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Annie: Hi friends! Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm really happy to be here with you today. We have got a great show in store.

Before we dive into today's conversation, here's a word from one of our amazing sponsors, [BetterHelp](#). Wouldn't it be nice if life came with an instruction manual? Well, it kind of does, right? I mean, the Bible is so helpful, but there are a lot of moments where I need someone to process that information with me and help me sort out what the next best step is.

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Now if you're not sure you caught the whole URL, no worries. All the links to our sponsors, a transcript of the show, and even the place where you can sign up to get an email from me every Friday, those are all in the show notes.

Intro: Today on the show I get to talk with my dear friend and one of our favorite repeat guests—You can go back and hear her on Episode 74, Episode 108, Episode 200,

Episode 233, and on the TSF Tour stop in Milwaukee from last year—Ginna Claire Mason Moffett.

Y'all know her as an incredible Broadway star having played the role of Glinda in *Wicked*, but now, y'all, she is starring in a Hallmark Christmas movie. If you think I've barely been able to hold this in, you're right. I've wanted to shout it from the rooftop.

Listen, it is called *A Holiday Spectacular* and it premieres on Sunday, November 27th at 8 p.m. Eastern. Yes, we're gonna have a watch party. Stick around for all those details as it gets closer. And it's easy to remember because it airs on the day that our Advent series starts. That is very helpful.

Here's a sneak peek at the story. It's set in 1958. *A Holiday Spectacular* is about Maggie, an heiress from Philadelphia, who puts her high society wedding plans on hold in order to sneak up to New York City and make her secret dream come true, dancing live on stage in the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall. Does it feature the Radio City Rockettes? It sure does.

Oh, y'all. I got the chance to be with GC at the premiere in New York City, and you are just going to adore this movie. I cannot wait for you to hear Ginna Claire's story of getting to this point, y'all.

So here's my conversation with the dearest and our favorite Hallmark Christmas movie star. I can't even believe it. Here's our conversation with Ginna Claire Mason Moffett.

[00:03:57] <music>

Annie: When we recorded on the floor of... We've done a lot of floor recordings.

Ginna: Listen, I would say-

Annie: I'll be floor recording here with you.

Ginna: This is very similar to that first pod except it's so different.

Annie: Okay. But backup. I mean, when we recorded on the floor in Albuquerque-

Ginna: We did the floor in my parents' house.

Annie: We did the floor at your parents' house in April of 2018.

- Ginna:** The floor... That was San Antonio.
- Annie:** San Antonio, which you love.
- Ginna:** Post or pre-SeaWorld? What do you think?
- Annie:** Post because it was the night of the show. But did I go to two shows? Is that true?
- Ginna:** Probably. I think you did. I think you can at least guess.
- Annie:** Someone's asked me how many times I've seen *Wicked* and my answer is always not as much as Ginna Claire's husband. That's always my answer because I don't touch how many times Eric saw *Wicked*.
- Ginna:** My mom is the real super fan though.
- Annie:** Has she seen it the most, do you think?
- Ginna:** Jewel has definitely seen it the most.
- Annie:** Really?
- Ginna:** Oh yeah. Because she would come to every city and she'd entered the lottery and she-
- Annie:** Every night?
- Ginna:** ...she'd like always win. It's like they knew she was my mother.
- Annie:** That's right.
- Ginna:** And I think there was like \$30. She would just come every night. She's like, "I could sit at home or I could go watch my daughter play Glinda the Good Witch." So she was there. It's great. She's a good audience member.
- Annie:** Speaking of Good Witch, Happy Halloween. When we knew the show was releasing on Halloween, you've been practicing your ghost translation of everything, which I really appreciate.
- Ginna:** [talk-singing] I'm gonna answer all the questions like this.
- Annie:** I mean, this is a perfect day for us to talk about Christmas. So here we are.

Ginna: 100%.

Annie: As soon as this holiday is over, everyone points straight to Christmas with a little speed bump over Thanksgiving unfortunately.

Ginna: Sorry, turkeys.

Annie: Sorry, turkeys. So when like Costco is having everything out by July 4th, did it feel different to you this year, knowing you had filmed a movie that was going to be coming out of Christmas?

Ginna: It didn't feel real.

Annie: Really

Ginna: If I'm being honest, the filming process was so fun and also so fast and furious. And also I was doing *Wicked* at the same time.

Annie: Right. You need to tell everybody that. It was your last how many weeks of *Wicked*? It was your last few weeks?

Ginna: Yeah, my last weeks of *Wicked*.

Annie: So meanwhile, you're filming a movie during the day-

Ginna: And doing *Wicked* at night.

Annie: ...and then doing *Wicked The Musical* at night.

Ginna: It's crazy. As we were filming at Radio City and The Gershwin is down the street from Radio City, so there was days where I was literally leaving Radio City stopping at a salad place on the way, and then continuing to walk down the block to the Gershwin. I was like, "What is my love?"

Annie: I was gonna say it feels like this is what people don't know to dream of for their life as a Broadway star.

Ginna: I surely didn't. So being your friend means falling in love with soccer and the Enneagram and Hallmark.

Annie: And you and Mary Kate, and Hallmark.

Ginna: But I hadn't seen Hallmark movies before I was friends with you. So I didn't even know to dream to be in Hallmark movies till I was your friend. And then it's really sweet. I sent you the screenshot today.

Annie: I know.

Ginna: It was middle of December last year, I was auditioning for this movie. And you know, when you're a professional actor, you get appointments from your manager or from your agent for these things. And usually at this, you know, post-COVID I say most stuff is happening in the form of a self-tape.

So it was between shows on a Sunday and I put something on tape in my dressing room and sent it off. and you just kind of never expect that anything's gonna happen.

Annie: So like your agent sent you, "Here is..." Did they forward you an email and say, "Here's the details. It's a Christmas movie. Here's the script attached as a PDF of the script. You need to make self-tape."

Ginna: Sometimes you get a full script. I'd say usually not. Usually, I think mostly for copyright.

Annie: But there's not like an audition portal that you go to and download auditions and then upload your videos, right?

Ginna: No. I mean, I think that definitely does exist. What happens in my world though, is I get an email, and then I just upload it to Vimeo and send it to them. And then your management usually submits it on your behalf which is nice.

Annie: Through the portal? There is said portal.

Ginna: Through said portal.

Annie: Wow. Okay, keep going. So you did your self-tape.

Ginna: "I found this and this text message..."

Annie: How did you find this?

Ginna: Because I knew I told you at some point when I was in the process, because you ended up connecting me with Candace Cameron, which was so sweet. But I said, "I have a callback for a lead in a Hallmark movie today. Can you say a prayer." And

you said, "GC, I'm absolutely praying and that is so fun." And then I sent you a random selfie from the streets of New York City.

Annie: And then you got the part.

Ginna: And then I got the part.

Annie: You got the part.

Ginna: Thanks for your prayers.

Annie: Happy to be a 1% part of what happened. I mean, it is wild to think about your 2022, right?

Ginna: 2022, yeah, it's been-

Annie: Because you started the year-

Ginna: Started strong.

Annie: Yeah. You started the year on Broadway and recording this film at the same time.

Ginna: Right, at the same time.

Annie: And then what was your last day as Glinda?

Ginna: This January 20.

Annie: Something in the 20s.

Ginna: Wait, this is what's really sweet. I think it was January 22nd. And my friend Annie F-

Annie: Oh, are you gonna tell the story?

Ginna: This is a never before told story.

Annie: This is a breaking-

Ginna: ...that I don't even know if I'm allowed to tell. But here we go, I'm telling it.

Annie: Are you sure?

