

Circumstances Change, Creativity Doesn't

- Interview with Australian actress Robyn Duse

When do you plan to return to LA to start the next chapter of your life?

I was originally moving to LA to start the next chapter of my life/career in April, however with the current global pandemic and other unforeseen circumstances unfortunately it has all been put on hold for the foreseeable future. Although it is quite difficult to plan with certainty, I plan to return to LA within the next 6 months as I have meetings and projects lined up for when the world reopens again.



What has this time in Australia during quarantine taught you?

This time in Australia has allowed me to re-focus on the simple things in life, spending more time with family, reconnecting with family members, friends, and really just focusing on the simplicity of life again.

It reminded me to slow down and reflect, as life goes by so fast we sometimes forget the simple things in life can often be the best. Many people have been complaining, however due to my insanely busy schedule these past few years of travelling and working I have actually enjoyed the quietness, reconnecting with people, taking time to spend on myself and my creativity that was neglecting for so long. I believe that every negative situation has silver linings, and for me, after this I will be even more prepared to bring on my A-game.

Prior to COVID you have been a very busy person. What have you been up to since we last spoke, and are you working on any projects?

I am blessed to have been filming some self-test auditions, through my agent during this time, which has been exciting. Currently (during lockdown) I have been filming (presenting/hosting) and doing some voice over narrations. It has been a new, yet exciting challenge. I am grateful to have been able to work on set during this period, and have really been enjoying working with green screen, which has been a lot of fun and very interesting.

I am also working on a film pitch and collaborating with industry professionals in LA, on a personal project that I am deeply passionate about. It is something that touches my heart so deeply and people will resonate with it.

Do you have anything coming up that you would like to share with our readers?

During my time in LA I was introduced to an amazing person who I now call a friend and an absolute genius in the industry. Producer, Line Producer, Director and Writer *Michael Mandaville* appeared as a guest on my Instagram Live recently, discussing some industry hot topics. The live video is being edited and will be uploaded to my Instagram shortly if your readers are interested in watching it. (Robyn's Instagram link is at the bottom of this article - ed)

Michael is well-known for producing Hollywood's box office international films such as *Taken 1, 2, & 3*, starring Liam Neeson and has also worked on many other box office hits such as *American History X* starring Edward Norton.



Robyn Duse with Michael Mandaville

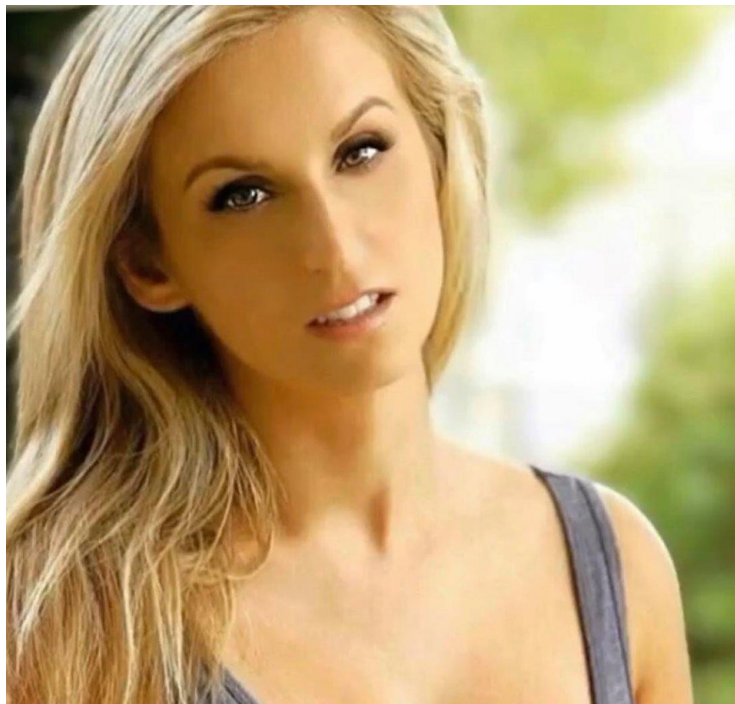
On our IG live video call, Michael discussed past/current projects, filmmaking tips, changes to production adhering to COVID guidelines, the do's and don'ts in Hollywood (especially for those who are transitioning into Hollywood from other countries) and we concluded with a short Q&A – where viewers asked industry related questions to Michael.

You have a wealth of knowledge in the industry. Is there anything else you would like to share with our readers that may give them some momentum during these times?

Last but not least, I would love to share some tips and advice to all actors reading this, especially those finding it hard to gain momentum in the industry right now. Believe in yourself no matter what. Believe in your vision, trust that YOU are enough and stay true to yourself.

As creatives we are often told that we are not good enough, or to get a real job, or you won't amount to anything doing that, or you're dreaming. Whatever it may be, always believe in yourself. Remember - this is your journey that many will not understand, and that's ok. So long as you are ok with it, we don't need the approval or validation of others.

I have learned – don't take anything or anyone for granted because it can call change in an instant. Time is our precious commodity – value your time, value your energy and protect who you give your energy to. Be selective of who you let into your circle, who you surround yourself with, as time is something you can never get back. Always stay true to who you are, where you are going and what you do and put in place to achieve this.



Robyn Duse is an actress from Melbourne, Australia, now working in Los Angeles, USA. Robyn has many years of experience in film and television, as well as having run a very successful acting school in Melbourne. Her next article will be focused on how to break into Hollywood and the differences between working in LA and Australia.

Follow Robyn Duse via Instagram for all the latest updates:

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