

Final: Meet the Producers: Now Let's Talk! The Podcast

Hello: I'm Vanessa Corwin

And: I'm Kathleen Kaan

VC: You know, it's hard to believe we have been publishing "NOW LET'S TALK! THE PODCAST" for a year. So, we thought it was time to tell you a little bit about ourselves and how this podcast came about, as well as some other projects we are working on. To help us do that is freelance writer and avid listener, Marty Temkin. Marty, over to you

VC: Hi Marty.

MT: Hi ladies. I'm honored to be here with you. And I, along with the listeners, would like to learn more about you guys. So, let's start right off with how do you two know each other?

VC: We know each other for many years. We both have backgrounds in TV production and it's through that industry that we met. We had often talked about doing projects together and in fact, we became friends and we would go out to dinner, and have lots of wine and we came up with of course these brilliant ideas but none of them ever happened. So cut to the pandemic and here we were in lockdown and we decided to do this podcast so it really started as a pandemic project.

KK: It was Vanessa's idea, firstly, and it was a great opportunity for us to do something like this, which I've never done before, and it's turned out to be a great experience and a lot of fun.

VC: Absolutely, and a learning experience. I mean I've never done anything like this before either. Of course, I have worked as a freelance producer in TV and video for many years, but I've never done a podcast. I do all the editing and so I had to learn that software. I edit on my Mac laptop in Garage Band. So, it's been a total learning experience, and fun.

MT: I'd also like to ask you, along those lines, what have you learned about yourselves, what are you most proud of and what have you learned about the human connection during this pandemic period?

KK: As far as the podcast, we are very pleased with how it's happened. I think what I've learned, is that even though sometimes we feel alone in this pandemic, the people we talk to tell us their feelings so we're not alone. And I think that's why people want to tune in. Because it's kind of like in a way educational but it's giving us all a feeling of oneness.

MT: Exactly.

VC: Exactly. I agree with you Kat. You see that we really are all in the same boat and we all are experiencing this together. I think it's interesting. People, at least our interview subjects, I mean in a way, I think in a way it's little bit therapeutic to share your viewpoints.

KK: That's a good point.

MT: Yes, I think it is. What are you most proud of? Who do you think you helped?

VC: Oh Wow. I immediately think about actually the first episode that we published “Covid is Not Over when it’s Over.” About the two long covid survivors.

MT: I remember.

VC: We really got some very nice responses to that particular episode. People are very interested to hear this, because their long covid is, for want of a better word, I’m going to say lifestyle, but that’s not really the correct word. They have digestive issues and the smell and taste loss and while there is some research ongoing about these issues, there’s really not all that much. I think people who are experiencing these things just like to know there are people out there in the same position.

KK: I also think the diversity of the people that we’ve had on the podcast runs the gamut and I’m happy about that. From somebody like the first one who are Covid survivors and long haulers to a young lady in New Jersey who lost her brother and started this incredible “Heart” thing on the beach. That went on and on and is still going on so it touches people in different ways. And, I am pleased with the fact that we have a diverse group of people to talk to.

VC: Yes, we do and who have been affected in different ways by the pandemic.

MT: I thought the travel agent was very helpful and the cross-country trip gave me a lot of tips.

VC: Yes, those actually were some of our higher performing episodes in terms of listeners.

KK: I thought the psychologist was amazing and we got a lot of feedback with that. She was terrific and they all are in their way.

MT: Yes, they are. What kind of advice would you give to anyone listening at home as you often say to your interviewees, what advice would you give to someone thinking of starting their own podcast?

VC: I would say just do it. Just plunge right in. You don’t need a lot of fancy, expensive equipment. We operate pretty low pretty tech. I have a MacBook Air laptop, a microphone, my headset and my Garageband.

KK: And us!

VC: Well, us! Of course. That’s the most important. But in terms of what you need to do this. You really don’t need a lot. We do everything on Zoom and we publish on a platform called Anchor.fm. But there are other platforms out there. There are a lot of resources out there. If you google how to start a podcast, you’re going to see a lot of resources out there. So, if you have something that you are excited about that you want to talk about, definitely just plunge right in.

MT: Speaking of what we’re excited about, I know you two have a lot of very nice plans coming up in the future. Would you like to fill us in?

KK: Oh yes! Vanessa and I have found through working on the podcast that we work very well together. And that’s terrific. I love that we are very give and take.

VC: It's a really good collaboration.

KK: My background is in music and not too recently, awhile back I started writing. And again, during covid I got more interested in writing different things and I discovered these short plays. And, I've have been happily accepted at the Virtual Arts Festival. Two of my short plays will be performed **LOST & FOUND** and **REMEMBER** live on Zoom, February 27th @ 7PM (ET) 4PM (PT) and to get tickets go to "virtual arts productions.org" Vanessa and I both collaborated on the audio opening and visual opening. That's been great. 'Cause she is the techy person. So, I go over there and I say this is what I see and this is what I hear and she makes these things happen. And it's turned out great.

VC: Oh yes, it's been a lot of fun. And so, I am definitely honing my video editing skills with this project. I hope you guys click in and see these plays because we are actually quite proud of this stuff.

KK: The play **Remember** is being published by "Flowersong Press" in the Spring or Summer. They are doing a book of anthology during Covid. And that was chosen. And I just found out that my play, **Remember** is in the top 50 for the Roadmap Writers Competition.

VC: Kathleen, I bet you never thought all of this would be happening from those 10-minute plays?

KK: No, I'm really I'm in shock.!

VC: Who knew?

KK: Yes. Who knew? And it's all been good. You throw it out there and then you hope for the best. And, then of course, we can't forget **TEDDY'S DOLL HOUSE** which is my big baby, but that's a full-length play.

VC: And you've been working on that for a long time.

KK: Yes, I have. You know it's taken a long time but I think it's better now than it was even a year ago. And so, I'm hoping it can be produced somewhere soon.

VC: Yeah, sometime, somewhere. Hang in there.

KK: Oh I am.

VV: Put the positive energy out there and I'm sure it will happen.

KK: Absolutely.

VV: In terms of other stuff, I've been exploring doing voiceovers and reading audio books so that's an area that I hope to expand into. So, if there is anybody out there that wants to hire me to do a voice over, well I'm available.

MT: Okay, good to know. And about this podcast, what are your plans for the future for this podcast?

VC: The idea is to expand it. To widen the scope. And I think in some of our later episodes when things started to open up, we started to open up too. To take in some wider topics. But you know at this point, we are going with the flow because Covid is still very much with us. And we are still in that mode.

MT: I wish that we could open this up to questions for people at home. but unfortunately, we can't but you can get in touch with "Now Let's Talk! The Podcast" by going online to the website.

VC: Absolutely. It's NOW LET'S TALK. THE PODCAST.COM and on the home page there is a little form where you can write to us. And we would love to hear your thoughts on topics that you would like to see us cover going forward

MK: Great. Where do you think you can grow your audience from in the future?

VC: We would like to grow our audience by dealing with topics that the audience wants to hear. And then we hope if they find it interesting, they will tell their friends and their friends will tell their friends.

MT: And we will all share the podcast on social media which I intend to do. And word of mouth. And congratulations on a wonderful year!

VV: Thank you. You can find me on Facebook, I'm on Twitter and I'm on Instagram and I'm on LinkedIn. Vanessa Corwin, you can find me in all those places.

KK: I am also on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, so if you want more information about the Virtual Arts Festival just look for me.

MT: Thank you ladies I'm so honored to be with you today.

KK: Thank you Marty.

VC: Thank you Marty, this was fun and we'll see you soon.