# Hankies at the ready as Hallmark Channel celebrates its first gay wedding movie



Hallmark Channel has pioneered a significant milestone with the release of its first-ever gay wedding movie, The Groomsmen: Second Chances. Departing from their signature Christmas rom-coms, this film brings a heartfelt story of love and friendship to the forefront, marking a definitive step towards more inclusive storytelling. Set against the idyllic backdrop of Greece, the film centres on Danny, played by Jonathan Bennett, who realises his romantic feelings for his best friend Zack—portrayed by Alexander Lincoln—just as he is invited to be Zack’s best man.

This film is part of The Groomsmen trilogy, which delves into the intertwined lives of three close friends, exploring themes of love, loyalty, and self-discovery. Having originally premiered on Hallmark+ in October 2024, Second Chances made its linear television debut on Hallmark Channel on September 13, 2025, reaching a broader audience eager for such narratives. The trilogy’s cast includes Tyler Hynes and B.J. Britt alongside Bennett and Lincoln, with Bennett also taking on an executive producer role—a testament to his investment in inclusive storytelling.

Jonathan Bennett, known to many from Mean Girls and his prominent Netflix roles, expressed his gratitude in an emotional Instagram post upon the film’s recognition with a GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Film – Streaming or TV in 2024. Bennett emphasised the special nature of the story, reflecting on the breakthrough it represents not just for Hallmark, but for LGBTQ+ viewers seeking relatable screen representation. “We are proud that this movie is the first gay wedding movie in Hallmark history,” he wrote, “but we are even more proud to be a part of creating a space where everyone can feel seen.”

Alexander Lincoln’s portrayal of Zack has also received widespread acclaim, bolstered by his personal openness about his sexuality, having come out as 'not straight' in 2023 amid internet speculation about his authenticity in queer roles. His raw and grounded performance adds an additional layer of sincerity to the film’s narrative, making the on-screen romance between Zack and Danny all the more compelling. The palpable chemistry between Bennett and Lincoln transcends the screen, with both actors publicly affirming their mutual respect and camaraderie during the film’s production. Lincoln described the experience as 'one of my more treasured memories' and highlighted the joy of working with such a talented ensemble in incredible locations.

The release of The Groomsmen: Second Chances represents more than just a single film; it signifies a broader cultural shift within Hallmark Channel’s programming, which has evolved from its traditional formula to embrace thoughtful and diverse representation. The network’s decision to spotlight a gay wedding story signals an understanding that love stories reflecting LGBTQ+ experiences are not just welcome but necessary for audiences craving authenticity. This evolution reinforces Hallmark’s assertion that love, in all its forms, is universal and deserves celebration. Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://instinctmagazine.com/bennett-and-lincoln-star-in-hallmarks-first-gay-wedding/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.hallmarkchannel.com/the-groomsmen-second-chances/about-the-groomsmen-second-chances> - 'The Groomsmen: Second Chances' is a romantic comedy that premiered on Hallmark Channel on September 13, 2025. The film follows Danny, portrayed by Jonathan Bennett, who realises his romantic feelings for his best friend, Zack, played by Alexander Lincoln, when asked to be the best man at Zack's wedding in Greece. The movie is part of 'The Groomsmen' trilogy, which explores themes of love and friendship among three best friends. ([hallmarkchannel.com](https://www.hallmarkchannel.com/the-groomsmen-second-chances/about-the-groomsmen-second-chances?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.hallmarkchannel.com/the-groomsmen-second-chances/cast> - The cast of 'The Groomsmen: Second Chances' includes Jonathan Bennett as Danny, Alexander Lincoln as Zack, Tyler Hynes as Jackson, and B.J. Britt as Pete. Jonathan Bennett also serves as an executive producer for the film. ([hallmarkchannel.com](https://www.hallmarkchannel.com/the-groomsmen-second-chances/cast?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.hallmarkchannel.com/the-groomsmen-second-chances> - 'The Groomsmen: Second Chances' is available for streaming on Hallmark+. The film had its linear broadcast premiere on Hallmark Channel on September 13, 2025, at 8 p.m. ET. ([hallmarkchannel.com](https://www.hallmarkchannel.com/the-groomsmen-second-chances?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.tvinsider.com/show/the-groomsmen-second-chances/> - 'The Groomsmen: Second Chances' is a romantic comedy that premiered on Hallmark Channel on September 13, 2025. The film follows Danny, portrayed by Jonathan Bennett, who realises his romantic feelings for his best friend, Zack, played by Alexander Lincoln, when asked to be the best man at Zack's wedding in Greece. The movie is part of 'The Groomsmen' trilogy, which explores themes of love and friendship among three best friends. ([tvinsider.com](https://www.tvinsider.com/show/the-groomsmen-second-chances/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.hallmarkchannel.com/the-groomsmen-second-chances/cast> - The cast of 'The Groomsmen: Second Chances' includes Jonathan Bennett as Danny, Alexander Lincoln as Zack, Tyler Hynes as Jackson, and B.J. Britt as Pete. Jonathan Bennett also serves as an executive producer for the film. ([hallmarkchannel.com](https://www.hallmarkchannel.com/the-groomsmen-second-chances/cast?utm_source=openai))