



For Immediate Release

## **UP UNVEILS A FRESH SLATE OF 30 UPLIFTING ORIGINALS FOR SECOND HALF OF 2014 AND 2015**

**New Original and Premiere Movies, Including the  
Epic Bible Movie *Noah*  
A True Inspirational Story *Life of a King*,  
Country Music Star Jimmy Wayne's *Paper Angels*,  
Plus 4 New Original Series and More Episodes of the  
Fan Favorite Series "Heartland"**

**Star Lineup Includes Cuba Gooding, Jr.,  
Dennis Haysbert, LisaGay Hamilton, Mark Salling,  
Laura Vandervoort, Lacey Chabert,  
Samaire Armstrong, LeToya Luckett and More**

**ATLANTA – April 8, 2014** – UP, America's favorite channel for uplifting family entertainment, today unveiled a compelling original programming slate, including 30 new original and premiere movies and four series for the second half of 2014 and 2015. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, UP is projected to reach 73 million households in 2015 and is the leading destination for fresh, contemporary, uplifting family-friendly entertainment. UP is presenting exceptional opportunities to advertisers during the 2014-15 upfront on its trademark Upfront Bus, which serves as the network's mobile venue for client meetings and events.

For the second half of 2014, nine original and premiere movies headline UP's slate for a total of 18 for the year, continuing UP's promise to viewers that at least one original or premiere movie will air every month. The films star a diverse range of top tier talent, including Mark Salling ("Glee"), Laura Vandervoort ("Smallville"), Lacey Chabert ("Party of Five"), Samaire Armstrong ("Resurrection") and Grammy®-Award winning singer LeToya Luckett (UP's "For Richer or Poorer").

For 2015, UP's slate includes 19 original and premiere movies, headlined by its first original biblical epic *Noah*. The film will be shot in Morocco and produced in partnership with the BBC. UP will also premiere a poignant true story *Life of a King* starring Cuba Gooding, Jr. (*Jerry McGuire*), Dennis Haysbert ("The Unit") and LisaGay Hamilton ("The Practice"). In November, UP will make its yearly transformation into "America's Christmas Channel" with an unparalleled slate of over 500 hours of holiday-themed programming, including original movies and specials.

"UP is an expert on its growing audience of family-friendly viewers who are seeking a destination for uplifting, entertaining programming," said Lisa Fischer, evp, advertising sales. "To that end, we produce more family-friendly movies than any other television network. During this upfront season, we are offering a compelling and ambitious slate of contemporary entertainment viewers will enjoy, distributors will welcome and that advertisers will embrace. We anticipate a very strong 2014-15 upfront."

UP has emerged as one of the most engaged brands in television. [UPtv.com](http://UPtv.com) reaches nearly two million unique visitors a month and during the holidays this peaked to three million. UP's Facebook page now has more than 1.1 million fans. According to Shareablee, an independent social media tracking service, UP was the sixth most engaged brand on Facebook in 2013 with more than 30 million actions.

UP Original Movies and UP Premiere Movies for June-December 2014 will include:

**MY DAD IS A SOCCER MOM (UP Original Movie) Premieres Saturday, June 21 at 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT** – Marion "Mad Dog" Casey is one of the biggest, baddest names in football. But lately his performance on the field has left a lot to be desired. Marion is cut from the team and no one else is rushing to sign him. He is not happy but his wife Holly, who has spent many years being a stay-at-home mom for their 10-year-old daughter, sees this as an opportunity for her to pursue her career ambitions in interior design. After chauffeuring his daughter to ballet and theatre class, Marion discovers that she has a knack for soccer. He signs her up and begins his new life as a Soccer Dad - the only 300 pound, overbearing, ex-NFL player in the group! As he navigates the trickiness of being a hands on parent, Marion discovers the joy of his new relationship with his daughter.

**COMEBACK DAD (UP Premiere Movie) Premieres Sunday, June 29 at 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT** – Nima Babineaux looks like a woman who has it all – she is an accomplished pianist who runs her own music school and is engaged to Spence who adores her. But, in truth, she has never recovered from her alcoholic father walking out on their family and it has made it hard for her to truly trust anyone. When her father, Othell, decides it is time to make amends and tries to reenter her life, Nima begins an emotional and eye-opening journey she could have never expected. 2013 honorable mention winner in UP's Faith & Family Screenplay Competition at ABFF.

**ROCKY ROAD (UP Original Movie) Premieres Sunday, July 13, 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT** – Harrison Castle has the corporate apartment, expense account and big office at his prestigious Wall Street firm. But it all comes crashing down in an instant when his firm suffers catastrophic losses and is forced to downsize. Harrison, now broke, returns to his parents' house in a quaint New Hampshire township. Harrison pretends that he is taking a long overdue vacation, when, in fact, he is living his worst nightmare – moving back with his parents and working his old route in his father's ice cream truck business. Stars Mark Salling.

