

Andrew

Hello everyone. My name is Andrew Pond, artistic director of Eclectic Full Contact Theater, and welcome to this special edition of the Half Hour Audio Hour. If you like what you hear, be sure to like, follow and subscribe to our podcast and feel free to leave a review. Today we have a special interview with the Tess Galbiati, who starred in Lost In Tea, discussing how she got into acting, her thoughts on voice acting, and unicorn civil war. Enjoy.

Andrew

Okay, so the first thing Tess I'd like to do is just thank you for being part of half hour audio hour and this particular episode lost in tea. Thanks very much.

Tess Galbiati

Of course I'm delighted to be a part of it.

Andrew

So I love Actor Origin stories. So how did you get into acting.

Tess Galbiati

Um, I'm one of those people that was kind of always um, a performer. My mom was a music teacher and it was pretty clear when I was young that I really loved being the center of attention. Um, so ah, so when she--ah. I did like a couple of like community theater things and then um in my hometown there was a local university that did a summertime Shakespeare camp and so that's where it really took off beyond being just like. Something fun that I enjoyed like getting to do silly things in front of people into like oh I actually really enjoy like the storytelling of this.

Andrew

Okay, that's a summer I I a summertime Shakespeare kids camp.

Tess Galbiati

Yes, allegedly I was they cut the program right before I got into high school and allegedly although now as an adult I'm like they can't have been doing this the high schoolers were supposed to have uncut Shakespeare. Um. So was very bitter I didn't get to do that. But again as an adult I'm like there's no way they were giving high schoolers uncut Shakespeare as a summer camp thing.

Andrew

That's just's just that just the the the length... but that's that sounds awesome. So so what drew you to this project.

Tess Galbiati

Um I I've ah enjoyed the things from eclectic full contact and I love... as much as I love doing like live theater and things like that and that's where my home has been thus far in Chicago I'm really

passionate about doing ah voiceover things. And especially with like the um, the themes in lost in tea as well. Those were all things that like drew me into the project.

Andrew

Awesome! Awesome! And so now that you mentioned that that segues very nicely into the next question. Um, which is how do or don't you relate to your character.

Tess Galbiati

Yeah, so I mean it's It's interesting being an adult and going back and revisiting characters that are teenagers um because it it I didn't have any sort of like family situation similar to Leann. And she is a teenager going through some like really adult circumstances while also being like robbed of figuring out how to form relationships with people

Andrew

Right? who.

Tess Galbiati

and so while that's something that like I don't have a so like I don't have a direct connection to that. Um, the connection to like the The turmoil that she's going through the things especially when she starts getting into the stuff about the pandemic and experiencing the first joy of finding communities someplace as somebody who's felt alienated for a really long time I think those are all things that like Even if you haven't been stewed in it like Leann has as a character that everybody has had moments of of just feeling absolutely alienated and then finding a community and so those were the things that really drew me to her. Um, and also the fact that she's like a smart snarky teen. And I definitely grew up in that area of being a teenager of like I'm going to be cursing and also using like some pretty...having lots of like thoughts beyond what a lot of her peers have to contend with at this time.

Andrew

Right? right? Awesome! Yes I I think a lot of something that I hear a lot and is is that a lot of theater people get that idea of kind of finally Finding. A Community or a group of people where all of a sudden you feel oh this is where I'm supposed to be um so that that's definitely it's It's interesting that that's that this character in this play finds that sense of community after everybody's locked down.

Tess Galbiati

Well and it's also like we we had talked about in the rehearsal process like her strong sense of Justice and like that that's like her key into that that she like wasn't getting from her necessarily her peers at school and like being able to find like...Actually find a common thread even though everybody's locked down still going and

protesting with people um is just it's a really, It's a lovely thing for her to have found.

Andrew

Absolutely. So Now you said you said that you you that you really love the the voice Acting. Ah so what is it that you enjoy most about Voice acting.

Tess Galbiati

So when I was a kid I Loved the idea of just being able to make annoying sounds for a job. Ah that was like the true draw of it when I was a kid but now one of the things I love about voice acting um is Because it's either theater of the mind or usually used with like animation. It opens up possibilities in storytelling that I think are otherwise limited with like live action things like with live action. You're limited to what you can like physically manifest in the space. And with theater of the mind or with animation you get to expand your world to include more like magical realism or more whimsy and one of my favorite like thematic like Juxtapositions is like whimsical content that has this really. Dark base underneath it. Um, where like it's like a sugar coated thing like hiding something sinister and I think that voice acting can lean into that really nicely.

Andrew

That's excellent. That's excellent and this is of course now the most important question about of this entire interview which is because as we know Leeann spends a lot of her time under her bed with a bunch of forgotten toys. So my question to you is what was your favorite childhood toy.

Tess Galbiati

Um, my favorite childhood toy was probably a little stuffed unicorn that I had named Blue Star and she was a blue unicorn Her fur is absolutely matted now because I took her everywhere with me. Um, but she it was her and like there was a so I had like a unicorn collective when I was growing up so it was the the little collection of Unicorns. We're definitely definitely the most played with for a while.

Andrew

I I have I have to say I Really love the fact that you described it as a unicorn collective as opposed to a unicorn collection because now I simply I simply picture a bunch of unicorns Trying trying to start a labor revolution I calling each other comrade.

Tess Galbiati

Yeah, well there was a book series that I read as a kid that was like yes there were a there was a book series that I read as a child that was about like unicorn wars um, so that was also like very, it's called unicorns of Eleanor if you have kids. It's great. Um.

Andrew  
Wow. So.

Tess Galbiati  
It's like they were like starting wars and having like inner you know like factions of these unicorns fighting 1 another so it was definitely a collective in my mind of like they were their own little like part like their own little faction in in this world.

Andrew  
Ah, it's amazing. The one animal you wouldn't think would get would get involved in something like that. Ah well Tess I really do have to Say Thank you again for ah doing this and being part of half hour audio hour and giving your time and your talent to this because it really was wonderful and on behalf of myself and everyone at eclectic I just want to say? Thank you very much We're very very grateful.

Tess Galbiati  
Of course, thank you so much for having me.

Andrew  
Thanks for listening to this special episode of the Half Hour Audio Hour, and thank you for being our partner in highlighting the voices and stories of women BIPOC and LGBTQ+ artists. Tell your friends that for just \$5 a month or \$50 a year, they do can get access to exclusive behind the scenes interviews with casts and directors. And check out eclectic theater.com for more info about all the projects E F C T has coming up. On behalf of myself and everyone here, thanks for listening.