



Jayson Warner Smith

Press Kit



"I've had the pleasure of working on two projects with Jayson and, TV/Film Gods willing, they certainly won't be the last. Jayson is a consummate professional and a powerhouse of an artist. Someone who breathes complex humanity into all his characters; villains, heroes, and all those in between."



Micahel D. Fuller, Showrunner/Writer
Rectify (SundanceTV)
Murdaugh: Murder in the Family (Hulu)

“That’s just the power of Jayson’s acting.”

Scott Gimple

The Walking Dead (AMC)



“Jayson is a singularly talented actor. He makes you believe he is the person he’s playing. He can modulate as necessary and knows how to entertain without breaking the world of the story. I had a great time working with him and hope to do so again soon.”

Micahel Uppendahl, Director

Candy (Hulu)





“There are many times in our industry that we refer to someone having “that spark.” I worked with Jayson on a film where he had roughly three lines, and I knew then that he was something special. Not just a character actor but a real artist with presence and talent. It's been a joy to watch his career grow.”

Craig Brewer, Director

Song Sung Blue (Focus Features)

Footloose (2011) (Paramount)

Fight Night (Peacock)



"I directed Jayson for two years on my show. He was fearless."

Raymond McKinnon, Director/Writer/Showrunner
Rectify (SundanceTV)

"Jayson is great to work with - his work has depth and nuance and he keeps it real."

Jim McKay, Director
Tulsa King (Paramount)
Rectify (SundanceTV)





“Jayson is a gifted actor and a true collaborator. He brings depth and authenticity to his characters while remaining flexible and easy to work with. There's a reason we continue to cast him; he elevates our work.”

Ruckus & Lane Skye, Writers & Directors
The Devil to Pay (Netflix)

“It is quite rare to find an actor who combines such natural talent with his overflowing spirit of collaboration. Jayson is a thoughtful performer, bringing depth, authenticity and an effortless sense of humanity. I truly enjoyed working with him and look forward to doing it again.”

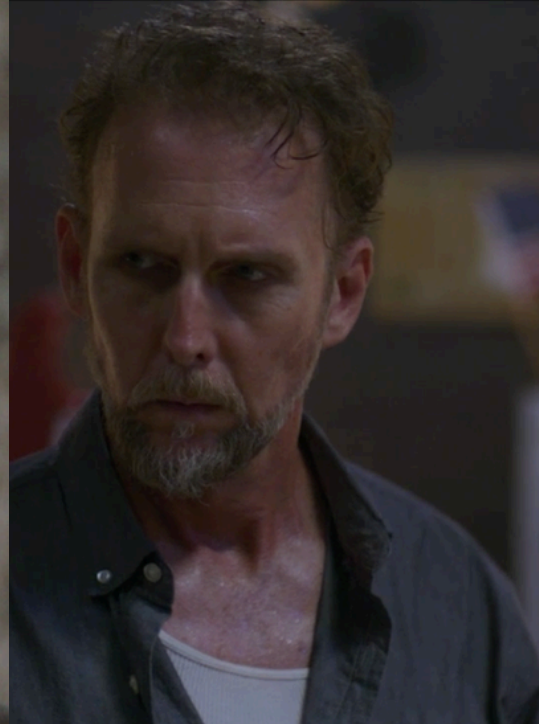
Takashi Doscher, Director
Only (Netflix)

