

Interview with the three youth
from *To Kill a Mockingbird*,
May 11, 2011

I had a chance to take a walk with the three young people in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Chelsea Fisk, Isaac Blickley and Justin Diemer (Scout, Jem and Dill respectively) This is the first time at Master Arts Theatre for Isaac, but the other two are veterans at Master Arts: Justin was Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol* this past Christmas and recently played Fred in *Bells on Their Toes*, Chelsea was in *A Little Princess*, *Anne of Green Gables* and *I Remember Mama*.

Walt: What are some of your favorite roles of your past?

Chelsea: I liked playing Dagmar in *I Remember Mama*.

Isaac: I played a rapper who lost his voice and another favorite, a cop who ate donuts, I got sick of donuts by the end of the play, one afternoon, I ate half the dozen.

I really enjoyed my walk with them; they seemed so comfortable with each other. They were friends. I felt like I was the fifth musketeer, sneaking off to skip stones. (Jonathan Schaefer, who plays Atticus, is the fourth, he was with us.) I got to ask them a couple more questions.

Walt: What do you like about your character?

Chelsea: Scout is a tomboy, she is the total opposite of me.

Justin: It is hard to play a character like myself, I like Dill, because he is the opposite of me.

Isaac: Jem's a leader, I like that.

Walt: Are you a leader?

Isaac: Yes, but I don't lead people into trouble like Jem does.

Walt: What did you learn? Personally?

Chelsea: To appreciate other cultures.

Justin: Even though segregation is over with, there is still segregation.

As we talked about some of the themes of the play and some of the "bad stuff" that happens, one of the youth said, "I figured out that I have some prejudice, but I don't any more."

The Library of Congress asked people which book made the greatest difference in their lives. *To Kill a Mockingbird* ranked no. 2, after the Bible. These three young people have been influenced and even changed. May these three continue to make a difference in other peoples lives with their new perspective on life.