

# SQUIDSBURY

by Chad Short

Summer 2022

[www.truepennyprojects.com](http://www.truepennyprojects.com)

## PLAYWRIGHTS NOTE

During my fourth year at UMBC, I discovered a way to alleviate all the big feelings a twitchy 22-year-old college Acting major experiences daily. Three words: Write. It. Down. So, I did, ferociously, and it helped me tap into previously unexplored memories, ideas, and traumas – things I had buried or let pass me by. I wrote about my mom a lot – she passed away unexpectedly in 2007. In the spring of 2015, I was given a writing prompt exercise in playwriting class. I thought of my mom as I scribbled a short story about two dolphins rescuing a drowning woman from the ocean, smiling bittersweetly as

I described the dolphins bringing her back to land and laying her gently on the beach. Couldn't some pair of benevolent sea creatures find my mom and bring her back? Where is she if she isn't here? In time, my explorations of these questions collided with my undying creative need to be wacky, and SQUIDSBURY was born, a play much about "going home." SQUIDS is a goodbye to my mom, as well as a testament to the village of undeniably strong women that helped raise me. It is directly inspired by these forever-cherished loved ones – gritty, adaptable, hardworking matriarchs.

## CAST

Tina ..... Maria Ortiz-Marquez  
Tim ..... Dorian Elie  
Teensy ..... Shana Herndon  
Tammy ..... J.Purnell Hargrove  
Todd ..... Bobby Henneberg  
Ticket Taker/T.V. .... O'Malley Steuerman  
Tiny Ticket Taker/Tampon ..... Caitlin Weaver  
Tentacle Puppeteer ..... Isaiah Mason Harvey  
Tentacle Puppeteer ..... Jess Rassp  
Squid Puppeteer ..... David Brasington  
Teensy Understudy ..... Cherelle Matthews

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director ..... Tessara Morgan  
Producer..... Tessara Morgan  
Producer..... Luke Farley  
Costume and Make Up Designer ..... Amelia Karojic  
Fight Choreographer ..... Gerrad Taylor  
Front of House and Volunteer Coordinator..... N.J. Saroff  
Intimacy Consultant..... Bahar Baharloo  
Lighting Designer..... Eric Nightengale  
Master Electrician ..... Justin Sabe  
Photographer ..... Dave Iden  
Props Master..... Tessara Morgan  
Puppet Builder ..... David Brasington  
Puppet Consultant ..... Jess Rassp  
Puppet Design Consultant ..... Jeff Miller  
Puppet Designer..... Tessara Morgan  
Set Design..... Luke Farley  
Sound Design ..... Chad Short  
Sound Design ..... Tessara Morgan  
Sound Design Consultant ..... Brent Tomchick  
Stage Manager ..... Jordan Cahoon  
Videographer ..... Mason McLaren



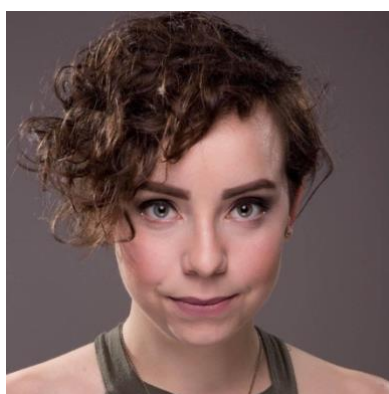
## BIOGRAPHIES



**Amelia Karolcik** (she/her) is an Appalachian born artist currently living in western Pennsylvania. After receiving her BFA in painting at West Virginia University, she wanted to further expand her creativity beyond the canvas. Since 2020, she's worked to make and design her own clothing and hopes to continue this craft for years to come.



**Bobby Henneberg** (he/him) is a Baltimore based actor and teaching artist with an Associates in Theatre from Howard Community College and has most recently appeared as Mercutio in Chesapeake Shakespeare Companies Romeo and Juliet.



**Caitlin Weaver** (she/her) is pumped to be making her Truepenny debut. Credits include See Also (Submersive Productions), Love and Information (FPCT), Lizzie (Guerrilla Theatre Front), Welcome to Shakesville (BROS), Company (Stillpointe Theatre), Mesmeric Revelations of Edgar Allen Poe (Submersive Productions) and Office Ladies (Acme Corp). She is a collective member of Submersive productions. She has a BFA in Acting from Towson University and his happy to call Baltimore her home now.



