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**I WAS CONVINCED THAT I WAS A
LOSER**

I was pumping gas most definitely printing t-shirts and selling ink pens and you know I mean every any anything and everything there was a guy who I worked with many years ago and we were talking about success and money and all that stuff and um he told me this one thing he said you know money doesn't change anybody money reveals them you know same thing with success and uh I I I believe that you know wholeheartedly I'm still exactly the guy that used to pump gas you know I'm still the guy that was a mechanic for a minute you know I'm still exactly I just happen to have a weird weirder job at the moment if we could celebrate every breath that we take because nothing's a guarantee if we could celebrate the breath and the exhale which is being alive without you know oh my car won't start there are things that are very very important in life that we we just we don't think about you know and one of the most worrisome things that I went through for years is you freaked out freaked out about your past you're worried you're scared to death of the future but the now doesn't exist and I think that's a grave mistake that we make by the time you were 15 that you were already had lived in 20 different homes is that true uh my mom liked to move a lot a lot a lot yeah one time we moved from one house to the house next door so how do you adjust how do you get to be you know every if you're going in a different school all the time it was kind of normal for we didn't know anything else you know so for us it was kind of normal I moved to Los Angeles in 1983 and uh wasn't basically an unemployed musician and uh a buddy of mine Nicholas cage yeah I was filling out job applications and uh nick suggested that I meet his agent because he felt I should be an actor why I don't know don't know still don't know okay but no so you never seriously thought about it until nicolas cage mentioned it yeah I mean for me it was really just I just thought well you know at this point I'll do anything I just got to pay the rent you

know I was on the verge of being evicted so you consider yourself lucky you're very lucky yeah but you have to tell them to meet the luck right somebody hands you the ball and you run you know I mean and if you get hit you get hit or maybe you make it through you never know but I mean I I just know that somebody handed me the ball at a certain point and I was hungry enough to keep running um and I'm still running I maintain a hunger but not an ambition you went to play music when you quit school you didn't go to become an actor I started playing the guitar at the age of 12. yeah it was the first real passion that I had so I literally don't remember going through puberty because I locked myself in a room at the age of 12 12 13 and I just played the guitar learned things off records and taught myself how to play and it was my life and it was the only solace it was the only sanctuary it was the only security it was my first love you have to realize that whatever your day is whatever you're doing whatever your job is whatever people think of you or project you to be none of it matters uh really until you look around and see people who who are in need and I think the probably the best benefit of my job is to help to make people smile who otherwise uh wouldn't or couldn't have a smile on their face so um yeah that's my deal to go into a place where you know I mean I spent time in great ormond street where where it was I was I was the parent uh when my daughter was ill and it was uh I mean it was I've known darkness in my life but that was the darkest period ever you know I'd always kind of done these visits but after that the visits became more and more important because the kids bless them you know they're so strong they're so courageous but the parents are the ones who are slowly dying and to be able to bring a smile or a giggle um to these people is uh it means everything in the world to me do you look back and say look I did what I wanted to do it's defining of me there were other things that I probably should have done not from my perspective I mean from my point of view I did the

right things every every film that I've done I'm happy that I've made that choice I don't have any regrets whatsoever most people would say that if you wanted to be a leading man in a traditional way it was yours there for the taking and you didn't want that I think any actor given a certain amount of success or given a certain amount you know somebody hands you the ball you run with it any actor could do that but I it's not me it wasn't me I was on a television series for three or four years about four seasons and I was without question a product not my own product that was somebody else's product and they shoved me down the throats of America and it was a very uncomfortable situation and I swore to myself that when I got off that show I would do what I wanted the way I wanted to do it and I stick to that I mean I if I had to do leading man things just to just to continue to be an actor continue to work nah I'd rather I'd rather go back to pump and gas what do you think when you look at those pictures no really what do you think well it was a strange time because I had become this product and it made me very uncomfortable yeah because I didn't I mean being sort of labeled a heartthrob well they just they just started to build this image and it had nothing to do with me and no one should accept anything but the truth to have to suffer the ignorance of someone lying to you for some type of gain you've never seen any of your films ever I tried to see one once because the director asked me to I fell asleep 35 times I feel the experience I'm happy with the process is what I'm interested in the process of creating the process of exploring the process of breaking formula damaged characters are more interesting because that's that's what's great about about the work everybody's damaged everyone's damaged on some level and I'm fascinated with human behavior I'm I'm fascinated with the flaws of the human being I mean I'm just fascinated it's a strange thing because the the greatest thing you can do as an actor I think is to be an observer and at a certain point something bizarre happens you're not able to observe in

public anymore because everyone is observing you so that's a danger since may 27th when my daughter was born I have been floating I smile constantly which I never did before and you never imagined you would have it this kind of no you know you you can never everybody tells you and you know you know what they're experiencing you know it's going to be something you know sublime but you know you just don't you can't imagine until it actually happens when you when you see this little angel arrive she's everything the baby is everything it's so amazing my little family it's just so it's unbelievable it's uh I don't know it's the only thing that's ever happened really the only thing everything else is smoke what were you worried when you turned 50 no you know it it was like uh I mean it was just wake up it's another day you know and everybody makes a deal about you know the idea oh 50 you know half a century and stuff like that it felt like 40 to me just felt like another decade really you know I mean both grown-ups and kids love him so much what is it about him you think that makes well for one I think he's a major talent too he's awesomely good looking three he's um it's not like most people we know there is something offbeat about it that is intriguing and ultimately attractive there's something magical about my kids call him uncle fun you know and uh he is when you are with him you are pretty certain that nobody else is having as good a time as you are I came here for for you the people who um through whatever good times or bad you know have stood by me trusted me and you've um thank you you have no idea how much I appreciate it I love you