



ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST

Actor's Question Time

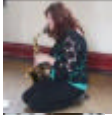
How did you train to become an actor?



"I did drama G.C.S.E., then a BTEC in Performing Arts before studying acting at drama school at Arden in Manchester."



"I went to Calderdale College, completed a 1 year access course then studied at the Royal Welsh College."



"I did a one year foundation at a local college, then went on to study at The Central School of Speech and drama, London for three years."



"I went to Bretton Hall and studied for a degree in acting. The course covered a wide range of performance skills and the work of various practitioners from classical to post-modern theatre. This has given me a broad skill base and a knowledge of different ways of working."

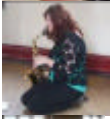
When did you start acting?



"I always did school plays and that, but only at college did I begin to look at the craft of acting as an art rather than an excuse to mess around!"



"I was 24 when I first started acting."



"I didn't set foot on a stage until I was 22."



"I was fourteen and started having drama lessons at school. I really enjoyed them, did the school productions every year and gradually decided I wanted to make a career out of it."

What was your first job?



"Cleaning stairs in blocks of flats. First performing job was as a still-life mannequin model"



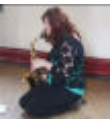
"'Taking Steps' By Alan Ayckbourn at The Torch Theatre"



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What was your first job?



"I got my Equity Card by doing a season at the Oldham Coliseum theatre, straight after finishing drama college. I was one of the lucky ones; some people had to wait two years to get theirs, which meant that they couldn't begin their careers for that time."



"I played a hiker in 'Heartbeat' for Yorkshire Television. I was really nervous and consequently rubbish! My first job on stage was playing Roger in "Lord of the Flies".

How do you prepare for an audition?



"I don't like auditions so I try not to think about it when I get one - just turn up with a clearish head and see if I can do what they ask"



"I always make sure that I've read the play and looked at the suggested scenes."



"I turn up at the right place with plenty of time to spare. This gives me extra time to look at the script before I go in. If it's a theatre audition I read the play beforehand."

"The playing element!! It's a daft show surrounding a serious subject.

What are you looking forward to in this production?



Although there are antics galore, the discipline has to be very tight to allow us a focused play. That makes me laugh. Yeah. I'm looking forward to laughing."



"The challenge and the opportunity to be a part of a great a piece of theatre."



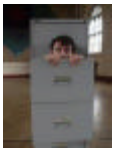
"My comedy moustache. Also the slapstick humour and seeing how the audience respond to both the comic and more serious elements of the play."



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When do you know when you are doing your job properly?



"When lines are learnt and no accidents have happened on stage! that's the basics then as far as you want to go you can regulate yourself. Fortunately, most directors I've worked with tell me if they think I'm heading in the wrong direction otherwise I just keep heading. "

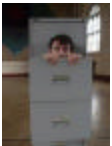


"You just do.... you know when your doing it properly and more importantly when you're not. Every night is different."



"It's like the X Factor. You can tell when all the right ingredients have come together but you can't put your finger on any one thing. The audience response will often give a good indication of how well these things have come together."

How have you approached your character in this play?



"The maniac is a character full of characters all aiming towards a purpose. I'm still working loads on releasing "the voices in my head" but the purpose is the drawing force."



"I read the play as often as possible and try to find out what the character says about himself and what others say about him. I believe that acting is reacting and that your fellow actors play a major part in the creation of your character. You have to trust. Trust the play. Trust the director. Trust your cast and yourself. Have fun and play."



"For this play I couldn't make any decisions in advance. It's an ensemble piece and I had to wait and see how the other characters were going to turn out so I could fit in with the style of the production. The director had strong ideas about how he wanted the characters to interact so it was important to respond to his guidance."/>

What's the best and worst part of your job?



"The worst part is not being at home for ages. The best is meeting new people having a good time and if a show goes well that you're in, that's ace. The playing too. New musical skills, new people.....loads."



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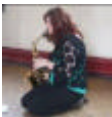
What's the best and worst part of your job?



"The worst is not knowing when you will work again and not being in control. The best is also not being in control!"



"The worst part is being away from home a lot of the time and sometimes having to miss important occasions such as weddings etc. The best part is the variety of work, people and places that you inevitably experience. It's never dull!"



"I think the aspect of the career that I enjoy most, is the variety of jobs that I do. No two employments are the same and I don't know where I will be working in a years time. Paradoxically, this is also the worst part of being an actor."

Many thanks to Mike Hugo, Craig Rogan, Ruth Alexander Rubin and Matt Connor for taking time out of their busy rehearsal schedule to answer these questions.

