

June 23, 2021 Notes – Rebecca Creskoff

Rebecca is a well accomplished actress who grew up in the Philadelphia area, attended the University of Pennsylvania undergrad, NYU grad school, lived in the L. A. area and now is back in the Philadelphia suburbs. She has had a versatile acting career.

After hearing our slates, Rebecca commented that she personally finds slates awkward but liked our addition of the interesting fact! She also liked our clean backgrounds.

The Covid shutdown hit at a convenient time for Rebecca. She was home with her 9 month old and grade school children. She also read through her old journal from grade school and was feeling similarly – during both times she wondered “how do I create?” The pandemic allowed her time for that.

In her opinion, going to grad school at NYU was one of the best things to happen to her. She had and still has access to the facilities and training. Additionally, she formed close bonds with her schoolmates, had exposure to acting representation and received good improv training. In fact, some of those schoolmates went on to create very successful shows.

As she looks back on her career, her work looks impressive, but it was hard to recognize while she was in it. She worked hard!

Early in her career, Rebecca was an understudy in a Steve Martin play that ran indefinitely. Three weeks in to the showing, the lead actress quit and Rebecca became the replacement for the next year. She remains friends with many of the cast including Jason Antoon who was also an understudy.

Her definition of SUCCESS

THEN – 100% financial

NOW – the production has to be creatively worthwhile (spending time with her family generally prevails)

Rebecca feels lucky in her success and ability to book many roles. She admitted that she said “Yes” to everything.

A turning point in Rebecca’s career happened when she was auditioning for the play Love’s Labour’s Lost. She was issued a plane ticket to go to the west coast and upon her Manager’s suggestion she flew out early. Rebecca tested for episodics and guest star roles. She had pictures taken with very little budget and pounded the pavement. One audition was for the tv show ER. Rebecca said there was a huge turnout for the audition and after her audition the Casting Director approached her. He said she did not book the part but asked her to come back the next day to audition for The West Wing. She booked a role 😊 Rebecca then turned down the opportunity to perform in the play, repaid the plane ticket amount and stayed in L.A.

Rebecca basically got into the Union after doing a union commercial for a douche and then landing a role on a soap opera. She was asked to join AFTRA on the spot.

Rebecca loves comedy and never cared about being the prettiest. She was always focused on everyone else in the audition room and overly studied them all. She was told a lot “you aren’t what we pictured.” Rebecca believes her superpower is her ability to tweak things to make them funny. She tries to make the scene work by giving a strong take. She said that when reading a script, she gets an immediate feeling if it is good and bases her audition and take on that feeling. If the script is not good, why waste time on the audition knowing it will ultimately fail.

The past year she had 2 Netflix auditions via Zoom (one with John Wells who she worked with years earlier)

Rebecca was told in grad school that the way people talk reflects where they are from. We talked about The Mare of Easttown and how the Delco accent is a heavy one that was done well in the HBO series.

Rebecca studied theatre but mostly does camera work. She strongly believes that her improv training and clowning teacher helped her to be successful. “When you find your clown then you make your role a good one.” Other keys to her success – be a good listener, breathe and make big choices. She said it is harder to turn your audition up and much easier to tone it down.

Rebecca emphasized that our essence has to come through in our auditions and performances. “There’s no Juliette. There’s each person’s Juliette.” Our life experiences bring our own Juliette’s to life.

Nerves were a big stumbling block for Rebecca especially for comedy. She had to work on herself and believe that she was enough. She practices Alkaline Breathing (breathe in for 5 seconds, hold for 5 seconds and exhale for 5 seconds). She believes it resets her nervous system. She also admits that Beta Blockers help 😊