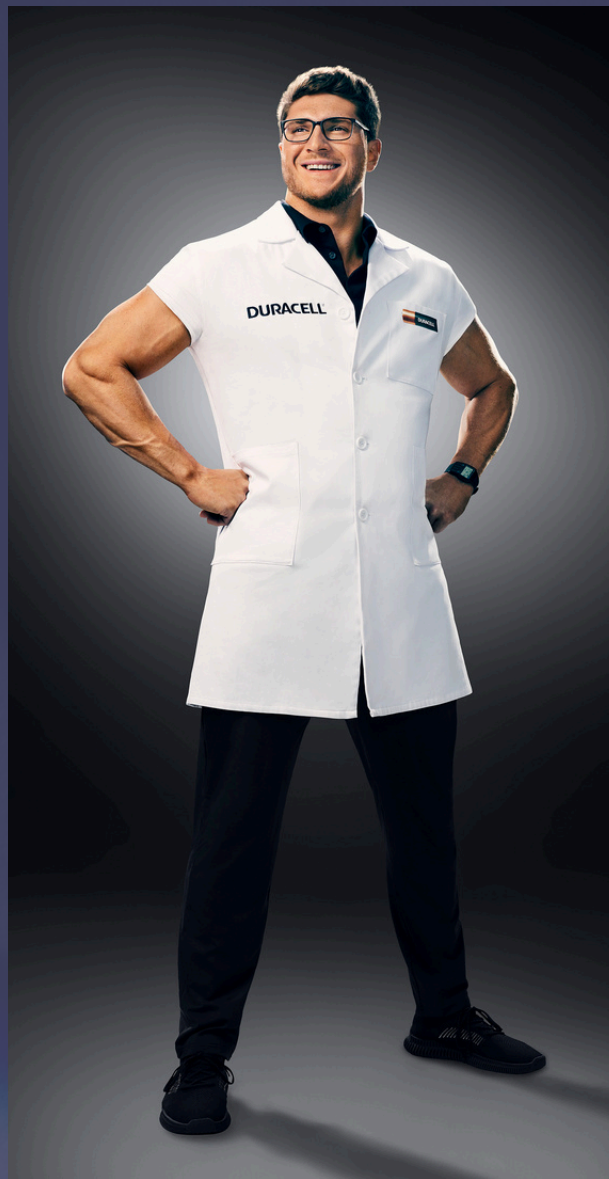




Christmas In The Spotlight *Lifetime*



FX's American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez **FX**



DURACELL®

SAG - AFTRA
LAITH WALLSCHLEGER

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

TV+FILM

- Starring role in Lifetime's Christmas in the Spotlight
- Recurring Guest Star on Hulu's Paradise as "Symanski"
- Featured role as "Rob Gronkowski" in FX's American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez
- Guest Guest Star on CBS's NCIS
- Guest Star opposite Jenna Dewan on ABC's The Rookie
- Guest Star on FOX's 9-1-1
- Recurring Guest Star on CW's All-American
- Guest Star on Peacock's MacGruber & Poker Face
- Appearances on the following talk shows: Jimmy Kimmel Live, Access Hollywood, Entertainment Tonight, Late Late Show with James Corden



ABOUT LAITH



Laith Wallschleger is a dynamic athlete, actor, and stunt performer who has carved out a unique niche in Hollywood following a record-breaking NCAA football career and a stint in the NFL as a defensive lineman and special teams player for the Arizona Cardinals. Since transitioning from professional sports, Laith has embraced his passion for acting and stunts, bringing his physicality and precision to high-profile film and television projects.

