

Stupid Kid Interviews



The Road Theatre on Magnolia is proud to present a world premiere play by Sharr White entitled Stupid Kid. After 14 years in prison for a crime he swears he didn't commit, Chick returns home to find his flat-broke family under the thumb of his dangerous Unclemike. A rollicking Gothic Western tale of a family isolated by shame, Stupid Kid explores power, guilt and the limits of maternal love. The play officially opens Friday, September 22 at 8pm running through Sunday, November 12 at the Road Theatre on Magnolia.

*Each week we will spotlight members of the cast and /or creative team. This week we take pride in placing actor **Ben Theobald** centerstage.*

What character do you play in Stupid Kid?

Chick Ford

How does that character contribute to the message of the play?

I believe that Chick is a sign of hope throughout the entire play. During the rehearsal process we constantly talked about the trouble within this small town and how it affects its residents, mainly the Ford Family. While this trouble is always present in Chick, I believe he's a small beacon of hope that smooths over what seems to be a never ending sand paper like surface of the troubling edges of the Ford family dynamic.

How are you preparing as an actor to portray your character?

I have prepared in many different ways for ol' Chickie Ford. With the help of director Cameron (Watson) and the cast I have been provided with pages of research in order for me to shape the town I both grew up in and left behind. I also did quite a bit of research (with the help of my team) on both the Colorado prison system, and its effect on young kids, how they are handled, and how they are tried. This research, coupled with rigorous dialect training, and creating an intense and detailed family history with my cast have allowed me to shape the character of Chick Ford.

Tell us about working with your director and fellow cast members.

I owe everything to this cast and crew. While I respect all of them as artists and actors, they have become a support system that I can rely on at all parts of the day. They provide me with wisdom, creative fire, and confidence to fuel the work that surely wouldn't exist without them. They're an incredible group of talented cats, and thank god they took this wild ride with me. Their loving support and long drawn out stories that could have ended 10 minutes ago, are what have kept me going to create this colossal show. Thank you guys, all of ya'll.

What do you hope audiences will take away from seeing the play?

There are too many things happening in this play to ask the audience to take away one singular thought or emotion upon leaving. The only thing that I hope for is that Stupid Kid affects them. I'd like for them to leave the theatre feeling different. Not "miraculously changed by the work they saw" but rather directly affected in some way, shape, or form from the work Cameron, the cast and crew, and Sharr (White) put into this son of a gun. You don't have to love it, you certainly don't have to hate it, but I hope audiences will take a chance to get to know the Ford family and allow our family to introduce ourselves free of judgment to all of them.