



APATA PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

GUEST: DANIEL ASSETTA

HOST: YOLANDE SMITH

Yolande:

00:00:12.110 --> 00:00:16.540

Hello Daniel and welcome to the APATA Podcast. Thank you for joining us today.

Daniel:

00:00:17.360 --> 00:00:18.460

Hi. Thanks for having me.

Yolande:

00:00:19.280 --> 00:00:20.980

Now, I hear you've had a busy day already. It's about five o'clock in the afternoon, in New York, where you are. And you've still managed to squeeze in a podcast with us and you've just come from a, an audition. So, definitely on the run.

Daniel:

00:00:34.440 --> 00:00:37.620

Yep. New York is definitely, always on the run, the hustle and bustle. Very exciting. Very.

Yolande

00:00:42.780 --> 00:00:45.220

I wanted to just start for our listeners today, as a graduate from ED5 International with the fabulous William and Elena, and a big shout out to the team in Sydney. A fabulous group of people. Um, this is where you've come from like year 12, and then you've gone across to the academy and the college and really started focusing on your career with ED5 International. How many years were you with the team there?

Daniel:

00:01:11.710 --> 00:01:14.930

Uh, so my year, my year group at ED5 were actually the first group where the two years was compulsory. Um, so originally the course was a one-year certificate, five or four, and now, and then that was kind of where they had solidified the diploma course. So, I was like the first-year group where everyone who started at the beginning of first year finished at the end of second year. So, that was really exciting because I feel like the course had sort of been like buzzing at a different pace in the, in the, the years prior to it. And it had kind of worked out great. Here is the two-year diploma course. And so, it was really exciting to kind of be a part of that platform that sort of has now I think even changed again. And now it's an advanced diploma. But it was a wonderful two years at ED5.

Yolande:

00:02:12.080 --> 00:02:16.250

What drew you to ED5? So, you are coming up to year 12, I gather, and you're looking at what your next step was in, you know, where it was going to take you career-wise and industry, and you knew what you wanted. What, what was the, what was the draw to ED5?

Daniel:

00:02:28.150 --> 00:02:31.650

Um, I, from a very young age, I always knew that I wanted to be in musical theatre, um, coming from a very like heavy dance background as a child. I trained at GY Dance in Liverpool, in Sydney, from like age four all the way up till I graduated high school in year 12. Which really provided a wonderful training ground. And William (Forsythe) actually taught me as a child at GY Dance,

Yolande: Oh, look at that.

Daniel:

00:03:05.680 --> 00:03:09.660

So, he was like one of my favorite teachers that I had as a kid. There was something about the

strength that he brought in dance that inspired me even as a young boy. And so, I knew that William had ED5, and he was the Director of the course. And so, it only made sense to me that when I, when the time came, that I would return there because I feel like his choreography and his training and education that he gave me while I was a kid, it informed the type of performer that I was becoming. So, I knew that I needed William's guidance and leadership in my formative years of like coming out of high school and sort of redefining myself as an adult.

Yolande:

00:03:53.450 --> 00:03:56.980

Well, and that, that's a really fabulous point. And, one of the things that we love about ED5 International is the course is not only amazing, but right from the very first day you step in and start training with ED5, you are training for industry, the foundations from the very start on arrival, sign in exactly like what you would do for your career to follow the training's right at the front door in every single aspect. Would you agree?

Daniel:

00:04:21.810 --> 00:04:25.420

Yeah. Oh, absolutely. Like they really, it's so funny now because like, it was, it feels like, like many, many moons ago that that was like my day to day of like being full-time. I'm pretty sure it's, well this year will be like 10 years since, since I was there, which is really quite crazy to think about. Um, but I remember it was, you know, it was operated like a professional workplace and it, it really set the standard and it really ensured that its students and people graduating were able to sort of get the skills that they needed to really enter the industry as a professional.

