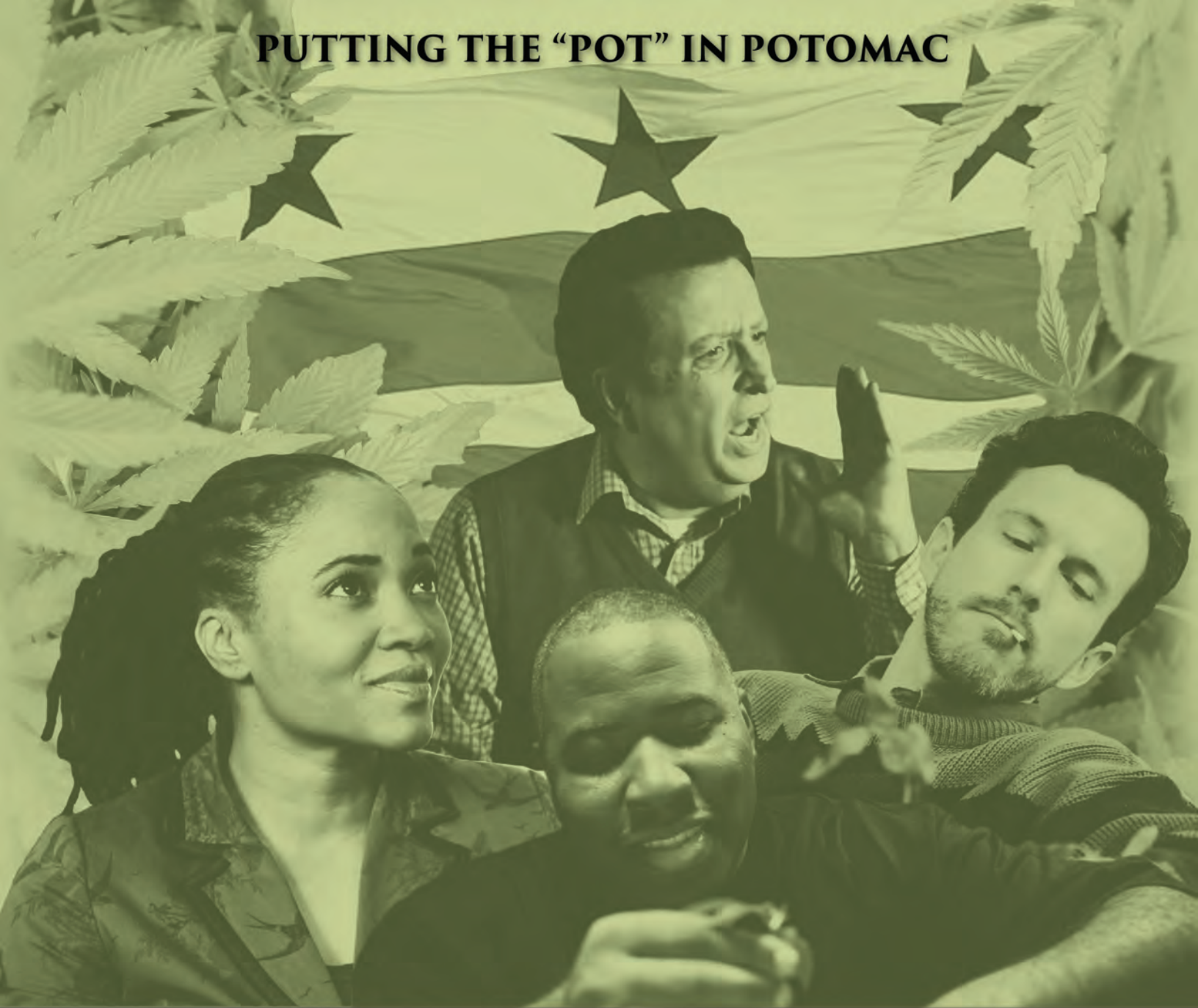


PUTTING THE "POT" IN POTOMAC



# EAST COAST grow

[WWW.EASTCOASTGROW.TV](http://WWW.EASTCOASTGROW.TV)

