



The Christmas Hut

Written by
Tony Jerris & Shannon K. Dunn

Volition Entertainment - Ami Manning
Direct: (310) 600-4517
Email: ami@volitionusa.com

Tony Jerris
tjilted@att.net
www.tonyjerris.com
310-596-9557

Shannon K. Dunn
shannon@shannonkdunn.com
www.shannonkdunn.com
303-522-4746

WGA#1821561

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Logline

When a dowdy and Christmas-obsessed single woman is approached to sell her homemade ornaments on a popular TV shopping network, she invents a beautiful fictitious character, which creates havoc in both her personal life and on TV.

Synopsis

Brenda McCallister loves Christmas. It stems from her mother, Helen, who instilled the spirit of Christmas and family in Brenda and her younger sister, Lisa. After Helen's passing, Brenda took over Helen's mom-n-pop shop "The Christmas Hut," while Lisa went on to marry and have kids, which she thinks Brenda should also want, so Lisa encourages Brenda to let the business go and get married before she winds up a "lonely, old cat lady!" True, Brenda has cats, but she has no time for a relationship. She does, however, have a secret admirer. His name is Phil, who owns the bakery across the street from Brenda's store, only he can't muster up the courage to ask her out, but they have a true friendship.

"The Christmas Hut" is in a small town and unfortunately, the store suffers financially due to the influx of Superstores. Just a month before Christmas, Brenda's stodgy landlord, Joe Clark, reminds Brenda that she's behind in her rent and he intends to increase it starting the first of the year. Claire, one of Brenda's best customers, overhears Joe's threat to terminate Brenda's lease if she doesn't pay her back rent. Later, Claire suggest that Brenda should sell her items online.

Upon Claire's advice, Brenda launches her own website, which slowly brings in sales. Then, a customer emails Brenda wanting to know her name and see a photo of the person responsible for the beautiful Christmas ornaments. Insecure with her image, Brenda finds an online picture of a gorgeous woman named Tiffany from a modeling agency. Brenda crops out Tiffany's name, and then emails it to the customer, signing it with the fictitious name, Kristie Nicholas. Suddenly, people pin Kristie Nicholas' picture and ornaments on sites replica of Pinterest, Facebook, Instagram, etc. spiking Brenda's sales.

Meanwhile, on The Real Shopping Network (R.S.N.), Christmas ornament sales are down because longtime guest, Mrs. Paddington, no longer has a passion for what she sells. The dashing CEO of R.S.N., Thomas Monroe, tells his assistant Jody they need a replacement. Jody shows Thomas Kristie Nicholas' picture and ornaments online, whose sales spiked over 100% in one week. Later, Jody tracks Brenda down via her IP address, asking to meet Kristie. Brenda pretends to be Kristie's manager when Jody says they'd like to feature Kristie on the show. Brenda panics, but is finally able to track down Tiffany, who is working as a waitress. When Brenda tells her what she's done, Tiffany blows her off, thinking she's a kook. But when Brenda pleads with Tiffany, proving it's a real opportunity, she offers her a large sum of money to appear on R.S.N. as Kristie Nicholas.

Tiffany accepts and becomes an overnight sensation on R.S.N. Sales increase, viewers love her and her ornaments, it's perfect, except Brenda can't shake the feeling of doubt... On the other hand, she and Phil have become closer and her success has allowed her to pay her past-due rent in full!

However, on the eve before R.S.N.'s busiest shopping day, Brenda's conscience can't take the 'lies' anymore, so she decides to play hardball with Thomas to renegotiate "Kristie's" contract. With the clock ticking, Thomas agrees to Brenda's new terms. Watching from the stage is Phil, who lovingly encourages Brenda when she steps in front of the camera, but how will everyone react to her confession?

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN



Brenda McCallister

Still single in her 40s, she's dowdy, plus-sized and loves wearing 'ugly Christmas Sweaters' – she owns the boutique, The Christmas Hut and is happy being single. Her sister tries to convince her to find a man to be happy. She has three cats she adores. (Camryn Manheim pictured).



