

Hats Off to Love

Johnson Production Group

Press Kit

One-Liner

When a determined milliner infiltrates Kentucky's high society to pitch her Derby hats, she unexpectedly captures the attention of an elite horse racing family —particularly its charming heir. As romance blossoms, she must navigate ruthless rivals, deep-seated traditions, and a scandal that threatens to upend both her career and the fate of a prized racehorse.

Synopsis

Stella Stone, a talented but struggling milliner, dreams of making a name for herself in Louisville's competitive Derby fashion scene. Desperate for a breakthrough, she sneaks into the suite of Rosalind Fairchild, the grand dame of Kentucky high society, hoping to impress her with a handcrafted fascinator. Instead, she runs into Christian Fairchild, Rosalind's handsome and skeptical son, who watches in amusement as Stella fumbles her way through an awkward first impression.

Despite her unconventional approach, Stella's designs catch Rosalind's eye, and she is given the opportunity to create custom Derby hats for the Fairchild family—an honor that could launch her career. But Odette Giraud, the imperious designer already working with Rosalind, sees Stella as a threat and subtly undermines her at every turn. Meanwhile, Hannah St. Charles, Rosalind's jealous assistant, resents Stella's growing presence and orchestrates an embarrassing social misstep, convincing Stella to attend a prestigious high-society luncheon in casual farm attire. Though humiliated, Stella refuses to be intimidated.

As she fights to prove herself, Stella grows closer to Christian, who is battling his own doubts about his ability to manage Wildflower Wish (Willa), the Fairchild family's promising filly. Unlike his late father, Christian is hesitant to race Willa in the Derby against the colts, despite her talent. The arrival of his old friend-turned-rival Davidson Vegh, who is boarding his own aggressive stallion at the Fairchild farm, only adds to Christian's stress. Davidson, who once managed Willa, pushes Christian to enter her in the weaker race for fillies, but Stella sees something in Willa that Christian doesn't—unwavering potential.

As the Derby approaches, Stella juggles the immense pressure of crafting a prize-winning hat while helping Christian restore his confidence. Their mutual support turns into undeniable attraction, though both are wary of how romance might complicate their goals. Just when things seem to be falling into

place, Stella overhears Hannah and Odette conspiring to sabotage her career, while Davidson's motives regarding Willa come into question. With everything on the line, Stella must trust her instincts—not just in fashion, but in love and the world of horse racing.

In a triumphant finale at Churchill Downs, Christian makes the bold choice to race Willa in the Derby, defying expectations. Meanwhile, Stella's daring hat design wins the Bradbury Hat Competition, proving she belongs in Kentucky's elite fashion world. As the race begins, Christian and Willa take off down the track, and Stella realizes she's not just witnessing history—she's become a part of it.

The story ends with Willa making a breathtaking finish, Stella standing on the brink of a career breakthrough, and Christian looking at her with the kind of admiration that suggests their partnership—both personal and professional—is just beginning.

Producers

Executive Producers

TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON

JOSEPH WILKA

MAURA DUNBAR

JOHN MEHRER

MICHAEL ROTH

Co-Executive Producer

LISA ALFORD

Producer

DANNY ROTH

Key Cast

<u>CHARACTER</u>	<u>ACTOR</u>
Stella	GINNA CLAIRE MASON
Christian	JOHN CLARENCE STEWART
Odette	DARLA DELGADO
Hannah	RENA STROBER
Annie	HOLLY WARD
Rosiland	and HOLLY ROBINSON PEETE

Key Cast Biographies

GINNA CLAIRE MASON



Ginna Claire Mason is a Broadway actress best known for playing Glinda in *Wicked* and starring in several Hallmark movies, including *A Holiday Spectacular* (2022), *A Heidelberg Holiday* (2023), and *A Carol for Two* (2024). A Nashville native, she developed a love for musical theatre early on, influenced by classics such as *My Fair Lady*, *The Sound of Music*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *Cats*. She went on to earn a BFA in Music Theatre from Elon University. In addition to her Broadway success, Mason has performed in touring and regional productions like *Newsies*, *Flashdance*, *Duck Commander Musical*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Hairspray*, and *Grease*. Now based in New York City, she is married to Eric Willmoffett.

