

# Entertainment

## Local actress appears in short films

Emily Fortunato, born and raised in Stratford, has taken Metro-North into Manhattan since age 12 to study acting.

A recent graduate of Manhattanville College, where she studied communications and theater, Fortunato said her work started to pay off early in 2010 when she had the opportunity to collaborate with Red Wall Productions, a New York-based production company headed by Craig Williams and his wife, Rosalyn Coleman Williams.

She worked closely with Red Wall Productions to "tell stories that she strongly believed in," and shot three short films on-location in Connecticut.

Fortunato stars in "Daddy for Lunch," "This is It" and "Sketchy Future," all directed by Rosalyn Coleman Williams.

"I am so grateful early on in my career to work with fantastic people like Rosalyn and Craig," Fortunato said. "They really guided me through this process."

In early November Fortunato learned her films were going to be part of "The View From Here: A Festival of Short Films," at The Fairfield Theatre Company Stage One, 70 Sanford St., Fairfield, on Jan. 10, 2011, at 7 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



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(Submitted photo)

Tickets are \$10 and sold at the door.

Fortunato appeared in more than 10 productions and readings in New York this year, and was recently cast in a short film directed by Joel Dunn, who founded Theory Films in 2003.

"I am extremely excited to work with Joel again,"

Fortunato said. "We worked together years ago when we met at film school. I really admired his work and directing talent."

The film is in pre-production and is expected to make the festival rounds sometime next year.

"As a young actor it is extremely empowering to have

a voice," Fortunato said. "My ultimate goal as a performer is to tell stories that are powerful, moving and that make people think."

"I am really enjoying this journey. I am finding my voice as an artist more and more each day."

Fortunato has a Web site, [emilyfortunato.com](http://emilyfortunato.com).

**In film fest**  
Stratford native Emily Fortunato is living her acting dream.  
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