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ANDREW: Hello, everyone. This is Andrew Pond, Artistic Director of Eclectic Full Contact Theater. Welcome to this bonus episode of Half Hour Audio Hour. If you would like what you hear, then please remember to like, follow and subscribe to our podcast and feel free to leave a review. You can help us out in continuing this work by telling your friends to go to tinyurl.com/HHAHEFCT, where they can sponsor us through a one time or recurring donation and become our partner in highlighting the voices and stories of women, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ artists. Today, we have an exclusive interview with some of the cast members of Things Needing Explanation.

Christopher Morgan. Leslie Jones, Evelyn Smith, and Josalyn Lynn discussing how they got into acting, what they think is particularly spooky about audio drama, and you'll also get to find out how Scooby Doo and criminal minds match up. Enjoy! So I want to thank all of you for doing this interview and also for being part of Things Needing Explanation here on the Half Hour Audio Hour.

The first question that I have is, because I love Actor origin stories. How did you get into acting? And we'll start with you, Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER: I was lucky to have a really good arts program in my school district growing up. So I got to watch my two older siblings do their theater productions in middle and junior high.

They inspired me to pursue the same path once I was able to. And after the first show, I knew that I wanted to keep doing this as long as I can.

ANDREW: Awesome. And how about you, Leslie?

LESLIE: Well, I was a voracious reader as a child, and I also watched a lot of television and acted out my own dramas. Bit of a latchkey kid.

And then I found my way into opera and my life went in that direction. And I was hooked. I have loved every chance to be on the stage I have been able to have since then.

ANDREW: Opera. That's awesome. And how about you, Evelyn?

EVELYN: Uh, I was about eight years old whenever we first started doing like my like first projects.

I was in a SEMO production of Dracula and I got to hold up like a knife and like scream at people. It was really like a lot of fun. Um, and I was in punk rock at SEMO as well. I was in Legally Blonde Jr. where I played Brooke Windham. I've always just been kind of into that genre. Wonderful.

ANDREW: And Jocelyn, how about you?

JOSALYN: I first got into acting when I was about eight years old. I would watch my mom do, like, her audio dramas and her productions at, like, in college. And I was like, that's really cool. Like, that's what I want to do. Wonderful.

ANDREW: Alright, so... Now that we know how you got into acting, my question is, what drew you to this project? Leslie?

LESLIE: I always loved Prairie Home Companion, so I loved the idea of doing an audio drama. Uh, plus I've also, had also worked with our director Holly Lynn before, doing, doing a performance of The Vagina Monologues, and so I thought it would be really fun to work with her again.

ANDREW: Wonderful. And Evelyn?

EVELYN: Um, I have had been expressing to my mom that, you know, I had wanted to kind of like start getting back into acting because there was like a period of time where I just kind of like lost that part of myself and she came to her room one day and she's like, Hey, I'm directing this audio drama.

Like, how would you feel about? You know, being in it. I said, like, what would my role be? And I asked her all these questions, and she told me that I'd be playing Georgia, because I needed somebody around 16, and I'm 16 years old this December. And that's pretty much how I got it,

ANDREW: Well, I can tell you, you did an absolutely amazing job. And Josalyn, what drew you to this project?

JOSALYN: My mom drew me to this project in the first place, because she was directing it, and she was like, how would you feel about doing this? And I was like, Oh yeah, whatever. Like brushing it off. I was like, sure. But then I took a look at the script and I was like, this is really cool.

Like, this is pretty sick.

ANDREW: That is, that is high praise indeed. Uh, Christopher, what drew you to the project?

CHRISTOPHER: I always love an opportunity to flex my narrator muscles. And I also wanted an opportunity to work with the director again, since I've enjoyed working on projects with Holly in the past.

ANDREW: Well, it's pretty evident you all enjoy working with Holly, but what is it that you enjoy about voice acting specifically? And we'll start with Evelyn.