Yolande:

00:05:12.400 --> 00:05:16.530

Yeah, it's absolutely wonderful and, and that, that culture and education, I think, which leads to that industry professionalism right from the very start is so important. We hosted Jenn Colella last month or so and she was saying that, you know, you turn up with gratitude and from the moment you enter the room, walking down the hallway to sign-in, it's this whole training that starts as, as you know, for every audition and how you approach it. And it's just really critical. We've got a number of students out there that are, and teachers with them, of course, that are preparing for this next step, where they're moving to this transition. And I love the way you've said, you know, to 'The Adult Performer'. The next stage. What would be some tips that you have for students and teachers that are moving to this next step in their career looking at, finishing year 12, moving to the next level of education to really hone those skills?

Daniel:

00:06:20.050 --> 00:06:24.830

Mm. I would say like, you know, it's really funny, the Australian industry is one that, it's a tricky one because, you know we obviously thrive in the arts and there is so much going on, but as much as there is so much going on, there is also a limit to those opportunities. So, something that I found when coming up and exploring that next stage of my life was, okay, I need to make myself as diverse as possible so that I could gain as many skills as possible so that my opportunity to work was going to be maximized. And so that, that is again a reason why I went to ED5 because I felt like it was a course that really focused on the all-round performer, which in Australia you have to be, because there aren't hundreds of shows happening all the time. There are, there are amazing opportunities, but what it means is that you have to be at the top of your game if that's what you want to achieve. And so, you know, that that meant being, just as skilled as singer, as a dancer, and as an actor and as everything else these days, an acrobat, and a musician and, you know, whatever you can throw in the mix the better really in Australia. Because if you want to be continually working in the industry, you need to be polishing as many skills as you can to add into your toolkit. And that's one thing that, like, that I would say to young people and people thinking about that next stage and the transition just being like, where are my strengths? What things do I need to work on in order to get to where I want to get?

Yolande:

00:08:24.310 --> 00:08:24.960

Yeah. And it's, it's one of those things because we have to have that diversification in our skill. I think that's what makes Australian artists just so good.

Daniel: We're hard workers!

Yolande: Definitely hard workers and industry recognises that, like you hear that feedback from industry more often than not, how hard Australians work and the diversification of what they can tap

into is just immense. And, and I agree. I think I went to a university many moons ago as well for my theatre arts degree and I didn't realise (I knew what I wanted), but I didn't realise in the first year, and it went through for the whole three years, that our lecturers were very honed on the fact that, say for example, you want to be an actor. Then you still need to do units and understand might be technical production, might be writing, might be a range of things as well as performing because you're going to need a range of skills to keep the work flowing as well as if you go abroad, um, to what, where you start and what you can tap into. So yeah, no, very important, very important lesson. Let's go back to the, the 10 years. Because I think this is a really important thing for people to understand the next transition. So, you finished at ED5 International, I know that they're supportive and just have an international network of connections to help and work with their students. And as you know, I think you said when we were chatting before we started, you still hear from the team there and they're with you the whole way. It's a family, right. And it's, you know, so unique.

Daniel.

00:10:06.200 --> 00:10:09.980

I mean, it really is. I mean, in the 10 years after graduating I have been in and out of ED5 even as a teacher. Which I mean I'm sure is another part of the conversation. But, um, you know, like I have, the school holds a really close place in my heart and not only am I constantly going in and out of there after graduating, but also yes, hearing from William and Elena constantly with their support and love throughout my journey. It's really special.

Yolande:

00:10:38.160 --> 00:10:42.620

It is just wonderful. So, you've graduated, you've done some work in Australia, and then you go, you know, I'm going to head overseas, I'm going to take the next leap and um, I'm going to have, no fear, and trust in myself. And you head overseas, and you've got the first auditions and you're networking in and you're learning, you know, little quirks and tweaks to the system and you're surrounded by other internationals as well as some really fantastic, local talent. Um mm-hmm. Say a number of areas. What were the challenges? What were the, what was the thing that you had to step up to the plate most in making that decision?

