

John Boccacino:

Hello and welcome back to the 'Cuse Conversations Podcast. I'm John Boccacino, senior internal communications specialist at Syracuse University.

Max [ u ] o [ s ]inski:



got the appointment and I read the breakdown and it says, "World's greatest soccer player, any ethnicity, can be from anywhere in the world. Record this scene and please record yourself demonstrating your soccer skills." I was just like, "I give up. That's not my play zero soccer."

I literally was started talking myself out of taping for it, because I've seen the show and I've seen all these great actors like Cristiano Ronaldo and Kolarov and Phil Dunster in these wide shots playing really good soccer. Actually, some of them played in minor league soccer divisions and stuff in Europe. So, I said, "I've got no shot." I just called a friend of mine, Damien, in Australia, because I was literally about to call my manager and say, "I think we should just pass, man. They can get anyone. They can even stunt cast this role." In my mind, I was like, "They can call a real soccer player to play the best soccer player in the world." He was just like, "No, no, no, just show them what you got. Highlight your skills. You're Polish. You're in physical shape like a soccer player."

He was like, "Don't worry about the soccer stuff, do the audition, and then go to the park, take your shirt off and work out like the guy." So he talked me into it. With the help of my wife, we did this scene. I improvised a little bit in Polish, then we went out to the park across the street from our apartment. I remember it was 50 degrees and I just started working out in character, just having fun, doing pull-ups on tree limbs and squatting tree logs and warming up like one. Then we recorded some slow motion soccer kicks and headbutts. I don't think that fooled anyone over at the show that he was good, but I think that kind of bravado and confidence to the camera may be what caught their interest. Then we improvised a little bit additionally to that in character via a fake interview with the guy.

Then I sent the tape and then it was quiet. My rep thought it was funny but it was quiet for about three weeks and I just remembered I'm still in London. I just said, "Hey, did we make fans with casting?" As an actor, your only job is to do the best work you can for the tape. Whether you get it or not is way out of your control. To worry too much about that and give that so much weight over the long term can get pretty depressing. So, you just learn not to take it personally and just hope that you made fans and they find you interesting and maybe they'll bring you in for something else they think you're right for. So, I just followed up to see if we had made fans with casting.

They were like, "Oh, yeah, we hadn't said anything because we didn't want you to get too excited, but your tape has gone all the way up to the top. We're just waiting for Jason Sudeikis to approve it, but everyone loves you for the part." I was like, "What? Really?" Yeah, but just stay cool. We'll see what happens. We should know by the end of the week. So that whole week was a bit... The worst thing is to get close to something and then it falls through. So, that week was a bit stressful. So, now we're looking at around December and I'm out to dinner with my in-law who visited us here and I get a call from both of them. Usually, wh

way, why they present that way. So when I got to set, I can

Then she just got me the high top version of that. I took those with me after the wrap. But no, the Versace-

John Boccacino:

Nice move.

Dan J. O'Sinski:

... jackets and the Zava, Zava white shirt. Unfortunately, I don't have the Max, Max yet.

John Boccacino:

We'll work on getting you a sponsorship deal. I'm sure we could skip forward to Dan's: Yeah, Maxah, Maxah, Mok

Osinski:

Yeah, that was really manifest destiny. That was very strange. That was my first side job. It was a feature studio film. My manager sent me the thing and I went to read for that. I remember when I did the callback for the director and everyone, all these actors came in and they're all wearing Syracuse jerseys and sweat suits and coats. I graduated from there. I didn't really use that to sell. It was just like, "I'm just going to go in and do my thing." They don't care where you went to college. They're looking at the work, the actor. So, I remember just seeing everyone trying to sell Syracuse paraphernalia, and I didn't. I didn't. Yeah, I went in and I did it a few times and I think a week later, I got the offer and I was really excited because I was living in New York City at that time.

So, I drove down to Syracuse and I met Ger Schwedes with his wife. I just talked to him about that whole time and took notes and asked him what he did before he started a game. What were some of his ticks and rituals on the field and stuff just to try? That was my first professional job, so I was very actory about it. I was like, "What side of your hand did you tape your wrist? What were you thinking when the kick was coming your way? Oh, you were humming a song? What song were you humming?" I listen to that song. Yeah.

So, that was really cool. That was a really, really fortunate blessing and to be in that movie and then be an alumni of the school as well and to just know the history of that whole time, which honestly, I knew of Ernie Davis, but I didn't know the full story. So, I did a lot of historical research and put a whole new perspective on my time there when I was a student at a football program and the history of it. So, that was an amazing blessing. Then I got to go up to Syracuse for the premiere, which was a lot of fun. So, yeah, that was a blast. So, I was honored basically, short of it.

John Boccacino:

Yeah, no, I can't think of anybody better to take on a role like that than against someone who is a proud alumnus. I think the fact that you didn't have a crazy sports upbringing as a child, maybe that plays to your benefit because you probably could break the mold a little bit instead of being, "Oh, here's the guy who played football in high school. You didn't really know too much, didn't have familiarity, and you could bring a fresh perspective to the role."

