



## **Press Release**

### **New Weekly Drama Series Launches: The Mountain** **Saturday 22 April at 6.05pm**

#### **THE MOUNTAIN: SATURDAY 22 APRIL AT 6.05PM**

The Mountain, a brand new drama series, launches on e.tv on Saturday 22 April at 6.05pm. The Mountain promises a storyline that is fresh and entertaining. Boundary Mountain is an escapist playground for wealthy tourists and extreme sports enthusiasts, but to the Carver family, it's home. The Mountain chronicles the larger-than-life saga of the Carvers, whose colourful patriarch founded the town and its internationally famous ski resort after winning the land in a poker game. When this legendary man unexpectedly dies, his choice of an heir sends shockwaves throughout the community.

**STARRING:**     OLIVER HUDSON (David Carver, Jr.)  
                     ANSON MOUNT (Will Carver)  
                     TARA C. THOMPSON (Shelly Carver)  
                     PENN BADGLEY (Sam Tunney)  
                     ELIZABETH BOGUSH (Max Dowling)  
                     ALANA DE LA GARZA (Maria Serrano)  
                     TOMMY DEWEY (Michael Dowling)  
                     JOHANN URB (Travis Kurri)  
                     with MITCH PILEGGI (Colin Dowling)  
                     and BARBARA HERSHEY (Gennie Carver)

Free-spirited David Carver, Jr. left home years ago to pursue his dream of becoming a world-class motocross racer, while his older brother, Will, diligently attended business school with every anticipation of taking over the family empire. No one, least of all the brothers themselves, expected David to inherit Boundary Mountain. David finds himself saddled with a responsibility he never wanted and a brother who rightfully feels betrayed. On top of this, he is torn between two women and suddenly immersed in a power struggle with a neighbouring family. David just wants to run--until he realizes his grandfather may have had bigger things in mind.

Part of the complicated history that both connects and separates the Carver brothers is Maria Serrano. Once David's partner in teenage rebellion and now Will's girlfriend, she is the half Irish/half Mexican daughter of one of Boundary's first employees. As Boundary's director of special events, Maria spends her days with both the hardworking locals and the wealthy jetsetters who flock to the resort.

David must now reconnect with his mother, Gennie, and teenage sister, Shelly. With the death of her all-powerful father, Gennie may finally allow herself to emerge from 15 years of self-imposed emotional exile. The secrets Gennie carries about her father, her husband and even her own children will eventually come back to haunt them all. Just like her older brothers, Shelly lives to compete. A champion snowboarder, she appears destined to become the world champion athlete her mother was. A sweet and natural flirt, Shelly is oblivious to the fact that her best friend, Sam Tunney, is attracted to her.

As they work on their new personal and professional relationship, David and Will also have to deal with the ambitious Colin Dowling, who has built a real estate empire to rival Donald Trump's. The jewel that has always eluded Colin is Boundary Mountain. Now that the Carver patriarch is gone, Colin feels his opportunity has come, and he will use everything and everyone he can, including his own children, to swallow the mountain whole. Colin's daughter, Max is a graduate of Harvard Business School, bright and merciless on the surface, with a deep need to win her father's approval.

When Max's parents divorced, her mother got custody, and Max was torn away from her father and brother. Of the two Dowling kids, Max thinks of herself as the tough one, ready to take on whatever life or her father can dish out. However, it is her brother, Michael (Dewey), who is being groomed by his dad to take over the Dowling empire. Michael is being trained as a corporate shark, and so far, he hasn't been very good at it. Growing up under his father's watchful eye has not been easy, and Michael envies Max as much as she envies him.

Finally, the Carvers have to contend with one of Boundary's shadiest characters, Travis Kurri. Rumour has it that David's father had a torrid affair with Travis' mother, and shortly after her death, Carver Sr. brought the teenaged Travis back to Boundary. Although Travis is adept at the business side of things, he is sorely lacking when it comes to ethics, morality and character.

David Carver's return to Boundary Mountain uncovers long-buried secrets about his town, his co-workers and even his own family mythology.

"The Mountain" is executive produced by Shaun Cassidy ("Cold Case," "The Agency," "American Gothic"), McG ("The O.C.," "Charlie's Angels" movies) and Stephanie Savage ("The O.C.," "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle"). The series was created by Gina Matthews ("13 Going On 30") & Grant Scharbo ("Jake 2.0") & David Barrett ("Merchants of War").

## THE MOUNTAIN

(Cast and Producer Biographies)

### OLIVER HUDSON

(David Carver, Jr.)

