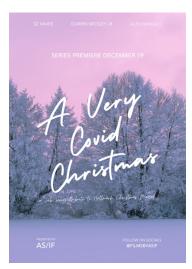


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Forget the tree. Gather around for the must-watch web series of the season, "A Very Covid Christmas."

Filmed in a 2-day frame by female dream team

On <u>YouTube</u> and <u>Instagram</u>- Can the magic of Christmas really be saved? With "A Very Covid Christmas," the answer can be found by finding the magic in a new way this year! Free to the public, dive into this first original web series that's set to premiere this Saturday, Dec. 19 at noon through <u>AS/IF Filmmaking Company</u> on its <u>Instagram</u> and <u>YouTube channel</u>.

"Our goal was basically to make something that a lot of people can relate to and also prove that the holidays can still be special and meaningful even with all of the restrictions going on right now," says co-creator, actor, and protagonist Molly in the web series, Sé Marie. "I know a lot of people that are really down right now because of it, so our hope is to spark some joy with this project. All done in super cheesy Hallmark Christmas movie style."

The web series will be a tribute to a Hallmark Christmas filled with rom-com banter, compelling moments, resonating truths, and heartwarming messages. Watch as the protagonist, Molly, encounters a new love interest and maintains her Facetime friendships like with her BFF and ER Nurse, Rhaena, all while having Christmas cancelled in the first two-part series. This balancing act can be quite overwhelming, especially while

standing on a frozen patio chair! Spearheaded by Sé Marie and Ally Mazzoni, <u>AS/IF Filmmaking</u> is a female-led filmmaking company that focuses on creating heartwarming stories for all audiences to enjoy.

Covid has restricted film production because of how many people need to be involved, as well as actors being close to each other while shooting. Sé and Ally were able to tackle the entire production from script to release in one month while having the entire series filmed within two days.

"From writing, filming, casting, editing, marketing, and more, it was a lot of hats to wear but worth it to make something safe. Especially given that I had Covid already and was hospitalized," says Sé. "Also our main actor has Cystic Fibrosis so is very immune compromised. The three of us were rapid tested the night before filming, and we filmed all of his scenes in only one day. My solo scenes were then filmed the next day, again, all in one day. This was necessary in order to maintain our Covid bubble."

Other actors in the web series were intertwined through the benefits of virtual technology. Sé notes, "All other actors were incorporated through FaceTime conversations and Zoom calls, just like real life!"

Keeping the casting lean on the set was the co-creator's biggest strength. As both creative strategists, AS/IF Filmmaking forged creative avenues to handle the pandemic in order to produce something for all audiences to resonate with and enjoy.

The debut of the web series will have a release of a two-part episode starting this Saturday on AS/IF Filmmaking's Instagram and YouTube channel. An episode will then be available to watch for the next 5 days and in true Hallmark nature, the finale will be released on Christmas Eve! Make sure to subscribe on YouTube and follow Instagram and stay tuned!



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