EVELYN: Um, even though I'm in choir, I have like a lot of like really bad stage fright and that's why I like choir more because you know like you're in like a big group but whenever you're acting like it's literally just you saying your lines you know performing the expression but I like if people don't have to see my face and see my nervousness I can just be relaxed and comfortable and you know try my best to get across like the emotions.

ANDREW: Cool. And Josalyn?

JOSALYN: I like the fact that, like, you don't have to have your camera on. Because I feel like with my camera on, like, I feel like people are gonna, like, judge me and stuff. Which, obviously, they're not. But, like, I feel like people are gonna judge me. Um, but with my camera off, I think that it makes me more confident in what I'm doing. And, like, I'm, like, I got this. Like, I can do this.

ANDREW: And Christopher, how about you?

CHRISTOPHER: I enjoy doing voiceover work because it strips away some of my tools as an actor and forces me to get creative and do more with less.

ANDREW: Awesome. And Leslie, how about you?

LESLIE: This is my first time and I have had a blast. There is a freedom to play and to explore a character with just how I use my voice. Appearance doesn't so much matter. And I've really enjoyed that aspect.

ANDREW: Excellent. Thanks! So now this episode went out in October, which is, of course, spooky season. So, what do you think audio drama has going for it as an advantage when it comes to, uh, spooky season and, uh, that kind of genre? Jocelyn?

JOSALYN: I think that audio dramas have a more suspenseful tone and like a more eerie...side to them, um, and like it makes them like more spooky. Like sure, you have your horror movies and your spooky stories, but I feel like audio dramas are just like, it like sets the tone for The spooky season.

ANDREW: Awesome. And Christopher, how about you?

CHRISTOPHER: Audio drama provides a backdrop for the audience's mind to paint their own mental picture of the events as described. It allows each person to come away with an interpretation of the supernatural elements that are most vivid and impactful to them personally.

ANDREW: And Leslie, why do you think that audio drama is good for spooky season?

LESLIE: I think it gives more power to the listener's imagination. It's easier to put yourself in the character's shoes when you're not seeing someone else doing the things. It is you. You can put your own self in there and I think that makes it even better as a listening tool, particularly for the spookier things.

ANDREW: Absolutely. And Evelyn, what about you?

EVELYN: Um, it's a lot easier to, like, fake emotion and reaction, like, through the voice. Um, like, even, like, whenever people, like, react normally, like, people have, like, a lot of facial expression, but it's easier to fake vocal expression than it is to fake, like, facial expression.

ANDREW: You know, I've never actually, uh, thought of it that way. That's, that's a very interesting perspective on that one. So, this is, of course, now the most... important question of the entire interview, which is, who is your favorite detective? Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER: I'm big into video games, so one of my recent favorite detective characters is Bigby Wolf from The Wolf Among Us.

ANDREW: Very nice. And Leslie?

LESLIE: Oh, that's a tough one. It's almost like asking me to choose my favorite child or cat. Um, my first was Sherlock Holmes, but I think by the time I was 10, I had read every Sherlock Holmes story and always loved that. And I have... Followed many detectives. I do tend to grab on to one and read everything that they have.

Um, but of more recent ones, the Alex Cross, uh, John Patterson's detective. Uh, John, Jonathan Kellerman's Alex Delaware. And just for plain old fun, I have to put in a plug for Stephanie Plum. By Janet Evanovich.

ANDREW: Cool. And I have not read any of those. I need to check those out. And Evelyn, what about you?

EVELYN: Uh, either Jake Peralta from, um, from Brooklyn Nine Nine or Scooby Doo.

ANDREW: I, I applaud the old school going back to Scooby Doo. I appreciate that. And Jocelyn, how about you?

JOSALYN: My favorite detectives, I'm gonna have to say either Nancy Drew or Spencer Reid from Criminal Minds.

ANDREW: Well, that is quite the, uh, quite the spectrum on that one. Um, well, thank you all very much once again for doing this interview and for giving of your time and your talent to things needing explanation here on the half hour audio hour on behalf of myself and everybody here at EFCT. Uh, I really do appreciate it. Thank you so very much.