

THE SCREENWRITERS DEVELOPMENT GROUP PRESENTS

THE IVORY CURSE

AN ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

by **Josh Baxter & Clayton Bowman**

Table Read Sunday, October 27, 2024

starring **HARRISON BAXLEY** **MARISSA CULBREATH** **NATOSHA DEVON** **KATHERINE FORBES**
JULIE GABEL **ALISSA GAITHE** **CASSIE HALEY** **KAYLA HENDERSON** **COLIN MILLS**
JENNIFER NESBITT-ECK **WILLIAM REYES** **COLLIN RODDEY** **SEAN PATRICK RYAN**
MARTY SHUTTER **JUSTIN STEWART** **JASON SUEL** **JEN SWEENEY**
JULES TAYLOR **MIKE THOMAS**

SCREENWRITERS



JOSH BAXTER Writer/Director

Josh is a storyteller. His lifelong passion has been in visual arts, particularly film, which is his favorite medium to convey a story to an audience. His approach to writing involves weaving story elements like a thread, creating layers of depth to capture the viewer until the final reveal. His favorite stories to write include adventure, suspense, thrillers, and multi-layer drama, both fiction and non-fiction. Josh's background is in the technical aspects of production and filmmaking with a focus in directing and producing. He also enjoys set design/building and prop making.



CLAYTON BOWMAN Actor/Writer

Clayton is an experienced actor and screenwriter with impeccable timing and a strong physical presence. His acting work consists of roles in a number of independent narrative films, documentaries, and television. Clayton's writing credits include the epic thriller, Crowley's Ridge, an official selection of the Beverly Hills Film Festival screenplay competition, and Hit On Me, the award-winning short thriller, in which he also starred. Clayton has also worked behind the scenes on set and as a collaborating editor in post-production.

GUEST PRODUCERS



DAN ROBINSON Producer/Composer

New Harvest Creative

Dan has over 20 years experience in creative production. His resumé includes live events, studio recording, music composition, theater production, film festivals, television, radio, and film. He brings the unique perspective of someone who has seen first-hand the realities from backstage to center stage, and from behind the camera to in front of the camera.



BLAKE ELDER Producer

Rockhill Studios

Blake Elder started his career in New York city in 2008, working for HBO and A&E as well as an Associate Producer, Director of Photography and Editor of Oktane Media Ventures. Blake has directed, produced, written, edited, and shot numerous award winning films, promotional videos, and commercials. Blake established Rockhill studios to serve as a "Production Hub" allowing the development of content as well as providing a comprehensive resource center to support productions in Arkansas.

CAST



HARRISON BAXLEY as Danny

Harrison Baxley (he/him) is currently an MFA Acting student at UARK. He holds a degree in Theatre Arts from the University of South Florida. Film: Chris in The Guilty Perspective (JBU Cinema), Shiloh in Wasted Time (JBU Cinema), Sam in Sam's Decision (Third Oak Productions). Regional Theatre: Chris Keller in All My Sons (Tampa Repertory Theatre), Warren Straub in This Is Our Youth (Off-Central Players), and Jonas in The Giver (ThinkTank Theatre). Follow Harrison on Instagram and Twitter @harrisonbaxley.



MARISSA CULBREATH as Felecia

Marissa Culbreath is a performing artist based out of Bentonville, Arkansas. Marissa began as a performer at just five years old, performing in school and church productions. She is a professional dancer, choreographer, actress, narrator, and theater/film director. Marissa is the producer and host of For The HeARTists, a local Youtube series shining a spotlight on artists of color in Northwest Arkansas. When she is not performing or working behind the scenes, Marissa loves reading romance books, cooking, and spending time with her husband and daughter.



Na'TOSHA DE'VON as Adelle

Na'Tosha De'Von, was born in Chicago IL, and raised in Mississippi. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in Theatre and Speech Communication from Thee Jackson State University. And a MFA in Acting from the University of Arkansas. Na'Tosha began her career in acting and poetry by way of God's Design, believing that the premise of her art is to expose and heal. Through her poetry she has worked with prominent figures fighting for social injustice and human rights including: Dr. Cornell West, Danny Glover, Ilyasah Shabazz, Myrlie Evers, and Common. Her acting career has led her to appear in several Walmart and Tyson commercials. She can be seen in the series 'Chase the Lion' on the TBN television network. She is also featured in the feature film "Freedom's Path". Na'Tosha has worked extensively with theatre companies both Regional and Non-Regional focusing on both classical and non-classical text. Na'Tosha is a casting assistant for Actors Casting Agency (ACA) in Arkansas. She is a published poet, with works in notable literary sites including Literary Sanctuary. Na'Tosha has been awarded the 2022 Artist 360 grant, the 2020 Sipp cultural creative grant, and more recently the Artist and Writers residency at the Chateau d'Orquevaux in France for their 2024/2025 class. Locally she was just featured as an artist in residency here at The Momentary. With her art, Na'Tosha desires to inspire and mentor younger artists who hold similar backgrounds to her. She wants to instill in young artists that with hard work and creativity, anything is possible.



