

Flagler grad Al DiMartino scores success in 'Newyorkland'

Author: Eliza Jordan, '13



A New York stage equipped to merge film performance, visual arts, simulated firearms and mirrors isn't exactly where Al DiMartino, '10, thought he would find himself just a couple of years out of school.

The former theatre arts major now plays a major role in the production of "Newyorkland," which has been written up in The New York Times, The New York Post and a number of other theater publications.

DiMartino plays Louie Giglio, a "what you see is what you get kind of guy" in the play, which depicts the lives of four New York Police Department officers who struggle with the duties of their profession and facing the realities of day-to-day life.

"'Newyorkland' combines cop movies, popular TV police procedurals and firsthand accounts of real-life police officers," said DiMartino, who has toured with the production at locations such as Columbia University, The Coil Festival at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York City, as well as stages in Seattle and Canada.

For DiMartino, taking classes in theater performance, directing, technology and set production at Flagler College played a large part in his success after graduation. But the actor said the biggest thing he took from the school wasn't found in a book.

"What I took away from Flagler was confidence," said DiMartino. "Flagler gave me the opportunities to do things I had dreamed about my whole life."

Before heading to St. Augustine, DiMartino was already involved in theater production working at Hunter College in New York City.

"I had spent years working a job that did little more than pay bills, and fund whatever little desire I had, but I was miserable," he said.

As he continues his work with "Newyorkland," DiMartino said he wants to pass on the things he's learned along the way to those who find themselves on the same path he took.

“The most important thing is to never give up and to never be afraid to fail,” he said. “I have failed over and over again and that is why I succeed.”

In 2013, “Newyorkland” is scheduled to visit the Exit Festival in Paris, France, the Theatre National de Toulouse in Toulouse, France, and the Shizuoka Performing Arts Center in Shizuoka, Japan.

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