

Andrew

Hello everyone. This is Andrew Pond, Artistic director of Eclectic FULL Contact Theatre. Welcome to Season 4 of The Half Hour Audio Hour. Every month, we'll be featuring a different playwright, allowing you to not only hear their work, but to find out a little more about them and their process. If you enjoy what you hear, 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 heading over to tinyurl.com/EFCTHHAH, where you 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.

This month's production is "Welcome to Silvervein State Park", written by Harlow Buntin, directed by Rufus Wood, and starring Carlyle DePriest, Jacob Glass, Hope Campbell, and Myself.

Before we start, we'd like to briefly introduce you to Harlow Buntin

After the production, stay tuned for an interview with Harlow for more insight into the play and this process.

Harlow Buntin (they/he) is a Chicago-based queer comedian and theatremaker. They have a degree in Theatre with an emphasis in playwrighting from the University of Missouri-Columbia and have been writing creatively for the past 7 years. In that time, they have put up several staged productions and have participated in multiple festivals with both comedic and dramatic works. Although Harlow is an avid horror lover, this is their first ever published horror story. They hope it makes you scream in terror!!

And now, Welcome to Silvervein State Park

The audio of being inside a car going down a gravelly road surrounds us, there is

indistinguishable music playing in the background. A female sigh is heard.

DANIEL

You know we can switch any time..

ZOE

What are you talking about?

DANIEL

That annoyed sigh you've been letting out every five seconds.

ZOE

Oh my god Daniel, stop being such a jerk and just fucking drive.

DANIEL

You're the one who wanted to come here in the first place.

ZOE

Yeah because I thought getting away could help us talk things through-

A big bump

DANIEL

(hits the steering wheel with palm) Ugh!

ZOE

Sorry...

The voices go quiet. A siri voice saying "back online, recalculating, turn left at the next four way" is heard.

DANIEL

Finally.

ZOE

It was off for so long.

DANIEL

Well, that's what happens when you drive to the middle of nowhere.

ZOE

Yeah but shouldn't the satellite still be able to beam us or whatever.

DANIEL

I don't think that's how it works Zo.

Siri pings "destination ahead on your right.. Silvervein State Park, Campsite entrance"

DANIEL

Can you hand me my wallet?

Frantic zipping and shuffling is heard, Daniel puts the car in park and rolls down the window.

We hear park ranger joe open up his booth, this character talks very chipper, almost like a park ranger at a children's nature talk.

PARK RANGER JOE

Hey there! Do you guys have a reservation.

DANIEL

Yeah we made one online.

PRJ

Ok, and what was that reservation number?

ZOE

Daniel, I can't find your wallet.

DANIEL

Check the glove box.

Glove box opens, shuffling.

ZOE

It's not here.

DANIEL

(lowered voice) Just hand me my fucking bag.

He snatches the bag from her and digs around.

PRJ

The number sir?

DANIEL

(exasperated) 6093.

PRJ

I have one under the name Daniel Thorne for two adults at a basic campsite. Sound right?

DANIEL

Yeah, here's my card.

PRJ

Can I also see both of your ID's?

ID shuffling is heard.

PRJ

Alright, you're going to want to follow the signs down to area J and your camp will be marked

with a green cone. The spot's yours til Sunday morning at 11am. Deal?

DANIEL

Sure.

PRJ

Alright, here's your receipt and here's a CD with information about the park.

ZOE

It's been a while since someones given me a CD to listen to.

PRJ

It might be a bit old fashioned but it's easier than having to give the same speech a couple times

a day. Enjoy now!

Shuffling, Daniel starts moving the car forward and rolls up the window.

ZOE

I didn't read anything online about them giving out a CD.

DANIEL

It's really not that big of a deal.

ZOE

I just think it's weird. Wouldn't giving away random stuff like this be a selling point? I feel like a

lot of really hardcore camping people would see it like a collector's item.

DANIEL

Maybe they just don't really think about it like that. I dont know. Pop it in.

