

The Eden Theory Press Kit

CAST BIOS

JESSE CHARLES — “Tom Edwards”

Jesse Charles was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and raised in Hopkins, Michigan. In 2015, he starred as the lead in "Another Brick in the Wall", alongside Carel Struycken (Gerald's Game, The Addams Family). Jesse continued to gain momentum in the Michigan film industry through commercial acting, modeling, training at the "Grand Rapids Civic Theatre", and starring in a various of other theatrical roles such as "The Million Dollar Nickel", which he also co-wrote (Winner of the 5th Annual Eclipse Awards "Writing in Produced Content"). In late 2016, Jesse moved to Los Angeles, California. Since then, he has acted in "Crazy Carl", co-starring Creed Bratton (The Office), "Coyote", and began training at the renowned Playhouse West taught by Robert Carnegie. Jesse recently finished filming his own production "The Eden Theory", opposite Larry Hankin (Breaking Bad, Friends) and Jeffrey Weissman (Back to the Future, Saved By the Bell), as actor, writer, and producer.

BRIT MACRAE — “Jamie”

Brit MacRae is a Canadian actress from Toronto, Canada. She is of Ukrainian, French, and British descent. She grew up in a small town where she trained as a dancer specializing in ballet, jazz and modern. She moved out on her own at 15 to attend the Etobicoke School of the Arts where she majored in Musical Theatre. Brit resides in Los Angeles, California. Aside from acting, Brit is an avid boxer and runner.

TREVOR SNARR — “The Detective”

Trevor Snarr was born on April 29, 1978 in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. He is an actor and producer, known for Napoleon Dynamite (2004).

JASPER JOHNSON — “Mack”

Jasper Johnson is an actor and producer, known for The Eden Theory (2021), When I Get Out of Here (2013) and Tadlock Meadows (2014).

CHANDRA MICHAELS — “Mrs. Edwards”

Chandra Michaels is an award-winning actress and producer based in Chicago, Illinois. A member of the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences and SAG-AFTRA, her network credits include: Chicago Fire, Chicago Med, Dynasty and the Emmy award winning American Crime Story: Versace. She has performed on a variety of Chicago's main improvisation stages as part of the 'Yours and Ours' improvisation troupe and produces independent films.

LARRY HANKIN — “Farmer Joe”

Born in New York, Larry Hankin took an industrial design degree from the University of Syracuse; multifaceted artist, in addition to being an actor, he is also a screenwriter, producer, director and singer. He began his career as an illustrator in the entertainment world, and studied acting at Syracuse University. He was in the same class with Frank Langella and Carl Gottlieb. He was also a member of two comedy improvisation groups, Second City (Chicago) and The Committee (San Francisco). Hankin continues today his work in Hollywood.

JEFFREY WEISSMAN — “Mr. Marrow”

Jeffrey Weissman has been performing as an actor since taking to the stage in 1972. He started in film in 1977, Jeffrey has co-starred in dozens of film and television productions. He had been screen testing for leads in various films during the early 1980's, and landed his first co-star role in 1982 in George Miller's "Nightmare at 30,000 Feet" episode of Twilight Zone the Movie. Jeffrey is best known for playing Teddy Conway in Clint Eastwood's Pale Rider (1985) and taking over the George McFly role in the "Back to the Future" sequels. His recent working indie films have garnered him raves from his comedic turn in "corked!" as an ocd wine maker, and his dramatic work in several features.

CAREL STRUYCKEN — “The Stranger”

Carel Struycken was born in the Hague, The Netherlands. When he was four years old his family moved to Curacao, an island in the Caribbean. At age sixteen, he returned to his home country, where he finished high school. He graduated from the directing program at the film school in Amsterdam, following which he did a year at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. After school, he collaborated on a number of projects of writer/director Rene Daalder. He was "discovered" as an actor at the corner of Hollywood and Vine in Los Angeles by a lady who had abandoned her car in the middle of the street, calling after him, "We need you for a movie!". The movie was Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (1978). The turning point in his acting career however was Ewoks: The Battle for Endor (1985), a George Lucas film. In addition to cinema, he has also appeared on TV, notably as the recurring character, valet Mr. Homn, on Star Trek: The Next Generation (1987).

