



Dedee Pfeiffer one on one interview with Kathrina Miccio on "The Kat Miccio Show", talks landing a part of a lifetime on ABC Big Sky, her 30 year acting career, sobriety and her love of animals.

WATCH FULL INTERVIEW WITH KATHRINA MICCIO AND SPECIAL GUEST DEDEE PFEIFFER

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DEDEE PFEIFFER

FIGHTING FOR THE ROLE OF A LIFETIME

By Melissa Billie Clark



This interview took place on the 4th year of Pfeiffer's sober birthday. As she celebrates her new outlook on life substance-free, she reflects on her work as a 30-year actress.

They say that we only live once!
However, Actress Dedee
Pfeiffer will beg to differ with
her many transformations
throughout the past years.

Photographer: Noel Daganta / Stylist: Alan Del Rosario

Living a life as a high-functioning alcoholic brought Dedee to a place where addiction no longer served her. Albeit every day is a brand new day to stay sober for Pfeiffer, she turned her dependence on substances to daily activities that make her naturally high. Whether rescuing animals, being a mom/role model to her two boys, an advocate to others who need help, and her career as an actress, Pfeiffer continues her

programs that help maintain her 4-year sobriety. Pfeiffer says, "I'm someone in recovery that has alcoholism."

IFO: Let's talk about Big Sky airing on ABC on September 21, 2022 at 10 p.m. PST. Your character Denise Brisbane is so quirky. **DF:** I think we all love the "smartass." She's the light. She has the mama bear core, but I don't think Denise ever had kids. These girls are like her kids, so she treats them like friends, best friends.

and employees. I love playing Denise! The writers write great lines for me, and I would joke that she lives in the back because she's always at work.

IFO: Will Denise ever leave the office? **DF**: I can't say why, but yes! You have to watch and see!

IFO: This show is a family affair, your brother-inlaw David E. Kelley is the creator., who is married to your sister actress, Michelle Pfeiffer. You said that this job came at just the right time. Can you tell us the story of how you landed Big Sky? DF: I was literally finishing my Masters of Social Work. I was doing my internship at the mental health department, and he texted me out of nowhere. He asked if I was still acting because he had a great role for me in a new show. I couldn't believe it; I kept looking at my phone and saying, did he just offer me a role? It came at just the right time. I was in school for a long time. And I worked here and there on gigs for about \$100 a pop. I sold my house to pay all my loans, so I started at a social worker's salary. I did not know how I would make it work and take care of my two kids.

"This role landed in my lap, and I told him that he just threw me a lifeline."

> Photographer: Noel Daganta / Stylist: Alan Del Rosario George Clooney and I dated way back before we

> worked together. Years later, he called me and told me they were casting for "Red Surf" and wanted me to get involved because they couldn't find a lead actress. He secretly, behind closed doors, coached me on exactly what to do so that I get the role. He was there reading with all the actors and saw their troubles and what they couldn't get. We ended up rehearsing all night, and I went into the audition the next day and nailed it.

DF: Keanu's soul is free; his authentic truth is light. I don't think the guy has a mean bone in his body, and I've never seen it throughout the years that I've known him. I adore him. With Michael Douglass, I thought I finally had a scene with a huge actor, and I had to do it with a hamburger on my head (Dedee's role was Shelia, who played a fast food worker in "Falling Down" directed by

Joel Schumacher). https://www.youtube.com/

IFO: You've worked with names such as Michael

Douglass, Keanu Reeves, and George Clooney, to

name a few. What was it like to work with these

watch?v=zJs9p-VNORw&t=212s.

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Sobriety Life and Acting:

IFO: How has your performance changed since you've been clean of substance? DF: Night and day! I still have the same insecurities as before, but I'm not running from them anymore. I still have the same self-judgment, but I'm not as hard on myself; I'm more forgiving for not being something I think I should be in my head. I have a support team around me for the first time in my life who understand me without saying a word. The most important thing is that I'm okay with being different for the first time in my life.

IFO: What kind of support does your family provide? DF: I have an amazing family. I am 1 of four siblings. I call everyone in my family " normies " because they don't have an addiction. I got it from my father, and everyone on my mother and father's side was an alcoholic. Generally speaking, not all children end up adopting the biology of an addict; I got it, thank you very much. I like to say that I'm the lucky one who got it because the buck stops here, and my kids know what recovery looks like. I never knew what that looked like because my dad died being an alcoholic. I had the opportunity to identify the problem in my family to identify possibilities. Every day I don't drink and show them what it looks like to do something very hard: live with vour addiction. My family always says to me, "We don't know what it's like to be you in your head with your dis-ease, but I love you, and I care for you, and I'll do whatever it is you need from me. Let me know what that looks like, and we are here." This is the best thing an addict can hear from their loved ones.



Kylie Bunbury, Dedee Pfeiffer, and Jensen Ackles, behind the scenes of "Big Sky."

IFO: Do your costars from Big Sky show any support to you and your recovery? **DF:** My costars are amazing. I love them all so much. They know that when we get together during our downtime, I don't drink, so they offer to buy me Coca-Cola. They respect my recovery, and when I say that I don't want to go out to a gathering at night, sometimes it's triggering; I sometimes won't go, and they respect that and don't push It. They say we love you and want you to come, but we understand that you can't.

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IFO: You began a year ago speaking publicly about your sobriety. What kind of feedback do your fans have regarding your recovery? **DF:** I want to say out loud that I adore my followers. They are some of the most amazing, compassionate people. I never have any negative comments from people. When I talk about my sobriety on social media, they tell me a lot about their journey or their family's journey about recovery. They thank me for being transparent, an advocate, and authentic because it inspires them.

IFO: If you were faced with an opportunity to play a role of a character that drinks or does

drugs, how would you handle that, or would you even accept that role? **DF:** I would take that role. I would be honored, and it would be difficult, but life is difficult. I think the perspective I would bring to it would be one heartfelt, authentic, probably some colors that you've never seen before that only addicts would say, "Oh, she nailed that. Would this be difficult and triggering? Absolutely! Would I bring my support group in a little closer? Absolutely! I would have a safety plan but wouldn't turn down an opportunity because of my disease.



Watch Season 3 Trailer



Previous seasons of Big Sky are on Hulu