Zoe opens the CD, putting it in the CD player, it begins. The voice on the tape is a deep, rough

old man voice.

VOICE

Welcome to Silvervein State Park. In this recording I will tell you a bit about the park's history as well as helpful tips for navigating the flora and fauna. The park started as a place of legend, when the settlers who discovered it documented the mysterious rock faces which appeared to "bleed silver"

. If you examine maps from the time period, some of which can be found at the

park's onsite history museum, many settlers used these distinct rockfaces as a travel marker on

their route which drew more and more visitors to a once secluded area. As time went on, even

though it was no longer needed as a travel marker, people were still drawn to the beauty of

Silvervein. Accompanying it's unique rockfaces, the surrounding forest is also home to many

interesting animals and plants that aren't usually found in this region of the US. However, people

weren't just here to enjoy the park's plentiful natural delights. Hunters would frequent the

surrounding woods drawn in by the unique game and there were many shady mining projects

that came and went, evidenced by the remains that can still be seen on park property today. In

order to protect the land, it was decided that Silvervein would become Missouri's 9th state park.

Opened in 1926, the park continued to get attention for it's many natural features but also

gained a reputation as a-

The CD starts skipping.

ZOE
Aww..

Car gets put in park and turned off, skipping CD cuts out.

DANIEL
It was time to stop listening anyways.

DANIEL
So.. should we set up the tent first?

Car unloading sounds fade into transition music sounds fade into fire crackling and leaves crunching under footsteps.

ZOE
You got the fire going.

DANIEL
Yeah good thing, or we'd probably freeze.

ZOE
Oh stop, it's not that cold.

DANIEL
Are you kidding me?

ZOE
How was I supposed to know?

DANIEL
You're the one that picked when we would come out here Zoe.

ZOE
Well my weather app said that the lowest it would get would be like 65 this weekend!

DANIEL
Suure it did.

Intense shuffling and phone tapping.

ZOE

Look! I told you, it literally says it's 67 degrees out.

Beat, more intense shuffling and phone tapping.

ZOE

For real?

DANIEL

What?

ZOE

Daniel, I'm literally holding my phone with the information right in front of your face.

DANIEL

(angrily) Which is still clearly not right! You're really going to tell me the air we are sitting in feels like 67 degrees?

ZOE

Why does it even matter? We're warm now aren't we?

DANIEL

No, I'm not dropping this. You always do this!

ZOE

What?

DANIEL

You always try to push away what the problem is! Just because things are fine now doesn't mean they'll be fine later!

ZOE

Daniel, do you even hear yourself right now? I can't. Change. The. Fucking. Weather. You're

just trying to cause an issue to distract from the fact that you weren't right and I was.

DANIEL

I'm going to go get the food from the car.

No response, Daniel marches angrily away, we hear leaves crunching and car doors opening and closing in the distance.

DANIEL

(shouting from the car) Zoe! Where's the cooler?

ZOE

What do you mean?

DANIEL

It's not in the car.

ZOE

It's in the trunk. Look around, it could be under some stuff.

DANIEL

(shouting from the car) I'm telling you it isn't here!

Zoe lets out an angry groan, gets up and walks over to the car, audio wise we follow her

footsteps to the car. We hear her stop at the trunk of the car and let out a light gasp. Frantic

shuffling of the trunk's contents can be heard.

ZOE

How is that possible?

DANIEL

Did you-

ZOE

Of course I put it in the car Daniel, I remember putting it in there because I had to fit it in around your ridiculous amounts of fishing gear.

DANIEL

I need to be prepared!

ZOE

For what?! Catching more 4 inch fucking fish and photoshopping them longer for your facebook wall?

DANIEL

WOULD YOU PLEASE LET IT GO I ONLY DID IT ONE TIME!

ZOE

I'm just going to go to bed fucking hungry.

DANIEL

You're seriously still wanting to stay?

ZOE

It's not like all of our food was in that cooler, we still have plenty of dry goods.