**MARY JO'S CANDY (UP Original Movie) Premieres Saturday, August 16, 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT** – Candace "Candy" Myers is a popular news anchor who is devoted to her job. Her ordered life turns upside down when she learns that her biological father has been trying to contact her. After she discovers that he has recently passed away, her attention turns to her stubborn biological birth mother who rejects her advances. 2013 Winner of UP's Faith and Family Screenplay Competition at ABFF.

**COFFEE SHOP (UP Premiere Movie) Premieres Sunday, September 14, 7 p.m. EDT/ 4 p.m. PDT** – Donovan Turner has not been successful in love, but she does have the support of her sister Becky, Becky's boyfriend Kevin and the wonderful cast of regulars that frequent her coffee shop daily. They are a close-knit group, more family than customers and employees. Things get complicated when Donovan begins a romance only to have her ex-boyfriend return to declare his love for her. Stars Laura Vandervoort.

**MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN (UP Original Movie) Premieres Sunday, October 12, 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT** – Life would be perfect for Reverend Casey Hart if it weren't for parishioners who keel over during her sermons, steal money from the collection box and don't believe a woman should be a minister. Not to mention the very inconvenient feelings she is suddenly having for her long-time friend, fellow seminarian and verbal sparring partner, David Swenson. It isn't until Casey is thrust into the position of senior minister for her church, however, that she discovers the real cause of her discontent: her fear of failing has become stronger than her faith in herself. Stars Samaira Armstrong, Brendan Penny and LeToya Luckett.

**MISTLETOE RADIO (UP Premiere Movie) Premieres in November** – Pepper Sweeney, a cynical radio show host in New York, gets suspended and begins working at a station in Harrison, Nebraska. Samantha McCoy, another radio host in Harrison, is unapologetically romantic and nostalgic, especially at Christmastime. She is immediately at odds with Pepper who never met a sentiment he couldn't twist into a punch line and has no use for Christmas. When Samantha and Pepper's "war of words" catches the attention of the small town, their joint show becomes a hit and they start to see something in each other brought to the surface by the romantic holiday season.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FARM (UP Original Movie) Premieres in December** – Annie Logan grew up on a Christmas tree farm in rural Vermont. One day, as sickly trees were being cut down, Annie ran and saved her favorite even after the axe had made a gash in the trunk. Now, in her late twenties, Annie is living in Manhattan pursuing her writing career. Annie is devastated when she learns from her brother that the bank is foreclosing on her parents' tree farm and all the trees will be cut down to make way for a golf course. A depressed Annie has to prepare her

boss's home for the holidays and she orders a seven-foot tree. Much to her shock, she sees a distinctive gash on the trunk of the beautiful tree that is delivered. Certain that it is the tree of her youth (and a sign), Annie grabs "her" tree and travels back to Vermont to help her parents save the farm. Stars Lacey Chabert.

**PAPER ANGELS (UP Premiere Movie) Premieres in December** – Based on the book by country star Jimmy Wayne that describes how the Salvation Army Angel Tree program for needy kids helps two families find hope during the Christmas season. Abused wife Lynn takes her two kids and leaves her alcoholic husband, moving to another town. In that same town, we meet Kevin, whose company is on the brink of shutting down due to the economy. He is married to Jenny, who is in a difficult pregnancy with twins. Lynn's son, Thomas, starts a new school and becomes the target of a bully who is threatened by how well Thomas plays basketball. Unable to join the high school team, Thomas goes to the community center where he meets Kevin and the two of them become unlikely friends. Little do they know the tremendous impact they will have on each other's family.

UP Original Series:

**HEARTLAND (UP Original Series) Season 6 continues with 12 new episodes from June to August, Season 7 premieres on September 3** – Based on Lauren Brooke's best-selling novels, "Heartland" follows Amy Fleming (Amber Marshall), her older sister Lou (Michelle Morgan) and their grandfather Jack (Shaun Johnston) and the challenges of running the ranch that has been in their family for six generations.

Projects confirmed for production/premiere in 2015 include:

**NOAH (UP Original Movie)** – This biblical epic will present a new take on the well-known Bible story of Noah who, after hearing the voice of God, begins building an ark in anticipation of a great flood that will wipe out evil. Noah's own beloved sons as well as his nephew who is like a son to him, think Noah is crazy and don't support him. But his devoted and loving wife decides to build the ark with him in a show of unconditional support and love.

**LIFE OF A KING (UP Original Movie)** – The true story of Eugene Brown and his one-man mission to give inner-city kids of Washington D.C. something he never had – a future. He discovered a multitude of life lessons through the game of chess during his 18-year incarceration for bank robbery. After his release and reentry into the workforce, Eugene developed and founded the Big Chair Chess Club to get kids off the streets and working towards lives they never believed they were capable of due to circumstances. The movie reveals his difficult, inspirational journey and how he changed the lives of a group of teens with no endgame. Stars Cuba Gooding Jr., LisaGay Hamilton, Dennis Haysbert and Richard T. Jones.

