



Nicole Oliver Starring in The Hallmark Channel’s ‘Good Morning Christmas’ and Working Amidst COVID

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In January of this year, we interviewed the multi-talented and multi-faceted **Nicole Oliver**. This was prior to the entire world turning on its head. Recently we caught up with her again this time to talk about her upcoming Hallmark Christmas movie, *Good Morning Christmas*, working within the landscape of COVID, and above all else being grateful to do what she loves. We were reminded during our time that Nicole is just as warm and down to earth as she is talented. It was a delight to chat with her again.

The Canadian actor, producer, director, and voice actor began performing ballet at three years old. A knee injury at twelve thwarted her hopes of a career as a ballerina. Plan B was to become a lawyer but in Nicole’s senior year of high school, she was in the play *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, and the reminder of the allure of a live audience was too much for Nicole to resist. She continued performing on stage in theatre and progressed to television and film work in front of and behind the camera.



As with all of our interviews post coronavirus, we began by asking Nicole how she and her family were doing in these times. "I'm good. My family is good and I'm grateful. I'm trying to be gracious. Some days I succeed but most days I need a bigger pair of patience pants. More than anything I'm happy to have the support of my family because these are indeed challenging times. But I've been able to work and do what I love through it all. Yes, I have to pivot and adapt, it has been wild." *Pivot. Adapt. Wild. Three perfect words to describe 2020!*

Hallmark's holiday movie, *Good Morning Christmas*, a part of Hallmark's Countdown to Christmas, starring Alison Sweeney, Marc Blucas, and Nicole premieres Wednesday, November 25 at 8 PM Eastern on the Hallmark Channel. What is Christmas without Hallmark?! "I sort of feel like it wouldn't be Christmas without me doing a Hallmark movie." *Laughter.* "Hallmark is always great even more so this time of year but this year it is especially great because we need something to give us joy again. It was still so much fun filming the movie even given the climate we are all living in. I loved working with Marc and Alison. As a woman, I just love Alison; she's super smart, super savvy, she's producing projects, developing her own brand and she's a mom. And she's a great leader on set." *We love Alison too!*



The premise of the movie is two competing TV hosts travel to a small town over Christmas, and while pretending to get along for the sake of appearances, they slowly discover there is more to each other than they thought. "Alison and Marc play the top television hosts in America and I'm their producer. Behind the scenes, things might not be as friendly between the two of them as everyone thinks. Every year the show does a Christmas show in a different town. This year the Christmas spirit starts spreading its magic and maybe a little bit of the sour turns into lovely wine. I'm in there meddling around. It's a great film. It's cute and it is all the things that Hallmark fans love. But really anybody who is a fan of Christmas and romance will love it as well."

Nicole has steadily worked throughout the pandemic. She has worked on voice-over projects that she was able to do from home and she's also gone into the studio as an actor, including in her role as Helen Atkins in the short-form series, *NarcoLeap*, whose new season will be out in mid-December. Nicole is also directing two cartoon shows right now, over Zoom, for DreamWorks and she's directing the second season of *Molly of Denali* for PBS. *Nicole's been busy!*



Voice directing Zoom? We will freely admit that was a bit much for our lay brain to envision. Nicole helped us out with the visual and spoke about the complexities it presents. "You remember the Brady Bunch square? It looks sort of like that. You have all the executives, other members of the crew, and the actors on camera in their respective places with headphones on. Normally we would have the group of actors all in the room together filled with this energy and creating such beautiful, unpredictable wonderful moments. But now I have to work with each actor one at a time. Yet still, produce a product that looks and sounds as if the group is in one place. It's taking like two to three times longer. So, you can imagine how it will impact the budget. It's challenging for the actors because when it's your call time, you have to be ready to go and then just go, go and go until we have what we need. They have to get and keep their stamina up and it's my job to help them do it. All this is keeping my brain sharp. But I tell you at the end of an eight-hour day, I'm exhausted. Everyone involved has to be ready and just go for it. All around we are all grateful for the work. The key is how do you keep the fatigue at bay so the creativity can still flow. That's a daily challenge."

Despite the challenges and the uncertainties, Nicole remains optimistic, hopeful, and determined to overcome and thrive. "We are all trying to figure this COVID thing out for the sake of the industry as well as for us personally. Being on set is stressful enough but now there is COVID, all the safety protocols, and all these moving parts that multiplies the stress. But everyone is handling it all so beautifully. So many people's livelihood is tied to entertainment and it is a good thing for us to be back on set for the public at large. Everyone needs the distraction and escape. I'm glad to be an artist and to be able to help with that. 2020 has shown me as artists we are resilient and we know how to keep creativity alive. There is no doubt we are in the thick of it. But we are in it to win it. We are going to keep going and put some smiles on people's faces. We are hoping for the best for everyone. So, wear your mask, socially distance, wash your hands, and let's keep the kindness and consideration we have adopted during this time."

Watch *Good Morning Christmas* Premiering on The Hallmark Channel November 25 at 8 p.m. Eastern!

Look out for all of Nicole's Work!

It was so great to chat again Nicole thanks!

I AM KP Smith