While growing up on movie sets with his mother, Goldie Hawn, Oliver Hudson developed a passion for all facets of filmmaking. Returning to The WB after starring in "Dawson's Creek" and "My Guide to Becoming a Rock Star," Hudson now plays David Carver, Jr., the unlikely heir to an internationally famous ski resort in "The Mountain."

As a child, Hudson split his time between Aspen, Colorado, and Los Angeles, California. At the early age of 10, Hudson and his best friend would shoot and star in their own short films. He was also an avid hockey player and was scouted by prep schools to play on the East Coast, but he chose to finish high school in Los Angeles. He later enrolled in the film program at the University of Colorado.

With a desire to jump-start a career in the film industry, Hudson moved back to California and worked as a production assistant on the feature film "Executive Decision," starring Kurt Russell. At the same time, Hudson began taking film classes at USC. He soon wrote and directed a short film.

Simultaneously, Hudson enrolled in acting class and began going out on theatrical auditions. His feature credits include "The Out-of-Towners," with Goldie Hawn and Steve Martin; the independent features "Kill the Man," with Luke Wilson; and "The Smokers," with Dominique Swain. Other films include "New Best Friend," in which he starred alongside Meredith Monroe and Dominique Swain, and "As Virgins Fall." He also starred in the independent feature "Going Greek" and the television movie "Rocket's Red Glare."

Behind the scenes, Hudson recently formed his own production company, Workshed, which will develop both feature film and television projects. Workshed is a division of Cosmic Entertainment, a family business formed by Oliver along with Hawn, Russell and Hudson's actress sister, Kate Hudson.

Hudson resides in Vancouver during the filming of the series.

## ANSON MOUNT (Will Carver)

Anson Mount wowed critics with his feature film debut in the title role of Tully Coats in the independent film "Tully." The movie won several film festival awards, as well as numerous Independent Spirit Award nominations.

Born and raised in White Bluff, Tennessee, Mount was introduced to the world of theatre through a summer school program. After

watching the play "Voice of the Prairie" during one of his school's cultural excursions, Mount decided to join his high school's theatre program and pursue acting. He holds a master of fine arts in acting from Columbia University and received his bachelor's degree from the University of the South.

Mount acted in "City by the Sea," with Robert De Niro, who encouraged him to take the starring role in "Crossroads," opposite Britney Spears. Other feature credits include the independent film "Poolhall Junkies" and "Urban Legends: Final Cut." Mount can also be seen in Curtis Hanson's "In Her Shoes," with Cameron Diaz, and "The Warrior Class." Mount starred in "The Battle of Shaker Heights," seen on the HBO series "Project Greenlight."

He recently starred in the television series "Line of Fire" and played a recurring character on "Third Watch." He has made several guest appearances on television, including The WB's "Smallville," "Sex and the City" and "Ally McBeal."

Although Mount is best known for his film work, he continues to hone his skills working in theatrical productions. He recently performed opposite Alan Cumming and Steven Spinella in the first English-language production of Jean Genet's "Elle." Mount received a 1998 Drama League Award for originating and starring in the role of Joshua in the off-Broadway production of Terrence McNally's controversial play "Corpus Christi." He also performed in "Cymbeline" and "The Caucasian Chalk Circle."

Mount enlisted Oliver Hudson and Anne Hathaway to join him in hosting a charity event benefiting Defense for Children International, an organization that promotes and protects the rights of children in Sierra Leone and around the globe. Mount splits his time between New York and Los Angeles but lives in Vancouver during the filming of "The Mountain."

TARA C. THOMPSON  
(Shelly Carver)

Tara C. Thompson has accomplished every aspiring actor's dream. As a newcomer with virtually no experience, Thompson landed a

series regular role in her first pilot season. The 16-year-old was born in New York City but grew up in Westchester, New York, and spent years studying ballet, tap and jazz. Thompson first knew that she wanted to get into acting when she joined a local children's community theatre. She was able to incorporate her dance background into theatre and performed in numerous local productions, including "Fame," "The Music Man," "West Side Story" and "Children of Eden," among others. After having just one meeting with a manager, she was immediately offered a contract and sent out on auditions. Thompson was reading for a different pilot for The WB when the casting directors realized that she would be perfect for the role of Shelly on "The Mountain."

During production on "The Mountain," Thompson spent some time off the set rock climbing with fellow stars Oliver Hudson and Anson Mount, which helped them build their brother/sister onscreen relationship. A multifaceted talent, Thompson also plays the piano. In her free time, she continues her dance studies, practices yoga and takes voice lessons. She also enjoys listening to all types of music, including classic and alternative rock and oldies.

