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SPEAKERS

Jennifer Roland Cadiente, Miranda Roldán



Miranda Roldán 00:00

It's truly because you have a passion for it. And that it is doable. And it is doable with a day job. You just have to get creative with it. And you have to really get confident that you're going to call yourself the actor that you are. Because that's how you're going to have to walk through life in order to have the success and the opportunities that you want. Hello, and welcome to the Grow your side hustle Podcast, the podcast for entrepreneurs who want to grow a side business into their full time gig or a second stream of income. I'm Jennifer Roland Cadiente, your host, and today we're joined by Miranda Rodon. Miranda is an actress who you may have seen in various TV guest appearances and commercials, or most recently in the movie, The Story life of AJ Vickery. Miranda is also a dental hygienist. So we're going to talk to her about how she manages both demanding careers. Hi, Miranda, thanks for joining us today. Thank you for having me, Jennifer. So I invited you on because you have a pretty interesting mix of careers. You're both an actress and a dental hygienist. So how did you get started in acting? Okay, it's kind of that question of like the chicken before the egg, right? When it comes to both careers. I've been, I've been a performer my whole life. So in high school, and even when I was younger, like I did some of the school plays, and I really loved them. But I was a dancer primarily. So I did a lot of competitive dancing. And if anybody is of that world, and the moms that know what's involved there, it's pretty intense. So you have usually not just one dance, you have multiple dances like group numbers and solos and Duo's and trios. And there's a lot of makeup and a lot of scheduling and a lot of rehearsal. But that's where I really found my true first love of performing. And I believe that it's truly been the foundation of my self confidence today, if I didn't have that in my life originally. So dancing allowed me to meet a lot of different people. And I was a competitive dancer for about 15 years, I even went to college and was on the dance team. So if you went to a basketball game or football game, I was there dancing along cheer on the teams. And that was a lot of fun. And throughout college was when I really got more involved in the acting scene, because acting and modeling Seino I'll put it that way. I had looked for representation or looked into I really didn't know much about the life at all, like nobody in my family comes from a creative field at all. So it was very much driven by my curiosity and kind of figuring out things the hard way sometimes. But my parents were always very, very supportive. So in college, I started modeling as like a headshot photography model

for photographer who gave classes who to people who wanted to learn like how to do business headshots, if you will. And he was like, I'll pay you \$100 Cash, if you want to, if you model like once or twice a month, and \$100 cash to a college student is like oh, yeah, that was like tons of money. Oh my gosh, it was so great. And depending on how well the class did like how full it got, you know, he may give me a little bit more but it was a really he was very helpful and his wife was also very kind to me and they kind of helped connect me to the like local commercial market. So modeling and acting kind of have this overlap sometimes. And I just started to dip my toe into it and modeling was fun. Um, I also entered into a pageant which was new for me I did not come from pageant world either and I ended up winning. I wrote wow, I was first shot like one of those local pageants and it was I wore my prom dress the pageant as my evening gown where because I didn't have the money we also didn't write what we were getting into and all this so my mom's like you're gonna wear your your prom dress to to this thing and I paid enough for it you know we pay exactly. You should wear it again. I know I thought that was a pretty good idea and I liked the dress so I said why not and ended up winning the pageant but it wasn't what I thought it was going to be I thought it would be a lot more like interviews and talent and things like that it was pretty much just like a teeny tiny little interview and then a lot of like fashion runway stuff. So I began to hunt for something with like a little bit more some substance I I kind of I think if I have a lot of respect for pageants actually like the Miss America Line like has a lot of scholarship and go in and there's a lot of great opportunity nobody's there. Had I been, you know, had a mentor or something maybe to guide me in that way than I would have done it. But I just was kind of like, well, I one that was fun, and went on my merry way. But it did open me up to more, you know, modeling and local commercial opportunity. It was It sounds like you got a lot of practice being in front of people and on camera, which are very different skills, and very hard to master. Yes, definitely. I was always kind of naturally a social butterfly. So that part of the people part wasn't hard. But the on camera stuff definitely takes a lot of class and a lot of learning. So I started diving into taking more classes, you know, really wanting to expand, you know, beyond even the commercial world, and studied really hard and began to really love it. And I kind of realized that I really loved it and didn't want to do my other career, which was dental hygiene. When I was I had like a quarter life crisis, I call it when I was 25. I was like, I really want to try to pursue this thing full time. So that is in our journey, because that full time you know, desire definitely takes some maneuvering. And it doesn't happen overnight. Right. And so how did you pick dental hygiene as they your job to make money? Great question. So I was looking at acting and modeling as kind of a that was my side thing at the time, as a fun thing to do. And I liked it, and I made some money on it. So that's great, made some book money, you know, with that with a photography money, I could pay for my books and pay for gas. When I was in college, or when I was in high school, excuse me, I was on a path of either going to nursing school or dental hygiene school. I want I loved both careers. But I kind of had a little bit more of a of an affinity towards dental hygiene. I had a really great dental hygienist growing up. I also worked as a dental assistant in high school. It was for my mom worked at this dental office years ago. And she worked as the assistant to our dentist and she has transitioned and did a whole different other career. But she's like, you know, that was actually a pretty good job, you know, pretty lucrative for a high school student, you can be trained on the job, why don't you go do that. And that's, you know, he'll help you out. And he was also like the track coach of our high school team. And he was trying to get me to go on the track team dancing too much. And it was a whole. So I think he really hired me because he wanted me on his track team. But let's but I started, you know, I knew dental really well at that point as far as the assistant goes. So it just came naturally. And I ended up getting into my first pick for dental hygiene school. And I didn't get into my first pick for nursing school. You know, it's very competitive. Yeah. So I said, you know, that's the sign. That's the sign, let's go and, you know, do this whole college thing. So what's what some people may not know about dental hygiene, though, is that it's an extremely

