

Mary Tuomanen
Actor -- The Jaws Project
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SHARK MOVIE

A love story about the making of Spielberg's JAWS

Written and performed by Robert DaPonte, Sam Henderson and Mary Tuomanen

Stephen Spielberg's Jaws was shot on location at Martha's Vineyard in 1974. It was a legendarily disastrous production that resulted in one of the greatest movies of all time -- an unprecedented financial success. Written and performed by celebrated Philadelphia theatre artists Robert DaPonte, Mary Tuomanen, and Sam Henderson, *SHARK MOVIE* is a wicked rude comedy, an unlikely romance, and a love song to small-town New England.

"A droll and inventive take on moviemaking... mixes fact, fantasy and some show biz speculation to make a highly enjoyable comedy." -Tim Dunleavy, DC Metro Theatre Arts

*SHARK MOVIE was developed under the title "JAWS PROJECT" in residence at Plays and Players Skinner Studio Theater. It has not yet had a world premiere.
1714 Delancy Street, Philadelphia, 19103
June 26 - July 4, 2016, July 4 - 8, 2017*

CAST:

Mary Tuomanen as Marjorie, a bartender
Robert DaPonte as Brian, a production assistant
Sam Henderson as Steven Spielberg, Scary Tow Guy, Mayor
Garbagehead, Hippie Man, film crew, the citizens of Edgartown

DETAILS:

SHARK MOVIE is a fast-paced quick change comedy set in the harried months of shooting for Spielberg's *Jaws* in Martha's Vineyard, 1974: a legendarily disastrous production that resulted in one of the most unprecedented box office successes of all time. Part homage, part comedy of errors, part love story, *SHARK MOVIE* appeals to both cinephiles and theater-lovers alike. As film crews swarm the Vineyard and islanders bristle, an unlikely romance sparks between a Production Assistant and the bartender at the Black Dog Tavern. Their connection becomes the vehicle for exploring the stark differences between invader and invaded, Hollywood and clannish New England.

Philadelphia-based actor Robert DaPonte conceived of *SHARK MOVIE* as a way to connect his love of cinema to his love of his native New England. He approached actor/playwrights of the celebrated playwright's collective Orbiter 3, Sam Henderson and Mary Tuomanen, to help create this unlikely love story. With three bodies onstage playing an island's worth of characters, these three virtuosic performers bring 1974 New England to life with heartfelt irreverence, celebrating the movie that changed American cinema forever.

PRESS:

"The show has an informal, improvisatory air and a seamless, lightning-fast pace... believable, richly detailed characters."

--Tim Dunleavy, *DCMetroArts*

<http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2016/06/29/review-45/>

"A love letter to that moment, super funny with just enough poignancy to keep the humor fresh..."

--Bonaly

<https://bonalysite.wordpress.com/2016/07/11/the-jaws-project-plays-players/>

"The ensemble's naturalistic performances and fast-paced dialogue create a very funny play, and the extremely minimal production elements and do-it-yourself approach to theatre makes the audience an intrinsic part of the show."

--Joshua Millhouse, *Phindie*

<http://phindie.com/11859-the-jaws-project-let-your-movie-prove-worthy-of-this-special-place/>

"Watching Sam Henderson work in those roles is such a pleasure. With only rudimentary props he creates a score of characters— from Steven Spielberg to Marjorie's tow trucker dad..."

--Bonaly

<https://bonalysite.wordpress.com/2017/07/13/the-jaws-project-the-it-girl-plays-plays/>

BIOS:

Mary Tuomanen (Marjorie, Performer/Creator)

Named Best Theatre Artist by Philadelphia Magazine in 2015, Mary Tuomanen is a physical theatre artist trained at the Lecoq School in Paris. She has performed with the Arden Theatre, the Riot Group, The Eugene O'Neill Playwright's Conference and People's Light and Theatre Company, among others. Her solo work has toured to the Annenberg Center, FringeArts Philadelphia, Bloomsberg Theatre Ensemble and Penn Radicals Conference at University of Pennsylvania. Her one-woman show *Hello! Sadness!* was commissioned by the Kimmel Center and premiered there in 2016. In 2014 she co-founded Orbiter 3, a producing playwright's collective that premiered her show *Peaceable Kingdom* to rave reviews this spring. Additionally, her works have been produced by InterAct Theatre (*Marcus/Emma*, 2017) and People's Light And Theatre Company (*Such Things As Vampires*, set to premiere 2018). She is a two-time finalist for the Haas Emerging Artist Award and a nominee for the Pew Fellowship. She was born and raised in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Sam Henderson (Steven Spielberg, Ensemble, Performer/Creator)

Since originating the role of Danny in Aaron Posner's *The Chosen* in 1999, Sam Henderson has been a beloved actor in the Philadelphia community. He has worked with the Arden Theatre Company, Lantern Theater Company, Theatre Exile, and the Wilma Theater, among others. In 2015 he joined Orbiter 3, Philadelphia's first producing playwright's collective, who will produce his fantasia on the marriage of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning (*The Brownings*) in December 2017. Productions of his written work include *100* (2015 FringeArts Festival) and the Renegade Company's *Damned Dirty Apes!*. Readings include *The Brownings* (PTC@Play Festival) and *HEART* (Theatre Exile's Studio X-Hibition Series). A recent finalist for the Smith Prize for Political Theatre, Sam is a member of InterAct Theatre's Core Writer's Program, and the Foundry, a lab for emerging playwrights.

Robert DaPonte (Brian, Performer/Creator)

A native of Rhode Island, Robert DaPonte has been an actor and deviser in Philadelphia theater for over 10 years. He has performed for Philadelphia Theatre Company (*Rizzo*), People's Light (*Pride and Prejudice*), The Wilma (*MacBeth*), Theatre Exile (*American Buffalo*) and EgoPo (*Spring Awakening*) just to name a few. He has created original works with The Berserker Residents (*The Giant Squid*) and Swim Pony (*The Ballad of Joe Hill*). Regionally he has performed for Hartford Children's Theater (*Treasure Island*) and Playhouse on Park (*This Is Our Youth*). He studied at The National Theater Institute in Waterford, CT. He is the conceiver of *The Jaws Project*, (the work-in-progress incarnation of *Shark Movie*) whose first performance was dedicated to his father.