



**Eloi Archambaudoin talks about playing super-bro Brandon in the upcoming Talisman/Other Theatre Production PROVINCE by Mathieu Gosselin/Translation by Nadine Desrochers**



Eloi has built a big reputation around town and was recently nominated for Best Actor by the META jury. We all saw him rocking the stage as motorcycle queen Hosanna, and some may remember him from his TYA tour across the country in Holy Cow.

I took a walk through the park to talk to him about his upcoming role in this environmentally-themed translation...

**For starters, can you tell me a bit about being a French-born actor who has become such a hit in the English theatre community?**

EA: I think the English theatre community in Montreal has been incredibly supportive and I am so grateful they strive to be inclusive. I have always felt a little bit like an imposter because of my background, but they have really embraced me and I am happy for that. It is also interesting in a translation project like PROVINCE, since I was able to see the French version and know many of the original cast members very well. I feel I am fortunate to have been able to see the first production and understand the choices they made and now can step in to be the part of Brandon for the English translation.

**What were your first impressions of the character Brandon?**

EA: At first I pictured him as a Jersey Shore kind of dude. The kind of guy who wears acid-wash jeans and print v-neck shirts with shiny jewels and spray on tans. I even wanted to bulk up for the role, but realized quickly that I am too tall to really put on a lot of muscle by the time the show has to go up...so I changed direction a little more towards a Ken Doll kind of look.

What is Brandon like as a person? EA: He is someone who is literally and figuratively walled in. He is afraid to leave his house, and surrounded by a menacing nature trying to make its way in. People may not agree with me, but I feel like in a way he is blessed with a limited intelligence that allows him to



ignore the signs of everything crumbling around him. His only focus is on building; building his home, his body, and ignoring the environment. He is superficial but I try to see past that, because you have to remove judgement to make a character really interesting.

**Is nature a big theme in PROVINCE?**

EA: Nature taking over is really the allegory of the play. The couple, Brandon and Faerydae, are literally surrounded and believe like so many people do that their artificial environment will protect them forever. The play is absurd, but it is talking about the truth that people think they can live without consequences. I think there is a lot of truth to the fact that you can't ignore the world, and that nature will eventually take its rights back. They have each other in the play but they really have disconnected from everything. The characters in this play are like zombies, the walking dead...

**Are there qualities of Brandon that you identify in yourself?**

EA: I could picture myself in another life possibly being happy just getting behind my computer and never seeing anyone from the outside world. I have a little bit of that security in being a hermit side to myself. I think a lot of people struggle with the temptation to just lock the door and stay in bed for a week. It's scary but it's also comforting.

**What is your favorite part of the process so far?**

EA: I'm really excited about being in such a large cast. There are nine actors in this play all together, and all of them are really talented and great to work with. It is rare in theatre, and really rare in the Montreal English community to be able to have such a larger ensemble together on stage. We have done a lot of rehearsing in separate pieces, and now we are bringing all of the elements together. It is really exciting to be a part of.

