

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Welcome to "Adulthood on the Spectrum." I'm Andrew an autistic certified financial planner. I co run adulthood on the spectrum with Eileen Lamb. Hey Eileen!

**Eileen Lamb**

Hey, everyone! In this podcast, we want to highlight the real voices of autistic adults, not just inspirational stories, but people like us talking about their day to day life. Basically, we want to give a voice to a variety of autistic people.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Today, our guest is Anna Czarska. Yay. Anna is a Dublin based actress, producer, writer, and director, who was born in Poland currently resides in Ireland. She was raised in California as an only child and has always had an interest in creative pursuits, and has been involved in the industry throughout her life, starting with commercials and acting courses in Beverly Hills. Thank you for joining us today.

**Anna Czarska**

You're welcome. Thank you for having me.

**Eileen Lamb**

Of course, we're excited to talk to you today. So before we start, we want to ask you how you like to identify when it comes to autism like autistic person, person with autism, and also your preferred pronouns.

**Anna Czarska**

I prefer autistic, and my pronouns, are they. Thank you.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Can you tell us about when you were diagnosed and what that experience was like?

**Anna Czarska**

Yes. So I was diagnosed late, just a couple of years ago. So I think I was 35,36 at the time. And it was quite a lengthy process. Here in Ireland, like we have a lot of social systems and constructs I don't know if you know too much about the way that works. But I remember going you have to go through your GP, so your doctor to then go through their services, and then they assign you more services. And it just takes a long time. But I was told through my doctor, that someone I was referred, they actually told me that there wasn't any services available in my area for people getting assessed for autism as adults. And so I asked if there was, you know, a different area that I can maybe go to say Dublin, as I'm actually on the move. And they said no. So the only options for me were then private pay, which are quite expensive. So it took me quite a while to be able to find somebody that actually would assess me on a sliding scale fee. And that again, took a long time as well, with all the paperwork and all the different things that we had to do. So it was a few years of a process before I got my official diagnosis, like a couple years ago. And at the time, I already knew that I was autistic, due to my own research and the autistic community and hearing their stories and all, you know, everything that I've essentially been able to find out I kind of already knew, but I just wanted to have that confirmation, you know, through

through a professional. And it was, it was a whirlwind work, excuse me whirlwind of an experience, it was then all of the emotions at once, even though I already knew it was still just having that validation meant so much to me. And it really made me look back on my life. And all of the times where I struggled. And all the times I didn't have any support or any way to explain to people why it was different or how I was different. And I felt that I was very upset that so many psychologists that I'd gone to had never once offered to assess me for autism, even though I was very obviously autistic. And I think if I would have had that support earlier on, I think my life would have been a lot happier. And a lot definitely a lot easier at both in school and in work and also in personal connections. So it was really meaningful to me to finally have it and to give me that language to be able to explain to people why I'm different, how I'm different. It really meant a lot.

### **Eileen Lamb**

When I hear your story, I feel like I'm telling my story. I'm from France. So, you know, Europe, that part of the world, right? And I feel like I don't know if it's the same in Ireland, but they're even more behind than the United States when it comes to autism and diagnosis. So growing up, it's really difficult for me, and I feel like if I had, you know, grown up in the US, I would have been diagnosed as a child. But being in France, it was like nowhere, even nowadays, like a lot of autistic people are still slipping through the cracks. What's the process like in Ireland? Like the actual diagnosis? Like are you doing like one on one with therapy, psychology? Do they talk to your family? What is it like for adults?

### **Anna Czarska**

Yeah. So I think, you know, just quickly to touch upon what you said, I was raised in the US and I was not diagnosed. So I went to therapists, after therapists for lots of things and not one person even thought to assess me. So I don't think it would have been any faster. I think if you were male, it would be a lot easier but true, you know, but yes, the process is essentially what I kind of hear happens around the world. So I had a very lengthy sort of lots of forums. Lots of questions about my myself and everything that's happened in my life, as well as forums given to my parents forums given to my friends, my closest, you know, people that were closest to me, all of that was taken into consideration as well as one on one meetings. So everything all of that was taken into account before I was able to get my official diagnosis. What's it like in, in France?

### **Eileen Lamb**

Well, I was diagnosed in the US, but it was basically the same thing. A lot of like, filling out questionnaires talking to my parents, my husband like friends. Yeah, so same thing, because they need to know that it started in childhood, I guess it's why they need to talk to the family. But I've heard from people like also getting diagnosis after one hour of talking to a therapist online. And just yeah, I don't know if I'm okay with this way of doing diagnosis seems a bit fast. But yeah, it seems very fast. Yeah, like, yeah, dozens of hours for me, I think, like 15 total? Because a lot of tests. Yeah, it's, it's, it's interesting to hear about how they do it in different parts of the world. And I mean, even from doctor to doctor in the same country, you're gonna get different ways of doing ...

### **Anna Czarska**

Exactly. Exactly. I think my my son is actually going through an assessment process as well. But it's, it's again, been very difficult, you know, to even get somebody to actually assess him. It's just there's such a backlog here. I think in terms of any kind of health or mental health services. It's unfortunate.

**Eileen Lamb**

So you're in Ireland right now. Right?

**Anna Czarska**

That's right. Yes.

**Eileen Lamb**

So can you tell us about your childhood when you came to the USA? And what brought you back to Ireland, I guess?

