Stefanie Buxton sits down for an interview about her upcoming role in the Talisman/Other Theatre production PROVINCE by Mathieu Gosselin/Translation by Nadine Desrochers

Stefanie is by far one of the hardest working actors in English-Montreal theatre, and her past acting accomplishments make her a staple of the community. I met with her to talk about her inspiration and process as part of the cast in PROVINCE.

What was you first reactions of the character Hide?

SB: I remember when we first workshopped the play at Playwrights' Workshop Montreal, over a year ago now, and I thought it was the perfect role for me. I've always had an affinity for playing tomboys, and I love the isolated elements of Hide. There is no romance in this character, only a passion for reading entrails and the wild. She is not feminine and she is a lover of nature; those are two qualities I identify in myself.

What else connects you to this character?

SB: I am an only child and spent a lot of my life alone. I still do. I think Hide lives on the fringes of things and likes to hide away; I was never that far disconnected but I certainly spent a lot of time with my family living in the woods, off the gird, and having communes with nature. That moment to moment energy is important to me. I also love how incredibly practical the those who live in the wild can be….I can be that to but it is a lovely little challenge I am learning from her.

What else have you learned from the role?

SB: I think her journey is so interesting, because like so many in the play she HAS to connect with people because of the given circumstances. I identify with that need, that push to come out of your own little corner and how hard that can be when you are introverted and have shy tendencies.

What have you been doing for research?

SB: I've been diving into the amazing work by David Attenbourough for inspiration, and I am always so blown away about this man and his genuine fascination with nature. His love and enthusiasm is so infectious, and his curiosity is what I want to bring to the work I am doing. Oddly enough I'm also thinking about my grade 11 biology teacher, Mister Binks (no seriously, that was his name). He was always so strict but when he was teaching us about the beauty and ways of nature he would come alive like a child. It was such a genuine love, I am trying to bring that energy to when my character read entrails. She is a true diviner, a sort of Cassandra of the wild.

What do you think people will get from this play?

SB: For me it is so much about our relation as humans to nature. With animals and with the incredible knowledge we can gain from the earth. I think it is about reminding us of our deep love and compassion, and also about the fact that nature isn't precious. Nature lives and dives, and life is all about cycles. The people in this play are avoiding that reality in a lot of ways, and this play is forcing us to tap into our inner walking-dead. There is danger and things move fast, it is like the end of days. For me it is reminding me to keep going out in Quebec trekking; reconnect with that feeling of my body on a bed of forest, my feet on the ground.

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