

Stagehand-turned-playwright, director create company for blue-collar stories, starting with 'Money Grubbin' Whores'

Stage electrician and engineer Sean Quinn and director Brian Cichocki formed Hard Four Productions to tell original stories that focus on the ever-changing blue-collar journey in America. On Thursday, 'Money Grubbin' Whores' will mark Quinn's Off-Broadway writing debut.

BY JOE DZIEMIANOWICZ [Follow](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Sunday, September 21, 2014, 2:30 AM **A A A**

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ANDREW SCHWARTZ FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Director Brian Cichocki (left) and writer Sean Quinn created 'Money Grubbin' Whores,' which opens Off-Broadway on Thursday.

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This time it's HIS name in lights.

Stage electrician and engineer [Sean Quinn](#) has worked behind the scenes for 16 years to make shows go on.

But he'll be front and center on Thursday, when his play, "Money Grubbin' Whores," marks his Off-Broadway writing debut.

A dark comedy about divorce set in a northern New Jersey pizza joint, the play's main character is a working stiff — a union guy from New York.

Just like the Bronx-born Quinn, who's in his 40s and tried acting before joining the stageworkers union. He keeps a low-profile about his ambitions as a writer.

"Plays are always about poor people or rich people," says Quinn. "But most Americans are in-between."

Quinn counts himself part of that wide middle ground. He's the son of first-generation immigrants and lives in Nyack with his wife and three kids.

The same goes for the play's director Brian Cichocki, 40, who lives in Hell's Kitchen but has vivid memories of growing up in Trenton.

"I grew up in a blue-collar neighborhood," he says. "The area was a collection of all types and ethnicities. What many people had in common was that they didn't



CREDIT – ZACK DEZON

'Money Grubbin' Whores' actors (left to right) Adam Mucci, James Andrew O'Connor, Carmit Levité and Penny Bittone.

dream beyond their neighborhood."

Quinn and Cichocki met several years ago through mutual friends. They discovered that they share a similar background and desire when it comes to theater.

Two years ago they formed Hard Four Productions, a named inspired by a craps term when each rolled dice comes up with a two.



Matt (played by Adam Mucci) and Aviva (played by Carmit Levité) are going through a divorce in Sean Quinn's play 'Money Grubbin' Whores.'

The company's mission is to tell original stories that focus on the ever-changing blue-collar journey in America.

"So here we are," says Cichocki. "These stories are about the guys that everybody sees but doesn't pay much attention to," adding "You may not covet their lives. But you know them."

Quinn echoes that idea, adding he's interested in narratives that follow "family guys who do their jobs and raise their families and live their lives."

That's the raw material of drama and comedy.

"New York," he says, "is a blue-collar town that's disappearing."

"Money Grubbin' Whores," Sept. 25-Oct. 19, Lion Theatre, 410 W. 42nd St.

jdziemianowicz@nydailynews.com

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