

00:00.00

Andrew

Hello everyone. My name is Andrew Pond, artistic director of Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, and I'd like to welcome you to this special episode of the Half Hour Audio Hour. Today we have an interview with Maiko Terazawa, who stars in "French Beans and Inner Peace", talking about clogging, her thoughts on audio drama, and exactly what she can't do without at the grocery store. We hope you enjoy.

So Maiko first off, thank you for not only doing this interview but also for being part of the Half Hour Audio Hour. I really appreciate it.

00:17.53

Maiko

Oh yes, thanks for having me.

00:19.60

Andrew

No problem. So I love actor origin stories. So how did you get into acting?

00:30.60

Maiko

Well I guess I've always kind of been performing. Um I moved to the United States when I was almost 7 to Florida and probably around seven or eight I was on like a clogging team for several years which is like country western tap dancing. Um. And I remember I used also like sing, clog and play the harmonica on the sidewalks at the beach with my sister and two cousins with like a guitar case on the ground for tips. I just always loved performing. Ah, but it was my first year of middle school when I started doing theater for the first time in ah 6th grade. And since then I would just take every drama class that was offered all through middle school and high school and then um I took them as electives in college my first couple of years because you know mom doesn't want me to be a theater major because it's not practical. So I just had to use up my electives for that. And then you know life kind of gets in the way I have to start working so I took a little break for several years then I moved to Chicago in 2011 and again I was trying to get my self settled so I didn't start acting right away maybe four or five years later I started doing theater here. Ah, in like 2015 or 2016 and I just haven't stopped since. I just remember how much I loved it from when I was younger and um, I'm just so glad to be doing it again. But I feel like it's just always been a part of who I am.

01:59.40

Andrew

I I'm sorry I'm just I'm just trying to um I'm back at the clogging and playing the Harmonica. Um, that is that's that's that's amazing. I

Love the fact that you at least you had a backup plan.

02:16.16

Maiko

Um, yeah, the cloning was super fun.

02:18.57

Andrew

Um, so so what I could imagine. Yeah, especially in that in that Florida heat.

02:26.40

Maiko

Oh yeah, we we performed at Disney I know I went to competitions and stuff.

Andrew

wow!

Maiko

I was very little though.

02:37.67

Andrew

That's that's awesome. So what drew you to this project?

02:42.25

Maiko

Well I really enjoyed working with eElectric and all the people in the company because everybody's just so wonderful and so I was just really excited when you reached out about this project because it's just another chance to work with you and Eclectic. Um, we did just finish my very first show with this company--Blithe Spirit. It was such a pleasure working with you and I had such a great Time. It was probably the most fun I've ever had um from like a rehearsal and production experience. Um, so I just really want to continue doing shows and projects with you all.

03:16.88

Andrew

I would I'm going to put into the interview right now that at no point was Maiko paid to say that. um I appreciate that I'm very happy that you wanted to be part of this and I'm very glad that you were because it was great working with you before and I'm very glad that ah that you were able to be part of this. So is this the first audio drama that you've performed in?

03:50.76

Maiko

This is my first audio Drama um I did get a chance to be a guest on

another podcast during the pandemic but it was more of just like an interview. Um, not so much an audio drama like this was.

03:59.89

Andrew

So because this is the first one that you've done, talk a little bit about you know what the challenges are from a performer's point of view between doing audio drama versus you know, performing live on stage.

04:22.64

Maiko

I Think one of the challenges with things like this is always going to be technology. As you know our very first rehearsal I Realize that my headphones don't plug into my computer and so things like that are things I don't always think about. it's not something you have to think about in live theater. Um, just making sure you have all the equipment, that your internet connection is good, Um, that's always just something You don't really have to consider in live performances. Also not having anybody to react off of not having audience reactions. So You don't really know what's working and what's not um, that's always I think a challenge for me and um, my biggest challenge is probably my fur babies. Um, because I love my cats dearly but they will walk right across my keyboard and start meowing and it is very difficult to keep them quiet sometimes.

05:15.74

Andrew

I have to say I was very very impressed that we didn't get any of your cats on, on tape.

05:23.95

Maiko

Yes I gave them a treat right before we started recording because they'll usually sleep after that.

05:29.85

Andrew

Perfect. Ah so so since we're talking about live performances and we've-- we have now returned to doing live performances. From ah from a performer's standpoint, what do you think the future of Audio Drama might be? Do you do you think that this is something that might continue on or or not? what do you think is the... Does This have legs?

06:04.75

Maiko

I Think it does um, especially with everything like Covid happening. I feel like it-- and people always have their smartphones with them, so when they're commuting or when they're just walking around going to

the grocery store or just doing chores around the House, you're not always going to want to watch something. So I feel like having an audio drama is always going to be something that's going to stick around even with live theater happening. I feel like with theater you have to make the commitment to kind of just go sit through and then it's over. But with things like an audio drama you can literally be anywhere listening to it. Like I feel like since the pandemic everybody's been listening to podcasts and it's not something I heard all that much about before and I feel like it's become really popular because you can literally listen to it anywhere from your phone.

06:54.70

Andrew

Excellent. Well I certainly hope so because I personally really enjoy audio dramas. So hopefully other people will continue to as well.

07:04.30

Maiko

Yeah I hope so.

07:13.44

Andrew

Um, and yeah and this is of course the most important question of the entire interview. So what's the one thing that if they don't have at the grocery store, you will not substitute?

07:20.30

Maiko

It's a very important question.

Andrew

Yes, inquiring minds want to know.

Maiko

Yes, and the answer to that is going to be diet coke. if they don't have it there's no substitute for me too for me. Not more coke, Coke Zero, Pepsi...It's just not the same. if there is no Diet Coke there is nothing else I'm going to get.

07:42.85

Andrew

No, no, no off Brand Diet Cola for you.

07:47.44

Maiko

No, it's just diet coke.

07:53.39

Andrew

Well I I I So I understand I understand. I know a lot of people who are like no, no, no, no, it's it's it got to be that

08:03.31

Maiko

Um, yes.

08:08.89

Andrew

um, excellent. Well once again, thank you so much Maiko for for doing this. I really appreciate it. Um, it was it was as always a blast working with you and thank you so much for giving of your time and your talent to this project.

08:21.76

Maiko

Um, yeah, thank you so much for having me I so much enjoy doing these projects and working with Eclectic.

ANDREW:

I hope you've enjoyed this interview with Make Terazawa. If you like what you heard, go to redcircle.com/shows/half-hour-audio-hour, where you can support us through a one time or recurring donation and become our partner in highlighting the work of women BIPOC and LGBTQ plus artists. And don't forget to go to eclectic-theater.com and find out more about our serialized audio dramas, Bloody Bay, Deep Shadows, Clusterf**k, Monocyte and Throwing Shade. On behalf of everyone here at E F C T, thanks for listening.