

Nicki & Zack- The Barn Theatre

The following is an excerpt from an interview recorded July 17th, 2017. All featured participants have consented to the use of this material. The use of this material by parties other than The Neighborhood Theatre Project is prohibited.

Julia: [00:09:24] So it seems like, um, well - when you - when you both think of the word community what does that mean to you?

Zack: [00:09:33] It depends.

Nicki: [00:09:35] I was gonna say that!

Zack: [00:09:35] Cause there's definitely different types of communities.

Nicki: [00:09:37] Well 'cause for me first/

Zack: [00:09:39] /Oh go ahead/

Nicki: [00:09:39] /I think - I mean - I think of connection and that type of thing but then I'm also thinking about the diverse community and the death-connection. So is that why you're saying it depends?

Zack: [00:09:47] Well and it's- there's different community levels. Cause I think of -

Nicki: [00:09:51] True.

Zack: [00:09:51] Like the community of Willmar is just a...I wouldn't even know how to explain it. It's... Every different group is somehow connected in some capacity to make a community. But within that there's different communities and so then I think of our theater - theater community here and then just even within our theater groups. There's different groups within the theatre group.

Nicki: [00:10:18] Yeah that's true.

Zack: [00:10:19] So.

Nicki: [00:10:20] But I think it - I think of it as our theatre family kind of. So to me I think it more in the um, the emotional aspect versus just the dynamics - specific dynamics I think.

Zack: [00:10:32] And I think where the true term community even when it's - I think like in our theatre community or just in the general Willmar community when something like the drowning of the Somali boy or um when the city of Willmar flooded it showed that all these different groups came together to still help the overall community.

Nicki: [00:10:52] Yes.

Zack: [00:10:53] And I think that's the same within our theater group. I mean there's - there's different people that don't talk to each other. But then when something happens everybody still comes together.

Nicki: [00:11:02] Yeah

Zack: [00:11:03] Which I think is a true community.

Nicki: [00:11:07] Well, um, even a little more specifically just speaking of that exactly um, just in the group and I can only speak for this production because I was involved in it but 9 to 5 um a lot of things happened throughout that production rehearsals and whatnot and I- very drastic things. Um. Our - where do I start. 'Cause I don't want to be too lengthy but our director um was - had at to - at the last minute step in like a week before and because there was somebody from New York that was supposed- damn those New Yorkers (*laughs*) I'm just kidding - that was going to be coming and directing and something had happened with that. So he stepped in and it was fabulous but we had issues like right from the beginning.

Zack: [00:11:59] Big issues.

Nicki: [00:12:03] Um our pianist. We were right in the early stages of rehearsal.

Zack: [00:12:08] First week wasn't it?

Nicki: [00:12:09] Um first or second maybe 'cause I know I was rehearsing just a Thursday night with the pianist and the vocal director and that kind of thing and um - wasn't - I mean we- wasn't feeling real well but Sunday- she, she died. We lost our pianist. She just- died. (*laughter*) And oh this is weird it's like where is this coming from.

Zack: [00:12:31] This is a bizarre story of 9 to 5.

Nicki: [00:12:32] It is bizarre! So we - it's like this. And then there is a reason for it. Please bring me back around if I get too far out of line here but um we then look desperately for somebody else and found this wonderful gal who's accompanied before we love her.

Time jump, redacted material due to participant anonymity.

Um, So we did find us another. Go ahead.

Zack: [00:14:50] Oh no I was going say yeah. So the pianist died (*laughs*) - we found replacement.

Nicki: [00:14:54] And we did find a replacement and she came one night for a day and she slipped on the ice and fell and and tore her/

Zack: [00:15:03] /tore her rotator cuff right.

Nicki: [00:15:03] Rotator cuff so she couldn't play the piano because she couldn't move her arms. And -

Julia: [00:15:09] Wait this is new pianist.

Zack: [00:15:10] The second one, yep.

Nicki: [00:15:11] This is the new pianist. So anyway just a little things were. Yeah. We eventually did get a rehearsal pianist and that was - all that worked and all of that um and we got through the show - we had some little blips here and there which are/

Zack: [00:15:24] Some cast members leave -

Nicki: [00:15:27] Yeah. And all that was - happens anytime. But then our - the after the show had finished um the director -

Zack: [00:15:33] Well, prior to that.

Nicki: [00:15:35] I'm sorry what?

Zack: [00:15:36] Opening night -

Nicki: [00:15:38] Can't even remember so much happened. Tell me...

