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2023-03-01 Pit Stop Rich Miller.mp3

DATE

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DURATION

1h 3m 59s

8 SPEAKERS

Karen Commins

Anne Flosnik

Rich Miller

Speaker4

Speaker6

Abigail Reno

Rebecca

Linda

START OF TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:03] Karen Commins

Well, it's now 2:00, and I'd like to welcome everyone to the Pit Stop, your fortnightly mid-week rest area to refuel your drive. I'm Karen Commins. I'm an audiobook narrator and I'm the chief cartographer for NarratorsRoadmap.com. And I'm your host for Pit Stop. And with me in the copilot seat is my lovely friend and award winning audiobook narrator Anne Flosnik. She hosts the narrator Uplift show here on Clubhouse. How are you today, Anne?

[00:00:32] Anne Flosnik

Great. So happy to be here.

[00:00:34] Karen Commins

Well, I'm happy you're here, too.

[00:00:36] Anne Flosnik

Thank you.

[00:00:38] Karen Commins

Every other Wednesday audiobook narrators who do more than narrate are pulling into the pit stop, and they're sure to inspire you to follow your interest and use all of your talents and gifts. So I want to let you all know this conversation is being recorded and you'll be able to relisten or catch parts you missed, and feel free to comment in the chat and raise your hand in the app if you want to be part of the conversation, because we'd love to hear from you. Thanks again so much for joining us. I am super excited to talk today with audiobook narrator and podcast host Rich Miller. Rich has been a storyteller since he was a kid. When he was around ten, he started reading to his family after dinner every night. Later in life, he learned that people actually liked having stories acted out for them. He's been on stage in everything from Shakespeare to Damn Yankees to August Osage County, and he starred in the indie feature Acacia Flat, and now he's acting out stories in front of a microphone. Rich created the very popular podcast audiobook Speakeasy, so he could chat with narrators, coaches, engineers and other industry professionals over drinks. He recently reached the 100th episode. Rich says he learned a lot from all the guests and discovered a lot of great cocktails. And we're going to talk more about that today. Rich, welcome to the Pit Stop. I'm just really excited to talk to you. It's high time somebody turned the table on you and asked you the questions.

[00:02:12] Rich Miller

Thanks, Darren. It's great to be here. And.

[00:02:17] Karen Commins

Well, you know, reading about your history of telling stories, I had expected to see that you probably went to college in theater. And I was shocked to discover you have a degree in math.

[00:02:28] Rich Miller

I do. Yeah.

[00:02:30] Karen Commins

What led to that?

[00:02:31] Rich Miller

You and I have a lot in common there, because if I remember correctly, from when you were in the Speakeasy back on episode 26. Way back. Way back when?

[00:02:39] Karen Commins

2018. That's right. Yeah.

[00:02:41] Rich Miller

You did quite a bit of coding in your lifetime and I was the same. I spent a lot of time in high tech.

[00:02:50] Karen Commins

Yeah. So you. Did. Did you go into this thinking, well, that's something I really love or that's where the money is? Or how did this come about?

[00:03:01] Rich Miller

So I was drawn into high tech when I was in college. I remember going down into the basement of the college library at some point, and that was where the I think they had about ten, maybe a dozen computer terminals at the time. This is back in the 1980s. The IBM PC, I think, had just come out and they had some some dumb terminals connected to the college mainframe. And it was it was like one of those cartoon moments where I walked down and I saw these computer monitors and it was like, oh, you know, like looking down from heaven. So for whatever reason, I was really, really drawn to that. And it just was a really good fit for me. And it ended up working out for a career. Later on, I got less enthralled with with all of a lot of aspects of high tech. And in the meantime, I had been sort of recruited to be in a stage play. I was never interested in theater when I was a kid and I was recruited to be in a musical, and I was less interested in musicals than I was in stage plays. And and I had such a good time that it ended up sparking this whole other career. Eventually mean it took a long time, but I was just I had so much fun that I kept at it.

[00:04:27] Karen Commins

Well, that's really interesting. And and I'm keying on, pardon the pun keying on the musical thing. So this was acting and I'm assuming singing and and not. Playing any sort of instrument. But were you singing also or just acting?

[00:04:42] Rich Miller

Correct. Yeah. At the time, I was I was in a barbershop chorus and the director came tonight and he said, Hey, there's this guy that's looking to to get a barbershop. But it's kind of harmony. And so it would be similar. Is anybody interested? And I was in a small chorus. We only had a dozen, maybe 15 members, and a few of us kind of looked around the room and kind of said, okay, shrugged our shoulders. And so we showed up to audition and the director finally came over to us. It was a production of Bye Bye Birdie and we were going to be Shriners' singing backup to can't remember the name of the song now, but we were going to be Shriners and a couple of other bit parts at various places. And he said, Oh, you're the quartet, great, go stand over there. So we ended up not auditioning and just being cast and it was just so much fun doing the singing and a little bit of movement. I am not a dancer, but we had to do a little bit of movement and and then, you know, showing up in other scenes. And I just thought, this is great. And so that that kind of spawned the the acting career.

[00:05:56] Karen Commins

Now, have you always been in Tucson or in Arizona? Because I saw you worked for eBay and I wondered, were you living in the Bay Area at that point? And so this this musical, I'm wondering where this happened.

[00:06:10] Rich Miller

So I grew up in LA and then moved to the Bay Area in 1989, right before the big earthquake in October. It was I think I moved in June or July and lived in the Bay Area for 23 years. At the time that this happened, I was living in the Santa Cruz Mountains in a little town called Ben Lomond, and the the production of Bye Bye Birdie went up in Scotts Valley, which is also over the other side of the hill towards Santa Cruz. So that's where that happened. And then shortly after that, I got married and we moved to San Jose. And so the rest of my theater was done in the South Bay area.

[00:06:54] Karen Commins

You know, if I had just moved there and three months, four months later, there's this massive earthquake, I think I would have moved back.

[00:07:03] Rich Miller

Having grown up in LA, the earthquake didn't really freak me out that much.

[00:07:06] Rich Miller

In fact, it didn't freak me out enough until later that day. I found out that the rapid transit was closed, part of the Bay Bridge had collapsed, and all of a sudden I thought, Holy crap, this is serious. Because I'd been through, I don't know, dozens or hundreds of earthquakes in my life. And that was that was when I realized, oh, this is a big deal. And, you know, everything was closed for most of the rest of that week.

[00:07:33] Karen Commins

Yeah, I remember watching the World Series game when that happened. And then, of course, the TV cameras are immediately showing devastation everywhere, but just not only living through it, but the aftermath of it. It it would be hard for me having just moved there. I know you said you've dealt with them before, but this was unlike most earthquakes and it would just be hard, I think, to stay there. Yeah.

[00:07:58] Rich Miller

At that point I was already pretty committed and so it wasn't really a problem. But but yeah, that was a major, major event for sure.

[00:08:07] Karen Commins

And I've been on eBay since, um, I want to say 95, 96, somewhere in there.

[00:08:16] Rich Miller

Wow, That's early.

[00:08:17] Karen Commins

Yeah. Yeah. And I have to wonder, did you get any kind of discount?

[00:08:22] Rich Miller

No, no, no. I was actually. I was actually a contractor who. A friend of mine. We worked at a startup together that ended up not going anywhere. And he started working at eBay through some company, and he said, we're looking for somebody to do X, Y, Z. And I said, Well, yeah, okay, that sounds pretty good since I was getting back into high tech at that point. And and so he said, Well, you have to go through this company. And I said, Huh, Well, apparently that's the way they did a lot of hiring was they just said, you know, we're going to work with this one company. And they placed a whole ton of people there. So it was kind of a secondary employment. But for the entire time I was with that consulting company, I was working for eBay. So essentially I was, you know, an eBay employee.

