

# Young Hollywood Actors Bonus Chapters

The Hometown to Hollywood Interviews  
Volume I

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## Landing in Hollywood

Sarah Jeffery

Sarah: In some ways it's been what I expected, and in some ways it hasn't. At least for me, we have this idea of Hollywood and it's all this glitz and glam and stars and star sightings, and it's exciting, but everyone is here for a reason, is what I've found. You get in an Uber or a cab or whatever it is, and they're all actors.

Bonnie: It's so true. I was in an Uber the other day with a guy who's a musician, and he had an amazing body of work. So impressive.

Sarah: Actually, I have a funny story about that. My first pilot season, I got in an Uber with my friends, and the driver was asking us what we did, and I said, "I'm an actress." He told me, "I just had an audition for this show," and I said, "Oh, me too," and we started reciting our lines with one another. I thought, "This is crazy. The world is so small."

Bonnie: Yes it is. Same scene?

Sarah: Yes, same scene. It was crazy. That's a huge realization for me. Hollywood seems like this big, huge thing, but once you're here, and once you start to make one connection, you see, "Whoa, this is tiny."

Bonnie: It is tiny. That's been one of our takeaways too. Everybody really does know everybody. There's one degree of separation basically, through the whole town. You need to be really thoughtful around that.

Sarah: Exactly, very thoughtful, be kind to people. You never know who's friends with who. Watch what you say, for sure.

Be mindful. If you have something to say, save it for the car with your mom, or whoever it may be. It's kind of a rule of thumb in life, I find, is to be kind and be respectful, and especially in this big town where it's actually not that big at all.

Brenna D'Amico

Brenna: It was very different and a little intimidating, for sure. I think it would be a little intimidating for anybody. I don't know ... I really love being out here. I feel like this is where I'm meant to be. Even if I wasn't an actor or in the creative industry or entertainment industry, I just feel this is where I'm meant to live. This is where I'm meant to have a family eventually. California is just somewhere I think I'm going to be

forever.

It was a good landing for me. It's beautiful here. I love it.

Bonnie: I have to agree with you. I think there are a lot of people outside of LA who have a certain idea about what LA is like, and it's not always a positive idea. Our experience is that LA is filled with smart, hard-working, creative people.

Brenna: It's so exciting meeting those people, because they inspire you, and they inspire you on a completely different level. You look at them, and you think, I want to be them. I want to have the motivation, the dedication that they have. So many people like that inspire me. Dove inspires me. As soon as I met her, I thought, she is so hard-working, and she really did inspire me, ask my mom. I talk about how hard-working she is all the time. She's one of the many people that inspire me to the fullest.

Bonnie: That is a lovely thing for me to hear, of course. Thank you.

And it's really true. As you meet people who are so accomplished in the field that you want to be accomplished in too, especially people like, say, Kenny Ortega or Kristin Chenoweth-- people who are really icons-- because you get a chance to work with them and get to know them, you realize these are real people. They just made choices and put in the work that got them to that place. It kind of demystifies it, and it makes it seem more possible for that to happen for you, too.

Brenna: Right, and a lot of people may think like, "Oh, they can do it, so I can do it." But don't get lazy. I can't stress that enough. Work hard and never, ever give up. You know how many times you're gonna hear a no, and it's okay to take a break for a little bit, but never give up. Take on those challenges and just work your booty off. Work your booty off until it's gone.

Bonnie: I don't think that can be said enough. I think that that's true for people in any career. That's just good advice for life. That is what it takes. It takes a profound amount of commitment and hard work. You have to do more than want it. You have to work for it.

Brenna: Yeah, and you have to ... You yourself have to need it. Your passion has to be your drive.

## Dylan Playfair

Dylan: I'm lucky because I've always come with transplanted friends and there's a little community that I've kind of been introduced to early on that I've gone back to time and time again. Now having worked on *Descendants*, that community has grown. It's

not as scary a place as people make it out to be. It is a big city compared to ... I was born in a small town of 5,000 in northern B.C. called Fort St. James and then moved around a lot with my dad as he coached. I've been calling Vancouver home for the last almost six years now. Intermittently during those six years, I've been spending time in L.A. When I come down here, I'm usually with some other Canadians. I've kind of cheated in that sense. The people I have met who do live here, for the most part, have been super great, accommodating, friendly. I think the thing people need to be cognizant of in L.A. is there are so many people that, if you find a group that you jive with, that make you feel good, that make you better, stick with them. If not...

Bonnie: Be discerning with whom you spend time with...

Dylan: With more people come both more good people and bad people. So, I'd be lying to you if I said I haven't run into people who are seedy, sharky, snaky, disingenuous, not after your best interests.

It's really easy to avoid them. If you've got pretty good common sense and you've got a bit of morals, you can navigate those waters. It helps to have people you trust to say, "Hey, what do you think about this particular setting or this particular person or these particular people?" If you have people like that in your life, I think you can handle L.A.

### Jessica Marie Garcia

Jessica: I was in high school and they wanted me to go to California. I'm from Orlando, Florida originally so they wanted me to come to California for pilot season and participate in this contest called Best New Talent. It's a talent competition for children. To audition for agents and go in front of commercial agents and theatrical agents ... You had different categories to compete in and I did that. One of the agents that called me back was the one that I signed with and that's how that worked out.

Bonnie: So you start by doing Shakespeare in 6th grade in school. By the time you were in high school, you're in a performing arts magnet and then because of your friends, you end up in a showcase. It sounds like one of those commercial showcase/ talent conventions.

Jessica: It was weird. This goes back to the fact that I had a very strange manager at the time, and she wrote all of our materials. She wrote us commercials and she wrote us monologues and we had a commercial competition so we would do commercials in front of a few commercial agents and we would do one commercial and then they would rate you and see if they wanted to call you back.

It was that kind of thing. It was that kind of call for all different categories of things. I think everyone has a different journey but I think finding that manager is what helped

me.

Bonnie: So you're still in high school but now you've got representation in Los Angeles. Then what happens?

Jessica: They begged me to come out and do pilot season and I think it was 16 and I didn't. I left high school when I was 18 and I drove out the middle of my senior year to California.

Bonnie: You couldn't wait the extra couple of months?

Jessica: You know what was so bad? Honestly, it wasn't about that. At the time, there were five crazy hurricanes that happened in Orlando. I had my ceiling collapse in my living room. To make a long story short, there were a lot of problems and we lost a lot of money. I dropped out of school to get a job. I got enough money to move out here. I just did that.

Bonnie: This is real life. This is good for people to hear, especially any kids, because it's not always easy.

Jessica: No, it wasn't easy. The first year I moved out here was by far the hardest year of my life. I was by myself. I was living with some people that I shared management with who ended up becoming my family because of the things we went through together. It was the hardest year of my life. I was hosting, and I had no money. I reached the point where I had just five dollars. I could eat or I could drive to work. I had to get gas to drive to work and I had to pick gas. At nineteen, that was really, really hard.