DANIEL

But-

ZOE

No, no but's. We agreed on coming out here. That's been the first thing we've agreed on in the

past 6 months since you asked me to marry you. We agreed that we would come all the way out

here to the middle of nowhere and spend the entire weekend together, no distractions, because

we know that we either fix this now or we're leaving this going our own separate ways.

So please, let's just go to bed and wake up tomorrow and try.

DANIEL

(softly) Ok.

ZOE

Ok.

We hear Zoe turn and walk away, Daniel following behind. Transitional music plays leading us to

soft sleeping ambience plus light rain drizzle on a tent top.

VOICE (DISTANT RADIO)

In order to protect the land, it was decided that Silvervein would become Missouri's 9th state

park. Opened in 1926, the park continued to get attention for it's many natural features but also

gained a reputation as a-

A scream sounds in the distance shifting to sizzling meat and cooking sounds.

Footsteps

coming towards us.

ZOE

Wait, what? Where did you get that?

DANIEL

I went out in the car before you woke up to grab groceries and there's actually a little camp store next to the museum they have.

ZOE

That.. was nice of you. Thanks.

DANIEL

Well, don't thank me too soon. They had a weird selection so it's eggs and hotdogs for us.

ZOE

Hey if it's good enough for the UK, it's good enough for us!

Zoe sits down next to daniel

DANIEL

So, I thought about what you said last night..

ZOE

Yeah?

DANIEL

And I want to try.

ZOE

Good.

Sooo then what do you want to do today?

DANIEL

I was thinking about going on a hike. Maybe go see those rocks that CD was talking about.

Would you want to join?

ZOE

I thought you'd never ask.

Crackling fire turns into rushing water as we hear dirt and gravel crunch under boots. Birds are tweeting, nature ambience.

DANIEL

When I said we should go hiking I didn't realize we'd be getting so wet.

ZOE

It really does look like liquid silver.

DANIEL

Yeah, it's kind of crazy that's it's just like some water reflection thing.

ZOE

Is it?

DANIEL

I don't know, probably? I mean it's obviously not real silver.

ZOE

Then what do you think they were looking for?

DANIEL

Who?

ZOE

The miners. The ones the CD talked about.

DANIEL

I don't know, it was a long time ago. Could have been anything.

ZOE

It's just that once you get close enough to the rock you can tell it's not actually silver, so they

had to be staying because they thought something else was actually there.

DANIEL

Well, whatever they thought was in there wasn't. If there was something actually valuable in

there, this place wouldn't be a national park. It would be a fucking factory or some-AH.

Slipping and hitting the ground/water is heard.

DANIEL

FUCK!

ZOE

Oh my god! Are you ok?

Zoe helps Daniel up.

DANIEL

No, fuck! I totally have mud down my fucking pants.

ZOE

Just strip and wash it out.

DANIEL

Are you crazy? What if someone sees?

ZOE

Oh my god, like we've seen a single person all day.

DANIEL

I'm going back to camp.

ZOE

Seriously?

DANIEL

Do you really expect me to stay out here covered in this shit?

ZOE

I just feel like we haven't really even had time to explore, I mean when's the next time we're going to see something like this?

DANIEL

They're just rocks Zoe.

ZOE

(sigh) Well you can do what you want but I'm staying.

DANIEL

You can't even get that close to-

ZOE

Please Daniel.

DANIEL

Sure, ok. Just don't take too long.

We hear crunching away of daniel's shoes and the crunching under zoe's shoes. As we near the mine shaft opening, we hear wind whistling, maybe caution tape flapping in the wind, leaves rustling. The footfalls stop as Zoe reads the sign.

ZOE

“This entrance leads into a mine system dubbed by geological surveyors as ‘The Labyrinth’. The system is exclusively made up of random, twisting passages with some tunnels turning for miles while others intersect or just end. Entries in journals that are suspected to belong to the miners that worked in the area echoed modern day researcher’s confusion saying that the complex layout were responsible for many deaths. Local legend says that if you stand silently at it’s entrance you can hear echos of previous conversations had by people before they met their demise in the the tunnels”
... No way.
ECHO! Echo.. Echo..

