

SUN STAR

Student actress leads on the stage

November 14, 2006

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Jenny Schlotfeldt patiently waits for her queue to enter center stage at the Salisbury Theatre. Only four days are left until "Three Days of Rain" premieres, and at the end of this dress rehearsal she will be one step closer to successfully accomplishing another play.

Schlotfeldt, 23, has now performed in so many plays that she cannot casually give the actual numbers. But the list of acting associations is phenomenal. In only the last few years, she's worked in Fairbanks Drama Association, Fairbanks Shakespeare Theater, and now UAF Theatre.

For an actress of this status, one might think she knows what she's doing, and has an easy time with it. But Schlotfeldt says she has her walls to overcome.

"Sometimes it is hard to bring honesty to my characters lives, and sometimes I wonder if I'm convincing the audience enough," she says.

Watching her rehearsal, though, it's not hard to be convinced in Schlotfeldt's acting skill or be amazed by how well she develops her character.

Fairbanks is a very different place to grow up in. Although the weather limits typical sports, it also opened up other ways of creative entertainment.

When attending Lathrop High School, Schlotfeldt opted for the arts department for her entertainment source.

In her freshman year, she took up acting. When she graduated in 2001, she had already participated in several plays, and knew what she wanted to do with her life but wasn't sure if she could actually make a living of it.

"I have several actresses and actors that have really inspired me to act," she says. "Most of them might not be familiar, but one of them would include Dame Judy Dench."

Another of Schlotfeldt's role models is Carrie Baker. The name may sound familiar: She is a well-known professor at the university, teaching many acting classes, and directing many of the plays.

"I have looked up to Carrie Baker, the director of this play, for a while now," Schlotfeldt says. "I had known her before I knew she was directing this play, and try to take as many of her classes as I can."

Schlotfeldt took two years off between high school and college. It was then that she realized she wanted to act professionally.

"When I was attending the play 'Julius Cesar' in 2003, it really hit me," Schlotfeldt says. "I was thinking, Oh my God, people actually do this all of the time and make a living

off of it."

The commitment of the actors and actresses was mind blowing to Jenny, and she knew at this exact moment that she could actually make it in the world off of her acting skills.

Now in her third year at UAF, Schlotfeldt leads the Student Drama Association and is now in her ninth year acting. She's performed in two-to-three plays a year since 2003, and also in some local burlesque shows.

After graduation, Jenny plans on going to graduate school for her master's in the fine arts, possibly at UAF, but possibly not. She wants to get into a main theater production company and perform in venues like the Utah Shakespeare Festival or the Ashland Shakespeare Festival.

In the future, watch for her name. In the meanwhile, she can be seen on stage in Richard Greenberg's "Three Days of Rain," which started Thursday and runs through this Sunday.

She's got a few friends from high school at her side. Levi Ben-Israel, J.K. Browne, and



Nicollete Sauro/Sun Star

UAF junior Jenny Schlotfeldt plays the role of Nan in "Three Days of Rain" on Friday.

Schlotfeldt all began acting around the same time and have been acting in many of the same productions over the years.

"It's awesome working with them," Schlotfeldt says. "I have known them for a total of about seven years and have acted in many plays with them."

She also says she has a few nervous habits.

"Sometimes when I'm on stage I play with my fingers," she says.

Nevertheless, Schlotfeldt says she feels good on stage.

"I'm more comfortable on stage than anywhere else," she says.