

Talking with ELLE POINDEXTER



Her Character: Steve Jones – a female bike mechanic. She’s in her mid-twenties, independent, smart and loves to ride her old Schwinn around town. She works part-time at a recycled bike shop called The Recyclery and designs her own bike clothing line.

Prior to “The Bicyclist”: After graduating from Winthrop University with a B.A. in Theater Performance with a minor in Women’s Studies, she worked as the assistant to the costume designer at Flat Rock Playhouse and co-owned her own theater company. Since moving to Portland, she has held lead roles in several independent films and appeared in commercials.

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in North Carolina and raised in South Carolina. I moved to the Northwest in 2000.

What is your favorite memory of riding a bike?

I had this one bike, once I got to that certain age, then I had that same bike forever. It probably wasn’t that long, but in kid terms it seemed like forever. I loved it and my parents said, “You can ride it down to the church and then you have to come back.” The church was maybe a half a mile away, maybe ¼ mile, it wasn’t that far, but it seemed like it at the time. I would ride to the church, and then I’d say I’m just going to take it a little further. I just loved it. And I pretended my bike was my car. We had this long driveway and I would go by the magnolia tree, and I would pick a leaf and I would pretend like I was filling the bike – “the car” – like the magnolia leaf was the gas.

Have you always wanted to be an actor?

From a young age, I wanted to be an actor or a fashion designer. I think I was seven when someone asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, and I replied “an actress.” The only acting I had done at that time was in church and school. I loved every minute of it. I loved being in front of people and pretending to be someone or something else.

Are you glad you were cast in “The Bicyclist”?

I absolutely love working on the series, and I love Carl and Sharon [Jameson, the filmmakers]. It’s been a really neat experience, because it’s been a collaborative effort between them and the actors. They’ve given us the freedom to guide our characters in a way that we feel they should move – and at the same time bringing us a lot of options and creative storylines.

What’s it like working in a web series, say as opposed to a film?

The nice thing about doing a webisode, it kind of goes back to my theater roots, because in theater you have a long rehearsal process. Being on a show that you film every week or so, you get to work on your character longer. It’s kind of nice because of how we’ve grown and changed since the beginning of the series.

Tell us about Steve, your character in the “The Bicyclist.”

Steve is a complicated woman. She’s smart, artistic, funny, guarded and a little judgmental. She thinks she has life figured out, but is constantly surprised at what life throws her way. She’s not the type of girl who wears her heart on her sleeve. She protects herself by putting up a shield of armor and not letting too many people inside her circle of friends. She’s had one best friend since grade school, Lissa. She’s like an egg, a hard exterior but all mush on the inside. Steve has trust issues and is constantly fighting with her father. She loves bicycles!! Bikes are the only things she can control because she knows how to fix it and ride them. She believes in bikes and the bike culture. She feels at home in this community, which is the only home she feels a deep connection.

How’s Steve the same or different from you?

Whenever I approach a role, I start with the basics: who is this person, what is she doing at this particular moment, how does she feel, how do others feel about her, etc. Then I take it to the next level and ask what she wants at this moment, what she wants tomorrow, what she wants out of life, why is she saying these things, is she telling the truth, etc. There is a part of me in every character, including Steve. She’s a great character to play but ultimately we are two different

people who lead two very different lives. I can't change a tire or fix a flat like Steve can. It's sad, but true. The similarity is that my life and Steve's is constantly changing. We are finding out new things about ourselves all the time. It makes life and playing a character very interesting and challenging.

Have you been recognized on the street yet by fans of the series?

Not on the street, but at certain events. For example, I was recording audio for a different project and the sound recorder felt like he knew me, then it hit him. "You're Steve from 'The Bicyclist'! I love the show! Meeting you has made my day!" he said.