Ginna: Yeah.

Annie: Okay.

Ginna: So I had like an end date for *Wicked* and because of filming with Hallmark, had to change that end date. And then-

Annie: And because I couldn't come on the end date with all your family and friends-

Ginna: Right, you came a week early.

Annie: ...I came a week early to see you and I was so disappointed.

Ginna: You're like, "I can't be there for the last show."

Annie: "I was there for the first show when we came back. I can't believe I can't be there for the last show. But I'm gonna come a week early."

Ginna: This gives me lots of feels. Whoop. But that was so sweet that you still wanted to be there. Because I remember being like, "Annie, you just saw it like four months ago. You don't have to come back." But you're such a good friend. And so you came that night. And I had a few other friends there that night. And it's so sweet. You stayed with me that night. I hope it's okay that I share that information. You were exposed.

Annie: You may not want to put your address in that. But you can say I slept there.

Ginna: It was because I was looking back at our text thread you sent me before you came to New York like, "New COVID." You send me like a selfie with your, oh my gosh, this little binax-

Annie: I was so afraid of getting you sick. I knew I'll stay in your house and I was like, "What if I bring this little bug—and I understand this is serious-

Ginna: Absolutely.

Annie: "...but what if I brought a little bug in my body..."

Ginna: Totally.

Annie: "...and make it so that you cannot do *Wicked*?" So I stay at your house, I get into an Uber very early on Sunday morning and I'm flying back to Nashville. And when I get to the airport-

Ginna: We take our tests. Well, we were taking tests every day. And that Sunday morning I tested positive for COVID. It had circulated amongst the Broadway community. I mean-

Annie: It was impossible that I gave it to you because I was there for too short amount of time.

Ginna: Oh, yeah. No, no, no.

Annie: My counselor and I've worked through that multiple times.

Ginna: Oh, no. Poor Annie. No, I was mortified that I gave it to you. So I was like, "I'm so sorry."

Annie: And I was like, "I'm so sorry. Is the timing even possible?"

Ginna: So one of the craziest parts of all that is that I did my last show of *Wicked* without knowing it was my last show. And that's something that I still have to wrestle with. But knowing that you were there is so tender for me.

Annie: How does it feel?

Ginna: The truth of the matter is like the last show was never go... Because I'd done it for six and a half years, almost 2,000 shows, the last show was never going to be easy. And so almost like not having such an emotional aspect behind it maybe-

Annie: I mean nine months later can you say that? Can you say maybe that was, oh boy, good?

Ginna: Sure.

Annie: I'm sorry.

Ginna: So good. No, the other *Wicked* line my friend always quotes is, you know, "Thank goodness she sings me this perfect finale." I was like, "It was not a perfect finale." No, it was always gonna be hard.

Annie: You do that really beautifully after the perfect finale.

Ginna: Thank you. Annie!

Annie: Well, thank you. I'll be auditioning immediately. I think that's really important for people to hear that you can see... There may be some reasons that was good and also it's still really disappointing.

Ginna: It's still really disappointing. And I think everybody can say, "COVID did this and COVID did that, and COVID ruins everybody's plans." But I never imagined not getting to have a planned final performance.

But it was pretty crazy because we had a couple weeks of filming at the beginning of January, and then a couple weeks of filming middle of February for the movie. So it didn't interfere with filming, which was a gift. And honestly, I was going to finish *Wicked* one day and the next day fly... or not fly... drive up state to where we were filming.

And it did all of a sudden become this built-in break where I had to stop and slow down. I was going in super speed, and you know, had a tiny baby and was also filming and doing the show. I think my little body was giving it all but also just so rundown in like dancing, doing all the things that you have to do for *Wicked* Musical and also dancing with the Rockettes.

Annie: Yes, yes.

Ginna: So yeah, that was a really crazy whirlwind. I'm so grateful you were there for that last show.

Annie: Gosh, me too. I'm really thankful. I felt very sad for your family.

Ginna: Ah, they've seen it.

Annie: I know. But the next day I'm texting your brother and he was like, "What?" And I was like, "Aah, I'm sorry Carter."

Ginna: He was supposed to come to California. He's okay.

Annie: He's okay.

Ginna: What a good brother! He was like, "I'm not in the show." Those crazy times. But I have some really sweet memories from that last show. Like I have a really vivid memory of dancing. We always talked about Sam Gravitte whenever we're on the pod. But dancing with Sam Gravitte in the OzDust Ballroom. And there's this moment where he kind of pulls out. And I remember when he kind of pulled me out, he looked at me and he was like, "I love you." He mouthed it to me.

Annie: Oh.

Ginna: And that's like one of the highlights of the show. And I remember the ball because I remember you being there and looking for you. I mean, we did it. We did *Wicked The Musical*. It was a ball.

Annie: So just a few weeks ago, a lot of the internet celebrated the reopening of Broadway after COVID. What was that like for you?

Ginna: One year anniversary.

Annie: Yeah. Because you were on half the videos the internet shared because the *Wicked* response and the *Hamilton* response were the two that seemed to get the most viral attention.

Ginna: Totally.

Annie: So what was it like a year later, but also eight months after leaving the show to see that again? Did you have feelings or it was like, "It was fun to watch"?

Ginna: So many feelings. And also I guess it felt really surreal because in some ways it feels like a really long time ago that Broadway was shut down and we were coming back. But also it feels like just yesterday. You were there for that too. But I'm super honored that I got to be part of the reopening. And there were so many fun things that came along with that-

Annie: Thank you. Being on the Jimmy Fallon Show.

Ginna: ...the Tonight Show and the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

Annie: The Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. When we mark Thanksgiving, the Thanksgiving in your life, that was a good one.

Ginna: I hadn't thought about that. I love that.

Annie: You are on the Thanksgiving Day Parade. The Sunday after Thanksgiving you are the star of the Hallmark movie that is releasing that night. Now Hallmark did not tell me to say this and you didn't tell me to say that. The movie that happens on the Sunday night of Thanksgiving is the movie. That is a year, dude. With grief in the middle too-

Ginna: Totally.

- Annie:** ...with highs and lows, real loss and real joy. That is wild.
- Ginna:** Thanks, Annie.
- Annie:** That's cool.
- Ginna:** That's cool. I hadn't thought about that.
- Annie:** Yeah, I hadn't either until I was like, "Oh, yeah, you're on the freakin Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.
- Ginna:** You might have to fact-check me on this. But I do think *Wicked* is the only Broadway show to do the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade twice.
- Annie:** Really?
- Ginna:** Or at least maybe in that span. Because it was just over... That was 18 years. So, you know, 2003 and then again in 2021.
- Annie:** That is unreal.
- Ginna:** It was so cold.
- Annie:** Was it?
- Ginna:** It was so cold.
- Annie:** It was so cold.
- Ginna:** Yeah. And I was in that little yellow dress.
- Annie:** So did they just throw you in a jacket as soon as you were done?
- Ginna:** Oh, yeah.
- Annie:** Remind me what y'all were saying. If you're in the yellow dress you're saying, "Ahs."
- Ginna:** Yeah. Which can I say is really cool, because there's the original Broadway cast recording but we got to go into a studio that company last November and do a company cast professional recording-
- Annie:** Oh, sure.