Daniel:

00:11:22.510 --> 00:11:26.800

Yeah, I mean it's a really, it's a really fascinating, like, my journey to get here was like a six year one. Yeah. I planted the seed while I was doing the Book of Mormon back at home and I watched a friend who is now living here as well, go through the process of obtaining a Green Card and all of that kind of stuff. And I knew that it was going to be hard, and I knew that it was going to take a lot of work and a lot of paperwork. I basically did a college thesis on my own self, with the help of many reference letters and many creatives that I had worked with over the years. I just happened to be lucky and have the right combination of work people that I had met because it all just aligned, and it was able to happen. It was a long process, but it finally happened and I'm so happy that it did because, you know, it really was a dream of mine to move to New York and, and to do this here where theatre thrives the most. But I knew I was going to be up for a challenge because, I had really established myself in the Australian theatre industry over the last 10 years and I was entering the American industry as someone who knew some people and, and had worked with some teams, but essentially introducing myself to most people for the first time. And I mean, that's a strange thing in itself because I'm coming on 30 now and, you know, I haven't just graduated, you know, but it almost feels like I have because I've moved to a new country where I'm reintroducing myself and my ability and my skill and my passion for what I do. Uh, so there is a lot that I am learning and there's a lot that I'm continually learning and not only about the way that the industry works over here, but my place in it as well. Cuz it's very different to back home.

Yolande:

00:13:28.110 --> 00:13:31.660

What are some of those differences and how do you, how do you showcase yourself?

Daniel:

00:13:35.090 --> 00:13:36.900

Well, I'm very lucky to have a great agency behind me who are working really hard to sort of get me in front of the right people, which I'm very grateful for. Uh, but it is all about meeting people. It's about putting yourself out there. In the past couple of months, I worked on some new development works where that kind of stuff I've never been a part of in Australia because I feel like in order to be constantly working, you have to be in commercial musical and you know, so even just like this, that stuff happens on the daily here. Like where, you know, people are workshoping and doing readings and having a sing of new material. People are constantly creating, which is so inspiring. And so, I've

gotten the opportunity to be a part of some of that and have a taste of that. And that's really exciting and it presents you with new material to different people. Um, going in for many auditions and, and meeting casting directors and introducing myself to creative teams who don't know me, but look down at my CV and go, oh, Australia and like all these things that I've done, it's confusing.

Yolande:

00:14:57.460 --> 00:14:58.820

Is that a bonus, Daniel? Is that a bonus to say you're Australian over there? I hear in some cases it is.

Daniel:

00:15:03.820 --> 00:15:07.940

You know it is, it's really funny because when I first got here, I said to my agent, do I, do I need to like put on an American accent and just kind of like pretend I'm American? And he was like, no. He was like, everyone here loves an Australian. Uh, and he was like, it's such a great talking point and it really does kind of like give me a little quirk that's like different from everyone else.

Yolande:

00:15:28.060 --> 00:15:31.910

Yeah, absolutely. How. Did you have to shop around for an agent? Like how did that work for you? Because I know that's one of the biggest questions that we certainly get asked. And there's showcases where agents are invited on a local level and of course they connect to an international office. How did you find that process? Cause it's a very big step.

Daniel:

00:15:49.280 --> 00:15:52.290

Yeah, it is. So, I have a management team in Australia, who have been looking after me for the last 10 years or 11 years of my career. I was very lucky to jump straight into like Jeep management when I was 18. They saw me at my final year of GY, when I was still in school. And so, I was one of the lucky ones that already had an agent while I was full-time. So, it was a very different journey for me. And one that I'm grateful for because they have become like my closest friends as well, which is a really special relationship to have with your agent. And so, over the last couple of years I transitioned into their management team which was forward. And then in terms of like getting an agent here, I was very lucky because the book of Mormon casting director, who I became friends with, she's American and she's a casting director here in the States. We connected and she was really supportive and helpful, and she actually passed my resume and photo around to some of the top agencies here in New York. And so, if not for her, I probably wouldn't have ended up with the wonderful team that I have ended up with because it can be hard, especially that like, I'm not doing a showcase because I'm not 18, you know, like I haven't just graduated in New York. So, for me to get an agent, I'm purely relying on the fact that I've accomplished what I have back home, and someone will look at my work and be like, wow, let's take you to the next level here in the United States.

