

9/16/2020 notes Kevin Bacon

Kevin Bacon said he did not connect enough with other actors when he started his pursuit of acting. He did feel part of a community and group early on, but once reaching fame, he became more isolated. He loves to connect with actors now and reconnected via Zoom with the cast of "Diner." He last Slated 30 years ago and has compassion for us with the difficulty of auditioning today. Kevin likes to give back and started at an early age when living in Philadelphia. He was and activist and part of the group trying to get Frank Rizzo out of office. He also attended rallies and protests. When he decided to become an actor, he became self-involved and did not think about the world around him. He was interested in making money, meeting girls, etc. After marrying and having his first son, he thought more about the world, read the paper, became more aware of the environment and became more active in environmental issues with his wife.

Kevin Bacon is "grateful for being born a white man."

A very important turning point in Kevin's career was the summer of 1976. He was a regular on a bicentennial show and left the show for a summer acting program. He also had a small part in the film Animal House and was asked to become part of the cast for the Animal House TV Show. He turned down the offer for a 3 line role in an off Broadway play called Getting Out, whereby giving him a foothold in theatre which he loved.

Kevin indicated that the word "actor" was not used in the past. His most popular role was in the movie Footloose. He was seen as a teen idol, but he pushed against that. He did not want to be pigeonholed. Instead, Kevin wanted to be able to play different roles. He chose roles he did not care what other people thought of and wanted people to appreciate his work! He would only promote his own work in the hopes of booking future work.

While Kevin bartended/waited tables to pay the bills, he was doing background acting on a soap opera. Slowly he became an extra, then got lines, a contract and eventually was able to support himself solely on an actor's income. He always kept the big dream of fame on the back burner but tried to focus on the baby steps and small victories. He admits it is hard not to get discouraged in this business. He is always judged and receiving constant criticism (too old, last role was bad, etc.). He was never able to book commercial or voiceover work until he was famous. "You need tough skin!"

Although Kevin says commercial work is a good segway to legit work, with kids it sometimes hurts them. They overact and are not real enough.

Kevin still considers Philly his home. His one regret is that when he was younger he was cocky and did not listen to others. He was resistant to learning and acting teachers. Now he listens! He also balances his acting career with his marriage and family. He and his wife are a team and do not compete with each other. In the past during filming, there would be a strong sense of family with the cast and crew, but after the completion of the project, he would feel empty and

shallow. He suggested "Find something outside of your career where you find peace because when the business lets you down, you don't want to be left alone."

Kevin does run scripts and auditions by his wife. He indicated in the past with film there was not much flexibility with the actual script, so the good writers went to TV.

Kevin has started to self-create content. During the pandemic, he and his wife made a short and were involved with all aspects of film making. He suggested we all try this. The more we shoot our own content the more we learn and become better actors with camera, lighting, sound and creative awareness. It is hard to act alone, so making films helps. You can learn a tremendous amount by rewatching content you made yourself. And his advice is "be more open to advice." Looking back, Kevin would not change much but believes you can always improve and get better through more work.

Kevin has a love/hate relationship with Hollywood. He always felt like an outsider but did find that going to parties and networking was a good thing. It often times led to work. He does think it is important to build relationships with writers. He also welcomes and introduces other actors on his sets. He likes to build connections between all people involved and believes in the end it allows better quality stuff to be made. He suggested when on set "read the room."

Kevin's hardest role physically was in Hollow Man. The mask he had to wear was very uncomfortable. The hardest role emotionally was The Woodsman. Playing a child molester was very emotional. At times he would have nightmares about his character. However, at the end of the day, he tries to leave his work on set.

Kevin is a loyal person who likes sticking with his regulars. He does not have an agent but does have a manager and lawyer. He sees his manager as a partner but warns us to be careful with befriending those you hire. If things goes sour in the relationship, it makes the situation more difficult. "Always look out for yourself and get work."

Kevin's final advice was for us to make our own film and to do something every day towards our dreams (class, voiceover, training, networking, etc.). "Maybe act as someone you aren't and see if you can pull it off."