(we hear this echo down the mining system until it fades into the ambient noise)
Zoe grows silent as the ambient noises, especially wind, around her seem to grow louder. After a few seconds this drops off and we hear..

WOMAN

(faintly) How could you do this to me?

Leaves shuffle as we hear Zoe gasp and move back in shock, we hear her run around the surrounding area.

ZOE

Hello! Is anyone there?
Does anybody need any help?

MAN

(faintly) It was just a couple of times Brit...

ZOE

(weaker) Hello! Anyone? Daniel?

WOMAN

(faintly) Jason, do you even hear yourself? We took vows, I don't care if all you did was share a fucking look, it's not ok!

ZOE

This can't be real.

MAN

(faintly) It was a mistake! I was just feeling a little trapped but I got over it. That's why I'm telling you now! I want to fix things with you.

WOMAN

(faintly) Did you ever consider that maybe I wouldn't want to fix things after I find out you're a cheating, lying, asshole?

MAN

(faintly) Where do you think you're going?

WOMAN

(faintly) I'm fucking leaving Jason. I'm going back to the camp, getting in the car, and then leaving you the fuck here in the wilderness to starve until I come back just to serve you fucking papers. Then, I'll leave you here to keep fucking starving.

MAN

(faintly) You're being unreasonable.

WOMAN

(faintly) I don't care.

MAN

(faintly) Are you sure about that?

A loud gunshot goes off and Zoe screams, we hear her jump back and run away from the recording point eventually splashing through the stream. Voices start building up including young, old, different languages. Almost overwhelming then disappears into a wind gust leading

to a crackling fire.

ZOE

Do you think they at least looked around a little?

DANIEL

Maybe? I'm not sure Zo, the ranger seemed-

ZOE

I know what I heard.

DANIEL

I know you think you know what you heard but sound travels in weird ways in the woods. You

probably just heard another hikers' conversation cause it was going through some hole in the

rock on the other side of the cave or something. Didn't the sign even say there was some weird

soundwave shit going on?

ZOE

But what about the gunshot?

DANIEL

Hunters?

ZOE

You can't be serious. Do you really think that they would let people hunt near a campground?

DANIEL

It's probably not a thing where they "let them".

ZOE

Poachers..

DANIEL

Lots of rare wildlife remember?

ZOE

I guess. I don't know. I can buy that maybe the voices can be logically explained but the gunshot

was just so loud. It felt like it went off right next to me.

beat

DANIEL

What were they talking about again?

ZOE

Basically the guy admitted to cheating on her, she stood up to him and then..

DANIEL

The gunshot? I guess they were here to work on some relationship stuff too, huh?

ZOE

Daniel, she could be dead.

DANIEL

Just trying to lighten things up..

ZOE

I just want to leave! I don't like this place.

DANIEL

Weren't you the one who was all like (imitates zoe) "we can't leave here til we solve this problem"?

ZOE

And what have you done huh? What have you done while we've been here except moan and complain and make me seem like I'm fucking crazy?

DANIEL

What about this morning?

ZOE

What about it? You agreed to go on a hike with me and then fucking left me in the woods.

DANIEL

I HAD!!! MUD!!! IN MY PANTS!!!

ZOE

OH MY GOD IT WASN'T EVEN THAT MUCH!!

DANIEL

I never wanted to fucking marry you.

ZOE

What?

DANIEL

I never wanted to marry you.. We've just been dating forever and everyone said we should I

mean.. I even thought we should at one point I guess but..

ZOE

But.. what..

DANIEL

I just don't think we're meant to be.

ZOE

Daniel.. Please don't.. Please don't say it..

DANIEL

I met someone.

Zoe begins to cry, softly at first.. Increasing in volume and franticness as Daniel's confession continues. This is juxtaposed by Daniel delivering this monologue in he most tender, in love, dreamy voice ever. Like recounting meeting the mother of your children to your children.