Yolande:

00:17:43.110 --> 00:17:45.330

And, and it's a couple of things there, your gorgeous generosity that, you're saying a casting agent, helped and supported and shared your information, but I am very sure Daniel, that that comes down, she recognises you: A. For the talent you are and B. For the hard work, turning up every day, being present and building, 10 years ago your foundations and, and then flourishing overseas. So, congratulations to you because,

Daniel: Thank you.

Yolande:

00:18:12.280 --> 00:18:17.100

It is hard work, and you are yes, networked, but you know people it comes down to who you are too. What you carry in every day in your professionalism and take and give to others. And I think that's really important to recognise and for students out there it is about, you know, training and technique and all those wonderful things, but it's also about being present every day and turning up and working with people and becoming part of that really big story to make something move. And that's a big part of what we do. What does a typical day look for you when you are in show mode? What does that look like?

Daniel:

00:18:56.300 --> 00:18:59.700

Hmm. What does it look like? It involves a sleep in to begin with.

Yolande:

00:19:01.970 --> 00:19:02.803

Nice.

Daniel:

00:19:03.880 --> 00:19:05.860

It involves the sleep in, I've got my beautiful dog here that we brought to the United States with us. And so, I love starting...

Yolande

00:19:15.060 --> 00:19:17.180

So, not only working at your own paperwork, but you also had paperwork for your fur baby as well. Wow.

Daniel:

00:19:20.660 --> 00:19:22.700

We did, that was a big process,

Yolande:

00:19:23.800 --> 00:19:24.660

I'm sure it was.

Daniel:

00:19:25.800 --> 00:19:30.460

But you know, one of the main reasons why we wanted a dog was because theatre and this industry can be very consuming and it's very all about you and putting yourself out there and doing this and that. And I love having time to put my attention onto something else. So, we go for a big walk every morning, and then, I make sure I'm eating all the right things and getting enough exercise to do everything that I need and then hydrating a lot. And then, something that I have sort of found over the years is, having things that bring you joy outside of the job because otherwise it can become very all-consuming and as much as we all love it and it is everything, there are other things that we can enjoy. So, you know, I'm a very social person and I love, I love catching up with friends and kind of fitting in all of those things as well. And my family's really important to me too, even though they're all on the other side of the world. But I have my beautiful husband here with me as well. So, you know, I'm very lucky to have that community and I feel I've already built a really wonderful group of friends and new family in America as well over the last sort of months.

Yolande:

00:20:59.120 --> 00:21:03.180

Oh, that, just absolutely, wonderful, wonderful journey. Let's talk about adapting. So, you and your husband, you've moved across to America, big steps, lots to work through. I think there's challenges of, as you said, really love your family, family left behind, adapting to a new environment, out auditioning in shows, and I think it's really important to say that quite often when you're in shows, you are also going to auditions, and you're also in rehearsals, so the day can quite be quite long, very quickly.

Daniel:

00:21:33.880 --> 00:21:35.060

Oh yeah. And that's, that's definitely something that doesn't happen in Australia as much because in Australia the auditions are not as frequent. So, like that doesn't become part of like a daily, weekly thing, we normally have so much time to prepare for auditions because I remember when they announced that Hamilton was coming to Australia, I basically had a whole year to prepare for that audition.

Yolande:

00:21:59.400 --> 00:22:03.740

Oh, wow. Wow. And so, what, what would be the audition turnaround in America? Like, what are, I suppose, and it's the difference, as you were saying at the beginning about like opportunity and, and you go to every opportunity, you go to workshops, you go to tap in whatever you can, what, what's the experiences there? How much more,

Daniel:

00:22:17.210 --> 00:22:20.410

I mean, like, it also just depends. You can be specific in New York about what you want to audition for. You don't have to jump at everything because there is so much, like if you did everything it probably would be too exhausting, and you'd be burning out really quick. So, it's all about deciding where you feel fits you best. And, and I think I'm also at like a point in my life where I want to attach myself to joyous things. Only because like, I've been doing eight shows a week for 10 years, so, I know what I like and what I want to be doing on a daily basis. So, I think there is the availability to be like literally almost auditioning three or four times a week if you want.

