



## UP PREMIERE MOVIE

### "Silver Bells"

Airing on Sunday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. EDT

#### SYNOPSIS

In the UP Premiere Movie *Silver Bells*, Bruce Dalt (Bruce Boxleitner) is an ambitious, gung-ho father and local TV sports anchor who approaches the holidays much like he approaches life - competitively. This Christmas, he wants his interior designing wife Piper (Bridgett Newton) to win the neighborhood's annual holiday house decorating contest. He wants his son Jason (Kenton Duty) to be the winning basketball player on his high school team. And of course, he wants everyone in the family -- including daughter Kasey (Laura Spencer), who is in her first year of law school -- to win by securing the biggest Black Friday shopping deals before dawn. Bruce Dalt is all "for the win!" This philosophy, however, has put a strain on his family; especially Jason, who has more heart than competitive drive. When Bruce gets into a physical scuffle with a ref (Kevin Downes) at Jason's basketball game, the holidays take a turn for the worse. In no time, the video goes viral. Bruce is then sued, suspended from the anchor desk, and sentenced to community service with The Salvation Army. There, he meets Major Melvin Lowell (Antonio Fargas), who patiently guides Bruce while managing his competitive streak. When Bruce encounters the people in his life from behind the kettle, everything -- especially his relationship with his son -- begins to change. The Dalts are about to embark on the most meaningful holiday season ever -- all thanks to ringing that signature bell.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

The story's impact on the cast was universal and can be summed up by young star Kenton Duty who shared that he feels *Silver Bells* "...can inspire somebody to do something, to change, to evolve their consciousness, to involve themselves more in charity, community service, in volunteer work... just really giving, rather than receiving."

The Christmas decorations were in storage for the season at the Salvation Army facility in Grand Rapids, MI, but for director and Reed City, MI native Harold Cronk, his film crew, and the cast of *Silver Bells*, it was Christmas in March of this year, for multiple days of filming the new UP Premiere Movie. Upon reading the script, Cronk says, "The redemptive values of this story really captured my attention. I love seeing this guy (lead character Bruce Dalt) go from 'for the win!' to someone that's more humble and has remembered the reason for the season."

Actors and actresses from Los Angeles, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Ludington and Manistee, as well as the local Salvation Army Brass Band, gathered over the course of the film's two-week shooting schedule in the snow-filled city and surrounding areas. The "Frank Capra-esque" feeling of both the story and location was not lost on star Bruce Boxleitner. He says, "The town of Manistee has sort of a Bedford Falls look," referencing the charming town immortalized in Capra's holiday classic *It's a Wonderful Life*.

For director Cronk, much of the success in making a movie like *Silver Bells* hinges on the characters and the telling of the story, where it's "not so much about the CG and the action moments...it's really about just letting the characters become 'one' with the audience who is watching the film." Cronk continues: "One of the things I really wanted to try to do was create a true family feeling with these characters. With Kenton, Laura, Bridget and Bruce...I think we nailed it. I'm so excited to be working with them on this shoot." And nail it they did. Veteran actor Antonio Fargas gives a big compliment to his fellow cast members when he talks about watching their dynamic: "They have such a nucleus of a family. It was nice being off camera, watching and listening to their ease of getting into the material. It seemed like a real family... it seemed like they had history."

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **BRUCE BOXLEITNER**

Bruce Boxleitner (Bruce Dalt) is one of Hollywood's leading men, having starred in a major motion picture franchise (*TRON*), numerous feature films and popular TV series, produced a major network film and TV series, performed on Broadway and authored two science fiction novels. Bruce is a longtime favorite with sci-fi and western fans worldwide. The veteran actor is known for his leading roles in the television series

"How the West Was Won," "Bring 'Em Back Alive," "Scarecrow and Mrs. King," and "Babylon 5." He currently stars in "Debbie Macomber's Cedar Cove" opposite Andie MacDowell. Furthermore, Bruce is known for his dual role as the characters Alan Bradley and Tron in the feature film *Tron*, a role which he reprised in the sequel *Tron: Legacy* and the animated series "Tron: Uprising." His film credits also include *Gods and Generals* with Robert Duvall, Jeff Daniels, Stephen Lang and Mira Sorvino, *The Babe* with John Goodman and Kelly McGillis, *Kuffs* with Christian Slater, and *The Baltimore Bullet* with James Coburn. In 2012, Bruce was inducted into the Hall of Great Western Performers at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, OK. He wrote "Frontier Earth," and its sequel "Frontier Earth: Searcher," both published by The Berkley Publishing Group. Born in Elgin, IL, Bruce currently resides in Los Angeles and has three sons: Sam, Lee and Michael.