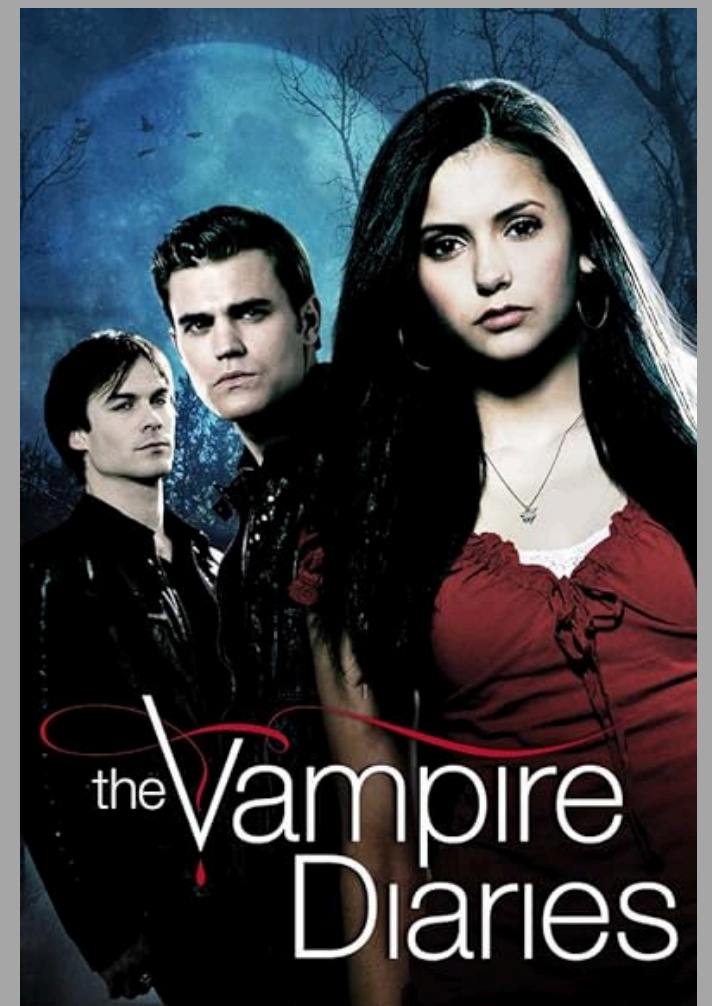
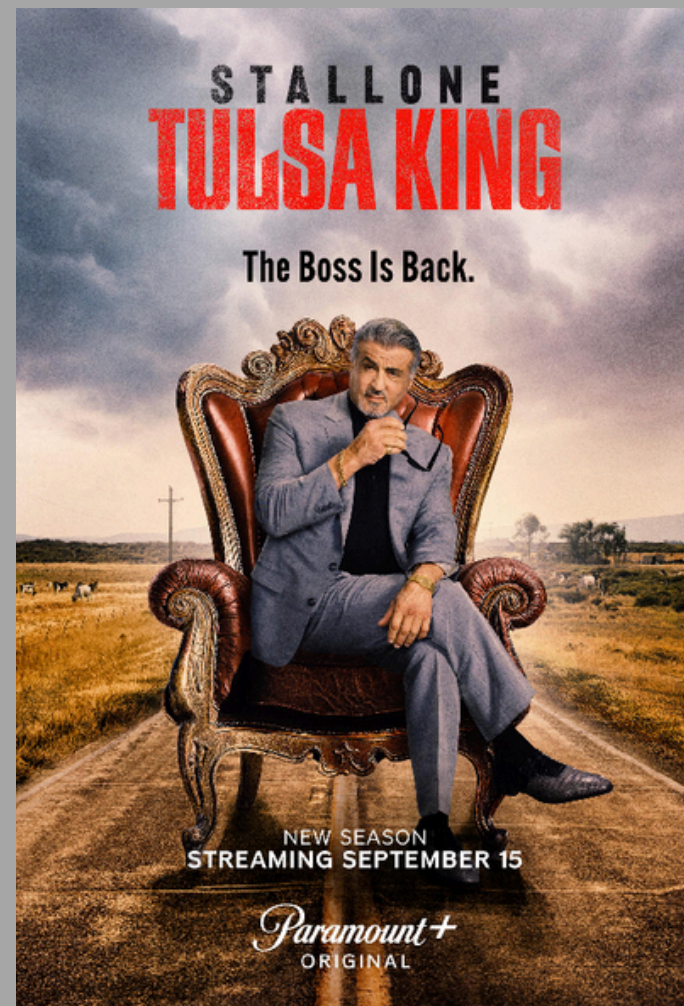
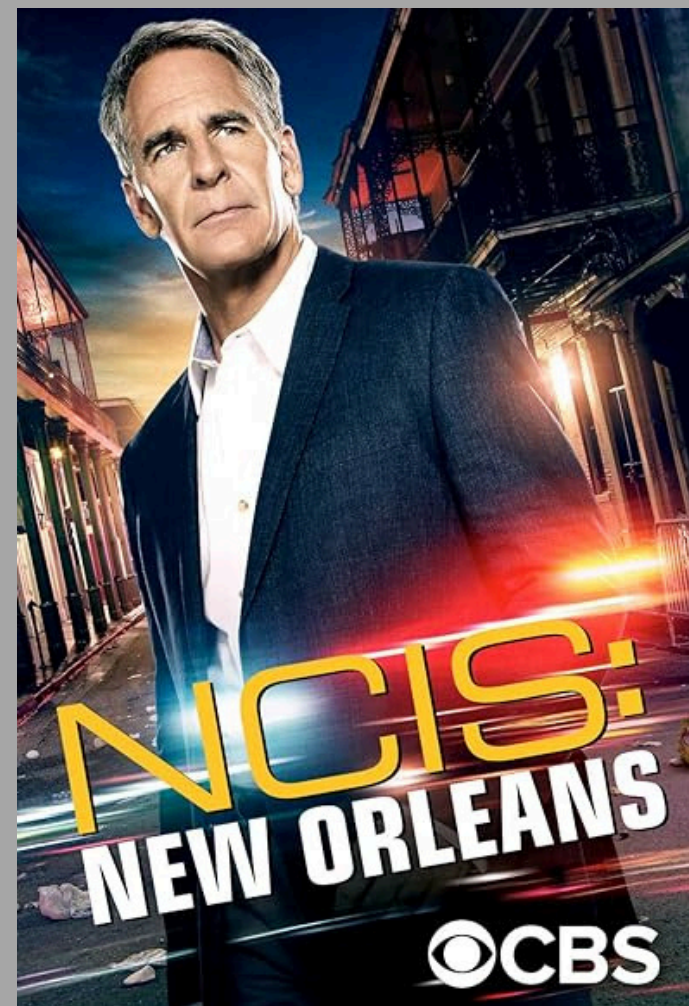