Yolande:

00:23:08.790 --> 00:23:10.250

Wow. Yeah. That's a lot, isn't it?

Daniel:

00:23:10.480 --> 00:23:12.410

Yeah, it does. It does. It becomes a lot. And also, you don't suit everything. So, I think I've been a little bit more selective and a little bit more like where, what do I see myself doing? And if, if something, if a project really inspires me, that's kind of where I go in terms of that sort of a thing. Because otherwise I feel like it can become very overwhelming very quickly.

Yolande:

00:23:39.600 --> 00:23:40.430

Yeah. How did you both find the transition from Australia to America living? Like, you've got to find a place to live and there's a lot to work through. Uh, I mean, you paid,

Daniel: It really was, it really was a lot.

Yolande: Yeah. It is, isn't it? Yeah.

Daniel:

00:23:57.200 --> 00:24:01.700

So, like, there was so much, like we basically, I finished Hamilton back in Melbourne in September last year. Yeah. And within three weeks of selling all of our furniture, putting our house up for rent, saying goodbye to family and friends, we literally arrived here, and it was absolutely insane. Because like that, that part, that part went by so quickly and it was quite frantic that then when we arrived here, I kind of forgot that then you got to do all of that setting up. And it just became like a daily like thing of like, okay, like this is a new thing that I have to deal with today. And then, like, this is another thing that we have to deal with. We couldn't even set up a bank account. Like four different banks declined us in the first week because we don't have a credit rating. We don't live anywhere permanently, so, we don't have a bill to show. It was just yeah, left, right and centre here were challenges and hurdles, but we worked through them, and we were very lucky to sort of like, put our feet on the ground within the first month and sort of start feeling a little settled. Um, but it was a massive transition, even just down to standing in the grocery aisle and being like, I don't even know what I'm looking at. It's like all the things that we know that like we're taught to see with our eyes, like in Australia, in Woolworths or Coles, like all of a sudden, you're like, I don't know any of these brands, everything's got sugar in it. Um, it's just like, it really was just like a challenge in every direction. You know what I mean? And then my agent was like, so, we've got some auditions. I was like, I'm going to have to just hold for a second because I need to actually just settle as a human first before I even like to put myself forward as an artist. Because like, there was just so much going on. And it really, we bought all new furniture to furnish an apartment and it all just had to happen. Cuz it's like, well, you need a bed to sleep on. Do you know what I mean? There's just so many things.

Yolande:

00:26:23.550 --> 00:26:26.930

Yeah, I know what you mean about the supermarket. It's like, what planet am I on?

Daniel:

00:26:30.490 --> 00:26:34.010

Honestly? Yes. What do you, and I didn't even think about theatre that would be a thing, but of course it is.

Yolande:

00:26:37.110 --> 00:26:41.210

Yep. The day to day, they're settling into that, that day to day you don't realise is, is quite the challenge. You're there for the next level, next chapter of your work and your career life. And then there's you know, the day to day needs to be sorted. So that is, that is very true. What do you miss most about home? What is, what is that, that one thing? I know there's family. What's that one thing every now and then you go, oh, that's at home?

Daniel:

00:27:06.810 --> 00:27:11.470

Oh, just thinking about one thing is difficult. I don't really know. Like what the, I mean, I think it would just have to be like just being close by to family and friends. Yeah. It just would have to be that like thank God for FaceTime and for the internet and being able to connect. But yeah, it is a strange thing. I've had just a few moments of being homesick. Where it kind of hits you all at once. It's so busy here that you don't really have time to think about it too much. But you know, like it'll hit me in strange ways and while I'm doing something bizarre and I'll just go like I opened my first show, my first proper production here the other week. And not having my Mum and my sister there in the audience felt strange because they've been there my whole family, relatives, cousins, everyone has supported me always and, uh, at everything. So, it's a strange feeling to watch everyone else's family come in and out and you are like, Hi!

