

Acting Edition

Teeth

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Book and Lyrics by
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TEETH was first produced by Playwrights Horizons in New York City, premiering on February 21st, 2024. The production was directed by Sarah Benson and choreographed by Raja Feather Kelly, with set design by Adam Rigg, costume design by Enver Chakartash, lighting design by Jane Cox and Stacey Derosier, sound design by Palmer Hefferan, sound effects design by Jeremy Chernick and orchestrations by Kris Kukul. The music supervisor was Julie McBride, and the music contractor was Kristy Nortor. The fight director was Robert Westley and the intimacy director was Crista Marie Jackson. The production stage manager was Amanda Spooner and the stage manager was Thomas Dieter. The cast was as follows:

DAWN	 Alyse Alan Louis
PASTOR/DR. GODFREY/GODFATHER	 Steven Pasquale
BRAD/TRUTHSEEKER	 Will Connolly
TOBEY/TRUTHSEEKER	 Jason Gotay
RYAN/TRUTHSEEKER	 Jared Loftin
PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS	 Courtney Bassett, Phoenix Best, Jenna Rose Husli, Lexi Rhoades, Wren Rivera, Helen J. Shen

CHARACTERS

DAWN – Sixteen. An evangelical Christian girl with strong convictions but a good heart. Leader of a teen chastity group called the Promise Keeper Girls.

PASTOR – Late forties to early fifties. Dawn's charismatic but extremely pious stepfather. Can also play **DR. GODFREY** and **GODFATHER**.

BRAD – Seventeen. Dawn's stepbrother and Pastor's biological son. Smart and perceptive, but also very lost and lonely.

TOBEY – Dawn's hot but religiously-convicted boyfriend. The actor playing Tobey doubles as other incidental male characters as necessary.

RYAN – A young, technologically savvy, closeted gay teen who attends New Testament Village. Frequently speaks with "uptalk." The actor playing Ryan doubles as other incidental male characters as necessary.

DR. GODFREY – Late forties to early fifties. A local gynecologist.

GODFATHER – (Prerecorded role) – A charismatic Australian online influencer who leads the Truthseekers on a platform called TRUTHSEEKER PREMIUM. He is only ever heard and not seen.

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS (PKGS)

A diverse group of young women with myriad body and personality types who attend New Testament Village.

KEKE

BECKY

STEPHANIE

TRISHA

RACHAEL

FIONA

TRUTHSEEKERS

A geographically diverse group of disaffected young men with myriad body and personality types who belong to an online community where they seek connection in a world they feel is misandrist.

TRUTHSEEKERS #1-#3 – Can be doubled by **BRAD**, **TOBEY**, and **RYAN**, or played by additional actors.

SETTING

A town called Eden. A church called New Testament Village.

TIME

Present day, but not heavy-handedly so.

AUTHORS' NOTES

TEETH is a horror musical that explores the breadth of one young woman's experience of sexual repression, shame, desire, and misogyny, which leads to violence that is visited upon her, and which she visits upon others. Why and how she arrives at that violence (and where it ultimately leads her) is as important as why and how the male characters she encounters arrive at the misogyny and violence they visit upon her (and where that ultimately leads them). In *TEETH*, we explore the notion that beneath much of the violence in the world lies an ideological belief that it is necessary. Though there is much fun to be had with blood, jump scares, and penile amputations, it is our intention that the marriage of ideology and violence be the primary delivery system for the many horrors within.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