- Ginna:** ...for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. That's a really treasured kept safe.
- Annie:** Do they not release those to us? Do we ever get to hear them? Or do y'all have them?
- Ginna:** I mean, you can hear it on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, because obviously they can't. I don't think that's a spoiler alert. They can't mix mics and stuff as the winds blow down 34th Street.
- Annie:** If that's a spoiler alert for any of our friends listening that the people singing aren't live singing, you have not watched close enough.
- Ginna:** We are singing just-
- Annie:** Oh, yeah, I guess you do really have to sing to make it match, even to look like it.
- Ginna:** Totally.
- Annie:** But there are times where people on the floats, you're like, "You're not even holding your microphone anymore and I still hear your voice." Which of course how in the world! It's television, everyone.
- Okay. So you know we always get questions from our friends that are listening to the podcasts, our friends on the AFD Week in Review. And I love this one from Maddie. She says, "What is your next dream role on Broadway?" Is there one? I don't think I know this.
- Ginna:** I mean, it's funny, people will be like, "How is it taking a break?" I mean, actors are always auditioning for something. So I was just in callbacks for something that I didn't get.
- Annie:** Oh, I'm sorry.
- Ginna:** It's funny or maybe sweet after all these years, maybe I guess I could be jaded or something. But you still go, "Oh, ouch." Rejection doesn't feel great.
- Annie:** Right. It still feels like rejection.
- Ginna:** But continuing to be an actor means continuing to put yourself out there. It's great to get feedback in the form of a callback, and then also disappointing not to get it.

- Annie:** Do they give you feedback when you don't get it? Like, "Hey, the reason you're not shrek is-
- Ginna:** Right. "You're not good enough."
- Annie:** "...it was your Scottish accent or something."
- Ginna:** "You really need to work on that Scottish accent."
- Annie:** That's right. Do they tell you?
- Ginna:** Sometimes you get feedback and sometimes you don't. And sometimes it's generic and sometimes you don't want to hear it. So it depends on the day. I got pretty generic feedback. But it's interesting, because maybe when you start auditioning for something, you're like, "Ah, sure, I could do that or not." But the more time you spend on the material, and the further along you get in the process, you know, into finals, I think you have to invest so deeply and care so much and hope to-
- Annie:** Hope so much.
- Ginna:** Yeah, hope so much. So of course, it's disappointing.
- Annie:** That's really interesting. I was at lunch today, I was talking with my friend about dating, and how long we're supposed to... Like what does it look like to picture the future but not be lost in it? And it's the same thing, right? Like when you're dating someone, you have to be invested enough to go, "Well, if I'm not willing to change this about my life to match his life, or to see where we would compromise on this, then why am I even going on a third date?"
- Ginna:** Totally.
- Annie:** But you also can't be like, Well, here's our wedding hashtag and you haven't been on a date yet.
- Ginna:** Right. In touch with reality.
- Annie:** Yes, you have to be in touch with reality, but also very willing to hope.
- Ginna:** Right. Absolutely. And I think there are... Like I've talked to people who skate, well, I just can't get my hopes up. And I feel like that's impossible. And I don't feel like that's advantageous for me anyway. But what you're talking about getting ahead of yourself, there's a seasoned actor Tom McGowan, who you saw him a bunch as The Wizard. He's just the best. But he was talking about being in

callbacks for something and thinking, "Well, I'm gonna have to move back to New York from LA. And where am I going to put the shelf for my Tony Award?" It's so easy to get carried away too. You're like, "Whoa, whoa, rein it in. Rein it in."

Annie: Yeah. But then what is the line? And is it the same for everybody? I don't know. I'm such a futurist as a person that I always like seeing how something's gonna work in five years before I invest in it to some degree, knowing that the path can change. But I also can't be a no-hope person.

Ginna: Right. I actually think the dating parallel is super interesting to an actor's journey. But I will say something that's different. And actually, I don't know how you would compare this to dating. Like if you're auditioning for a bunch of things at the same time, the stakes feel lower. Not that you should date like a ton of people at the same time.

Annie: The comparison will be using apps online.

Ginna: How so?

Annie: Because then you're seeing all these different people and you're going, "Oh, I'll heart or swipe right on all eight of these to help me not feel overly invested in one of them when I shouldn't be."

Ginna: Sure. Absolutely. I knew I could do it. I just needed a little couple of seconds. But I knew I could find this a dating analogy.

Ginna: Perfect.

Annie: It just took time.

Ginna: Nailed it. What was the question?

Annie: Dream role. Dear everyone, this is what it's like to be friends with me and GC. This is what we do.

Ginna: It really is.

Annie: I know.

Ginna: I just started reading a book this week on Doris Day.

Annie: You would be a great Doris Day.

- Ginna:** If anybody would like to partner with me in writing a Doris Day musical... HUUUUUUH.
- Annie:** That's right. It is Halloween.
- Ginna:** I'm so fascinated by her life. She got a start as sort of a big band singer-
- Annie:** Thank you for saying you know, but I definitely did not know that about Doris Day. I know her as an actress of movies.
- Ginna:** Yes. But she started as a... Actually, she started as a singer. And when she was 13, she was in a car accident because her mom's car got hit by a train and her legs were crushed. And she was going to LA to be a professional dancer. And then she started singing. And then eventually her acting career did sort of-
- Annie:** She only started singing because she got in a car accident where she couldn't be a dancer anymore?
- Ginna:** Yes. Or it all kind of was happening at the same time.
- Annie:** Wow.
- Ginna:** But it definitely advanced her singing career because she couldn't focus on dancing as much. Which is very similar to my story with breaking my knee when I was 16 dancing at the National Ballet. It's like, "I am going to take opera lessons instead." Also during her life because she lived to 97-
- Annie:** I really want to be 100. I want three digits.
- Ginna:** Oh, absolutely. You deserve it.
- Annie:** Thank you.
- Ginna:** You deserve it.
- Annie:** Thank you.
- Ginna:** She recorded over 650 songs in her life. So her song catalog is remarkable.
- Annie:** What?
- Ginna:** And then also she has-

Annie: She did that as like albums? If we divide 650... Let's say the average album has 12 songs on it, then 650 divided by 12... Someone's already done that in their head and I'm impressed. But that means she recorded in her lifetime 50 plus albums. 54 albums.

Ginna: And she had the Doris Day Show. She did so many movies and she was always sort of the-

Annie: Okay, so you're in a play Doris Day.

Ginna: When she was 95, she found out that her parents had lied about her birth certificate and she was actually two years older than she was. Isn't that crazy?

Annie: Yes.

Ginna: That feels like the parent trap but sicker.

Annie: Yeah, in a weirder way. Wow. Okay, so that's your dream role is Doris Day.?

Ginna: Yeah. I mean, my dream role for forever was *Wicked*, right? And then it was to be in a Hallmark movie.

Annie: And you starred them both.

Ginna: I did get to originate something that'll be really cool... And I don't know if it's gonna be the Doris Day musical but I'm doing like a one-woman solo show next month.

Annie: Are you?

Ginna: Yeah.

Annie: In New York.

Ginna: I am.

Annie: Oh, I want to come.

Ginna: You can come if you want. It's November 13th.

Annie: Okay. Well, I certainly can consider whether I will be there.

Ginna: But I want to draw... It's going to be-

Annie: Is it 54 Below?

Ginna: It's not there but it's going to be... Well, but I want it to be as *Dream a Little Dream* and then songs like standards and show tunes. I want it to all be songs that Doris has recorded. But she's done so many. She recorded over the span of 20 years so she covers so many different genres. And while she did work with so many contemporary pop artists she also did...

Sorry, this is becoming like a Doris Day podcast. She worked with Rodgers and Hammerstein and Cole Porter and Irving Berlin and you know, all the showtunes classics writers, too. Anyways, we don't have to talk Doris anymore. But I love Doris.

Annie: I love Doris Day now. I didn't know.