flexible career. That was going to be a question that I asked, okay asked you because, you know, we hear you know, the, the traditional thing is that people act, who are acting work as a waiter, because it's so flexible. Yep. Yeah, it's so nice to know that dental hygiene also gives you that it really I am so grateful for this career. It's given me a lot, you know, as far as really being the thing that paid my bills as I explored acting more. And I liked I liked hygiene because I could work you can work part time and make full time money. Yeah, who doesn't like that? And on top of it, you know, I wanted to go to school people don't sometimes understand that you have to actually go to school and get a license for dental hygiene rooms and saying like, you know, they kind of confused the dental assistant to the hygienist to the doctor, we get confused all the time. But there's three very different roles in the office. Yeah. But I loved I loved knowing how flexible it was, and that you can also temp a lot as they call in the world. I say freelance, because I actually made a full time gig out of freelancing, quote unquote, temping in the dental world they need they need people to fill in all the time. And I really built my life around exploring acting through this ability to be so flexible, because you really have to be flexible to explore acting and absolutely audition. Most auditions take place between Monday through Friday 10 to like 4pm ish. Maybe some nighttime ones sometimes but most likely, you know, Monday through Friday, the normal working hours of a normal person which is why waiting and bartending and things like that are such desirable in the performing arts. But I wanted to really explore and become a dental hygienist. At that time. That was my only goal. It wasn't acting, it was just like, oh, that's for fun. My second goal was to become a hygienist and I became a hygienist like, right at a high school in college. So I got my license before I could drink alcohol. Wow. Which I think back. I'm like, wow, that was pretty impressive. Miranda. I'm very hard worker, very studious, you know. And I was just glad that I got that part of my life out of the way early because it was it was not easy to go to school and study hygiene. It's, it's very intense, but it's also very rewarding at the same time. Yeah, and I mean, it sounds like with your dance activities, and having a job and studying science classes. You've been juggling since high school. Yes, that's exactly I like learned to time manage so early on from high school, because my day would literally be get up, go to school, stay for field hockey practice until about four something, then go home, shower, eat something, maybe, maybe get a little bit of homework in if you had time. But then go and grab my dance bag and like head to dance class for like six or 7pm. And then I think I was in dance class, like three days a week. And then once on the weekends, as I got a little bit older, so I had a very intense schedule. And I'm glad for it, because it made a lot of friends. Right. But it also allowed me to time manage. So I felt like I could juggle a lot of things later in life because I was used to it. Yeah, yeah. I mean, it sounds like those skills that you learned young, are just continuing to pay off for you. I think so. And I appreciate my parents for you know, always guiding me in that way. They, they taught my sister and I to be extremely independent, one out of necessity, but to write, you know, they were very independent people. And if we wanted to do a lot of things, my sister and I had so many interests, like, We never wanted to miss a beat on anything. And in order to do that, though, like my parents can't drive us around everywhere. So I was excited to get my license. And then once I got my license, I had to drive my sister around everywhere. But we were happy to do it. And I was grateful, you know, my aunt and uncle gifted me a very old 92 Dodge Shatto car. And this poor thing, like could barely make it up the hill, okay, like it was just meant to put around town. It didn't have any heat roll, the AC was rolling down the windows, I mean, but I was so grateful for that car, because I wouldn't been able to do what I could do and like, random all the all the activities. So it sounds like, you know, your hygiene allows you to do auditions. And I'm assuming take classes. You know, I you know, I'm assuming that you that you keep keep your training going for acting. I do. The career's very expensive. Yeah, acting is not cheap at all. So on top of having to try to juggle a flexible schedule, you also need to make enough money to afford to pursue things like acting classes. And to me, I was already working to in high school to help also pay for my dance classes. So me working towards my acting