Thompson lives with her parents, two younger brothers and two dogs, a Golden Retriever and a mixed-breed, in New York City. She has relocated to Vancouver for the filming of the series.

## PENN BADGLEY (Sam Tunney)

Seventeen-year-old Penn Badgley returns to The WB, having starred in the comedy "Do Over." Born in Baltimore, Badgley split his childhood years between Richmond, Virginia, and Seattle, Washington. In Seattle, he was involved in the Seattle Children's Theater and did voice-overs for a children's radio station. It was during these experiences that Badgley discovered his love of acting. This passion brought him to Hollywood, where he landed an agent and his first big break guest starring on the series "Will & Grace."

After relocating with his mother to Los Angeles, Badgley secured several recurring roles on "The Young and the Restless," "The

Brothers Garcia" and "Daddio." He guest starred on The WB's "What I Like About You," as well as on "The Twilight Zone." Film work includes the acclaimed provocative independent "The Fluffer." He can also be seen in the upcoming "Debating Robert Lee."

Badgley was recently accepted to the University of Southern California, having already completed his California High School Proficiency Exam. He will defer his admission until his work schedule allows him to return to school. Also musically gifted, he enjoys singing, writing and playing the guitar. In his spare time, Badgley likes surfing, skiing and snowboarding.

## ELIZABETH BOGUSH (Max)

Perhaps best recognized for her role as Jenny Williams on the Aaron Spelling drama "Titans," Elizabeth Bogush was born and raised in New Jersey. Bogush was exposed to the arts at an early age, which ignited her interest in acting. Her mother, a former dance teacher turned choreographer, inspired Bogush to attend a performing arts school associated with the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera when she was 11. At age 14, Bogush was discovered by a modelling scout. After a few years of modelling, both overseas and in the U.S., she decided to focus her attention on acting.

Bogush attended the 2-year Meisner program at the Bill Esper Studio in New York City before relocating to Los Angeles. By age 18, she was cast in the Nickelodeon series "The Adventures of Pete and Pete." Bogush landed recurring roles in "Beverly Hills 90210," "Felicity" and "Scrubs." She has also guest starred on "Everybody Loves Raymond," "ER" and "American Dreams." She can be seen in the upcoming feature film "Tweek City."

Bogush resides in West Los Angeles with her dog, Katie, a Chihuahua/Dachshund mix. In her free time, Bogush likes to cook and do Pilates.

## ALANA DE LA GARZA

(Maria)

Alana De La Garza was born in Columbus, Ohio, and raised in El Paso, Texas. De La Garza attended the University of Texas and then moved to New York City to study acting at The School for Film & Television. Following her training in New York, De La Garza moved to Los Angeles to pursue her dream of acting. She has also modelled for print and commercial campaigns.

De La Garza stars in "El Segundo," a feature that was screened at the 2004 Cine Las Americas Film Festival. The actress can also be seen in the upcoming independent romantic comedy film "The Perfect Lie," opposite David Boreanaz. She previously starred in the short film "Mr.Dramatic," as Mrs. Dramatic alongside Hudson, and also appears in the feature "Carnival Knowledge."

Her additional credits include guest-starring roles in "Las Vegas," "Two and a Half Men" and "JAG." She also starred as Rosa Santos on the daytime drama "All My Children."

De La Garza calls Los Angeles home.

**TOMMY DEWEY**  
(Michael Dowling)

A recent guest star on The WB's comedy "What I Like About You," as the stargazing love interest of Amanda Bynes' character, Tommy Dewey transitions to drama in "The Mountain." Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, Dewey left Alabama to attend Princeton University, where he graduated in 2001 with degrees in public policy and theatre. Upon graduation, Dewey moved to New York City and quickly landed the role of Mike, a fraternity brother, on the daytime drama "Guiding Light." He spent the summer of 2002 training at London's acclaimed Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Dewey has been featured in several New York stage productions, including a two-man show that he co-wrote and starred in called "Natalie!" The show premiered in August of 2003 at the New York International Fringe Festival and later ran in Los Angeles at the

National Comedy Theatre and the Tamarind Theatre. He also starred in the short film "Gym Short."

In his spare time, Dewey continues to develop writing projects for stage and screen and is an avid helicopter-skier. He has relocated to Vancouver for the filming of "The Mountain."

