

On Tour With Chris Cochrane.

This October I will be 25, a quarter of a century. As the open minded innocence of my youth becomes no more than a distant memory, I cherish the thought that I might have an impact on someone new, coming up through the ranks. I think back to specific times of change and inspiration.

In the fall of 2008, myself, three other actors and a brave stage manager embarked on a province wide tour of the **New Canadian Kid** by Dennis Foon. After performing the show almost eighty times to over twenty thousand students I was left with a sense of accomplishment. New Kid tells the story of a boy moving to Canada and his troubles fitting in. Despite being created in the eighties, kids could still relate to it and it generated a lot of great discussion. It was an adventure filled with laughter and memories. In December I returned to my job at the catering company, assuming that my contribution to children's theatre had run its course...this was not the case.

This September I along with three other actors and a new brave stage manager will embark on a national tour of **Wired** by Betty Quan. This time I will have the opportunity to perform in front of a larger audience and get the chance to travel the country. Wired is a play that addresses cyber safety. Not only will this show encourage kids to think about these issues but it will also expose them to an amazing theatre experience. Some will have never seen a live performance of this nature and we will be doing it right in their back yards (actually at their school but close enough). I believe that theatre is the perfect way to broach these kinds of subjects and I'm honoured to be a part of it.