



Podcast Episode 192
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“Getting to Know Andy Andrews”

David Loy: Hi and welcome to *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews, I’m your host David Loy. And I’m so exciting Andy about what we’re doing today. This is unique

Andy Andrews: Have we got question?

David: Oh we’ve got many questions, this is actually going to be fun.

Andy: We usually only do one.

David: Oh we’re changing it up though. We’re throwing a little curve ball at people. We’re going to do something that.

Andy: Sounds like you’re throwing a little curveball at me my friend. What’s going on?

David: We’re going to do something that Matt and I have decided to call getting to know you, *Getting to Know Andy Andrews*. This is going to be.

Andy: What does that mean?

David: We’re gonna ask some random questions, some funny questions.

Andy: At least you have a theme song, na naaa naaa na.

David: We're gonna do some insightful questions. What are you singing, what are you doing?

Andy: That's your theme song, *getting to know you, getting to know all about you*.

David: Yes, ok, we'll do that, that's our theme song. So this is *Getting to Know Andy Andrews*.

Andy: Should I be nervous about this?

David: Probably. We're going to do some easy questions, maybe some not so easy questions, and hopefully we're going to catch you off guard with a couple of these. Some spontaneous, make you think questions.

Andy: Spontaneous combustion.

David: Yes, we'll see if you explode. We'll see if we have to edit any of them out.

Andy: Just don't make me cry.

David: But I think, there'll be some here, a lot, that everybody would be interested to know.

Andy: Am I in the right mood for this?

David: I think so.

Andy: You think so.

David: I think so. Ok, we'll start off simple.

Andy: It doesn't really matter if I'm in the right mood, let's do it anyway. Let's go baby.

David: We're going. Ok, first of all.

Andy: And what is the purpose of this, what is the value for our listeners?

David: The value I think, is to.

Andy: I mean, other than making you and Matt happy?

David: Yes.

Andy: I mean, what is the value for our listeners?

David: Number one, you talk a lot about how important laughter is in people's lives. Making people smile. Telling great stories.

Andy: Is this one of those things like my mother used to say, they're not laughing at you Andy, they're laughing with you. Even though it felt awfully a lot like they're laughing at me.

David: I was going to say, they might be laughing at you.

Andy: Then I grew up and became to, not really care, as long as you laugh, I don't care were you laughing at me.

David: I think this is, a lot of times people are seeing you as this author, speaker, just this guy that's on this podcast. And sometimes we don't get to know, the behind the scenes. So we're going to draw back the curtain a little bit, ask a few questions, *Getting to Know Andy Andrews*.

Andy: You're so stupid. Alright.

David: Ok, who is, you love music, you're friends with tons of musicians. And I know you've got tons of "favorite" songwriters.

Andy: I'm friends with musicians because I was a comedian.

David: There you go.

Andy: I mean, everybody says, oh comedian, what comedian do you know? You know this comedian? No, comedians don't know each other. At least they don't from where I came because I never worked in comedy clubs. Comedians, now I guess, they know each other but used to, comedians, we didn't know each other, because we all worked with musicians.

David: Yes and that's how you built your friendships with all these different musicians, songwriters, singers, everything. So you know a ton of them, but who is your favorite songwriter right now? I know you've got a ton in your head but today, right now, who's your favorite songwriter?

Andy: Jimmy Yeary.

David: Jimmy Yeary, ok, why?

Andy: Jimmy Yeary.

David: And who is Jimmy Yeary for those of you who don't know?

Andy: Jimmy Yeary is, he's a CMA, Country Music Association, and the ACM, like songwriter of the year last year. He's the guy, remember the song, *I Drive Your Truck*?

David: Ok, yes.

Andy: And that was the song of the year, Jimmy wrote that. He wrote *I Drive Your Truck*. Jimmy has had, in fact the last Kenny Chesney song, *Till I'm Done*, right?

David: I think that's right.

Andy: That number one song, Jimmy wrote that. Jimmy has written a bunch of number one songs. And he has written songs in Christian music and country music and pop music. And he has been successful across the board. Jimmy is, he is a very, very interesting guy. He used to be a leading singer of Shenandoah.

David: No way.

Andy: Yeah, yeah.

David: I did not know that.

Andy: You know the Isaacs, I love the Isaacs.

David: Of course, we talked about them several times.

Andy: I love the Isaacs. So Sonya Isaacs and Jimmy and husband and wife, and they have this beautiful baby boy, it's not a baby any more. Aidan's probably like 4, but Jimmy is a great dad. And I always appreciate that. And I think that, that goes into a songwriting.