**Chad Short** (he/him) is a playwright, actor, poet, and musician who relocated to Friday Harbor, WA from Baltimore, MD just over a year ago. Playwriting credits include *Don't Come In* (Charm City Fringe Festival), *Little Birds* (Rapid Lemon Productions), *I Dug It Myself* (Out of Ink Productions), and *I Know These Roads* (Truepenny Projects), among others. Additionally, Interrobang Theatre workshopped a previous version of *Squidsbury* in December 2017. Chad earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Acting from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (2017). He is also a co-founder of The Hallucination Project, an award-winning devised theatre ensemble based in Baltimore. His music can be found under the name "Biig Red Couch," streaming on Apple Music, Spotify, SoundCloud and Bandcamp. Having the opportunity to share this play with Baltimore and its surrounding communities is the highlight of Chad's professional career. He is beyond thankful to Tessara and Luke of Truepenny Projects, as well as everyone who made this production possible. The original script was drafted in 2015, and after seven years of ideas and edits, Chad can finally say, "I hope you enjoy the show." Cheers.



**Cherelle Matthews** (she/her) is a Baltimore based theater artist. Originally from Williamsburg, Virginia, Cherelle took her passion for theater with her when she moved to Maryland to study Acting at Towson University. Her collegiate resume includes *Hamlet* in *Hamlet* and *The Wife* in *Lasso of Truth*, and she has received Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival nominations for both performances. Cherelle is playing the role of Teensy's understudy. *Squidsbury* is her first production since the pandemic began and she has thoroughly enjoyed the process and is thankful to have been a part of the journey.



**David Brasington** (he/him) is a performer, producer, and collaborating artist working in the Baltimore theatre community. David has worked and performed with various companies in Baltimore including Stillpointe Theatre Initiative, Iron Crow Theatre Company, Pumpkin Theatre, The Interrobang Theatre Company, and most recently, with Submersive Productions. David received his BFA in Acting from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).

David is a co-producer and co-founder of The Interrobang Theatre Company.



**Dorian Elie** (he/him) is a multi-platform performance artist located currently in Baltimore City, Maryland. He has trained in the mediums of singing, acting, dancing, and more since the age of 10 and has recently taken up content creation/video editing. You can check out his creative journey via his youtube/instagram channel @ Melanindragon. He is excited to present this wonderful riveting story within the coastal city of Squidsbury. Dorian sends special

thanks to Tessa, Luke, And Chad for their collective talents and devotion that brought Squidsbury to the stage.



**Eric Nightengale** (he/him) is a member of Concrete Temple Theatre and Anthropological Theatricals in New York City, and The Acme Corporation in Baltimore. He served as artistic director of 78<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre Lab from 1995 thru 2008. New York credits include work with Circle in the Square, 45 Bleecker, SoHo Rep, New Circle Theatre, Penguin Rep, The Brick, Theatre Breaking Through Barriers, Dixon Place, Minetta Lane Theatre, LaMama, The Acting Company,

Symphony Space, Cherry Lane Theatre, St Clements, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Barrow Group, HERE, and Classic Stage Company. Chicago credits include work with Victory Gardens Theatre, Bailiwick Repertory Theatre, Steppenwolf, Chicago Dramatists Workshop, and Second City. Radio drama credits include The Chronicles of Wallace Sprague, Dog Psychiatrist, available on all podcast platforms, as well as work broadcast nationally over NPR affiliate stations, and in the UK over BBC channel 4. His work at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe has resulted in five Fringe First awards, four adaptations for BBC radio, two Best Ensemble

awards, four off-broadway productions and a London transfer. Recent projects include a workshop of a new Arlene Hutton play produced by Washington Stage Guild, an in-process production of Renee Philippi's *HAMLET RIDE* produced by Concrete Temple at the Flea Theatre, a Seoul-New York joint creation video performance of *The Waitress and the Robber*, and a film version of *KENNEDY: Bobby's Last Crusade*, filmed at St. Clements Theatre, now available on Broadway On Demand. The upcoming production of *The Waitress and the Robber* will premiere at PS21 in Chatham, NY and then transfer for an off-broadway run at Dixon Place in New York City.