JOHN CLARENCE STEWART



John Clarence Stewart is an American actor best known for his role as Simon in NBC's *Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist*, as well as his performances as Alex Wesley in *Luke Cage* and Lionel in *What/If*. Born on August 16, 1988, in Stone Mountain, Georgia, Stewart began his acting career in Atlanta, making his professional debut in 2013 with *The Whipping Man* at the Alliance Theatre. He later moved to New York to further pursue his craft. Throughout his television career, he has appeared in a range of roles, including *Zoey's Extraordinary Christmas* (2021), and guest spots on shows like *Blue Bloods*, *The Good Fight*, and *Hawaii Five-0*. Beyond acting, Stewart is a passionate advocate for the growth and education of Black and Brown boys and the broader evolution of

Black and Brown men in society.

DARLA DELGADO



Darla Delgado was born in Tampa, Florida, USA, of Hispanic and Italian descent. This actress and producer started modeling at the age of 19, when she became a fan of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and stayed with them for three years. She has several college credits and classes in broadcasting and advertising, which was her first college major, and she landed a job at a marketing/ad agency two months later. She became one of the top commercial and hosting recipients in the state. In late 2006, she booked a national Super Bowl commercial for Bud Light. After that, her acting teacher at the Performers Studio Workshop in Tampa suggested that she move to Los Angeles. She is known for *The Resident* (2018-2021), *Nashville* (2014-2015) and *Devious Maids* (2016), *Cobra Kai* (2018), *Walker* (2021) and *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* (2023).

RENA STROBER



From New York to Los Angeles, Rena Strober is praised for her Broadway performances, TV roles, Voice-Over Work and her upcoming short film Spaghetti & Matzo Balls!. She has received multiple awards for her recent Sesame Street album Imagine That: The music of Joe Raposo & Jeff Moss. This magical album features Jason Alexander, French Stewart and the Dotz Blind Children's Choir. www.renastrober.bandcamp.com Proceeds go to Guide Dogs of America

Some favorite New York Credits include appearing on Broadway as Cosette in Les Miserables, starring opposite Betty Buckley, Peter Scolari and Tuc Watkins in the Off-Broadway comedy White's Lies, Belle in Beauty & The Beast among many others. Her 1- woman show, Spaghetti & Matzo Balls! ran Off-Broadway in NY, Los Angeles and in Leeds, England to enlightened and entertained, sold out houses. Rena toured the country with Fiddler on the Roof as Tzeitel playing opposite Topol, Harvey Fierstein & Theo Bikel. Rena originated the role of Tonya in the pre-Broadway production of Zhivago (Directed by Des McNuff) at the La Jolla Playhouse for which she was awarded the Outer Critics Circle Award.

TV audiences know Rena as Becky Bickelhoff on Disney's Liv & Maddie playing, Chuckie's Lawyer Emily Knowland on Shameless, Jonah's successful date on VEEP and multiple wacky roles on Nickelodeon. Rena has also voiced hundreds of characters for DisneyXD, Nickelodeon, Netflix, Nintendo, Sega and many Anime games & Cartoons. Some fan favorites include Ever After High, Penn Zero, Dogs in Space, Sailor Moon and the entire series of Fire Emblem as Azura.

