

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 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 veteran actor **Joe Hart** in the spotlight.*

What character do you play in Stupid Kid?

I play the Role of Eddie Ford, the Father of Chickie Ford, who has just shown up at our door step after 14 years of imprisonment.

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

Eddie, as well as the entire Ford family are victims of a catastrophic event, that derails their trajectory in life. They are manipulated by family members, community leaders and the justice system itself. Eddie's total demise is avoided purely by his faith in humanity.

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

In preparing for this work, I didn't have to look too far, as there are many examples in recent history of these types of abuses. The dysfunction and at times overwhelming obstacles we all face at one time or another can be brought to bear, helping to create a realistic experience for the audience.

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

The creatives and cast are top notch. The cast has a wealth of experience; the talent in the room is palpable. Cameron Watson could be one of the best directors I've ever worked with, creating a comfortable, safe environment that encourages his troupe to explore and discover the truth of this piece, which will hopefully translate and enhance the audiences' experience.

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

Upon viewing, I believe the audience will come away with a better understanding of how, at times, what appears to be a definite fact could possibly be a deception. That although we see something as a shut and dry case, there can be other forces at work.

And it's a comedy, so there's that.