classes also came natural for the most part. A big pivotal point, though, that I will say is when I made the decision to really pursue full time acting. I was working full time in Washington, DC I'd taken a full time hygiene job at a nonprofit community health center. Oh, wow. Yeah. And that was a great experience. And I did it for a little over two years with the expectations that they would it would help qualify me for a government program that would help pay back some of my student loans. Because I went ended up going to a private hygiene school which which was pricey private schools now. I could have went to a community college but at the time, the community college waitlist was four years in. Oh, wow. And I'm an impatient person. Yeah, I did not want to wait. And I also wanted the college experience. I wanted to go away I wanted to dorm I wanted to you know, really live that college life. I didn't want to be home and you know, with my parents I wanted to get out of my small town and there's nothing wrong with X looking back. I'm like, Man, I had it so good. I kind of went to school like not had any loans coming out of here. But I don't regret it and I was able to study abroad during that time too. So yeah, it was really good. But then you know, those bills coming quick and I needed to make a move. So I went to DC which was my first city also. A Wow, that came I grew up in a small town in in Western Massachusetts, and you know, Boston was our big city, which I don't know if you've ever been to Boston, it's really not that big, you know. So with that being said, I, I was able to really sink my teeth in into the acting industry in DC. There's quite a few opportunities there. And I started booking. And I'll never forget the moment where I booked this like Investigation Discovery Series as the lead. And this is like, maybe my, I think this is like my first real TV audition, and I ended up booking insanity. Insanity, I was beginner's luck there. And I remember thinking, they gave me the shoot dates, and I was like, Oh, well, I guess I can't do it, because I can't take the time off of my day job. Right. And I did have a representative at that time that each end and I was talking to her, I was like, I'm going to have to put in some time, like, I'm not sure if I'm gonna be able to do it. And she's like, What are you talking about? She's like, this is the lead role, like, figure it out, basically. Yeah. And, and I had a really supportive like, team and everything, and I was able to make it work. But that was the beginning of like, okay, we really need to juggle this if we're going to do this seriously. So I can't work full time nine to five, if I'm going to pursue this job because, or this career, because it's it's a doozy. Yeah. So after you decided, you know that that full time was not going to work for you? How did you make that switch? Woof. So I began to try to look for people who were in a similar position as me, and how they did it. I was so desperate for a mentor. And I didn't really have one. And at the time, podcasts weren't really thing. Couldn't really listen, anybody was more of just trying to follow these acting teachers. Right. But also another secret is that there was not a whole lot of actor hygenist out there. No, you're the first I've heard of. Right. Thank you. Thank you. I've met several since. But through like the community, which has been really cool, but we are a very small niche. And I just had to figure out this thing myself. So I figured when I went wanted to go full time was when my full time job actually never gave me money towards my student loans. It was I signed a two year contract and everything left up to the government. And the government basically said, like, Thanks for trying, but not you this year. So I applied, no, so sad. So I applied again, we can only apply once every six months at this time with that program. I applied again, and it takes about six months to hear anything back. So it was a lot of like waiting game. And if I had if they had approved me, I would have been contracted to have to do another two years. So I was really at this crossroads of like, I had applied three times at this point and was denied this program three times. And no one could tell me why. And I said, I kind of took that as a sign of like, you know, I think I meant for more. Yeah. And I always knew in my heart, but I was always really scared to be like, Oh, but I'm going to actually pursue acting with this is terrifying. Yeah. Scary. It's a mental shift. I'm really and and the only person who can get you through that is yourself. I had to start calling myself an actor and being proud of saying that. And that took a little bit of mindset shift. I was really big into the secret at the time, like the book. I don't know if you're familiar with it. i Yes. Yeah. And there is another book,

and I'm, oh, my gosh, the book is this time I dance by Tamra something. I have to look it up. Google it. She was a writer, like yourself, who made the transition from being a lawyer to a writer. And her book really inspired me. Because she did it. And she had this high paying lawyer job, you know? Yeah. And she was able to like transition into the creative life. And I just remember being very inspired by her and being like, if she can do it, I can do it, too. And so I looked for representation. I did a showcase in Washington, DC. And I got representation in New York, because there were some agents that came down. And looking back at that was such a life changing moment. I met one of my best friends during that showcase Anna, we ended up being roommates in New York City when we moved there, which you absolutely need in New York City. Yes, you need a roommate. One is a luxury probably. Yeah. Same thing with LA, you know, it's not cheap. It's not cheap. But I was young and it felt like college and to have another buddy who was going through the same journey as I was was really, really helpful. Like we really leaned on each other than, but we both got representation which we were so lucky, you know, there was only a handful of talent that got representation that weekend. And that was when I was like, Okay, I'm moving to New York. And if I'm moving to New York, I'm not going to be a full time hygienist. So I got my license in New York, and I started freelancing. And then because it's a city, there's so much so many dental offices there. Hi, Jennison that call out all the time and go to vacate, go on vacation and everything. I became the temp agencies favorite hygienist to call and they kept me very busy in between my acting auditions. It's great, though I would book I would book a dental hygiene job on a day that I didn't have an audition I worked at. Yep. And sometimes I would have to cancel my temp hygiene job if an audition came up, because they come up very last minute. Yeah, unfortunately. It's just how the business works. Yeah, well, you must be really good at the dental hygiene, if you could still be their favorite when if you cancel because I know some, you know, some agencies, once you canceled two or three times, they're like, Yeah, we don't want to work with you anymore. Hmm. No, definitely. And that's, I think actors just get a really bad rap from like, it's comes with the territory, not because we want to purposely be flaky or anything like that. Like, it's just the circumstance of the job. And unfortunately, it's very time consuming. And the way the industry works so fast is that, you know, everyone's replaceable, they can always find another actor, it's a really big opportunity, you never know what kind of opportunity it's going to present with. So you never, you don't want to say no to that. And it's, it's almost like, you know, the acting business can be a little bit of a bully, like, it's like, being on the highway baby. Just kind of like are like, Okay, I'll make it work. And I think what, at first, I was hesitant to tell anyone I was an actor for that reason. Like, I was worried that they were gonna be like, Oh, they're never going to show up to work, or whatever it is. But I ended up finding being transparent was the best thing for me. I told the agency that I was an actor, and then I only planned on doing this, you know, freelancing gig. That's all I want, like, call me. And I and I love they loved me because I would take the last minute thoughts. So the morning of they knew they could call me and say, Hey, we just got a call in, can you make it and if I didn't have anything going on, I would go in. So sometimes I would have to like Rush and get all my stuff together and like, hop on the subway quickly. But they love that because now the dental office loves the agency, because they found somebody who will go in, and they just say love me, because they knew that they could call me and there was a high chance that I would, you know, say yes. Or if I if I couldn't do it, I would give them names of other hygienists that I also knew that were temping. And that would help them. You know, I would say, Hey, I can't do it. But someone still can do it. And then I'd even reach out to those friends be like, hey, there's an office, if anybody wants to go in today, or can go in, and then you make friends and alliances, if you will. And they would send me their people and their days, and I just, I it was a great way to get to know the city. Like I learned. I met a lot of people, a lot of people. Yeah, and I'm sure learned all the neighborhoods. Oh, for sure. Yeah. You know, the neighborhoods that have money, you know, the neighborhoods and the offices that like you don't ever want to work at ever again. And that was a luxury. I hated an office or if