### **ANTONIO FARGAS**

Antonio Fargas (Major Melvin Lowell) was initiated into the world of film at the age of 14, when his interpretive skills led to a role in Shirley Clark's *Cool World*. He has been noted for the unforgettable characters he creates, including the incorrigible and loveable "Huggy Bear" in "Starsky & Hutch." Whether perfecting outrageously comedic characters as in Robert Downey's *Putney Swope* and Keenan Ivory Wayan's *I'm Going to Git You Sucka*, or chilling the audience through a convincing rendition of a 90-year-old witch doctor in the Broadway play, "The Great White Hope," Antonio's performances have generated a near endless array of enthusiastic acclaim from some of the industry's most respected critics of film, television and stage. His film credits also include, *Shaft*, *Car Wash*, *Pretty Baby*, *Next Stop, Greenwich Village*, *Le Bell Anglaise*, *Whore*, *Conrack*, *The Howling VI* and *The Borrower*, among others. Additional television credits include "Miami Vice," "All My Children," "Martin," "Everybody Hates Chris" and more. Antonio was born in New York City and grew up one of 11 children in the Bronx.

### **KENTON DUTY**

Kenton Duty (Jason Dalt) is an actor, dancer and singer. He is best known for his recurring role as "young Jacob" on the final season of "Lost," and for his co-starring role as the flamboyant European exchange student Gunther Hessenheffer on "Shake It Up!" His television credits also include guest star roles on the CBS crime drama "Cold Case," the NBC series "CTRL," and the starring role in *Christmas in Paradise*. In film, Kenton has starred in *2:13*, *Forget Me Not*, *Crazy on the Outside*, *My Name is Khan* and in *Amazing Love: The Story of Hosea*. In addition to his busy acting career, Duty is a talented musician. He plays guitar and recently released his own single "Teenage Summer Nights." He was born in Plano, TX.

### **BRIDGETT NEWTON**

Bridgett Newton (Piper Dalt) has graced both the big and small screens, appearing most recently in the summer 2013 feature film *Man of Steel*, alongside Russell Crowe, Amy Adams, and Diane Lane. Other film credits include *Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon*, *Greener*, and *Radioland Murders* with Ned Beatty. She has co-starred in the critically acclaimed television series "Justified" and has been cast in guest

starring roles on “House M.D.”, “Parenthood”, “The Drew Carey Show”, “Franklin & Bash”, “The O.C.”, “Becker”, “Dawson’s Creek”, and “Boston Public.”

### **LAURA SPENCER**

Laura Spencer (Kasey Dalt) stars as the “practically perfect older sister” Jane Bennet in “The Lizzie Bennet Diaries.” She has a recurring role on ABC Family’s “Switched at Birth” and counts roles on CBS’s “2 Broke Girls” and Disney Channel’s “Jessie” among her television credits. *Barking Water*, her first feature film, premiered at Sundance in 2009. Other film credits include: *Dylan Dog: Dead of Night*, *The Millionaire Tour*, and *The Water’s Fine*, the upcoming narrative film debut of popular YouTube vlogger “emilieofnewgloom.” Laura also appears on YouTube’s “WIGS” channel, alongside Virginia Madsen, Jennifer Garner, Dakota Fanning and Anna Paquin.

### **KEVIN DOWNES**

Kevin Downes (Ref) is an actor, writer, producer and director. His film credits include *Mercy Streets*, which Downes produced. The film received a nomination for the Best Family Film Award. In 2004, Downes wrote, produced, directed and starred in *Six: The Mark Unleashed* alongside Stephen Baldwin, Eric Roberts, David A. R. White, and Jeffrey Dean Morgan. He recently produced the family comedy film *Moms’ Night Out*, written by Andrea Gyertson Nasfell, Andrew Erwin and Jon Erwin and directed by the Erwin brothers. The film features Sarah Drew, Sean Astin, Patricia Heaton, Alex Kendrick and Trace Adkins and is slated for a 2014 release. A California native, Kevin Downes currently resides three hours north of Los Angeles in Visalia with his family.