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



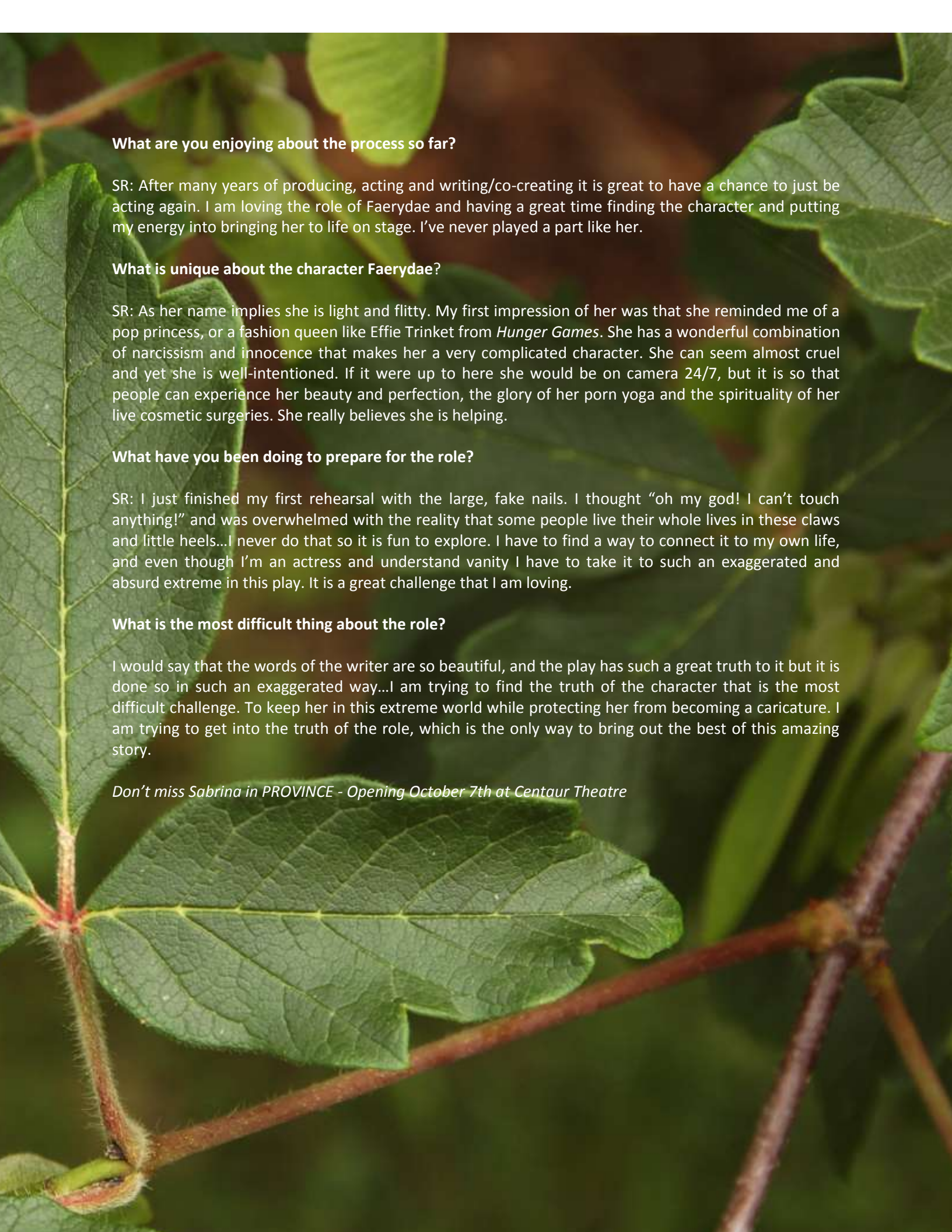
**Sabrina Reeves talks about playing the role of Faerydae in the upcoming Talisman/Other Theatre Production PROVINCE by Mathieu Gosselin/Translation by Nadine Desrochers**

Sabrina is a true force of nature; recently recognized by Now Magazine as one of the top ten theatre artists to watch, you may remember her from her 2013 interdisciplinary hit *Blindsided*, and who can forget her sweet moves in the international sensation *Dance*

*Marathon* by Bluemouth Inc.

Taking on the role of self-obsessed Faerydae in *Province* is a tall order, and I sat down with her to talk about preparing for this amazing role.





**What are you enjoying about the process so far?**

SR: After many years of producing, acting and writing/co-creating it is great to have a chance to just be acting again. I am loving the role of Faerydae and having a great time finding the character and putting my energy into bringing her to life on stage. I've never played a part like her.

**What is unique about the character Faerydae?**

SR: As her name implies she is light and flitty. My first impression of her was that she reminded me of a pop princess, or a fashion queen like Effie Trinket from *Hunger Games*. She has a wonderful combination of narcissism and innocence that makes her a very complicated character. She can seem almost cruel and yet she is well-intentioned. If it were up to here she would be on camera 24/7, but it is so that people can experience her beauty and perfection, the glory of her porn yoga and the spirituality of her live cosmetic surgeries. She really believes she is helping.

**What have you been doing to prepare for the role?**

SR: I just finished my first rehearsal with the large, fake nails. I thought "oh my god! I can't touch anything!" and was overwhelmed with the reality that some people live their whole lives in these claws and little heels...I never do that so it is fun to explore. I have to find a way to connect it to my own life, and even though I'm an actress and understand vanity I have to take it to such an exaggerated and absurd extreme in this play. It is a great challenge that I am loving.

**What is the most difficult thing about the role?**

I would say that the words of the writer are so beautiful, and the play has such a great truth to it but it is done so in such an exaggerated way...I am trying to find the truth of the character that is the most difficult challenge. To keep her in this extreme world while protecting her from becoming a caricature. I am trying to get into the truth of the role, which is the only way to bring out the best of this amazing story.

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