



'CHESAPEAKE SHORES'

Cast Bios

JESSE METCALFE (Trace Riley) – One of the busiest actors in Hollywood, Jesse Metcalfe is clearly among its most coveted stars. Most recently, Metcalfe was seen as the lead in the action-packed thriller *Hard Kill* opposite Bruce Willis, which released globally on August 25th. Metcalfe stars and executive produces the “Martha’s Vineyard Mysteries” movie franchise for Hallmark Movies & Mysteries and also starred in Hallmark Channel’s “Christmas Under the Stars” opposite Autumn Reeser and Clark Peters in 2019.

In 2018, his presence drew audiences to two action films: the enjoyable Lionsgate thriller *Escape Plan 2: Hades* with Sylvester Stallone, and the horror flick *The Ninth Passenger*. As an actor and producer, Metcalfe currently has two other projects in the pipeline, the family drama *In Stranger Company* alongside Danny Trejo and the forthcoming New York City drama *Steps*.

Metcalfe recently reprised his role as a gritty investigative reporter turned zombie-apocalypse vigilante in *Dead Rising: Endgame*, the sequel to the 2015 cult classic *Dead Rising: Watchtower*. He previously starred in the indie film *Destined* and the critically acclaimed *God’s Not Dead 2*. In 2006, Metcalfe showcased his comedy chops as the title character in the 20th Century Fox feature *John Tucker Must Die*. The film, which stars Sophia Bush, Brittany Snow and Ashanti, follows three friends who set out to break the heart of a serial cheater by setting him up with the new girl in town. His other film roles include *Insanitarium*, *The Other End of the Line*, *The Tortured* and *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*, opposite Michael Douglas.

A ubiquitous presence on television, Metcalfe has starred (and contributed original songs) as former country star Trace Riley on the popular Hallmark Channel family drama series “Chesapeake Shores.” He has portrayed a bachelor who learns to love Christmas on the network’s original holiday movie “Christmas Next Door” and a country music sensation on its romantic drama “A Country Wedding.” Garnering fan acclaim for his role as Christopher Ewing on the TNT reboot of “Dallas,” he also starred in NBC’s limited-series “Chase” and the hit NBC soap opera “Passions,” his first television role. Metcalfe is well-remembered for his breakout role as forbidden teen lover John Rowland opposite Eva Longoria on the Golden Globe-winning ABC series “Desperate Housewives.” He earned a Teen Choice Award for Choice TV Breakout Performance-Male and shared a SAG Award for Best Television Comedy Ensemble.

Born in California and raised in Waterford, Connecticut, Metcalfe played in several basketball leagues in his youth. He studied acting at NYU at the famed Tisch School of the Arts, all the while being a music lover and an accomplished guitarist and pianist. He is a fan of classic cars, motorbikes and is an avid poker player. He is also active in several charities including North Texas Food Bank, The Go Campaign, Weingart Foundation and UNICEF.

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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.

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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."

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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."

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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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