



### **'CHESAPEAKE SHORES'**

#### Cast Bios

ROBERT BUCKLEY (Evan Kincaid) – No stranger to playing the leading man, Robert Buckley is known **for his role as Clayton 'Clay' Evans on one of The CW's longest airing drama series "One Tree Hill,"** playing a brash young sports agent who represented star NBA basketball player Nathan Scott (played by James Lafferty). Buckley also starred recently in another hit series on The CW, the Rob Thomas developed DC comic book-based series, "iZombie" for five seasons.

A native southern-Californian, Buckley grew up in Claremont, California before moving to San Diego to attend the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). After earning a degree in Economics, he spent a year and a half working as an Economic Consultant before throwing in the towel to head off to LA to pursue a career in entertainment.

Buckley most recently starred opposite Ana Ayora, Treat Williams, Sharon Lawrence and **Jonathan Bennett in Hallmark Channel's 2020 Countdown to Christmas movie "Christmas House,"** a movie for which he served as executive producer and helped develop for the network. Prior to that, he also starred in the network's movie, "Love in Store" opposite Alexandra Breckenridge.

**Buckley's other roles include Kirby Atwood on the NBC series "Lipstick Jungle" opposite Brooke Shields and Kim Raver, as well as a recurring role on The CW comedy "Privileged," as magazine Editor in Chief, David Besser. He also played a successful playwright on ABC's "666 Park Avenue" opposite Vanessa Williams and appeared as Jaime King's love interest Peter on The CW's hit series, "Hart of Dixie."**

Other credits include "Flirting with Forty" where he starred alongside Heather Locklear playing surfer entrepreneur, Kyle Hamilton and "The Christmas Contract."

Buckley has worked as a writer and freelance producer for E! News.

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**MEGHAN ORY (Abby O'Brien-Winters)** – Meghan Ory knew she was going to be an actor since her first time on stage, at the age of five. After years of dancing, singing and acting in her hometown of Victoria, BC, Ory began professionally auditioning at age 15. Four months later, she landed a lead role on the Fox Family channel movie-of-the-week **"The Darklings,"** which led to numerous guest spots, features and movies-of-the-week. In 2012, a small role in **the pilot for ABC's "Once Upon a Time" earned Ory a regular stint as the iconic Red Riding Hood** on the series. In 2013, Ory was cast, opposite Josh Holloway, as the lead in the CBS series

"Intelligence." She has starred in the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries originals "The Memory Book" and "Debbie Macomber's Dashing Through the Snow." Ory divides her time between Los Angeles and Vancouver.

# # #

**TREAT WILLIAMS (Mick O'Brien)** – Treat Williams began his professional career as an understudy in "Grease" on Broadway. After his 1976 film debut in *Deadly Hero*, he returned to Broadway and "Grease," this time in the starring role. Spotted on stage by film director Milos Forman, he was cast in Forman's *Hair*, for which he earned a Golden Globe® Award nomination. Over the course of his career, he has appeared in over 75 films, along with a number of critically acclaimed roles on television. Some highlights from Williams's expansive career include roles in Steven Spielberg's *1941*, a Golden Globe Award®-nominated performance in Sidney Lumet's *Prince of the City*, Sergio Leone's *Once Upon a Time in America* and Danny Boyle's *127 Hours*.

Williams's many television projects include a Golden Globe® Award-nominated performance in "A Streetcar Named Desire," an Emmy® Award-nominated performance in HBO's "The Late Shift," HBO's "Confirmation," Hallmark Hall of Fame's "Front of the Class," the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries originals "Rocky Mountain Christmas" and "Beyond the Blackboard" as well as Lifetime's "The Staircase Murders." He has also appeared in such series as The CW's "Heartland," ABC's "Brothers & Sisters" and had a lead role in The WB's "Everwood," for which he earned two SAG Award nominations.

Williams's extensive stage work has continued, both on and off Broadway, including roles in "The Pirates of Penzance," "Over Here," and "Once in a Lifetime." He received Theater World Awards for his work in "Captains Courageous" and Stephen Sondheim's "Follies." His costar in the latter, Gregory Harrison, now recurs as his on-screen brother Thomas on "Chesapeake Shores."

Recently, Williams appeared in Hallmark Channel's "Christmas House," Netflix's "Christmas on the Square" with Dolly Parton and "12 Mighty Orphans" opposite Robert Duvall, Luke Wilson and Martin Sheen. Williams had lead roles on both NBC's "Chicago Fire" and "American Odyssey" as well as in a recurring role in NBC's "Blue Bloods." He recently co-starred with Jennifer Lopez and Vanessa Hudgens in STX's "Second Act" and alongside Alec Baldwin, Salma Hayek, Jim Gaffigan and Joe Manganiello in Vertical Entertainment's "Drunk Parents."