[00:09:06] Karen Commins

Yeah.

[00:09:08] Karen Commins

Oh, yeah. Well, you know, all these firms do that so they don't have to pay you the full benefits. Exactly. Yeah, You're just a contract employee, so you don't you don't need health care. You don't need vacation time. You don't need sick time.

[00:09:20] Rich Miller

Yeah.

[00:09:20] Rich Miller

And the consulting company did have benefits, but it was not nearly as I don't think that the benefits were nearly as beneficial as they would have been if it had been through the employer.

[00:09:34] Karen Commins

No, they planned it that way.

[00:09:37] Rich Miller

Yeah.

[00:09:37] Rich Miller

Yeah. But my my first foray into the gig economy, it was kind of a soft landing at that point. Being a narrator, not quite such a soft landing.

[00:09:47] Karen Commins

Well, so you did this musical and then did you do more local theater from there? I mean, so I'm just wondering, how did you get from there to starting narration?

[00:09:58] Rich Miller

Yeah, so I did that. I did Bye Bye Birdie over in Scotts Valley.

[00:10:03] Rich Miller

And then once we moved to San Jose, I auditioned for Damn Yankees, got in that, and then I started meeting all of the South Bay Theater Group. And as I'm sure you're aware, I'm sure this is true pretty much everywhere. Theater isn't a huge community. It's, you know, somewhat close knit, depending on where you're living and depending on what level of theater you're at. So I started meeting all the people in the South Bay and had more opportunities. And then at some point I don't remember which play it was, but I thought, well, maybe I should audition for a play instead of a musical. And I whichever one it was, I did it and I loved it. And I thought, Oh my God, yeah, I like this so much more than musicals. So, um, the, I think the last musical I did was Jesus Christ Superstar playing Caiaphas. And that was because I had met, you know, one of the people that was in the theater scene there. She was the musical director, and she really, really pushed hard for me to audition for this. And it ended up being a really good experience. But from that point on, and a little bit before that, I was really dedicated much more towards just stage plays. Um, and so I took some acting classes since I never had in the past and I started learning more about what's involved and what you have to access and, you know, all, all of the things that you learn as you get into acting.

[00:11:29] Rich Miller

And then that sort of led towards, well, as long as I'm doing this, let's look into voice acting. So I did got a demo, got an agent in San Francisco, booked quite a few nonunion, smaller jobs. But what I didn't understand at the time was that once you do this, you are going into business for yourself. If you don't treat it, if you don't treat it as a business, you know you're not going to get that much work. Sure, your agent will send you things and you'll book a few things every once in a while. But you really can't make a living when you're just starting out. If you're not, well, I shouldn't say you can't. You know, a very small percentage of people luck out. They get great jobs early on and it's kind of, you know, all the way up from there for a lot of people. For for me, it was not at all like that. It was much more, you know, you're going to need to go out and get some work and didn't really understand that.

[00:12:31] Rich Miller

So it just I just kept making a very small amount of money and eventually had to go back into high tech. But as I was getting into voice over, I thought, well, audiobooks, that's another avenue. And so I started volunteering for reading for the Blind and Dyslexic, which is now learning Ally and a local organization in San Jose called Books Aloud. And I really felt like audiobooks were a good fit. I enjoyed it and it felt I felt like, I don't know, there was something about it that gave me a better feeling than when I was just doing the commercial stuff. That was fun too. But there was something about audiobooks where I felt like I could really like, you know, immerse myself in this project. And so that stayed with me after I moved to Tucson then was up right about the time right before we moved. So learned about that. It took me a while to actually create a profile and get going, but once I did, once again, I felt like this just feels like a good fit to me. I'm not sure exactly why, but I feel like it. It works for me and it ended up working out really well.

[00:13:46] Karen Commins

Well, I should say so, because you are now well established in it and you just keep going.

[00:13:53] Rich Miller

Yeah. You know, and you know, we all.

[00:13:56] Rich Miller

I think, have those moments where it's like, well, geez, I don't have anything booked right now.

[00:14:01] Rich Miller

I don't even know if I can keep doing this. And, and.

[00:14:04] Rich Miller

I still have those moments every once in a while. But fortunately, yeah, it's I've gotten to the point where I do feel much less uncomfortable when I don't have anything on the calendar more than a couple of weeks out.

[00:14:21] Karen Commins

And I think you've told me you've had that same problem and Anne's been at it 20 years or more that sometimes you feel like, Oh, where's the next one coming from?

[00:14:31] Anne Flosnik

It's true for me. I know it's never going to go away. That's just the way it is.

[00:14:37] Rich Miller

I suspect it will be the same for me. It's it's.

[00:14:40] Rich Miller

Like at some point you just go, well, I'm.

[00:14:43] Rich Miller

Not sure what's next, but, um, yeah, so I don't know that.

[00:14:46] Rich Miller

That will ever go. It's kind of like they say, you know, when you get into acting, you need to have a thick skin because you're going to audition for a hundred things and book one or national commercials, 1000 or 10,000 auditions, and then you get one or nothing.

[00:14:59] Rich Miller

Right, Exactly. Yeah.

[00:15:01] Karen Commins

You're not guaranteed you'll book anything.

[00:15:03] Speaker4

Exactly. There's no guarantee at all.

[00:15:05] Rich Miller

And so they say, well, you have to have a thick skin. And I have certainly developed a thick skin.

[00:15:10] Rich Miller

But it's not so it's.

[00:15:11] Rich Miller

Not so thick that it doesn't affect me at all.

[00:15:14] Rich Miller

You know, I think that most.

[00:15:16] Rich Miller

Of us, it's still affects you no matter what. Well, I really wanted that book and they gave it to somebody else. And, well, I'm not going to feel good about that for a while. It gets easier. It's just I think that'll always be with me to at least some degree.

[00:15:31] Anne Flosnik

I think that's human. Yeah.

[00:15:36] Karen Commins

Yeah. I told somebody the other day that because they were talking about developing a thick skin and I said, you know, if somebody would sell thick skins on eBay, they would make a fortune from the actors because we'd be lined up to buy it.

[00:15:51] Rich Miller

Yeah, this is one industry where that could definitely come in handy.

[00:15:56] Karen Commins

Well, so what started you on the path to decide you're going to have a podcast?

[00:16:03] Speaker4

Well, it was 2017.

[00:16:06] Rich Miller

And.

[00:16:07] Rich Miller

Or late 2016. I don't remember exactly, but I had just gotten into.

[00:16:12] Rich Miller

Listening to a bunch of different podcasts and I thought, oh, you know, I, I feel like I need to learn more about this industry. I started in on the commercial audiobook side in 2014, and so it had been a couple of years.

[00:16:28] Rich Miller

Two, three years.

[00:16:29] Rich Miller

And I, I felt like I need to know more about who's in this industry. I know that one of my problems when I got into voice over the first time was not understanding this as a business. Okay, I get it's a business now. I need to drive this. I don't know what to do. I don't know who to talk to. And I also a big probably the biggest part was in the Facebook groups that I was in. People would talk about coaches and you need to get coaching. And I knew that that was true, but I wasn't sure who to go to. And you can get a personal recommendation and that's.

[00:17:04] Rich Miller

Great.