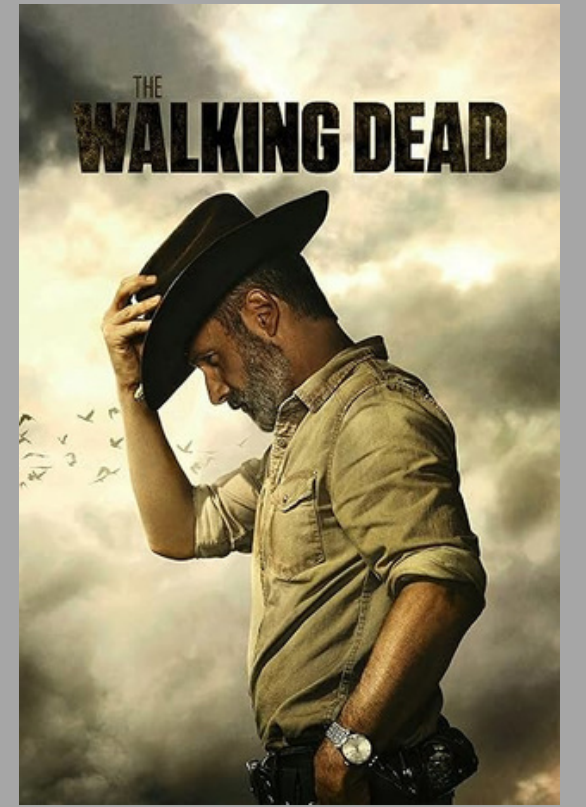
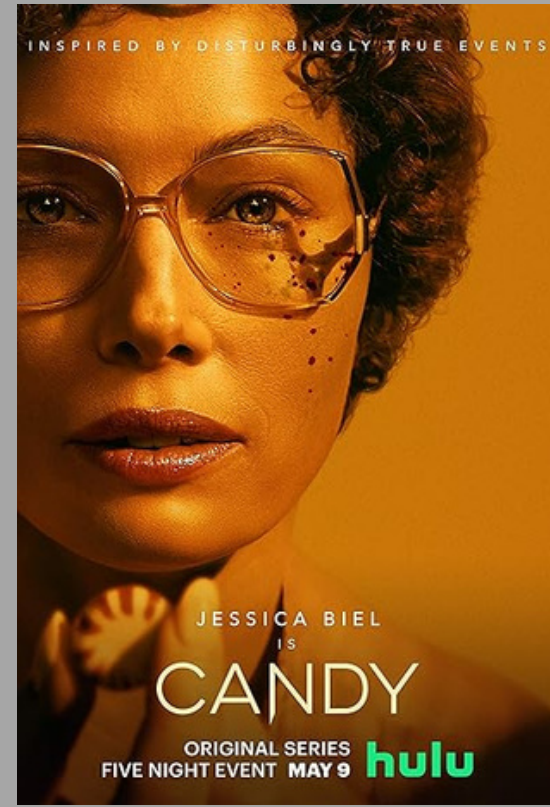
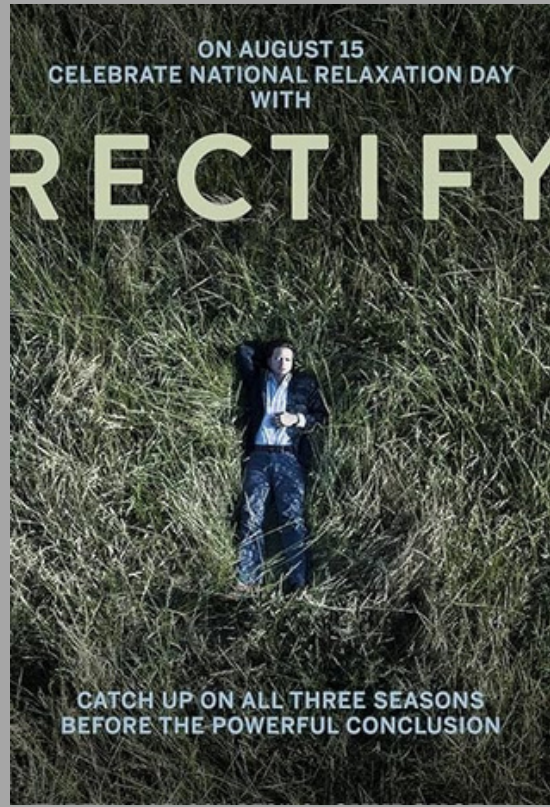