Yolande:

00:28:34.430 --> 00:28:35.480

Yeah. Can I join you?

Daniel:

00:28:37.110 --> 00:28:39.200

Yeah. And, like I said, I've already made so many wonderful friends here that came to support, but there is something, there's always going to be an element missing when like, you know, your family is not present. Especially when they've been as supportive as mine has all the way through.

Yolande: And they've been with you your whole journey, so yeah.

Daniel:

00:28:59.110 --> 00:29:03.680

Well, yeah, I mean, I wouldn't even be here without, my parents and my sister and the GY Dance family and then, you know, Elena and William as well. I owe it to everyone who sort of had something to do with my journey. Like it's actually emotional when I think about it, you know? I've worked so hard my entire life but it's, there are so many people that have that played an important role in getting me to this point. And so, like I would not be here without them.

Yolande:

00:29:42.510 --> 00:29:47.170

We definitely hear you. And it's beyond building even a network throughout your life I'm a believer that you have mentors that, that come and go. But I do find within our industry that you have that special group of people, family, close connections and, and mentors that are with you on your whole journey. And it's a beautiful tribute to all of them because I, I believe the same that you arrive at these moments in your life and they're the people that you look for and you know, they're the people that have been with you on that that whole path and are still with you.

Daniel:

00:30:24.800 --> 00:30:25.810

Yeah.

Yolande:

00:30:27.200 --> 00:30:29.290

Balancing wellbeing and resilience. So, I've touched upon this a little bit in our conversation. Where have you had to be, I suppose, most mindful you've said, you know, you, you think through what you want to audition and, and you know where you want to be. And I, I think that's really wonderful that you have really, you know yourself and you know where you want to go and what you want to tap into. And wellbeing and resilience are very important, and you've briefly mentioned burnout in regard to that. What are some of those skills you carry with you personally to really manage those times when you do have a lot happening in a week and finding that balance?

Daniel:

00:31:08.780 --> 00:31:13.230

Yeah. I have struggled with this a lot over the last 10 years. And usually, unfortunately, something big must happen to make me realise that I have been going and going and going and need, I need a break. Because I am, I love what I do. I love giving. I love being a part of this world and this industry in every facet, which is why I've also been prominent as a teacher in the last 10 years as well. Constantly filling my time where I can in between pros with like jumping in and choreographing a number for the full-time grad and mentoring students online. Even now I mentor students online from Australia still. Which like gives me so much life because I love helping the next generation of artists and giving back and it brings me so much joy. And then a lot of those have made their musical theatre debut in Australia. And so, it's a warm feeling and I imagine that's what William and Elena must feel too, when they're a part of someone's journey. But what that does is it, it sometimes means that I am operating at a level which I cannot sustain. So, as my years have gone on, I have definitely learnt that when you get a break, you take it, and you do something for you. And to constantly sort of be, you know, that's why, that's one of the reasons why, like I was saying, why we got our dog as well. Like, I just, I needed, a reason to sort of put energy in a place where it can just be a relaxed thing. And, and like, you know, when I'm with my dog, I don't think about anything else but just like joy, you know? There's no like, oh, this audition or this that, you know, it just is relaxation time and, you know, if I find myself a good book, that's the same thing for me. You know, just kind of just like finding the pockets of time within the schedule to just breathe and relax because everything in our industry is just so adrenaline and high in energy. And so, it's important to kind of balance it all out.

Yolande:

00:33:42.010 --> 00:33:43.900

Yeah, I think, I think that's great, and it is a high level of energy and it's, we are people that are on time. If anything, we are 15 minutes early, our lives are constantly locked into a schedule because there's an advertised date and time and the doors are opening and the people coming. So, I find even per myself, it's schedule, schedule, schedule. So, when I get some time out and I can unplan, just take a moment and go, I'm just going to do this. I'm not on a clock. That for me is a great joy.