DANIEL

It was right after I proposed. I went to go grab coffee before work and she bumped into me. She spilled coffee all over my shoes (soft laugh) . She apologized and offered to buy me another. We just talked and talked and didn't even notice the replacement on the counter. We exchanged numbers and since then, she's been all I could think about. It just started with check-ins about each other's days but slowly, I opened up to her in a way that I had never opened up before. We've been dating for months but I just couldn't do it anymore. I broke down, I felt so guilty. I explained everything to her. I explained you and how I just couldn't shake off other people's expectations. She was so beautiful and so patient and she understood. So we parted ways and I went back to you. I thought that maybe if I just pretended it never happened I could just move

past it but (tone grows darker) you can't leave it alone. You can't just let the fact that I gave up the love of my life to be with you be good enough. I don't know what I was fucking thinking.

Daniel stops speaking and spits in the fire. Flames crackle louder. Zoe gets up and starts slowly walking towards the car, trying to stifle her cries, her dialogue is punctuated by ragged breathing. .

DANIEL

Where are you going?

ZOE

I'm getting the fuck out of here.

DANIEL

Zoe, you can't drive like this.

ZOE

Don't you dare tell me what the fuck I can't do.

DANIEL

Just listen to yourself, you can barely speak. You'll crash.

ZOE

The woman in the cave was warning me!

DANIEL

Listen to yourself! You're not thinking straight.

ZOE

I have to get out of here.

Zoe collapses on the ground. Daniel rushes to her aid and we can hear them struggling.

ZOE

Don't fucking touch me!

DANIEL

Just go get in the tent. I'll go stay in the car ok? Just go to sleep. Then in the morning we can

get out of here and you'll never have to see me again.

Zoe keeps softly crying as she gets up and goes into the tent. She unzips the front and goes inside and zips it shut. We can still hear her crying from the inside. We follow Daniel's sound pov as he goes back to the fire and grabs his backpack taking it to the car. He opens it and we hear car noises.. Ding ding... we hear daniel getting settled in for the night. He tries to make a call and send a text, both fail.

DANIEL

Fuck..

Ambient music starts to play along with outside car nature sounds, light snoring blends with this.

We hear wolves howl in the background, generally eerie. The radio comes on starts playing the CD again loudly.

VOICE

In order to protect the land, it was decided that Silvervein would become Missouri's 9th state park. Opened in 1926, the park continued to get attention for it's many natural features but also gained a reputation as a-

CD starts skipping loudly, it wakes up Daniel who starts slamming his hands on it trying to make it stop eventually even turning on and off the car to see if it will stop.

DANIEL

Stop it! Stop it! Stop it!

A loud growl is heard. Daniel falls silent and the CD continues.

VOICE

-a reputation as a cursed land. People go missing here. Directions get confusing, your head gets foggy, time seems warped. You may hear things or see things that seem unreal but I assure you (wheezy old man laugh) they are.

We here the voice pause and we sit in the scratchy sounding ambience of the rolling CD. We hear female screams.

DANIEL

Zoe...

VOICE

Sometimes, people have to make hard choices in the wilderness. "It was me or them", "I couldn't do anything but watch", "I was lucky to make it out alive".

ZOE

(distant) DANIEL!! DANIEL HELP!! PLEASE ANYONE HEEELLP!!

VOICE

This is one of those choices Daniel.

We hear frantic pounding feet running up to the car and banging on the window and pulling on the locked handle as Zoe begs to be let in.

ZOE

Daniel you have to let me in please. I'm not fucking around Daniel, something's out here. It destroyed the tent. I can't see out here, it's too dark. Please!

VOICE

She ruined your life, you don't owe her anything. If something happens out here they can't blame you. You heard her, the tent was destroyed. If a wild animal spooked her out of the tent

and into the woods then what happens out there can't be your fault. It's just natural selection.

There's another growl and Zoe screams again going around the front of the car and begins pounding and tugging on the side door.

ZOE

DANIEL LET ME IN! IT'S COMING!