HOLLY WARD



Holly Ward is an American actress and model, born in Los Angeles. She appeared in numerous commercials, television series, and independent films and is best known for Black Bird (2022), Agatha All Along (2024) and Queen Sugar (2016).

and

HOLLY ROBINSON PEETE



Holly Robinson Peete is an American actress, author, talk show host, and activist, best known for her roles in television series such as 21 Jump Street, Hangin' with Mr. Cooper, and For Your Love. She also gained recognition as a co-host on The Talk and has become a familiar face in numerous Hallmark Channel movies. Born on September 18, 1964, Peete has had a diverse career that spans acting, writing, and public advocacy. She co-founded the HollyRod Foundation with her husband, former NFL quarterback Rodney Peete, to support families affected by autism and Parkinson's disease—causes close to her heart due to her son RJ's autism diagnosis and her father's struggle with

Parkinson's. In addition to her activism, she is an award-winning author of children's books, including My Brother Charlie, which earned her an NAACP Image Award. She and Rodney Peete have four children and continue to be active in both entertainment and charitable work.

Production Credits

Full Cast

Actors	Role
GINNA CLAIRE MASON	Stella
HOLLY ROBINSON PEETE	Rosiland
JOHN CLARENCE STEWART	Christian
DARLA DELGADO	Odette
RENA STROBER	Hannah
HOLLY WARD	Annie
ALEX TRUMBLE	Davidson
KRISTIN WOLLETT	Mandy
STEWART SCOTT	Roger
JAN NUEBERGER	Margaret
CINDY KARR	Blanche
RAYEL	Mimi
LINDSAY NORTHERN	Beth
DEVIN CONWAY	Brian
MARTIN MONTANA	Rick
SALLIE GLANER	Judge
MARGARET REED	Woman In Line
ERIC REED	Horse Owner
J ALAN DAVIDSON	Race Announcer

Casting By

JEFF HARDWICK

Music By

RUSS HOWARD III

Editor

WENDY ELFORD-ARGENT

Production Designer

STARLA CHRISTIAN

Director Of Photography

LARS LINDSTROM

Written By

UMA INCROCCI

AUSTIN HIGHSMITH GARCES

AMY BARRETT

BRUCE D. JOHNSON

Directed By

AMY BARRETT

Full Crew

JOHN MEHRER

CAMERON BRUMBELOW

MICHAEL ROTH

CURTIS ROLAND

CHELSEA BUTZ

MICHAEL HAYWARD

BORNEO SEED NISHEVIKJ

ABBY NAN

RACHEL DEBICKERO

KARLIE LOWLAND / KLR CREATIVE GROUP

BECCA EIRIKSON

JEROME BOWERS

BRYAN WILLIAMS

BRIANNA SPEILDENNER

MICHAEL LOEFFLER

LUKE NIEMAN

JENO BROFCHOSKY

CIERRA KUTIATA

CHASE HUANG

ASHLEIGH ANDERSON

ADRIAN SPRUNGER

ROSE CALTRIDER

JAKE BUTLER

GONZALO BETANCOR

Head Of Production

Line Producer

Production Supervisor

Production Managers

Production Coordinator

First Assistant Director

Second Assistant Director

Second Second Assistant Director

Additional Casting

Art Director / Set Dresser

Additional Set Decorator

Property Master

Props Assistant

Production Assistants

1st Assistant Camera

2nd Assistant Camera

TIGER TAO	
CHELSEA BUTZ	Stills
ANTHONY MARINCAS	Gaffers
DANIEL NILSSON	
FRANK BIFULCO	Key Grip
LUKE PERETTI	Additional Grips
ANDREAS DEJESUS	
MIKE BAKER	
BRUCE MURRAY	BB Swing
TIM BEDINGHAUS	BB Electric
KHRIS COLGATE	BB Grips
ROBERT OBED	
DERRICK LESSARD	Sound Mixer/Boom Operators
NATHANIEL FENNEL	
KEVIN REGO	Stunt Coordinator
CASEY CUBE	Horse Wrangler
EVAN WATERS	Costume Designer
MARY BETH GRAY	Assistant Costume Designer
ALYSSA ROMAN	Key Costumer
KELSEY GARCIA	Shopper
NICOLE FINCH	Hat Milliner
JACKIE CUPPLES	Hair Department Head
MONIQUE MCLAUGHLIN	Makeup Department Head
JASON HENNARD	Addition HMU
MONIQUE AUSTIN	
RICHARD GRANT	
JASMINE STOVAL	
DAVID YATES	Location Scouts
MAVERICK GAGLIANO	
KEVIN RILEY	Site Coordinator
JOSH CARBUNGCO	Set Medic
GREENSLATE	Payroll Services
	Production Accounting
J ALAN DAVIDSON	Post Production Supervisor
WENDY ALFORD-ARGENT	Editor
PURPLE DOG POST	Post Production Services
	Colorist
	Sound Designers
	Re-Recording Mixer
	Dialog Editor
	Additional Voices
	Visual Effects
TAMPA BAY DOWNS	Special Thanks
QUANTUM LEAP FARMS	
FLORIDA STATE FAIR	