David: Absolutely. And I was going to say that there are some similarities. The reason I ask that question is because there are some similarities to people that author books and people that author songs. There's an artist mentality, there's a story being told.

Andy: I've got to think it's harder to write a great song because you know, they gave me 60 000 words to get to the point.

David: Yes, exactly.

Andy: Jimmy's got like two minutes.

David: Right. Wasn't it the famous Churchill quote where he said, if I can speak for an hour, I'm ready right now, if I'm only got 30 minutes, I need two days, if I've got 15 minutes, I need a week. If I've got two minutes, I need a month. Something like that.

Andy: That's really true.

David: The shorter the time you have to say something, the harder it is to communicate. That's interesting.

Andy: That's my answer, Jimmy Yeary.

David: Alright, very cool. Who is your favorite author? Right now? I know you've read tons of books, you researched tons of books, people give you books all the time, who is your favorite author right now? And if you say yourself, we're going to just stop this podcast.

Andy: Well you know, I would not say that. I mean, I don't even think that in my private time.

David: You also can't say, The Robert D. you can't say Robert D's name.

Andy: And I probably, I shouldn't say, Jerry Jenkins because he's in the other room.

David: There you go.

Andy: Even though maybe I should say Jerry Jenkins, because he's in the other room. You know, I still, Bernard Cornwell, actually he pronounces his name Bernard Cornwell. But he writes historical fiction and I really, I just, man I love what he does. And the guy is so prolific, has a greater backstory, he actually was an executive with BBC, in England. And fell in love with a lady from America, and they decide they are gonna get married. And her parents were older and not in good health and so he agreed, that he would move to America. And so they would move to Cape Cod and take care of her parents. While he gets over here, he couldn't get a green card to work. And so, he said, which I think this is cool too, he said, oh no worries, I've always wanted to write a novel and so I'll write a novel. You know, no worries. And so he did and man, I'm just telling you, he's written series of historical novels of the civil war, series of the Napoleonic war, series of the king Arthur legend, series from the medieval. I'm just telling you man he is great. If you want to read one book that stands alone, with American history

because he writes a lot of trilogies and series, but there's one book that stands alone, that I think it awesome, it's about American revolution, it's called *The Fort*. *The Fort*, Bernard Cornwell.

David: Gotcha. Wow, that's a great recommendation. It's always interesting to hear people that do something in a certain field, talk about the others in that field that they respect and read and watch.

Andy: Man, I read Bernard Cornwell to learn how to tell a story. That guy is awesome.

David: That's so cool. Wow. Ok, next question, what is your best impression? Well you are a man, anybody that's ever listen to an audio book, knows that you are a man of many voices. What's your best, the best voice impression that you do?

Andy: I don't know about the best but my favorite is still Zig. I just love Zig. I love Zig Ziglar. And I think about him a lot because not only am I honored to have been one of his friends but people talk to me about him. You know, because there are people who come and say, I used to listen to Zig Ziglar and like that. And you know this, I don't know how many people know, Zig did all his audio books except for the last one. And the family had me do that.

David: In his voice.

Andy: I did most of it in my voice but they wanted me do it I think, because I do his voice because there are paragraphs throughout the book that they wanted in his voice. And so, but it was very odd David. I don't know if I ever told you about doing that, you know, two days in the studio and Tom, Zig's son, who's an

awesome, just awesome guy, in his own write, Tom was there. So I'm behind the glass in this little thing, by myself, and Tom is out there with the engineers. Well Tom is sitting there with his kind of head bowed; he has his four finger there on his chin, looking down, listening, right. And so, every time I do Zig, I'm watching him. And I'm becoming increasingly nervous because he doesn't really, he's not moving, he's not looking at me, he's not laughing. And oh my gosh, after about two hours, I finally, I kind of raise my hand and say, hey call a break, let me get some water. So I come out and I say to Tom, I say, is everything alright, everything alright? Yeah, yeah, it's fine. Is it ok like what I'm doing with your dad? Does that sound right to you? And he says, look, I lived with the man for 50 something years and he said, I guess I would notice the difference, he said, but I'm not sure anybody else is going to. I said, really? He said, oh yeah. And so there's this one time that I came out and I said, hey I got a choice here, with this particular part, do you want the slow Zig, do you want the modulated Zig, the Zig that does just the information, you want informational Zig, you want the slow Zig, or do you want the crazy Zig? And he said, well, like what's the crazy Zig? And I said, wait, you know, the informational Zig is where he's talking like this and he'll give you information and go along forever and tell you all the facts and the figures and the statistics, and he'll go like that. But then the slow Zig, he'll talk about something and he'll get down to a specific point. Right? You know what I'm saying? And at the end of that, I'll see you at the top. But the crazy Zig is where he's talking informationally and all of a sudden he'll have a point to make and he'll make it real quick and go like this. And I said, that's the crazy Zig. And he just laughed and said, oh do the crazy Zig. But I love the Zig thing, a lot of my friends, we still do the greeting that he used in one of his routines. And the greeting, Todd Rainsberger and I back and forth to each other all the time, we'll see each other and go, how you doin'? Because there was that airport thing routine he did where he said, I was in an airport one day and I walk out to the captain and I said, how