## JOHANN URB (Travis)

A former student at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in New York City, Johann Urb makes his series-starring debut in "The Mountain." Urb was born in Tallinn, the capital city of Estonia, and moved to Finland when he was 10 years old. Raised in a family of talented artists, Urb grew up surrounded by the arts. His father, Tarmo Urb, is a very popular musician who has performed with his brother Thomas in the band "The Urb Brothers" for over 20 years. They are the Estonian equivalent of Simon and Garfunkel and are still the most popular and famous band in Estonia. Johann Urb's great-aunt was a very well-known opera singer and actress, and his uncle was also a famous theatre actor. One of his grandmothers was the head of the Estonian film bureau, and an aunt was an animator for Estonian cartoon films. Urb's grandfather, Uino Urb, was a basketball legend who once scored an impressive 114 points in one game, and his great-grandfather, Johannes Urb, was one of the strongest men in Estonia, having competed in wrestling and strong-man matches and performed in the circus.

At 17, Urb moved to New York City after visiting his father in the States. He modelled with the Ford Agency and, at the same time, landed a scholarship to the prestigious Lee Strasberg Institute. He also studied acting with Lesley Kahn in Los Angeles.

Urb recently guest starred on the television series "CSI: Miami" and "Miss Match" and was a co-star on The WB's comedy "Off Centre." Urb also had supporting roles in the films "Zoolander," "Fear of Feathers" and "The Undoing."

In his free time, Urb enjoys yoga, Krav Maga, tai chi, surfing, reading, playing guitar and hanging out with friends. He lives in Los Angeles but has relocated to Vancouver for the filming of the series.

## MITCH PILEGGI (Colin Dowling)

Television audiences know Mitch Pileggi best for his performances as FBI Assistant Director Walter Skinner on the long-running hit series "The X-Files." He parlayed a guest-starring appearance in its first season into a recurring role and finally a series regular position in the show's third year. Pileggi earned three Screen Actors Guild Award nominations in a row as part of the acclaimed ensemble. He also starred in The WB's "Tarzan."

Born in Portland, Oregon, Pileggi lived in Turkey, Germany and Saudi Arabia as a teenager, due to his father's profession as a defence contractor. After two years in Iran, he lived briefly in Austin, Texas, taking part in a series of regional theatre productions as an actor and set builder while also supporting himself as a carpenter, cab driver and janitor. Among his most memorable stage appearances during that time were "Lonestar," "Bent," "Chicago," "Jesus Christ Superstar" (as Pilate), "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune" and "Buried Child."

Pileggi moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting full time. His varied roles include the 1984 Spanish production of "Río abajo (On the Line)" with David Carradine and the lead in Wes Craven's "Shocker," as well as performances in Paul Verhoeven's "Basic Instinct," "Takedown," "Three O'Clock High," the feature film "The X-Files" and the crime thriller "Gun Shy," opposite Liam Neeson and Sandra Bullock. On television, he starred in numerous television movies, including "Knight Rider 2000," "Raven Hawk," "Night Visions" and "1st to Die," based on the James Patterson novel. Pileggi has also hosted the specials "Magic's Biggest Secrets Finally Revealed" and "Conspiracy Theory: Did We Land on the Moon?" Among his numerous guest-starring appearances are "China Beach," "Falcon Crest," "Dallas," "ER," "Dharma & Greg" and "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

Pileggi lives in Los Angeles with his wife and daughter but resides in Vancouver during the filming of the series.

## BARBARA HERSHEY (Gennie Carver)

Multiple award-winning actress Barbara Hershey has showcased her talent in some of Hollywood's most memorable films, television movies, miniseries and series. Winner of an Emmy Award and a Golden Globe Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Miniseries or Special for "A Killing in a Small Town," Hershey also garnered unprecedented back-to-back Best Actress Awards at the Cannes Film Festival for her performances in "Shy People" and "A World Apart."

Hershey made her professional debut on television with a recurring role in "Gidget" and a series regular role on "The Monroes." The Hollywood native's feature film debut was "With Six You Get Eggroll," and, with roles in "The Baby Maker" and "Boxcar Bertha," Hershey quickly advanced to starring roles.

The 1980s catapulted Hershey to star status. She starred in "The Stunt Man," with Peter O'Toole; "The Right Stuff," with Ed Harris, Sam Shepard and Scott Glenn; "The Natural," with Robert Redford and Robert Duvall; "Hannah and Her Sisters," with Woody Allen, Mia Farrow, Dianne Wiest and Michael Caine; "Hoosiers," with Gene Hackman and Dennis Hopper; "Tin Men," with Richard Dreyfuss and Danny DeVito; "Shy People," with Jill Clayburgh; "The Last Temptation of Christ," with Willem Dafoe and Harvey Keitel; "Beaches," with Bette Midler and John Heard; and "A World Apart," with Tim Roth.