[00:17:05] Rich Miller

Especially if it's somebody that you really trust, but you're not always going to click with the person.

[00:17:09] Rich Miller

That the person you're getting the.

[00:17:10] Rich Miller

Recommendation clicks with.

[00:17:12] Rich Miller

So I thought I'd really.

[00:17:13] Rich Miller

Like to hear from these coaches and, you know, everybody in the industry so that I, I know them better on a personal basis. And so I started looking for places where I could hear people talk, you know, pick, pick whatever coach you want to think about and and think, well, I don't know if I would get along with that person or not. What do they sound like? You know what? What does it sound like? Their approaches to this kind of work. And I couldn't really find anything. The the podcasts that I found about audiobooks were mostly about audiobook reviews. So whoever the host or hosts were would pick an audiobook and talk about the book and then talk about the narration. And that was kind of it. And I thought, That's not at all what I'm looking for.

[00:18:01] Rich Miller

So I thought, Well, I'm not finding what I'm looking for. I'm either looking in the wrong place or it's not out there. Maybe I'll just create it. So I went to AIPAC that year.

[00:18:11] Rich Miller

In 2017, and by that time I had kind of got some ideas in my head about what I.

[00:18:18] Rich Miller

Was going to do, but I wasn't sure about everything. And so I.

[00:18:21] Rich Miller

Ended up meeting Scott Brick and talking to him for a while and said, Look, I've got this idea. Would you be interested in, you know, would you be maybe available to be interviewed? And he said, Yeah, you know, here's the thing, though. You know, I've I've gotten my my stuff out there before about, you know, origin story and whatnot. You're going to want to find some way to make it different, you know, not just an interview. And so I thought, well, at the time I was kind of getting into craft cocktails and amateur mixology and all that, and I thought, what I really want is, is something comfortable, something where people feel like they're just sitting in on a conversation. They walked up to a couple of people sitting in a bar and they came up and now they're just sitting in and listening to the conversation. And so that's how I came up with the audiobook Speakeasy idea of just sitting and having drinks and over drinks, having a chat about audiobooks.

[00:19:23] Karen Commins

I always thought and still do think that's such a brilliant title and a way to marry both of those things together. And plus, when you think about a speakeasy, you couldn't just walk in there, you know, you had to. I mean, I don't know. This is what I've seen in movies. I don't know. Right, Right. But, you know, there was always the person behind the little slot and you'd have to give them the password. So it's kind of like a, you know, inviting people to join the behind the scenes chat while people discuss things at a bar. And and that just made it all the cozier, I thought. And I and I loved that theme and how you put those two things together.

[00:20:01] Rich Miller

Yeah. Well thank you. It's it was a great experience. I, I.

[00:20:05] Rich Miller

Met so many great people, um, and just I, I had a great time, and I learned learned how to make a.

[00:20:14] Rich Miller

Lot of new cocktails to me, too. Um, but but mostly it was just, you know, meeting the people in the industry and at the same.

[00:20:23] Rich Miller

Time feeling good about being able to give back and not just having a private conversation, but sharing this with other people. And I have loved over the years hearing stories from people saying, you know, I found my coach because you interviewed them on your podcast. And I, I really resonated with the conversation and with how this person was speaking about this stuff. And I had a coach actually come up to me at AIPAC the year after I had interviewed her saying, hey, you know what? I you know, somebody just signed up with me because they heard me on your podcast. So thanks for that. And of course, that wasn't my intention, was to get them business. Nobody paid me or anything to to get them business. But I love hearing that somebody felt comfortable enough to reach out to somebody and work with them because they had the opportunity to hear them talk about this work in a in a relaxed, comfortable setting.

[00:21:24] Anne Flosnik

Yeah, it was brilliant. It was. And I hope you'll do it again. Selfishly. I really do. I don't. King of it all. You really are.

[00:21:34] Rich Miller

I don't have any plans at the moment. It's just.

[00:21:36] Rich Miller

That timing. When it comes to a podcast, a lot of people don't realize there's a lot of back end work that goes into that. You have to do the legwork.

[00:21:45] Rich Miller

Of reaching out to people. Then you have to record it. Then you have to either edit it or pay somebody to edit it. And I wanted to keep control over it. So I've I've done it on my own the entire time. And so I figure it takes a good 6 to 8 hours for each one hour episode.

[00:22:04] Rich Miller

So I also thought.

[00:22:06] Rich Miller

About doing a short form, but the most of the podcasts I listen to are more the long form type, which are about an hour. And I just decided, you know, I'm going to go with that. I know that some people actually don't listen to longer podcasts. They only want to listen to things that are 10 or 15 minutes and that's fine. I understand that. But I decided no, it's just that doesn't really work for me.

[00:22:28] Anne Flosnik

What about coming over to clubhouse and doing it there?

[00:22:31] Rich Miller

So there was actually right after clubhouse started well, probably quite a quite a.

[00:22:36] Rich Miller

While after clubhouse started. But right after I joined clubhouse, I actually did one Sunday afternoon, I started a room that I called something like, I don't know, the audio book Speakeasy or something with that in the name of the room. And a couple of people did.

[00:22:50] Rich Miller

Did show up, but.

[00:22:52] Rich Miller

I just had a hard time devoting a specific time slot to it. And so, so I haven't yet, but but.

[00:23:01] Rich Miller

It is still.

[00:23:02] Rich Miller

In the back of my mind as another way to keep that kind of, I don't know, keep the vibe instead of having people to interview, just invite people in and actually have, you know, group conversations about what's happening with them in the audio book world. So that is that is definitely still a possibility. Not sure if or when that's going to happen.

[00:23:27] Anne Flosnik

Well, that's good. There is hope then, because I do. I miss it. You built such community. Yeah, It was a comfort. I mean, it really was. I loved it. Yeah.

[00:23:36] Rich Miller

No, that's great. Thank you.

[00:23:38] Karen Commins

People in the chat are commenting on the same thing. John Yorke said, It's such a great show, Melissa Benson said such a wholly appealing podcast from the theme music to Rich's congenial personality. I'm a forever fan. Plus I love cocktails.

[00:23:53] Rich Miller

Yeah, So and there were a lot of people always made it very.

[00:23:56] Rich Miller

Clear that drinking was not required. I think probably a third of my guests were either having.

[00:24:02] Rich Miller

Water or tea.

[00:24:03] Rich Miller

Or something else, at least a quarter. And a lot of times that had to do with the fact that they were going to be working after the interview. And so I totally understand that. And I always tell people there are lots of very good reasons not to drink alcohol. So that's definitely not a requirement when you come into the audiobook.

[00:24:23] Karen Commins

Speakeasy But you know, I know I was drinking Coke the day we talked because that's the strongest thing I drink. But, you know, you were talking about people finding their coach. It's not just finding the coach. I mean, I think we've all listened to your interviews with producers and find out what they like and how they work. And that is such invaluable information. And like I have a casting directory on narrators roadmap and I have companies and I have people, and then in the other resources, I list every place I can find where they're discussing things. And there's so many of these listings that say, So-and-so is on this episode of audiobook Speakeasy. I mean, it's it's such a treasure trove of good information and to help all of us research and be able to move forward in our careers. And so you may not have gotten that kind of feedback, but I want to tell you, it's there.

[00:25:21] Rich Miller

Yeah, well, I appreciate that. I love.

[00:25:24] Rich Miller

Hearing that. So this is great. I hadn't even realized there was a chat until you said something in the chat.