His television credits include guest-starring roles on **ABC's The Rookie**, **Peacock's MacGruber and Poker Face**, **CBS's NCIS**, **Freeform's Grown-ish**, **Fox's 9-1-1**, and **The CW's All American**. In 2024, Laith expanded his acting portfolio by portraying Rob Gronkowski in **FX's American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez** while also serving as Gronkowski's stunt double in multiple commercials. He also had a starring role in the 2024 Lifetime holiday film **Christmas in the Spotlight**, a movie inspired by the high-profile relationship between Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce. Laith currently has a recurring role as "Symanski" in **Hulu's new series, Paradise**. On the big screen, he has worked with acclaimed director Neil LaBute and shared the spotlight with legends Jane Fonda and Sally Field in **Eighty for Brady**.

His experience as both an athlete and performer gives him an edge in Hollywood's competitive stunt community, with notable work on **HBO's Paterno** and **ABC's Queens**.

Laith's impressive versatility has also led to high-profile brand partnerships. He is the new spokesperson for **Duracell**, making history as their **first spokesperson in 36 years in the role of the "Duracell Scientist."** Laith has also collaborated with Depend and High Noon. With his charisma, athleticism, and wide-ranging skill set, Laith Wallschleger continues to bridge the worlds of sports, entertainment, and advocacy, making him a standout figure in Hollywood.

A graduate of the renowned American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles, Laith's talents extend beyond acting. He is an accomplished voiceover artist, capable of performing over 100 accents, characters, and celebrity impressions across commercials, video games, and motion-capture projects. Off-screen, he is a man of faith and a dedicated advocate for fitness and mental health, using his platform to inspire others to pursue their dreams.

With charisma, athleticism, and a wide-ranging skill set, Laith Wallschleger is a rising figure in Hollywood, bridging the worlds of sports, entertainment, and advocacy.

BRAND SPOKESPERSON

DURACELL®

**DURACELL'S NEW
SPOKESPERSON IN
36 YEARS**



In November 2024, Laith Wallschleger debuted as the “Duracell Scientist” at F1 Las Vegas, bringing his signature energy to the high-octane event. As the face of Duracell’s national campaign, Laith personified the brand’s core values of power, endurance, and reliability.

Earlier in the year, Laith starred alongside Tom Brady in one of the most talked-about Super Bowl commercials, further showcasing his dynamic range and on-camera charisma.

The campaign was a standout success, **generating 7.5 billion PR impressions, \$68.3 million in ad value equivalency, and over 14 million social media impressions.** It was ranked among the best Super Bowl campaigns of the year and significantly overdelivered on PR coverage, elevating both the brand and Laith’s visibility across media and pop culture.

Laith’s unique background as a professional athlete and entertainment talent makes him an ideal brand spokesperson—one who brings authenticity, adaptability, and impact to every campaign.



ADWEEK Sign In Subscribe

SUPER BOWL COMMERCIALS

The Duracell Scientist Powers Up Battery Brand's Super Bowl Debut

*Super Bowl 59 marks the company's
first national campaign for the Big
Game*



PRESS

JUST JARED

Duracell Super Bowl Commercial 2025: Who Plays Hot Scientist? Actor Laith Wallschleger Stars With Tom Brady!



Tom Brady stars in a new *Duracell* commercial, but all eyes might be on the hot guy who stars in it with him!

Laith Wallschleger plays the hot scientist and he knows a thing or two about being a football player as he used to be a professional football star. Now he's an actor!

Before getting into acting, **Laith** completed the pre-season with the Arizona Cardinals and then played for the Jacksonville Sharks of the Arena Football League.

Most recently, **Laith** played a character inspired by **Travis Kelce** in the Lifetime holiday film *Christmas in the Spotlight*.

The new Duracell features **Tom** running out of power and **Laith** coming in to recharge him with Duracell batteries. You can [stock up on Duracell batteries right now on Walmart.com](#).

VARIETY

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Feb 9, 2025 4:48pm PT

Duracell's Super Bowl Shock: Commercial Shows Tom Brady Running Out of Power

By Brian Steinberg



Courtesy of Duracell

The New York Times

After Channeling Rob Gronkowski on TV, He's Taking On 'Travis Kelce'

The actor **Laith Wallschleger** was playing college football a decade ago. Now he's playing some of the best tight ends in N.F.L. history.