you doin’? And he said, compared to what? And I said, compared to all the people that don’t work in air-condition, compared to all the people that don’t have clothes like you, compared to all the people that don’t live in America, compared to all the people that don’t have a wonderful job? Now let me ask you again, how you doin’? And he said, you know, now that I think about it, pretty good. And thank you for reminding me. So Todd and I, a lot of times, we go, how you doin’?

David: I mean, just thinking about this, you had to have dissect him, how do you get to mastering an impression like that?

Andy: They’re all sounds. It’s just sounds. You know, you just had Zig’s a aaaaa. You can do a sound, well that’s Zig, aaaaa like that. But it’s funny how different, some of the same sounds, you can do the same, you can do totally different impression with the same sound, with the different shape in your voice. Great example is Jimmy Stewart.

David: Ok.

Andy: And then there was the, remember Walter Brennan, *The Real McCoys*, but when I was in the 6th grade, there was this television show *The Guns of Will Sonnett*, and he, Walter Brennan was with his grandson. And there was the cliché or the catchphrase of the show, no brag, just fact. And so we would go, we would say that, in the 6th grade. But we all heard Walter Brennan say, because somebody would say, you ain’t gonna do nothing to me old man, bla bla bla, it was a cowboy show, right. And he’d say, meeting my grandson, we’re looking for his father, my son. I’m the fastest gun in the West, he’s the second fastest, no brag, just fact. And so we all say, no brag, just fact. But those voices, Jimmy Stewart and Walter Brennan, Jimmy Stewart is just a aaaa, and Walter Brennan is ee ee

ee. I mean, it's the same thing, right, aaa aaaa, eeee, aj aj aj. So there's my Jimmy Stewart, Walter Brennan, Zig Zigar, aaaaa, iiiiii, ay ay ay aaaa.

David: I wish this was a video cast because people would love to watch you act this out.

Andy: I can even aya aya ayaaa, I'm looking at myself thinking, I am nuts, I know I am.

David: You are truly, people say you're crazy but I'm sitting across the table watching this and you're literally crazy.

Andy: You know what, I could not disagree with you right now.

David: That is great. Ok, next question, this is interesting one, Andy if you could have personally witnessed anything, any event, what would you want to have seen?

Andy: Hmm, now I want to say something here, ok. Let me just say this. Any time you ask me a question like this, you have, well it has to be understood and you can't say Jesus.

David: Ok.

Andy: Because I always say to people, if you could have dinner with anyone, if you could choose three people, who would it be? And people, well Jesus. Of course. Because people do, I say Jesus because I don't want you to think that I'm not thinking about Jesus. And so I say, ok. But give me somebody else.

David: That's a given.

Andy: Yeah, so, Jesus is a given. Like a historical event, I guess.

David: Sure, yeah. That's probably what comes to your mind for sure.

Andy: Good grief, that is a great question. You know, maybe I would love to have seen, now I would like to been way above it, but I'd like to see the charge that Chamberlain did to get his...

David: Ok.

Andy: I mean, I think that would have been very cool.

David: Absolutely.

Andy: To see that charge. And I think to know what was going on, you know, to know what was going on behind it and to know what was gonna happen in the future. I guess, I love that kind of stuff. And I would also, I think I would also have, have like to have been there. Just some quiet moments with Ronald Reagan. I would like, I met him and I was around him a little bit, not a ton, but I would love to have been around and just been a fly on the wall, when he was by himself and wondering how to deal with certain things, or how to communicate certain things. Because that was what the man did better than anybody we've ever had. I think was a great communicator.

David: Absolutely.

Andy: I would've like to watch Lincoln at times, I think. Lincoln is very amazing figure to me because, today, I mean, here's somebody that absolutely almost everyone agrees top three, got to be top three. And most people believe that he's the greatest president we ever had. And yet today, he would've been unelectable. Unelectable, because he was not great looking, he had kind of a high squeaky voice, he was way too honest. I mean, he's unelectable.