they were mean to me or something was fishy and weird. And I didn't want to go back. I didn't have to, which was awesome. Yeah. Yeah, that is a nice thing about not being full time is, you know, when when it's your full time job, and you realize you hate it, you got a lot of work to do to replace that thing. It's, it's tough. It's tough. But I having I know, a lot of people tend to not want to leave their job because it feels safe, but they're miserable. But having been on the other side, and having transitioned a good amount of times and moved different cities and listen, go do it. There's gonna be something better out there. And I don't mean that from like, oh, is the grass greener? Like you have opportunities? And life's too short to be miserable. Yeah, and I think mindset comes into play there to where if you feel like you're going to be moving into something better. You're going to find something better. Yeah, it may not be the first thing you find. Exactly. And it may take a minute but you may need to do that transition in order to find find your your forever home have your forever job that you actually like. Yes. So I would say give them the confidence to look around to try new things. That's how most people make more money is by jumping, you know, positions in time. early. Yeah, you can jump by 1020 grand. So I think it's smart. It's smart to do that and to open yourself up and gain more experience in other areas. Do you see a time coming when you aren't also a dental hygienist? I think about this a lot, Jennifer. And I feel like I'm almost there. And I've been in the business. So exciting. It is, it is. It's very exciting. There's a couple of life things that have helped me get to this point. And I think that's important to know, with our conversation, because I think there's a fantasy that like one day, you just get that one gig and then everything changes. And it could vary, but it takes time. And that one gig most likely isn't paying all your bills put it that way. But it could be the stepping stone, right? I right now would say that I'm 75% actor 25% Dental Hygienist nice eye, which I'm just so grateful for, because I have like, prayed for this day. And I remember being in a city where I'm like, Oh, I cannot wait until I get more acting gigs than hygiene gigs. You know, I don't have to take as many hygiene gigs because the acting is supporting it. And it's just like such a beautiful thing. So I don't ever see myself not having my license. Like I will always I worked hard for that. It's why no one's taking it away. I will maintain you have to maintain certain like continuing education credits for it and everything. But I just I feel like, you know, I really do enjoy that career from like a patient health standpoint. And being an educator like there is a, there's a special place in my heart for dental hygiene. And I've tried a lot of different avenues. I wasn't just a freelance hygienist. I've become a coach and consultant. I've done I was a spokesperson for many dental brands. Yeah, which is pretty cool. There's actually a if you go to the website for crest and Oral B, you may have heard of it. And they do this whole hygenist campaign. And they wanted a hygienist and an actor. And I mean, my agent, we're so excited. She's like this, is it. This is your dream job. Because I had always said like, how cool would it be to be able to combine both professions? Right? They were doing a whole movement on recognizing the dental hygienists, which is it's a big deal for us. Because sometimes I feel like I just feel a little forgotten about the dental world. It's either like all about the dentist, usually, or maybe like the hygienist is just kind of like that other person in between. So for them to really recognize us and appreciate what we do, because we do a lot. Not you know, we're not just the lady who cleans your teeth, or the lady who really takes care of you and advocates for you and teaches you how to have better health for you and your family and prevent disease. So it's important, but um, when they were doing this whole very wonderful movement, they're like, yes, we want to hygenist with on camera experience, and I basically walked into that audition, and I was like, say no more. I'm here. Yes. Yeah, I mean, the on-camera thing is so challenging because you have to spend the time to get used to it. Whereas, you know, if you just took a normal civilian like me, you know, we're looking at the camera, we don't know what to do with our hands, we, you know, we everything sounds funny when it comes out of our mouth. Repetition is everything you know, and then you learn like some commercials are great because you don't have to talk to them at all. And it's just more like my and then others are correct, where you have lots of lines and I just didn't I've learned to enjoy

