

# NEWS

## 'A GRANDPA FOR CHRISTMAS'

### CAST BIOS

**ERNEST BORGNINE (Bert)** - Whether he's wearing his "McHale's Navy" commander's cap, climbing top down inside the "Poseidon," or joking undersea in "SpongeBob Squarepants," Ernest Borgnine has one of the most recognizable faces and voices in show business. Born Ernes Effron Borgnino in Hamden, Connecticut in 1917, as a young boy Borgnine moved to Italy with his mother, returning at age 10 barely speaking a word of English. He graduated high school in 1935 and joined the Navy, where he spent the next 10 years, serving four years in the Atlantic and six years in the Pacific.

Unable to see himself working in a factory, on his mother's suggestion, he took up acting, eventually studying at The Barter Theater in Abington, Virginia, whose alumni include Gregory Peck, Patricia Neal and Hume Cronyn. Earning \$35 a week, Borgnine cut his teeth on reparatory theater, performing Shakespeare one night and George Bernard Shaw the next.

He eventually made his way to New York, performing in theater there alongside such greats as Helen Hayes, Joe E. Brown and James Dunn, before breaking into live television theater, including "The Ford Television Theater," "Alcoa Theater," "General Electric Theater" and many others.

Borgnine's first visit to Hollywood in 1951 found him on the big screen opposite Broderick Crawford in "The Mob." But it was the actor's performance as the rough Sgt. "Fatso" Judson in "From Here to Eternity" in 1953 that left his first indelible impression on both audiences and critics. Two years later, Borgnine won the Academy Award® for Best Actor for the title role in "Marty," about the life of a lonely butcher in New York. Other films came as well, including "Bad Day at Black Rock," "The Badlanders," "The Catered Affair," "The Best Things In Life Are Free," along with TV roles in "Make Room for Daddy," "Laramie" and others.

In 1962, Borgnine made his biggest mark in television with his portrayal of Commander Quentin McHale in ABC's hit comedy, "McHale's Navy," which lasted four seasons. Afterwards, he continued in film roles in such titles as "Flight of the Phoenix," "Ice Station Zebra," "The Wild Bunch" and "Willard." In 1972, he appeared as Stella Stevens' husband, the tough but heroic Det. Mike Rogo in Irwin Allen's "The Poseidon Adventure." His television work continued through the 70s and 80s, including Hallmark's "All Quiet on the Western Front" in 1979, directed by his "Marty" director, Delbert Mann. Series guest shots included "Magnum P.I.," "The Love Boat," "Murder, She Wrote" and

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others. In 1984, he joined the cast of "Airwolf," portraying Dominic Santini alongside Jan Michael Vincent. In the 90s, he appeared in such shows as "Home Improvement," "The Commish" and "JAG."

Also in the 90s, Borgnine applied his voice to a number of animated characters, including Carface in "All Dogs Go to Heaven 2," "Pinky and the Brain," and Mermaid Man in the series "SpongeBob Squarepants," introducing him to a whole new generation of fans.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Borgnine has continued acting saying that "working is the best medicine I could ever take." From 2000 to present, Borgnine has guest-starred in over 30 television and film roles including "The Long Ride Home," "One Summer," "Trail to Hope Rose" and "Seventh Heaven." In 2008, he will be seen in "Aces 'N Eights," "Oliviero Rising" and "Harvest Moon," a feature film with Doris Roberts and Anne Meara which goes into production in November.

And in the spring of 2008, on his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday, Borgnine's autobiography will arrive in book stores.

Borgnine lives in Beverly Hills with his beautiful wife of 34 years, Tova, who markets a popular line of fragrances and skin care products under her name.

# # #

**JULIETTE GOGLIA (Becca)** – Born on September 22, 1995, Juliette Goglia has already made her mark, on television, in film and on stage. The granddaughter of Mike Stokey, Emmy's first winner for Most Popular Television Program ("Pantomime Quiz," 1949), Juliette learned to both sing and dance by age three. She received training throughout her earliest years in both, as well as for acting, before appearing in her first film, "Garfield," at age nine.

