

FORGING A CAREER IN THE BIG APPLE

Kira Geiger, Class of 2011

“THERE ARE SO MANY STORIES happening around you; it is just a fascinating place.” With these words, Kira Geiger sums up her love for living in New York, as well as revealing her passion for sharing the stories of others through acting.

Upon graduation from Bear Creek in 2011, Kira enrolled at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting. After visiting both New York and Los Angeles as part of her program’s culminating showcase, she knew that New York was the right place for her to launch her career. Taking advantage of both stage and screen opportunities, Kira has embarked on what she terms “a marathon, not a sprint.” So far she has had a supporting role on a Discovery Channel syndicate crime show, acted in a short play for a festival, participated in developing a new musical, which is now being workshopped off-Broadway, and perhaps most exciting, is producing a 1991 play entitled *Spike Heels* along with three classmates.

Written by Theresa Rebeck, the play explores the issues of sexual harassment in the workplace, women’s role in politics, and the relationship between the sexes. Kira comments, “Even though the play was written 25 years ago, it still feels relevant today.” She goes on to reflect that at Bear Creek, the focus on classic theater, from Shakespeare to Oscar Wilde, helped her learn how these writers revealed essential truths about our humanity. “When you take the time to look deep enough, humans were the same then as they are now. The same elements—like love and redemption—run through all of our stories and bind us together.”



In addition to focusing on the philosophical implications of the play, as producer, Kira must organize the many details involved in “creating something out of nothing.” Kira finds all the behind the scenes work, from organizing the actors and rehearsals and coordinating the costumes, set design, and theater use, through managing the promotion and business aspects of a play challenging, exciting, and a big learning opportunity.

As Kira looks ahead, she hopes to be able to make a living acting both on stage and onscreen. She loves the connection to the audience and her fellow performers offered by the theater. “We go through an experience together during a play, and it is different every night.” While the screen work is more

technically challenging and has a less organic feel, the opportunity to shoot on location and take advantage of special effects adds an interesting twist to the work. She noted that in today’s world, many actors forge successful careers moving back and forth between the two media.

Kira credits her experience at Bear Creek with igniting her curiosity and passion for performance. She participated in both choir and drama, as well as sports, beginning in eighth grade.

“I always wanted to do it all,” she remembers. “I’m grateful to my teachers for creating a balanced environment where good grades were important, but not all that mattered. What was more important was the ‘why’ of the course—the material we were learning.”

By nurturing a real desire for learning and a drive for excellence, Bear Creek continues to impact Kira’s daily life. “I still can’t get out of those khakis,” she chuckles. “Even though it’s not something I have to do for my day-to-day needs, I still do some math study and am teaching myself French.” We look forward to seeing Kira performing the many varied stories of our lives and reflecting their deep human truths for years to come.