Hershey triumphantly returned to television in 1990 with her award-winning performance as Candy Morrison in "A Killing in a Small Town," with Brian Dennehy and Hal Holbrook. She continued her string of television successes with her portrayal of Clara Allen in the miniseries "Return to Lonesome Dove," with Jon Voight and Louis Gossett Jr., and also with her role as Dr. Francesca Alberghetti in David E. Kelley's "Chicago Hope."

During the same period, Hershey remained active in feature films. She was nominated for an Oscar and a Golden Globe for her performance in "The Portrait of a Lady," with Nicole Kidman and John Malkovich. She also starred in Merchant Ivory's "A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries" and the award-winning "Lantana," from acclaimed Australian director Ray Lawrence.

Hershey resides in Los Angeles but has relocated to Vancouver for the filming of the series.

### SHAUN CASSIDY (Executive Producer)

Shaun Cassidy's writing and producing credits include the critically acclaimed series "American Gothic" and "Cover Me." He also created the series "Roar" and "Players." As an executive producer and show runner, he has successfully launched and run "The Agency" and last season's big hit "Cold Case."

Cassidy is a former recording artist, Broadway performer and television star. He began his career as a singer with sold-out concerts worldwide. He has 20 gold and platinum albums to his credit. He starred in two television series, "The Hardy Boys Mysteries" and "Breaking Away."

In addition to serving as executive producer on "The Mountain" for The WB, Cassidy has written a new musical drama, "Rhapsody," featuring the music and lyrics of Elton John and Bernie Taupin, to begin shooting in the spring of 2005.

### McG (Executive Producer)

McG's feature film directorial debut, "Charlie's Angels," boasts the biggest opening ever for a first-time director. The film debuted at number one in the United States with over \$40 million at the box office, and it opened at number one in 31 territories internationally,

with total grosses of over \$250 million worldwide. McG also directed the sequel "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle," which went on to gross \$265 million.

With two hit films and over \$500 million at the box office, McG formed a production company, Wonderland Sound and Vision, with producing partner Stephanie Savage. Wonderland has a first-look film deal with Columbia Pictures, a television deal with Warner Bros. Television and a record deal with Warner Music. Currently, Wonderland is developing 10 feature films, including "Hot Wheels" and "Cleopatra" for Columbia and "Evel Knievel" for Universal.

On television, in addition to "The Mountain," Wonderland produced "The O.C."

McG got his start producing records for rock group Sugar Ray, directing commercials for The Gap and Coca-Cola and directing over 50 music videos for diverse artists such as Sublime, Korn and Wyclef Jean. These music videos have contributed to the sale of over 100 million albums worldwide. Wonderland recently released its first album, *Music from The O.C.: Mix 1*, which became the highest selling television soundtrack of 2004.

Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, McG grew up in Newport Beach, California.

#### STEPHANIE SAVAGE (Executive Producer)

Stephanie Savage is McG's producing partner at Wonderland Sound and Vision, the company they formed in 2001. Along with McG and Shaun Cassidy, Savage executive produces and writes "The Mountain."

Savage developed "The O.C." with creator Josh Schwartz and serves as a co-executive producer on the show's second season. Schwartz gave Savage her first shot at writing a television script with "The Best Chrismukkah Ever," followed by "The Telenovela." Savage was

recently named "One to Watch" in television in *The Hollywood Reporter's* "35 Under 35."

"Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" was Wonderland's first feature film production. Other Wonderland projects in development at Columbia include "Hot Wheels," based on the beloved Mattel toy; the epic biopic "Cleopatra," written by Michael Hirst; the female action thriller "Radiant"; and "Airshow," about an elite team of Navy flyers, written by Simon Kinberg. At Universal, Wonderland is developing "Evel Knievel" with "Se7en" writer Andy Kevin Walker.

Savage has produced commercials for Ikea and Coors as well as music videos for Sugar Ray. Before forming Wonderland with McG, Savage was vice president of development for Flower Films, where she supported Nancy Juvonen and Drew Barrymore in the development of "Never Been Kissed," "Charlie's Angels" and "Donnie Darko."

Canadian-born Savage first came to Los Angeles from the University of Iowa, where she taught film history and theory while working on her PhD. She is the published author of several scholarly articles on true crime, scandal and pornography.

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For more information or photographs contact:  
Herman Lategan  
e.tv Publicity  
Tel: (021) 481-4634