Ginna: And my fascination with her started because people would be like, "You look like Doris Day." I was like, "I know *Pillow Talk* but I don't really know her work." So it's become an increased possession. She's so great. In *Calamity Jane*, oh my gosh, just watching her, the joy that she exudes when she performs. She had a really hard Personal life. She had like four really difficult marriages and then she became an animal welfare activist. I'm fascinated by her.

[00:25:21] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just interrupting this conversation real quick to share about one of our amazing partners, Awana's [Talk About](#) resource. Talk About is the family discipleship subscription from Awana. It gives you the chance to walk through Scripture with your kids.

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There are already two seasons available. You gotta go binge those, like, this weekend, like all week. You've got to binge them because *The Chosen* Season 3 is hitting theaters November 18th. Y'all, it is just a couple of weeks away. Popcorn and Jesus? Yes and yes.

The theme of Season 3 is something we all need this time of year from the scriptures and Matthew 11:28, which says, "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest." Season 3 picks up right where Season 2 left off, but things are getting a little heated. We see Jesus deliver the most famous sermon in the history of ever, and then see the story of what follows, the consequences of living out His teachings.

The shiny and new have worn off and the group of people curious about following Jesus and the group of people who oppose Him are both growing. There are new troubles and tensions and tough questions. But in the midst of all that upheaval, Jesus brings rest. He gives rest. Episode 1 and 2 will begin in theaters starting November 18th. And episodes will start releasing for free in *The Chosen* app before Christmas.

For more information, visit thechosentickets.com. Again, mark your calendars for November 18th, and visit thechosentickets.com for all the info.

Man, have we got a lot of good stuff to watch this month! Y'all, with *The Chosen* Season 3 and Ginna Claire's new movie, *A Holiday Spectacular*. So let's get back to our conversation with Ginna Claire.

[00:28:23] <music>

Annie: Okay, well maybe part of your love of Doris Day is that you did just spend multiple weeks of your life pretending like it's 1958.

Ginna: I know. Sometimes I feel like I'm alive in the wrong time period.

Annie: I mean, did that kind of... when you're acting... Well, let's read the synopsis of your Hallmark Christmas movie, *A Holiday Spectacular*.

Ginna: I love the 50s.

Annie: It premieres at 8 p.m. Eastern—Thanksgiving.

Ginna: Where are you going to be?

Annie: In front of my television. That is for sure.

Ginna: Are you here or in Georgia?

Annie: I'll probably be here.

Ginna: Okay. Do you wanna watch it together?

Annie: Are you gonna be here?

Ginna: Sure.

Annie: Yeah. Is your family-

Ginna: Probably. Thanksgiving.

Annie: Great, great. We usually do go on Thanksgiving walks-

Ginna: Okay, perfect.

Annie: ...with your family.

Ginna: Yes.

Annie: You said, "Perfect." You were there.

Ginna: I love walks.

Annie: Okay. "In 1958, Maggie..." Is that you?

Ginna: That's me.

Annie: "...Maggie is an heiress from Philadelphia."

Ginna: Wait, can I tell you? Her name is Margaret. Margaret Bennett. But as soon as she gets to New York, she changes her name to Maggie.

Annie: Okay, well-

Ginna: Sorry, sorry. Sorry.

Annie: ...In Philadelphia, and you put your high society wedding plans on hold in order to sneak up to New York City and make a secret dream come true: dancing live on stage and the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall.

Ginna: Yeah.

Annie: Geez. Okay, so it's you. I'm just gonna read... This blows my mind that Hallmark sends a press release with your name in it. Premieres at 8 p.m Eastern Pacific Time, stars Ginna Claire Mason—I like to call you Ginna Claire Mason Moffett—from *Wicked*, Derek Klena from *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*, Eve Plumb Eve from *The Brady Bunch*-

Ginna: Yes, she's adorable.

Annie: ...and Margaret from *Bye Bye Birdie*, which is a movie that made me think when I got home from school I was supposed to lay on the bed and pull my socks up to my knees.

Ginna: Epic.

Annie: And she just so-

Ginna: And Margaret is legendary

Annie: Really?

Ginna: Oh my word!

Annie: What is her role in the movie compared to you?

Ginna: So Ann-Margaret is me and I am Ann-Margaret.

Annie: No, she's the old Maggie and you're the young Maggie? Sorry... Mature Maggie and young Maggie?

- Ginna:** She's sort of looking... The whole film is sort of a flashback on her life.
- Annie:** Jenna Claire, you are Ann-Margaret?
- Ginna:** I know.
- Annie:** You are *Bye Bye Birdie*?
- Ginna:** Obviously it's the character Margaret. It's not Ann-Margaret the person but it's a character. But I do think it's sweet that they picked the name Margaret.
- Annie:** Right. Wow. Okay.
- Ginna:** But I got to meet her and she was so lovely. And when I ran into her after she was filming a scene, she was like walking through the lobby of Radio City singing a song from *Dames at Sea* that I love, *Raining in My Heart*. And I started walking next to her and singing a harmony.
- Annie:** No. No.
- Ginna:** And then I was like, "Hello."
- Annie:** Only Broadway people would introduce themselves by just singing together.
- Ginna:** Right.
- Annie:** Oh, okay. It also stars the New York City Rockettes, the Radio City-
- Ginna:** The Rockettes are in this movie. You guys-
- Annie:** The posters... you are a Rockette in the poster.
- Ginna:** I am a [fucketts?]. I'm sorry. I am a wannabe Rockette. Can we spend some time talking about the Rockettes, please?
- Annie:** Yeah.
- Ginna:** Okay.
- Annie:** You have to be 5'7" or something, fight?
- Ginna:** You guys, I had no idea-

Annie: How hard it was?

Ginna: I mean, when you watch it, you're like, "That is incredibly impressive." And actually, when we play-

Annie: Because they don't touch each other when they're doing the Rockettes, right?

Ginna: They don't touch each other.

Annie: It looks like it.

Ginna: They're all tall and beautiful and wonderful. And when we performed at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, they performed before *Wicked*. So we were actually walking past them on 34th Street and you just kind of like your jaw just drops and you just wave like a kid. And then like, "Oh my gosh, it's really them. It's really The Rockettes.

Annie: And then literally six weeks later, you are one of them.

Ginna: Yeah. And I had no idea.

Annie: Ginna Clare, that is wild.

Ginna: But at *Wicked*, there had been a few girls who had come to the show who had previously been Rockettes and I was always like, "Oh, that's so cute," or "that's so sweet they were Rockettes." I had no idea.

Those girls are remarkable. They are true athletes. The precision, and just the aspect, the sisterhood there. They're like machines but in the best way possible. Like they're so strong. They're so coordinated. They're so in sync. And just the training and the love that has to be in place for all that to work is magical. And to step into, it was such an honor. And to get to wear their costumes and stand in a line with-

Annie: In the 1958. So you're also like in 1958 Rockette costume.

Ginna: ...and just stand in line with them and wear their shoes and work with the people who, you know, train and learn the choreography from them and work with their wardrobe team and to be on stage with them at Radio City 6,000 seats people. And we were filming this just like a week or two after they had closed for the season. They're crazy.

Annie: Are they only Christmas?