# # #

**DIANE LADD (Neil O'Brien)** – Diane Ladd, actress/writer/director/author, is a winner of over 35 international awards including The British Academy Award, Golden Globe Award®, Independent Spirit Film Award and the Cannes' Palme d'or Award. She has been nominated for three Emmy Awards® and three Academy Awards® for the films *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, *Wild at Heart* and *Rambling Rose*. She starred with Laura Dern in the latter film and made Academy Award® history as the first mother/daughter duo to earn nominations for the same film. The late Princess Diana chose this film as one of her all-time favorites and honored it with a London Royal Premier and a party in their Honor.

Ladd's upcoming film project, *Evolution of Nate Gibson*, which is based on a true story and stars Marcia Gay Hardin and James Belushi, is slated for a 2022 premiere. She recently appeared in "The Last Full Measure," opposite Sebastian Stan, Alison Sudol and Christopher Plummer.

Ladd's other recent film work includes 20th Century Fox's *Joy* from Director David O. Russell that was released Christmas Day 2015. She also recently starred in *I Dream Too Much* (Executive Producer, Richard Linklater) and *Sophie and the Rising Sun* with Margo Martindale and Julianne Nicholson. Ladd has been in over 200 films and TV shows including the "Alice" TV Series for which she won the Golden Globe®, Stephen King's "Kingdom Hospital" and co-starred in the hit TV series, "Enlightened" with her daughter Laura Dern for HBO. She also won kudos and three Best Director/Writer awards for her film, *Mrs. Munck*, in which she was the first woman to direct an ex-husband, Bruce Dern.

She has authored the books "Spiraling Through the School of Life – A Mental Physical and Spiritual Discovery," and "Find Your Miracles," which was endorsed by Marianne Williamson, Stephen King, Whoopi Goldberg, Dr. Dean Ornish and Dr. Wayne Dwyer, among others. As a writer, she was honored at the 2014 Tennessee Williams Literary Festival in New Orleans, celebrated for her newest book, "A Bad Afternoon for a Piece of Cake." The book garnered praise from critic Rex Reed, who compared her to Truman Capote, Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty and Carson McCullers as well as her cousin Tennessee Williams, stating "She has the same gift they do and you can't learn this stuff in writing class." Ladd is President of the Art and Culture Taskforce, a 501(c) 3 that promotes culture and arts in schools across America. She is the proud grandmother of ten loving grandchildren.

# # #

**BARBARA NIVEN (Megan O'Brien)** – Barbara Niven is an actor, producer and speaker. She's also a fierce advocate for human and animal rights. As a mother and grandmother, she knows there is nothing more important than saving this planet and all the beings that live on it.

During her acting career, she has appeared in more than 100 film and TV roles and 2500 TV and radio commercials. She also served three years on the National Board of Directors for the Screen Actors Guild.

For five seasons, Niven has starred opposite Treat Williams, Diane Ladd and Jesse Metcalfe in the Hallmark Channel original primetime series "Chesapeake Shores." She recently starred in the Hallmark & Movies original "USS Christmas," returned for the fourth installment of Hallmark Channel's "Christmas in Evergreen: Bells Are Ringing" in addition to Hallmark Movies & Mysteries' popular "Crossword Mysteries" franchise, appearing in all installments. Previously for the network, Niven starred with Alison Sweeney in the popular "Murder She Baked" franchise and in Hallmark Channel's original primetime series "Debbie Macomber's Cedar Cove." Her performance as Marilyn Monroe in HBO's "The Rat Pack" continues to garner praise as "one of the top three portrayals of the blonde icon on Film & TV."

Niven has also gained international acclaim as Hollywood's Top Media Trainer and Video Marketing Coach. She created her Unleash Your Star Power!™ system so she could teach people how to hone their message, overcome fear and, use video and public speaking to dominate their niche.

Niven is also a celebrity speaker and best-selling author. Business and motivational topics include *Unleash Your Star Power!*, *Be a Video Marketing Superstar*, *ACT As If, Live Your Dreams!* And *Eating Disorders and Pressures to be Perfect*.

Niven is a huge animal welfare advocate and is a National Ambassador for American Humane. She **presents for Hallmark Channel's televised "American Hero Dog Awards" each year.** She currently has three rescued dogs named Norma Jeane, Brando and Meggy, and two rescued feral cats named George and Henry (named after her father, George Henry).