Daniel:

00:34:12.240 --> 00:34:14.220

It really is, for me it doesn't really happen for me unless I'm on holidays, I must say otherwise I'm still scheduling relaxation time because otherwise I won't do it.

Yolande:

00:34:24.750 --> 00:34:28.940

Won't do it. Yeah. You've got to actually plot it in. Yeah. I, I hear you.

Daniel:

00:34:28.940 --> 00:34:29.773

Definitely.

Yolande:

00:34:30.740 --> 00:34:35.580

I want to talk about the entrepreneurial mindset because we focus, you know, so strongly on our, on our talents and building our skills and techniques and, and all those types of things. But I think it's important to also recognise that you're working with agents, you have a management team, you are looking at websites, how you are promoting yourself, whether that be teaching, whether that be in industry, you're building a portfolio. There is an area here that I think people sometimes don't fully realise, which is the business side. And the business side I think is just as important sometimes as what we are doing on, you know, in our professional careers. So how have you gone about those areas, Daniel? Because there is a big part of this. It, we, we work for self. We're on contracts, we're looking for work, we're settling into, you know, whether it might be short- or long-term periods of work. And, and we're kind of running a business for ourselves 100%.

Daniel:

And I think that, I think that that is not stressed enough in this industry. Like the way that I operate and have like, you know, it's so funny cause I feel like a lot of the way that I operate stems from like my nerdy years at school. I was such, I was such a teacher's pet of a person. Um, you know, like I would be that person that would get you know, 97 and a half and I'd be like, where's that half mark? Like, do you know what I mean?

Yolande:

00:36:09.700 --> 00:36:11.590

What happened to that? What happened? What?

Daniel:

00:36:11.870 --> 00:36:16.030

I would literally go up to the front and be like, so like, I deserve that there? I do think that it did come from just being really sort of controlling, but also like, I wanted to be good. Like I wanted to appear like I was on top of everything, and I would always present myself in a professional way. And I think it stems from schooling, because I don't remember anyone really sort of like dictating a lot of that kind of stuff to me. Yeah. I'm not sure, but the way that you present yourself online, on a website, like all that kind of stuff, like, it is just so important. Like, it really does shape people's impression of you, which is everything. And moving to a new country, I knew it was going to be even more important. So, you know, I freshened up my website, my portfolio, everything. My social media account is basically a portfolio of my work. Yeah. Like, you know, I know for a fact that casting directors are going to my Instagram and they're watching what's on there. So, the way that I present myself there is nothing but professional. Like, you know, but that includes my personal life. If I choose to put my personal life on Instagram as well, it is done in a, in a joyous, but that's me anyway. Joyous, professional manner. It's, you know what I mean? Like, and because like, the way that that people view you, it doesn't take long for someone to, for someone to develop an idea of who you are. And so, I feel like I always try to put a professional essence into my emails, into my website, into my social media, into the way that I operate on a job, the way that I turn up, the way that I dress. Like it just, yeah. I think all those elements are, if not more important than the talent part.

Yolande:

00:38:27.730 --> 00:38:29.210

I, I would agree. And it's interesting, I was talking to a casting agent only last month, and she works across theatre, film, television, very broad. And needs to schedule herself some time to take out, I'd have to say she's so busy. Um, but one of the very first things she does is she, she wants to see the scope of, of who you are and how you present, in every aspect. And, you know, she's going and looking at people's socials and saying, there's, is there, the professional account, is there the personal accountant. And that's just part of our lives now. And I think we need to be aware of how we put ourselves forward and every step.

Daniel:

00:39:09.630 --> 00:39:13.760

Yeah. It just is so crucial, like more than I think people realise.

Yolande:

00:39:14.870 --> 00:39:17.750

Hmm. And I think social media and those things have been around for quite some time now. And I think we sometimes see them as something that we play with and a bit of a laugh, but the digital footprint is always there. And I, and I think we need to be aware of that more than ever. And I think Covid has even enhanced that further.