Bonnie: And you're living with your manager.

Jessica: When I first got here, I was living with some girls that shared the same manager and that friend that got me that manager. My friend went insane, and left me for a guy and her father had signed the lease. So we were out of an apartment and I was 3,000 miles away from my mom who was just everything. I had nothing else, raised by a single parent.

We had no choice but to move in with my manager because we had the same manager. We lived like three little pigs in a living room, three single twin beds in the living room with ten other kids and it was horrible.

Bonnie: It sounds like a scene out of *Annie*.

Jessica: It was kind of. We were singing other show tunes beside *Annie*. It really, really sucked. I got out of there just in time but my manager was insane. She was charging us a lot of money to live there on top of her managing services, on top of her actual teachings.

Bonnie: This is not legal.

Jessica: It's not legal. Right after I left her in a very horrible, ugly way, she got ... I'll tell you actually how it happened. One of the little girls was cleaning the floor and her parents called her and asked, "What are you doing?" She goes, "Oh, I'm cleaning the floor." The mom asks, "Why are you cleaning the floor?" She says, "If I clean the floor, I get driven to Ralph's to go get food." This is an eight to ten-year-old that is saying this.

Bonnie: Oh my God.

Jessica: If it wasn't for us living at the house, the kids wouldn't been able to drive to the grocery store to get food or to do anything. I mean, it wasn't like we were dying. We weren't getting beaten, but it was bad.

Bonnie: That sounds like just Annie again.

Jessica: I always say that woman was the personification of Ursula from the *Little Mermaid*. She was like that. When I left her shortly after she did get arrested, and she will not manage anyone's children anymore.

Bonnie: That's good news.

Jessica: My biggest note from that is you should be very hands-on if your kids are being flown out for pilot season blindly, three thousand miles away. I think that managers have a way of being ... Not all managers by any means, but those managers that are doing that for that reason. They have a great way of saying that your kid is the next big thing. Still, she was a great judge of talent. There are many of my friends who were repped by her, they're still here and work all the time, but it was bad.

She was a terrible human being. You should never have to pay your manager anything other than when you start making money.

Bonnie: Thank you. I say this every opportunity I get.

Jessica: The only thing you should ever put money in right away is for pictures. That's it. Even then she charged a thousand dollars and that was to her. That was not all going to the photographer.

Bonnie: That's so many shades of illegal. You don't pay your manager for a photo shoot. And headshots shouldn't cost even half that much.

Jessica: No. My mom just blindly supported me. It was horrible because as a single mom, she worked 24 hours a day to pay for those headshots and to get me to go to California.

We had just taken a Northeast tour through colleges because we visited Julliard and everything. She paid for that too. It was tough.

Bonnie: This is so classic though. I mean, your situation is sadly so normal. You've got a supportive, great parent who doesn't know anything about the business because nobody does unless they're in it, and this passionate talented kid, because they're a kid, doesn't know anything about the business. It's a very vulnerable position to be in. I'm glad it turned out okay and you got out of there. Then after you got out of there, were you taking acting classes?

Jessica: Luckily I had a friend named Nathan who I was friends with in Orlando who came out here and started assisting John Kirby who's an acting coach out here. He introduced me to him. He is the one who literally guided me so much further because I was lost when I met him, so lost.

I had done a movie that I was super psyched about, and I felt that that was going to change everything. It was a real horror movie. I was getting \$20 a day and I didn't even get my last check. Our makeup artist went on strike. It was horrible. That happened, and after that I knew I need some guidance and he really helped me and still helps me. I'm still with him to this day.

## Luke Benward

Bonnie: You were 17 when you really landed in Hollywood. You had done a ton of projects by then but you were finally moving here when you said, "Yeah, I want to do this seriously, let's do it." And your family picked up and moved with you, which is amazing.

What was that like when you really landed here, knowing that you were committing to it? Was it a major cultural change for you or was it pretty smooth because you had already been doing so much work?

Luke: Definitely the Valley is much different than Franklin, Tennessee.

There's no secrets there. I finished my senior year at a huge public school, at Burbank High School, which, of course, is much different than Franklin High School.

Bonnie: Dove went there too for a while.

Luke: Yeah. You guys know very well. It was fun. Honestly, I found that I enjoyed my teachers in Burbank more. They were a little more expressive. A little more true to themselves. It didn't feel as filtered, I guess. Suppressed. It definitely was probably a little more West Coast. I had teachers that cussed, so that was a difference.



Yeah. I was just sitting there and I thought, this is not Tennessee, but it's not bad. I kind of like it.

So that was different, and took some getting used to but other than that it was the same. Teachers worked with me and as long as I kept my grades ... We did have to write an appeal to the Burbank school board or whatever. Because they weren't going to let me walk with my class--

Bonnie: You missed a bunch of school because you had been off acting and doing projects.

Luke: Yeah, I had been auditioning and that was around the time I worked on *Ravenswood*, I think.

Bonnie: I think you shot *Cloud 9* that year, and that was already a big chunk of time in the middle of the year.

Luke: Yeah. I was gone almost the whole second semester. I missed almost half the school year, which is why they weren't going to let me walk at graduation...

But I kept my grades up, I did the exams and I knocked it out so it ended up working. We were always really lucky because schools did work with us. There was the option to say no and they always said, "Yeah, we'll figure out a way."

I definitely have to thank the schools. They gave me the brain I have and they worked with me so that I can do what I love.

## Garrett Clayton

Garrett: Well, again, my mother comes into this story. She was a big influence in my life when it came to my acting. It always breaks my heart a little bit when some people either reach out online or in person say, "Thank you for saying, 'Believe in yourself and if you want it, you'll find a way.'" To those people who, after they say that, tell us about parents that don't support them or family and friends saying it'll never happen. If I believed any of those things, then I wouldn't be here.

I'm three thousand miles away from home, and I literally ... We had a garage sale in the house. My mom and my step-dad were pulling furniture out of the house just to make sure I had two months of rent. I sold everything. I moved here with roommates that I had met at a barbecue because of a casting call at *Days of Our Lives* with the girl, Taylor Spreitler, who is an actress... She was on *Melissa and Joey*.

She invited me to a barbecue where I had met these roommates. They said they

needed someone in about two months. I said, well then, if I have an opportunity, I'll take it. I told them I didn't have a lot of money... You know, I negotiated to have a minute to settle in and then...

Garrett: I think my share was like five hundred a month.

Bonnie: Which is an incredible deal in LA.

Garrett: Oh yeah. We were in Sherman Oaks, and it was a three-bedroom apartment. It worked out. The master was a little more expensive, and then the medium sized room was that. I said, "Just give me the smallest, cheapest thing. All I need is a bed and somewhere to put my clothes and I don't really care."