By Emmanuel Morgan

Nov. 21, 2024, 5:02 a.m. ET

Before his current career as a stuntman, voice-over artist and actor, **Laith Wallschleger** was a defensive end at the University of Delaware. That college football experience came in especially handy this year, when Wallschleger portrayed onscreen versions of the tight ends **Rob Gronkowski** and **Travis Kelce**, who have seven Super Bowl rings between them.

Wallschleger drew praise, including from the actual Gronk, for his exaggerated capturing of Gronkowski's jolly, party-loving demeanor in a few brief scenes in "American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez," the Ryan Murphy dramatization series on FX and Hulu about Hernandez, the former New England Patriots tight end who was convicted of murder.

This week, Wallschleger will star in a Lifetime movie, "Christmas in the Spotlight," as a fictional football player who is courting a pop singer. The film was loosely inspired by the real-life events surrounding the subtle but then not-so-subtle start of Kelce's relationship with Taylor Swift.

People

ENTERTAINMENT > TV > TV MOVIES

Christmas in the Spotlight: All About the Lifetime Holiday Rom-Com Inspired by Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce

From the cast to the release date, here's what we know so far about 'Christmas in the Spotlight'

By Jordana Kantor Published on October 18, 2024 09:41AM EDT

COMMENTS



Christmas in the Spotlight. PHOTO: LIFETIME/ABC

For those who thought **Taylor Swift** and **Travis Kelce**'s romance was meant for the big screen, *Christmas in the Spotlight* might just be bringing that fantasy to life.

The upcoming Lifetime rom-com is part of the network's "It's a Wonderful Lifetime" lineup, which kicks off Nov. 16. *Christmas in the Spotlight* follows the love story of a mega-popstar and a football player, both trying to navigate their feelings for each other amid intense public scrutiny — a story line that may sound familiar to [Swift](#) and [Kelce](#). [EW.com](#)

While the film's synopsis doesn't directly reference Swift or Kelce, hints are pointing to the film being loosely based on [that relationship](#). Although the TV movie is only rumored to be about the couple, the singer has previously [gossiped](#) about how she enjoys the holidays with her favorite football music. Swift and Kelce have also [unofficially](#) [been](#) [together](#) [this](#) [time](#) [of](#) [the](#) [year](#) [together](#).

Currently, the trailer for *Christmas in the Spotlight* remains under wraps, but [Swift](#) and [Kelce](#) [Wallschleger](#) have been announced as the leads.

From the release date to where to watch, here's everything we know so far about *Christmas in the Spotlight*.

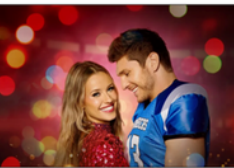
Rolling Stone

HOW TO WATCH 'CHRISTMAS IN THE SPOTLIGHT,' THE (MAYBE) TAYLOR SWIFT AND TRAVIS KELCE-INSPIRED HOLIDAY ROM-COM ONLINE

Christmas in the Spotlight follows the love story of a pop star and professional football player, who fall for each other after meeting backstage at a show

by EW.com

NOVEMBER 21, 2024



What Is Christmas in the Spotlight About?

Christmas in the Spotlight follows the love story of pop star named **Boylyn** (**Jessica Lord**) who falls for professional football player **Drew** (**Laith Wallschleger**) after meeting him backstage at her show. But complications ensue when their relationship is thrust into the limelight, and the new couple have to deal with intrusion from the press, paparazzi and opinionated fans. In the Lifetime description reads, "The pair have until the end of the holiday season to decide if they want to stay together, or let it go down in flames."

In addition to Lord and Wallschleger (who actually played college football and was signed to the Arena Football League), *Christmas in the Spotlight* stars **Juanita**, **Mai** and **Haley Kato**.

Of course, this is not an official **Taylor Swift** and **Travis Kelce** holiday movie, and the writers and producers have said as much. Still, there's no denying the similarities in the characters and storyline, and it's clear what the filmmakers were trying to do.

