

9TH UNPLUGGED

ERIC KREITZMAN

SENIOR AUDIO/VISUAL ENGINEER

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MR. KREITZMAN: And I'm Eric Kreitzman.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you're listening to 9th Unplugged.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So we are going to get unplugged in just a moment. But before we do that, can you tell me your title, the department that you work in, and a little bit about what your duties are.

MR. KREITZMAN: I guess, be the audio/visual technology specialist with the AV department.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. KREITZMAN: Fixing all the microphones, installing all the microphones, updating all the audio and visual for the projectors and evidence presentation, and making sure everybody sounds good, and making sure everything gets captured on the record too so we don't you know

—

JUDGE LATIMORE: Lose that.

MR. KREITZMAN: -- lose any of that, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How long have you been doing that for us?

MR. KREITZMAN: Two years. A little over two years. I started in Osceola and I transferred over here two months ago I think, about two months ago.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, welcome to Orange County.

MR. KREITZMAN: Yeah, I like it over here.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Well, we're glad to have you. So let's go ahead and get unplugged. So when you're not doing that for the Ninth Circuit, what are you doing at home?

MR. KREITZMAN: At home, either mixing audio at home, occasionally video games when my kids let me actually have the television.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. KREITZMAN: But that's about it, honestly. I mean, it's kind of – read comics occasionally but again most of my time is just chasing around a three year old and a one year old and making sure they don't break anything.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, nice. Yes.

MR. KREITZMAN: Including themselves.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What did you do before you – before you came to the Ninth Circuit to work?

MR. KREITZMAN: I mixed live audio at Universal Studio, City Walk, all the different clubs they have at City Walk at night. I would mix audio there. A couple of local venues around town mixing live bands and before that I was working at Target.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So when you say mix audio, just bear with my ignorance, does that mean like a DJ thing or is that more than that?

MR. KREITZMAN: No, you know you see the big consoles at a recording studio or at a live concert, I'm that guy behind there making sure everything sounds good.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, with all those buttons that they're moving up and down?

MR. KREITZMAN: Yes, yeah I know what all those buttons do, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, nice. How do you get trained for that?

MR. KREITZMAN: For me it was, I started making music when I was younger. I met a couple guys that did recording and they would record me and then show me stuff on the side. And then I actually went to college in Orlando when I was 23, the Florida Institute of Recording and Sound Technology, I went there. But at that point I kind of already learned a lot by just being around studios long enough and I kind of just fell into it. And live sound, I didn't expect either, but I was interning, I met a couple of people that were willing to take me onboard to show me how to do the live audio portion of it and that was kind of it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And so which band would you say was the best that you got to work with? Can you name one?

MR. KREITZMAN: Yeah, a band called Mushroomhead.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. KREITZMAN: And they were like my favorite band growing up, like listening to, and then I got the opportunity to finally actually work with them.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Awesome.

MR. KREITZMAN: And that to me was just insane. And then actually, now like years down the road, not trying to sound braggy or anything but I've actually become friends with a couple of guys from the band. So that's kind of a weird experience to have because you know, you're 15 and you idolize these people and then you see them show up –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now you're friends with them.

MR. KREITZMAN: Yeah, you see them show up in like board shorts and tank tops to practice and then, now, you're friends with them and hang out with them and talk to them. I was actually texting with one of them yesterday, the other day.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Are you travelling with bands at any time? Do you go on the road or anything like that?

MR. KREITZMAN: No, I never – I thought about it but with being married, it's kind of a weird thing to be gone that long, six months, ten months, whatever, so and then especially with kids and stuff too, it just never really was my kind of cup of tea to tour.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. All right.

MR. KREITZMAN: I like staying local.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's awesome. That is amazing. So do you have any words of inspiration for those who might be interested? Like the best thing to do to get into that field.

MR. KREITZMAN: Don't give up and make sure to look into every avenue you possibly can because you're going to – you might have an idea of what you want to do when it comes to audio and then that could shift and just be willing to accept it and try it because it's kind of fun everywhere. Like no matter what, you know when I was younger, I had to be in the recording studio. That was it. And as I grew up, I just realized I loved audio in general and it didn't matter what I was doing, that was just the passion. So things changed but roll with it and it – it ends up coming together pretty nice.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice. Now you mentioned comic books. So tell me what you're interest is in comic books.

MR. KREITZMAN: Spiderman.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Spiderman.

MR. KREITZMAN: Huge Spiderman –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're just straight Spiderman.

MR. KREITZMAN: Like I'm from New York so I kind of – and I was a nerd so being a nerdy kid from New York and then Spiderman being a nerdy kid from New York kind of fit. So I've read Spiderman a lot. I like Marvel the most, but yes, Spiderman was always like my cup of tea to go to.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What about the movies that have come out? Do you like them?

MR. KREITZMAN: Oh, yeah, obsessed.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you have a favorite actor who played Spiderman?

MR. KREITZMAN: No, because I like all of them for different reasons, I guess. It depends on – I mean, I like the new guy, Tom Holland I think is doing a really good job but Andrew Garfield I just thought was a little bit funnier.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. KREITZMAN: So I kind of like both of them. Tobey Maguire was hit or miss but the new guy is pretty good, he's pretty good.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. And so I heard you're from New York. Where were you born and raised?