I even told Fred, the director of the musical theater program I was in, "I have an opportunity to go. I've been working for a long time, or trying to." One of the executive producers from one of the casting calls was part of a management company out here. It was a very Hollywood call. "Hi. I'm so and so, and I saw your audition tape," and I said, "Okay." He said, "Well, I'm one of the executive producers on this project, and I think you're pretty good and if you keep your head on straight, you could have a bright future if you wanted to take a chance and move to Hollywood." That was before *Days of Our Lives*. I said, "Okay. How do I go about that?"

Bonnie: Yes. That's lovely to hear, but...

Garrett: Right. I'm in a BFA for music theater. This is a completely different path, Sir.

He says, "Well, start off by watching all of the winning movies ... the best feature film from the Oscars from the year they started them."

Bonnie: Oh, that's such good advice.

Garrett: I know. I've had random really ... just really good influences, and I know that, and I'm very lucky. So, he goes, "If you ever come out to LA, give me an email, give me a call." That was from a casting call. It was like 1500 people. So, when I went to go work on the movie...

Bonnie: Because you got it.

Garrett: Well, initially ... I found out it was between me and the kid who actually got the lead, and they liked me so much they gave me another part in it. That's when I had the official meeting with him. That's when he was saying, "If you ever come out to LA, give me a holler and I'll have you meet the team. Then we can see if there's some kind of thing we can make happen here." I said, "Well, yeah, if I ever get to go to LA." Then, I kept taking any chance there was for an audition, a casting call, any of it. I didn't care. I

took it.

There are just too many opportunities. I think people either get in their head or they say, "No, it's not going to happen," so they don't take the chance, but if you don't try it, then you're never going to find out.

Bonnie: Exactly. Here, they liked you so much they found another role for you, not even the one you auditioned for. So, did this guy become your manager?

Garrett: Yeah. I told the musical theatre program director, "I have a shot in LA, and these people need a roommate, and this guy I haven't talked to in a year said if I go there, they would at least take a meeting. If I can even take a meeting, I'll take a meeting. I don't care. It's something."

It's something. You know? He said, "Well, you know we all love and support you here, and if you ever want to come back you always have us. You have a place. Go take the chance."

Bonnie: So you come out here, and you're nineteen. You find roommates. You've had a meeting.

Garrett: That's what I got. I'm nineteen and I have a meeting and I have roommates and bills. All I had was bills and I knew two people.

Bonnie: So, that right there is sort of this quintessential LA Hollywood experience, like, "Here I am. Now what?"

Bonnie: And, you're nineteen, and you don't get *Teen Beach* until you're, what, twenty-two?

Garrett: I was in Puerto Rico when I turned twenty-one, shooting *Teen Beach Movie*.

Bonnie: So, for all those people out there who are worried that if they don't start until they're eighteen or nineteen or twenty-two, it's too late, got anything to say about that? Clearly it isn't too late at that point.

Garrett: No, no, no. I mean, the only thing is, you just have to start. You just have to start. I think that's the hardest part. Sometimes you just have to throw caution to the wind. You just have to try. That's all this profession is, is trying. That's all people really want. I mean, the longer I've worked, the more interest ... The past 15 months of my life have been crazy, bouncing back and forth between crazy different projects.

The one thing that stays true is people want someone who shows up, who is dedicated, and adds something. It's not like you have to show up with a list of things you're going to add to the project. It's just, bring yourself and bring good energy. Then

people will want to work with you because they want to have opinions, and they want people that they're working with to challenge what they're doing and what they're thinking because it makes us all better.

## Inspiration

### Jessica Marie Garcia

Jessica: It was Elizabeth Taylor, for just the fact that when she got on screen, no one else was in the scene. I saw *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and knew that that's what I wanted to do every single day of my life to just feel that whatever it is, to feel that much and to be able to tell that story. She was so much younger and they made her look so much older and she enveloped that character and I wanted to do that.

Her and Bette Davis in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane* stole my heart. I wanted to do that. It's so funny that I do so much comedy now because I relate to so many dramas. They go hand in hand. I would say Elizabeth Taylor for sure, and Barbra Streisand.

Bonnie: It's so cool to hear you say that because Dove actually grew up the same way. Those movies that you're referencing, those are movies from, what, the '40s, the '50s, the '60s and they are some of the best things on film. I feel really strongly that if somebody is passionate about acting, it's part of their school to study the greats, the best movies that have been done because they can learn so much by watching them.

Jessica: Especially because you had nothing but that camera and that actor, and those lines, and that's it. There weren't really any bells and whistles to cover up a bad scene. You were the scene and that's so amazing. I always say the difference between theater and film is that theater is an actor's medium and film is a director's medium because you can have someone in a scene in a film and just zoom into their eye as a director and let that be your statement.

I don't feel like necessarily in a lot of movies right now, acting is the primary focus.

### Dove Cameron

Dove: I think an actor that inspired me was Stanley Tucci. I was really obsessed with him. I had an actor crush on him. Even though that's probably weird for listeners to hear a 14-year-old brain say that. I'm 20 now you guys, but I was 14 then. I was obsessed with Stanley Tucci. I was obsessed with everything that he did. I just thought that his characters were so different.

I'm constantly looking to get a grasp on things: the way my brain works is I will try

to learn and relearn and relearn and relearn a lesson until I can get a grasp on it. I don't really let anything go until I have fully gotten a grasp on something. That's kind of how I feel about actors. The only actors that can keep me interested and guessing are when every time I see them in a new role I think, "you didn't do that one last time. You weren't like that last time. There is never an end to what you do. There is never an end to the way that your brain works." Those are my favorite kinds of actors. I was obsessed with Stanley Tucci because he'd never play the same role twice, and I felt like I was watching a different man every time. He really inspired me.

I'm trying to think of actresses. I mean Jessica Lange was that way for me, but that was kind of later. That was after I moved to L.A.

Bonnie: You had a Kristen Stewart obsession when you were younger.

Dove: I did have a Kristen Stewart obsession. I think that was because I had a really big girl crush on her though. She was so boyish and I was like "you're so hot." I had a big Kristen Stewart phase, more so in a sense that I wanted to be her. You know, I would scrunch up my hair like her, or take on her affectations and talk like her and wear her Ray-Bans and stuff like that. I don't think it was so much her work as much as it was I was just fascinated by her as a person. I would watch interviews with her a lot.

I didn't really have that many- and this is funny, I talk about this a lot actually in interviews- I didn't have that many actresses who I looked up to. Most of my acting and the acting that I modeled myself after was from men. I don't know why that is. I love women. I'm a girl's girl. I honestly just think that in this industry, women oftentimes have to pigeonhole themselves into being-- not all the time, I have my favorite actresses now-- but at the time I couldn't find any who hadn't pigeon holed themselves into smaller, meek roles. Even when girls are strong and independent, even when they're written well, oftentimes who Hollywood would cast are the less interesting girls. The ones who are more relatable or easier to break apart or understand, because oftentimes women have this weird role as, we want to see them as caretakers, or we want to see them as basic archetypes. Men don't really have that.

