

Scott Capurro: What's good about you, and how can you use it?

My name is Scott Capurro, and I'm a stand up comic and I might mention also that I'm an actor and a writer.

I started as an actor, got an agent through that, and got into film and commercial work.

I accepted my commercial type at the time, which was difficult for me as I was a skinny, tall, boy next door nerdy type. And once I embraced that, I got loads of work, I didn't fight it. I thought 'why do I think I'm cuter than I am. I'm not cuter than I am; I'm a skinny, nerdy, boney, guy'. So I'd show up to auditions to play a nerd in a Speedo with a beach ball, and they'd be like "why are you dressed like that?" and I'd say "because I'm a nerd" and I got the gig.

You really have to find out, what it is about you that you can sell. It can be just one simple element. But the minute you find that then people will buy it.

A woman who's a comic saw me thought I was funny in rehearsal and took me to a comedy club and I came out on stage. And that was, although it sounds hands to pearls, all embracing and worthy, it was great for me because it opened up a door for me. I did two more films, it got me into comedy clubs in Britain. The year Mrs Doubtfire opened here, I came over and played the store for the first time, down the road, and a promoter saw me and that led to Edinburgh.

I didn't know what Edinburgh was. I literally thought it was a couple of tents and a hot dog stand. And then I won the Perrier that year because I didn't go with any expectations, which I really is another thing that I think is good to know is if you enter each job without any expectations, then you won't be afraid.

I mean it's important in my business, to also know what your faults might appear to be and use them to your benefit, you know. And my accent can put people off a bit, initially, but I can play with that can't I. Again that's another weapon in my artillery. I can use it against them.

The business is all about being different and idiosyncratic. No matter how many, you know, boring models make it into TV, and what people are really looking for I think is something different along the way.

Of course, I've gotten turned down loads of gigs, but the business is all about rejection. You walk into a room full of people, who are damaged in some way and whatever has happened to them that day is affecting every decision they make that day and you have no control over what they do. You can't let it get to you. It's the voices isn't it, sometimes in people's heads telling them that they're right or that they're wrong. I think you just need to sort of take a deep breath and err move gaily forward if possible.