

Giant

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really drives you and pushes you hard.

KW: Teresa Emerson wants to know whether you enjoy doing voiceover work.

MCD: Oh, of course you have to love it any time you can go to the studio in pajamas, and the only preparation you have to do is take a shower and brush your teeth. You don't even have to memorize your lines. The script is right there in front of you. So, yeah, I love voiceover work. It's right up there with acting.

KW: Harriet Pakula Teweles says: Because of your size, you are often cast in a role of "The Heavy." Since that is not the real you, how difficult is it to assume that role?

MCD: It's kind of difficult, because once people enjoy you as "The Heavy," they want to see you as that all the time. And if you become pigeonholed, then there are only certain limited roles you can play. To help, I've trimmed my weight down to a solid 275 instead of being over 300 pounds.

KW: Judyth Piazza asks: What is the most important lesson that you have learned working in Hollywood?

MCD: Save your money. Save your money, because you could be very busy for a year, but then have the next one off. That's happened to me, but I put my money in the bank, Kam. I don't splurge. So, my best advice about working in Hollywood is: Save your money!

KW: Judyth also asks: If you could change one thing about Hollywood, what would it be?

MCD: How they do business. Kam, if you shake my hand and tell me we're going to do this or that project together, I'd believe you. But when I first got to Hollywood, I'd believe all the people who'd tell me they were going to put me in a movie. And I still haven't heard back from a lot of them to this day. I don't like it when someone can look you in the eye and lie to you, or pretend that they're more than you.

KW: Is there any question no one ever asks you, that you wish someone would?

MCD: [LOL] No, I just like answering the questions posed, because people can really come up with some off the wall stuff.

KW: What is your favorite dish to cook?

MCD: I made myself some pancakes this morning that were off the chain. I have to admit that I love pancakes and vegetarian meatloaf. I am a food connoisseur, although I don't eat pork. I'm lucky my girlfriend is a great chef, since eating is one of my favorite pastimes.

KW: What is your guiltiest pleasure?

MCD: Cheesecake! I just had some Cinnamon Chocolate Cheesecake, some German Chocolate Cheesecake and some Pineapple Upside-Down Cheesecake at The Cheesecake Factory the other night. So, I had to work my butt off the next day, because I'm trying to get in shape for my new television series, "The Finder."

KW: When you look in the mirror, what do you see?

MCD: An accomplished actor who was homeless twice. A person who was down on his luck in Chicago in 1996, crying his eyes out on the lakefront. I see a guy who told himself: There ain't no use in crying because nobody cares. You can either be a bum or follow your dream and try to make it. Today, I see a successful person when I look in the mirror.

KW: The Ling-Ju Yen question: What is your earliest childhood memory?

MCD: [Chuckles] My earliest memory is of the Christmas my mother bought me an Aurora race car set. That was the only gift I got that year, but I was the happiest kid in the world when she bought me that. I didn't care about anything else. But that was back in the day, I don't even know if Aurora's still in business anymore. That and Electric Football were my favorites when I was a kid

KW: Tudor Electric Football! I had that, and an HO-scale race car set, too.

MCD: See, you know what I'm talking about, Kam. I can reminisce with you without sounding weird.

KW: If you could have one wish instantly granted, what would that be for?

MCD: That's a no-brainer. Just to have my mother's health restored. Arthritis and other ailments have taken their toll, and she's not as vibrant as she used to be. My wish would be to have her health back the way it was in the Sixties when she would play catch with me, throw a football with me, and teach me how to hold a bat. Yeah, my wish would be for my mother to have excellent health.

KW: The Columbus Short question: Are you happy?

MCD: Yes, extremely happy. You gotta remember I was homeless. Whenever I think I have something to complain about. I go outside, walk across the street and look at my home, and remind myself of the time I was living on the damn lakefront in a car full of garbage bags with clothes, and ask myself, "What do you possibly have to be upset about?" Kam, I have nothing to complain about. A friend of mine was just murdered, shot five times last Thursday as he was driving on a freeway entrance ramp. The last thing he did was dial 9-1-1. Another thing my mother told me as a child was, "Always wake up with a smile on your face, because a lot of people who went to sleep last night are not with us this morning." So, I'm extremely happy, Kam.

KW: Looks like your mother has given you a lot of sound advice over the years.

MCD: Yeah, she's never steered me wrong. I remember when Martin Luther King was shot and people started rioting in Chicago. My mother whacked me on my butt just because I balled up a piece of paper and threw it out the window. She asked me, "Why did you do that?" I said, "Because they killed Martin Luther King." She said, "just think, where are we gonna buy our



Michael Clark Duncan

groceries, if they burn all the stores down?" I hadn't thought of that.



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