

Transcript for The Who's Dat Phat Girl Podcast - With Brooke Hoover

EPISODE 9 - Trixie

Hey y'all, I'm Brooke Hoover. A Louisiana native, actor, writer and comedian. I've lost 100 pounds through diet and exercise or shall I say "lifestyle changes". My twenty year and counting health journey has taught me that just like taking a diet pill for weight loss, body positivity doesn't magically happen overnight.

I'm working on re-gaining my self esteem and re-kindling my love affair with Cajun and Southern comfort food in a healthier way all the while juggling eating as clean as I can, re-establishing myself in the entertainment industry which, as we know, is historically fat phobic all the while showing my inner phat girl some love - that's phat with a PH - pretty hot and tempting. Let me tell y'all a tale or two...

Y'all I don't know really how we feel about when I start an episode singing because I've always been told I'm not the best singer. But, I love to sing and during quarantine I was taking voice lessons with the wonderful musical director, friend and voice teacher Dan so I think I might sing a little bit. Y'all will see why.

[To the tune of "Science Fiction" from "Rocky Horror Picture Show"]

Michael Rennie was ill the day the earth stood still

But he told us where we stand

Okay. All right. I'm gonna stop. I'm gonna stop. That's way too self-indulgent.

I think many of y'all who are equally as campy and crazy as me by now already know that that song is from "The Rocky Horror Show". The theatre version is called "The Rocky Horror Show" and the movie version is called "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." So, ages ago, Halloween. I believe it's Halloween 1998 or Halloween 1999. My momma and I are driving to school and we hear on the radio an advertisement about something taking place at Swine Palace Theatre that was the name of the theatre, swine as in a [makes oink noises] pig. Swine Palace Theatre back home near LSU and it's called "The Rocky Horror Show" and I'm like, "Oh. I love horror movies. I love scary movies." I mean I watched way too much of "The Exorcist" and "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" through a period of summer of 1994-1997 which probably explains why there's a lot wrong with me. But, anyways, I said, "Momma, doesn't that sound fun? Let's go."

She's like [Momma's voice] "All right, baby." So, we went and saw the "Rocky Horror Picture Show". Sorry. We went and saw the "Rocky Horror Show" Not to be confused with the "Rocky Horror picture Show". So, the very first time I experienced it was the actual play. And I was entranced with it. I loved it. I loved a lot of like the musicals we did in high school like "The Music Man" and "Bye, Bye Birdie" for what they were worth. But, I was like; this campy rock-tastic craziness is so more up my alley. So, there's the opening song, which in the movie as we know is by the lips, but in the play it is Trixie, the Belasco Popcorn Girl.

So, I became such a big fan of that song. Especially. And, also [Sings to the tune of "Hot Patootie (Bless My Soul)] "What ever happened to Saturday Niiiight?" The song you

know that Meatloaf sings in the movie. That was another favorite song. So, anyways. I really got into "Rocky Horror Show" and we saw the play, the musical twice at LSU, Swine Palace and then when that closed I'm like, "What do we do?" Well, it turns out there were a lot of movie theatres back home, Baton Rouge, Louisiana was really hip to the know with Rocky Horror. There were several that did the live show. So, basically you were watching the movie and people are acting it out simultaneously and it's very audience involved. You bring like newspapers to cover your head with, water guns to squirt rain, you know "Mrs. Betty Hapshat! Mrs. Betty Halfshit!" Things like that, you yell and scream and it's total fun for a bunch of weirdos. Like me and my friends.

And, one year we had a French exchange student staying with us and of course we said, "Do you want to go to the "Rocky Horror Picture Show"?" And he's like "Bien sur!" Which means of course. So, we dressed him up in drag and he was just loving it. And, at the time he was also really loving Meredith Brooks. Because, he brought his [French accent] it seems like French people like back in the textbooks and workbooks I always learned French with, they were always "je joue a la guitare". They were always playing the guitar. And, our French exchange student who later became one of our close, close friends, Pierre. He always brought his guitar with him. So, he's sitting in drag and we're waiting till about 11:45 to head over to the theatre because they always do it at like midnight, which nowadays I do not stay up that late ever, ever, ever. [Stomach growls] Sorry I think my stomach just growled again.

So, we're waiting around and Pierre's chilling out in drag. He has a big fuzzy blond wig on and like this kimono of mine that we've tied up and a slip and he's wearing Birkenstocks so [Brooke does a bad French accent] my feet can be comfortable. That's my bad French accent and Pierre just starts strumming on the guitar singing [to the tune of Meredith Brooks's "Bitch"] I'm a bitch, I'm a lover, I'm a child, I'm a sinner, I'm a saint. I do not feel ashamed. So, he was rocking out with his best Meredith Brooks self to that. I just stayed obsessed and obsessed and obsessed. Obsessed. Obstetrician. I just stayed obsessed with Rocky Horror and would y'all know sophomore year in college, they had auditions for the show. We could audition to actually be in the show.

So, what do I do? I start practicing my song. I said, "You know what? I'm going to sing a song from "Rent" because "Rent" and Rocky Horror are kind of in the same realm of anti-musical musicals for weird people like me." So, I sang, "Take Me or Leave Me" and I saw one of my acting teachers afterwards and I was like, "Ugh you know I didn't do really such a great job. I'm not like the best singer. Oh my God I can't sing." And he's like "Yeah. But, you sold it." And I felt, I felt happy. I was like yeah okay. I sold it. You know it's kind of like if you make really bad cookies but you can really sell them. I guess - no that's not a good analogy.