But yeah, it's a different talent stack. Sometimes the movie wants the actor who can believably look like the athlete and sometimes they need an

and a couple other schools and I chose Syracuse through the drama. It's just a massive privilege to be able to do that. He was too busy trying to provide for his family and make a living and put a roof over our head. You look back at that and then that allowed me to have dreams and hopes and living in the States allowed me to pursue them. That's amazing.

So, I'm always forever grateful to him and what they did. I never forget that, never. My only fear hope now is that my daughter has that same appreciation because they always say the third generation doesn't...I didn't experience the struggle firsthand. I saw it, but my daughter, she's not seeing that with me and my wife right now, luckily, fortunately. I'm saying everything is cushy, but I'm just saying, I don't want her to take everything for granted and what it means to grow up in a Western world with a free society and freedom of speech.

You don't have to wait in line for an hour to get a couple legs and a loaf of bread like he did. I would imagine myself, what would it take for me to



Wow, he

We always try to leave our guests with some positive words of wisdom before the episode ends. The last question I have to ask you, summarize it however you want to, what's next for you? What's coming down the pike? What are some bucket list projects?

Dan Josinski:

Oh, every actor hates that question, right? You're like, "Oh no, is this impressive?" I don't know. The not knowing, I find that exciting, because that means anything can come your way. I know in a few days I'm going back to the States to film a really funny action comedy film that I'm looking forward to doing. That character's completely different from what I did on Lasso. Yeah. After, I don't know. I might be doing something here in London, but this is a little too early, but I should know that probably by end of July.

I'm enjoying what my wife's getting to do. She's on season two of Severance and she has some opportunities. So, I have no idea, guys, beyond that. That's how I've learned to accept the world as it is and just take it day by day and enjoy what I have, what's in front of me, enjoy my family, talking to meet to new people. Yeah, that's what I can say for now.

John Boccacino:

Sure.

Dan Josinski:

If you asked me about Ted Lasso when I came to London, I would've like, "Yeah, right." I wasn't sitting around like, "I should play the world's greatest soccer player on Ted Lasso." But yeah, I would've said, "You're dreaming." All right. You know what I mean? So I don't limit myself to my own imagination.

John Boccacino:

Again, that's a great position that everyone should take in life. Let the sky be the limit. The fact that you credit Syracuse, I guess I'll backtrack on one more question for you.

Dan Josinski:

Yeah, go ahead. You got time.

John Boccacino:

What does it mean to you to be an alumnus of this school? If people find out, what do you want them to know and what does it mean to say that you are a proud Syracuse alumnus?

Dan Josinski:

It's very cold and you have a lot of snow. You're warned. No, but for real, think I'm always amazed at how many people I bumped into who have been alumni in the school. I'm not talking just drama. In broadcast and journalism, Newhouse over there, in every aspect, there's SU alumni all over the world. They keep in touch and they branch off and do crazy interesting things that are the opposite of what they study in school. I think the school has its way of keeping its tentacles out there and using the orange blood with the alumni in the world. You can always find someone who went to school with you or went to school 20, 30 years before you, that'll be happy to say hi or take a meeting. I think the connection's there.

The education there is really good. I think that's the gift that keeps giving. Evidence here, you guys reached out to me and I haven't really spoken with anyone in years since I graduated, but I've bumped into people who've worked in my field or have graduated from there and we've gone along and talked and made connections. Yeah, I'm always impressed with what I hear about Syracuse. New buildings are popping up, I think, and new programs. So, I think it's wonderful what you're doing. I got to pay you guys a visit soon because it's been a while.

John Boccacino:

Let me tell you, Max, you are welcome any time to come back to campus. You can check out the new degree programs, the new buildings, see the revamped dome. There's so many great offers.

Dominic J. Osinski:

Yeah, that's what I heard. My freshman year, you guys won the NCAA championship.

John Boccacino:

Heck yeah. That was my senior year, my friend. We were down there watching.

Dominic J. Osinski:

That was your senior year. Oh, you were there.

John Boccacino:

I'm a lucky blessed man. I tried to put off the '03 on my signature everywhere I get a chance.

Dominic J. Osinski:

That was insane. That was freshman year, you're spoiled.

John Boccacino:

We go back every single year, right?

Dominic J. Osinski:

God, yeah. It was great. Yeah, that's another thing. Just to go back and answer your question then, you got the study abroad program and then senior Aaron Sorkin went to Syracuse and I did the same in my senior year, where he took 10 seniors to LA on the program's dime and to introduce him to LA. It's just like that connections and reach has really been terrific to experience outside of school and outside. I'm always grateful for that. My dad is too. He's very proud that his son went to college and graduated from there, because that's like every immigrant's dream to get their kids to go to college. So, yeah.

John Boccacino:

The first generation success story.

Dominic J. Osinski:

Yeah, exactly.

John Boccacino:

You pass that down the generations. Again, they're all so proud of what you've done. We in Orange Nation are very thrilled just to have the chance to get to know you and tell your story here on the podcast. We wish you nothing but the best of luck with whatever your future endeavors are. Again, please come back to campus anytime you like it.

D. E. J. Osinski:

I will. Thank you guys for having me.

John Boccacino:

Thanks for checking out the latest installment of the 'Cuse Conversations Podcast. My name is John Boccacino, signing off for the 'Cuse Conversations Podcast.