

SUMMERLAND – Show & Character descriptions

SUMMERLAND – SHOW DESCRIPTION

Summerland tells the mysterious tale of William H. Mumler, a spirit photographer with a talent for capturing haunting images of the dead from the world beyond the veil--Summerland. Based on true events that didn't exactly happen this way, *Summerland* is set in Mumler's New York studio in 1869 at the height of the American Spiritualist Movement. *Summerland* opens at the peak of Mumler's career, just as his wildly successful studio trade comes under indictment for fraud. Chief Marshall Joseph Tooker investigates Mumler's past and his process, uncovering much more than he bargained for in his search for truth. *Summerland* is about the collision between the two men's opposing beliefs about the afterlife. Is it a hoax, or is it real? Finding the answer to either question threatens to save them or destroy them.

Mary Todd Lincoln and the "spirit" of Abraham Lincoln.



CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

William H. Mumler: Male, mid 40s, renown spirit photographer and ardent Spiritualist operating his New York City studio during the height of the Spiritualist Movement in America. He thinks of himself as a healer and the chosen attendant of the spirits of Summerland. He also desperately misses his son. The grief is very real and he never mocks others' grief. He must prove Spiritualism is real or he loses everything, including his son.

Joseph Tooker: Male, early to mid 30s, Chief Marshall in employ of the Mayor of New York to investigate Mumler's practice. He is a Civil War veteran who fought at Gettysburg where he lost an arm. He is a Positivist and has ambitions for future political standing.

Mrs. Mumler: Female, early to mid 30s, second wife of William Mumler. She is a suspected somnambulist, a woman with peculiar talent for the occult. Originally from Virginia, she is also a suspected double agent between the North and South.