“I cast Jayson as one of the leads in my feature *American Deadbolt*, and his command of the craft is evident in every frame. In a role demanding nuance, depth, and emotional complexity, Jayson delivered a performance layered with authenticity and precision. He is mesmerizing—effortlessly balancing humor, menace, intelligence, and vulnerability in a way that never feels forced or contrived.”

Bryan Redding, Writer & Director
American Deadbolt (Prime & Apple)





Jayson Warner Smith

IMDbPro

Vimeo/Reels

Actor's Access

Film (partial list)

<u>Chipper</u>	Star & EP	
Song Sung Blue	Supporting Lead	opp. Hugh Jackman
Heartland	Supporting Lead	opp. Jessica Chastain
<u>Where the Crawdads Sing</u>	Supporting Lead	opp. David Strathairn
<u>American Made</u>	Supporting Lead	opp. Tom Cruise
<u>The Birth of a Nation</u>	Supporting Lead	opp. Armie Hammer
<u>Christine</u>	Supporting Lead	opp. J. Smith Cameron
99 Homes	Supporting Lead	opp. Michael Shannon
<u>Emancipation</u>	Supporting Lead	opp. Will Smith
Mississippi Grind	Supporting	opp. Ryan Reynolds
The Book of Love	Supporting Lead	opp. Maisie Williams
<u>Only</u>	Lead	opp. Leslie Odom jr.
You're Killing Me	Lead	opp. Dermot Mulroney
<u>The Devil to Pay</u>	Lead	opp. Danielle Deadwyler
St. Agatha	Supporting Lead	
Thank you for Your Service	Supporting	opp. Miles Teller
<u>I Saw the Light</u>	Supporting	opp. Tom Hiddleston
Anchorman 2	Supporting	
<u>42</u>	Supporting	opp. Chadwick Boseman
Footloose (2011)	Supporting	opp. Ray McKinnon

Television (partial list)

Salvage (pilot)	Series Regular	opp. Will Patton
<u>Murdaugh Murders</u>	Recurring Guest Star	opp. Pat. Arquette, Jason Clarke
The Good Daughter	Recurring Guest Star	opp. Rose Byrne, Brendan Gleeson
<u>Tulsa King</u>	Recurring Guest Star	opp. Sylvester Stallone/Robert Patrick
<u>Fight Night</u>	Recurring Guest Star	opp. Don Cheadle
<u>Candy</u>	Recurring Guest Star	opp. Jessica Biel & Justin Timberlake
<u>The Walking Dead</u>	Recurring Guest Star	opp. Lenny James
<u>Rectify</u>	Recurring Guest Star	opp. Aden Young
<u>Queen America</u>	Recurring Guest Star	opp. Catherine Zeta-Jones
Outer Banks	Recurring Guest Star	
<u>One Mississippi</u>	Guest Star	opp. Tig Notaro
<u>NCIS:New Orleans</u>	Guest Star	
<u>The Vampire Diaries</u>	Recurring	
<u>Sleepy Hollow</u>	Co-Star	

