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CAST INTERVIEW QUOTES

KEVIN SPIRTAS ("Bob Harrison")

- *What attracts you to "Mr. Confidential?"*

"What could be unattractive about a great new role in a great new musical?!"

- *How does the show's world of '50s Hollywood and gossip speak to you personally?*

"I probably share Bob's drive and tenacity and willingness to go the distance and to keep trying and reaching for his dreams no matter what obstacles stand in the way. He was a good hearted person who loved his family—and he always felt the need to be a provider and caretaker. And you would never see Bob show any kind of harsh behavior unless he was pushed into a corner... And even though Bob wasn't a star per say or directly in the spotlight, he had the desire, and he had fun being the center of attention. I probably have just a teeny tiny itsty bitsy understanding of that desire."

- *How else do you relate to your character?*

"There's a great lyric that Bob sings: "We've all got the itch, for being famous and rich..." I think as a kid growing up – I must admit I probably escaped into this thought or desire for no other reason than... If I achieved some sort of fame and monetary success, it would prove that I was good at my singing and acting and performing. And somehow there was probably some sort of romanticized notion that to 'make it' in this biz and to be successful – Gene Kelly was famous and rich because of what he did— I love to sing and dance... I wanted to do what Gene Kelly did. And I believed that if I could do what he did, and make it like he 'made it'... then fame and money would be a logical part of that. It was par for the course with a touch of the need and desire to prove to the world that I was good! So I can see where Bob's obsession with fame and money could grow from – in today's world it would be any one of the Kardashians or Paris Hiltons... They all have that disease of needing to be famous for the for the sake of being famous!"

- *Many of the performers have been with the show since its first reading, but you're new to the cast. How has that been for you?*

"It's very exciting, because I get to jump into a new pool of creativity with a whole new group of actors and this creative team. I'm also thrilled about being reunited on stage with two outrageous talented gal pals: Erin Leigh Peck and Aléna Watters. Having worked closely with these two ladies in the past has been nothing but sheer joy and I am excited to share the stage with them again. We have some great scenes together!"

AMY BODNAR (“Jeannie Douglas”)

What attracts you to “Mr. Confidential?”

- “To be a part of a story that is biographical is interesting to me. The tabloids are more active than ever, and to participate in a show that addresses the beginning of the era is intriguing.”

How does the world of gossip and tabloids speak to you personally?

- “I haven’t had personal experiences with my privacy being invaded, but I’m an extremely private person, so I would say that the story does resonate with me, but probably not on the side my character lands!”

How do you relate to your character?

- “Jeannie and I are alike in that we love deeply and have a great loyalty to the ones we love. There is something beautifully simple about her, and I would like to think that I have that in common with her as well. I can only hope the simplicity doesn’t extend as far as intelligence!”

You’ve been a part of the development of the project since the first reading. How has that experience been?

- “It has been an honor to be a small part of the developmental process for *Mr. Confidential*. I haven’t been able to participate in all of the readings, and I am extremely grateful that they came back to me to be a part of the show. I am thinking that as this will be the largest production of the show so far, things will evolve and change in an exciting and interesting way. I am certainly looking forward to the process.”

ERIN LEIGH PECK (“Marjorie Meade”)

What interests you most about “Mr. Confidential?”

- “I play this stay at home mom...they call her a ‘housewife’and when she discovers that she actually possesses ambition and joins the work force, the world around her says she decided to ‘leave her children.’ It’s like there was no middle ground back then. It gives me a window into why she had to be such a heartless businesswoman. She lived in an era where women in positions of power weren’t taken seriously. She had to prove herself every step of the way and I guess the easiest way to do that was to be a total witch to anyone who stood in her way, including her own family.”

Does the subject matter speak to you?

- “I don’t care much for today’s world of Hollywood gossip but I am fascinated by the role of women and how a mother in the 1950’s like Marjorie could transition from so-called ‘housewife’ (man, that’s a weird term) to infamous sleaze-monger.

Do you relate to your character?

- “Marjorie is kind of like this lion who hides in the bushes, observing and taking everything in until she’s ready to pounce and eat her prey. I think I could learn something from her. I’m

such an open book, never taking the time to develop strategy before letting everyone in the room know exactly how I feel about everything and what kind of stakes I have in the game. If I could be a little more like Marjorie but still be a good person...if that's even possible...I think I'd get a lot more accomplished! I feel sorry for her. She has all this ambition but lives in an era where nobody expects anything out of her. She even surprises herself when she realizes that she actually wants to achieve something more than cleaning the house. I guess she doesn't have a choice about being such a blood-sucker, but I can't imagine making those kinds of choices for myself. Luckily I live in the modern world so I don't have to!"

You've been a part of the development of this project since the first reading In February 2013. How has that experience been?

- "I've been developing this role for over a year now. Samuel wrote the definitive book about the whole 'Confidential' experience and he knows these people inside and out. As much as an expert he is on the history, he's also an amazing creative writer and he's been very accommodating in letting the theatricality of the story take precedence over the factual minutia. The one thing he's been incredibly specific about has been character. In every draft, it's been clear who each character is and what they want. What's changed is just how far they might be willing to go in order to get it. I'm so excited to be returning to NYMF for my third time. It's my second time working at NYMF with Kevin Spirtas....last summer we had a blast doing *Legacy Falls* and Kevin has become a good friend. And our director, Stephen Nachamie, has been a friend since college but this is the first show we've done together. Between my history with the show, the festival, our star and our director, this production has a lot of meaning for me and I can't wait to get started."