all aspects of it. And I think that's why I really love the profession so much just because I am a creative person at heart. And there's just such a variety like there's something different every day and that I love, love, love, love. Yeah, and I think you know it's it's smart from a business standpoint to keep that hygiene opportunity open not to say you know that you're not going to make it but it's a fickle industry and even if you get you know a series regular job that series ends it may not pay you enough to live on the rest of your life and you may not get cast again for a long time. Yeah, that you've you've really nailed it there. It's unpredictable which I love but also hate. So it's a love hate. Yeah. And you you do need to have like you need to diversify your income I would say that I think the pandemic also taught us that a lot you know if you can't do one thing you like the acting industry was completely shut down. And I relied on my hygiene job but then my highly gene job clinically furloughed me for a little while. There were some offices that were open but that's when I'm My transition to become a dental coach and consultant. So interesting how certain decisions influence you, but like I needed my hygiene experience to be able to do that. So I'm grateful for that. And I think diversifying your income is a super smart thing to do to ask actors, like, what else do you do and my husband and I have started to get into like real estate investment properties, we're looking at these like that's, you know, another source of income. And I'm always looking for an opportunity to, you know, do something that I like, but learn something new, and then also, hopefully monetize from it in some capacity. I think it's, what I love about the side hustle world is that you can always, you know, even if you're trying to grow that side, hustle into your full time income source, you can always be doing something else to make sure that you're not reliant just on one income stream. Absolutely. And I think with acting to like, you'd become so emotionally invested into that career, because it tends to be your passion, right. And so if you put all this pressure on your passion to make the bills, it kind of takes the life out of it a little bit for you. So if you have something else to help support you, it just keeps your engine running longer. I've been at this for almost 12 years now being an actor, and pursuing this life, because it really is a lifestyle. The day you've come, I've completely shifted my life and in the day to day, but I wouldn't change it for the world. But you need to know that you need to know that it's a transition. And I feel like there's been a lot of different phases. So I was working a lot clinically for a while because I was living in New York City, which is very expensive, at this high student loan debt. So working that plus trying to afford acting classes on top of that, and just like living and being a somewhat social person, you know, when I could, and then I'll say that, when my husband and I got together, before we got married, we really had a big discussion, he didn't have any student loans. He was in the army, he's a reservists now. And so they had a lot of benefit from that. And not having to pay, you know, for school that way. So it was just me, just me and my student loan debt, and how we were going to address it. And I told him, that was like the biggest heaviest thing that was preventing me from, you know, investing my money elsewhere. So once you know, we made the pact to pay it off, and I'm grateful for his help, it really was a team effort. And I remember having actor friends who were married or you know, with a partner or living, you know, in an apartment with a partner, and I wouldn't call it envious, but I would say that I admired the fact that like they really did work as a team, and that it was really financially savvy to live with your significant other. Yeah, split costs and all that stuff. So I was like, Oh, I can't wait for the day that I find my man. And I did great. And, you know, so supportive. And so just so enthusiastic for me for my career, which I really appreciate. But it was a partnership, and we paid off my student loan debt. And that released a lot of extra money each month to be able to reinvest into other things, which also helped allow me to not have to work hygiene as much. So it was kind of like trimming things back, you know, and like pushing forward and other directions, trimming things back and pushing forward. And so then once we got our other investment property got some more income from that I'm able to, I don't have to work as many hygiene days because now we have additional income. So that's the way I did it, you know, as far as peeling back, and then it allowed me to audition more because I