- 00. Overture Instrumental
- 01. Precious Gift. Dawn & PKGs
- 01A. We Were Just Messing Around Instrumental
- 02. Between Her Thighs (Part 1) Brad & Truthseekers
- 02A. Between Her Thighs (Part 2) Brad & Truthseekers
- 03. Modest Is Hottest Tobey, Dawn & PKGs
- 04. Shame in My Body Dawn & PKGs
- 05. Between Her Thighs (Underscore) Instrumental
- 06. A Real Man Pastor & Brad
- 07. Playing with Fire Tobey, Dawn & PKGs
- 07A. After Playing with Fire Instrumental
- 08. Born Again Dawn, Ryan & PKGs
- 09. When She Gave Birth PKGs
- 09A. Nightmare Sequence Instrumental
- 10. Teeth Pastor, Brad, PKGs & Truthseekers
- 11. Always the Woman Dawn & PKGs
- 11A. You Saw Everything Instrumental
- 11B. Shame in My Body (Reprise) Dawn
- 11C. To Gyno Instrumental
- 12. Girls Like You. Dr. Godfrey, Dawn & PKGs
- 12A. Girls Like You (Playoff) Instrumental
- 12B. Okay, You Got Me There Instrumental
- 13. According to the Wiki. Ryan, Brad & Truthseekers
- 14. I'm Your Guy Ryan & Dawn
- 15. When She Gave Birth (Reprise) PKGs
- 16. Dentata (Part 1) Company
- 16A. Dentata (Part 2) Company
- 17. Take Me Down (Part 1) Company
- 18. Take Me Down (Part 2) Company
- 19. Bows Instrumental
- 20. Exit Music Instrumental

Scene One

[MUSIC 00 – OVERTURE]

*(Curtain rises on the New Testament Village church sanctuary, present day. **BRAD** and **DAWN O'KEEFE** stand facing each other, as though they are facing off. Eventually, **BRAD** and **DAWN** move to their seats on opposite sides of the congregation.)*

*(The tableau suddenly snaps to life. **PASTOR BILL O'KEEFE** moves center to the pulpit. **DAWN** is rapt and attentive. **BRAD** is zoned out. **RYAN** records/films.)*

PASTOR. Now! The Bible tells us that the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field. And when he said unto woman, “Shall ye not eat of every tree in the garden,” she was tempted and ate the fruit that Father God *COMMANDED* her not to eat, bringing about *the fall of man* when she shared the apple with him. Because their eyes opened to the realization that they were *NAKED! SEXUAL!* So *what did they do?* They covered themselves with fig leaves, ashamed. Which brings us to the burning question New Testament Village young women must answer today in light of recent events, and that question is: Woman? Where is your fig leaf? Woman? Where is your shame? I’m gonna ask that again!

*(Aggressively confronting **DAWN** and the **PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.**) **WOMAN? WHERE IS YOUR FIG LEAF? WOMAN? WHERE IS YOUR SHAME?!?***

(Seeing BRAD zoning out, PASTOR confronts him and startles him to attention.)

PASTOR. Wake up, Brad! Do you think the fall of man doesn't have anything to do with you?!?

BRAD. Yes, Pastor! I'm sorry, Pastor! I –

PASTOR. Ryan, how many are watching at home?

RYAN. Fourteen hundred and climbing on New Testament Village's live stream right now, Pastor!

PASTOR. Amen-amen. Because it's time to confront the elephant in the room.

(The room bristles.)

Keke, who is that elephant?

KEKE. Amy Sue Pearson!

PASTOR. Amy Sue Pearson! And why is Amy Sue such an elephant, Trisha?

TRISHA. Because Amy Sue got herself pregnant!

PASTOR. Ding, ding, ding! Because Amy Sue got herself pregnant! And how did Amy Sue get herself pregnant, Fiona?

FIONA. By letting Brock Matthews put his penis in her vagina!

PASTOR. By letting Brock Matthews put his nasty little penis in her vagina! And why would Amy Sue go and do a thing like that, Stephanie?

STEPHANIE. Because she let The Enemy corrupt her mind!

PASTOR. Because she let The Enemy corrupt her mind! And Rachael, how on Earth could Amy Sue let The Enemy corrupt her mind?

RACHAEL. Because she gave up on the promise! Because she gave up on the ring!

PASTOR. But you're New Testament Village Promise Keeper Girls, Becky! You're not from the secular world! You were born and raised here in *Eden*, where young women carry the banner for an especially *awesome* message of female empowerment through sexual purity until marriage or *death*. And why would Amy Sue just flush her banner down the crapper and let the serpent of temptation slither inside her, Becky?