- Ginna:** Yes. I believe their show—and don't quote me on this—I believe it's like beginning of November to beginning of January.
- Annie:** And so the rest of the year what are those girls doing?
- Ginna:** What aren't they doing? I mean, they're all doing something all the time. They're commercial dancers.
- Annie:** But this isn't their year-round gig. This is a Christmas gig every year.
- Ginna:** There's obviously training in the fall and there's obviously, you know, press events throughout the year but girls are teaching dance classes and they're working instructors, and they're commercial dancers. I saw a bunch of them doing dancing on the Tony Awards.
- Annie:** Oh, sure, sure, sure.
- Ginna:** And one of my friends was in the movie *Tick, Tick... Boom!*. And I was watching and I was like, "Well, there's Christine." Or doing theater jobs. One of my friends, JoJo, who's in the film, she's in that picture actually, she ended up booking *The Devil Wears Prada*.
- Annie:** Oh, wow.
- Ginna:** Now she's in *The Devil Wears Prada*. So, you know, a lot of them are film and theater performers.
- Annie:** If it is a Hallmark Christmas movie, you must fall in love. But in the show notes they give you... that Hallmark gave me the press release, there is no gentleman mentioned.
- Ginna:** Oooh.
- Annie:** But are there... Spooky. Happy Halloween.
- Ginna:** I'm so glad I'm the Halloween episode.
- Annie:** I'm so glad you are. Wait, before you get to that, let's list all your episodes because the day we became friends, you have not missed a year. Episode 74 is when we recorded on your parents' guestroom floor-
- Ginna:** Thanks, mom and dad.

Annie: ...the dead week that we met when you were in *Wicked* in Nashville April 2018. Episode 108, October 2018. Here we go. 200th episode special, July 2019. Episode 233 with Mary Kate, August 2020. Then your TSF Tour Live when y'all are with us in Milwaukee. That was so sweet. And that was July 2021.

So here you are October of 2022 Halloween. You have not missed a year. Thank you very much for loving our audience that much, for always coming back to them. So back to the real question.

Ginna: Okay, love interest. Well, does it say I'm in an arranged engagement of sorts?

Annie: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, you are.

Ginna: I am in an arranged-

Annie: You put your high society wedding plans on hold.

Ginna: And they are high society. Wait till you see that-

Annie: I can't wait to meet him.

Ginna: Wait till you see that aerial shot of my mansion.

Annie: Oh, is it beautiful?

Ginna: That house is ridiculous. We went to film there for a day.

Annie: Really?

Ginna: It's crazy. I can't believe anybody would live there. It's so massive. Beautiful.

Annie: Okay, that's at least one love story we know of.

Ginna: Right. But then I go to New York and surely there's another gentleman caller that I bumped into along the way.

Annie: But you're engaged, Maggie.

Ginna: Drama, especially in 1958. It's actually really sweet because the first year that the Rockettes were on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade that was 1957. And that's sort of where the movie starts is Maggie or Margaret is seeing the Rockettes for the first time on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Annie: Ginna Clare, are you hearing yourself? What is this life?

Ginna: I know. So then that sort of sparks this dream

Annie: "I've gotta go."

Ginna: "I've gotta go. I've gotta go." Well, yeah.

Annie: But she's engaged.

Ginna: And she loves dancing, but it's sort of just, you know, for her family, a frivolous pastime of sorts.

Annie: What is your plan the night the movie comes out? Besides, I'm going to come to your house. We've got to figure out a way to get all of our That Sounds Fun friends to watch together sometime.

Ginna: I would love that.

Annie: I wonder if we all just take selfies with you and tag on Sunday night on November 27th.

Ginna: Margaret.

Annie: I mean, your internet's gonna blow up.

Ginna: Annie, we should do crash watch parties in Nashville.

Annie: That's like what Chris Harrison does.

Ginna: I know. We can bring, instead of roses, like Rockettes glitter.

Annie: We'll Hallmark flyers in the every time zone?

Ginna: Sure.

Annie: And we will start on the East Coast and we'll crash a TSF East Coast party, and then Central and then mountain and then Pacific.

Ginna: And my husband's a pilot-

Annie: Yeah, he'll just fly us.

- Ginna:** So we'll get the Hallmark... No, we'll get the That Sounds Fun private jet.
- Annie:** Oh, no, thank you.
- Ginna:** ...and we're gonna hop from time zone to time zone.
- Annie:** I do not want a plane. I am not interested. Okay, yes, maybe we need to crash. If there's a Nashville one maybe we do need to crash it. Maybe we need to throw it. I don't know.
- Ginna:** We can through it. So something that's really sweet is there is this gentleman that Maggie meets in New York and the guy you mentioned who plays the part of that lad, his name is Derek Klena. He's been in tons of Broadway shows but he was in *Wicked*. So that was a sweet.
- Annie:** Did you know him in *Wicked*? I mean, did y'all ever play together in *Wicked*?
- Ginna:** No. Totally missed each other.
- Annie:** Who was he?
- Ginna:** Fiyero.
- Annie:** Oh, he was Fiyero.
- Ginna:** He was Fiyero the Winkie prince. So that was sweet. So meeting him and having lots of mutual friends but also having that *Wicked* connection was tender.
- Annie:** I need to look up his face.
- Ginna:** Oh, he's wonderful. He and his wife just had a baby.
- Annie:** Congrats, Derek.
- Ginna:** Congrats, Derek. We're so happy for you.
- Annie:** K-L-E-N-A?
- Ginna:** Mm-hmm. Oh, he's playing Christian-
- Annie:** They have a very little baby.

- Ginna:** Yes. He's playing Christian in *Moulin Rouge!* right now on Broadway.
- Annie:** Wow. What's the thing with Hallmark having so many Broadway stars? What's the thing? I like it.
- Ginna:** I mean, I could be wrong, but I think it's a newer thing in the last few years. But I did talk to one executive who I know her heart really went out to the Broadway performers when theaters were shut down. And I think that's when they started using more theater actors, which is so cool. My friend Tom McGowan, I just mentioned, and Laura Osnes and Aaron Tveit.
- Annie:** Laura Osnes. She just had an album come out. Have you listened to it?
- Ginna:** I haven't listened to it yet.
- Annie:** No.
- Ginna:** I just got the invite for the party.
- Annie:** Are you coming? I'm gonna go.
- Ginna:** I know. I want to go.
- Annie:** Come. Come back.
- Ginna:** I'm working that day in New York, but I wish I could... Well, we'll find... I'm really excited for her album though.
- Annie:** I know.
- Ginna:** I'm happy for her.
- Annie:** Me too. I'm sad you won't be able to go that party though.
- Ginna:** I know. It's gonna be so fun.
- Annie:** I know. So Hallmark just is almost... It sounds like they did a kindness, but also very good actors, but thought, "Let's look at this other pool of very good actors who may not have work right now."
- Ginna:** One movie that I'm thinking of specifically that Laura did had, you know, musical elements to it which is really-

- Annie:** That's it. They always do musical elements to the ones that you're in.
- Ginna:** We love it when Broadway stars open their mouth and sing.
- Annie:** That's right.
- Ginna:** I never sang in this movie, but Derek had one line of singing when we're walking in quote-unquote, "Central Park." And he goes, "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire." Like that's it. This man has the most beautiful voice you've ever heard. And I was like, "Come on, Derek. Like what a rip." He's like, "I can't sound like a singer."
- Annie:** Why do you say Central Park in quotes?
- Ginna:** Well, because we didn't actually film there.
- Annie:** Is it also tricky?
- Ginna:** I didn't film that part in Central Park.
- Annie:** Wow, okay.
- Ginna:** But it looks like Central Park.
- Annie:** Movie magic.
- Ginna:** You know what is really cool, though? You know, I would imagine it's pretty pricey to film in New York City at Radio City. We did get to film quite a bit in New York. We had a solid week of filming there. But then we did get to move upstate to these really quaint, cute little towns where they could really make certain blocks look like New York in 1958, which was key.
- Annie:** That is so cool.
- Ginna:** But we filmed some in Brooklyn as well near some Brownstones.
- Annie:** I mean when you're out there and you're in a fake city they've... I mean, it's a real city, but they've masked it to look like 1958 New York is just like, what would I give to live?
- Ginna:** What would I give? Annie, I know I sent you picture but the costumes were incredible.
- Annie:** Oh my gosh.