That's definitely something that I've tried to embody so far in my very, very, very limited career, is a sort of lack of archetype or a sort of a lack of consistency or a lack of gender. I can move like a woman. I can speak with a woman's voice, but the way that I move my features, or the thought process behind my eyes, I tend to try to be fairly gender neutral because those are the more interesting people. I don't walk around in the world like a girl, and I don't want my characters to either. My characters are just people.

I watch myself embody a lot of David Tennant's acting or stuff like that. I play my girls like guys, and I think that gives them more flexibility and more interesting traits. I love to see men who portray themselves in slightly feminine ways as well. Those are the actors I'm most ... obviously, Stanley Tucci and David Tennant. That sort of gender-neutral brain where you're not playing a gender. It's much more interesting to watch.

## Cameron Boyce

Cameron: I find a lot of inspiration from places that you wouldn't normally. A lot of actors point to other actors, which I could too, but I think the people who inspired me the most to continue to try to just be the best possible entertainer that I could be were my dance teachers, and my friends who were going through it with me, and my family who were super proud of me and have made so many sacrifices. I also look to athletes. I think that's an interesting one.

An athlete's commitment to their craft and their work ethic is like alien. The amount of time in their day that they spend on their bodies to make sure that they're prepared for their season is insane. That's why they're there, because they understand what it takes. Take Kobe Bryant, I'm a Laker fan. Kobe Bryant would sit in ice baths and do all these crazy acupuncture things, and he eats all these healthy things, but that's what he had to do to maintain his spot at the top of the league as one of the best players.

In an actor's way, you can draw from that and say, "What can I do to maintain or improve? What else can I do?" It's a little different with acting, because you want it to come from a natural place. You don't want to beat it to death, but there are definitely things that you can do. The work ethic of an athlete is really impressive.

Bonnie: It takes a profound amount of work and dedication to get to that place. For example, at the end of *Descendants 2* ... You don't just casually jump off the stairs and do the splits without some serious training.

Cameron: My Nicholas Brothers split, yes.

That's my proudest moment in the whole film. You have to understand that you're going to be doing this kind of thing, on a project like that, and your body is going to go through a lot, so maintain it. Take care of yourself. Don't be doing crazy stuff out late at night, eating things that are bad for you. You've got to really help yourself.

*Descendants* is a very unique project in that you really, really have to take care of yourself, because you could wake up the next morning and just be so sore that you

can't move. There were times I would wake up and I could not move my head back and forth, because my neck was so sore. That's just what it was. Get home at a reasonable hour. Make sure you're doing your Epsom salt baths, and sleeping in warm clothing, and stretching, and doing yoga, and we always went down to the hot tub ... There's a lot of things that you have to think about.

People talk about on and off set. On set, you have to be "on," and off set, you also have to be "on," because if you're not "on" off set, then you're going to end up struggling on set. That's how it is. While giving yourself that mental break, you have to be able to take care of everything and prioritize.

We only get so many hours of sleep. It's tough. We have early call times and late nights, and when you do have that time off, you have to take care of number one. You have to; otherwise, it all can come crashing down.

### Dylan Playfair

Dylan: I grew up watching Tom Hanks films and one of the movies that really affected me was *Apollo 13*. The idea that failure is not an option. That was a movie that I saw affect my dad and I watched the way he would reference that film in his career. He was a hockey coach and he talked about that movie. He talked about how that event changed the world and these guys were in the most perilous situation any human could be in. Broken down in space and they made it back alive.

It was a film but it was also a metaphor for what my film career would be. It was, "I'm going to do it. Failure is not an option. It's just a matter of how long it's going to take." I think Tom Hanks in that particular film was the original inspiration. And Taylor Kitsch being in *Friday Night Lights*, having come from the same league I played in, was the next evolution of, "okay, now I'm going to take the next step." And, of course, I was a fan of television. But those were the two projects that affected me.

### Sarah Jeffery

Sarah: My dad and my sister. My dad's been an actor for ages. He did a lot of voice acting, which I always thought was super cool. My sister Hannah, who is a year and nine days older than me, she started acting before me, actually. She just had a huge passion for musical theater and thought, "Where else could I take this?" It took her to film and television, and she got these parts here and there. I of course wanted to do what my older sister did. We were so close. I felt like, "If she's doing it, I want to do it." That was where my initial inspiration was from, my family. They were the two who inspired me initially, and they still do.



## Joey Bragg

Joey: Pete Holmes just had a comedy special on HBO, and had a show on TBS. I grew up watching standup, so when I was a kid, I would watch standup from *CollegeHumor*, and *Live at Gotham*, just young comedians that weren't really super famous; they weren't the Dane Cooks or the Dave Chapelles of that time. Pete Holmes was one of the ones I saw where I loved his voice and I thought he was the funniest I'd ever seen. When I was talking about wanting to do standup, I found him on Facebook because the Internet is a glorious place. I sent him a Facebook message saying, "I'm 13, I've written some jokes, I just don't know how to start. I don't know what to do. I want to start".

I got the most amazing response from him. Just a long letter of going through what I should do, what I shouldn't do, and how to get up on stage, and if I can't get up on stage find my own stage and put on my own show. It just made such an impact on my life and I am here because of that response. I see what he's doing and how nice of a person he is, and that's what I want to do. I'm glad that I had somebody like him telling me how to do it, and now I see him doing exactly what I want to do. He has a new show on HBO called *Crashing* produced by Judd Apatow. He's amazing and I look up to him so much.

Ricky Gervais, too, just anybody that doesn't hold anything back, anybody that just does exactly what they want to. There are so many people that come out here and do what they feel like they should be doing or do what people tell them they should be doing, but if you are in an acting class and you dread it every day, you shouldn't be in acting class. I went to an acting class and audited it, and all I thought was, "Why would I spend my time doing this as opposed to going to another Improv class or doing standup every night?" You just find what you want to do, and hope that other people agree that they want to watch you do what you want to do, as opposed to doing whatever is going to get you in the door.

Bonnie: Dove and I both feel really strongly that when her career started to finally take off and happen-- which is to say when she started to get cast, finally, after the 10,000 auditions-- was when she basically just threw up her hands and said, "I know what they want me to do, but I'm going to do what I want to do, and they're going to like it, and they're going to cast me, or they're not going to like it, but either way it's a win-win. Because I'm not going to get stuck doing something I hate, and if they hire me, I get to do it my way". It's a win-win!

No one ever succeeds doing it in a false, inauthentic way because you can feel it ring false.

Joey: There are people that are making a living off being a person that they aren't really on the inside.

Bonnie: Not for long. You can't sustain that. There's the whole 'fake it till you make it' thing, but that's different.