BECKY. Because it felt good!

PASTOR. No, Becky! Feeling good is a *lie*. It's a lie, it's a lie –

DAWN. IT'S A LIE!

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS, RYAN & TOBEY. IT'S A LIE!

PASTOR. That's right! And it's a lie that Amy Sue told under *your* PKG leadership, Dawn.

DAWN. Yes, Pastor. I know she did. I take full responsibility, but I would *never* condone –

PASTOR. No “buts,” Dawn. Not today. Not when it comes to the fall of man. Because you wouldn't want what happened to Brock to happen to your little boyfriend Tobey here because of your “but,” would you?

TOBEY. No way, Pastor! Nope!

DAWN. Never, never –

(PASTOR drags a chair to the front of the church before DAWN can interrupt.)

PASTOR. Then what do you say to any other Promise Keeper Girls who might be thinking about “feeling good”?

DAWN. I say, Promise Keeper Girls can't be about *feeling* good! I say, Promise Keeper Girls have to be about *being* good!!!

[MUSIC 01 – PRECIOUS GIFT]

PASTOR. Amen-amen! That's my perfect little baby girl, but don't tell me! Tell her! Tell Amy Sue! 'Cause it's "Precious Gift" time, church!

*(The **NTV CONGREGATION** cheers and **BRAD** groans.)*

So get off your "buts," look that girl in the eye, and remind her who you are!

*(The **PKGS** cheer **DAWN** on - "Go, Dawn!" "You got this!" etc.)*

DAWN. *(To an imaginary Amy Sue.)*

AS PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS, WE VOW TO KEEP OUR
VIRTUE

WITH THIS RING UPON OUR FINGERS, WE ABSTAIN

PASTOR. Yep!

DAWN.

AS PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS, WE CLEAVE TO HIGHER
STANDARDS

WE DON'T FLINCH, WE PROUDLY GO AGAINST THE GRAIN
WE'RE IN THE WORLD, WE'RE IN THE WORLD, NOT OF IT
WHILE OTHER GIRLS ARE SPIRITUALLY ADRIFT

THEY SEE THEIR MAIDENHEADS AS NOTHING BUT A
BURDEN

BUT TO US IT'S SUCH A PRECIOUS, PRECIOUS GIFT

DAWN & PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

A PRECIOUS GIFT

BECKY.

THAT'S ONLY FOR A HUSBAND!

DAWN & PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

A PRECIOUS GIFT

RACHAEL.

THAT COMES WRAPPED IN A BOW!

DAWN & PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

A PRECIOUS GIFT

TRISHA.

WITH NO RETURNS OR EXCHANGES!

DAWN & PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

A PRECIOUS GIFT WE GET JUST ONE CHANCE TO BESTOW!

FIONA.

AS PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS, WE'RE SOLIDERS IN BATTLE
WITH THIS RING, WE SALLY FORTH TO WIN THE WAR

KEKE.

HIS WORD IS VERY CLEAR, HE GAVE US TWO CHOICES
TAKE YOUR PICK: ARE YOU A VIRGIN OR A WHORE?

DAWN & PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

THANK GOD FOR JESUS! THANK GOD FOR JESUS!
HIS BLOOD IS LIKE PURE HONEY ON MY LIPS!
THE GIFT HE GAVE US, THE GIFT HE GAVE US
STAYS LOCKED UP TIGHT IN A BOX AT THE MEETING OF
MY HIPS!
A PRECIOUS GIFT!

TRISHA & FIONA.

THAT'S NOT TO BE DEFILED!

DAWN & PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

A PRECIOUS GIFT

BECKY & RACHAEL.

IT'S WHAT SETS ME APART!

DAWN & PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

A PRECIOUS GIFT

STEPHANIE.

MY SHINY LITTLE DIAMOND!

DAWN & PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

A PRECIOUS GIFT IS NOT LIKE SUSHI *À LA CARTE*!

