

Interviewee Name: Michael Hodyl

Interviewer Name: Jung Yoon

Date of Interview: 19th of August 2022

Location: Restless Dance Theatre

Length of Interview: 11:02 minutes

Transcript

Jung: Can you tell me about yourself, where you're from, about your background? You told me about all these different backgrounds you have.

Michael: Yes.

Jung: Yeah, I think -

Michael: I can explain the way I grew up with - my father.

Jung: Can I just - can you start with your name?

Michael: Yes.

Michael: My name is Michael Hodyl. It's actually a Polish name from my great grandfather, and my surname is a generation name. My heritage is Polish. I have Chinese and Russian background. Quarter. And I'm of the fourth generation of my family. Yes. On the male side.

Jung: And about yourself as an artist. Can you tell me about you?

Michael: Well myself as an artist? I am - I have charisma as an artist now, full of life and even a superstar as an artist.

Jung: Ok, when did you join the Restless then?

Michael: Well, I actually joined in 2011.

Jung: When you were 11?

Michael: 2011

Jung: Oh

Michael: Yes, I was 21 when I started.

Jung: So why did you want to be an artist?

Michael: Why? I'll just - Because I'm a hard worker. I do perspire a lot. That shows how hard I'm working and just being a professional as well, that I have a lot of potential in me. I love material. I'm being an artist because of who I am. Now, to the future. Yeah, that was to show my heritage.

Jung: Is there anyone else was a dancer in your family?

Michael: No. There's none. With my parents with their weddings they never danced. They didn't learn to dance. So why they have me dancing?

Jung: So that happened when they married the dance and then -

Michael: They didn't.

Jung: They didn't?

Michael: No. Not a single - one step.

Jung: Not even one step [of dancing]?

Michael: Not even one.

Jung: Okay, but where are you....where is your talent from then?

Michael: Actually, it's from my grandma because she has a beautiful voice for singing. I want to show the world real side of me. Yes, it's through her.

Jung: Do you have any favourite dancers?

Michael: Well, we normally choose one, but I have two. Peter Allen with all time, and now it's Todd McKenney.

Jung: Can you tell me about these two?

Michael: Well, actually, these are entertainers. I've stood in line as I wanted to meet him, especially Todd McKinney. I would [be with] him through dancing. Yeah, then. Peter When I said about Alan, he was a nice gentleman, beautiful hearted. Because I wanted to entertainers like them. That were my two favourites.

Jung: Yeah. Thank you for sharing. What's the best thing you like about Restless Dance?

Michael: Well... Friendship is one. Sometimes we have a little fight for some reasons. But we're still friends. That's who we are. I always make new friends. I will, be friendly with them to make them happy.

Jung: Do you ever experience some difficulties or challenges while you dance or being an artist?

Michael: For me, because sometimes I get injured but not all the time. Sometimes it's off dancing, so that's a challenge I want to work with.

Jung: How do you overcome the challenges?

Michael: Well, for me, I have Metamucil, [that] make me feel lighter in my stomach, my feet, because I use my feet a lot through dancing.

Jung: Okay, you said you injured and when you get injured, you don't - you stop dancing for a while?

Michael: You have to stop dancing for a while to gather your thoughts and to trace your actions or what happened.

Jung: While you are not dancing, how do you feel?

Michael: It feels like being upset for something that happened. Something that didn't happen. It's only mental thinking.

Jung: Contemporary dance.

Michael: Yes.

Jung: So your dance style changed from ball dance to contemporary. Can you tell me about why you changed and then why you decide to change your dance style?

Michael: Well... it's not really a change. It's more like I want to explore different things with my dancing. Yes. I started with the history of ballroom because of the movie. Then it was grown up to do different things and creative things. So, one thing for me now, that's a pretty picture for me. That's me in the future.

Jung: Do you like your contemporary dance?

Michael: Yeah, I like to add ballroom into contemporary. I like to mix and match.

Jung: So do you also create your dance move?

Michael: It's some of the moves. I - it's from me. Yes. Even in - I did a solo for Australian Dance Theatre for World's Smallest Stage. That's just me, I created the moves.

Jung: I can see that in the picture.

Michael: Yes.

Jung: When you dance in front of people, what do you want to tell the audience through your dance?

Michael: Well, I'll say... I always speak my dancing into dancing. This is my dancing, this - do the talking. That's what I do. And for the audience. I will say, 'Look at me. I'm now famous with dancing and surroundings'. I will just show the fame through my dancing.

Jung: When is the best time? What sort of reaction was the best out of the audience?

Michael: I want them to be happy, to be proud, to be there to support you.

Jung: What was the best show you ever had?

Michael: Uh, for me, it's 'Guttered'. Even, 'In the Balance', the cabaret version because we did with an Adelaide based band, 'The Audreys'... so I did a music

video with them beforehand. Now, part of The Audreys, the Adelaide Cabaret one was my absolute favourite.

Jung: -So is there anything else you want to talk about yourself and your art?

Michael: Well. I would say. Me as a famous person. I would say, 'Look at this face, this person, beautiful handsome gentleman and charming. That's pretty much I would say.

Jung: Yes

Michael: Yes, I'll - pretty much, I'd say. Yes and for the art, I hope they - it will mean everything to me if that happened.

Jung: Good, thank you very much for sharing.