VOICE

With Zoe taken care of here, you don't have to feel embarrassed by not being able to break off

the engagement. You wouldn't have to feel cowardly and ashamed. Your family will never know

what a coward you were. How you couldn't stand up to your nagging family and your bitch of a

fiance to be with the woman you love.

DANIEL

Yes I can!

ZOE

DANIEL PLEASE!

VOICE

Prove it.

DANIEL

SHUT UP AND FUCK OFF!

Another loud growl is heard as Zoe screams and runs away from the car continuing her screams into the depths of the woods. Daniel starts laughing, a laugh of relief, unhinged. The CD keeps skipping on the voice saying "prove it.. Prove it.." until it abruptly cuts off. Daniel continues laughing. His laughter fades into ambient eerie music that fades into car wheels driving up a gravel road. We hear light music playing on a car radio as the window is rolled

down.

PARK RANGER JOE

Hey there pal! Ready to check out?

DANIEL

Not exactly..

PRJ

Hmm.. I think I remember a charming young lady being with you at check in.

Just so you know,

policy says all campers at the same site have to check out together. If she's still back at camp,

packing up. I'd be happy to extend your hours free of charge!

DANIEL

She's not. I mean.. I guess she is kind of. We fought last night and I slept in the car and I woke

up and the tent was all torn up. I don't know what happened.

PRJ

So you decided to go separate ways, huh?

DANIEL

What?

PRJ

I said it sounds like it could've been a bear attack. Hold on, I'll radio in.

DANIEL

For a search team?

PRJ

Body recovery!

PRJ goes to close his window.

PRJ

Of course, you'll have to wait around til back up gets here. Sorry, it's just procedure with things like this.

DANIEL

(weakly) Yeah, no problem.

PRJ closes his window and we hear him radio'ing for backup, fades into eerie music.

Andrew

Thank you for listening to Welcome to Silvervein State Park, here on The Half Hour Audio Hour. Next up is a brief interview we conducted with Harlow Buntun after the recording of this show.

Andrew

So Harlow, I just want to say thank you so much for allowing Andrew to be part of your show. Welcome to Silvervane State Park. We really do appreciate it.

harlow

Oh my gosh. Well, thank you so much for thanking me, but honestly, thank you guys. I know that sounds like such a like such an annoying answer, but like I am so grateful for you guys for producing it just because it's been something that I've had for a while and that I really like. So I'm just excited that someone else got excited about it.

Andrew

Absolutely. and So how long have you been writing?

harlow

Yeah, I've been writing kind of for a little bit. I was in high school. I was on like my school's newspaper, um which just like reveals like that's like a really deep lore about me. But yeah, I was on my school newspaper. So I started like journalistic writing. And um and then as I got into college, I actually joined like my college's sketch comedy club. And so I entered it kind of that way. um And then when I learned that that was kind of more like what I wanted to do, I got really into um more serious playwriting and of course, like things like this. So I feel like maybe like for seven years, I think so.

Andrew

Awesome.

harlow

Yeah.

Andrew

That's great. And I love the sort of evolution from journalistic writing to more creative writing and then plays. That's awesome.

harlow

thank you yeah it was super fun

Andrew

So I have to ask, what inspired Welcome to Silvervein State Park?

harlow

Oh my god, yeah. Everybody wants to know what is going on in my, I'm kidding. Um, yeah, I think, uh, I have always, I'm like a big scary movie person, like, and I'm, I'm, I, maybe we'll get to this question later, I don't know, but I am a really big horror person, and like, it, which is funny because I do a lot of my work in comedy, so people listening to this might be like, what the heck? but yeah, I find a lot of inspiration in that and I just really wanted to finally write a horror script. Um, so I feel like that really inspired it. I feel like also just the horrors of the wilderness. I'm like a big camping person and specifically, um, you're, you're listening to this after the episode, so it's not a spoiler, but, um, Silvervein is in Missouri and I got a lot of inspiration specifically from, I went to college in Missouri and like when I camped there,

Andrew

Right.

