

Interviewing Adam Stewart



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A few days after receiving a response to his email, two kvinta students are entering Mr. Stewart's classroom, the school drama room, to conduct a highly expected interview with the Nový PORG drama teacher, director and actor.

Adam Stewart, an exceptionally talented and accomplished performer from the United Kingdom, successfully spent most of his life working in the area of drama and theatre and made a decision last year to become a drama teacher at Nový PORG, a high school in Prague. Teaching, a significant part of his life along with several projects he has been working on in the Czech Republic, enabled Mr. Stewart to pursue his dreams and focus on the combination of things he

truly loves. Luckily, we had the opportunity to address him, and together deliver a short, nevertheless undoubtedly intriguing interview, focusing not only on his career.

Not long after mutual introduction, we are able to immerse ourselves into the interview.

As the very first question, Mr. Stewart was asked where he had grown up and what he had liked about growing up there. He responded that he had grown up in Bedford in the United Kingdom, a small town near London, with not a lot going on. What he said he had appreciated about that place was the large local drama community, offering great opportunities for him to do theatre, which had been what he had wanted to do there and what he had loved.

The next question Mr. Stewart answered was if he had one early memory from childhood that he still remembered very well. “Christmases were always quite a big deal in our house, so I think I remember Christmases the best. The first one I remember is when we got a video recorder for Christmas, which was in fact truly special in the 80s, so that particularly is a big memory.

In response to whether he always knew that he’d like to be a teacher, Mr. Stewart passionately explained that he had had a dream to be an actor, and had been absolutely sure he had wanted to do acting despite his mother’s recommendations to become a teacher. With a smile on his face, he remarked that he had later discovered he got much more enjoyment out of teaching than acting.

Additionally, Mr. Stewart continued: “Currently, I play in the English translation of *Jára Cimrman* and do a little bit of filming television work occasionally as well, but I keep teaching my main job along with running my own company Prague Youth Theatre.”

After being asked about it, Mr. Stewart declared that subjects he had never even considered studying at university are for instance the mentioned business and finance. “When I was growing up, my parents did not want me to be an actor because it’s certainly a difficult profession to go into, they probably wanted me to be an accountant or in business or something, but I would never have enjoyed that. My mom told me to be a teacher, and then I realized eventually that she was correct.”

To what his first job was and why he decided to quit, he replied: “After leaving drama school I worked for the American Budweiser, specifically in promotion, meaning I promoted the beer in bars and night clubs in the North of England.” He added with laughter that he had been around 21 years old at that time and that it had been a lot of fun, however, explained that he couldn’t do it forever.

The following question, enabling us to learn more about Mr. Stewart’s current life situation, was what things he would do if the world was ending in 24 hours. “That’s a good question, I think primarily spend time with my three year old daughter. Besides that, I’d have a last meal or

probably spend as much time with my family as I could. And panic, and run, and try to find cover.“

Midway through the conversation, we focused on Mr. Stewart’s biggest fears. “ I think probably dying is quite a big fear. It’s not something that I think about on a regular basis, but if I do, it scares me. I’ve built up quite a successful company, so if that were to break down at some point, I think that would also be quite scary. There’s not a fear that I think about regularly, though.“

In the next question we asked Mr. Stewart about specific things he liked more in the Czech republic than in his home country. Surprisingly, Mr. Stewart mentioned it was difficult for him to only say one thing, then went on to say he liked probably everything better in the Czech republic than where he grew up. He stated: **“There isn’t anything that would make me want to go back to the United Kingdom, I would much rather stay here in the Czech Republic.“**

When asked if he remembered one mistake he was glad he had made, Mr. Stewart replied he was grateful for every mistake that had enabled him to do things differently and do things better, and that as general as it sounds, every mistake he had made had influenced him in some way and had made him better.

To what advice he wished he had listened to, Mr. Stewart answered: **“ I wish I have listened to when my mom told me I should be a teacher – I probably should have started earlier than I did. After leaving drama school, it took me about ten years of jobs in nightclubs and running bars to realize I probably should have taken her advice and be a teacher.“**

Along with that, Mr. Stewart was finally asked what advice he would give to others. Without even having to think about it, he said: “My advice to you is do what you enjoy and do what you want, not what someone tells you to do. Since you spend most of your time doing your job, rather choose to do something you enjoy than to work every day wishing you weren’t doing it.“

Throughout our conversation, we were able to discuss several fascinating topics, providing insight into Mr. Stewart’s remarkable background and covering life experiences from his childhood to his recent days. Mr. Stewart expressed himself as clearly as he could and didn’t hesitate to speak with emotions, which made our conversation feel truly real and honest. The interview went without a single complication and thanks to its surprisingly natural flow completely exceeded my expectations.