had more time. And I could take more gigs that were maybe, you know, I have to be away for a week, I just came back from a gig I did in Atlanta, and I was gone for four days. So do that. But if you're still working or you feel like you have to, you know, maybe say and do hygiene because you need that fixed income versus exacting income. Right? You have to make your decisions because No, you gotta be smart about it. And there's no one cookie cutter system for every single Yeah, and when we're doing something creative, the the mindset and the you have to feel good about what you're doing. And when you're you're worrying about money, or you know, all these other things. You can't be as creative you're not as good at what you're doing. You feel really stuck and it becomes a chore or like miserable and you feel that energy. I mean, actors were word self taping a lot. So I'm doing a lot of my auditions through my own videos, which I love. But we go in the room a lot, and our actor prefer that but if they could sense that desperation or that misery ever Like, no one, they could even not be super aware of it, but they just sense it in their body like, that, unfortunately hurts you. And your chances of booking the best energies to kind of go in with optimism, in my opinion and gratitude, have fun with it as much as you can. It's okay to be a little nervous, because that means it's important to you. But then like, leave and forget about it. Yeah, you get called Great. If you don't, that's okay. Yeah, you know, that seems like the hardest thing about the acting lifestyle is to be constantly going out there, and having to just be dependent on someone else's needs. Because it's, you know, it's not you, that is not getting the job. It's that what you're showing them isn't exactly the right thing for them. Mm hmm. Oh, yeah. And that's hard. It is hard. You have to it's a business that they want you to be completely vulnerable. And like, you know, bare your soul, like, make it almost and but then you also like, can't care because it's a business at the end. Yeah. And it isn't personal. It's just they, you know, your, your strawberry flavored ice cream, and they need pistachio, like, there's just two very different things. And, you know, that doesn't mean they don't need strawberry ice cream for something else. So at least they saw you they got a taste, and then they'll bring you back and other times. So I always see that as a win no matter what if you got called in. I mean, the, the percentage of you getting called in is such a lucky thing. Because I mean, when I hear that, a casting director got a submission for one role. I think a calculator said that she got like, 7500 submissions, with 700 agents and managers and people saying, they're right for this role. Look at me, call me, right. And from that number, maybe they pick 100, which still seems like a lot, okay, and then from them, narrow it down. And when you would go in person, it would be down to like 20. So if you've got in the room, you bet you showed up to that audition, I'll tell you that. And then also, yeah, you should take it as a win that you got to meet them, they got to see you face to face, they looked at your tape, whatever it is. So I try to keep that in mind. Because sometimes you do get a little bogged down though, because you're like, Okay, I've done 75 auditions, and I haven't heard anything yet. Like, am I good? Like, do I need to fix anything but right? You just don't know. And it's totally out of your hands, which some people can't handle like that. They don't have control of their career in that way. And I'll be honest, for somebody who's been so calculated, you know, I went through hygiene school, and I feel like I kind of had it together for the most part to embrace a, a career. That's so unpredictable. And so out of your control is very challenging some days. It's very hard. Emotionally. Yeah. Yeah. So how do you keep that positive energy towards your career? I remind myself that I love it. And then it's fun, because I mean, I've been doing this for 12 years. And if I didn't love it, I'll tell you right now, I wouldn't have continued with it. I think of like any other job. Um, like, if there's any other job, if I was like that miserable, I would not stay. So obviously, I believe God put this in my heart as a calling. So I need to honor that because not going away. And then I also feel like a sense of community is really important. And that's why I love God so much. Because you get to hear other people's stories, you get to hear their struggles or just even their path and that knowing that like you're not the only person going through that is really reassuring. I loved meeting my actors on set, like, cuz you spent so much time auditioning and going to class and doing your headshots and then preparing to do the

audition. Then you do the audition and you do more auditions. And then if you actually booked something, the percentage that you're actually on set, unless you're a series regular for like, you know, like Mariska Hargitay for years and she has her own show and all that stuff. The percentage that you're actually on set is so small. So what are you doing in on the outside to nourish and fill your cup until you make it into that trophy moment of? Yeah, I'm on set I made it I did I booked it. So I think talking to other actors and seeing what they do is really helpful laughing with them. And then if you get really down I have found that a therapist is part of the actor toolkit like started back actor, you need to get maybe a financial planner and then learn how to shop you know, like Yes, sir.



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 39:57

Yes, I and you mentioned Mariska Hargitay, which is one thing I was gonna mention is, you always hear you know, if you're an actor in New York, you have to be on a law and order. And you were on a law and order episode. You did it.



Miranda Roldán 40:15

You did your homework. Yes, that was amazing. I really does. It feels like okay, you're a real New York actor. And I did get to meet her. My scene was with her and Carl Weathers who played Apollo? Wow. Yeah. Yeah. From rock, the Rocky movies. Now, this is really embarrassing. But I was so nervous that day, and like focus, do and that set is the best running set. I mean, it is a well oiled machine over there. They really know what they're doing. And they were so sweet. And she really took the time to say hi, but I had no idea that was Carl Weathers until like, halfway down the scene. With him, I just thought that actor, you know, he comes out a leader because the guest star actors, you know, they don't they don't let them mingle with the other. Right. So everyone's kind of segregated a little bit. And so kind and nice to me. And it just, it took me like probably far too long to realize who he was.



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 41:14

Always thought that that would be the thing is like, you know, you see, you think, Oh, I would recognize this actor. But if you're not watching them on a show or a movie, you're not expecting to see them. Right, you know, like, you just, you know, I just have always thought I would probably I probably walked by famous people all the time, and never noticed.



Miranda Roldán 41:37

I bet I bet you do. And you know, because they look normal, and they're wearing hats, and whatever. But I'm really bad with names. I'm horrible. So I always try to learn. I try to learn three names a day while I'm on set. Because I do think the value of learning names is really important. Yeah, I think you know, the crew works so hard. And I think it's less job sometimes for them. So I try my best to learn their names. But also like names of celebrity, I'm horrible. I'm like, oh, that person I know that face. They're famous.



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 42:11

Yeah. Okay, that's the person from that one thing, right? From that one thing?



