

“You are the entertainers entertainer.” S. Poretskin

Hi Toby,

I will be traveling for the next few days so if you do not hear from me that is why. I was meaning to write to you sooner to express my gratitude for dinner and spending time with me but I have been busy this week. It was none less than a pleasure meeting your lovely wife and daughter. I really enjoyed my time with them and you. I have a few things I want to say to you so here goes....

I have known you a long time and I want you to know that I have always admired you and respected you as a person, artist and peer. You have a tremendous amount of talent. You are a rare breed. You married someone in the business, you grew up in the business and you spent your life in the business. Most clowns and performers in general (professionals) would want to be you. Your relaxed attitude probably kills them because you are living and have lived what they wish for. A "real" clown - entertainer - variety artist - inventor - artist of the rarest type. There are a lot of clowns but you are living history. No, I am not saying you are old. Your life as an entertainer and your background is what most of these other people wish they were. What I am trying to say is during my career as a performer (since 8 as a singer in the Catskills) I grew up with a similar type of background (my mom was a singer on the Bess Meyerson TV show filmed at the Ed Sullivan Theater) and I spent every weekend as a kid hanging out waiting for mom to finish her gigs. I loved it. No one is perfect. Every entertainer has gigs that go smooth as silk and then sometimes bomb doing the exact same routines. People have different perceptions on things but you are a pro Toby. You are the entertainers entertainer.

They talk about Trump. They talk about Sinatra, They talk about Toby! Stories of when they worked with him, when he was funny, when he was clever, when they were not happy, they just love to talk about you! That is admiration. Everyone likes to brag about who they know. I have been booking artists since 1984 and a few that I have thought were the tops that I have booked are as follows. Johnny Cash, Rodney Dangerfield, Sean Emery, Toby Ballantine, and there are some others. Why Johnny? True Pro, great man, respectful, caring to work with. Why Rodney? Always made me feel at ease and made sure my customers felt special, Why Sean? He would use his 120% high energy on a gig from start to end. Why Toby? When he shows up you know you hired a Pro by one look and you can see in his eyes that it comes natural. The customers would be wowed even before the start. One last note. I know that there are customers that sometimes would say Johnny's music is boring, Rodney's jokes are rude, Anyone can juggle like Sean, etc.. but I love Jim Carrey yet my mom thinks he is the worst (so who is right?). Entertainment is in the eye of the beholder. So what is the point of all of this? Just to let you know that I like you, I see you as the true professional that you are. I admire you, I am lucky to know you and have you as a friend. You are part of my life and knowing you has made it more fulfilling for me. You are an inspiration and you make a difference because you are what many are striving to be. I bet you didn't know that. Thank you again for dinner and having me over. Thank you for coming out for the day to hang out with me while I was working. It was great seeing you.

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