Davide Chiazzese lets us know a little bit about his performance in the upcoming Talisman/Other Theatre production PROVINCE by Mathieu Gosselin/Translation by Nadine Desrochers

I had the chance to meet with emerging actor Davide Chiazzese in between rehearsals to talk to him about playing the role of Zachary in PROVINCE. This up and coming star is a not only an actor, but a developing director and writer that is nominated this year for a META award for his memorable supporting role in Hosanna.

Can you start by telling me how the rehearsals have been going for you?

DC: I'm really have a great time rehearsing this piece. Stacey Christodoulou was my teacher and mentor during school, so it is exciting to be in the theatre working with her on this piece and with her process.

What were your first impressions of the play?

DC: I was really excited right away. I could tell I was reading something that was unlike anything I had read before, and I knew something special was happening because I found myself full of questions…what I did know is that the themes jumped out loudly, and this play is an important reflection of the world we are in, and the possibility of dystopia.

What were your first impressions of your character and his brother?

DC: At first glance they seemed like understandable stereotypes, and I thought that would be fun to play…but then during the process we had to break them down and look for more specific essentials to their characters, and that is when they really came alive. In the first workshop at Playwrights' Workshop Montreal I was surprised of the fear I found within my character, I didn't expect it but there it was, and

everything they did suddenly seemed to be hiding that fear. I find that interesting, inhabiting characters and revealing their fears and insecurities more clearly.

How has it been with Mike Hughes, working together in almost every scene as brothers?

DC: We actually did two seasons together at theatre Lac Brom, and lived together during that time, so we came in to this project with an already brotherly energy. It was easy to establish a rapport on stage and feel like we are really connected and building together.

What have you done to prepare for the challenges of the role?

DC: The real work has been building with the team a world that doesn't really exist. There are a lot of choices to be made, and some are clear but it is interesting when some are not obvious. I have a lot of fun using my imagination to colour the world of a play, and this world has such wonderful words, a cast of nine people, a lot of physical work…it has been a really enjoyable creation process.

Do you consider yourself an environmentalist? How do you feel about this theme?

DC: Stacey doesn't direct in conversation but rather in action, so we don't sit around and discuss the politics of the play so much as we explore the work. We don't need to come raising issues, we need to just build an awareness of the world. The future has me worried some times, like many people I am sure, but that drives me to be a part of this play. I think it is a real slap in the face that highlights how much we can't go on the way we are living. The characters in this province are all forced to wake up and come to terms with their reality.

Don't miss PROVINCE - Opening October 7th at Centaur Theatre