**POLKA DOT AND LUEY (UP Premiere Movie)** – Penelope "Polka-Dot" Daught is a precocious 12-year-old forced to grow up quickly because she has a seriously ill mother. When she meets police officer Cooper and his dog, Luey, Polka Dot's life changes for the better.

**MUSIC TO MY EARS (UP Premiere Movie)** – Jessica Terrill plays piano, sings and writes music. Jessica has stayed in Seattle to help with the family business leaving her musical dreams unfulfilled. Until...she is asked to help with the failing church choir in her community and her dream starts to come alive.

**DEMOLITION GIRL (UP Premiere Movie)** – Inspired by a true story, Maggie, 18, lives in rural Louisiana. Pretty, extremely smart and a tomboy through and through, Maggie's hobbies are riding a dirt bike and rebuilding engines. She has also received a full scholarship to Harvard in the fall. Hank, Maggie's dad, is a hard-working blue collar guy who wants more for his daughter. Even though he taught Maggie to drive and work on cars when she was eight, he is upset when she announces that she is going to postpone college to enter the Mud Race in her own mud truck and beat all the guys who don't think girls should be racing.

**STARS, STRIPES AND ACCESSORIES (UP Premiere Movie)** – Amanda Morton is at a crossroads in her life – her boyfriend has broken up with her because she is not serious enough and she has lost her job because she is not ambitious enough. She is at rock bottom when she sees an ad on TV for the Army. She heads to the recruiting office and becomes the ultimate fish out of water.

**MOTHERS OF THE BRIDE (UP Premiere Movie)** – Jenna Wolf is getting married to her long-time boyfriend, Christopher. Jenna is extremely close to her mother, Debra, who told her at an early age that she was adopted. Now that she is getting married, Jenna would like to find her birth mother and share her happy news. Much to everyone's surprise, Jenna's biological mom is a famous event planner. Debra, who dreamed of planning her daughter's wedding, now finds herself competing with a professional for control of the wedding and Jenna is right in the middle of her two moms.

An additional two UP original movies are in development and will premiere in 2014. Two scripted and two non-scripted series are in development for 2015.

As previously announced, the following UP Original Movies are scheduled to premiere in the next few months:

**APPLE MORTGAGE CAKE** – Stars four-time NAACP Image Award-winner Kimberly Elise (*Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, “Close to Home”). The film is based on the incredible true story of Angela Logan (Elise), a single mom who, with just ten days to come up with \$4,000 to save her home, decides to market the delicious dessert she learned to bake at her grandmother's side. Premieres Easter Sunday, April 20, 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT.

**WHERE'S THE LOVE?** – A romantic drama featuring two popular, married TV talk show hosts, played by Lamman Rucker (UP's *Sugar Mommas*, “Meet the Browns”) and Denise Boutte (“Meet the Browns,” “Days of Our Lives”), who dispense relationship advice as their marriage starts to crumble. The ensemble cast stars Terri J. Vaughn, Karon Joseph Riley, David Banner, Darian “Big Tigger” Morgan, Ahmed Lucan, Shirley Strawberry, LeToya Luckett, Kandi Burruss, Tommy Ford, Angie Stone. Premieres Saturday, May 3 at 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT.

**MY MOTHER'S FUTURE HUSBAND** – The romantic mother-daughter light-hearted drama stars Lea Thompson, (*Back to the Future*, “Caroline in the City”) and Matreya Fedor (“Cedar Cove,” “Mr. Young”). Premieres Sunday, May 11, 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT.

**LOVE FINDS YOU IN SUGARCREEK** – Filmed on location in Sugarcreek, Ohio's Amish country. This romantic mystery/suspense drama stars Sarah Lancaster (“Chuck,” “Everwood”), Tom Everett Scott (*That Thing You Do!*, “Southland”) and Golden Globe® and BAFTA-nominated actress Kelly McGillis (*Witness*, *Top Gun*). Premieres Sunday, June 1 at 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT.

### About UP

UP, America's favorite network for uplifting entertainment, is a 24-hour television network that provides high-quality, diverse, family-friendly programming, including original and premiere movies, theatricals, drama and comedy series, music and holiday specials. UP can be seen in 67 million homes in high definition (HD) and standard definition (SD) on cable systems including Comcast, Time Warner Cable, Bright House Networks, Charter and Cox Communications as well as DIRECTV (Channel 338), DISH Network (Channel 188) and Verizon FIOS (Channel 224). As part of its mission to entertain and uplift, the network's pro-social initiative “Uplift Someone” reminds and inspires people to do simple acts of kindness. UP is also a service provider to its sister network ASPIRE. Based in Atlanta, UP is a division of UP Entertainment, LLC, which also offers gMovies, the first faith-friendly streaming movie service.

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