



For Immediate Release

**MALINDA WILLIAMS (“SOUL FOOD”),  
KARON RILEY (UP’S *WHERE’S THE LOVE?*),  
VICTORIA ROWELL (“THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS”) AND  
KRISTOFF ST. JOHN (“THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS”)  
STAR IN THE UP PREMIERE MOVIE**

***A BABY FOR CHRISTMAS*  
THE THIRD SEQUEL IN UP’S HIGHLY RATED  
*MARRY US FOR CHRISTMAS* FRANCHISE**

**SHOOTING BEGINS IN ATLANTA**

**ATLANTA – October 7, 2015** –Production began this week in Atlanta on the UP Original Movie ***A Baby for Christmas*** (#ABabyForChristmas), a romantic comedy starring Malinda Williams (UP’s *Marry US For Christmas*, “Soul Food”) and Victoria Rowell (UP’s *Marry Me for Christmas*, “The Young and the Restless”) and Karon Riley (UP’s *Marry US For Christmas*, *35 and Ticking*). Building on the popularity of UP’s highly successfully *Marry Me for Christmas* movie franchise, ***A Baby for Christmas*** will premiere exclusively on UP on Sunday, December 13 at 7 p.m. EST. as part of UP’s “Everything you Love About Christmas” annual Christmas programming slate.

The film reunites the ensemble cast which includes GregAlan Williams (“Necessary Roughness,” “The West Wing”), Chrystale Wilson (*Marry US For Christmas*, “For Richer or Poorer”), DeEtta West (UP’s *Lyfe’s Journey* and *Marry US for Christmas*) Clifton Powell (*Ray*, *Norbitt*) and Kristoff St. John (*20 Ft Below: The Darkness Descending*, “Family Time”), Rowell’s long-time “The Young and the Restless” co-star. ***A Baby for Christmas*** is produced by Atlanta-based Swirl Films from a script by Rhonda Freeman-Baraka (UP’s *Marry Me for Christmas*, *Marry US for Christmas*), who will make her directorial debut.

This Christmas, the Chandler family, much to Stephanie’s (Victoria Rowell) dismay, seem to be distracted from the usual family holiday traditions. Marci (Malinda Williams) and Blair (Karon Riley), who tied the knot in last year’s *Marry US For Christmas*, are eagerly awaiting the birth of their first child due on Christmas day. The couple is doing everything in their power to ensure that they have the perfect baby girl - from meditation to changing their eating habits. Work-wise, Marci is trying to juggle impending motherhood with meeting the demands of her top client, Friendly Family Floral. Blair is back to running his

own firm. Money is tight but he and Marci are happy and eagerly awaiting the arrival of their little bundle of joy. Meanwhile, Marci's Aunt Myra (DeEtta West) and Uncle Donald (GregAlan Williams), who recently retired, are feeling useless. Eventually they find a meaningful way to occupy their time at the urging of Donald's cousin, Gavin Brooks (Clifton Powell). Aunt Elizabeth (Chrystale Wilson) is obsessed with getting a promotion at work. Add to the mix, Stephanie's blooming romance with Lawrence (Kristoff St. John) – who is torn between being with her or continuing his mission work. It appears the Chandler's have abandoned their Christmas traditions and lost the spirit of Christmas. That is, until a group of kids at an orphanage helps the family to realize there is more to Christmas than wrapping gifts and baking cookies.

"It's a joy to bring the heart-warming Chandler family back this year with another magical story about love, family and Christmas," said Barbara Fisher, svp, original programming, UP. "The chemistry between this talented ensemble cast brilliantly shines in a story packed with wonderful funny moments as the Chandler family deals with a frenetic Christmas season. The third in this beloved series of films will be one of the many highlights of our 'Everything You Love About Christmas' programming."

"Some of the best times I've ever had on a movie set have been with the cast of the UP's *Marry Me for Christmas* franchise," said Baraka. "Making my directorial debut with the third installment of this series and directing what I sincerely believe to be one of the best casts to ever appear on TV is beyond exciting! Can't wait to see the magic unfold — again!"

UP's *Marry Me for Christmas* franchise includes *Marry Me for Christmas* and *Marry US for Christmas* both of which set premiere ratings milestones for the network. Both premieres ranked in top 10 for the time period among all cable networks in key African American demos.\*

Follow our cast at:

- [www.UPTv.com/ABabyForChristmas](http://www.UPTv.com/ABabyForChristmas)
- Malinda Williams on Twitter [@MalinsWorld](https://twitter.com/MalinsWorld)
- Victoria Rowell on Twitter [@victoriarowell](https://twitter.com/victoriarowell)
- Karon Riley on Twitter [@karonjosephriley](https://twitter.com/karonjosephriley)
- GregAlan Williams on Twitter [@GregAlanW](https://twitter.com/GregAlanW)
- Chrystale Wilson on Twitter
- 
- 
- Kristoff St. John on Twitter [@kristoffstjohn1](https://twitter.com/kristoffstjohn1)
- DeEtta West on Twitter [@deettawest](https://twitter.com/deettawest)

UP presents ***A Baby For Christmas***, a Swirl Films production. Starring Malinda Williams, Victoria Rowell, Karon Riley, GregAlan Williams, Chrystale Wilson, DeEtta West, Clifton Powell and Kristoff St. John and. Directed by Rhonda Freedman Baraka. Produced by Eric Tomosunas and Keith Neal. Executive Produced by Malinda Williams Rhonda Baraka and Victoria Rowell. Written by Rhonda Freeman-Baraka. Director of Photography is Donovan Henneberg-Verity.

#### About UP

UP is television's trusted entertainment brand dedicated to providing viewers with "feel good TV for you and your family." UP uplifts viewers every day with premiere movies, original reality, dramatic and comedy series filled with compelling stories and characters with *character*. In keeping with its brand promise, UP's pro-social initiative, "Uplift Someone," inspires people to do simple, everyday acts of kindness. UP can be seen in 70 million homes on cable systems and satellite providers across the United States. Based in Atlanta, UP is a division of UP Entertainment, LLC provides sales and operations services to the ASPIRE network.

Follow UP on the Web at [www.UPTv.com](http://www.UPTv.com) on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UPtv>, Twitter on [@UPtv](https://twitter.com/UPtv) and Instagram at UP\_TV.

### **About Swirl Films**

Swirl Films, led by Producer Eric Tomosunas, is the leading urban independent production company in North America, with over 80 productions in their catalog.

Recent works in 2015 include television series "Born Again Virgin" and movies *To Hell and Back*, *For the Love of Ruth* and *Stock Option*. Other notable titles include *The Undershepherd* (2012 ABFF Best Narrative Feature, Best Actress and Best Director winners), *35 & Ticking*, and *Percentage*, with Flavor Unit Production. Other films produced by Swirl Films for UP include: *My Other Mother*, starring Essence Atkins, Lynn Whitfield and Jasmine Guy; *Marry Us For Christmas*, the sequel to last year's *Marry Me For Christmas*, starring Malinda Williams; and *The Perfect Summer*, starring Eric Roberts, Sydney Penny and Jason Castro; *My Dad's A Soccer Mom*; *Comeback Dad*, starring Tatyana Ali, Charles S. Dutton and Loretta Devine; "She's Still Not Our Sister" and "Sugar Mommas."

Note to Editor: For additional press materials, high resolution photos and screeners, please visit: [www.UPTv.com/pressroom](http://www.UPTv.com/pressroom).

###

### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

Chelsye J. Burrows  
770.692.4559  
[cburrows@UPTv.com](mailto:cburrows@UPTv.com)

Source: The Nielsen Company, L+SD.