

This January, two of Rosebud's resident company members/educators participated in the Month-Long Intensive in Lenox, MA with Shakespeare & Company, a foremost centre for actor training and a theatre company which strives to be "a revolutionary force in society, which connects the truths of the past to the challenges and possibilities of today...and reaches the widest possible audience through training and education as well as performance." Nathan Schmidt returned as a teacher trainee after participating in the 2012 Intensive, while Kelsey Krogman attended as a participant for this year's Intensive.

Krogman notes that the atmosphere at Shakespeare & Co. values "open and honest communication" and "strive(s) to implement it on every level, even when it is difficult or unpleasant," while employing "wit and humor and playfulness and grace in interactions with oneself and others" - not unlike Rosebud Theatre's own spirit where audiences look forward to a rich experience of humanity. Krogman discovers that: "there is more of me available now. I had locked away parts of myself and forgotten what it is to breathe. I have my own sorrow and rage and joy to bring to my roles, because I discovered that my feelings won't ruin me when I fully feel and voice them. Coming through the other side of this fear allows me to embody the sorrow and anger and joy in a play so that the audience might share in it, too."

Schmidt will continue to offer up his own rich humanity as his convictions have only been strengthened: "My work with Shakespeare & Company has really brought home the idea that the most powerful thing an actor can do onstage is tell the truth. The truth of my life, my sadness, my anger, my loss. To bring myself to the roles I play and to not simply pretend. And my breath gives me life; I will feel most open to communicate when I am breathing fully and powerfully. One of the things said at this year's Intensive was, 'You can have all the imagination you want in your head; the breath puts the imagination into your body.' I would like audiences to see my imagination fully fleshed out in whatever character I might be playing so that they might see themselves or someone they know up there on the stage."

Rosebud School of the Arts students will benefit from this world-class training, too. Krogman, a trainee in voice and body work, acting coaching and scene study, intends to "reinforce in the classroom the courage required to speak the truth onstage: the actor's truth married to the truth of the given circumstances of the play. Theatre is about conflict and transformation: moments where great loss and great gain hang on the individual's decisions for themselves and their communities. I will ask each student to awaken and choose the courage to embody these stakes through trained discipline and personal experience, so that the audience might know the hope of transformation through voiced truth."

Schmidt, as Head of Acting, and as an instructor in scene study, stage combat, and Shakespeare, will reinforce breath and honesty by reminding the students that "their soul will find life in their imagination and that their imagination is unique and is their birthright. They will know that no two of them would play Hamlet the same way and that their voice is theirs and it is welcome to be shared. I will demand the students live up to

the impulse that brought them to theatre school: the impulse to speak and move so that they may influence the culture of our province and our country.”

Rosebud students, actors and patrons can make these core Shakespeare & Company questions their own: What does it mean to be alive? How should we act? What must I do?

See <http://www.shakespeare.org> for more about Shakespeare & Company.