harlow

The wilderness in Missouri, while it may not sound very riveting, it's actually very like it would rain a lot and be like very spooky and mysterious. And when you're camping in that, it really just feels like anything can happen. And I just always remember like really latching onto that and feeling like it was a really good sort of setting for a really cool story. And then I also listened to another kind of audio fiction. So it's kind of funny, but I listened to a different audio fiction thing. um It's called the Magnus Archives. So it's by a British recording company called Rusty Quill. And so they do a lot of horror. That's like what it all is, is like, um well, that

season specifically, it's like audio horror. And so I just liked it so much that I was like, I kind of want to try. So yeah, those three things probably.

Andrew

That's awesome. And look, I'm right there with you. I'm one of those people who basically looks at nature and goes, well, that's just trying to kill me.

harlow

Oh my God, yeah. And it's so funny because like genuinely I do like camping.

Andrew

Yeah.

harlow

Like I like walking around and seeing like all the animals and like, I really do. I find it very soothing, but then like sometimes you're like, you're trying to go to bed and you're like, what if someone's walking around? Like you don't know. It's just like the wilderness is the wilderness. So yeah, definitely.

Andrew

Yeah. So you said that you know the audio fiction horror that you had listened to kind of helped inspire. What do you enjoy about writing for audio?

harlow

Yeah, I feel like I just really feel, I feel like it's just a medium I feel really comfortable in just because I feel like, and I'm going to get a little bit like my theater degree is going to jump out for a second so please pardon me but I feel like um the relation between like a lot of the theatrical work I do And the audio, it really um relies a lot on like suspension of suspension of belief, um especially because like there's like the big part of like imagination right that's active in both mediums. um On stage, obviously, it's a little bit different because you can see the people, um but you know you have to kind of believe that there's something else. um With audio, it's kind of the same as reading a book.

harlow

uh you know you have to imagine what is not there um but i feel like it's it's a really fun space to play in um for me writing wise and so i feel like that's a really

big part of why i enjoy it personally and also just because um personally i don't like being on camera And um just as like an independent creator, um you know, you have to work out a lot of stuff yourself. And I just was kind of like, well, I don't want to be on camera and I don't want to buy a camera to put someone else on camera. ah So I kind of was like, well, I already really enjoy audio. So let's just kind of dive deeper in and see what it holds, I guess.

Andrew

Awesome. no that's that and Feel free to let your theater degree run rampant whenever you like.

harlow

Oh god, don't say that please.

Andrew

you it's okay It's okay you're among friends. it's

harlow

Oh my god, I'm like releasing the tension in my shoulders that I'm holding right now. It's a safe space. Oh my gosh, thank you.

Andrew

it's ah It's okay. You're all right. Um, so, so do you have any upcoming projects that you'd like to promote?

harlow

Oh my gosh, I sure would if we have just a spare moment. I do have a few things coming up.

Andrew

Yeah.

harlow

Outside outside of writing, I do um producing and directing, mostly in comedy like I mentioned, so I do have a few shows coming up if anybody if anybody read, if anybody listened to this horrible thing that I wrote and want to laugh instead. I have a show that's actually opening, well, not when this releases, but on this

coming Saturday. ah Let's Play a Game. It's going to be at the Annoyance Theatre and Bar, 10 p.m. Saturdays on September 14th through October 26th.

Andrew
Great.

harlow

And then that's like a horror short-form improv show, so maybe the same demographic we're striking here, I'm not sure. um And then the ah the show after that is called Vault Prov, which is a um fallout sci-fi long-form narrative show. I know crazy things are combining. um And that's going to be at Otherworld Theater and Bar, Saturdays at 8.30, September 21st through November 16th. And then one more thing. I'm so sorry. But one more show.

Andrew

No, absolutely. This is what this is for.

harlow

It's another horror show, Summer Scaries, and this is one is a a musical improv show, again at the Annoyance Theatre and Bar. Wednesday is at 9.30 p.m., October 2nd through 30th, so again, depending on when you're listening, but please come.

