds going to Project Orphans to provide lifesaving heart surgery for a boy named John. Her debut album is set to release in 2020, featuring songs by Rosie Danvers and her 50-piece orchestra.

When Lilley is not busy in front of a camera, or perfecting her vocals in a studio, she can be found working with various charities and spending time with her family. She received the National Educators Award for her work in Guatemala and is known for advocating for children’s rights and supporting charities that focus on foster care, adoption, protecting children against physical and sexual abuse, human trafficking, and the world water crisis. She recently became an adoptive parent and is a celebrity ambassador to many charities such as the child abuse and treatment organization Childhelp, ECPAT and The Dave Thomas Foundation to name a few.

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**TREVOR DONOVAN (Billy)** – Born in Mammoth Lakes, California, Trevor Donovan grew up skiing and snowboarding and was a member of the United States teen ski team. A true Renaissance man, Donovan plays guitar, sings, is proficient at most sports and has a bachelor’s degree in graphic design. As an ambassador for Habitat for Humanity, he is also an active volunteer and ambassador with the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights.

Known for his portrayal of fan-favorite Teddy Montgomery, the first and only LGBT series regular on the global pop culture phenom “90210,” Donovan most recently starred in Hallmark Movies & Mysteries’ “JL Family Ranch: The Wedding Gift” opposite Jon Voight and James Caan, which is the follow-up to the 2016 movie “JL Family Ranch.” He has also starred in “Nostalgic Christmas” on Hallmark Movies & Mysteries as well as Hallmark Channel’s “Marry Me at Christmas,” “Love, Fall & Order” and “SnowComing.” Donovan also starred in “Texas Rising,” opposite Bill Paxton, Ray Liotta and Jeffrey Dean Morgan, and appeared opposite Roma Downey in the limited TV series “The Baxters,” based on New York Times bestselling author Karen Kingsbury’s book series. Donovan starred in the miniseries “Runaway Romance” on UPTV. Other television credits include

recurring roles on "Sun Records," "The Client List," "Melissa & Joey," "Awkward," "NCIS" and "Lucifer."

Active daily on social media with a worldwide reach of over eight million people per week across three platforms, Donovan refers to his social media platforms as "an escape from negativity and a positive place for pet lovers." Donovan recently wrote Love Always, Dogbert & Tito, which follows the magical adventures of his German Shepherd and English Bulldog. A tale of love, inspiration and hope for adults and children of all ages, the story is based on real life everyday experiences that have been shared with millions of devoted fans all over the world via Donovan's social media: Instagram @TrevorDonovan and Twitter @Trevdon.

Donovan resides in both Mammoth and Los Angeles and, when not working, enjoys spending quality time with his family. He has a younger brother, Jake, who is a fireman in Sacramento as well as an animal lover and advocate.

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**BARBARA NIVEN (Elizabeth)** - Barbara Niven is an actor, producer and speaker. She's also a fierce advocate for human and animal rights. As a mother and grandmother, she knows there is nothing more important than saving this planet and all the beings that live on it.

During her acting career, she has appeared in more than 100 film and TV roles and 2500 TV and radio commercials. She also served three years on the National Board of Directors for the Screen Actors Guild.

For four seasons, Niven has starred opposite Treat Williams, Diane Ladd and Jesse Metcalfe in the Hallmark Channel prime time series "Chesapeake Shores." She is soon set to star in the fourth installment of the Hallmark Channel original movie franchise "Christmas in Evergreen." Niven starred in the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries original "Crossword Mysteries: A Puzzle to Die For," "Crossword Mysteries: Proposing Murder" and "Crossword Mysteries: Abracadaver." Niven starred with Alison Sweeney in the popular Hallmark Movies & Mysteries original movie franchise "Murder She Baked" and in the Hallmark Channel Original Series "Debbie Macomber's Cedar Cove." Her performance as Marilyn Monroe in HBO's "The Rat Pack" continues to garner praise as "one of the Top 3 portrayals of the blonde icon on Film & TV."

Niven has also gained international acclaim as Hollywood's Top Media Trainer and Video Marketing Coach. She created her Unleash Your Star Power!™ system so she could teach people how to hone their message, overcome fear and, use video and public speaking to dominate their niche.

Niven is also a celebrity speaker and best-selling author. Business and motivational topics include *Unleash Your Star Power!*, *Be a Video Marketing Superstar*, *ACT As If*, *Live Your Dreams!* And *Eating Disorders and Pressures to be Perfect*.

Barbara Niven is a huge animal welfare advocate and is a National Ambassador for American Humane. She presents for Hallmark Channel's televised "American Hero Dog Awards" each year. She currently has three rescued dogs named Norma Jeane, Brando and Meggy, and two rescued feral cats named George and Henry (named after her father, George Henry).

Her motto? "Live your passion, connect to your purpose, make a difference. And don't give up five minutes before the miracle."

For more information visit [www.BarbaraNiven.com](http://www.BarbaraNiven.com).

-- HALLMARK MOVIES & MYSTERIES --