KATHERINE FORBES as Mama

Katherine is a seasoned film and stage performer with over three decades of experience acting, directing and producing theater in Southern California and NWA. Locally she has directed for Arts Live Theater, Arkansas Playwrights Workshop and Village Players and seen onstage with Theatre Squared, Arkansas Public Theater, ACO, Smokehouse Players, Actors Laboratory Theater and Ceramic Cow Productions. Katherine received her professional training in Southern California which included The Groundlings, New Village Arts, and multiple film and commercial studios. Film work has kept her very busy the past 10 years with short films such as In A World Full of Loneliness, The Book Club and series such as True Detective and Saved by Grace. Feature Film credits include Sweet Inspirations, Door in the Woods, Ridgerunners, Mindcage, Valley Inn and the upcoming film Trail of Vengeance.

CAST



JULIE GABEL as Shirley Deevers

Julie has a B.Ed., and an MA in Drama from the University of Arkansas, where she studied elementary education, voice, dance, acting and stage lighting. While living in Los Angeles and San Diego, she performed professionally on stage, earning membership into Actors Equity Association, and in film, as well as singing back-up in the recording studio. Julie toured the United States with Arkansas Repertory Theatre's first National Tour of, Always, Patsy Cline. She has been featured in such independent films as Gordon Family Tree, Parker's Anchor, Roadside Attorney, Grimace, Southern Pride and A Day Between, winner of 2001 Los Angeles Sacramento Film Festival Audience Award for Best Short. She is Co-Founder, Director, and Managing Director of Ceramic Cow Productions, and Co-Founder/Co-Director of Phunbags Comedy Improv.



ALISSA GAITHE as Jenny/Anna/Floor Director

Alissa has nearly 20 years of experience as an actor in community theatre, audio theatre, staged readings, student films, and fan films. Though she earned a Master's of Accountancy from the University of Arkansas and has a career in government finance with the Department of Veterans Affairs, her true passions are acting and singing, and she relishes any opportunity to express those interests. When not performing in a professional capacity, Alissa utilizes her love of characterization and accents in role-playing with her husband and friends in semi-regular Dungeons & Dragons campaigns and in bringing bedtime stories to life for her two children. Film credits include Avalon Universe: Air & Darkness (Lt. Jenkins) and Avalon Universe: Demons (Lt. Jenkins). Stage credits include Enchanted April (Lotty Wilton), Bad Seed (Christine Penmark), Death by Design (Sorel Bennett), The Best Man (Mabel Cantwell), The Sound of Music (Sister Berthe), and others.



CASSIE HALEY as Alli

Cassie is an entertainer, educator and entrepreneur. She's known for roles such as Maggie in Sweet Inspirations with Dean Cain, Vickie Burlsworth in Greater with Neal McDonough, Susan Collins in Wildfire with Anne Heche and Charlotte Gordon in Gordon Family Tree with Corbin Berson and Richard Karn. Aside from, acting she's worked as a writer, director and producer as well as a teaching artist. She owns a couple of businesses in retail and real estate and facilitates retreats using story and embodiment work to help others live more empowered lives.



KAYLA HENDERSON as Victoria

Kayla's film credits include F.R.E.D.I., Max Winslow and the House of Secrets, Hazardous Duty and the television series Saved by Grace. Stage credits include Heather's: the Musical, Miscast Cabaret, Night of One Acts, Beauty and the Beast, Hero's and Villan's Cabaret and others.



COLLIN MILLS as Jack/Hector/Will

Colling is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, where he received a B.A. in Theatre and currently pursuing a M.B.A. Collin is a native of Portsmouth, VA. Previous directing credits include Dairy Queen (University of Arkansas) and Teen Dad (Arts One Presents). Acting credits include Evan Roseglass in Pretty Pink Peril, Ezra in Rust, and several TYA performances (TheatreSquared) and Ensemble in This Bitch (University of Arkansas). Film credits include Untitled Cry Time, Dupe (University of Arkansas), and Graveyard of Friends (Bogwood Inc). When Collin isn't losing his mind over Finance questions, he's busy whipping up fantasy jukebox musicals, dance theater pieces, and all sorts of play/film scripts. He is super excited to be working with a fantastic group of creatives!

