

## **Q & A with Nichole Leigh Verdin**

*Nichole Leigh Verdin plays the lead actor, Victoria Celestine, in "Shroud".*

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### **What is important to you as an actor? What are your priorities?**

Since I was very young I loved performing. There was a terrifying and exhilarating rush that came with a well received performance. At that time I never really thought about acting a choice I thought of it as a way of life. Acting was something I HAD to do to settle my restless soul.

Now that I'm a little older and a little wiser I've learned that acting really has nothing to do with me. I realize that acting is about providing a service providing entertainment to anyone who will listen. It is important to me to tell a story. It is important to me to be true to a character.

My priorities are to always acknowledge where I am, where I've been, and where I'm going. I don't want to be stagnant. I will always be striving for excellence but I can only do that by recognizing how far I have to go and how far I've come.

### **Are there any actors, authors or artists who inspire you? If so, who?**

I grew up on the classics. I loved romantic comedies with Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn. I also loved classic art like the impressionists. Same with authors: I loved Shakespeare and Victor Hugo. Then I saw pieces that truly changed the way I looked at the world. I remember the first time I saw Elizabeth Taylor in "Who's afraid of Virginia Wolfe" I thought to myself *I want to do that.*

The first time I visited Mondrian's exhibit I thought I've never seen anything quite like that before. Then I started to read Hemmingway, Steinbeck, and Orwell. All those experiences taught me that there is always something more that can be discovered, a different way of doing things, another way to push yourself.

I'm inspired by anyone who is not afraid to push themselves outside of their comfort zones because that is usually when something extraordinary and inspirational happens.

### **In Shroud, you play a very unique character. Who is Victoria Celestine?**

Victoria is a force. I look up to her. She would never let anything as silly as being a woman get in the way of her getting her own way. I was truly inspired by her passion and wit, her loyalty and maternal instincts. She is tremendously well educated and is also trained in various martial arts. Her deep solid faith keeps her centered in desperate situations. She would lay down her life for truth, honor, and duty. I was extremely honored to play her.

### **What does the future hold for Nichole Leigh Verdin?**

I am privileged to say that I will be working again with Jetrefilm Entertainment in the next couple of months on their upcoming project. Working with Jetrefilm has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Everyone on the cast and crew worked together as a unit. Everyone helped each other not just because it was their job but because they were just a wonderful, caring and hard working team. I'm excited to move forward in my art form and my search for excellence.