

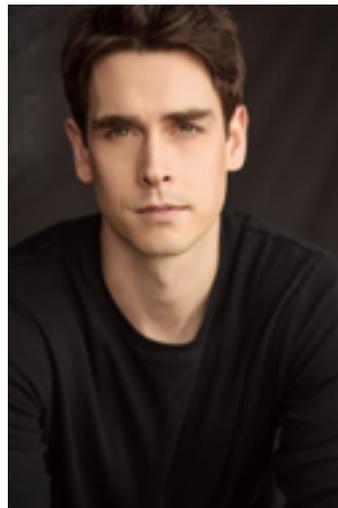
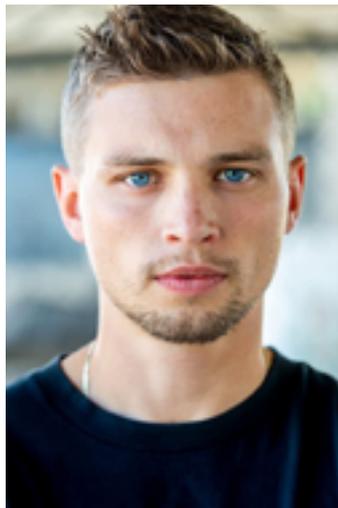
# VADA Alumni News

## VADA Alumni Nominated for 4 Leo Awards!

The Leo Awards recognize outstanding achievement in the BC film and Television Industry. This year's nominees have been announced and 3 VADA Dramatic Arts Diploma program graduates are up for awards in 2020!

**Magda Apanowicz** has received a "Best Lead Performance by a Female in a Motion Picture" nomination for her role in "Volition"; **Darren Mann** has received a "Best Lead Performance by a Male in a Dramatic Series" nomination for his role in CBC's "Fortunate Son" (he won this category in 2019); and VADA Alumni and Instructor, **Madison Smith** has received nomination in two categories, "Best Supporting Performance by a Male in a Television Movie" for his role in Hallmark's "Write Before Christmas" and "Best Screenwriting for a Motion Picture" for his work on "The Color Rose"

Congratulations to ALL our nominees!



## Look Who's Booking!

VADA Instructor  
Joel Semande



"The Flash"

Season 6 / Ep 18

Dacre Montgomery



"Broken Hearts  
Gallery"

## VADA Instructor and Alumni, Madison Smith plays the role of Orbin in *The Order: Season 2*

“I was a fan of the first season. It’s a Vancouver show. I feel like we all auditioned for the Jack role. I remember putting it on tape and I waited to hear back. It didn’t happen, and it ended up going to Jake [Manley]. He’s fantastic in it. It was one of those things where I knew about the show when it came out. I watched the first season, and I binged it in one day. It’s such an amazing show.” *Excerpts courtesy of Pop Culturalist interview with Kevin.*



## Malia Baker enjoying success in *The Baby-Sitters Club*

VADA Youth On Camera Acting Certificate Alumni, 13-year-old Malia Baker nails it!

“Mary-Anne is the secretary of the Baby-Sitters Club, she’s a dreamer with a warm and accepting nature. She is a leader in her own way and she’s funny without even knowing that she is,” said Baker. “She’s shy and I think very relatable to shy kids like I was.”

“Being on set was amazing,” said Baker, when asked about shooting the show last summer in Vancouver. “That was the first big role that I got, so of course I loved doing it. That was my dream job, and of course working with girls my own age, it was so much fun and we created this really amazing bond. “I think we are our own little BSC family now.”

- Excerpts courtesy of Vancouver Sun article “Vancouver actors front and centre in Netflix adaptation of classic kids’ novels” - Dana Gee

Malia Baker gets her big acting break as one of the co-leads in the new Netflix series *The Baby-Sitters Club*. Baker plays the studious and sweet Mary-Anne Spier in the series based on the best-selling novels of the same name. COURTESY OF NETFLIX/Jesse Austin/Netflix

# VADA Alumni Darren Mann shares his thoughts about Acting.

## DARREN MANN

### "YOU NEED TO HAVE AN UNREALISTIC BELIEF IN YOURSELF"

CB: How did you get into acting? Did you always want to be an actor?

D: My mother got me into acting at the age of 8. I was an extremely shy kid, so she hoped acting could help break me out of my shell, I think it helped.

I definitely wanted to be a hockey player, but enjoyed acting on the side. It was always in the back of my mind as a potential career for when hockey was over.

CB: What kind of sacrifices have you had to make to pursue your career as an actor?

D: Like anything with high reward it takes a lot of time for most of us to achieve any sort of commercial success. So I think I can speak for a lot of us when I think of the late nights closing the bar, and then staying up all night after learning a 10 page audition for the next morning. Or spending my entire paycheck on acting coaches, or funding a short film on my credit card, haha. You need to have unrealistic belief in yourself. But to be honest... I kind of enjoy the hustle. I enjoy working harder than the guy next to me. I like to see the struggle as an opportunity to pass the next person, I can thank hockey for that mentality I guess.

CB: What are your thoughts on the audition process? Do you have any memorable audition moments?

D: It is definitely a funny process and an entirely separate skill on it's own. I personally prefer to tape auditions on my own unless I am going to be working with the director. Oh I have had my fair share of bombings, haha. It used to REALLY bother me, but now I just surrender to the moment and prefer to have a chuckle after if it sucks, because I know that I did my best and whatever happens after that...fuck it.