Shaun MacLean
Craig Brewer
Shana Feste
Olivia Newman
Doug Liman
Nate Parker
Antonio Campos
Ramin Bahrani
Antoine Fuqua
Ryan Fleck/Anna Boden
Bill Purple
Takashi Doscher
J. Lauder & B. Hanna
Lane & Ruckus Skye
Darren Lynn Bousman
Jason Hall
Marc Abraham
Adam McKay
Brian Helgeland
Craig Brewer

Uta Brieswitz
Michael D. Fuller
Steph Green
Jim McKay
Craig Brewer
Michael Uppendahl
Greg Nicotero
Ray McKinnon
Alethea Jones
Valerie Weiss
Nicole Holofcenor
Tessa Blake
Multiple
Paul Edwards

Theatre

<u>Our Town/Laramie Project</u>	Ensemble	Theatrical Outfit (ATL)
Blackbird	Ray	Right On Productionis (ATL)
Glengarry Glenn Ross	Roma	Pinch 'N' Ouch Theatre (ATL)
Tigers Be Still	Joseph	Aurora Theatre (ATL)
Speed the Plow	Gould	Pinch 'N' Ouch Theatre (ATL)
Body Awareness	Frank	Pinch 'N' Ouch Theatre (ATL)
1940's Radio Hour	Johnny Cantone	Theatre in the Square (ATL)
The Three Sisters	Vershinin	Synchronicity Performance Group (ATL)
Closer	Larry	Rogue Planet (ATL)
The Illusion	Matamore	Actor's Express (ATL)
Violet	Ensemble	Actor's Express (ATL)
Game of Love and Chance	U.S. Three roles	Alliance Theatre (ATL)
The Weir	Jack	Theatre Gael (ATL)
Six Characters ...	Stage Manager	Synchronicity Performance Group (ATL)
Miss Firecracker Contest	Delmount	Aurora Theatre (ATL)
The Tempest	Sebastian	Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern
Ice Glenn	Peter Woodburn	Essential Theatre (ATL)
Working	Ensemble	Neighborhood Playhouse (ATL)
Cactus Flower	Igor	Dunwoody Stagedoor Players (ATL)
1776	Richard Henry Lee	Onstage Atlanta
Chekhov in Yalta	Stanislavski	Onstage Atlanta
Equus	Nugget	Onstage Atlanta
Jesus Christ Superstar	Ensemble	Onstage Atlanta
The Elephant Man	Ensemble	GSU Players
West Side Story	Action	GSU Players
The Boyfriend	Bobby	GSU Players
Runaways	Lazar	GSU Players
The American Dream	The Young Man	GSU Players
A Streetcar Named Desire	Stanley	Jacksonville State Univ.
Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolff	Nick	Anniston Community Theatre
The Music Man	Charlie Callas	Jacksonville State Univ.

Jayson Warner Smith: From smooth and subtle to edgy and evil

POSTED MARCH 30, 2015 BY DAVID SOMERSET FILED UNDER OPINION

He may have a showreel that stretches back to 1991 and a short film entitled *Last Breeze of Summer*, but Jayson Warner Smith's career really hit a high in 2013.

Thanks to a recurring role in *Rectify*, Smith was able to etch his name into the TV audience's brains and continue this momentum onto the silver screen.

Today, with his stock seemingly at an all-time high and his time in *Rectify* at an end, the natural question to ask is what is the next logical step for JWS? We already know he's appeared in [Mississippi Grind](#) in 2015, but where else can we expect to see the man from Atlanta in the coming months?