Ginna: And this is the real reason I wish I lived in 1958. But the costumes were amazing.

Annie: You were dressed like Doris Day, not only sing like her.

Ginna: Yeah. And Keith is the costume designer. Oh my gosh, he's so genius. And the thought that he puts into details is... I love watching people in their element just thriving at their craft and then just a such a gift to get to wear these beautiful costumes.

Annie: Can you predict what you'll feel like when this movie's on TV across the nation and it's you?

Ginna: I don't know. I hadn't really thought about it till right now. I think that'll be cool. I'm excited.

Annie: There's not a wrong answer here.

Ginna: Okay.

Annie: Is it a dream come true or no? Did you ever dream of being on TV? I've done some self-tapes with you.

Ginna: Oh my gosh. You guys, if you ever need a reader for your self-tapes, call Annie F. Downs, 555.

Annie: 555, hi, Annie.

Ginna: You've made self-tapes with me in your living room in Toronto.

Annie: Toronto, Canada. I'm an international self-taper.

Ginna: She sure is. I think storytelling is a really special, really important craft and has so many different mediums and platforms. And you're a storyteller. And you know to tell stories through books or through paintings or through interior design or fashion design or you know, film and TV versus theater. Every storytelling craft has its advantages and something to admire.

And, you know, having done quite a bit of theater, I've always been interested by the storytelling craft on film and TV. I was just a sponge during this process. There is a lot of the creative team. And when I wasn't filming I wanted to sit back with the DP, the director of photography and watch what they were watching. Because, so,

you know... At the Gershwin Theater, there's almost 2,000 seats and your audience is sitting right there in front of you.

Annie: There's about 2,000 in the Gershwin and 6,000 in the Rockette?

Ginna: Yes.

Annie: Okay, that gives me some perspective.

Ginna: Crazy.

Annie: Yeah, okay.

Ginna: But on camera, the audience is this lens, right?

Annie: Yeah.

Ginna: And so it's a totally different storytelling medium. I was learning so much. It was such a cool process.

Annie: I heard an interview today with Katy Perry and she said... I'm not going to quote her exactly right. The interviewing people said, "What are you? Are you a movie actress? Are you gonna do movies? Are you gonna keep doing music? Are you gonna keep doing American Idol? What's your next thing?" And she kind of said, "I connect with people."

Ginna: Totally.

Annie: "I just connect with people in these. So I've traditionally connected with people through music, and now I'm connecting through American Idol."

Annie: I mean, it's story-

Ginna: That's beautiful.

Annie: I thought so too. I thought that was beautiful answer.

Ginna: Yes, Katy, preach.

[00:44:35] <music>

Sponsor: Hey friends! Just interrupting one more time to tell you about another amazing partner, [Operation Christmas Child](#). Okay. Operation Christmas Child is a project

of the Christian international relief organization, Samaritan's Purse. It is the largest Christmas project of its time. Their mission is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to kids in need around the world and to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 198 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in over 170 countries and territories since 1993. The gifts are delivered through local churches, which I think is so important, and every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share with the children how much Jesus loves them.

This year Operation Christmas Child is hoping to reach an additional 11 million kids. You're invited to join Operation at Christmas Child this season by packing shoebox gifts or building shoebox gifts online. That is brilliant the way they have the site set up so you can fill a shoebox virtually, which is exactly what I'm doing.

Everyone's invited to pack a shoebox, whether it's individuals or families, churches, students, friend groups. And when you do you're becoming a tangible part of the story of these kids' lives as you show them love and help introduce them to the gospel. This is also a great way to teach the MiniBFFs in our lives about thankfulness and living generously.

National Collection week is November 14 through 21 and you can drop off your shoebox at one of the nearly 5,000 drop-off locations. It'll be so fun to be part of this milestone year as Operation Christmas Child expects to collect and celebrate its 200 millionth, you guys, 200 millionth gift-filled shoebox since it all started in 1993.

Just visit samaritanspurse.org/occ to learn how to pack shoebox or build one online. Again, that's samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Sponsor: So I've been podcasting since 2014. And let me tell you, things are definitely changing and have definitely changed and grown in the podcast world from the technology to the variety of options to the number of people listening to podcasts. It's part of the reason we grew from the That Sounds Fun podcast to the That Sounds Fun Network.

All that growth, experience, and learning leads us to refine the tools we use for bringing you all of these great shows. And one that we absolutely cannot live without is Anchor.

You've probably heard me say it before, but Anchor is seriously the easiest way to make a podcast. It's free, as in it costs you zero doll-hairs, but it has simple-to-use

creation tools that allow you to record and edit your podcast right from your phone or computer.

Anchor will distribute your podcast for you as well, helping you get your content to so many people on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and all the other platforms where people love to listen to shows. Anchor even has ways that you can monetize your podcast with no minimum number of listeners. It's everything you need to create a podcast all in one place.

We hear from people all the time who have great ideas and are looking for how to get their podcast started. Well, Anchor is what we use across the That Sounds Fun Network. And we are just huge fans of how easy they make it to create great-sounding, far-reaching podcast episodes.

Just download the free Anchor app or go to anchor.fm to get started. Again, that's anchor.fm or you can download the free Anchor app today.

And now back to finish up this very spooky conversation with Ginna Claire.

[00:48:01] <music>

Annie: So Ginna Claire, do you think, as I've listened to Katy Perry and as I'm listening to you and thinking about Glinda the Good Witch and *Wicked The Musical*, and I'm thinking about Margaret in *A Holiday Spectacular*, I'm wondering if that is actually your gift too. Because that's what you do as a person is connect so beautifully with people. Is storytelling and connecting with people the same thing?

Ginna: That's so sweet, Annie. Thank you. I think there should be an overlap there. I think if done well that that is how it's happening. And that's a big difference between the storytelling medium of theater versus film is the instant gratification, if you will, of "Hi, I'm gonna sing popular and you people are gonna listen and maybe you laugh and maybe you won't."

Annie: Yes, yes.

Ginna: But you know right away how it's received versus filming something eight months ago and it's coming out next month and being like, "Wow, we did that so long ago." And yet so many pieces have to come together for it to... You know, they orchestrated beautiful music for it and made sure everything's perfectly choralized.

Annie: Have you seen the final one yet?

Ginna: I have.

Annie: And what do you think?

Ginna: I kind of just wanted to sit and watch it by myself and experience it and not-

Annie: Were you like, "Eric, get out of here. Everybody get out of here."

Ginna: Eric did watch it with me. And that was sweet having him there. But I didn't want the first time I saw it to be in a theater with a lot of other people or at a viewing party.

Annie: At a viewing party or something. Sure.

Ginna: I wanted to see it first which was sweet because there was a press event out in LA that I went to so they let me see it before that which was so gracious.

Annie: Oh wow.

Ginna: No, it's so cool because you experience obviously behind the cameras one thing. And then to see how it all comes together and how they edit it and peace, it's so... When you're on the other side of the camera, you're responsible for creating moments. And so much of what you're filming is based on location. "So this is the day we could get this location, this is the day we could get this location."

With *Wicked*, everything is linear. You watch the show, and there's a beginning and a middle, and an end. But when you're filming something, it's like, "Okay, well, this is three quarters way of the movie. This is the first." We filmed the last scene first.

Annie: That is wild to me.

Ginna: And it's sort of-

Annie: It makes me respect actors so much. I'm like, "Y'all had to film..." All they tell you on that day is, "This is two thirds of the way through the movie."

