

Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Anson Williams



Former Happy Day's TV star, Anson Williams discusses his role as Potise Weber on the hit sitcom plus other projects and resources he has been working on while behind the scenes.

"I grew up in a lower middle class family. It was a normal household," remembers Anson. "I did always have feelings of wanting to entertain people even as a young kid. I have to say I wasn't really into actual acting it was more of performing and entertaining. I really liked Al Jolson when I was growing up. It was the old time entertainers that captured my attention. It wasn't until after high school that I started pushing for it. I always tell people if you feel strongly about something you keep moving forward with it. Don't let anyone tell you any different." Anson nearly missed his audition for Happy Days. "On that particular day there were heavy storms and my old junky car broke down on the way to the audition. There were no cell phones at that time so you had to leave your car and try to find a pay phone," he recalls. "It took two hours for the automobile club to get there. By the time it was all said and done, I was four hours late. At first, I decided not to go to the audition but there was that little voice that kept pushing me. I drove to Paramount Studios. I looked like a drowned rat. I went to Millie Gussie's office who was the head of casting at the time. I was explaining who I was and what happened to the receptionist when I heard this gruff voice coming from another office, "Is that Anson Williams? He's lucky we haven't casted the part of Potise yet!" I thought to myself, "What's a Potise?" (laughs) That's how it all started. I ended up getting the part.

He continues, "Happy Days ran for ten and a half years. We were very lucky as a cast because we all got along. It was the days before social media. You had to commit to what you were doing and work hard. It wasn't a fantasy. It was work. Gary Marshall was the creator of the show and our mentor. He reminded me of a professor. He opened us up. He let us use the opportunity to educate ourselves and that's why we are still in the business. Gary said you could use entrepreneurship for business and apply it to the entertainment industry. He encouraged me to go forward which I did. What I am doing now is because of Gary Marshall. He told us not to focus on nonsense but to spend our time furthering our education and careers."

Anson has directed over 300 programs. "To be honest, I felt very limited as an actor. I didn't think I would have a long career with acting. I had a gift of comedy but I knew I didn't have the impact to go much further," he said. "Working behind the camera and in the business gave me the feeling that I did not have any limitations. I liked it much more. I liked creating and writing whether it's for a movie



or a product. I felt I was operating on all cylinders."

He continues, "My time on Happy Days gave me an opportunity to bring more focus to things that are good for people's lives."

One such project of worthwhile attention is Alert Drops. This product came about from personal experience.

"Several years ago I was directing a television show. We were filming in the desert outside of LA. It was a very hot day. I was dehydrated and tired. On the way home, I just blacked out. I hadn't had any sleep so I ended up bouncing around in the desert. I almost killed myself. I was very lucky," remembers Anson. "My uncle...well actually he's my second cousin but I have called him uncle since I was a kid was Dr. Henry Heimlich (Heimlich Maneuver). He was an expert on the human body. He told me I should keep cut up lemons in my car when I know I am going to have a long day. He explained how the citric acid in the lemon hits nerve endings at the top of your tongue and it kicks in like adrenaline. It's your body waking up your body. It's similar to a doctor testing your reflexes by using a rubber mallet. This works the same way in that the citric acid makes your body react. You are alert and awake. I practiced this for years and it worked. I worked on developing a product that benefited people. I called Dr. Heimlich and explained my idea. He was supportive and thought it would help others. I thought about putting the citric acid from the lemon in a spray bottle and when you feel tired, you can spray your tongue. We created Alert Drops. They are all natural. The Alert Drops help you stay awake when you start to feel drowsy. This



is better than many of the energy drinks on the market. This product is helping many people." (Dr. Heimlich passed away two years ago at the age of 96).

Anson is working on another great project, which launched on February 14. "Everyone is feeling the crunch of the economy. We wonder how we can make our dollars stretch. I know we want what is essential to us and we usually like offers of BOGO (Buy One Get One). Therefore, what has been created is Bogolist.com. It's taking all of the best BOGO deals and making them available on one web site. It's taking 40 to 50 of the best BOGO deals of the day whether it's for a holiday or regular shopping. You can also purchase Alert Drops through this site. It's a way you can improve your life, get more for your money and put a bright spot in someone's day. It's a one stop shop." www.alertdrops.com

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