Full Article

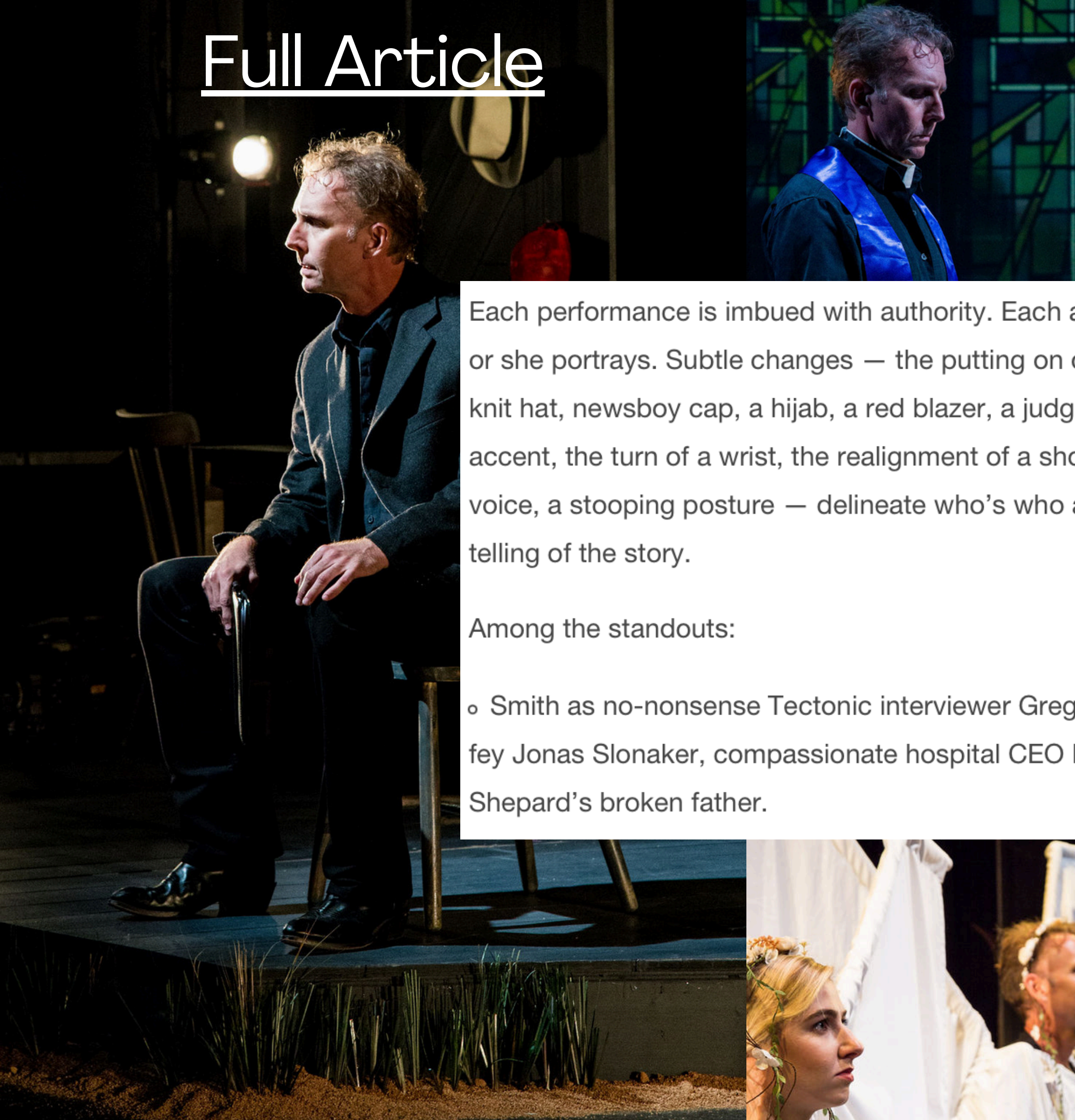
Review: “The Laramie Project” a profound moment for Atlanta theater, Theatrical Outfit

KATHY JANICH × SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

Each performance is imbued with authority. Each actor owns every person he or she portrays. Subtle changes — the putting on or taking off of a hunting cap, knit hat, newsboy cap, a hijab, a red blazer, a judge’s robe or priest’s collar; an accent, the turn of a wrist, the realignment of a shoulder, the deepening of a voice, a stooping posture — delineate who’s who and where we are in the telling of the story.

Among the standouts:

- Smith as no-nonsense Tectonic interviewer Greg Pierotti, Laramie’s gay and fey Jonas Slonaker, compassionate hospital CEO Rulon Stacey and Matt Shepard’s broken father.



“Working with Jayson is always such a pleasure. His keen intellect and years of experience aligns with an unassailable honesty to deliver consistently powerful and relatable performances. I especially enjoy rehearsals with Jayson. He can take virtually any idea, good or not-so-good, and somehow make it work. There is a real sense of curiosity and bravery in his work that serves both the material and the process.”