Andrew

That's awesome. That sounds like a lot of fun.

harlow

Oh, i i you know what? I'm having a lot of fun, and I hope people will come and have a lot of fun. That's really all I can hope.

Andrew

Well, that's that's the most important part, really, when you get right down to it. As long as you're having a good time.

harlow

Oh, yeah, I love it. it's It's the everybody I work with is like fantastic. Like I cannot give enough shout outs to the creative community of Chicago. It's incredible here.

Andrew

Awesome. So this is, of course, the most important part of the whole interview.

harlow

Oh, my gosh, I'm shaking.

Andrew

And I know it's it's it's really not that big a deal. I'm gonna undercut all of the tension that I just built. um What is your favorite scary movie?

harlow

Oh my gosh. I had to think like so hard about this just because like I said, there are truly so many, but I think just because it's, it's like coming towards like spooky season time. I'm very reminiscent on this one specifically. So I'm going to say nightmare on Elm street for today. And then hereditary also just, it has to be mentioned.

Andrew

Yes.

harlow

Um, but probably those two, I would say are here today.

Andrew

Now I have to I have to I have to ask you, did you mean for today it's nightmare on elm street or did you mean today it's nightmare on elm street four ?

harlow

Oh no, I meant, I meant today period. It is Nightmare on Elm Street, period. The original, not four. No, I totally understand how that could be misleading. I want to go on the record and strike what I just said and correct myself. It is Nightmare on Elm Street, period.

Andrew

Okay. That's, look, there, there, are there, I know that there are people who, who really, who really, uh, love some of the, some of the sequels in, in those long, I'm telling you.

harlow

Would it be crazy if I came on here and was like, yeah, my favorite one is Nightmare on Elm Street 4, and everybody's like, what are they talking about? Could you imagine it? And everybody was like, oh, okay, so I'm gonna disregard everything that they just wrote.

Andrew

Yeah.

harlow

I'm kidding, I'm kidding, I'm kidding.

Andrew

I I'm I'm telling you nothing nothing can top the brilliance that is phantasm five so um ah so No, I think I I don't like to assume but um, no the the original that is that is an excellent excellent choice and as is hereditary so excellent well

harlow

Thank you. Thank you. Well, I passed the test, so hopefully maybe one day I'll be back.

Andrew

very Yeah, cuz cuz I'm definitely the gatekeeper of all that is true in horror Look I just told someone I just told one of our cast members that you know It's perfectly alright to say gremlins is so a terrifying movie. So really I'm open to anything

harlow

Okay, it kind of is though. They're running around, they're running around, that's scary.

Andrew

It's, but that, that stuff, that stuff was not, I don't care if they're, if they're puppets or not. Those were some, those were some freaky looking characters.

harlow

No, yeah, and puppets can be scary, so anybody who says they're not, maybe a little bit flying to you, but whatever.

Andrew

No. ah Oh, no, there are there is some absolutely terrifying, uh, puppets. So absolutely. Well, Harlow, thank you once again for letting Eclectic be part of Welcome to Silvervein State Park. It was a lot of fun. It's a wonderful show and I am so happy that people are going to get a chance to listen to it and experience it. On behalf of myself and everyone at Andrew, thank you so very much.

harlow

Oh my gosh. Well, they like I said, thank you guys. Like seriously, like this is so incredible to me that again, anybody wanted to believe in this. So I am just so excited to see what people think. And yeah, thank thank you so much.

Andrew

We hope you enjoyed Welcome to Silvervein State Park. Next month, we will be presenting Bloody Footprints by Michael Yale, And don't forget to head over to eclectic-theatre.com to find out about all our other shows and projects, like our second annual Crashbox Festival of Short Live Audio Plays, running December 5th-15th at the Edge off Broadway Theatre in Chicago. 6 amazing audio plays featuring the fantasy genre performed live, with Live music and incredible live sound effects! In person and livestream tickets now available at eclectic-theatre.com! On behalf of myself and everyone here at EFCT, thanks for listening