[00:25:30] Karen Commins

Yeah, there's a chat.

[00:25:31] Anne Flosnik

Rich Yeah. So?

[00:25:32] Rich Miller

So like I said, it's been a while since I've been on clubhouse, but.

[00:25:37] Rich Miller

This.

[00:25:37] Rich Miller

Is great.

[00:25:38] Rich Miller

I love hearing that somebody else grew up in Santa Cruz and performed with South Bay Musical theater, so I'm not sure who that is. When I was trying to think of South Bay, I think somebody may have changed their name. When I was performing Damn Yankees, it was with West Valley Opera. And I think either they changed their name or another group did because I don't remember that name from when I was there. But anyway, so it's great. Thanks for thanks for keying me into the chat.

[00:26:09] Karen Commins

And that's one thing that I love and I think you do too. An about clubhouse is because there is this interactive component to it.

[00:26:18] Rich Miller

Mhm. Yeah.

[00:26:19] Rich Miller

Yeah, yeah. So it does seem like a great platform. So maybe as I, as I shift away from other things, I can, I can pick up more here.

[00:26:28] Anne Flosnik

Oh, that's marvelous. And which you're such a natural at it. Was there some job that you did or something that made you such an intelligent interviewer? I mean, really, you have it down to a science.

[00:26:42] Rich Miller

Oh, not. Not that I can remember.

[00:26:45] Rich Miller

I just. I tried to, you know, I. I think I only had one, maybe two episodes where I was not having a drink. And so I was always getting myself a little more comfortable in order.

[00:26:55] Rich Miller

To in order to do a nice, pleasant interview. I don't I don't think of any of the jobs that I've ever had as being, you know, so much of a something that would get me into that. But, you know, I like talking to people. So I'm I'm I've got the typical or not maybe not typical, but common narrator personality type of introvert, extrovert. And so in certain settings, I feel really comfortable and happy being in a big group of people. And a lot of the time I just want to be like, Nope, leave me alone.

[00:27:33] Rich Miller

Right. Yeah. Yeah.

[00:27:35] Karen Commins

I wouldn't understand anything about that.

[00:27:39] Anne Flosnik

No, I would.

[00:27:42] Rich Miller

Yeah. No, it's not uncommon.

[00:27:44] Anne Flosnik

Mhm.

[00:27:45] Karen Commins

How long did it take you to between having the idea of maybe I want to do a podcast to actually implementing it and doing it. Do you remember.

[00:27:54] Rich Miller

It was, it was well over six months. It may have been a full year. I don't remember when I started thinking.

[00:28:01] Rich Miller

About it exactly, but the first episode with Sean Pratt was in November of 2017 and I had been going over it in my head the possibility of doing it since at least the beginning of that year. And I had to learn all the technical stuff about where to.

[00:28:19] Rich Miller

Register it and where to.

[00:28:20] Rich Miller

Host it. And so I had to look into all the different hosting companies and all of that stuff. Um, which has changed quite a bit since I started it. There are a lot more options available now. At some point after I started, I started listening to a podcast called The Audacity to Podcast, which is all about Podcasting, a little meta there. But it's it was great.

[00:28:42] Rich Miller

The guy who ran it was he would dig into the details of the best practices on this and the best practices on.

[00:28:49] Rich Miller

That and how you which tags you use for this and that. But when I started there was there was less than there is now. So so there's quite a bit to setting it up. And because it was just kind of an idea and I wasn't like, you know, super driven towards it, I, I allowed it to percolate for a long time. And then after talking to Scott, I thought, you know, if Scott Brick could say I actually was never able to get him on the podcast. But if Scott Brick is willing to talk to some unknown narrator and, and possibly be on a podcast that he's going to start, there has to be enough interest here. And so after that, A-pac, which is back when it was still in May, I started contacting people like Sean Pratt and other coaches and producers and whatnot. And then when I had a list of people where I figured, yeah, I should be able to sustain this for a little while. Then I finally got down to doing the recording. So it was it was at least a good 8 or 10 months, maybe longer.

[00:29:51] Anne Flosnik

Wow.

[00:29:52] Karen Commins

I think podcast was the word of the year in 2006. I think that's when it got added to the dictionary or at the end of 2005. And I remember this because I had wanted to do a podcast since then. I mean, since and I haven't. I mean, I had ideas for it and I've talked to several people, but, you know, ideas, love, speed. And if you don't start implementing it, then oftentimes it doesn't happen. Yeah, it had also in my youth, dreamed of being a talk show host and because of Pitstop now on clubhouse. But this is where I'm going with this. This is actually now becoming a podcast because I saved the audio. You can download the audio from clubhouse and I added some music on the front end back ends of it, and now it's living on NarratorsRoadmap on the Pit Stop page.

[00:30:49] Rich Miller

That's great. You know, so it it has made a lot of the things that were challenging and that deterred me and the things you're talking about. It has taken some of those out of the equation of not having to do all of the audio and processing everything myself, I can just roll with the audio that it gives me. Sure.

[00:31:10] Rich Miller

Yeah, yeah. That's great.

[00:31:12] Karen Commins

Yeah. And so. It just seemed like such a good fit for you if you take Speakeasy to some other. Kind of, you know, take it to a new format. New platform. Yeah. And or, you know, if you had a different idea, maybe you want to change and do a podcast. Now with all the cocktails that you've learned how to make.

[00:31:35] Rich Miller

No, but if I do something on Clubhouse, I will always be having a drink when I'm doing it.

[00:31:41] Karen Commins

Are you having a drink now? Is that what you're telling us?

[00:31:44] Speaker4

No, no, no.

[00:31:45] Rich Miller

I just mean as the host.

[00:31:46] Karen Commins

Okay.

[00:31:47] Rich Miller

No, actually.

[00:31:48] Rich Miller

I thought about making one because normally I only drink in the middle of the day if I go out to lunch. And that's only if I'm not working that afternoon. But I've actually gotten into a lot of different kinds of mocktails recently so that I could have a mocktail in the middle of the day at some point instead of just playing soda water or something like that.

[00:32:11] Rich Miller

So I thought about.

[00:32:12] Rich Miller

Making one and I just didn't get around to it before noon.

[00:32:14] Rich Miller

So.

[00:32:17] Anne Flosnik

Can you give us a fairly easy recipe for one of your mocktails, Rich?

[00:32:20] Anne Flosnik

Well, I'm using specific.

[00:32:23] Rich Miller

Products put out by a company called Lyres l y r e apostrophe s. And they I think they're in New Zealand, if I remember correctly. I don't know. But they, they do distribute in the US and I've purchased now a whole bunch of their stuff. I think they have a really good nonalcoholic sparkling wine and they have lots of different spirit alternatives. The spirits I think are the harder ones. They've also got.

[00:32:55] Rich Miller

Quite a few.

[00:32:55] Rich Miller

Liqueurs that are nonalcoholic and those are really close. Every time I buy a new one, I do a taste test against the actual one. So they have one that's like Campari. So I'll take a taste of Campari and then I'll take a taste of theirs. And you know, the mouthfeel is very different when it doesn't have alcohol in it. But if the flavor is similar, then you can build a really, you know, pretty good drink out of it. And so I've made several aperol spritzes that are nonalcoholic with their products. And it's a really good, refreshing mid-afternoon drink. A lot of the drinks that I drink are going to be much more refreshing once I'm not freezing all the time because lately we've only been getting up to around 60 here. Now I know some people are going to hear that and go freezing.