David Crowe, director
Our Town (Theatrical Outfit)



“As a director (for theatre) who's worked with Jayson, I find him to be incredibly prepared, passionate, flexible, and team-oriented. He played multiple roles in my Atlanta production of The Laramie Project, and each character was nuanced, grounded, utterly specific, and incredibly moving. As a casting director for on-camera projects, I can always count on Jayson to turn in creatively crafted tapes with bold but believable choices that never feel like acting. He excels at realism and is, I find, immensely watchable and wonderful.”

Clifton Guterman, CSA
The Laramie Project (Theatrical Outfit)



Chipper



A multi-award winning short film

Omeleto

20,368 views

1.1K | 17

[Watch the film](#)



Executive producer and star



[Full Article](#)

MOTORCYCLE.COM

Learning To Fly: Cross-country on a Triumph Bonneville + Video

Kevin Duke

Watch: Learning to Fly

Smith, who you might've seen in 2012's *Coma*, 2011's *Footloose* or the AMC/Sundance series *Rectify*, does a stellar job at capturing the spirit of a road journey on two wheels. His work becomes even more admirable when you realize that it was shot almost entirely on an iPhone 5s.

"I figured I could only watch it for a minute before getting bored and switching-off, but that wasn't the case," says Editorial Director Sean Alexander about the meandering 40-minute film. "Its rhythm nicely echoes my own recollections of cross-country road trips. It's great escapism for those of us stuck behind a keyboard."



Biography

Jayson has the distinction of having two films in both the 2015 and the 2016 Sundance Independent Film Festivals. In 2016 with ***Christine*** and ***The Birth of a Nation*** which won both the Audience Award and the Grand Jury Prize; and also in 2015 with ***99 Homes*** and ***Mississippi Grind***. Jayson also has had the honor of acting in two films that premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. In 2016 with ***The Book of Love*** and again in 2019 with ***Only***. He also is in ***The Devil to Pay*** (known as *Reckoning* at the time) featuring Danielle Deadwyler (*Till*) that had its world premiere at the Atlanta Film Festival in 2019 where the film won Best Georgia Film.

An Atlanta, GA native he is best known for his recurring roles of Wendall Jelks on SundanceTV's ***Rectify*** and Gavin on AMC's ***The Walking Dead***. Jayson has been seen in, to name a few, ***American Made*** with Tom Cruise, ***Christine*** with Rebecca Hall, Tracy Letts and J. Smith Cameron, ***Where the Crawdads Sing***, and Hulu's recent mini-series ***Candy***. In 2023 he appeared in the films ***Emancipation*** directed by Antoine Fuqua and ***You're Killing Me*** featuring Dermot Mulroney and the late great Anne Heche. Major guest star roles opposite Don Cheadle in NBC Universal's ***Fight Night: The Million Dollar Heist*** and ***The Good Daughter*** on Peacock, ***Tulsa King*** (S3) on Paramount, ***Murdaugh: Death in the Family*** on Hulu.

Now Jayson is stepping into producing. Playing the starring role and Exec. Producing, the short film ***Chipper***. penned by Ruckus & Lane Skye (*The Devil to Pay, Becky, Rattle the Cage*), he stars as Reese, a prodigal son brought home by a father with a family secret and a cry for help. *Chipper* has screened at over thirty festivals as of May 2024 having won awards at several and now has a home on Omeleto on YouTube.

Continued 

Further details:

Jayson has also had roles on Netflix's ***Outer Banks***, Amazon's ***One Mississippi***, CBS' ***NCIS:New Orleans***, FOX's ***Sleepy Hollow***, CW's ***The Vampire Diaries*** and in the films ***Where the Crawdads Sing, American Made, Christine, The Birth of a Nation, The Book of Love, 99 Homes and Mississippi Grind***, Jayson has been busy working with wonderful film makers, directors and show-runners such as **Michael D. Fuller, Olivia Newman, Doug Liman, Craig Brewer, Carl Seaton, Nate Parker, Antonio Campos, Ramin Bahrani, Ray McKinnon, Brian Helgeland, Ryan Fleck** and **Anna Boden**.