Ginna: You look at the scene and you're responsible for, you know, being intimately familiar with the script and knowing, "Okay, this is where I'm coming from and this is where I'm going, and this is what has happened with this character the last time I saw them." And no, it definitely gives me more respect for watching any movie, I'm like, This probably wasn't filmed in order.

Annie: Yes. Right.

- Ginna:** And having that, you know, even an emotional or character arc and trying to make that clear despite the fact that it's filmed out of order. But it's your job as the actor to hopefully create moments that then the editors can go in and go, "This piece goes here and this piece goes here." That's got to be an epic job being the editor and piecing because you know, you do multiple takes and... whoo.
- Annie:** One of the things I felt like God has kind of been saying to me lately is just like pay attention. Just like, why don't you... ?? Why don't you? But very, like, why don't you just pay attention to what's going on around and look and see if I'm actually doing what you're asking me to do?
- Ginna:** Wow.
- Annie:** I think it's very interesting. So I'm noticing more details than I normally... I think it's very interesting your movie comes out on the first day of Advent.
- Ginna:** Oh.
- Annie:** Do you think that's so cool?
- Ginna:** I love that then.
- Annie:** I know. I do too. I can't wait. Everybody knows that we're doing a special Advent series. It'll start that day. But I just think there's something really interesting about you... I think there's a story for you and a story for us. I can't predict or guess what the story between you and God is that your first ever starring film releases the first day of Advent. But there's also a story for us of watching you through this year of joy and loss and suffering and excitement, the year ending when Advent starts and your movie releasing.
- Ginna:** That's sweet.
- Annie:** That's wild.
- Ginna:** That's really sweet. I think it'll make for a special Advent season for me for sure.
- Annie:** Do you? Yeah, because it'll replay and stuff. So people will see it over and over.
- Ginna:** That's something wild to think about that's different with a Christmas movie than maybe any other movie. It's like, Oh, you know, maybe this will come out. Maybe it'll play every Christmas. And won't that be special?

Annie: I have not even looked at my Hallmark app yet, but your face is going to be on my Hallmark app forever.

Ginna: The first time I ever saw a Hallmark ad with me and it was because you found it and you filmed it on your television screen.

Annie: I lost my actual mind. I was watching a Hallmark movie this summer and the bottom corner said, "Coming in November starring Jennifer Claire Mason." And I was like, "What?" I mean, I knew you're doing the movie but "What? I'm losing my mind."

Ginna: So growing up I loved Advent because we had the Advent wreath with the purple and pink and white candles. And I also had Kirsten the American Girl doll.

Annie: Yes, certainly.

Ginna: And there's this Jim Branch devotional that I would read every Advent season. I really liked that. And then you got me into the She Reads Truth Advent books. And then I always love your Advent series. I'm so excited.

Annie: It's gonna be really fun. Every day Monday through Friday, except the day your movie comes out. We have a show that day-

Ginna: Yay!

Annie: ...and then every day Monday through Friday. Every week Monday through Friday. What do we need to know about your movie that we don't know? Anything else?

Ginna: Oh, this is really sweet. The people who play my parents, Carolyn and Byron, they're married in real life.

Annie: Oh, that is sweet.

Ginna: And I love them. I call Carolyn mama and Byron Daddy B. And we hung out quite a bit outside of recording, but they're precious. And they're both incredibly seasoned performers and actors of stage and screen. So it was a masterclass to be with them.

Something else that's interesting is there's a pretty notable scene near the end of the film where we're around a dinner table. And anytime they film a dinner scene, it takes a very, very long time because the cameras have to work their way all the way around the table to get every shot. So this one scene I think it took eight hours to film it.

Annie: You are lying to me.

Ginna: No.

Annie: Eight hours.

Ginna: Yes.

Annie: And when we're watching it, toward the end where you're sitting around the dining room table, it took eight hours to film.

Ginna: Yes. At least.

Annie: Ginna Clare. And you're just redoing the same lines the whole time.

Ginna: Yeah, which is interesting too.

Annie: I would fall out of my life.

Ginna: And to a degree, you can maybe rethink some decisions you made the first time you filmed it, but also you have to match what you did the first... You can't go too far outside of the box of what you did initially, which is an interesting study that we're-

Annie: You have to put yourself on work.

Ginna: But still be alive.

Annie: Right.

Ginna: But I was in that scene with Daddy B and Mama. Anytime I was on camera with them and they were all too willing to run lines of it... I have to say that about Derek too who-

Annie: Is also in this film.

Ginna: Is the gentleman that I run into. He's also a seasoned film and TV actor, but he was always so gracious about, "Hey, I'm not in the scene. Do you want to run lines? And that's so helpful because whereas in theater you go through generally, you know, a grueling rehearsal process, that doesn't really exist in film and TV. You know, you have a blocking or a quick lighting rehearsal, but you got to-

Annie: But they expect you to be ready.

Ginna: You got to step on that screen and know what you want to do.

Annie: Wow.

Ginna: So to have another theater actor be like, "Okay, we can run this as many times as you want to run it," was really good. There's a few girls in the show who are in the movie who are all my best friends and we're all Rockettes together.

Okay, this is a story I want to tell you. I love those girls: Larissa and Tiffany and Sarah. And the sisterhood that sort of formed during the filming process. But the first day that we recorded in Radio City with the... can I call them the real Rockettes?

Annie: Yes.

Ginna: ...and we were all acting like Rockettes, we walked into the theater and all the girls are, you know, in costume on stage. And it's slightly intimidating. Like this is their turf and they're the Radio City Rockettes. They're all tall and beautiful and prepared. They already know the choreography and we just learned it and we're stepping into it. And the welcome that we received from those girls was heartwarming and melting.

Annie: Oh, wow.

Ginna: They started cheering and clapping for us and welcoming us and introducing themselves. It's sweet because they all have nicknames. So I got to learn everyone's nicknames. And Kathleen is my twin. It really is an amazing, amazing sisterhood. And we really did feel so welcomed into the Rockettes. I got to be a Rockette.

Annie: I don't know how I'm going to feel. Am I gonna cry? I think I'm gonna cry-

Ginna: I don't know.

Annie: ...seeing you in your own movie.

Ginna: I will say being a Rockette has to be one of the hardest jobs in the entire world and I think the next best thing to being a real Rockette is just playing one in a movie.

Annie: That's right. For four weeks or whatever. I know.

Ginna: Fewer high kicks. No, but you know, I want to go see their show this Christmas. And it'll be so sweet knowing a good handful of them pretty well now and getting

to cheer them on and having a little bit of a closer look and a glimpse into what they do and how they do it with such excellence.

I was trying to think if there's any other cute stories about filming. The gown I got to wear in the last scene, I only got to wear for that one day and it was so pretty. But it is crazy. You know, it's different than a costume for Broadway that you wear eight shows a week. And it's like, "I got to put this on for a few hours and it was magical, and then it was over.

Annie: And then it's gone. Did you take anything from the set? Was anything like, "I want to remember this so I'm going to take these pair of shoes or...?"

Ginna: Oh, they let me take home... There's a scene where we're decorating a Christmas tree and I have an ornament.

Annie: Oh, that's great.

Ginna: It's pink and it's sparkly.

Annie: Oh, perfect.

Ginna: And it's sitting on my bedside table carefully. And then I'm gonna put it up on the tree this year at my house.

Annie: That's really sweet.

Ginna: I was able to take a few costumes home with me, which was really sweet. Just you know, like a sweater.

Annie: Yeah, yeah, just things that you'll remember.

Ginna: Little things, yeah.