# EAST COAST grow

*Written and Directed by Amy Tasillo*

*Produced by Matt Doherty*

*Starring: Theo Copeland, Devin Nikki Thomas, Dave Johnson, Joseph McCaughtry, Greg Crowe*

## **RUNTIME**

30 min

## **PRESS CONTACTS**

Matt Doherty

[matt@aboveboardproductions.com](mailto:matt@aboveboardproductions.com)

202.903.1696

Amy Tasillo

[amy@aboveboardproductions.com](mailto:amy@aboveboardproductions.com)

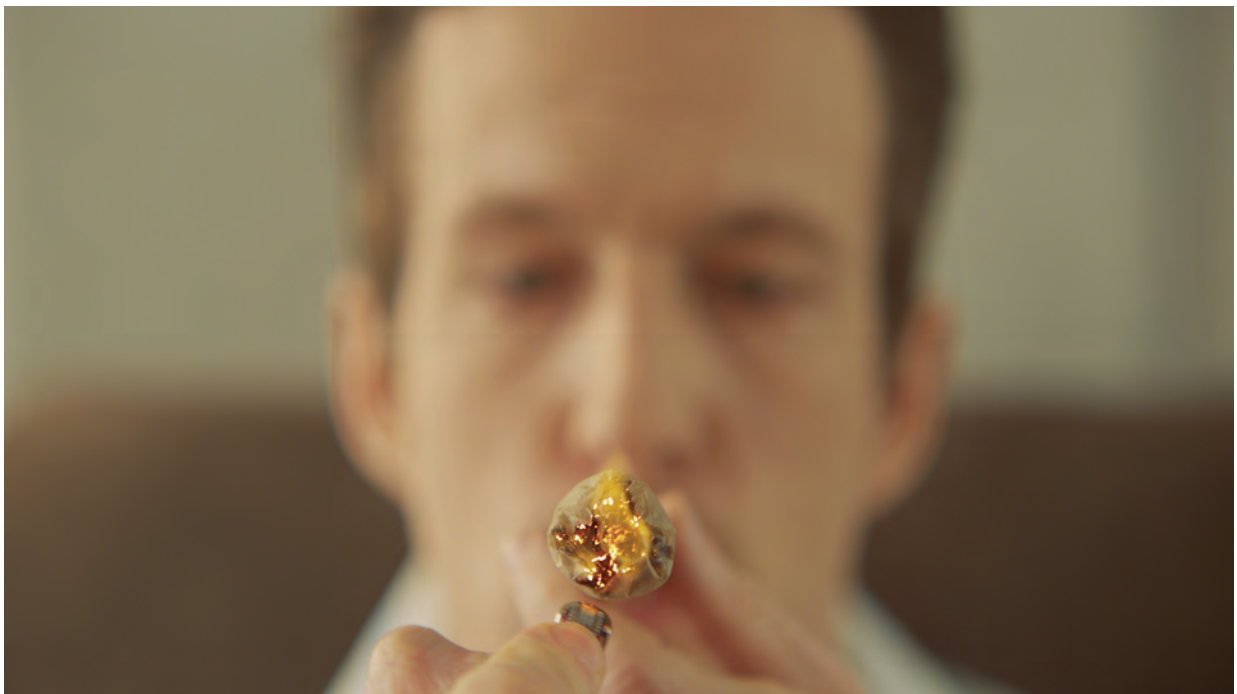
202.400.9249

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/eastcoastgrow>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/eastcoastgrow>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/eastcoastgrowtv>





## **LOGLINE**

Four idealistic friends take on business and bureaucracy to make waves in DC's budding new industry.

## **SYNOPSIS**

East Coast Grow is a dark comedy series about DC's marijuana industry. The series follows a group of industry professionals as they attempt to navigate DC's landscape of medical cultivation and broader legalization with well-intentioned enthusiasm, which often results in more trouble than they expect.

## **WHY DC?**

DC is a town where ambitious young people have long been gravitating in hopes of elevating themselves through the ranks of power. It is also a town with a unique local culture and history completely separate from politics and business interests. East Coast Grow explores these two worlds through the scope of the city's new marijuana industry, catalyzed by the medical field and broader legalization. The industry is rooted in its own political fights and entrepreneurial ambitions, the hurdles of which continue to impact how residents and patients benefit from it. And as the first East Coast city to legalize recreational marijuana, the example it sets will likely impact those to follow.

