

# TROUBLED WATERS

THEY BURRIED THE TRUTH AND SHE'S NEXT.

TROUBLED WATERS

A feature film by Johnathan Burns © 2020

CONTACT: Oceaniacom Films

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# OVERVIEW

**TITLE:** TROUBLED WATERS

**LOGLINE:** The estranged daughter of a wealthy businessman seeks to uncover her father's mysterious past only to be haunted by the same enemy that put him in the grave.

**GENRE:** Mystery / Crime

**SETTING:** Present Day

**LOCATIONS:** Asylum | Apartment | Small Town

**LEAD:** Female

**SUPPORT:** Male and Female

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# SYNOPSIS

Troubled Waters follows the adventures of a young woman discovering her father's mysterious past buried in an abandoned mental asylum. Under the guidance of a family friend, Elle digs into secrets buried with her estranged father only to discover horrifying truths and a corporate conspiracy worth millions. Having finally unveiled the truth, even those she has learned to trust are not who they seem and what began as a dig into her past may well bury her too.

Troubled Waters explores a young woman's historic journey amongst the ugly history of corporate scandals and the abuse of the mental health system. This is a low budget project set in a single town location with a strong female protagonist.

Adventurous, edgy and exciting, Troubled Waters is a classic mystery where the past and present collide, keeping viewers engaged until the very end.

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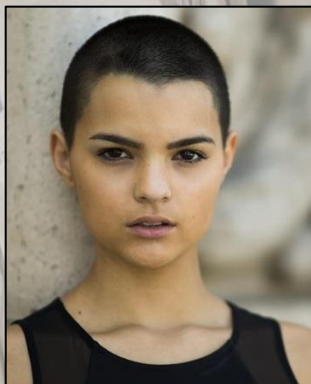
# CHARACTERS

## CHAVELLE LANGFORD (ELLE)

Chavelle Langford (Elle) is an independent young woman who works night shift, lives with her cat and has a 'normal' life. Having been raised by her mother, Elle moved to the town to learn about her estranged father, Tony Bridges who had spent several years in the local mental health asylum.

Stumbling upon several clues to her father's mysterious past, Elle pursues her curiosity and is befriended by Stanley, the long serving asylum janitor and his granddaughter Jane. Together, they uncover the conspiracy that buried her father's history but it soon becomes apparent that Stanley is not at all interested in her or her family. Before long, Elle finds herself part of a reborn scandal to steal the family fortune she never knew she had.

## ACTRESSES RECOMMENDED



Brianna Hildebrand



Genevieve Hannelius



Katlynn Simone



Thomasin McKenzie

# CHARACTERS

## STANLEY

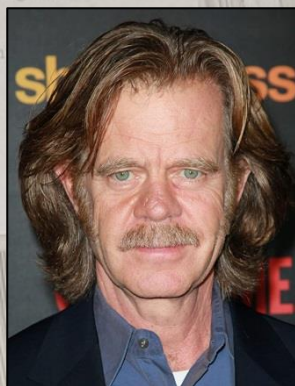
Stanley has been working as the Janitor at the asylum for decades and has seen more than his fair share of story worthy events over the years. Stanley is a long term local and is close with his granddaughter Jane who also lives and works locally.

Having witnessed the mistreatment and corruption of the asylum first hand, Stanley holds many clues to Tony Bridges mysterious past having serviced his room and befriended him years ago. After realizing Elle is Tony's daughter, Stanley is finally able to get his hands on the Bridges secret fortune only he and Jane know about. The plan: use Elle to decipher the code to Tony's old safe then dispose of the evidence!

## ACTORS RECOMMENDED



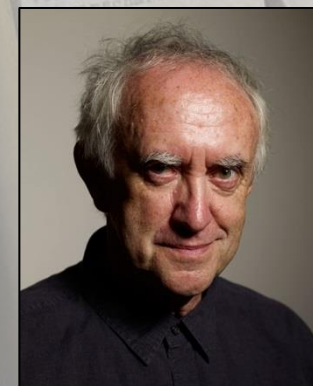
Michael Richards



William H. Macy



Tony Amendola



Jonathan Pryce

# CHARACTERS

## JANE

Jane is a busy local girl who works 2 jobs and has a healthy social life. She is Stanley's granddaughter and grew up with his stories he told of the asylum which makes befriending Elle all the easier. Although she is Elle's friend, she becomes mixed up with Stanley's plan to steal the Bridges fortune and is faced with the reality that her Grandfather is not the man she used to know.