Miranda Roldán 42:15

My husband's much better at it. So I'll like go to that person in that movie with the yellow. Random really strong, stupid, but you know, I'm working on it working on it.



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 42:28

And I feel like acting really has to be a community, or else it's not going to be rewarding for you.



Miranda Roldán 42:38

Yeah. It, I mean, you have to work together as a tribe, you will. And the crazy thing is I mean, theater acting is so different from TV/film, as far as building that community. I think theater acting, which I have done, and I like it, I just prefer to do TV/film. That's my jam. Like you're doing the same. Play the same routine musical for months and months and months. You're traveling together. I mean, you're so close by the end of that project being finished. Like they're lifelong friends and family and you see them every day. Very different experience from TV film, where you literally show up to a set, and nobody knows who you are, even though they're like, actor, right? Like, it's very humbling. It's very humbling sometimes to go on set because you think you're like, I finally booked this thing. This is so great. And they're like, Yeah, who are you? Who are who we are this way, you know, like they're just doing their job because it's right faces all the time. And unless you're a big name, then then I think it's a little bit different. I don't know. We'll see. I'm always humbling this this career is it's never as glamorous as you think it is. From behind the scenes anyways, but yeah, they'll they'll, you're lucky if they know who you are. And you do your thing.



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 43:58

And you have to build like you have to act like you have known each other for you know, however long you're supposed to have known each other



Miranda Roldán 44:05

Yeah, you know, it's kind of this weird um, it's this weird experience of feeling like you're the new kid at school and you're gonna go sit and have lunch and eat with these people and like the series regulars obviously know each other, they've you know, been working with each other a lot, but like if you're gonna go sit with anybody else, like it's a very awkward experience sometimes and so you really do need to put yourself out there and introduce yourself and say

hi and strike up a conversation and we know I don't care I'll sit with hair makeup I'll sit with whatever person and you know, I can kind of tell if they don't want to be bothered, that's fine, but I tried.



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 44:42

And I bet hair and makeup have the best stories.



Miranda Roldán 44:45

Oh, they do. They're one of the friendliest on because they are so you know, you talk to them a lot throughout the day that is nihilists. Like those are usually your friends on set in my opinion, other than your classmates, but like even your classmates I mean they're times where I didn't have one conversation before, you know, rolling camera happened. So that was really interesting. And you have to make it believable. Exactly. Yeah. And then at the end of the day, and there's a very high chance that you never see these people. Yes. So it's a very weird experience.



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 45:15

Yeah. I know. And, you know, people always are like, Oh, you mean, you're not best friends with the, you know, the guy that you were on a show with for six months? And, you know, I mean, sometimes you are, sometimes you aren't, it's just like any other job.



Miranda Roldán 45:31

Yep, that's exactly it. So, you know, they could be super reserved, where they just like retreat back to their trailer or their, you know, their own room or whatever, and like, never want to interact with anybody or they do become a really good friend. It just all depends. It's just, it is really just like work. Like, who do you vibe with? And who do you strike up conversation with? And like, who's kind and all that stuff?



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 45:54

Yeah. Yeah. Did you ever read Jenna Fischer's book that came out a few years ago?



Miranda Roldán 46:00

I love that audiobook. I love that too. You're good at it. I think she did such a great job. I like to listen, when actors come out with books, or comedians come out with books, I get the audiobook because I want to hear their voice. And yeah, I know that they're telling the story the best way. So I listened to her audiobook, and I thought she was great. And I loved hearing her story about, you know, being an actor in LA and her journey to the office and all of that. It's really great. Yeah, and I think, you know, there are so many lessons to be learned from, for any

creative from that book about, you know, finding your own way, and doing the work that it takes to get to where you need to be, and building that community. Because I you know, I remember her saying that one of the most important things for her getting that job on the office was being a good audition or for that casting director. Hmm. You know, and having built that relationship, that, that that person knew that they would send her on the jobs that she was right for. And then she was reliable, and that they would call her in. I mean, that's huge. That's huge. I mean, I so envy casting directors, they have to try to remember a million faces. I know. And some are very, very good at it. But I'll say like, it is important, and it's your job as an actor to reintroduce yourself to them, because especially pandemic, who, oh, yeah, so you don't know who's in the industry anymore, and who's not a lot of people left. So I take that as an opportunity to like reconnect, say, Hello, and a lot of casting directors will change positions, you know, or they morphin different type of position or, I mean, it's important to try to be tapped into who's where and build that relationship. But I would say that, since the pandemic, it is has been a little bit more challenging to do that, because everybody's working from home. So how are you meet these people? At home, so you have to really take advantage to the online community and classes. And, you know, if the casting director wants to make themselves visible, like that, I know, from the actors perspective, are always very grateful for those opportunities to meet them and go show them our work.



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 48:16

Yeah, so as you, you know, kind of look holistically at your different careers. What advice could you offer someone who wants to make their side hustle work?