[00:33:46] Rich Miller

But when it gets below 70, I'm putting a jacket on. So it's all relative. So yeah, exactly. It's all relative. But but Lyre's puts out a lot of a lot of really good stuff. Their.

[00:33:59] Rich Miller

Their fake rum makes a really good daiquiri.

[00:34:02] Rich Miller

And so yeah.

[00:34:04] Rich Miller

That's, that's what I've been experimenting with a lot lately is lyre's products.

[00:34:08] Anne Flosnik

And what their gin like because I know you're a gin person aren't you Rich?

[00:34:12] Rich Miller

I am. I am. Gin is almost always the spirit that I use for Happy Hour cocktails, whiskey for after dinner. But their their gin is okay. It's not great, but it's okay. It makes a good gin and tonic. But it does. You just can't really make a martini without the alcohol. It just doesn't work. Um, so it depends on the drink. But the gin is okay. I've actually got a bottle of their pink London spirit right now, which also makes some. Some really good drinks. I made a virgin Tom Collins the other day with their pink gin. That was great.

[00:34:57] Anne Flosnik

Let's try that out.

[00:34:58] Rich Miller

Yeah. Yeah, They make good stuff.

[00:35:01] Anne Flosnik

Oh, that's very good tip.

[00:35:02] Rich Miller

And that's an interesting idea. Suzanne just commented, My friend Suzanne Barbetta just asked about a Speakeasy Mixology book based on the drinks that I created.

[00:35:13] Rich Miller

That's that's an interesting idea. I will actually think about that. That would be something I could do kind of in in spare time. That might be fun.

[00:35:21] Anne Flosnik

A great idea. Yeah.

[00:35:23] Karen Commins

Well, and then you'd become an author.

[00:35:26] Rich Miller

Yeah, exactly. Yeah.

[00:35:28] Karen Commins

And you would just add to all the things you're doing that aren't narrating. And, and and that's what I love hearing about, is how people are splitting their time and bringing all their gifts to the surface.

[00:35:39] Rich Miller

Yeah, I think that's great.

[00:35:41] Rich Miller

I think that when you're in a creative enterprise, it is always a good idea to not have all your eggs in one basket. Um, I am not doing that. On the other hand, I'm almost 60 and I'm, I'm having a hard time considering getting into anything new. Other people who are this age don't have any problem considering other things. And that's, that's cool for me personally, That would be, um, I'm not really feeling good about getting into something new, but I think that earlier on in a career, because things change so quickly these days, I think it's really important to, you know, kind of good advice for life. Just be a well rounded person. And when it comes to work, be open to other possibilities that allow you to stay in some sort of creative endeavor.

[00:36:37] Anne Flosnik

That hits the nail on the head. I couldn't agree with you.

[00:36:40] Karen Commins

More advice?

[00:36:41] Speaker6

Yeah.

[00:36:42] Anne Flosnik

Because sometimes our gifts are just revealed to us, you know, not kind of fully formed out of the egg, but they become more revealed to us as time goes by within the creative framework, as you said.

[00:36:55] Rich Miller

Sure. Yeah.

[00:36:56] Anne Flosnik

Mhm. Yeah. Stay open and be a good rounded human being. That's great.

[00:37:03] Rich Miller

Yeah, I just. I just think that it's so easy to get sort of accidentally.

[00:37:08] Rich Miller

Pigeonholed by yourself.

[00:37:10] Speaker4

Yes.

[00:37:11] Rich Miller

And I think that, you know, nobody's intending to go out there saying, well, I'm not going to do anything else or, you know, very few people, if any. But at the same time, if you're not actually, you know, open to it on a regular basis, some things might just, you know, you might miss them in the journey where if you'd actually, you know, be open to it, you could see it and it might turn into, you know, a secondary thing or even even if it's just a hobby, something that would be interesting and make life more enjoyable. So I try to be open. I think it gets harder as you get older, but try to be open to stuff like that.

[00:37:52] Anne Flosnik

Oh, well, clearly you are. And the whole I think what we do as narrators, it just tends us to keep our heads down and our eyes down and our thoughts down. Speaking for myself anyway, to some degree. And it's only when you know, you get a chance to step back for a minute and look around and what's going on and where do you fit in, You know, who am I and all the rest of it, that other avenues can become apparent. But it takes that getting the head back up and join the human race for a minute to see, you know, what are the things.

[00:38:23] Rich Miller

Yeah.

[00:38:24] Rich Miller

Especially with the synthetic voice thing that's happening now that I, I personally am not overly concerned about.

[00:38:32] Rich Miller

That. I'm kind of in the minority view. I realize that.

[00:38:37] Rich Miller

But I think that there are going to be.

[00:38:40] Rich Miller

Major challenges that for for it to go from kind of the niche product that it is now, which is a very good niche.

[00:38:48] Rich Miller

Product that's getting better and better. I get.

[00:38:50] Rich Miller

That. And having the tech background, I understand that technology moves quickly and it could get to that point.

[00:38:58] Rich Miller

I tend to.

[00:38:59] Rich Miller

Have a view that it's going to take quite a while for that. For somebody at my stage in life, I don't see it as a huge problem. I do see it as something that everybody should keep on their radar and keep learning about the advances and what's happening in that part of the industry. And because of that, be really open to diversifying and make sure that you have other things that you can do if, you know, worst case scenario happens with synthetic voices.

[00:39:34] Anne Flosnik

Right, Right. And it's not the first big thing that came along in the industry because when I started, there weren't computers. So, you know, and we survived and we just keep on. So I tend to be optimistic about it all, that there'll still be a place for us and if not the forefront place. Um.

[00:39:54] Karen Commins

And when you started, you were always going to a studio. Yeah, yeah. You know, and so that home revolution was sometime after that, so.

[00:40:04] Anne Flosnik

Yes, Yeah. And then it's how quickly you adopt to things. And I've grown an awful lot, but you know, you have to grow as the years go by. But I'm just saying that there have been other big changes that shook up the whole way that audio books were delivered. And what just what I had to do was a narrator or anybody had to do was a narrator. And you just, you know, but it all it all works out. It just does. You have to believe that.

[00:40:30] Rich Miller

That was that was true. When I started.

[00:40:32] Rich Miller

In voiceover as well. I started in the early 2000, and at the time, home studios were not common. They were starting people were starting to record at home more. But but it was not common to have an actual home studio like a studio, bricks or home built or whatever it is. Most people who were recording at home like I was, were recording in a closet and a lot of people still are.

[00:40:56] Rich Miller

And there's nothing wrong with that.

[00:40:57] Rich Miller

If, if, if.

[00:40:59] Karen Commins

I started in a closet.

[00:41:00] Rich Miller

Yeah. If you have a good.

[00:41:03] Rich Miller

Location, a closet might be the perfect solution because you don't have to build something and you get a great sound. So that's, that's great. But at the time, actual home studios were really just only for the Don Lafontaine's of the world. You know, it was really not much of a thing. And very quickly within, I would say the first 2 or 3 years that I had gotten into voice over, that started to change rapidly. And by, you know, five years later, it was really semi common for people who were getting into voice acting to do that. And the people who weren't able to adapt and had to keep recording in studios were finding it slightly more difficult. Of course, the more established you are, the less that matters. But they were finding it a little bit more difficult to to keep up. And so you just you have to be able to.

[00:41:54] Rich Miller

You know, not, um.

[00:41:57] Rich Miller

Not foretell what's going to happen, but be keep your finger on the pulse and be willing to adapt and change and learn new things as things change.