So, anyways. So, totally like movie cinematic style, about a week later they post up the cast list. And we all go to see the cast list. We all go to see who's been cast. Who's been cast? And, I'm hoping like maybe I got the chorus girl. Maybe I got a chorus girl. Maybe I didn't get cast at all this season. And, I look and the first name cause it's cast in order of appearance, the first thing that appears are the lips. Or, like remember in the show, the

theatrical show, it's Trixie. The Belasco Popcorn Girl. And, it says Trixie space space space or Tab Indent Brooke Hoover.

I have gotten the part of Trixie. I should back up and tell y'all. I have never, ever, ever at this point in my life gotten a role that I actually wanted. I always would just get chorus girl or like one time I was Officer O'Hara in "Arsenic and Old Lace." I never really got a role that I really wanted. I was...beyond overjoyed. Role of a lifetime. So, I was raised to be a very humble person and to not be obnoxious. I couldn't help it y'all. I ran outside and I started screaming and rolling around on the ground. Now, imagine a 250 pound girl running, rolling around on the ground screaming and this one girl. She looks over at me kind of like, "Hush yourself. You know? Other people didn't even get cast." So, I felt guilty. So, I felt so excited then I immediately felt, "Oh my God. I'm a horrible person for being excited."

And, I carried that energy with me. I carried that, "Oh my God. I don't deserve this goodness happening to me. I don't deserve this. I don't deserve this. Who am I? I don't deserve this." So, my confidence and singing issues, it leaked into rehearsals and stuff like that. I would just really push. I would be like [Singing] Michael Rennie was ill the day the earth stood still. And I would just. You can't really see it right now but I'm like constricting my voice. I would get nervous. I would be tone deaf, all this stuff. And, the musical director, he was this wonderful chap from England. I say, "chap" because British people say "chaps" right? He was wonderful. He really tried with me. Some of the cast members tried to be really supportive of me. Sometimes it came across as patronizing or patronizing a different way. And, the director himself. He was so funny. He always wore like shorts but a long sleeve button down t-shirt and a solid color tie and slouchy socks that matched the tie and white tennis shoes.

And, he came up to me one day and he's like, [Raspy Long Island voice] "Honey, you're delicious when you sleep. But, you're pushing. Just do less. Less is more. Less is more." So, I just tried to do less for a show that requires so, so much more.

And, the whole time, this process for the show from start to finish was about two months. I just kept telling myself, "I don't deserve this. I'm not worthy. I'm not worthy. I don't deserve this." And, I suffered. You know? I put myself in like a bad state. And, then it came time for the costumes. And, I was like, "Oh, this is gonna be fun." I will re-remind y'all that I am 250 pounds. So, the costume designer, she shows everybody their costumes. And, she's a really good artist. The costumes are really drawn beautifully. And, then I look at mine and then the drawing that she's drawn of me; I look like this grotesque like huge kind of monster thing.

And, that was the vibe. They wanted us all to be decrepit. Of course I mean it's "Rocky Horror Show" what can I expect? But, I had to wear this red bustier and these very tall wedge shoes that I could barely walk in, let alone walk and sing and dance and run around in. And, the scariest part. The piece de resistance was this gold chain snake [scared voice] that I had to wear around my neck and I cannot stand snakes or iguanas.

I'm terrified of that tail. It just creeps me out, y'all. So, anyways. She was like, "Brooke, it is imperative that the snake tail go down between your cleavage."

So, like God forbid I have to [dramatic voice] "Oh woe is me. Woe is me. I'm an actor ahhhh." I have to worry about singing. Um not being tone deaf. Um believing in myself. Um walking around in um six-inch platform heels while I'm 250 pounds and I have to worry about a snake tail going down my cleavage. Again, not a real snake, a snake chain. But, it was all worth it.

Because, that first night, when I was fixing to go on. Yes "fixing" cause I'm from the South, all my friends who were equally Rocky Horror people who were not in the show, they cheered me on like crazy. And, I'll never forget when that curtain opened and some of my friends who were like the backup Belasco people urchins, and I sang and then I closed the show and I think that's that's about it. I just felt really excited. I don't know that I've ever felt quite that excited about ever booking a role again. I will one day. I will. I guess my point is, y'all, when something good happens, don't question it. Don't question do you deserve it?

And, remember to always keep that snake tail between your cleavage. And, now I'll finish this up with a little bit of song.

[Brooke sings. Again.]

"I want to goooooo to the late night double feature pic-ture show."

Thanks so much for listening, y'all. It is my hope to inspire, uplift and entertain you with this Who's Dat Phat Girl podcast. So, if you're HUNGRY for more, you can book me to speak or perform my solo show that inspired this podcast Phat Girl Costumes written by yours truly and directed by my best bud Brian Lady at your virtual or in person event. Please visit BrookeHoover.com/fluffybuttproductions or email me at contactbrookehoover@gmail.com for more information. And, let's follow each other on instagram - I'm @Br00keH00ver and those O's are not the letter O but they're ZEROS. Not because I want to be a size 0 but because I guess I'm just so clever with my late 90s Yahoo! self

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