CB: How do you feel about the casting process in Canada?

D: It is what it is. I could complain, but I'm not looking to go fight to change it so I'll just shut up. It's important to understand how it works, then go take control, and be unapologetically great.

CB: What would you like to see change in the industry?

D: I'd like to see crew taken better care of. I often worry for them and the LONG hours they put in, I hope we can someday figure out how to get these people adequate rest. They deserve it.

CB: What projects are you currently working on?

D: I am currently one of the leads of the new CBC series, "Fortunate Son".

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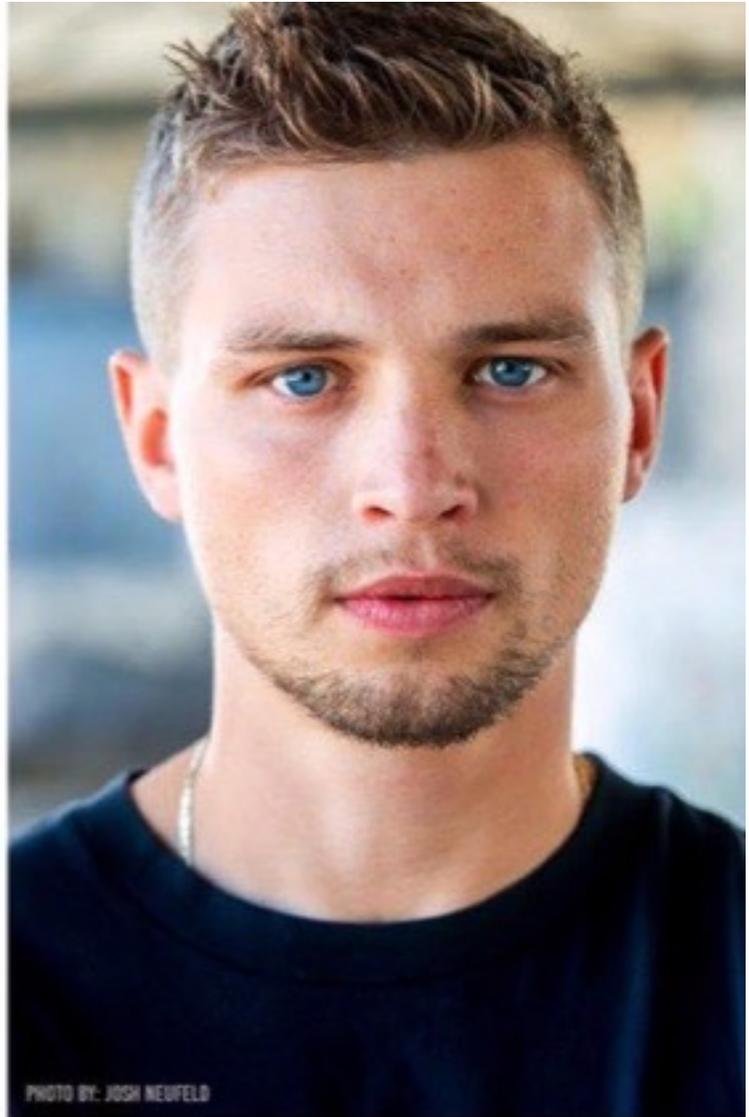


PHOTO BY: JOSH NEUFELD

**"I KIND OF ENJOY THE HUSTLE. I ENJOY WORKING HARDER THAN THE GUY NEXT TO ME."** - DARREN MANN

(continued)

CB: What kind of challenges do you face as an actor? There is a lot of rejection in this field. How do you deal with it?

D: Keeping myself busy and artistically satisfied between jobs is a tough balance. You can't exactly practice acting 8 hours a day, so that can be tough on me mentally. I find living my life like I'm a professional fighter on my time off is the best way for me to stay on point. Writing is often my artistic outlet during downtime.

CB: Do you have any advice for other actors or those who are looking to become an actor?

D: Don't do it unless you're willing to go all in, and don't be discouraged by results in the beginning. I was horrible, haha!

CB: Do you have any memorable on-set or off-set experiences you'd like to share?

D: I have met and made so many great friends in this industry. It's such a unique experience, these people become your entire world during a job, so make sure that you enjoy every moment of it. It's a really special opportunity.

CB: What are your Top 3 Movies of all time?

D: "Catch Me if You Can", "Pineapple Express" and "Saving Private Ryan".

CB: Which actor/actress has inspired you in your career?

D: Brad Pitt, Leonardo Dicaprio, Tom Hardy, Jeremy Renner and Bradley Cooper

**"DON'T FORGET WHY YOU DO THIS,  
AND NEVER STOP LEARNING."**

- DARREN MANN

CB: What is your dream role?

D: A War movie, 100%!

CB: Other than acting, what other professions would you like to be a part of in the future?

D: Directing is high on my list. I could also see myself owning a boxing gym, and a cool sports bar.

CB: Anything else you would like to include about yourself, your projects or the industry?

D: Don't forget why you do this, and never stop learning. Don't let your ego get in your way. BE YOU!

**FOLLOW THE MANN**

 @RealDarrenMann



**CALL OF DUTY**  (nael)