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New Hallmark Channel film shines SPOTLIGHT ON NIAGARA FALLS



BEHIND THE SCREENS WITH JOSHUA MALONI

@joshuamalani

The Hallmark Channel creates movies in picturesque locations around the world, treating viewers to magnificent bodies of water, sprawling beaches, lush green space, massive mountains, striking foliage – and, just recently, Niagara Falls.

Last October, the family-centric network teamed with Johnson Production Group to film “Falling in Love in Niagara.” The story centers on Madeline (“Chicago Fire” star Jocelyn Hudon), a rigidly scheduled accountant whose somewhat-smothered fiancé leaves her just weeks before their wedding; and Mike (Dan Jeannotte), an impulsive singer/songwriter and skater, who was also dumped by a supposed true love.

Still stinging from her breakup, Madeline decides to go ahead with her previously planned honeymoon to Niagara Falls – the place where her grandparents completed their courtship. Upon arrival, she has a rocky start with Mike – whom, unbeknownst to Madeline – is the tour guide.

As the two begrudgingly get to know each other, they soon find their opposites attract – and, when it comes to love, they can learn a thing or two from each other. Maddie learns to let go, and to embrace life, while Mike becomes more mature, and reignites his passion to perform.



Jocelyn Hudon as Madeline and Dan Jeannotte as Mike in “Falling in Love in Niagara,” airing on the Hallmark Channel (Credit: ©2024 Hallmark Media // Photographer: Courtesy of Johnson Production Group)

For the stars of “Falling in Love in Niagara,” the film shoot offered more than screen time.

“It’s not often that I get to work on something where I also get, as part of my paid job, I get to go to beautiful places and go on wild adventures,” Jeannotte said. “It was amazing to get to be in Niagara; and to get to do all these fun, like daredevilish kind of adventure games was great.”

Hudon, Jeannotte, their castmates and crew members visited attractions including Zipline to the Falls, Niagara City Cruises, and Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours.

“I used to run a zipline in Algonquin Park, so those things, to me, are fun,” Hudon said. “And the jet

boat was really cool, too. That was really fun to film in, because we got to go with the crew. So, seeing the DP (cinematographer) get completely, *completely* soaked; and we had all these little GoPros; and we had to cut in line, in front of like real passengers on the boat, to get our whole crew in the front of the boat to be able to film those shots. That was pretty funny, and definitely like a bonding experience for all of us (laughs).”

Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours President John Kinney said, “We always put the actors in a place in the boat that they’re going to be seen from the various points that we’re always shooting video from. And

SEE SOMETHING, on Page 16

Town of Lewiston votes ‘No’ on short-term rentals



BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

Members of the Lewiston Town Board voted by a 3-2 margin Monday evening to endorse Local Law No. 2 of 2024. The board’s action, which followed plenty of debate, now essentially prohibits the operation of short-term/transient rentals. The decision comes off a contentious March 11 public hearing on the issue, and comments both for and against short-term rentals operating in local neighborhoods.

Existing short-term/transient rentals will have to cease operations.

STRs continue to operate by permit in the Village of Lewiston.

The town placed a moratorium on short-term rentals last summer. While such operations remained prohibited, the issue also took on a life of its own with operations suddenly popping up in various areas.

As reported in the March 15 Tribune/Sentinel, Local Law No. 2 “is intended to regulate the unauthorized (use of) prohibited short-term rentals of non-owner-occupied properties within the Town of Lewiston, and to amend various sections of the zoning code to modernize the definition of the bed and breakfast establishment; define the transient or short-term rental land use, and to identify and define within the zoning code, where and under what circumstances said uses would be allowed.”

Town Board members John Jacoby, Rob Morreale and Sarah Waechter voted to support the

“local law regulating the use of transient or short-term rentals within the Town of Lewiston” and continue their management through existing town ordinances. Supervisor Steve Broderick and Councilman Jason Myers voted “No” on the measure.

In their comments Jacoby, Morreale and Waechter each said comments received from the community, along with details on how neighboring municipalities have chosen to manage their own short-term rentals operations, influenced their decision.

Jacoby said, “Everyone I’ve talked to, they come to me and said, ‘John you’re not going to do this are you?’ The odd thing is, they (did) not have an economic interest. And unless the short-term rentals are going up right next door to you, it’s one of those deals where I’m opposed to it.”

“Honestly, it’s my humble opinion that the majority of people do not want them,” he continued. “I did not want to get into a big back and forth (on this). But our codes ... don’t exclude. What I mean by that is, if you were to look at it and say ... our district, this is nothing that says we can’t do an Airbnb, there’s nothing that we can’t. Well, there’s a very specific included list of things that are permitted; that was the old one (code). The new one is the same way. Unless you read it differently from me, when you guys opened these places up, they were not allowed according to the previous code that existed. So, it kind of got in under the radar because we didn’t hear a lot of complaints.”

SEE TOWN, continued on Page 5

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