Annie: Oh, I can't wait for us to see it. Geez, this is so cool. It's just the best. I can't believe it. You can't either.

Ginna: I can't either.

Annie: Just shaking your head. I can't believe it. You're so talented.

Ginna: So Eve Plumb, I don't know if you grew up watching *The Brady Bunch* but she's darling. She played Jan on *The Brady Bunch*. The whole cast, everybody was just-

- Annie:** Ann-Margaret and Jan from *The Brady Bunch* is like two...
- Ginna:** I know.
- Annie:** I am one degree from both of them. I cannot deal with that. That is unreal.
- Ginna:** I was obsessed with Ann-Margaret from the *Newsies* film starring Christian Bale from 1990 playing Medda.
- Annie:** Of course.
- Ginna:** Icon.
- Annie:** Well, GC, okay, friends listening, we're going to have a plan for watching the movie where we can all stay connected, whether it's a hashtag, or pictures or something. So just pay attention as we get closer to November 27th when *A Holiday Spectacular* comes out. Set your DVRs, make plans to watch it on that Sunday night. We're all gonna watch it together. I mean, the whole country is gonna watch together but we're gonna particularly watch it together as your friends because that is crazy.
- Ginna:** I'm so excited.
- Annie:** I'm so excited. Okay, well the last question we always ask. Ginna Claire Mason Moffett because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.
- Ginna:** I always come prepared with an answer and I feel unprepared. I don't know. I don't know if I'm allowed to say this but I think I'm going to.
- Annie:** You've done that a lot today.
- Ginna:** I know.
- Annie:** We really appreciate it.
- Ginna:** You know, the more I'm on this show-
- Annie:** "Happy Halloween."
- Ginna:** Happy Halloween.
- Annie:** "I'm gonna tell you another secret."

- Ginna:** So for the cast, they're doing a premiere for the movie at Radio City-
- Annie:** That is unreal.
- Ginna:** ...which is really special because Radio City used to do a lot of movie premieres.
- Annie:** Oh.
- Ginna:** Like *White Christmas* premiered there and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* premiered there.
- Annie:** What is your life? What is your life?
- Ginna:** But they haven't done movie premieres there in a long time. But because of obviously this partnership with the Rockettes and Madison Square Garden, they're doing a-
- Annie:** Madison Square Garden? Is that what you mean?
- Ginna:** Well, Madison Square Garden owns the Rockettes.
- Annie:** Oh. Okay, okay. At Radio City they're doing-
- Ginna:** At Radio City they're doing this movie premiere-
- Annie:** Do you have your dress yet?
- Ginna:** No, but I'm talking to some people about dresses. I want to wear a ball gown. But I mean when else are you? And the Rockettes are gonna perform.
- Annie:** Ball gown.
- Ginna:** Ball gown. And they asked me if I would sing. And so I'm really excited for that.
- Annie:** That's amazing. Okay, by the time our friends hear this, there should be pictures and stuff that we can share and they can see. But that does sound fun.
- Ginna:** I'm excited about that.
- Annie:** Movie premiere at Radio City Musical Hall.
- Ginna:** I'm singing in Times Square next weekend. I'm excited about that.

- Annie:** Are you? What are you doing?
- Ginna:** It's between two songs so I don't know. I'm neither singing something from Sideshow or a Taylor Swift song, but it's a big Broadway Sings concert.
- Annie:** They're doing a lot of those. I think it's very cool.
- Ginna:** It's so cool.
- Annie:** Mary Kate gets to do a lot of them too.
- Ginna:** Mary Kate's doing... She's doing her concert on Friday night and I'm doing mine on Saturday, but they're both in Times Square.
- Annie:** That's so cool.
- Ginna:** Those are some things I'm excited about. I'm excited to watch this movie with you.
- Annie:** I can't believe it.
- Ginna:** I'm excited to go on walks with you.
- Annie:** And then we're gonna go on walks. We're gonna watch your movie. It's just amazing. I'm so proud of you.
- Ginna:** I'm excited to show Cooper my baby. He just turned 17 months and it'll be sweet to get to show him the movie. I'm sure he won't understand that this year, but maybe in years to come.
- Annie:** Yeah, that's right. I mean, forever he'll be able to watch his mom star in a movie.
- Ginna:** Yeah.
- Annie:** That's very cool. Really proud of you, GC. Those couple of months were incredible amount of work. And you did it. I mean, you did it. It's amazing.
- Ginna:** Thank you.
- Annie:** And now this is the fruit of that. You put in a lot of time 10 months ago, and now the fruit will be here. On November 27th we all get to see it.
- Ginna:** I can't wait.

- Annie:** Oh, I can't wait either. I'm so so proud of you. I love you so much.
- Ginna:** I love you, Annie.
- Annie:** Thanks for being here on our special Halloween show.
- Ginna:** HUUUUUH. I feel like we should have more Halloween sounds.
- Annie:** Craig, what's another Halloween sound? Hahahaha.
- Ginna:** Hahahaha
- Annie:** Oh yeah. Witchy stuff maybe?
- Craig:** Yeah, witchy stuff.
- Annie:** We try to do le... You're the only witchy stuff we ever do. We pretty anti-witches stuff around That Sounds Fun. I'm not really into witchy things.
- Ginna:** Brrrrr Brrrrr. Chainsaw.
- Annie:** Yeah, good. Good. Good. Chainsaw murder kind of stuff?
- Ginna:** That's good.
- Annie:** We don't really love that either.
- Ginna:** Halloween's scary.
- Annie:** Yeah. You know what? We'll just keep talking about Christmas on Halloween. That's it.
- Ginna:** HUUUUUH.
- Annie:** The most we do is a perceived ghost voice—what we think it sounds like. All right. [talk-singing] Well, I love you, Ginna Claire.
- Ginna:** [talk-singing] I love you, Annie F. Downs.
- Annie:** [talk-singing] Goodbye, friends.
- Ginna:** [talk-singing] See you next year on Halloween.

[01:03:38] <music>

Outro: Oh, you guys, isn't she the best? I mean, we have had such a good couple of months of repeat friends of the show being back and telling us their new and their best. Oh, I'm just so thrilled for GC. I'm so thrilled for all of us that we get to see this movie and see our friends. Y'all, our friend is starring in a Hallmark Christmas movie.

So mark your calendars for November 27th. We may have some sort of plans around doing a big group watch party. Just pay attention to social media and I will tell you there I promise. Invite your friends over to your house, order your Christmas Movie Watching Socks from shopanniefdowns.com so you're ready for the premiere of *A Holiday Spectacular*.

And be sure to follow Ginna Claire on social media if you don't already. I'm guessing you do. But tell her thanks for being on the show and huge congrats, huge congrats on being the star of *A Holiday Spectacular*. She's a movie star, you guys. Our GC is a movie star.

I hope you're all signed up to join us for our Advent series that will start on that same day, Sunday, November 27th. But if you haven't had a chance yet, you can find all the info and extras about this fun new series we're doing together on the podcast at Anniefdowns.com/advent.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find. Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. All the places you may need me, that is how you can find me.

And I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you. I will do the same. Today what sounds fun to me, well, listen, who doesn't love some Halloween candy? Am I right? So today what sounds fun to me is a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup or a few. It does not matter. It's none of your business. I just absolutely love. That's my favorite candy of the Halloween season. So that's what sounds fun to me is a little bit of candy.

Y'all have a great day. Be safe tonight. And we will see you back here on Thursday with the whole band in such a fun episode with our friends We the Kingdom. Y'all, that was a lot of people. There was a lot of us in this conversation you're gonna love. It has changed my life. One part of this conversation changed my life. So we'll see you on Thursday with We the Kingdom.