## **THE PILOT**

The pilot takes place shortly before recreational cannabis was legalized, when the medical marijuana industry was newly established but struggling, and many people working on the margins were positioning themselves to benefit from the new law.



# Meet the Cast



## THEO COPELAND AS MIKE

**Mike** has been working in the illegal marijuana trade for over a decade, and struggles with his criminal past as he tries to build a legitimate business after the implementation of medical cultivation and passage of Initiative 71 in the District.

**Theo Copeland** has starred in numerous feature, student, and independent films and pilots. He worked with the Subjective Theatre Company for three years writing and acting in original theater in NYC. He has also written and produced several online sketches. Besides *East Coast Grow*, he is currently working on a new horror short and has two films premiering in the spring of 2016. Learn more at [Theocopeland.com](http://Theocopeland.com)



## DEVIN NIKKI THOMAS AS TIA

**Tia** left her job in corporate communications to become the manager at a marijuana cultivation center after it was legalized for medical use. A longtime proponent for justice in marijuana policy, Tia has an older brother who is incarcerated for marijuana trafficking.

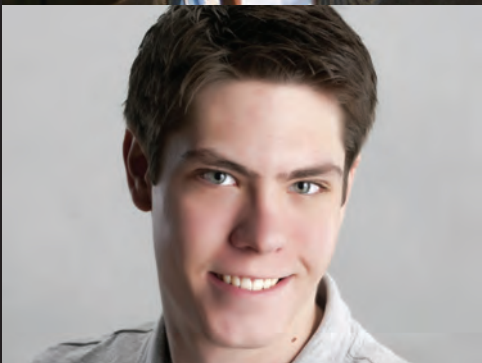
Washington DC Native **Devin Nikki Thomas** is a versatile Actress, Writer and Producer. Her recent credits include "Dr. Anne Rice" in Unitivity Productions, LLC's short film *Dark Therapy* and "Tamela Dennis" in Issa Rae's Color Creative *Black Actress the Web Series*. Devin has trained at the Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory, The Catholic University Theatre Education Program, the Theatre Lab School for Dramatic Arts and the Upright Citizens Brigade.



## DAVID JOHNSON AS DARRIN

**Darrin** grew up in a big family in southeast DC and finds his true calling when Mike gets him a job at the cultivation center Tia manages. Pacifistic and fun-loving, he cares deeply about his community and hopes the changing marijuana policies will benefit it.

**David C. Johnson** was born in Washington DC. After attending Howard University and interning at Cue Recording Studios in Falls Church, VA, David released 2 mixtapes and one full studio album, building a respectable following among the underground DMV music scene. In 2012 David wrote and produced a hip hop driven jingle for Pizza Hut and was featured in their Super Bowl ad for that year. The following year he did some background/extra work on Netflix award-winning series *House Of Cards*.



## JOSEPH MCCAUGHTRY AS CODY

**Cody** is the cultivation center's newest employee. Eager to learn and full of the wide-eyed idealism of youth, his naivete and lack of life experience often get him into trouble as he navigates a world completely outside of his realm.

**Joseph (Joe) McCaughtry** made his acting debut in the movie *Ping Pong Summer* in 2012. He was born in Ohio, but spent his teenage years in Southern Maryland. Joe began acting professionally on stage with the Port Tobacco Players, a local playhouse in La Plata, Maryland. Since then he has also made appearances in *VEEP* and *Captain America*.



## GREG CROWE AS ALDO

**Aldo** is the owner of one of DC's leading dispensaries. A natural entrepreneur, he is aggressive in his efforts to help DC's medical program expand, and is often at the forefront of lobbying efforts to improve it.

**Greg Crowe** discovered in his forties that he wanted to be an actor when he grew up. Since then, he has performed in numerous 48-Hour Film Projects, the most recent of which (Baltimore 2015) he won an award for Best Actor. He has also been in many independent films and has recently made appearances in such TV shows as *VEEP* and *Broad City*.



