

doing the job is the kind of person that you are. If you are co-operative, helpful and committed to making constructive comments that will improve a production people will want to work with you. They will feel comfortable with you and you will have won their trust.

People usually like working with someone because of who they are and the overall contribution they can make to a production, not just their skill at a particular craft.

The Instructor's Raison d'Etire

I don't know if it is written anywhere, or if it is to be found in any manual, but I believe it is part of the instructor's *raison d'etre* to install confidence and belief in oneself as well as competency in a given discipline. Mere competency without humanity just isn't enough to carry you through life.

On one occasion during the last school year I had the opportunity to speak to the entire class of first-year RTA students about my life, goals and success to date in the business. As always seems to be the case, there was the question — What kind of person do you have to be to succeed in this business? There is an easy answer to this question, and there is also no answer to this question.

The easy answer is — you have to be yourself because it is nearly impossible to maintain a false presence all of your working life. If you were able to maintain a pretence it would surely be a waste of your valuable creative energy which would be better ex-

pected on your work.

The "no answer", as it were, is that it takes all kinds of people and temperaments to be successful in this business. In order for you to ever know if you are successful at any given point in your career you would have had to establish a set of goals to strive for. Without goals, you have nothing by which to measure your success.

Success doesn't always have to be measured in terms of dollars or position; it can be measured in terms of how happy you are, the type of work you are doing, the contribution you are making towards making your world a better place. In short, success can be what ever goal(s) you set for yourself.

A Reprise

As with any human endeavour though, there is always room for improvement and additional material to be added, to enhance a good idea or concept. Towards that end the course has been further honed and streamlined, and its objectives clarified.

When I mentioned that I was considering teaching at Ryerson again this fall, a number of colleagues questioned my reasoning. Why would you want to do that? Isn't that going to prevent you from doing other work? Work that will generate a lot more income than what you could earn at Ryerson?

The answer to those questions is that I have made a commitment to give back to the industry some of that which has so thankfully come my way. Yes, it might indeed prevent me from doing other work, but I still feel

that I will be richer for having experienced the academic life and from having had the opportunity to help those who are just beginning their careers.

I have decided to return to Ryerson this year, along with the students, in the hopes that I can make a further contribution to an industry that has treated me so well. I look forward to co-teaching with Clive Vanderburgh, a man whose credentials speak for themselves — writer, producer, director, lyricist. a man of many talents. I'm sure that I will learn a great deal from him during this semester and that together we can still show the students by example that they can achieve their goals if they pursue them honestly and with fervour.

An Addendum

This summer, while working on a series for TVOntario, I had the opportunity to work with some of the students I had taught the previous fall semester. It was gratifying to see that they had, for the most part, gained employment that was challenging, stimulating, had potential and was well-paying.

I'm sure now that my time last fall was well spent and no doubt this year will prove to be as rewarding as was last year.

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