David: Ok, so following that, one last question and then we're wrap up for today. For this episode of *Getting to Know Andy Andrews*.

Andy: We have to do this again?

David: We're going to do it again. I've got tons of more questions.

Andy: Oh God.

David: What, we may have covered this once before but I forget your answer, give me three historical characters that you considered including in *The Traveler's Gift*, but that they didn't make it?

Andy: Ok, one, right of the bat I can tell you, absolutely Winston Churchill. To me, it was a choice of Winston Churchill and Abraham Lincoln, in *The Traveler's Gift*. And I went Lincoln because I had more things I wanted to do with the character at the time. But if you remember, in *The Final Summit*, which is, people consider that's the sequel to *The Traveler's Gift*. *Final Summit* is the sequel to *The Traveler's Gift* and Churchill is immediately on board in that book. I was able to really, I was very happy with how I portrayed Churchill in *The Final Summit*. So definitely Churchill. You know this is gonna sound odd because you know, when I did the sequel, when I did *Final Summit*, there were struggles I had about

who I was going to use in *Traveler's Gift* and I ended up using another one there too. Because another one that I wanted to use was Joan of Arc. And so Joan of Arc ended up being a big character

David: In *The Final Summit*

Andy: In *The Final Summit*. And you know, I had, because there was a long time that I would ask people as I was working to decide, I would say, if you could spend some time with anybody, in history, and at a specific moment in their life, who would it be and what would the moment be, and you can't say Jesus? That's what I would say. Because they'll say Jesus of course. Any way, in fact, Polly was the one who came up with Harry Truman. And it was great because I wanted, you know, David Ponder was having a tough time, he was going through the worst time in his life. So I thought and the concept was that it would be interesting for him to drop in and be there at the moment in history with historical figure, who did great things, but was going through the worst moment in their life.

David: A very difficult time.

Andy: Yes. And so Polly was the one that said, how about Harry Truman when he's trying to decide whether to use the nuclear weapon or not. Because boy, that still is, man, what a great conundrum there, you have a weapon that will end the war, nobody know you have it, I mean, you're the only one who really knows. And really you don't even really know what it'll do because nobody ever used one.

David: That's right.

Andy: And I think, I hear people say, oh he should have never done it, he should have never done it. I hear that today and it disturbs me a little bit because I really

got into the research on Truman. And I would dare anybody to put themselves in that place and come up with a different answer because here's the thing. And I used his real quote there in the book, because he said, that they knew, they had never had a platoon surrender, they had never had a Japanese platoon surrender. And so they knew that they were going to have to invade Tokyo plain and literally go door to door, clearing this country. So the general marshal lead the figuring on what this was going to take, and they literally estimated 250 000 casualties. Listen to this David, I didn't put this in the book, but this is the one of those research things that I found, did you know that in preparation for that, because they thought they were going to have to do it, ok. In preparation for that, they started making Purple Hearts at that point. They manufactured Purple Hearts in preparation for that. And do you know, now since then, right, since then, has been Korea, we've had Vietnam, all the smaller things, the Desert Wars, do you know that since then we have never printed more Purple Hearts. We never had to print any more.

David: We've never run out.

Andy: We've never run out.

David: Oh my goodness.

Andy: And so Truman's quote was, that knowing that and knowing those estimates, I can't imagine in the future running into the wife or child or mother of one of these 250 000 man, and have them say to me, you had a weapon in your hands that could've stop this and you didn't use this? And so that was how he decided that he would do that. I don't know if I answered your question totally, but it's kind of interesting.

David: You did, that's good. That's where these getting to know you episodes apparently lead, to some interesting stories. That's fantastic. Well Andy thanks for answering some random questions and here's the challenge to our listeners. What is an interesting question that you want to ask Andy, what's something that we've never address, a curious fact that you want to know about him.

Andy: Odd facts, known by few.

David: Odd facts, known by few.

Andy: That's the book that Barney reads occasionally.

David: That's right.

Andy: Andy says, you've been reading again ain't ya? And Barney says, yes, odd facts known by few.

David: Ok, that's great. Well Andy thanks for your answer. Send us your questions to intheloop@andyandrews.com. And we will try to get Andy to answer some odd but interesting and curious questions in the future. Andy we'll talk to you next week.

Andy: Thank you buddy.

Would you like to run something by Andy? Contact us and your question might be featured on the show!

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