**Isaiah Mason Harvey** (he/him) is a Baltimore-based actor, playwright, teacher and sometimes director! Most recent credits include "Black Superhero Magic Mama" (Flat Joe/Black Superman) at the Strand, "A Christmas Carol" (Young Scrooge) with Chesapeake Shakespeare Company and "WIT" (Various) with The Fells Point Corner Theatre. Two time nominee of the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Award. He's beyond psyched to be finding another artistic home with

Truepenny!



**J Purnell Hargrove** (they/them) is a Baltimore based performer that has been shimmying up and down the east coast for years. They are the co-founder of The Greasy Utterson, a new podcast company which recently released a long form audio drama version of ***The Secret Garden***, found on all major podcast platforms. After a few years spent playing video games and performing in virtual productions, they are finally stepping back into live theatre, most recently as The American in Third Wall Productions' ***Chess the Musical***. Carpe Noctem...





**Jess Rassp** (she/her) is a puppet maker and puppeteer in the Baltimore area, who specializes in immersive and devised physical theatre. Inspired by nature, culture, and mythology, her work fuels environmentally-centered narratives, inspires storytelling through the subtleties of creature expression, and encourages audiences to connect with our natural world. Jess has worked as an independent artist with various theatre companies as a leader, designer, and puppet creator. In addition to intensive studies in theatre and fine arts, she received her B.A. in English Literature from Brandeis University. [jessrasspdesign.com](http://jessrasspdesign.com).



Utah native **Jordan Cahoon** (she/her) is a Baltimore-based creative who enjoys working both in front of and behind-the-scenes. Former Volunteer Director and current Front of House Captain with the Baltimore Rock Opera Society, Jordan was on the award-winning set team for their 2019 production of *Space Kümité*, in which she also voiced a god-like, spaceship-controlling computer. In addition to performing in school productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Bye, Bye Birdie* and *The Runaways*, Jordan also sung as part of a quartet for former Senator Harry Reid from Nevada.



Originally from New Jersey, **Luke Farley** (he/him) has been a Baltimore based artist since 2017. In 2019, he graduated with his MFA in Painting from the LeRoy E. Hoffberger School at MICA. Farley is a Truepenny Projects founder and producer. Before *Squidbury*, Farley stage designed *Close Your Eyes and Sleep*, *Immortal*, *Dali's Liquid Ladies*, and *The Secretaries*.



culture.

**Maria Ortiz-Marquez** (she/her) is an actor and director currently working in the DC area. A UMD alumna, Maria's latest projects were two short films for Small Doll Productions, *Alone* and *Diabolus Ex*. Maria has worked with several theatre companies in DC, New York, and North Carolina. Maria's main interests include documentaries, history, playwriting, and film. She hopes that one day her work will inspire other Latinx artists to share their stories, hopes, dreams, and



**O'Malley Steuerman** (they/them) is an actor, performing artist, DRAGster, and poet currently residing on Nentego, Piscataway, and Susquehannock land. Covid performance credits include *Covid Monologues* (Single Carrot Theater) and *He Do the Police in Different Voices* (The Acme Corporation). O'Malley most recently solo-toured the country interviewing emerging artists for their research-based project and series entitled "so, what are you gonna do next?". After six months on the road, they are happy to be returning home to the Baltimore stage with Truepenny. Website:[Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.](#) | Instagram: @omalleysteuerman



**Shana Herndon** (she/her) is a Baltimore-based actor, deviser, and model. She began her career in theater with the stage production "Churches, Chances, Choices" and recently started her career in film. Her favorite role was August in the short film "Leo & August." She currently has a recurring role in a sketch comedy series on streamDMV.com series called "Cherch." Recently she assisted The Sisters Freehold in devising their first play called "The Sleepover." Shana trained in improv performance with The Baltimore Improv Group and continues her play/film education through workshops with The Baltimore Actors Academy.



Originally from Minnesota, **Tessara Morgan** (she/her) is a freelance theater artist currently living and working in Baltimore. She enjoys creating fantastical new work in small spaces with local artists on a tight budget. She has directed, produced, stage managed and designed throughout the Midwest including Cedar Rapids, Minneapolis, and Milwaukee. Since moving to Baltimore in 2017, she has worked with Acme Corp., Single Carrot, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Silver Spring Stage, BROS, and more. She is also a co-founder and Theater Producer of Truepenny Projects. [tessaralaynmorgan.com](http://tessaralaynmorgan.com).