Joey: Faking confidence is not changing who you are. It's just showing other people that you can believe in yourself. Faking confidence until you have real confidence is something I'm a proponent for.

### Victoria Moroles

Victoria: A lot of actors and actresses inspire me, and have grown to inspire me. New ones, old ones. But I think as far as being an artist and in the arts, seeing my uncle was a really big inspiration for me. Just his whole career, and both my parents worked behind him for 30 years almost. I think seeing his work ethic and his determination and the achievements that he made from the beginning before I was born to the end is the most inspiring thing that I feel super connected to, just because I'm very connected to him. He is my biggest inspiration for sure.

Bonnie: I love that, because your uncle is an internationally known sculptor and a very beloved artist, and to have somebody at such close range demonstrate for you that you can be a successful, thriving artist and make a living at it... It doesn't have to be another actor, but it's an artist. He inspired you. He was real.

Victoria: Right, exactly. His love for the arts is why I love the arts. I grew up around that, and I think no matter what your medium is, we're all artists. Artists all think the same and you're inspired by other people's art, and other artists' art. I think I do feel inspired by actors and actresses because that's what I do, but I love just the whole art industry. He definitely did that for me. Because I grew up going to his openings and I was in the studio day in and day out. I saw him doing his sketches and then making them into the pieces and all the awards that he would get, all that stuff, and he was so humble.

And he never stopped. Yeah, I think the biggest thing that I took from him was his work ethic. I remember one of my favorite things that he once said was, "I don't think I'm gifted. I think that I'm a really hard worker." I so take to that because yes, I feel like you definitely can be gifted, but you can't do anything unless you work at it. You can't achieve anything unless you work at it, and you are as good as you make yourself to be. Yeah, he's the big inspiration.

### Thomas Doherty

Thomas: I think when you're younger, you have these idols. You could have Messi for

soccer, and Leo DiCaprio was for me, as an actor. But as you grow, and as you experience things, and as you watch more films, or you go and see more theater, and you work with people like Kenny Ortega ... I think for me, the idolizing changed to appreciating.

So I don't so much idolize anyone anymore. I feel like it's got such negative connotations these days as well. It also puts you below someone. I think it's important to fundamentally understand that everyone's equal. If you idolize them you kind of put them on a pedestal.

Bonnie: It's dehumanizing. That's the weird thing. I think a lot of people who truly idolize whoever, they don't understand that the act of idolizing someone turns them into an idol. I.e., it strips them of their humanity, and their right to be human, and the fact that they're human.

Thomas: Absolutely. It's almost more respectful to appreciate someone.

I think the more exposure you get to, specifically to this industry, of course you appreciate an individual's work. But then you start to appreciate humans, you know? So there's that clear distinction that I think everyone gets mixed up in. Especially the way the media is skewed now. I mean you've got social media, and people think that they know people. That's not true, that's not the case. I can even speak for myself-- I mean people feel like they know me, because of a couple of Instagram posts, the odd tweet and stuff. Yeah, of course people can appreciate or respect me for what I do, but ... I urge people not to get confused between the work and the human.

So my idolizing has kind of changed more from the industry to humans. To human beings, to good, kind, loving, compassionate people. So I can still appreciate and respect someone's work, and I'm sure DiCaprio's a lovely person, I've never met him in real life. But people like Sadhguru, Eckhart Tolle, these kinds of spiritual people; these have now become my idols. It's not now egotistically driven, as me wanting to be something. It's now me trying to find out who I am already. Kind of strip away all this stuff. So I've kind of almost changed course a bit, to people like Sadhguru and Eckhart Tolle. As well as not holding this industry, or my job on such a high pedestal.

It's just what it is. I love doing it. It's good fun, but it's not anything special. It is to me-- I love it, it's so fun-- but yeah, there's been a kind of clear distinction between illusion and reality. It's been demystified. Life flows smoother that way, so much smoother.

## Staying Focused on the Dream

### Booboo Stewart

**Booboo:** It's funny. I started meditating. I think it's a great thing to start your day with. I'm not forcing it upon anybody but it clears my head and it puts me in a good headspace for the rest of the day. That really keeps me focused on my day.

Another thing that helps me stay focused is just knowing what I want. Knowing what I want to do. I want to be a filmmaker. I want to be a part of great films, things that I would like to see, things that I love. I just want to be happy, and being happy is being surrounded by good people, and just doing what I love, which is this. I think that really keeps my head on straight and kind of wards away all the people that want to deter me from getting that.

**Bonnie:** It's kind of a double bonus. It keeps your head straight and it really does kind of protect you.

**Booboo:** It does. I know that I want to be honest in my work, and I want to just be honest in what I'm doing, and if it doesn't feel honest, then I don't do it. That honesty really keeps me focused because especially with acting: if you're not honest then what are you doing?

### Sarah Jeffery

**Sarah:** For me a huge part of it is, I'm very thankful to have a great support system, my friends and family, close friends. I've found that being in this industry, it's important to realize who your friends are. Of course, my parents have been incredible. Another part of staying positive for me actually has been finding other things that make me happy in my down time.

**Bonnie:** That have nothing to do with the industry?

**Sarah:** That have nothing to do with it. While it's important to work hard and strive to be successful, it's also important to accept your down time and really breathe. For me that's dance. I have a recent passion for yoga, which is so amazing. If you haven't tried it, I would definitely give it a go. Baking is a huge thing for me. Whatever relaxes you and makes you feel grounded and centered, outside of the industry.

**Bonnie:** I think that's really important, because it's easy to fall down that rabbit hole and have

every single thing in your life be about the industry in some way or another, but if you're going to be a really grounded, well-rounded person, there must be other things.

Sarah: Absolutely. Obviously it won't be easy to be 100% okay after you get rejected, or you really wanted that project and you didn't get it. Obviously no one is asking you to be chipper right away, because it is difficult. But stick through it and rely on the people around you and the other things you love. That's a huge thing.

### Victoria Moroles

Victoria: Like I said, it's not easy. I think I faced a ton of challenges this past fall doing the film, a lot. As an artist, as a person, and also this time of my life is when you are finding yourself. It's brutal.

I can tell you. I thought 19 was my worst year, 20 is probably coming pretty close to that. Again, not in a sad, depressing way, it's just that it's hard. I was talking to my dad about this and he's like, "It doesn't get any easier." You get me? It might, but you find different ways like you said, to maintain a positive mind and find different things that can help you through those hard times.

I think meditation is a really big thing for me because I'm very analytical, I overthink everything. Especially as an actor, that's really hard because I need to be present and in the moment most of the time. I meditate. I try to meditate every day, but I don't always get to it.

Bonnie: Does that help you get out of your head?