Phil

Phil owns the bakery across the street from Brenda's store. He really likes her, but is hesitant to make a move – they are very close friends. (Chris Sullivan pictured).



Lisa

Stepford wife-like. Picture perfect family and thinks her sister, Brenda should want the same things she has: 2.5 kids, white picket fence, nice house, etc. She doesn't understand her sister at all. (Julie Bowen pictured).

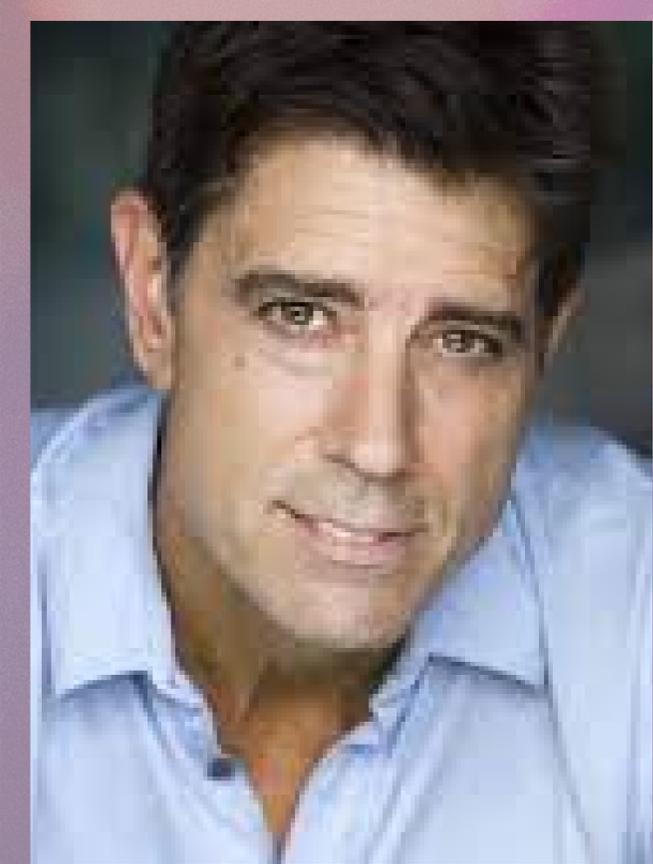


Tiffany/Kristie

A gorgeous model-type, who models for the R.S.N. show and has a heart of gold. (Brooklyn Sudano pictured).

PRODUCTION SPECS

- **Limited Locations**
- **No F/X, no animals, no weapons/guns or stunts**
- **Fun characters of all ages – all shapes, sizes and DIVERSE ethnicities are represented.**
- **Could be filmed in 10–12 days**
- **Budget between \$1M–\$1.5M**



Tony has extensive writing credits for his feature films, including "Pretty Girls Aren't Funny" based on Rhonda Shear's book "Up All Night." It was a recent Top 10 Finalist in the 2021 Emerging Screenwriters Competition and a Semifinalist in both The Page Turner & Wiki Screenplay Contests.

He has optioned/sold several TV reality series and sitcoms, and placed in a variety of other contests, including The Nicholl Fellowship Awards, Project Greenlight and Writer's Digest Screenplay Contests.

He is currently in pre-production with the stop-motion animated movie "The Potters" (starring Frances Fisher, Jessie Cave & Kurt Fuller) and the feature-film "Yellow Bird."

Please visit: www.tonyjerris.com



Shannon has sold four short films and optioned two solely-written feature films and along with Tony, they have optioned 2 Christmas Scripts.

Her feature script, "Undercover Grandpa" was a semi-finalist in the Austin Film Festival TRMS contest in 2019 and her TV pilot, "Red Flags" was a quarter-finalist for the PTS competition in 2021- she is an actor first, but has always had a love for writing/creating stories.

She and Tony also were in the Top 100 in the action/adventure category for their script, "Waking Up In Kansas" and were recently hired to write a comedy TV series they created, which is in development at a major network (signed NDA) .

For more information and additional credits, please visit: www.shannonkdunn.com