[00:42:09] Karen Commins

Yeah, that's definitely great advice for all of us.

[00:42:11] Anne Flosnik

Yeah. Yeah.

[00:42:13] Karen Commins

Well, I know you said that you were doing all the editing of your podcast. So do you. And you were having to hunt down the people and do all the scheduling. So it sounds like you don't have or didn't have any help since I know you've ended the Speakeasy. So if was it just you or did you did you actually have a VA in there somewhere or some sort of physical help with editing?

[00:42:37] Rich Miller

Nope. It was just me. I, I will say that I had a lot of support from my wife. Just, you know, understanding that I was.

[00:42:44] Rich Miller

Doing all these different things.

[00:42:46] Speaker4

Or, you.

[00:42:46] Rich Miller

Know, a few different things. I don't want to make it sound like I was all over the place. But she was she was very supportive. But it was pretty much all me just doing all the all the podcast stuff I hear about assistants and I think, Wow, that sounds great.

[00:42:59] Rich Miller

But for where I'm at.

[00:43:02] Rich Miller

And for the amount of work that I do so far, I haven't had the need for that. I could totally see if if I was if I was working like, I don't know, 50% more than I am or doing other things, or if I had other non work related stuff like family members, kids, you know, they're everybody is in a different situation. And I'm in a situation that's that's fairly relaxed in that sense. I don't have all these other things going on, but I could definitely see why having an assistant would be really helpful, depending on what you're dealing with.

[00:43:44] Karen Commins

Well, I have a question. I call this the Pit Stop Hot Seat. And I may ask you more than one question, but one of the favorite questions I've asked people is, what is if you if you went into the witness protection plan, what identity would you like to assume?

[00:44:03] Rich Miller

Oh, uh.

[00:44:08] Rich Miller

You know, it's it's funny.

[00:44:10] Rich Miller

I think about the stories.

[00:44:11] Rich Miller

That I've heard of people who have done that, being a organized crime drama aficionado, Sopranos fans, stuff like that.

[00:44:21] Rich Miller

Um, I.

[00:44:22] Rich Miller

I have to say because and I've also thought if it, if it wasn't for the fact that I would have to deal with the public, I would.

[00:44:31] Rich Miller

Love to open.

[00:44:32] Rich Miller

A restaurant. And so I have to say, given my experience in the past five years learning a lot more about cocktails, I would open a bar.

[00:44:41] Rich Miller

I would love.

[00:44:42] Rich Miller

To be a bar owner and an occasional bartender.

[00:44:50] Karen Commins

Oh, you'd still have to deal with the employees, though, even if you're not there on a daily basis. Yes.

[00:44:56] Rich Miller

And that's another negative.

[00:44:57] Rich Miller

When it comes to owning a business.

[00:44:59] Karen Commins

And then of course, there'd be all your suppliers you'd have to deal with. So you'd be dealing with a lot of people pretty quickly.

[00:45:05] Rich Miller

Yeah, suppliers. I think I could deal with better than.

[00:45:08] Rich Miller

Better than employees and the public. But.

[00:45:11] Rich Miller

But yeah, I would probably do that.

[00:45:14] Karen Commins

And another favorite question I have is which fictional character do you wish was real and why?

[00:45:22] Rich Miller

Oof! Uh.

[00:45:24] Karen Commins

Told you you'd be in the hot seat.

[00:45:25] Rich Miller

Yeah.

[00:45:29] Rich Miller

Uh, fictional character.

[00:45:32] Rich Miller

I'd probably say Gandalf. You know, somebody who could impart some wisdom to me on on occasional bases.

[00:45:39] Rich Miller

But that would be.

[00:45:40] Rich Miller

That would be fun.

[00:45:42] Karen Commins

Well, that's a good choice. It sounds like you and excuse me, you and he have already been communing, though, because you've been imparting some wonderful pearls of wisdom here today.

[00:45:53] Rich Miller

Well, I do my best.

[00:45:54] Rich Miller

I'm no wizard, though, I'll tell you that.

[00:45:58] Karen Commins

And we're coming up on the top of the hour. And I want to be sure anybody in the audience has a chance to talk or ask questions. I did see Abigail Reno has a question for you. Maybe she wants to come to the microphone and ask it.

[00:46:14] Rich Miller

Yeah, I saw that. That's great.

[00:46:18] Karen Commins

Abigail, do you want to come to the mic or do you want us to just. Have him read your question and answer it. And anyone else is welcome to come to the mic as well.

[00:46:33] Rich Miller

Sure. Yeah.

[00:46:37] Karen Commins

While we are.

[00:46:38] Rich Miller

Happy to take questions.

[00:46:39] Rich Miller

I don't know if I'll have any answers.

[00:46:40] Rich Miller

But.

[00:46:43] Karen Commins

I always, when I worked in IT and even now, sometimes I still say I go ahead and ask me your question and if I don't know, I'll be glad to make up something.

[00:46:56] Rich Miller

Usually I leave it at If I don't know, I'm going to tell you. I don't know.

[00:46:59] Karen Commins

Well, she says, I'm.

[00:47:00] Karen Commins

Not sure how to turn my microphone on in clubhouse. If you raise your hand or I can. I can just. I think I can just invite you to speak. I actually think I have that power.

[00:47:09] Rich Miller

The one time that I ran a room, I was like, I don't know what I'm doing here. And so I learned that that there are a lot of things that you can do when you're actually in charge of the room.

[00:47:19] Karen Commins

I haven't I have sent the microphone to Abigail, and here she is. And if you'll just tap your microphone in the bottom right corner.

[00:47:30] Abigail Reno

Oh, there you go. There we go. Can you hear me?

[00:47:32] Karen Commins

Yeah. You sound great.

[00:47:34] Abigail Reno

Oh, yay. It's my first time speaking on clubhouse. I didn't know how to do that.

[00:47:39] Karen Commins

It's a banner day.

[00:47:41] Abigail Reno

Very cool. Um, I'm walking my dog at the moment, so that's why I'm a little out of breath. Um, anyway, yeah, I was just curious if you had ever made a martini with sauerkraut juice instead of olive juice. I've been wanting to try that. I haven't done it yet.

[00:47:59] Rich Miller

I have not. That's a great idea, because I do love sauerkraut.

[00:48:03] Rich Miller

Um, what I have.

[00:48:04] Rich Miller

Done is add a martini. So I should also say I am not a fan. Even though I love olives, I am not a fan of a dirty martini. I think.

[00:48:15] Rich Miller

That the amount of.

[00:48:16] Speaker4

Olive that you get from the from the.

[00:48:19] Rich Miller

Olive that you put in it is plenty for my taste.

[00:48:21] Rich Miller

But there is a restaurant.

[00:48:23] Rich Miller

About a mile and a half from me that has a homemade, uh.

[00:48:29] Rich Miller

It's.

[00:48:30] Rich Miller

A I don't remember what they call it now, but it's the it's like the house martini and it is made with pickle juice and a a piece of pickle as a garnish instead of an olive or a twist. And I.

[00:48:44] Rich Miller

Love it. It's great.

[00:48:45] Rich Miller

So sauerkraut juice.

[00:48:47] Rich Miller

That sounds like a really interesting idea. I also love a.

[00:48:49] Rich Miller

Gibson with a cocktail onion instead of an olive.

[00:48:53] Speaker4

But.

[00:48:54] Abigail Reno

But yeah, I've heard of the pickle juice thing. I haven't tried that yet either. Yeah, no, it's.