### **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM**

#### **HAROLD CRONK (DIRECTOR)**

Harold Cronk is an American writer, director, producer and founding partner in 10 West Studios and EMC Productions. Cronk has directed the feature films *What If...*, starring Kevin Sorbo and Kristy Swanson and co-written with Gyertson Nasfell, *Jerusalem Countdown*, starring Lee Majors and Randy Travis. Most recently, he wrote and directed *Mickey Matson and the Copperhead Conspiracy*, starring Lee Arenberg, Derek Brandon, Patrika Darbo and Christopher Lloyd. In 2006, Cronk won the Beverly Hills International Film Festival’s Best Director Award for the short film *War Prayer*, based upon a Mark Twain short story.

#### **MICHAEL SCOTT, DAVID WHITE AND RUSSELL WOLFE (PRODUCERS)**

#### **ANDREA GYERTSON NASFELL (WRITER)**

Andrea Gyertson Nasfell is an award-winning screenwriter whose most recently produced film is the family comedy *Moms’ Night Out*, directed by the Erwin Brothers for Sony AFFIRM/Provident Films. She wrote UP’s popular 2012 holiday film *Christmas Angel*. Andrea’s *Christmas With A Capital C* and *What*

*If...* were both nominated for Movieguide® Epiphany Prizes for Inspiring Movies & TV. In addition, *What If...* was selected by Movieguide® as one of 2010's "Ten Best Films for Family Audiences" and *Christmas with a Capital C* won their Faith & Freedom Award. As a graduate of "Act One: Writing for Hollywood," she frequently serves as a script consultant and screenwriting lecturer. Andrea is a graduate of Asbury University and is currently pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing from Spalding University.

### **CREDITS**

**UP presents a PURE FLIX Entertainment Production**

Bruce Boxleitner

Antonio Fargas

Kenton Duty

Bridgett Newton

Laura Spencer

Kevin Downes

#### **Directed By**

Harold Cronk

#### **Produced By**

Michael Scott, David White and Russell Wolfe

#### **Script By**

Andrea Gyertson Nasfell

Follow our cast at:

- [www.UPtV.com/SilverBells](http://www.UPtV.com/SilverBells)
- Bruce Boxleitner on Twitter [@boxleitnerbruce](https://twitter.com/boxleitnerbruce)
- Antonio Fargas online at [www.antoniofargas.com](http://www.antoniofargas.com)
- Kenton Duty on Twitter [@KentonDuty](https://twitter.com/KentonDuty)
- Bridgett Newton on Twitter [@BridgettNewton](https://twitter.com/BridgettNewton)
- Laura Spencer on Twitter [itslauraspencer](https://twitter.com/itslauraspencer)
- Kevin Downes on Twitter [@kevindownes](https://twitter.com/kevindownes)

For photos, screeners and more information, please visit <http://uptv.com/pressroom> or [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org).

**About UP**

UP ([www.uptv.com](http://www.uptv.com)) is America's favorite network for uplifting family entertainment. The network presents original and acquired movies, series, stage plays and music specials along with gMovies, the first faith-friendly streaming movie service. The UP brand is reflected in "Uplift Someone," the network's successful pro-social initiative. UP can be seen in more than 65 million homes on various cable systems around the country, as well as DISH Network on channel 188, DIRECTV on channel 338 and Verizon FIOS on channel 224. Follow UP on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UPtv>, Twitter on [@UPtv](https://twitter.com/UPtv) and Instagram at UP\_TV.

### **About Pure Flix**

Pure Flix is a Christian movie studio that produces, distributes, and acquires Christ-centered movies for the sole purpose of changing our culture for Christ, one heart at a time. Our mission since day one has remained the same and we continue to strive to make a difference for His name. Pure Flix Entertainment has created many films, such as *Apostle Peter and the Last Supper*, *Jerusalem Countdown*, *The Wager*, *Home Beyond the Sun*, *In the Blink of an Eye*, *Sarah's Choice*, *Birdie & Bogey*, *A Greater Yes: The Story of Amy Newhouse*, *The Book of Ruth: Journey in Faith* and *Holyman Undercover*. They also produced the first two seasons of TBN's "Travel the Road."

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