

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 powerguilt and the limits of maternal love. The play officially opened Friday, September 22 and is 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 actress **Michelle Gillette** in the spotlight.*

What character do you play in Stupid Kid?

Franny Hawker

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

Franny is the modern day version of a Greek chorus. She watches & listens. Her comments further on the plot and helps set the time and place of what happens in this small town.

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

First I had to set aside any preconceived ideas that I was carrying as Michelle. To create Franny, I used the playwright's observations about Franny's character and Cameron's brilliant nudges & the interactions I have with the other characters. I found visuals that came into my life One morning I was throwing apples to some deer high up on a mountain. Watching from afar, I noticed how she kept chewing and slowly observing everything around her. This unexpected visual helped me step out of my own way and just 'inhabit' my character of Franny.

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

What a joy! Cameron Watson is an actors' director. He gives you clues and freedom to go from one level to the next.

And, I adore my fellow cast members. There is such a strong, creative bond between us. Sharr's beautiful play is so intense, it is lovely to be able to cry, laugh & make really bad jokes together.

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

Talk about family. Talk about country. Talk about love being the answer.