Jane is a crucial connection between Elle and Stanley, becoming a sincere friend of Elle's through Stanley's greedy and dangerous actions which force her to choose between family loyalty and true friendship.

## ACTORS RECOMMENDED



Oona Laurence



Ella Bleu Travolta



Mina Sundwall



Joey King

# DISPOSITION

## IMPETUS

Troubled waters dives right into Elle's daily routine which involves her attempt at unlock her father's secret past. It isn't long until she meets Stanley and Jane, stimulating her to take more risks than ever before to solve the mystery. Her every day routine life is quickly neglected as Elle discovers and solves riddles cleverly placed by her father that only she can decipher.

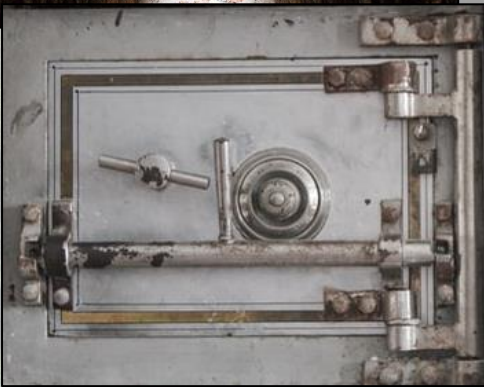
## FLIGHT

Teaming up with Jane, Elle makes progress toward solving the mystery when she becomes suspicious of Stanley's intentions and her curiosity lands her and Jane in harm's way. Attempting to prove that Stanley is up to no good truly tests their friendship and jeopardizes Elle's chance at solving the mystery of Tony Bridges.

## RESOLVE

Finally solving the mystery, Elle's faith in Stanley and Jane ultimately proves fateful as Stanley's plan to steal the Bridges fortune is laid bare. With deadly betrayal afoot and millions at stake, Elle is tested to her limits as she faces the decision to solve her father's mystery only to hand over the fortune it unlocks to a desperate and greedy man.

Troubled Waters will keep viewers engaged with the characters, anticipating Elle's success in solving the clues left for her by her father and hoping she survives to realize her family fortune.



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# FINANCIAL



## FORCAST BUDGET

**Not to be overlooked, the Mystery / Crime genre is still very popular with audiences looking for an entertaining yet challenging experience. With the right location and actors, Troubled Waters has the potential to become an exciting project able to be produced on a modest budget.**

**This production relies upon acting and location with minor stunt work and prop requirements. The three main characters have a wide talent pool to source from while suitable locations are plentiful. Special effects are at a bare minimum and wardrobe does not require extravagant expenditure.**

**Troubled Waters has a potential budget of US\$5 - \$8 million and is forecast to be a low budget production able to be shot in the US, Canada or the UK.**

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# WRITERS STATEMENT

## INSPIRATION

Created and written by Johnathan Burns, *Troubled Waters* draws on people's natural desire to solve problems and invest compassion in relatable characters. The protagonist Elle seeks only to understand her father's hidden past. Resistant to relationships, her suspicious nature proves its value as she unintentionally uncovers the truth behind those she has come to trust. The corruption and greed which saw Elle's father Tony falsely placed into an asylum has projected itself into the next generation through Stanley who believes he is entitled to the Bridges fortune more than Elle ever was. Jane was placed as a catalyst between Elle and Stanley, between unbridled greed and genuine friendship. She places trust in others which ultimately reveals Stanley and Elle's true nature leaving her manipulated by Stanley and securing her friendship with Elle. Careful attention was invested into the clues placed throughout the scenes along with the strategic unfolding of characters and plot.

**WRITER: Johnathan Burns**  
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