Victoria: Yeah, but if I don't meditate for a week, I can definitely feel it. I will try to meditate before I go to work, before I go to an audition. I used it this week. I wasn't completely 100% off book for these auditions that I just got the next day. I thought, "Look, there is no way you can be off book. There is just literally no way." I'm going to take 15 minutes instead of trying to kill myself over memorizing these lines. I'm going to take a moment and meditate and I'm just going to go in, and I'm going to be present, and I'm going to do my best. That helps me more than trying to stress over the sides.

Bonnie: Getting 10% more off book. By being just a little ball of stress.

Victoria: Exactly. Meditation is really big. I'm trying to stay in a positive mind. I'm a huge family person. That's a really big thing, even friends who feel like family, just anybody who you love spending time with...

Bonnie: I think all of us can hear good ideas, but sometimes you can hear it a certain way and it actually lands, and you think, "Maybe I will try meditation. This is the fifth person this

week who said that meditation works for them."

Victoria: I don't do it every day. I go a week without meditating sometimes, but I know that it works for me. If I'm trying to maintain a positive mind, I'll meditate. It is really hard, like this past film was super draining for me, because it's a thriller. It's a horror film. I was in a very dark place for a couple of months. As an actor, if you are in a super dark place, you have to find the time to come out of it, just for a day or two or whenever you are not working, take the time to work on yourself like I said, because you'll find yourself stuck... I'm not super method, but especially with this film...

With films you can become day in day out in the life of whoever you are portraying. I was playing a really dark character, and it brought me into a really dark headspace. That's the scary thing with artists, you have to find the outlet that's good for you and not those destructive outlets a lot of artists come across and it's really sad. It's just about staying grounded.

### Brenna D'Amico

Brenna: Everybody has those days, and even I have those days. It's okay to take the breaks when you truly need them, but let those people that think you can't do it, motivate you to want it even more and prove them wrong. If you work hard enough and you believe in yourself enough, anything is possible for you. Anything and everything... You will find a way to get it and bring it to you.

I don't know if I can do this, and then I just always remind myself how close I've come other days. I always remind myself, you're gonna get that close again. You're gonna get that close again, and then you're gonna snatch it. It's gonna be so close that you're gonna take it right out of somebody's hands, and you're going to keep it for yourself. I always think that if one of my idols could do it, then I can do it. I just can't stress not giving up enough. Never, never give up.

Bonnie: I think there's something about accomplishing so much at a young age that can grow you up kind of fast, but not necessarily in a bad way. I mean- you figure stuff out faster because you need to and you want to, in order to get where you want to go. Something that I see consistently in the successful young actors I know is an unusual amount of maturity. You kind of have to have that, because you may be still a kid technically, but you're in adult professional situations, and you have to rise to that occasion.

Brenna: You do, and it can be really hard for some people to do that sometimes. For me, I've always had amazing people around to teach me and to help me learn how to handle those situations.

## Dylan Playfair

Dylan: I make a real conscientious effort to take time for myself. I always wanted to backpack, and right after the first season of *Some Assembly Required*, for the first time in my life I had a little bit of financial security and I had a window of time where I was committed to another season, and I could go for two months. I went by myself and I backpacked Thailand and when I came back, I had missed it. And I really wanted to be back. I think it's important to miss what you love. Absence makes the heart grow fonder. I think sometimes if you are in a fortunate position to be working often, you can get more done. I think a lot of actors and a lot of people outside of the industry ... when you're working, it can be very grueling. It can be exhausting. It's not just the long hours on set. It's the bottom of an 18 hour day and then, okay, go perform as if you've just woken up and you're chipper and you're not saying it for the 500th time and you know the lines and you haven't just been handed new pages. That's exhausting.

That's when you recognize this is a job. This is work. I think it's really important that whether it's hanging out with your friends or your family or going skate boarding with your friends or going to Thailand ...

I'm feeding my soul and I'm missing the job so when I come back to it, I want to be doing that work. I think that's really important to like the grind ... when you miss it, that's when you feel, "oh yeah, this is great. I'm breaking in a script again. Thank goodness. This is still here. This is what I do." When you get away from it. That's important. Take time for yourself.

I've left after-parties to go skate boarding with my friends. There comes a point in time where I think it's really important that people recognize you book jobs in the room based on relationships. You're not going to book jobs being in a bar or by being seen at an event. It's a nice part of the culture and you have to accept it, but you have to know that that's not the place you're going to get work.

There have been times in my career where I've been out and thought, "is staying here for another hour going to help me or hurt me?" Taking time to say, okay, now it's time to go. Go for a skateboard. Go home and hang out with your friends. Remove yourself from the toxicity of what could happen. That's not where the careers are grown.

## Luke Benward

Luke: I guess instead of going into auditions thinking about things they're looking for, points I need to hit, I go into it knowing and confident in the fact that I'm a good enough actor that I can live in the moment, and I can go with the flow and the words will come,

because they had been written in a cadence and they'd been written in a mood.

If I'm there and I'm listening I shouldn't have to worry about the words nearly as much as some people think. The words tend to come, at least the longer you do it the words tend to come. Going into auditions now, I kind of go in with a brain of just creating and adventuring, really.

### Joey Bragg

Joey: My pessimism is forcing me to never feel satisfied. Everybody wants to do something different, but what I want to do is find the outlet for my voice. I think if I never feel like I've found that outlet, then I'm going to constantly be trying to better myself, and I think that's why my pessimism helps.

Bonnie: It's part of your winning formula. It's part of what works for you. To me, it's a way for you to say, "Stay hungry. Don't get too content or you'll get soft."

Joey: When you said hungry, it reminded me of humble because that is a big part of this.

There are so many people that are on a set, and there are so many actors that are just jerks and entitled and will get on that set and think that everybody is there for them as opposed to everybody is there to make that product the best it can be.

Bonnie: Yes. You just hit my biggest pet peeve of all time.

Despite the fact that I know you call yourself a pessimist, you also have to have a kind of internal optimism of some kind or you wouldn't go back out there. You wouldn't write a new script.

Joey: Exactly. I think what I'm struggling with right now is finding that balance of optimism and pessimism because I feel like if I'm too optimistic, I will get lazy. I'm trying to find that perfect balance of never feeling satisfied, but then also feeling driven enough.

Not feeling like there's no hope. I need that hope with also feeling like it's not going to fall into my lap.

Bonnie: How do you generate the hope? Where does that come from?

Joey: The people around me is a big thing. I found an amazing group of friends that are so supportive and want to also be doing the best thing. I've hung out with a lot of people down here that are more damaging to hang out with than it's worth because they feel satisfied, and they feel like, "Oh, wow, guys. Can you believe we're child actors? I have a heavily recurring guest star on this show and I have a heavily recurring guest start on



that show. Let's party or whatever," but I don't see that and think I have time to party. I have a constant feeling of I have not enough time. Life is short and I need to do this now or never.