Interestingly enough, this isn't the only Swift and Kelce-inspired holiday film airing this season. *Holiday Crush* (Nov. 14) tells the story of a new film from **Hallmark** and the NFL, and even features a cameo from Kelce's mom, **Donna**. *Holiday Crush* stars **Hunter King** and **Tyler Hynes** and premieres on **Hallmark** on November 30 at 8 p.m. **ET/PT**.

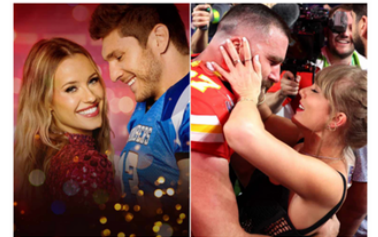
Entertainment WEEKLY

'Tis the damn season for a Christmas movie loosely inspired by [Taylor Swift](#) and [Travis Kelce](#), apparently.

Tell us if this love story sounds familiar: Lifetime's *Christmas in the Spotlight* follows **Boylyn** (**Jessica Lord**), a Grammy-winning pop star and idol of girls everywhere, who loves to bake and sport a red lip. She just hasn't met **Mr. Right**, until she makes headlines the world over when she starts dating pro football player **Drew** (**Laith Wallschleger**).

The synopsis for the film, which is part of the network's "It's a Wonderful Lifetime" [holiday movie slate](#), doesn't directly reference Swift or Kelce, and the rom-com has the usual fictitious persons disclaimer one would expect, but some similarities are pretty clear.

Below, *Entertainment Weekly* breaks down all of the little Easter eggs and parallels in the film that seem to reference Swift and Kelce.



'Christmas in the Spotlight,' Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift. PHOTO: LIFETIME, EZRA SHAW/GETTY

EW NEWS

All the Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce Easter Eggs in Lifetime's Christmas in the Spotlight

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce love story appeared to be the basis of Lifetime's *Christmas in the Spotlight*, a holiday movie about a singer in love with a football player. Here are all the Easter eggs.

by ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY Published on OCTOBER 18, 2024 11:46 AM

'Tis the damn season for a holiday movie.

And this year, *Lifetime's Christmas in the Spotlight* raised eyebrows with a plot—centered around a pop star falling in love with a pro football player—almost identical to the real-life love story between **Taylor Swift** and **Travis Kelce**. In fact, *Swifties* noticed many **Easter eggs** alluding to the couple in the TV movie, which premiered on Nov. 23.

For one, the script contained countless references to Taylor's lyrics, including her 2008 smash "You Belong With Me."

"Growing up, I was never really the cheerleader type," pop star **Boylyn** (**Jessica Lord**) told pro football player **Drew** (**Laith Wallschleger**) after meeting him backstage at one of her concerts. "More of a bleacher girl, kind of a nerd, to be honest."

EW NEWS



Every Time Christmas in the Spotlight Mirrored Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's Romance

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

HOME > TV > TV NEWS

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce-Inspired Lifetime Holiday Movie Gets a First Look

'Christmas in the Spotlight' centers on a pop star who meets and falls for a professional football player after he declares he has a crush on her.

By LEXY PEREZ OCTOBER 18, 2024 11:04AM



Lifetime's **Taylor Swift** and **Travis Kelce**-inspired holiday movie has released its first look.

Lifetime announced its full holiday schedule Tuesday, and it includes *Christmas in the Spotlight*, starring **Jessica Lord**, **Laith Wallschleger**, **Juanita Mai** and **Haley Kato**. Though the film may not be officially inspired by **Swift** and **Kelce**, the story similarity is uncanny. The film centers on a pop star named **Boylyn** (**Lord**) who hasn't found **Mr. Right**, until she meets a professional football player (**Wallschleger**) backstage at one of her shows. After **Drew** publicly declares he has a crush on **Boylyn**, they begin dating.

