

The Tempest Within

The Script Logistics

- **Title:** True Americans: The Tempest Within
- **Format:** Prestige Limited Series (8 Episodes)
- **Genre:** Epic Historical Thriller / Survival Drama
- **Comps:** *The Terror* meets *Black Sails* with the historical heft of HBO's *John Adams*.
- **Logline:** When a catastrophic hurricane wrecks a Jamestown-bound supply ship on an uncharted paradise, a fiercely independent minister's clerk orchestrates a bloody mutiny against the Crown—sparking a brutal survival epic that will cross oceans, destroy empires, and inspire William Shakespeare.
- **Stephen Hopkins** is the ultimate anti-authoritarian nonconformist. He isn't a royal or a soft aristocrat; he is a lower-class clerk who views the New World not as an extension of the British Empire, but as a blank slate for individual freedom.
- The character of Stephen Hopkins has the gravelly, high-intensity masculine edge necessary to carry a prime-time drama.

(The 4-Act Pilot Elevator Pitch)

- **The Cold Open:** Open with **November 1611**. A rainy, shadow-drenched London street. We track a cloaked figure entering the Globe Theatre. It's Stephen Hopkins. He sits in the audience as William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* debuts on stage. A comic character named **Stephano** steps out, bumbling and staging a drunken island rebellion. Hopkins smiles a dangerous, knowing smirk. *Smash cut to black.*
- **Act I: The Voyage (1609):** Introduce the packed, claustrophobic hull of the flagship *Sea Venture* sailing toward a starving Jamestown. Establish the intense class friction between the tyrannical Sir Thomas Gates and the low-born Hopkins.
- **The Climax (The Hurricane):** A terrifying, visual-effects-heavy storm hits mid-ocean. The airframe of the wooden ship screams. Men pray, but Hopkins takes the wheel. The ship violently smashes directly into the jagged coral reefs of uncharted Bermuda.

The Cliffhanger: The survivors drag themselves onto a blindingly beautiful, completely pristine island paradise. Sir Thomas Gates instantly plants a British flag to declare martial law, but Hopkins looks at the untamed wilderness, looks down at his broken chains, and realizes: *The old world's rules drowned in the storm*