### Jessica Marie Garcia

Jessica: Staying positive is so important. I just try and remind myself of the positive things because what happens to me is that I will think of it as something dark, or something that's happening to me that day, and I can dwell on it. Dwell on it and just go into a pit. I feel like sometimes I get drowned in a glass of water, honestly. I try and give myself those moments.

I give myself that hour of freaking out and then I have to get up because I remember crying over something. I think I was 12 and my mom letting me cry and then saying, "All right. You've got to get up and keep going. I didn't raise a weak woman." She always said that to me. She's one of the strongest people I've ever met in my life. She's battled so much her entire life that I couldn't be weak in front of her. I'm not saying crying is weak. You have to cry. You have to get through that. That's not the weakness. It's letting those emotions just overcome your whole life and not allow you to get out of it. I can't let myself get into that pit. The only way out of that is positivity.

You have to just as soon as you can be positive and find a way to be and get yourself out, whether that's meditation, or that's taking a hot shower. You know what I mean? Whatever it is to help you. Being with my dog Lady, she makes me so happy. She calms me. They feel when you're upset.

Writing is another therapeutic thing for me. I love writing slam poetry-- any kind of spoken word is something I really like to do. Just remembering that even though this might have been a really bad day, I still have people that love me. I'm still in a place that I know I'm supposed to be. I have a roof over my head. I'm not struggling like so many people in this world are struggling.

When I get mad that I didn't book a role, I think about the fact that it's a miracle that I booked one before this. That's how I try to stay positive.

### Thomas Doherty

Thomas: I guess it's creating this fine balance between getting out of the rat race of fame and fortune, but also not becoming a hermit, where you're just out of it completely. That's no good either. I think over time you'll gradually create that balance. Everything in life is balance, literally.

I guess you've just got to find that balance. I go to the gym, I meditate, which is life changing. I think when you work on yourself everything you experience, everything you see, everything you hear, even when you touch something, you experience the sensation in you. So everything's in you. I think once you get to grips with you, once you can understand yourself more, you can then understand outside of you more.

If you keep reminding yourself that you're here because you want to act, you want to perform, you love it, then it's fun. If it's not fun, don't do it.

## If You Weren't an Actor, What Would You Do?

### Cameron Boyce

Cameron: Man, that's the hardest question. This is good. This is a challenge.

I'm so immersed in the industry that it's hard to think about something else. But I love basketball. I think it'd be really fun to be like a play-by-play guy or something, for the Lakers.

Or some sort of sports analyst. I always call things. When I'm watching ESPN I always say, "This guy is this kind of player." And then the analyst says the same thing that I had just said. So I feel like I'd be good at that, because that's another thing that I'm really passionate about and I follow that a lot. So maybe something like that. And again, that's still a personality on TV.

I don't even know. Whatever it is, I'm not working in a cubicle. Can't do it. I would just be fidgeting all over the place. I couldn't do that.

### Brenna D'Amico

Brenna: I think for my soul, I think I would have to be in the entertainment industry still. But singing, I think exploring and expressing my voice would be such an amazing thing to do, because I do have such a big passion for music and singing. I play piano and guitar, and that's definitely where I think I would see myself going if I wasn't an actor.

Then if I wasn't in the entertainment industry, I think maybe some sort of personal trainer or a yoga instructor. Keeping other people in shape and happy. While I did myself, kept myself in shape and kept myself happy.

### Garrett Clayton

Garrett: I have always known, if I weren't going to be an actor, I would've either wanted to be a history teacher or go to culinary school. I always figure, if I couldn't be an actor, then I could go learn how to teach stories.

I had a history teacher once who said ... because I asked her why she liked being a history teacher, "Well, I like stories, and I like reading stories, and I like telling

stories. That's all history is, is telling stories." I figured, from that moment, that if I couldn't be an actor, then I would want to be a history teacher and then run a drama club at after school hours.

That, and I love cooking, so I could go to culinary school, which I've even kind of wanted to do a little bit now, maybe part-time or something.

### Thomas Doherty

Thomas: Hardest question, because I think I wanted to be an actor because I didn't know what I wanted to do, so I wanted to be a bit of everything.

Bonnie: That's a good way to do it. You can't even imagine it?

Thomas: I can't, honestly I can't. Every time I think about doing something ... I get really bored as well. I get bored in one place. So Chloe and I were watching *The Office*, and it's so fun. I was wondering, "Could I work in an office?" Then, "No, couldn't do it." I really couldn't do it. I was going to go to university and do history, thank God I didn't. Right now, if someone said, "You can never act again." I'd probably go and practice Buddhism.

### Dylan Playfair

Dylan: If I weren't an actor, I'd probably be in school training to be a director. Even when I was playing hockey, I wanted to study art. I just thought that that was the only one thing that you could make your own work in. If you're a director, you're not at the risk of someone else's vision. For me, it was going to be pro hockey until I was 30 and then directing. And the acting thing obviously came about. But that was my goal. That was my vision. To play pro hockey until I was 30 years old and then start directing films.

Bonnie: This path is working out all right.

Dylan: It makes way more sense. Directing is hard. They work so hard. They're there the whole time. I think people forget -- I think a lot of actors even forget how much commitment a director makes for a project.

Bonnie: All the pre-production, all the post-production. Even when you're shooting these crazy long days, 16-hour days, they're there before, getting it ready, and they're there after. I don't know physically how they do it.

Dylan: Yeah. That was a part of acting that really shocked me. Was just how much of a

director there is in every project you see. It makes sense when you work with the guys like Kenny Ortega, it was amazing to work with him and to see the passion he had.

### Booboo Stewart

Booboo: If this wasn't my world? No entertaining at all?

Bonnie: You can't even imagine it, can you?

Booboo: I would be a magician. Literally I went to magic classes every Saturday. I wanted to be a magician.

Or I'd probably be something in sports. Like BMX riding or something. One of my idols was a BMX rider, Ryan Nyquist. I wrote a letter to him because in school we had to write a letter to our idol. He never responded. They probably didn't send them out, you know? Years go by and I've done *Twilight* and everything and I'm at some event in Huntington Beach. All these skateboarders are there. He wasn't there but the guy putting it on found out that I really liked Ryan Nyquist, and he called him and I got to talk to him on the phone.

It was just really cool. I probably would be a BMX rider or something like that.

### Jessica Marie Garcia

Jessica: If I weren't doing anything film related, I would say there would be a couple of things. When I was little, a child psychologist was something that was really big for me. That goes with acting-- the fact that I just love the human mind and why we think the way we do and what makes us feel the things that we do and why do some people feel things differently.

I always found that so fascinating, and how it affects the human body. I love that. Being a psychiatrist, or a psychologist, and also I wanted to be an Egyptologist for a long time. Egypt has always fascinated me. Those were really the big ones. I always thought, "Oh no. I'll play it on TV." That was always the next thing. I was like, "No, I'll just do that on TV."