DAWN. (*To an imaginary Amy Sue.*)

YOU'RE A PROMISE KEEPER GIRL WHO DARED TO BREAK
THE PROMISE
SO JUDGMENT UPON YOU MUST BE SWIFT
MAY YOU ALWAYS FEEL THE MISERY
THE COLD AND THE DARKNESS
THAT COMES FROM GIVING UP
YOUR PRECIOUS

DAWN.

GIFT

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

AH

DAWN & PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

PRECIOUS GIFT!

BRAD. I need some air.

PASTOR. It's "Precious Gift" time, Brad. Sit down.

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

A PRECIOUS GIFT

THAT SHE TOOK

FOR GRANTED!

A PRECIOUS GIFT

THAT SHE

PASSED AROUND!

A PRECIOUS GIFT

YOU ABUSED

AND DISCARDED!

A PRECIOUS GIFT

FOR HER BOYFRIEND

TO POUND!

A PRECIOUS GIFT

YOU BLESSED US

WITH A VULVA!

PRECIOUS GIFT

YOU CURSE US

WITH IT TOO!

DAWN.

SHE TOOK IT

FOR GRANTED!

AND AROUND!

AND AROUND!

AND DISCARDED!

A PRECIOUS GIFT

FOR HER BOYFRIEND

TO POUND!

BETWEEN MY LEGS!

BETWEEN MY LEGS, GOD!

DAWN.

BY DAY!

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

BY DAY!

DAWN.

BY NIGHT!

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

BY NIGHT!

DAWN.

WE'RE PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS WHO FIGHT

DAWN & PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

THOUGH AT TIMES IT'S SUCH A HEAVY, HEAVY LIFT

DAWN.

BUT I WILL

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

I WILL

DAWN.

NOT FLEE

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

NOT FLEE

DAWN.

YOU EMPOWER ME

IN THE NAME

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

IN THE NAME

DAWN.

IN THE NAME OF MY PRECIOUS, PRECIOUS GIFT!

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

WHITE WEDDING KEEP MY LEGS CLOSED, JESUS WANTS
ME FOR A SUNBEAM!

DAWN.

PRECIOUS GIFT!

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

NO COVETING MY NEIGHBOR'S ASS, NO REACHING FOR
HIS FIG LEAF!

DAWN.

PRECIOUS GIFT!

PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

HAIL MARY, PRAY TO KILL THE SERPENT COILED UP
INSIDE ME!

DAWN & PROMISE KEEPER GIRLS.

AS DAUGHTERS OF GOD WE WOULD PLUCK OUT OUR
EYES BEFORE WE WOULD SURRENDER OUR PRECIOUS,
PRECIOUS...GIFT!

*(DAWN knocks over the chair. EVERYONE
EXCEPT BRAD cheers and jumps to their feet.)*

PASTOR. Precious gift!!! Amen-amen! Pluck! Out!

*(ALL BUT BRAD help PASTOR finish his
sentence.)*

ALL. Your! Eyyyyyyes!

PASTOR. Yes, Promise Keeper Girls! You cannot enter the
gates of Heaven unless you keep the gates of Hell...

(DAWN helps PASTOR finish his sentence.)

PASTOR & DAWN. Cloooooosed!!!!

PASTOR. Until we meet again, NTV live streamers!

(To the audience congregation, jocular.) The rest of you,
get outta here!

*(PASTOR goes to chat with some of the PKGS.
RYAN begins to pack up his equipment.)*

DAWN. *(Crossing to BRAD, trying to charm him.)* Hey, Brad! You were lookin' good bustin' a move during "Precious Gift" over he—

BRAD. Get away! Get away! Don't touch me!

(BRAD shrinks from her touch and exits, disgusted. PASTOR joins DAWN.)

PASTOR. Hey! What was that about? What's wrong with that boy now?

DAWN. I don't know, Pastor. I was just trying to connect with him.

PASTOR. Brad's just jealous. 'Cause even though you're not my biological child and he is, the two of us could not be more bonded by the blood of the lamb.