Other work includes ***I Saw the Light, Anchorman II, 42, Being Mary Jane, Footloose (2011), Coma*** and other projects and plays. Jayson has shared set time with some Hollywood heavyweights such as **Tom Cruise, Don Cheadle, Leslie Odom jr., Frieda Pinto, Armie Hammer, Maisie Williams, Michael Shannon, Andrew Garfield, Ryan Reynolds, Ben Mendelsohn, Tig Notaro, Laura Dern, James Woods, Lauren Ambrose, Cuba Gooding Jr., Demi Moore,** and **David Duchovny**.

Jayson is repped by The Alexander White Agency. Atlanta & Los Angeles.

Management by Tamer Ahsan at Zero Gravity Management.

"... But if you can say you worked with this incredibly talented and professional actor who was also an absolute gem of a human with a heart of a lion and a soul of a poet, then you can say you worked with Jayson Warner Smith."

Bill Purple - Director/Writer/Producer

The Book of Love



"Jayson is a Swiss Army Knife when you are lost in the woods, a scene saver, a character actor with a leading man's gravitas and just a lovely, lovely person to boot. He is one of those actors that you want to see in everything and can do anything and is interesting every time. Jessica (Biel) and I had admired his previous work and we were so excited to cast him in our first film "The Book Of Love" and again in our Hulu series "Candy". We are already excited about what we'll do next with him!"

Michelle Purple - Producer - Iron Ocean Productions

The Book of Love

Candy (Hulu)





"If I could do nothing but theater for the rest of my life and make the kind of money I make in television, I'd do only theater," says Atlanta stage/film actor Jayson Warner Smith. His credits include "Our Town" and "The Laramie Project" at Theatrical Outfit, AMC's "The Walking Dead" and Sundance TV's "Rectify."

20 by 2020: "Every once in awhile, they let me act," says versatile Jayson Warner Smith

KATHY JANICH × NOVEMBER 1, 2019

Our 20 by 2020 series will profile 20 theater artists, administrators and innovators by the end of the year. All are shaking up the city's stages. This is no. 15. To see the others, search "20 by 2020" from the homepage.

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These days, Atlanta-based stage and film actor Jayson Warner Smith — seen recently in Theatrical Outfit's *Our Town* / *Laramie Project* repertory — jokingly considers himself bicoastal. He spends half the week in Athens, where his wife owns a home, and half in a Kirkwood condo. Wife Lisa Strzelecki prefers the Classic City. Kirkwood keeps Smith close to his work at [Pinch 'N' Ouch Theatre](#), where he teaches acting fundamentals with a "serious emphasis" on the Strasberg method (in which actors strive for realism by using their emotional memories).

You may recognize Smith as despicable death-row inmate Wendall Jelks from the Sundance TV series *Rectify* (2013–14) or as bad guy Gavin on AMC's *The Walking Dead* (2016–18). That two-season stint ended when he was stabbed in the neck with a stick from behind by an 11-year-old boy. "It was a wonderful death," Smith says. "Half the episode was devoted to my last day on Earth."

The boy born at the corner of Highland Avenue and Boulevard, when Atlanta Medical Center was called Georgia Baptist Hospital, grew up as a theater kid in Smyrna, doing shows with the South Cobb Arts Alliance, Cobb Children's Theatre and Cobb Teen Theatre. His middle name — Warner — comes from those years, added when one of the actors' unions told him he couldn't use simply "Jayson Warner" because there were too many others. The name honors Joy Warner, a neighbor and an artistic director at the Cobb theaters. He considers her a second mom.



Jayson Warner Smith played opposite Heather Rule in the two-character thriller "Blackbird" at the Robert Mello Studio.

For fun, Smith takes out his 2001 Triumph Bonneville motorcycle. For his 50th birthday, in fact, he rode it solo on a five-week cross-country trip — from Atlanta to Yellowstone to Taos, New Mexico, to Los Angeles and back to Atlanta. "Definitely a life-changing moment," he says. He turned the odyssey into the 40-minute travel documentary [Learning to Fly](#).

In his downtime, he hangs out with wife Lisa; they cook and eat and watch HBO together. And he goes to the gym, teaches and auditions.

"Every once in awhile," Smith says, "they let me act."

Full Article







CONTACT

The Alexander White Agency

awhite@alexanderwhiteagency.com

(404) 609-4752 - Atlanta

lwhitaker@alexanderwhiteagency.com

jbowman@alexanderwhiteagency.com

Team-LA@alexanderwhiteagency.com

(323) 577-3811 - Los Angeles



Zero Gravity Management

Tamer Ahsan

(310) 694-3800

tahsan@zerogravitymanagement.com