Acting was just always it for me. Even when people said, "2% of people do that." I'm okay.

It's such a weird thing. I just have this blind belief in myself. Even in my hardest days when there was probably no reason outside to believe in myself, I always just did. I

think that has a lot to do with my mom's support for me. She always said—"There's always going to be somebody better at this than you. There's always going to be somebody prettier, better, always. But what about you makes you different? What about you makes you, you that no one else can have?"

Bonnie: You can't be stopped by that because it's obviously true that no matter who you are in the world, there's going to be somebody who's better than you, but what do you do about that? You could say, "Oh, well. Then I can't, or I might as well not.

Jessica: A lot of people do. That was the only thing. My mom would always tell me, "Nobody is better than you and you're not better than anybody else." Just as a person. I think that's really important too because I think as actors, once you start working, sometimes people put themselves above others and that's another thing about being a good person. It's a business. You have to always be ready.

### Dove Cameron

Dove: I think if I weren't an actor or a singer, I would go to FIDM or RISD or some kind of fashion school. I would try to educate myself as best as possible in that industry, because it really is a separate, very different industry that I was really close to diving straight into. I don't know how much relevance it still has to my life. I think I would love to do a fashion line one day because I definitely still wake up at 3:30 in the morning, thinking, "I have to have this garment that I just dreamed about." Then I look for it, and I can't find it. So then "I must create it." Of course I never do, because I don't have the time, I don't have the drive, and I'm lazy. I get a lot of ideas, and my ideas are very detailed. I would love it if my career gave way to other mini careers. I think that might be what I was doing if I wasn't doing this.

I also really could see myself in law school. If it's something that I'm interested in learning about, you can't stop me from learning about it and learning about it really quickly. I do dive head first into things. I could really see myself doing that. I love to play with other people's brains. I love to solve things. I love to argue. I love to talk.

Also, I really love to help people. Recently, because of everything going on with politics and because this is going to be the first election I can vote in legally, since I'm an adult now, I've taken a huge interest in politics.

I was actually just talking about this, and I said, "I swear, I might abandon acting when I'm in my 30's or 40's to dive headfirst into politics. Because I thought it was so inaccessible to me when I was younger, and I didn't get it and I didn't care to and whatever, it wasn't interesting to me. I don't know. Then I turned 18 and suddenly I couldn't learn enough about it. I couldn't listen to enough speeches. I couldn't fact check enough things. I couldn't read about enough articles.

Also we get so wrapped up in- sorry this is *Hometown to Hollywood*, not *Hometown to White House*- but we all as a nation and as a people and as a culture and as a world, get so wrapped up in this person versus that person, and this point versus that point, when we really forget the purpose of a President is to represent the people, to do right by the people, to make a huge difference, to do good, and to fix stuff. I mean, I couldn't want to do something more-- and I'm not saying I'm going to run for President. Everyone on the other side of this is laughing, "Ha-ha, yeah right little Disney star." I know, I know.

You know, Congress, something. I'd just like to do good on the biggest scale that you can in this country. Oh, that sounds amazing. So, anyway. I think I might...take a pause on the acting front and really dive into politics in a couple of years. I haven't been so jazzed about something in a long time.

### Joey Bragg

Joey: Journalism was something that I really liked in class because it's your opinion, it's your voice, but it's also ... I wrote for the school paper. I did movie reviews, which isn't anything worth anything, but I always think of my best friends from high school. One of them wants to be a journalist, and I always think that that would probably be what I was doing because that's the closest you can get to getting your voice out there, but then also the farthest you can get from having people immediately look at you and respect you.

I enjoy earning respect. I like being on a set where I feel like I'm a costar, and then by the end of it, get them to make me feel or get them to want to say goodbye to me at the end of the day rather than feeling that they have to.

I think that that's something that also is dying, journalism.

### Luke Benward

Luke: I love singing ... my dad's a musician. Obviously I grew up in Nashville, so that kind of helps a lot with singing. There are a lot of people I went to high school with who are now singing and trying to get into country music, which is cool.

That could have been a thing I fell into. Another thing is ... I've always just had a really big interest in flying planes. I've always wanted to be a pilot. Being a fighter jet pilot was in my dreams. I might still, I've been talking to a friend of mine whose dad actually flies, and to Ross Lynch. He's learning to fly right now and he wants me to be his wingman so I'm thinking about it, we'll see. We've talked just a few times about flying, and I may pull the trigger. We'll see. I definitely want to do it someday.

### Victoria Moroles

Victoria: I've been thinking a lot about producing lately, at some point I know I want to get on the other side of that camera. I have an itch and I definitely want to do that, and fulfill that. I guess that's still in the realm of film industry.

Bonnie: And if you had to do something else out of entertainment?

Victoria: If I had to do something outside of entertainment... my aunt is a medicine woman, she's a massage therapist and a natural healer and homeopathic. She lives on a mountain with 500 acres, and it's just beautiful. Ever since I was I think about 15, I've been really connected with helping people in that way. I've always wanted to go and study that.

Maybe not the massage therapist part so much, but healing the body or even just my body, it has always been really cool for me, just finding all the different things out about you. When other people are sick or something else is happening with them, I love taking care of them and just healing. I think it's the coolest thing how we can heal our bodies. What my aunt has done has always inspired me, and I've always thought she is just the coolest most random person ever.

### Sarah Jeffery

Sarah: As a child growing up, there were a million things I wanted to do. The thing that stuck with me the most though was a nurse. In addition to my dad and my sister inspiring me, I actually initially started doing commercial work to fund my nursing school.

Bonnie: That's amazing. At 12 you thought, "I want to be a nurse. I'm going to start setting money aside so I can do that."

Sarah: Yeah. I really wanted that. At first it was a dentist, and then, "Maybe a pediatric nurse." I wanted that so badly, and I thought, "What are some fun ways I can make money?" as a young kid who can't go work at McDonald's or what have you.

Bonnie: Babysitting is a slow way to make your college fund.

Sarah: Yes, it is, which I also did. Auditioning and doing commercials is fun and it's a good way to make money. That's how it started, but of course I fell in love with acting and that happened. Yeah, nursing was a huge thing. I also have a passion for the art of makeup, actually.



It's sort of recent. It's so refreshing not to wear makeup for actors who go get their makeup done every day. Most days I'm sporting a fresh face. I find that the act of doing makeup and the art of it is very intriguing, and I really love it.

That's another artistic side of me that I've sort of dabbled with. I've wanted to be an astronaut at one point, just a bunch of different things. There are a million things, but acting is the one for me right now.

Bonnie: It's beautiful, because I think for each of us there are definitely multiple paths that we could go down and be completely happy, and we do what we do. Just because we're doing what we're doing doesn't mean that there aren't other possibilities for us out there, whoever we are, wherever we are in our lives.

Sarah: Oh my gosh, I totally agree with that, yes.

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