

Foreword

THE MORNING AFTER DRAMA SCHOOL

I was busy. I mean really, really busy. And I'm quite sure I haven't read anything resembling an actual book since the 90's. And then my friend David Alford asked me to take a look at his new book and perhaps write the foreword. And honestly, he told me, I didn't really even have to read the whole thing.

David and I have worked together for 5 years on the TV show "Nashville." He plays Rayna's manager, the unflappable Bucky Dawes (and wrote the book with real life manager Brian Horner). And since day 1 I have been astonished about and eternally grateful for what a terrific actor he is. He is the real deal, and every scene I have with him is a joy. He clearly is expertly trained yet so completely natural, can roll with whatever I decide to throw at him, is subtle, and, most important, he is *THERE*. Present. I never for a moment as an actor feel that I am left hanging when I have a scene with David. He has become Bucky to me and actually feels like my manager.

Well, when your manager tells you to do something, you do it (Chapter 3). But, like I said, I'm busy! So I figured maybe I wouldn't read the thing, just give it a quick glance on a break between scenes. And what happened was, I was so compelled by David's own experience, which he shares much the same way he acts – generously, interestingly, subtly, and with an ability to convey so much economically, without fanfare or self-aggrandizement that before you know it you just want to be in his presence – that I read nearly the whole damn book.

Now this book is not intended for me. It is intended for you. But because of the way that David shares his experience so personally and honestly, it really is a journey into the world of show business that feels as exciting as you actually dream of show business being. And by exciting I mean hard as hell, challenging, nonsensical, enraging, and ultimately, and not without great hardship, rewarding.

The book became a story to me about a world that I know well and have a lot of mythology about. To you it will become a story too, but, with any luck, one that guides you to be the best performer you are capable of being. Because ultimately, the book is inspiring. And to be serious about show business requires deep, unrelenting inspiration. And you will find yourself searching for that from all sources. To have this book become one of them is your good luck, and perhaps the beginning of your great journey.