THE FENWAY HOTEL
PRODUCTION SERVICES AND SYSTEMS, INC
TRICIA LANIGAN
THE PATON FAMILY
MARGO J. FLYNN
BELLVIEW INN
SERENDIPITY FARM
K2 SECOND UNIT STUNTS
ANGELA BITTAKER
THE KARNOWSKI FAMILY
NICK EKONOMOU for the use of The historic
Cade Allen home in St. Petersburg, Florida

Producer Biographies

TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON – Executive Producer

Timothy O. Johnson is among the most active and reliable producers in the business thanks to top rate productions and global distribution appeal. He is the managing partner of Johnson Production Group, a Canadian based operation that produces over 100 hours of dramatic television annually with hundreds of programs running internationally. The company is the leader supplier to Lifetime, Hallmark and other international outlets.

A graduate of the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California, he served as President of the USC Entertainment Management Association and a member of the Advisory Committee of the Center for Entrepreneurial Studies.

Johnson is also responsible for producing the international hit series, DR. QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN for CBS for over 5 seasons. During his 100-episode tenure, he also developed and produced the original docu-drama COLD CASE for CBS network, which was the very first program to integrate television with the Internet.

Most recently, Johnson has produced the THE NOEL DIARY, being the #1 Film on Netflix's Top 10 list in December of 2022. He was also at the helm of the successful GIRL IN THE SHED: THE KIDNAPPING OF ABBY HERNANDEZ, as well as the V.C. Andrews series of films, to date including TWILIGHT'S CHILD, MIDNIGHT WHISPERS, and DAWN, all produced for Lifetime..

Johnson has produced over 400 movies and 15 globally released series for every major US network - including Netflix, Lifetime, Hallmark, ABC, Disney, CBS, NBC, Netfly, FOX and Sony.

JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP

Johnson Production Group packages, finances, and distributes television content to networks, studios and streamers. The company specializes in various types of programming including romances, thrillers, holiday and true crime TV movies.

The company has been involved in the production of over 3000 hours of network television, with over \$1 billion spent on production. JPG specializes in value, efficiency, protection of creative elements, and delivery of a quality finished product.

JOSEPH WILKA – Executive Producer

Joseph Wilka is the Head of Production for Johnson Production Group. Los Angeles-based, Joseph had already produced and directed several feature films before serving as the senior marketing executive for Gravitas Ventures. While at Gravitas, Wilka helped pioneer new distribution models for independent films including day-and-date theatrical releases. It was also at Gravitas where Joseph first worked with Johnson Production Group to facilitate the release of their films to the worldwide Video On Demand audience. After serving as the Director of Distribution and Production for Viva Pictures, where he produced English-language versions of foreign animated titles for DirecTV, Wilka officially joined Johnson Production Group. As Head of Production, he oversees the development, production, and distribution of films from multiple production units for release on broadcast and streaming platforms.

MAURA DUNBAR – Executive Producer

Maura Dunbar is a seasoned entertainment industry professional with over 36 years of experience as a senior-level broadcast/cable executive and producer of Emmy-nominated original programming. Her extensive career has been marked by significant achievements across various platforms, showcasing her expertise in programming strategies, development, packaging, and production. Throughout her career, Dunbar has been responsible for producing over 600 hours of television movies and mini-series, becoming an expert in building communities around programming and marketing platforms. Her work has garnered numerous accolades and industry recognition.