Nicki: [00:15:42] oh!

Zack: [00:15:42] This was the first time we've ever had to.

Nicki: [00:15:44] Hello!

Zack: [00:15:44] Postpone an opening of a show.

Nicki: [00:15:46] Two nights 'cause of some of us being -

Zack: [00:15:48] Because the cast was so incredibly- everybody was sick and we had two people having to go into the hospital with influenza. And um yeah so we had to have the place cleaned top to bottom and we postponed the opening by two days and had to transfer four-hundred people to different nights of the show. And yeah. And then the show was done and then the director of the show Chris - he came back on

board for the following show to build the set for the next show.

Nicki: [00:16:20] Thank you for segueing.

Zack: [00:16:21] And then he - the set was done pretty much.

Nicki: [00:16:27] Nearly yep.

Zack: [00:16:28] Yep it was a little bit the week before opening wasn't it. And he had a massive stroke and -

Nicki: [00:16:33] The director for nine to five - but then was doing the set. Was the set Tech then for the next show and he had a massive stroke and a seizure.

Zack: [00:16:40] Yep and a seizure and then he was in the hospital. He's still in therapy now but. Yeah.

Nicki: [00:16:45] I mean complete different person, and my whole - And we did the other - the other male lead from 9 to 5 then also found out he has leukemia.

Zack: [00:16:56] Oh yeah that's right.

Nicki: [00:16:57] I Know this sounds like it. It's like this - the-.

Zack: [00:16:59] All this spring.

Julia: [00:17:00] It's like that - What's the story? I mean like Phantom but like - like the story that - I don't know if it's related to Phantom but just like the curse of the theatre like something like that -

Nicki: [00:17:11] That's what we've said just because there have been -

Julia: [00:17:14] Did you guys say Macbeth?

Zack: [00:17:15] I also said someone must have said Macbeth in the theater.

Nicki: [00:17:16] Dammit Zack!

Zack: [00:17:18] We're not in the theater.

Nicki: [00:17:19] Oh all right. I just - I think of the whole place as the theatre, I'm sorry the light went on. Oh no never mind.

Zack: [00:17:25] It did go back on. Yeah. It shut off - It went back on.

Nicki: [00:17:27] It's our ghosts. So.

Julia: [00:17:30] What a bizarre story.

Nicki: [00:17:31] But yeah. And you know what. All of that here I - finally come back around. But so many people have embraced, you know, him and - and the others and that were just st- I just - I think it's amazing the people that come together. And the-.

Zack: [00:17:51] Well I think of like when we had to postpone.

Nicki: [00:17:51] that we could rely on.

Zack: [00:17:53] for nine to five. We - I mean it was literally that.

Nicki: [00:17:59] Yes becau-.

Zack: [00:17:59] The night of - so it opened on a Thursday. It was Wednesday night the directors calling me telling me we have to postpone opening. So less than a 24 hour notice.

Nicki: [00:18:07] And I never would've made it through the run if I hadn't been - I woulda died.

Zack: [00:18:10] So that next morning we got in here. I called ---- and we all met here um at seven-thirty in the morning, started going through. I was able to go online and just transfer 'cause it's all web based now so I could just change the dates of those two shows in the computer system. So it already moved everybody to a new night. But we still had to call every single person to verify that they could go on that new night or else transfer 'em to different nights. And so anyway, so it was me and ---- and then we had a probably, a good four or five people show up.

Zack: [00:18:45] And while we're doing phone calls that morning we had literally - 'cause we announced it on the radio um - we literally had people coming in off the street to see if they could help call and stuff, so.

Julia: [00:18:57] Wow.

Nicki: [00:18:57] And to me that's - that's community. That's the way I'm looking at emotionally when I talk about you know that, then people embracing, you know, coming together and - I don't know. And for me like that - that's what's gotten me through the last year or so is having these people you know - you like - you like to think that the theater is full of egos and that kind of thing. And drama -

Zack: [00:19:22] Oh it is!

Nicki: [00:19:22] And of course it is but there truly- I have found, that's why I say it's home for me because I have just found such incredible people here - so many ways and it shows in that type of thing I think. But yeah we've had our little - our share of -

Zack: [00:19:41] It's been a long year.

Nicki: [00:19:42] It has been yep so, anyway, I hope I brought that back around somehow but, that was my intention.

Zack: [00:19:51] Somehow. (*laughs*)

Nicki: [00:19:52] Like - so...but enough about me. How was your year? (*laughter*) We're just kidding.

End of excerpt.