Daniel:

00:39:39.090 --> 00:39:42.390

Oh, it really has. And also, artists can use it in a clever way. It's a tool. Like. It's a very good tool. I got one of the first like jobs that I booked here was playing this character in a new reading of a musical. And I only got it like due to a video of me singing on Instagram.

Yolande:

00:40:05.620 --> 00:40:09.190

Yeah, there you go. See, and it, it's all connected, very connected. I want to tap now into what you said a little bit earlier in our conversation and that is, you know, people are, are working in industry, but they're also producing their own work, or in collaborative groups together to develop work. And, and I see that as just such a wonderful experience and I wish we had more of that even in Australia, but in New York, even the UK it, it's just a, a natural part of the story of performing arts and musical theatre across a range of areas, producing your own work and the capacity to really think creatively, um, I think is really important. And even further developing your skills. And I know you've, started to get into tapping your own work. I'd like to hear a little bit more about that.

Daniel:

00:41:02.770 --> 00:41:05.500

Yeah well, like my sister and I, she also went to ED5 and is a, an incredible performer as well. She's

currently the dance captain on the Mamma Mia Australian tour.

Yolande:

00:41:14.880 --> 00:41:15.713

Oh Wow.

Daniel:

00:41:16.370 --> 00:41:19.580

Yeah. so, we actually, I had, I had a little play myself as a producer and as a collaborator and a creative in the last couple of years before leaving Australia, where we created our own show called Siblingship. We produced it and we put it on at the Hayes in, in Sydney, and then we took it to Melbourne at Chapel/ off Chapel. We did it in Canberra at the Canberra Theatre. And then we did a return season because it was sold out. And we brought it to Riverside Theatre in Parramatta. And like I got so much joy out of creating something original and fresh and bringing it to people. And one day, whenever it is that I return to Australia, especially after seeing this creative industry here in New York and the way that it runs and the way that it operates, I'm going to be bringing all of that back with me.

Yolande:

00:42:13.440 --> 00:42:14.780

Oh, we look forward to that, Daniel.

Daniel:

00:42:16.010 --> 00:42:19.900

Yeah, I mean because I am a creative person and as much as I love performing, I love being on the other side as well. And I feel like one day, not yet I'm still very much like in my performing life, but one day in the future, you know, I think, I'm excited to create and to delve into what possibility could be.

Yolande:

00:42:42.250 --> 00:42:46.660

Yeah. Wonderful. That is just so wonderful. And to bring back that, it's just a natural collaboration that, that happens overseas that. There's a number of things going on, and you are never even quite sure sometimes what might come of it. But you all walk away from the table with this new experience and this new way of thinking creatively and critical thinking and benefit to yourself even as performer. And just a wonderful way to build communication skills, build confidence, makes the opportunity to look at other areas and look at other skill sets that you might be interested in. And really understanding the variation of artistic content, I think is extremely exciting. So, to be part of those tables for me is always an absolute honour just to watch others and how they even work. Well, Daniel, I'd just like to say thank you very much. It has been a delightful evening for you and a delightful morning for me. And so great to connect. I know we've been trying for a number of months, so thank you for your time and of course your beautiful generosity today.

Daniel:

00:43:50.480 --> 00:43:51.260

No, thank you.

Yolande:

00:43:51.260 --> 00:43:56.020

To talk through your journey and to share your experience for our listeners as well jump on and have a look at Daniel's social medias, I think that's really important. And jump on and have a look at his website, which is at www.danielassetta.com and we'll also pop that information into the introduction. So, it's a quick link for you all. But Daniel really leads the way here and has had such an incredible career and journey and we are honoured to tap into your insights and your wisdom, and we wish you all the best and look forward to hearing from you and the rest of your journey ahead.

Daniel:

00:44:37.510 --> 00:44:40.530

Yes, exciting times ahead. Thank you for having me.

Yolande:

00:44:41.140 --> 00:44:41.650

Thank you.

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DANIEL ASSETTA

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- Youtube: [@dassetta1](https://www.youtube.com/@dassetta1)



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