CREW BIOS

KYLE MISAK — Writer/Director

Kyle is a writer/director from Mattawan, Michigan. He started making short movies in high school and has since gone on to direct over a dozen films, working with many acclaimed actors, including: Creed Bratton ("The Office"), Larry Hankin (Billy Madison), Carel Struycken (The Addams Family), Jeffrey Weissman (Back to the Future II & III), Richard Riehle (Office Space), Lester Speight ("Terry Tate: Office Linebacker"), Trevor Snarr (Napoleon Dynamite), and many more. Kyle is passionate about making movies and inspiring people through the magic of visual storytelling.

DON CHASE — Production Designer/Producer

Don Joseph Chase is a production designer and producer, known for *The Acorn* (2018), *The Eden Theory* (2021) and *The House on Oak Street* (2016).

JESSE CHARLES — Writer/Producer

Jesse Charles was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and raised in Hopkins, Michigan. In 2015, he starred as the lead in "Another Brick in the Wall", alongside Carel Struycken (*Gerald's Game*, *The Addams Family*). Jesse continued to gain momentum in the Michigan film industry through commercial acting, modeling, training at the "Grand Rapids Civic Theatre", and starring in a various of other theatrical roles such as "The Million Dollar Nickel", which he also co-wrote (Winner of the 5th Annual Eclipse Awards "Writing in Produced Content"). In late 2016, Jesse moved to Los Angeles, California. Since then, he has acted in "Crazy Carl", co-starring Creed Bratton (*The Office*), "Coyote", and began training at the renowned Playhouse West taught by Robert Carnegie. Jesse recently finished filming his own production "The Eden Theory", opposite Larry Hankin (*Breaking Bad*, *Friends*) and Jeffrey Weissman (*Back to the Future*, *Saved By the Bell*), as actor, writer, and producer.

FILM SYNOPSIS

SHORT: After his best friend disappears, Tom Edwards is investigated by a relentless detective as he tries to lead a normal summer. Tom fears facing the truth and struggles to cope with the loss of his friend as the world around him seems to fall apart.

LONG: Tom Edwards, a troubled, young man, begins to lose his grip on reality when a relentless detective investigates the disappearance of his best friend. All signs point to Tom as the prime suspect. Meanwhile, tensions rise between Tom and his girlfriend, Jamie, as they hide the truth from each other and struggle to keep the detective from destroying their relationship from the inside out. The strange and unexplainable events that follow Tom aren't what they seem. Is there really something sinister out in the woods surrounding their quiet town, or is Tom covering for an unspeakable crime?

The truth is violently revealed.

PRODUCTION NOTES:

The film was shot in Southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana over the course of three weeks. The project was led by Kyle Misak, Don Chase, and Jesse Charles. It was not uncommon to be working 14 - 16 hour shoot days throughout the production. With over 40 different locations in the film, the cast and crew were constantly on the move. Having befriended some amazing veteran actors in Carel Struycken, Larry Hankin, and Jeffrey Weissman, director Kyle Misak asked each of them to make an appearance in the film as a favor to him, to which they all agreed.

The most challenging scene in the film to shoot was the drowning sequence, which was filmed in the middle of the night on a swampy lake. With limited lights and resources, it was a challenging process trying to get all of the shots needed to tell the story. All of the sound was re-recorded and designed in post-production, as it wasn't possible to record sound on location given the circumstances. After 2 years of post-production, the film was finally finished.

PRODUCTION TECHNICAL SPECS:

Runtime: 1h 47m

Color: Color

Aspect Ratio: 2:35:1

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

From Director Kyle Misak: "The Eden Theory was a big undertaking and a very challenging film to make. With a tiny budget and a small team, we shot in Southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana for 3 grueling weeks. Despite the challenges and lack of sleep, we finished principle photography and were able to move into post, which brought its own challenges. After many months in that stage, the film was finally brought to completion, and we're proud to say that we finished the movie. *The Eden Theory* is very much a critical-thinking type of movie. It requires the viewer to pay close attention. We spent a lot of time talking through the story and the intricate details of things, as we wanted to create something unique; something that would challenge its audience. While on the surface, things may be confusing, all of the clues and information are there to answer every question. We hope that people enjoy the mystery and continue to ponder the story long after they watch it."

