



IMTA ALUM SEAN FARIS CELEBRATES *CHRISTMAS WITH HOLLY*

**IMTA Press Release
December 6, 2012**

Christmas with Holly premieres Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, 9-11 p.m. ET/PT on ABC

“*Christmas with Holly is much more than a boy meets girl, boy and girl fall in love story. This is much closer to realistic situations, which will make the audience relate to it.*” – Sean Faris

IMTA alum Sean Faris (NY99) has established a career taking on a wide variety of film and TV roles. He has shown his athletic skills in films such as *Never Back Down* and *Forever Strong*, a flair for the dramatic in thrillers such as *Stash*, *Brooklyn to Manhattan* and the TV series “*Reunion*” and “*The Vampire Diaries*,” and a comedic side in *Sleepover* and “*Life as We Know It*.” Faris’ showed a definite flair as a romantic lead in last year’s successful Hallmark Hall of Fame TV movie *Lost Valentine*, and he returns to that same platform in the holiday-themed Hallmark movie *Christmas with Holly*.



Faris plays Mark, a 25-year old coffee shop owner in the small town of Friday Harbor, Washington, who is currently in a floundering relationship. He, with help from his two brothers, has full responsibility for his niece Holly after Holly’s mom—and the brothers’ sister—died a few months earlier. While their heart is in the right place, the brothers are a little lost in caring for Holly, who has not uttered a word since her mother died. Into this scene comes Maggie, who has relocated from Seattle to a smaller, calmer place after being left at the alter months earlier. She opens a toy store that is dedicated to kids, paying special attention to Holly when she comes into the shop. Holly writes a letter to Santa asking for a mother for Christmas and...well, one can probably guess how the story ends since it is a Hallmark holiday movie. The film also stars Eloise Mumford, Lucy Gallina and Alex Paxton-Beesley.



Following *Christmas with Holly*, Faris has several projects lined up. It was recently announced that he would be starring with Nicole Ari Parker, Danny Glover and Giancarlo Esposito in *Burn*, a “sexy, urban drama of the film noir genre... an urban re-visualization of the classic film *Body Heat*.” The erotic thriller tells the tale of a beautiful young temptress (Parker) as she sets up her lover (Faris) to take the fall for her husband’s death. Faris also filmed *Pawn* in which a petty robbery spirals into a tense hostage situation after three gunmen hold up a diner that’s a front for the mob. Scheduled for a 2013 release, the film also stars Nikki Reed, Ray Liota, Forrest Whitaker and Michael Chiklis.

Another project on which Faris has been working is the romantic drama *Lost for Words*, for which he is acting as an Executive Producer as well as one of the film’s stars. Filmed on location, the sweeping cityscape of cosmopolitan Hong Kong serves as the backdrop for the story of an ex-Marine (Faris) falling in love with a ballerina from China. Against mounting cultural and religious pressure, the two star-crossed lovers risk it all in pursuit of true love. Also starring are Terence Yin, Will Yun Lee, Grace Huang, and Breanne Racano, Faris’ current real-life love interest and fellow IMTA alum (LA06). *Lost for Words* is currently scheduled for an August 8, 2013 release.