While enjoying practicing her considerable musical talents in such shows as *Divas: Simply Singing*, *Carousel* and *Peter Pan*, Juliette began appearing on television, where she has garnered much attention. Also in 2004, she began appearing on CBS's popular series, "Joan of Arcadia," as "Little Girl God," a role for which she was invited back to play seven more times over two years. She also has appeared in a number of top series, including "That's So Raven," "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," "Desperate Housewives," "Vanished" (recurring role), "3 Lbs.," "Veronica Mars" and, most recently, "Ugly Betty." Her appearance in an episode of NBC's long-running show, "E.R.," prompted star John Leguizamo to dub her "the Meryl Streep of child actors."

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Juliette has previously appeared in another Hallmark film, 2004's "The Long Shot." Besides singing and dancing, she also enjoys songwriting. She lives with her family in Thousand Oaks, California.

# # #

**JAMIE FARR (Adam)** – Born Jameel Farah in Toledo's large Lebanese community, Jamie spent his earliest years enjoying the comedy of Bob Hope, Red Skelton, Danny Kaye and The Marx Brothers, hiding a crystal radio set under the covers to listen to Skelton at night as a boy. He eventually made his way into theater, and to the Los Angeles area, studying at the Pasadena Playhouse. It was there, in 1955 that he was discovered by an MGM talent scout and cast in the studio's groundbreaking "Blackboard Jungle," as Santini.

Shortly thereafter, Farr joined his childhood hero on "The Red Skelton Show," playing Snorkel alongside Skelton's Cookie for a number of years. While continuing his work in films, Farr found himself with roles in nearly every major television sitcom of the 60s, including "The Dick Van Dyke Show," "Hazel," "My Three Sons," "The Lucy Show," "I Dream of Jeannie," "My Favorite Martian," "F Troop" and "The Andy Griffith Show," among others.

It was his relationship with "F Troop" producer Hy Averback which led him, in 1972, to the role of the cross-dressing Cpl. Max Klinger in CBS's smash "dramedy," "M\*A\*S\*H." The series received countless Emmy® nominations and awards during its run, which lasted 11 years, and continues to air on The Hallmark Channel.

Jamie has continued to act both in television and on the stage, most recently playing a detective in *Busybody*, at the New Theatre in Kansas City.

# # #

**KATHERINE HELMOND (Roxy)** - Katherine Marie Helmond was born in Galveston, Texas. She was raised by her mother and her grandmother. As a young girl, Katherine attended Catholic school and appeared in numerous school plays and pageants. She took a job at local theatre while still in high school, hammering and sawing the scenery, cleaning the bathrooms and pulling the curtain.

She made her stage debut in *As You Like It* and worked in New York theatres during the 1950's and 1960's. She operated a summer theatre in the Catskills for three seasons and also taught acting in university theatre programs. Helmond made her TV debut in 1962 and had to wait another 10 years until her breakthrough came in the 1970's. At that time she was busy on TV as well as on stage and earned a Tony nomination for

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*The Great God Brown* on Broadway. Although she attended the rigid Bob Jones University, Helmond departed from her conservative roots and became known for her special gift for delivering lines with sexual innuendo. She honed her acting abilities with Alfred Hitchcock in "Family Plot" and in numerous TV series, notably in the ABC's cult sitcom "Soap," for which she had four Emmy® nominations and won the Golden Globe.

In 1983 she studied in the Directing Workshop at the American Film Institute. She then directed several episodes of TV sitcom "Who's the Boss?" as well as co-starring as Mona Robinson, a liberated grandmother. For that role, she also received an Emmy® nomination as well as for her role as Lois in "Everybody Loves Raymond."

Although Helmond has been a bona-fide TV star since "Soap," she continued working on stage in the 2000s and was acclaimed for her performances in *The Vagina Monologues*.

Katherine Helmond lives in Los Angeles, but she travels quite frequently to her homes in New York and London, England.

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