PRESS



Taylor Swift & Travis Kelce Inspired Lifetime Movie 'Christmas In The Spotlight' Brings Holiday Cheer



Nov 23, 2024

Lifetime's "Christmas in the Spotlight" centers on a pop star named Breezy (Jessica Leff) who develops a romance with a pro football player (Laith Wallschleger). It's not the Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce story, but it's certainly locally inspired by their high-profile romance. Jessica told Access Hollywood guest correspondent Emily Chesney how she studied her A-list inspiration for the role "Christmas in the Spotlight" premieres Nov. 23 at 8 PM (ET/PT) on Lifetime.



'Christmas in the Spotlight' Stars on Channeling 'Beautiful' Taylor Swift & Travis Kelce Love Story -



Can you spot all the Taylor Swift references in Lifetime's 'Christmas in the Spotlight'?

All the Easter eggs in the movie seemingly inspired by Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce.

Nov 21, 2024, 1:42 PM PST | Source: TODAY
By Georgina DiNardo

When Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's romance first began, some fans felt like it was a romantic-comedy plot come to life.

Well, now, it might be just that.

Lifetime's "Christmas in the Spotlight," which premiered on the network Nov. 23, is seemingly inspired by the popular couple.

The film focuses on mega-pop-star Breezy Spikes (Jessica Leff), who has blond hair, bright red lips and often sports a cat-eye. Breezy is at the height of her career, focused on making music her fans love, basking for fun and not looking for a new boyfriend after being tired of only dating "serious actors and indie rockers."

Meanwhile, Drew "Gronzo" Gronville (Laith Wallschleger) is one of the best wide receivers in the league who, from the outside, seems like a playboy, but he really loves hanging out with his family and niece.

The end credits of the movie state, "The characters and events depicted in this motion picture are fictional. Any similarities to actual persons or animals living or dead are purely coincidental."



Being Gronk: How this actor and stunt double plays the NFL legend on screen

For Laith Wallschleger, portraying the future Hall of Fame tight end and larger-than-life personality on screen was easy. After all, they've been friends since college.



Laith Wallschleger and Rob Gronkowski take a selfie with castmates from FX's "American Sports Story" Anneke Harnisch. © Lucas Kucharski



'Paradise': Why Sterling K. Brown said 'this is it' to his next TV role after 'This Is Us'

From "This Is Us" creator Dan Fogelman, Brown, James Marsden and Julianne Nicholson star in new political thriller

Elisabetta Bianchini

Updated January 26, 2025 - 5 min read



LAITH WALLSCHLEGER, JULIANNE NICHOLSON, RAFAEL CARRERA in "Paradise" (Disney/Ser BuRe)



How Lifetime writer was inspired by Taylor Swift for holiday movie

News Item

Updated Nov 22, 2024 at 10:00 AM EST - 3 min read

Last year, Disney+ fan Danush watched Taylor Swift at Arrowhead Stadium cheering on Kansas City's tight end Travis Kelce and thought, "This could be a rom-com."

"I've done a bunch of Lifetime Christmas movies," Danush says.

The writer was feeling her friend and Lifetime movie executive Tim Maggitt about the potential of a movie about a ubiquitous singer falling in love with a grounded professional football player.



When news broke of the movie project, [Reddit](#) lit up with comments ranging from the light-hearted to the defensive.

@unflying wrote, "I mean I love their story so far and I love these type of movies so yeah I think I will give it a try."



Rob Gronkowski Actor Laith Wallschleger Almost Played In The NFL

Wallschleger trained with the Cardinals as an undrafted free agent



The Patriots had a stellar draft year in 2010 when they took two elite tight ends. Although Rob "Gronk" Gronkowski was chosen ahead of Hernandez, both players went on to become a vital part of Bill Belichick's Tom Brady-led offense. In *American Sports Story*, Gronk is played by former athlete Laith Wallschleger. After spending a pre-season as an undrafted free agent with the Arizona Cardinals in 2015, Wallschleger never made the team's 53-man roster and was cut ahead of the regular season. That was the end of his NFL journey.

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