CAST



JUSTIN STEWART as Sue Davis

Jennifer (B.F.A., M.M.T) is a Director/ Playwright/Teaching Artist, Singer/Songwriter & Healer and a native of Fayetteville, Arkansas. She holds a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Arkansas and is a Master Massage Therapist and Reiki practitioner. Directing credits include Puffs, 'Twas the Night, Plain Kate, The Tempest, Wrinkle in Time and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Playwright credits include co-playwright/co-composer of Rock Dogs, Waiting, Heart Song, Bliss Ninnies, and adaptations. Also teaching artist she is currently office and development director for Arts Live Theatre. Outside of Arts Live she continues to pursue her own growth as an artist, as well as being a mom. Previous stage credits include Man of La Mancha, Top Girls, Shakespeare'sShe is honored to work, and play, with fabulous and inspiring artists of the NWA community.



WILLIAM CARLOS REYES as Oscar

William is known in the entertainment industry primarily as a musician and composer. Born and raised in Northwest Arkansas, William developed a passion for the performing arts at a young age. After studying classical guitar and music composition at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, William was given the opportunity to perform in the orchestras of several local musical theater productions. From there, he developed a love for the theatre and acting in particular. Since then, he has pursued more opportunities in acting for locally produced commercials and films. When not performing, William enjoys hiking, photography, and teaching music at the Suzuki Music School of Arkansas



COLLIN RODDEY as Floyd Deevers

Collin.started in theatre at 8 years old as Robin, Falstaff's page in The Merry Wives of Windsor in community theatre. Subsequent university theatre roles include Hamlet in Hamlet, The Underpants as Theo Maske, Bo Decker in Bus Stop. Personal favorites include Elyot Chase in Noel Coward's Private Lives and Charles in Blythe's Spirit. Feature film work includes: Biloxi Blues with Mathew Broderick and Christopher Walken, Awakenings with Robert DeNiro and Robin Williams, Cookie with Peter Falk, Emily Lloyd and Jerry Lewis as well as Last Exit to Brooklyn with Jennifer Jason Lee and Burt Young. Collin is glad to be back in NWA and is enjoying more work than he ever had in NYC or LA.



SEAN PATRICK RYAN Directions

Kayla's film credits include F.R.E.D.I., Max Winslow and the House of Secrets, Hazardous Duty and the television series Saved by Grace. Stage credits include Heather's: the Musical, Miscast Cabaret, Night of One Acts, Beauty and the Beast, Hero's and Villan's Cabaret and others.

CAST



MARTY SHUTTER as Ted Humphries

Marty is an Artist living in Rogers, AR. As an actor Marty has worked extensively in the worlds of improv, film and television beginning with his first national commercials in 1998. A graduate of The Second City Conservatory, the iO Theater and The Annoyance, he has spent over two decades honing his craft. After performing for the Second City's House Improv Ensemble for 4 seasons in Chicago, he moved back to Arkansas to work on film and music. Marty works during the day as the Marketing Director for Ozark Beer Co., a company he has helped grow in its 11 years in Northwest Arkansas. As a multi-instrumentalist and recording artist, Marty's records Fake Jazz, Employee of the Year and Here in All This can be found on all major streaming services. Marty can currently be seen in Slim Chicken's Big Dill Campaign or very late at night streaming original piano compositions on his YouTube channel.



JUSTIN STEWART as Walter

Justin is an actor, singer, and voice-over artist. He currently resides in Springdale, AR with his wife and two daughters. Justin started singing at a young age. Through Junior High and High School, he played football and sang in choir. Justin caught the acting bug shortly after studying voice under Dr. Carolyn Ford while in college. It was under Dr. Ford's training that Justin became a classically trained baritone. Justin performs regionally on stage and on camera. Some of Justin's stage credits include Bobo in A Raisin in the Sun, Javert in Les Miserables, Judas in Jesus Christ Superstar, Hoke Coleburn in Driving Miss Daisy, Stokely Carmichael in All The Way, Jim in Big River The Adventures of Huckelberry Finn. Film credits include And the Winner Is, All Units, Wonderland Cave, Sweet Inspirations, Your Local News and The Rock of Gibraltar. Justin holds a master's degree in Business Administration from Webster University and a bachelor's degree in Advertising/Public Relations from the University of Arkansas. In Arkansas Justin is represented by Actor's Casting Agency. Justin enjoys spending time with family and friends. He can't get enough of the outdoors. In his spare time, Justin sits at the piano and practices vocalizing as Dr. Ford taught him.