In 2021, Dunbar joined the Johnson Production Group as an Executive Producer, overseeing projects such as "Dog Lover's Guide to Dating" and "Noel Next Door." Prior to this, she served as EVP/Chief Content Officer of Odyssey Networks, where she also headed multiple subsidiary companies as President & CEO of Lightworks Pictures and Engage Entertainment. Under her leadership, these companies developed and produced over 21 films for the Hallmark Channel and UPTv, earning multiple awards including Telly, Camie, and Christopher Awards.

At Lightworks, Dunbar oversaw "The American Bible Challenge," which became one of the highest-rated shows in the history of the Game Show Network, earning her a Daytime Emmy nomination. She also ventured into non-scripted documentary programming, overseeing the production of "Serving Life" for Oprah Winfrey's OWN network, which won numerous awards including the CINE Masters Series Award and the Humanitas Prize.

Before her work with Odyssey Networks, Dunbar served as Senior Vice President of Original Programming for Hallmark Channel. In this role, she launched the channel's franchise of original two-hour movies and helped grow the channel's distribution significantly, from 32 to 57 million homes.

Dunbar's career began at ABC Network, where she worked for 16 years, eventually becoming Vice President of MiniSeries and Special Projects. During her tenure, she developed and produced critically

acclaimed and commercially successful content, working with renowned authors and directors such as Stephen King, Larry McMurtry, and Christopher Reeves.

Throughout her career, Dunbar has been actively involved in industry organizations. She served four terms on the Board of Governors for the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, chairing various committees including the prime-time show committee for the 2008 Primetime Emmy Telecast. She has also been involved with organizations such as GLAAD and the Salvation Army's Entertainment Advisory Committee. Dunbar's contributions to the industry and community have earned her numerous accolades, including an appointment as "Kentucky Colonel" by the Governor. Her commitment to fostering young talent is evident in her involvement with educational institutions and mentorship programs, including serving on the Communication & Fine Arts Council at Loyola Marymount University and participating in the Boyle Heights Elementary Institute Student/Mentor Program.

As a member of the Producers Guild of America, Maura Dunbar continues to be a prominent figure in the entertainment industry, known for her expertise in content creation, production, and industry leadership.

JOHN MEHRER – Executive Producer

John Mehrer is a producer and the Executive Vice President of Production for RNR Media. Since 2011, John has been on the production staff of over one hundred feature length films and held producing roles on over seventy-five. In the past 5 years, RNR Media has produced over 60 movies in the thriller, romantic comedy and action genres.

DANNY ROTH – Producer

Danny Roth is a prolific American film and television producer with a career spanning over two decades. He has built a reputation for delivering commercially successful, story-first content across a wide range of genres, including thrillers, holiday features, dramas, and action films. As the owner of RNR MEDIA and producer on more than 130 projects, Roth is recognized for his ability to pair efficient budgets with high production value — often working with top-tier talent and emerging voices alike.

Roth's work is regularly featured on major platforms including Netflix, Lifetime, Amazon, Hallmark, and Paramount Global. His credits include Altitude, The Hurricane Heist, Christmas Reservations, Arctic Void, and dozens of holiday movies and TV thrillers. Known for his sharp instincts and hands-on producing style, Roth is adept at shepherding projects from development through delivery, maintaining strong relationships with writers, directors, and distributors.

Whether producing independent features or overseeing high-output slates, Danny Roth remains focused on compelling storytelling, market viability, and delivering for audiences worldwide.

