

November 23, 2010

To the Fortunate Individual Who is About to Hire Ashley Pankow,

You are wise.

I, like you, was looking for a star when I cast Ashley in two productions I was directing at the historic Cumberland County Playhouse in TN. And I, like you, found one.

Out of the 800 or so people who auditioned at the 2007 SETC convention, it goes without saying that Ashley stood out. Ashley possesses a modern Girl-Friday quirkiness with Liza Minelli-meets-Ethel Merman sized pipes.

Because of her incredibly powerful voice, Ashley can command any stage. She played the central character in my production of *Flight of the Lawnchair Man* and when the composer came to see the production, we both agreed, her performance was definitive.

Though that role is a belter's dream and Ashley a dream belter – it was her insightful attention to detail as an actress, which made the core of the play come alive.

I also had the pleasure of working with Ashley on a straight play – a play which, on the page, read as fairly dry. Because of Ashley's ability to bring depth to each moment and make subtle, unique choices – and because of her joyous nature off-stage (she has a delightfully, infectious laugh), we were able to bring life and awesomeness to a world which could have easily been dismissed as flat.

Ashley will work incredibly hard. She will be your first cast member off book and may be the only one who can also accompany herself on the piano while expertly riding a bronco.

Plus she is stylish. Ashley has a youthful, fresh charm which just makes you want to be around her.

Congratulations! You found her.

Bari Newport

Artistic Associate

Alliance Theatre

(678) 525 - 4114

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