JASON SUEL as Chad Files

Originally from Camden, Arkansas, Jason Suel holds a Master's Degree in Theatre & Film from Bowling Green State University. With extensive professional experience in the U.S., U.K., Ireland, and Northern Ireland, Jason brings boundless energy to every stage, from emceeing Arkansas Razorback Football games to intimate performances. He hosts 'Good Day NWA' on NBC and 'Later with Jason Suel' on Fox, showcasing his talents in lifestyle and late-night television. As a teaching artist and professional actor, Jason has toured internationally, directs plays and musicals, and performs with Phunbags Comedy Improv and Ultra Suede Party Band. Offstage, he enjoys running marathons and spending time with his wife Jill and their children, Pippi and Felix.



JEN SWEENEY as Kellie

Jen Sweeney's acting career started as a chorus boy in a community theatre production of Oklahoma. She doesn't remember much about the experience but was told by her parents that she walked to the edge of the stage during her chorus number and stared in awe at the audience. And so it began. Since then Jen has graced stages from Chicago to Boston, Denver to Northwest Arkansas. She was a member of the Bailiwick Repertory theatre in Chicago and studied at various acting programs there including intensive Misner, Shakespeare and the Second City Players Workshop. Jen played Witch One in Chicago's European Repertory Theatre's inaugural production of Macbeth. She is a full time voice over artist and her voice can be heard around the globe on many national TV and Radio campaigns including Sony, Toyota, Riccola and a Bud Light Super Bowl Ad recently. Her voice has appeared in several Grand Theft Auto Games, World Of Warcraft and in several spoof commercial on the Jimmy Kimmel show.

CAST



JULES TAYLOR as Ava Gibson

Jules Taylor is an eccentric and eclectic artist in Fayetteville Arkansas. When not onstage you can find her trying to teach her cats improv games. As an actor, Jules has been in films including, Gordon Family Tree, Valley Inn, and Mindcage, as well as HBO's True Detective. Jules has been directing theatre since 1993 in Dallas, Chicago, Santa Fe and Fayetteville Arkansas. Directing credits include: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, 'Night Mother, Talking With..., South Pacific, Pippin, and Chicago. Currently, she teaches youth theatre at Arts Live Theatre and Arkansas Arts Academy, and has directed and choreographed over 40 youth theatre productions. Jules also teaches and plays music for the under 5 crowd through her program SHAKY BUGS. She just produced her first film after winning the Fayetteville Film Fest pitch contest with her short narrative screenplay, In a World Full of Loneliness. If you just read my... I mean, HER entire bio... congratulations on being a super cool person.



MIKE L THOMAS as Dr. Baines

Mike L. Thomas has been an actor on stage and screen for over 40 years. some of his film roles have been in Greater, The Brian Burlsworth Story, Good Chemistry, White River, Broken Trail, Violent Ends, and Sovereign. A few of Mike's stage roles were in Bigfoot Love, Dupont Mississippi, Cat on A Hot Tin Roof, Nuts, Plaza Suite and Last of The Red Hot Lovers.

SDG PRODUCERS



MARK LANDON SMITH SDG Founder/Producer

As actor Mark has principal and leading roles in the films Killers of the Flower Moon, Mindcage, The Tickle Monster, Wasted Time, Life of Crime, Trail Of Vengeance, Wonderland Cave, The Immigrant, Indian Territory, Wildfire, Southern Pride, In A World Full of Loneliness, Jan and Jann, Parker's Anchor, Wildfire, Pure Risk, Sweet Inspirations, Door in the Woods, Paid in Peanuts, The Immigrant, Indian Territory, Glass Cages and others. Stage credits include work with TheatreSquared, Ceramic Cow Productions, The Fourm Theatre, McCoy Repertory (Company member), Tidal Theatre Company, Theatre Memphis, Circuit Playhouse, Boar's Head Players, Kernnoodle Theatre and others. As playwright he has 16 scripts published including three foreign translations, and Off-Broadway production and an AATE Distinguished Play nomination. He is the recipient of the 2020 Arkansas Governor's Arts Award and is the Executive Director of Arts Live Theatre and the owner/founder of Actors Casting Agency and Smith | Fox Casting. He is the former director of the Arkansas Playwrights Workshop for TheatreSquared and the founder and director of the Screenwriters Development Group. He has served as producer and co-producer on the feature films Door in the Woods, The Man in the Trunk and Parker's Achor. He was featured at Southern Storytellers at Crystal Bridges and on Tales of the South and Holiday Traditions on PBS. He is co-founder of Ceramic Cow Productions, creators of the Dupont, Mississippi stage series which ran for ten years and the film Dupont, Mississippi: F5, (featured at the New York International Film Festival in Los Angeles) and co-director of Phunbags Comedy Improv. His short film Love Comes In Many Colors, co-produced by Jules Taylor, was the winner of the 10 for 10 Competition at the Bentonville Film Festival. He also writes and produces the Chit Chat Talk podcast. AEA/DG/SDC/PU marklandonsmith.com