Billing Block

JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP PRESENTS An RNR MEDIA Production
HATS OFF TO LOVE Starring GINNA CLAIRE MASON JOHN CLARENCE STEWART DARLA
DELGADO RENA STROBER HOLLY WARD and HOLLY ROBINSON PEETE Production
Designer STARLA CHRISTIAN Director Of Photography LARS LINDSTROM Editor WENDY
EFLORD-ARGENT Music By RUSS HOWARD Executive Producers TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON
JOSEPH WILKA MAURA DUNBAR JOHN MEHRER MICHAEL ROTH Co-Executive
Producer LISA ALFORD Produced By DANNY ROTH Written By UMA INCROCCI AUSTIN
HIGHSMITH GARCES AMY BARRETT BRUCE D. JOHNSON Directed By AMY BARRETT



Special Thanks to St. Petersburg Clearwater Film Commission and Pinellas, County, Florida, for their invaluable support in the making of this film.

Filmed in Hillsborough County Florida



Thanks to the County and FTB



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JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP



Meta Data

LONG (max 3000 characters) synopsis

Stella Stone, a talented but struggling milliner, dreams of making a name for herself in Louisville's competitive Derby fashion scene. Desperate for a breakthrough, she sneaks into the suite of Rosalind Fairchild, the grand dame of Kentucky high society, hoping to impress her with a handcrafted fascinator. Instead, she runs into Christian Fairchild, Rosalind's handsome and skeptical son, who watches in amusement as Stella fumbles her way through an awkward first impression.

Despite her unconventional approach, Stella's designs catch Rosalind's eye, and she is given the opportunity to create custom Derby hats for the Fairchild family—an honor that could launch her career. But Odette Giraud, the imperious designer already working with Rosalind, sees Stella as a threat and subtly undermines her at every turn. Meanwhile, Hannah St. Charles, Rosalind's jealous assistant, resents Stella's growing presence and orchestrates an embarrassing social misstep, convincing Stella to attend a prestigious high-society luncheon in casual farm attire. Though humiliated, Stella refuses to be intimidated.

As she fights to prove herself, Stella grows closer to Christian, who is battling his own doubts about his ability to manage Wildflower Wish (Willa), the Fairchild family's promising filly. Unlike his late father, Christian is hesitant to race Willa in the Derby against the colts, despite her talent. The arrival of his old friend-turned-rival Davidson Vegh, who is boarding his own aggressive stallion at the Fairchild farm, only adds to Christian's stress. Davidson, who once managed Willa, pushes Christian to enter her in the weaker race for fillies, but Stella sees something in Willa that Christian doesn't—unwavering potential.

As the Derby approaches, Stella juggles the immense pressure of crafting a prize-winning hat while helping Christian restore his confidence. Their mutual support turns into undeniable attraction, though both are wary of how romance might complicate their goals. Just when things seem to be falling into place, Stella overhears Hannah and Odette conspiring to sabotage her career, while Davidson's motives regarding Willa come into question. With everything on the line, Stella must trust her instincts—not just in fashion, but in love and the world of horse racing.

In a triumphant finale at Churchill Downs, Christian makes the bold choice to race Willa in the Derby, defying expectations. Meanwhile, Stella's daring hat design wins the Bradbury Hat Competition, proving she belongs in Kentucky's elite fashion world. As the race begins, Christian and Willa take off down the track, and Stella realizes she's not just witnessing history—she's become a part of it.

The story ends with Willa making a breathtaking finish, Stella standing on the brink of a career breakthrough, and Christian looking at her with the kind of admiration that suggests their partnership—both personal and professional—is just beginning. (2947)

MEDIUM (max 500) synopsis

When a determined milliner infiltrates Kentucky's high society to pitch her Derby hats, she unexpectedly captures the attention of an elite horse racing family —particularly its charming heir. As romance blossoms, she must navigate ruthless rivals, deep-seated traditions, and a scandal that threatens to

upend both her career and the fate of a prized racehorse. (362)

SHORT (max 100 characters) synopsis

Stella designs hats for socialite Rosalind but it's her horse trainer son with whom Stella connects. (100)

5 KEY WORDS

Hats, fascinators, horses, derby, Kentucky