MR. KREITZMAN: Long Island.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. Have you been back?

MR. KREITZMAN: Yeah, yeah, we go back every – since COVID not so much, we haven't gone. But before that, we usually try to go every couple of years to visit everybody. We go see my wife's family in Delaware at the same time so it's kind of nice to – it's only like a three-hour train ride, three-hour drive, so we'll go up there sometimes. But recently we haven't because everything going on, but hopefully soon. I miss the food.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite food on Long Island?

MR. KREITZMAN: Pizza.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I know –

MR. KREITZMAN: Pizza and bagels. And actually it's funny because my uncle just flew down over the weekend and stopped by yesterday and brought us over a dozen bagels from up north, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice.

MR. KREITZMAN: So I'm pretty excited.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Nice. Yeah, I saw that you liked pizza. I was just going to take a roll at it and see if that was actually –

MR. KREITZMAN: Yeah, that's kind of – I mean, I've gotten better at not eating it constantly. Like I'm getting older, so I can't just eat pizza every single day anymore, but you know when –

JUDGE LATIMORE: And so what do you put on your pizza when you order?

MR. KREITZMAN: Just cheese, old school.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Just cheese pizza.

MR. KREITZMAN: Cheese, that's it. I like pepperoni, but I don't like pepperoni on the pizza. I don't like anything – it's just – that, I'll put some garlic powder and stuff like that but that's it. I just like cheese, that's it. Old school.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And the Long Island pizza, is it thin crust or is it –

MR. KREITZMAN: Yeah, it's like thin with like the big crust, yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Chicago's thick, right?

MR. KREITZMAN: Yeah, Chicago's thick, we're like thin and like the big slices that you have to like fold.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah.

MR. KREITZMAN: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, that sounds good. You're making me hungry right now. Okay. All right and so I want to commend you because I notice here that you're a cancer survivor.

MR. KREITZMAN: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, can you share with us a little bit about that experience and where did you pull your strength?

MR. KREITZMAN: I've always joked about things. I don't know why. And I take things seriously but I just learned that you have to joke about it because it's not going to change the situation. So I learned to just kind joke and make laughs and we found out, it was a little rough and I had just started in Osceola not that long. I had only been there for a few months. And they you know said there's a chance I might not be able to have kids anymore and there was this whole big thing with me, and we did the surgery, no chemo, no anything, thank God. It was just gone and then a few months later we had my other daughter. But I think that was – I think having my first kid really helped because what I had to focus on at that point. It wasn't just about me anymore so I think kind of focusing on her versus anything else is what really helped to kind of just get through it and make sure I was good, and that was it. And so far so good.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, congratulations --

MR. KREITZMAN: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: - with that and your continued success.

MR. KREITZMAN: It was a little scary but --

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, I'm sure.

MR. KREITZMAN: - what are you going to do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah.

MR. KREITZMAN: Smile and wave and just keep going.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Keep it going. Positive attitude always makes a difference, doesn't it?

MR. KREITZMAN: Yeah.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what it is you like to do like when you have the most fun with your kids? They're little so what is it that you do to have a good time with them?

MR. KREITZMAN: The pool out back. We have like a little pool. My daughters love being in the water. She'd be in it for hours. Like my oldest, every time no matter what, she kicks her feet in the pool, she has to have her mouth open. It's just hilarious. So I think doing stuff like that because they just – they just love it and they can't – it's almost impossible to take her out of the water.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You just have to wait until she tires out.

MR. KREITZMAN: Yeah, until she – yeah, until she decides to get out. So out of all the things that would be like my favorite, favorite thing. And then second would be like we listen to music because they both really enjoy music and they're always dancing in the living room and stuff. And it's just fun to watch them learn these dance moves and try to keep up, yeah. Those two.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, and what do you want for them in the future? What is it that you want the most for your daughters?

MR. KREITZMAN: Healthy. Just healthy and happy, that's it. Whatever it takes for them to be healthy, happy and beyond that I'm good. As long as they smile.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So how is your life different now than you expected it to be?

MR. KREITZMAN: Honestly, like I said when I was growing up, I always thought I'd be in a recording studio or touring, and that didn't – again, as I grew up I kind of realized that wasn't going to happen so – but I like it. I'm glad where I'm at you know. I always knew I wanted to be married. I always knew I wanted to have kids but I always figured I was going to be on the road and travelling and seeing all that stuff, but I'm kind of glad I didn't. Because as I grew up I just realized like that wasn't for me. And then when COVID hit, it all ended so I'm happy things worked out the way they did.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MR. KREITZMAN: You know what I mean, and not going that direction at some point. Again, you know when you're 15 being famous is everything.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right.

MR. KREITZMAN: But that's where I used to go to was that, but now I'm just happy to have a healthy family that I can take care of and that's – and I love – I legitimately love my job here and everybody that I work with so that's – that's a good bonus too.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, I'm happy you're happy too.

MR. KREITZMAN: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you so much for being unplugged with me today.

MR. KREITZMAN: Of course.

(Music)