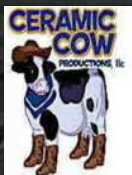
SDG PRODUCERS



JULIE GABEL SDG co-producer

Julie has a B.Ed., and an MA in Drama from the University of Arkansas, where she studied elementary education, voice, dance, acting and stage lighting. While living in Los Angeles and San Diego, she performed professionally on stage, earning membership into Actors Equity Association, and in film, as well as singing back-up in the recording studio. Julie toured the United States with Arkansas Repertory Theatre's first National Tour of, Always, Patsy Cline. She has been featured in such independent films as Gordon Family Tree, Parker's Anchor, Roadside Attorney, Grimace, Southern Pride and A Day Between, winner of 2001 Los Angeles Sacramento Film Festival Audience Award for Best Short. She is Co-Founder, Director, and Managing Director of Ceramic Cow Productions, and Co-Founder/Co-Director of Phunbags Comedy Improv.

REGIONAL PRODUCERS AND RESOURCES



ABOUT ACTORS CASTING AGENCY & LUCKY CLOVER STUDIOS

Since 2012 Actors Casting Agency and Smith | Fox Casting has become the leader in casting film, television and commercials within the Northwest Arkansas Region and beyond. Owned and founded by Mark Landon Smith, ACA and SFC, (along with casting partner Victoria Fox), has cast the feature films Valley Inn, (with Joey Lauren Adams), Parker's Anchor (with Sarah Collona and winner of the 2017 Audience Best Narrative Bentonville Film Festival), The Man in the Trunk, Gordon Family Tree (with Corbin Bersen and Richard Karn), Chariot and Mindcage, (both with John Malkovich), The Tower (with Bella Thorne and Jack Kilmer), American Cherry, Sweet Inspirations (with Dean Cain and Maria Canals-Barrea and winner of the 2019 Jury Best Family Bentonville Film Festival), F.R.E.D.I. (winner of the 2018 Best of the Fest Bentonville Film Festival), Sovereign (with Nick Offerman, Jacob Trembly, Dennis Quaid, Martha Plimpton, Nancy Travis and Thomas Mann), In Fortune's Shadow (with Theo Rossi and Michael Rooker), The Magician's Raincoat, Max Winslow and the House of Secrets, God's Country Song (with Mariel Hemingway), Hazardous Duty, The Door in the Woods (with CJ Jones), Saved By Grace, Trail of Vengeance (with Rumer Willis and Jeff Fahey), Hellfire (with Stephen Lang, Harvey Keitel and Dolph Lundgreen), Wildfire (with Anne Heche) and others. They have also cast the multi award-winning shorts Call of the Clown Horn, Good Gorgeous Hell, Banana Triangle Six and Blood on the Risers. Commerical casting includes national ads for Slim Chickens, Walmart, Sam's Club and others.

Lucky Clover Studios, the producing arm of ACA, produced the short film Love Comes In Many Colors, (winner of the 10 for 10 competition Bentonville Film Festival), Jan and Jann, (featured at NWA Fashion Week and the Made In Arkansas Shorts Festival), and the stage productions of Red, Art/Work, Twain in Time and Rockwell, (Crystal Bridges).



ABOUT CERAMIC COW PRODUCTIONS

Ceramic Cow Productions is the creators and producers of the Dupont, Mississippi stage series which ran for ten years in Northwest Arkansas and published by Concord Theatricals. The film short Dupont, Mississippi: F5 was featured at the New York International Film Festival in Los Angeles. Ceramic Cow has also produced Radio Dazed, The Santaland Diaries and for the past 14 years, Phunbags Comedy Improv. They also introduced the region to Splash Theatre and are three-time winners of the 24 Hour Play Competition and thereafter withdrew from competing to co-produce the event with TheatreSquared.