Miranda Roldán 48:30

My advice for people who want to make this work is knowing that it's a marathon and not a sprint. Yes. And if you're only seeking fame, you're gonna keep seeking it for a very long time. Because it's not, not why I believe you should get into this industry, it's truly because you have a passion for it. And that it is doable. And it is doable with a day job, you just have to get creative with it. And you have to really get confident that you're going to call yourself the actor that you are, because that's how you're going to have to walk through life in order to have the success and the opportunities that you want. So if you're willing to make a lifestyle change, there is a community here waiting for you to help show you the way and just to stay the course and learn as much as you can. But don't let that fire die and you should act on that desire if it's in your heart.



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 49:26

Yeah. And there's, it's so much of it is in your mind. Like, so much of the work needs to be done.



Miranda Roldán 49:36

So much of it and like you can have it's it is hard when you don't have family who supports you or you have friends that don't support you. You only just share them with them what you're doing at the moment if you can. or it may be time to start transitioning away from some of

going at the moment if you can, or it may be time to start transitioning away from some of those people. I know we can't do that family, but they can respect that this is a passion of yours and at the end of the day, are they paying your bills like You're the only one who needs to take care of you. Right. So I also learned that one of the greatest things I heard and I love it because I say it all the time is from my mentor Christine Horne. She says, opinions are like buttholes everyone's got one. And it couldn't be more true. So yeah.



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 50:24

I know when I've always heard the second part of that, and everyone thinks there's don't smell ever.



Miranda Roldán 50:30

Oh, I love that. Oh, my gosh, have that in my can I love that's so funny. Well, let me tell you, it gets real stinky. Okay, sometimes I know. Everyone's got one. So it's not going to matter. It doesn't matter at the end of the day, like whose opinions what, and if you make a big deal about it, usually it's because it's triggering something inside of them. And it's about them and not you. So maybe they also had the desire to pursue something but never had the courage to act on it. And now you are and that threatens them. I think so true. It's important to be aware of those people and to know that you don't need to share everything with them. Like the best success. Beyonce said it's another book, the best success is your paper. Or are you the best success is just the results? You know? Yeah, I had people. I have a feature film right now that's in theaters called the Storied Life of AJ Vickery. It's a pretty stacked cast. But Kunal saw that yeah, Christina? People. Yeah, so fun. And that was my first feature film that I saw myself on the big screen. And that was a huge moment for me. And even that, like, I'm so happy, we had a great weekend, like celebrating it. And it was fun. And you know, hearing from the grapevine that like, people are coming out of the woodwork like what's once you do what's, who's on me. And I found that so interesting, because I was like, so you're paying attention? Oh, I'm over here, just minding my own business, right? And then doing my it you'll you'll get them. They'll come out of the woodwork. But you're not successful if you don't have both haters, and fans, so. But it's for yourself. And as long as you feel like you're fulfilling your dream. That's all it matters. Yeah. All right. Well, thanks so much for joining us today. I've had a ton of fun talking to you and learning about your background. And I know that our listeners will will learn a ton from you, too. Thank you so much for having me. This was really wonderful. And I truly appreciate it, Jennifer.



Jennifer Roland Cadiente 52:43

Okay. So before I let you go, and let's tell people about your podcast.



Miranda Roldán 52:49

Oh, great. So I'm very excited because I decided to start a podcast and keep the conversation going with other actors. So my podcast is called the balancing act, your podcast, see what I did there? Yeah. And we talk about navigating a civilian life with your creative one, and everything

in between. So today was a really nice taste on that you had some great questions for me, Jennifer. And I, I'm excited to dive into with other actors that are on this journey with us. And we're gonna have a lot of funds that we'll be launching in January of 2023.



Jennifer Roland Cadiante 53:26

Nice, and I think it's gonna be a great resource for actors, especially those who haven't built their tribe yet.



Miranda Roldán 53:35

Thank you. That's really what my intention is, is to keep the conversation open and going because it can be a very closed mouth industry. And I'm here to just help be a vessel and opening that up a little bit more. Yeah. And you can find the trailer for that on I know, it's on Apple podcasts. Is it on all the other popular podcasts? Alright, so you can subscribe now, so you don't miss it? Yes, thank you. Yeah, go ahead and subscribe. And we'll see in January 2023. All right, thank you. Our top takeaways from today's episode, are to make sure that you remain flexible, so that you can make both your side hustle and your day job work as long as you need to. Listen to the science the universe gives you. When you know something comes through, maybe that's a sign that that's the direction that you need to be moving in. When something continually falls apart. Maybe that's a sign that it's time to go in a different direction. Be willing to make a change in your life. It can be really scary to think about, you know, leaving a safe or secure day job. But if it's if it's interfering with your passion, then maybe it's time. Also make sure that you are building a community within and outside of your side hustle. Most of us are not in competition, even though our society may make us feel like we are. Rather we can work together to help build each other up and keep each other going through the hard times. Thanks so much for joining us today. Don't forget to subscribe so you won't miss any of our future episodes with other side hustlers and some experts to help you deal with some of those small and large issues that come up when you're running a side hustle. I'd also love it if you could share this episode with any of your friends that you think would be interested and leave a review and a rating in your podcast app. See you next week.