[00:48:58] Rich Miller

It's really good. So sauerkraut. That's an interesting idea.

[00:49:02] Abigail Reno

Also, somebody commented Gandalf was the first person who popped into my head and somebody commented, Really? And yes, I'm a huge Lord of the Rings nerd.

[00:49:13] Rich Miller

Yeah, I've read the series.

[00:49:16] Rich Miller

Uh, six or 8 or 10.

[00:49:18] Rich Miller

Times, and the books that I like more are like fellowship more. But, um, but.

[00:49:22] Rich Miller

Yeah, that was the first, first person that came to mind. I'll have to think about that. That's a good question.

[00:49:29] Karen Commins

Gandalf really a person. I. Forgive me. I've never read Lord of the Rings, so. Oh, no kidding. Gandalf really a person or.

[00:49:36] Rich Miller

He's a wizard. Okay.

[00:49:39] Karen Commins

Well, that explains it. Yeah.

[00:49:41] Abigail Reno

He's still a person. He's still a person. Yeah. Okay.

[00:49:44] Karen Commins

Well, I didn't know if, like, he's an elf or he's a hobbit or he's some other kind of entity. He's a.

[00:49:51] Rich Miller

Wizard person.

[00:49:52] Rich Miller

Humanoid wizard.

[00:49:54] Abigail Reno

Yeah, I think he counts.

[00:49:56] Karen Commins

Good to know. You never know when you'll be tested on this kind of thing.

[00:50:00] Abigail Reno

Exactly.

[00:50:02] Abigail Reno

Anyway, don't want to overstay my time talking. I could talk about Lord of the Rings forever.

[00:50:08] Karen Commins

We're glad you came. And we're glad you came to the microphone. And yeah, it was your first time on clubhouse, but hopefully speaking on clubhouse. But hopefully it won't be your last.

[00:50:19] Abigail Reno

Yeah, I'm trying to. Trying to tune in more. Yeah, there's.

[00:50:24] Karen Commins

A lot of good conversations happening.

[00:50:27] Abigail Reno

Exactly. Yeah, a lot of wealth of knowledge. So thank you guys. So much.

[00:50:36] Karen Commins

Is there anyone else who would like to come up to the mic while we still have Rich?

[00:50:44] Anne Flosnik

Just raise your hands.

[00:50:48] Rich Miller

Like I said, not sure if I can answer, but.

[00:50:53] Karen Commins

Well, that's okay. Like, like I always said, you can you can make up something and nobody will know the difference.

[00:50:59] Rich Miller

So they will if it's bad advice and they take it.

[00:51:05] Karen Commins

Well, there are a lot of people dispensing bad advice, but you're not one of them.

[00:51:10] Rich Miller

There. There are.

[00:51:12] Rich Miller

I always tell people, be careful what you pay attention to out there.

[00:51:17] Karen Commins

So what if somebody's sitting out there and they're thinking, well, you know, maybe there's something I'd like to do, maybe not a podcast, maybe something else. Do you have advice for them of people who want to expand their horizon beyond narration? Would you what would you say to that kind of person?

[00:51:35] Rich Miller

I would.

[00:51:35] Rich Miller

Say if.

[00:51:37] Rich Miller

First, just do.

[00:51:38] Rich Miller

Some personal brainstorming and think, you know, if you're really not sure what you want to do. So if you don't know that you want to do a podcast, but you want to do something else, just brainstorm and be crazy. You know, come up.

[00:51:53] Rich Miller

With crazy ideas. Well, you know, I want to talk to somebody.

[00:51:56] Rich Miller

About audiobooks but don't like the podcast format. So come up with, you know, everything you can think of. Give a talk at a local library, give a talk on a street corner, you know, go into a go into a bar once a week and just pick somebody at random and see if they'll listen to you. I mean, think about crazy things. And then you think about a bunch of crazy things, narrow.

[00:52:19] Rich Miller

It down and.

[00:52:20] Rich Miller

Say, Yeah, that's unrealistic. Nobody's going to want to listen to that. Nobody's going to want to participate in that, whatever it is. But allow yourself the, the, the ability to just think of anything, then narrow it down. And once you have a couple of good ideas.

[00:52:34] Rich Miller

Then I'm a.

[00:52:35] Rich Miller

Big fan of doing a substantial amount of research before you actually start something. I think.

[00:52:43] Rich Miller

That, you know, it can work to where you go into something going, well.

[00:52:48] Rich Miller

I don't know, I guess I can do this. And you just start. I think that that can work. And I think that for some people it'll work better than for other people. That is not my approach. My approach is almost too far in the other direction where I can get into analysis paralysis and basically just think about it forever and never end up coming with a way of coming up with a way to do it. But I'm a big fan of doing research and finding out who else is doing this kind of thing. How are they doing it? If I was going to start doing that thing, whatever it is, how would how would I do the first steps? Would I have to like for a podcast? What do you have to do? Well, you have to register the podcast. After you register it, you have to put specific tags in place so that the various different podcast platforms and providers can actually pull it in and, and distribute it. And so I'm a big fan of doing quite a bit of that so that once you actually get going, you already have enough knowledge to where when you run into a roadblock, you know where to go to get the answer to how to fix it, even if you don't know how to fix it right away. So that's that's the way I think is a good way to go about it is, you know, give yourself a lot of freedom and then be realistic, pull back a little and then do a lot of research.

[00:54:06] Anne Flosnik

That sounds great. We have Rebecca Lee is down here and don't know how to bring her up. Karen. Oh, she'd like to come up and ask Richard question. Did you see down there at the bottom?

[00:54:17] Karen Commins

Yes, I saw. I. Let's see. She. She disappeared from the list. So let's find her in. The actual audience. There she is. And then invite her to speak. So Rebecca should be coming to the mic. It. Yeah. I feel like we should be playing some sort of music or something while this happens. Yeah. Maybe something happened. I sent an invite to Rebecca, so.

[00:55:02] Anne Flosnik

Oh, here's somebody else.

[00:55:03] Karen Commins

She's not getting the invite. I don't know. That's. That's not right.

[00:55:08] Anne Flosnik

No. Linda Graves. Let's see if we can. Hi, Linda. All right, Maybe I'm doing something wrong because I keep. Oh, here we go. There we go. Hi, Linda. And if you can just. Oh, we've got them both. Two ladies. Wonderful.

[00:55:23] Speaker6

Great.

[00:55:25] Anne Flosnik

So if one of you or both of you can just unmute yourselves and then we can.

[00:55:30] Karen Commins

Let's go with Rebecca first because and there you go. And then Linda, we'll get to you in a minute.

[00:55:35] Anne Flosnik

Sounds good.

[00:55:37] Rebecca

I don't have a question. Just wanted to say thanks, Rich, for being a community leader and having the podcast. And a couple of years ago, while the last in-person, you, you had a, um, a big, uh, like a lunch gathering at. Oh yeah. And, and that was, that was kind of cool because like I got there and I'm like, I don't know anyone. And then I heard your voice, I recognized your voice. And I'm like, Oh, it's this guy over here.

[00:56:08] Rich Miller

Yeah, No, that.

[00:56:09] Rich Miller

Was that was so much fun. And I didn't know if, you know, anybody would want to come.

[00:56:14] Rich Miller

Or if I'd have to try to find some place that could accommodate 100.

[00:56:17] Rich Miller

People. I really didn't know. And that worked out like the.

[00:56:20] Rebecca

Perfect number that showed up was.

[00:56:21] Rich Miller

It worked out really.