DAWN. Well, whatever it is, I just wanna *help him*. Because it's obvious he's in a lot of pain.

PASTOR. That's just manhood, Dawn. He'll either conquer the pain or it'll conquer him. C'mon, let's go home.

(PASTOR, DAWN, and the PKGS exit as BRAD enters a virtual meeting platform called TRUTHSEEKER PREMIUM. Other BOYS and MEN join him, wearing VR headsets and listening to GODFATHER, a popular online men's life coach. We only ever hear his disembodied voice. He's Australian.)

GODFATHER. There's a pain all men carry, Truthseekers. Some of us carry it in our shoulders. Some in our stomachs. Some of us even carry it in our balls – in our nutsacks. It's a pain we've become numb to in this era of "dismantling the patriarchy." As though the patriarchy isn't the one thing protecting society from the chaos of the animals. But oh no, now we can't even sit on a bloody train without being "manspreaders" for Christ's sake! Because we *take up too much space!* Do you see,

Truthseekers? This pain is not really ours. It was given to us by *the feminocracy*. Savage, lonely females we have allowed to domesticate us. To save our species from extinction, we must transform into high-value men. To find out how, click on TruthSeeker Premium. And don't forget to smash that Like button, as it really helps with the algorithm! Seek the truth and be free!

TRUTHSEEKERS. Seek the truth and be free!

TRUTHSEEKER #1. The feminocracy! Holy fuck! Godfather is so fuckin' based! Where do you guys feel your pain? I feel my pain in my neck.

(The other TRUTHSEEKERS acknowledge his pain.)

TRUTHSEEKER #3. I feel mine in my lower back.

(The other TRUTHSEEKERS acknowledge his pain.)

TRUTHSEEKER #2. My pain's in my hip flexor usually.

(The other TRUTHSEEKERS acknowledge his pain. BRAD nervously speaks up.)

BRAD. My pain is in my finger. I think it comes from my stepsister's cunt.

TRUTHSEEKER #3. Say what?

TRUTHSEEKER #2. Looks like we've got a new Truthseeker, Truthseekers.

TRUTHSEEKERS. Hey, Truthseeker!

BRAD. Oh, hey there, guys. Nice to meet you, my name is –

TRUTHSEEKER #1. No civilian names, bro. We're just Truthseekers here.

BRAD. Oh. Well, I'm a longtime lurker and I decided to dive into TruthSeeker Premium after I saw Godfather

was going to be talking about male pain. Nobody cares about my pain. Especially not Pastor. Pastor's my dad. But he made me stop calling him that after my mom ran off, which frankly I don't blame her for 'cause Pastor's psychotic. See, he's got this thing about sexual purity and women and I'm talking too much, I'm talking too much, I'm sorry I –

TRUTHSEEKER #1. Truthseeker, it's okay. Sometimes a guy just needs to talk. You're safe here. Speak.

TRUTHSEEKER #2. Yeah. 'Cause if the feminocracy hurt you in your finger, we *really* gotta know what *that's* about.

TRUTHSEEKER #3. And did I mishear, or did you say it was your *stepsister* who hurt you with her *cunt*?

(BRAD begins to tell the truth. It's a "power" that the TRUTHSEEKERS begin to feel.)

BRAD. Yeah, when I was like six or seven and she was a year younger.

[MUSIC 01A – WE WERE JUST MESSING AROUND]

We were just messing around in a kiddie pool that Pastor and Dawn's mother, Kim, had put out for us. And Dawn dared me to take my swimsuit down, and I dared her to take hers down, so we both took our swimsuits down and were, you know, naked, so then Dawn asked me if she could touch mine and I was scared to let her touch mine down there, so I told her she had to let me touch hers down there first...but when I did –

(BRAD's truth causes a mystical online empathy to possess the TRUTHSEEKERS and they cry out, feeling BRAD's pain in their fingers, absorbing this memory.)

TRUTHSEEKERS. Ahhhhhh!

WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

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