# Meet the Creators



## WRITER/DIRECTOR AMY TASILLO

**Amy Tasillo** has been working in the film and media industries for over seven years. She has worked on various short films, documentaries, and educational media projects as a producer, director, writer and editor. She has also worked as a media educator for various non-profits, teaching filmmaking skills and leading community media projects for youth. She has a B.A. in Media Production from Emerson College.



## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MATT DOHERTY

**Matt Doherty** has been working in the cannabis industry for over ten years. He has helped lead canvassing efforts for marijuana advocacy groups, founded hydroponic retail stores, and worked as a consultant for medical marijuana cultivation centers. As East Coast Grow's Executive Producer, he looks forward to bringing his experiences to the screen.

## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

The idea for "East Coast Grow" came to me after years of observing people who work in the cannabis industry, asking lots of questions, and noticing a major disconnect between media portrayal of the industry and what was actually going on. I wanted to create a new kind of stoner comedy, one that didn't dismiss the characters as stupid or silly, and one that wasn't limited to those operating on the fringe. I wanted to show what happens when an underground industry suddenly becomes legitimized and potentially very profitable. What are the challenges faced in developing that industry? And most importantly, who gets to benefit from it and who doesn't?

One might think there would be a bigger appeal in creating a show about Colorado or Washington State, both of which have industries that are better developed and regulated than DC. But as a federal city trying to develop policies that are federally illegal, DC faces unique challenges that resonate beyond the District and reflect the dialogue that is now happening on a national level.

Whether addressing Congress's dysfunctional efforts to stymie DC's new marijuana policies, or the confusion entrepreneurs feel when operating within the gray area of the law, my goal is that this series will bring a human element to a largely political topic. Ultimately, each of the characters is trying to make the best of a system that is severely limited and deeply flawed. Naturally, they make mistakes, push boundaries too far, and struggle to recover. This trial-and-error approach is largely where the comedic element of the show comes from.

When exploring this topic, one of the most significant things to note is that prior to recreational legalization, DC had the highest rate of marijuana arrests per capita of any major U.S. city. Like many other cities, these arrests disproportionately targeted people of color. There is still a major disconnect when addressing who gets a seat at the table in this new industry, and opportunities are often denied to those who were previously marginalized by the demonization of marijuana. In much of the media buzz that had been created around the cannabis industry, this is a topic that has been repeatedly overlooked. One of my priorities with "East Coast Grow" is to make it a central part of the characters' experiences.

It has been tremendously encouraging to see the outpouring of support for this show. People working within the industry or who are interested in the topic, along with people just looking for something entertaining to watch--both from DC and throughout the country (and even a few outside the U.S.)--have expressed their interest and excitement for this show. It's heartening to see this story resonate with so many people, and for that I am extremely grateful.

--Amy Tasillo

# CREDITS

Written and Directed by **AMY TASILLO**

Excutive Producer: **MATT DOHERTY**

Cinematopgraphers: **DIMITRI LUEDEMANN, ERIK RASMUSSEN, LILY FENG**

Assistant Director: **ANDREA FREEMAN**

## CAST

Mike	<b>THEO COPELAND</b>
Tia	<b>DEVIN NIKKI THOMAS</b>
Darrin	<b>DAVE JOHNSON</b>
Cody	<b>JOSEPH McCAUGHTRY</b>
Aldo	<b>GREG CROWE</b>
Lisa	<b>ANTOINETTE FISHER-GREENE</b>
Brenda	<b>JANISE WHELAN</b>
Tia's Mom	<b>SHEBA</b>
Elijah	<b>KEN STANCIL</b>
Jason	<b>BRIAN JONES</b>
Quality Botanicals Employee	<b>ANDREW VONA</b>
Nursing Home Residents	<b>GRANT BAGLEY</b>
	<b>PETER COOPER</b>
	<b>JERRY GIDEON</b>
	<b>ANNE GLENN</b>
	<b>ANNIE GRAY</b>
	<b>TONY HACSI</b>
	<b>LIAM HUGHES</b>
	<b>ALISA JONES</b>
	<b>MARSHA REHNS</b>
	<b>BETTY SHEPHERD</b>
Kidnappers	<b>STEVE JUDKINS</b>
	<b>GUS LANGLEY</b>
	<b>JOHN MOLINARO</b>
Girls in Bar	<b>SENDY SOTO PAZ</b>
	<b>STEPHANIE TOMIKO</b>
Music Teacher	<b>AMBER WALSON</b>
Woman at Door	<b>YOSHIKO "COOKIE" JOHNSON</b>