**Her motto?** "Live your passion, connect to your purpose, make a difference. **And don't give up five minutes before the miracle."**

For more information visit [www.BarbaraNiven.com](http://www.BarbaraNiven.com).

# # #

LACI J MAILEY (Jess **O'Brien**) – Laci J Mailey is a Canadian born actress from Fruitvale, British Columbia. She has trained extensively in Vancouver, Los Angeles and New York in both theatre and film.

**She is best known for her role as Jess O'Brien in Hallmark's flagship series "Chesapeake Shores" where she plays the role of Jess. She has recurred on several TV series, such as TNT's "Falling Skies" alongside Will Patton and Noah Wylie, Chris Haddock's "Romeo Section," and The CW's "Supernatural." Mailey is the owner of Naked Nine Films where she has written and directed several short films as well as the upcoming feature, *Mary Jean Remembers*, in which she also stars.**

# # #

**EMILIE ULLERUP (Bree O'Brien)** – Born in Copenhagen, Denmark to a diplomatic family, Emilie Ullerup grew up all over the world. After graduating, Ullerup knew she had to pursue her ever-growing appetite for acting. She made the choice to leave her native Denmark to move to Vancouver, Canada, where she attended the Vancouver Film School.

Post film school, Ullerup managed to secure a top agent and was sent out on her first real-life audition to book at real-life job. And she did. This out-of-the-gates hot streak continued that same year **when she booked leading roles in two television shows: "jPod" and the worldwide sci-fi success, "Sanctuary." "jPod" garnered her Best Female Lead in a Dramatic Series at the Leo Awards, which celebrate excellence in film and television.**

Ullerup continued her journey and enjoyed versatility in her work bouncing between genres of **drama, horror, action and comedy. She spent three seasons on the hit show "Arctic Air" as the lovably temperamental Swedish pilot, Astrid – a role which earned her multiple nominations for Leo Awards and UBCP Awards over several seasons of the series.**

**Ullerup is best known for her role as playwright and bookstore owner Bree O'Brien in Hallmark Channel's acclaimed family drama, "Chesapeake Shores." She has recently been seen in the**

Hallmark Channel Original "Nature of Love," the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Original "Christmas Bells Are Ringing," the Netflix feature film, "True Memoirs of an International Assassin," opposite Kevin James, and *Life on the Line*, opposite John Travolta and Kate Bosworth. Her other credits include "Battlestar Galactica" (NBC), "Supernatural" (The CW) and "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" (Hallmark Movies & Mysteries).

Emilie currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and son.

# # #

**BRENDAN PENNY (Kevin O'Brien)** – An actor with an extensive list of television credits, Brendan Penny has co-starred on Hallmark Channel's family drama "Chesapeake Shores" for five seasons. His recent credits include the Hallmark Channel Original Movies "Beverly Hills Wedding," "The Secret Ingredient," "The Charm Bracelet" (for which Brendan received a 2021 Leo nomination), and he starred in the anthology of "Vineyard" movies opposite Rachael Leigh Cook. Outside of the Hallmark world, Penny recently heavily recurred on the "BH90210" remake as Jennie Garth's love interest. Prior to that, he was a series lead in all four seasons of the award-winning CTV/ABC crime drama "Motive," from the producers of "Dexter" and "The Mentalist."

A native of Ottawa, Penny moved to Vancouver after college to pursue a career in acting. He studied at the Lyric School of Acting and launched his professional career in 2003. After a string of guest star roles on shows like Showtime's "The L Word," ABC Family's "Kyle XY" and The WB's "Smallville," Penny landed his first series regular role on CTV's "Whistler," which aired in the U.S. on Nickelodeon's teen channel The N Network. Shortly after "Whistler" came to an end, in 2009, Penny landed a series regular role on The N's "The Assistants" opposite Michael B. Jordan. Additional television credits include the Reelz Channel mini-series "Ring of Fire" and guest starring roles on numerous series, including CBS's "Flashpoint," AMC's "The Killing" and The CW's "Supernatural."

# # #

**ANDREW FRANCIS (Connor O'Brien)** – Andrew Francis is a Canadian actor and voice actor living in Vancouver B.C. He has been performing since the age of six, and fell into voice work at the age of nine. Some of his voice credits include "Dinotrux" for Dreamworks, "Ninjago" for Lego, "My Little Pony" for Hasbro and "Max Steel" for Mattel. On screen, he recently starred in the Hallmark Channel original movies "Christmas She Wrote" and "Christmas in Evergreen: Letters to Santa" and appeared in the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries originals "Ruby Herring Mysteries: Her Last Breath" and "Morning Show Mysteries: Countdown to Murder."

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