[00:56:22] Rich Miller

Really well. Had a big table, but not so big that you couldn't talk to people. Yeah. Yeah, that was that was great. Um, so thank.

[00:56:31] Rich Miller

You for the kind words. I'm. I'm really glad that I was able to provide something that was helpful to people. I really. Am.

[00:56:39] Rebecca

Awesome. That's it.

[00:56:43] Linda

I have three questions and then I'll just go away. But my first question is what is the most surprising or shocking thing that happened in the interview? In an interview? And two, what is the strangest cocktail someone showed up with that you weren't expecting? And three, I know you make up your own cocktail. So when is your cocktail book going to be published?

[00:57:10] Karen Commins

All great. Questions.

[00:57:11] Rich Miller

Oh, another. Another nod to that cocktail book.

[00:57:14] Karen Commins

People want that book, Rich. Now.

[00:57:17] Rich Miller

That's that's a. Very interesting. Idea. I've got to think about that. So let's see. The first question was, what's the strangest thing that I learned?

[00:57:24] Rich Miller

So there. I've had. A couple of guests who talked.

[00:57:28] Rich Miller

About. Personal tragedies that they had in their life that I was unaware. aOf.

[00:57:35] Rich Miller

And I mean, I'm you know, you can pick anybody in the world and go, I'm sure that there have been things that happened in their life that that I am unaware of. There are lots of things that happen and everybody's life, right? But when you're talking to somebody for an interview and all of a sudden you find out about the fact that their husband died very young or they came down with or a family member came down with and very difficult to diagnose debilitating disease or things like that, It's it's a bit of a surprise. And I like to think that I went with those surprises. Well, but.

[00:58:15] Rich Miller

There have been quite a.

[00:58:15] Rich Miller

Few times where somebody would somebody said something about their.

[00:58:18] Rich Miller

Background or what they did.

[00:58:20] Rich Miller

Beforehand or that they had some, you know, tragedy happen where I was kind of, you know, momentarily shocked and.

[00:58:29] Rich Miller

That so I'm.

[00:58:30] Rich Miller

Not sure I want to go into any specific ones.

[00:58:32] Rich Miller

But that would be.

[00:58:34] Rich Miller

The category of things that I found the most surprising as I was doing the podcast. The strangest drink that anybody brought, I, I can't think of one. I think that I've made some pretty strange ones. I know that Tanya Eby I think it was said something on, I think it was on Twitter, uh, about having something that tasted like a birthday cake and thought, Hey, that sounds like a great idea. So I tried to come up. I think I called it a birthday cake martini. And I used I don't even remember some kind of flavored vodka. And it was not good.

[00:59:10] Rich Miller

Uh, I just ended up being quite, quite unhappy with my, uh, my concoction at that point.

[00:59:18] Rich Miller

But. But in terms of what other.

[00:59:19] Rich Miller

People drank, I don't remember. I was a little surprised when.

[00:59:22] Rich Miller

Julia Whalen came in with a Last Word, which is one of my favorite gin cocktails. And I thought, This is great. Somebody who knows, you know, more than just the basics martini and gin and tonic and.

[00:59:36] Rich Miller

Came in.

[00:59:36] Rich Miller

With a last word.

[00:59:38] Rich Miller

So it was.

[00:59:39] Rich Miller

Always fun when somebody would come in with kind of a classic cocktail. And Oakland with his three bitters, Manhattan, which I typically make a manhattan with more than more than just aromatic bitters at this point.

[00:59:52] Linda

Fascinating. Thank you.

[00:59:54] Rich Miller

In terms of the book, I don't know now that I've now that that bug has been planted in my ear, I'll have to think about that. I'll do some research on it.

[01:00:02] Linda

Well, I. Can't. I can't wait to get it, so go for it.

[01:00:05] Rich Miller

All right.

[01:00:08] Karen Commins

Yeah. It sounds like all of your fans from the podcast would line up to buy it, and. Yeah, and there are plenty of them.

[01:00:17] Rich Miller

Yeah. Yeah. No, that's a great idea.

[01:00:21] Karen Commins

We have reached 3:00. And I just want to put out a last call for anyone else who might want to say hi to Rich or have a question.

[01:00:32] Rich Miller

Last call. Great way to like this.

[01:00:36] Karen Commins

I thought you of all people would probably appreciate that. Well, I don't see anyone with raised hands or questions in the chat, so I guess it's time for everybody to get the show back on the road. And we'll just conclude today's Pit Stop. The recording is going to be available on clubhouse later today and in the near future. I'll post it with a transcript on NarratorsRoadmap. I hope you'll all take another trip with us. Another road trip with us in two weeks on March 15th, when we'll be speaking with Sarah Puckett. She's a narrator, and she's also the owner of Pink Flamingo Productions. Anne do you want to talk about next week's narrator Uplift show?

[01:01:21] Anne Flosnik

Oh, but first of all, maybe mention, is it letting any cats out of bags? It can't be Sarah's conference.

[01:01:28] Karen Commins

No, it's not. It's not letting cats out of the bag at all.

[01:01:32] Anne Flosnik

Well, maybe we could mention that. Go on. Go on.

[01:01:35] Karen Commins

Well, you keep going.

[01:01:38] Anne Flosnik

Okay. Um, well, I don't know all the details, but she's having a, um, virtual conference, and it's two days. And don't quote me on what the hours are, but if you look it up online, you'll find out two days, March the 29th and 30th. And it's a very nominal cost. And you can either be there in person for the whole or part of the two days or just receive the recorded versions of it. Right. And this is.

[01:02:08] Karen Commins

This is linked on her site, Pink Flamingo Productions, which I'll drop in the chat. Yeah. Right now. Yeah. We'll be talking with her about that on the next pit stop.

[01:02:20] Anne Flosnik

Right. And next Thursday, March the 9th on my show, the narrator Uplift. Um, we will be interviewing Karen, and I will be interviewing Don Barnes, the audio engineering guru. So that'll be good. And so think of your questions, and we will we will have the man himself.

[01:02:40] Karen Commins

And. And you've now created your own club on clubhouse.

[01:02:44] Anne Flosnik

Yes. Called Narrator Uplift, which is the same as the name of the room was. Yeah. So please join, and we'll keep you posted.

[01:02:54] Karen Commins

Yeah. Be so much easier to find your show and be able to get reminders about it.

[01:03:01] Anne Flosnik

Right?

[01:03:02] Karen Commins

So that's what's coming up. And in the meantime, I hope you all find joy in every journey and live the life of your dreams. Thanks again to Rich Miller for this delightful conversation. And thank you, my friend.

[01:03:14] Rich Miller

This was great. Thank you.

[01:03:15] Rich Miller

Really appreciate it. You know.

[01:03:17] Karen Commins

Well, we so appreciate having you. And we'll be looking for that book. Yeah.

[01:03:22] Anne Flosnik

And and your clubhouse club room.

[01:03:25] Karen Commins

That's right.

[01:03:28] Speaker4

I'll definitely think about that, too.

[01:03:30] Karen Commins

No pressure or. Anything.

[01:03:32] Anne Flosnik

Yeah.

[01:03:32] Anne Flosnik

Let that bug fly around your ear a little bit longer.

[01:03:35] Rich Miller

I will. Yeah.

[01:03:37] Speaker6

I'm determined.

[01:03:40] Karen Commins

And thank you and for your excellent observations and support, as always. And thank you all to the audience for joining us today. And I hope you have a wonderful afternoon. We'll see you soon.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



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