Music Supervisors: **STEPHEN BAKER, AMBER WALSON**

Make-up Artist: **SARA RITMILLER**

Script Supervisor: **DANIELLE CLARKE**

Production Assistants: **SARA SMOKER, REGINA WILSON**

Technical Assistant: **JAY HOGBEN**

Location Sound: **TOM CRACA, BRIAN GARFIELD, CHRIS PRESTON, JOE SANCHEZ**

Editor: **AMY TASILLO**

Visual Effects: **ERIK RASMUSSEN**

Post Production Sound Services by **STUDIO UNKNOWN, LLC**

Dialogue Editors: **KEVIN HILL, RICH BUSSEY**

Supervising Sound Effects Editor: **MATT DAVIES, MPSE**

Sound Effects Editor: **RICH BUSSEY**

Foley Artist: **MATT DAVIES, MPSE**

Foley Recordist: **RICH BUSSEY**

Re-Recording Mixer: **KEVIN HILL, CAS**

Audio Post Prod. Coordinator: **JAIME HERRIGAN**

## SPECIAL THANKS

ALEX KRAMER	THE LUCKY SO-&-SO'S
AMSTERDAM FALAFELSHOP	MATT SZYMANSKI
CAROLINE PHILLIPS	MEISTER FOGDEN
COUNCILMAN DAVID GROSSO	MESS HALL
THE DEW DROP INN	MGM ROAST BEEF
DOUG SUNDIN	NIPTON TRADING POST
EDGEWOOD ARTS CENTER	SHERRY COYE
ERIC MAAG	TIFFANE MAY
JOSEPHINE BUTLER PARKS CENTER	VIC HARRIS

### **"East Coast Grow" Theme Song**

Written by Stephen Baker, Ian Taronji, Ardamus Thompson, and Amber Walson  
Performed by Stephen Baker (bass), John Heinze (drums), Ian Taronji (guitar),  
Ardamus Thompson (vocals), and Amber Walson (flute)

### **"Hi Mike" Theme**

Composed by Stephen Baker and arranged for clarinet by Amber Walson  
Performed by Stephen Baker (bass, guitar, keys) and Amber Walson (flute, clarinet)

All original music mixed and mastered by Stephen Baker

Original music produced by Stephen Baker

## ADDITIONAL MUSIC

### **"Live Your Life"**

Written by A. Thompson (Devils Kissing Angels/ASCAP)  
and C. Walker (Pho13Myuzik/SESAC).  
Prod. by Tom Delay Beats  
Recorded, mixed, and mastered by K-Murdock for  
Neosonic Productions in Germantown, MD and Washington, DC  
(c) 2014. Delegation Music.

### **"Ghost"**

Performed by K CAP

### **"Sub Patty"**

Written, performed, produced, mixed and mastered by  
Stephen Baker

### **"Heroes & Villains"**

Written and composed by Stephane Detchou  
Keyboard solo written by Ryan Sarafolean  
Guitar solo written by Ray Lamb  
Saxophone solo written by Ray Lamb  
Performed by AZTEC SUN  
Recorded, engineered and mixed by  
Matt Haygood at 7DL Studios

### **"Suspicious Love"**

Performed by Nappy Riddem

### **"80 Days"**

Written by Joseph "RxOriginals" Duckett,  
Alexandre Jeanty, and Drive TFC  
Performed by Drive TFC  
Produced by Drive TFC  
Recorded at Mobtown Studios  
Mixed and mastered by Paul Mercer

### **"Stolen"**

Written by Kate Stanley  
Performed by Newt Junior  
Produced and mixed by David Ray  
Mastered by Ken Navarro

### **"The Struggle"**

Written and composed by Stephane Detchou  
Saxophone solo written by Ryan Schleeter  
Performed by AZTEC SUN  
Recorded, engineered and mixed by  
Matt Haygood at 7DL Studios





ABOVEBOARD  
PRODUCTIONS