**Anna Czarska**

Yes. So I was born in Poland. And when I was three and a half, my parents moved to California in the US. And I grew up there went to school there. But I was raised in sort of like a Eastern European community with Polish and Russian people. So I actually, I grew up around Eastern European people. And then, when I was after I had my son, when he was three and a half, I moved back to Europe, to Ireland. So, you know, they say "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree",

**Andrew M. Komarow**

What was the reason you move back to Ireland?

**Anna Czarska**

Um, I would say it was life situations. And at the time, there was a lot that happened, that was a rather difficult to manage over there in California, financially and career wise. And it seemed like the best sort of choice to, you know, to move over here back to Europe, where there is more social sort of plans in motion for people, you know, health care and different things college for my son, you know, there's a lot of benefits to being here, as well, as you know, living in a safer environment. My son can go outside and play and I don't have to worry about him. Whereas in California, I wouldn't, if, if we were walking down the road, I'd have to be holding his hand, like, I'd be so scared that somebody would just take him. So, you know, in here, I can leave, I can leave toys in the yard, and nobody steals them. You know, in fact, sometimes they'll come and bring them if they see it, and you know, a little bit down the way they'll bring it back to me. You know, everybody's just so lovely. And I feel safe having my son here. And I wouldn't have been able to even afford an area in California that I would feel safe raising my child in. And so I think a lot of it was very situational for me. And the people here I have visited here before, and the people here are very welcoming, very helpful. It's very community oriented here in Ireland, and I really liked that.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Um, no, and it's true. It's not that like for anyone who's not doesn't know California, it's not that at all unsafe, it's I think a lot of it's the high cost of living, especially like in the area, like, while pretty much

most of California, right? Especially if you're a get near Beverly Hills, right? Just in general, it's very expensive place to live. So yeah. So you claim to be the first openly autistic filmmaker? No?

**Anna Czarska**

I'm actually not sure where that came from. And I am probably not the first.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Hence why I used the lanauge, open, openly or you claim to be openly but okay, so not sure where it came from either.

**Anna Czarska**

I am openly autistic. There are few people that are comfortable being openly or open about their diagnosis, I would say that, but I know that there are many autistic filmmakers and I know that even in Hollywood, you know, you see more and more people coming out openly as autistic not just not just in the film industry, but you know, all over the world you're seeing more and more people. Often we're business owners. It seems to be a thing. We some we seem to work better for ourselves than other people. But, But yeah, I'm so I wouldn't say that I'm the first but, but definitely one of few.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

So have you always known you wanted to be a filmmaker? You know, autism is a lot with special interests do you like watching movies? Or, you know, I have I, someone who works for me was a film major. And I guess there's like a joke like film school that like, well, she hasn't seen a lot of like the some of the super famous movies, right? Because it's kind of different to, you know, do something for a living verse, you know, to enjoy it, as well. So did you did you love film, what do you like to do? And why do you like to do it is my question?

**Anna Czarska**

So that's kind of an interesting one when I was younger, so I did start out with acting. And I really loved it, I loved being on set and being with other creative people, and being able to express myself openly and intensely, in a way that doesn't scare people. So I really enjoyed that. But I but I found that the set culture in California at the time was really disrespectful. Especially if you're not a male. And I found that the people that were also like, my teammates, my, my partners, you know, everyone, there was so, so much more interested in looking better than me, you know, rising above me than working with me. And, and that was kind of there, not just me, in general, if you know what I mean, it's all about getting ahead, getting seen. Look at me, you know, instead of teamwork and collaboration, which is what I was more interested in. And at the time, that's why I took quite a break from acting. And the film industry, I was very interested in writing. Writing is one of my, my biggest talents. It's one of my, it's like breathing for me. I have to write all the time. Whether it's, you know, whether it's poetry, stories, articles, I just love writing. So that was one of my biggest loves. From early on, I also was very interested in I looked into environmental law, I looked into, you know, actually, I was even considering police detective work I was considering being a forensic accountant. Actually, that was my, my started career path before my son came along. But But I think what happened was when I moved out here, I had finished my business degree. And I was looking for work in the business sector, actually. And I met some people here that said, Well, while you're looking, you know, why don't you do some, you know, gigs here for the film

industry, since you have a background in this. And I said, that's a good idea. So I gave that a go. And it was, immediately I fell back in love immediately. It's the first day I remember being on set. And it was just, I knew it was me, it was like the Harry Potter moment, you know, where, where he gets the wand, and it just everything and they always say, you know, it chooses you, you know, and that's how I felt about the film industry here. I felt like it chose me. And it just sort of became I wasn't really looking for it. But I realized that I loved it so much. And I became incredibly passionate about it. And kind of like you said, tunnel vision, you know, everything was about film, everything was, you know, so I just, I started really focusing on building my career in a variety of different areas in the film industry. And about almost five years ago, now I started my own production company here in Ireland Sticky Tape productions. And I found that being a producer director, you know, really suited my personality, because in both of those roles, you have to be business minded, and really understand that aspect of things. But you need to also be creative. And I've always been kind of a mesh of both. So I think it just sort of, it just sort of found me and it fit. I think it's really what happened.

### **Eileen Lamb**

That's nice. Do you think your autism has helped you in any way during your career? Or has it made some things more difficult in other ways?

### **Anna Czarska**

Both. Absolutely. I'm sure as you know, yourself, it can be an amazing gift. And also a hindrance, I'd say that the way that it's really helped me is in terms of passion and focus, and in getting things done, I never quit. So I just, you know, I go and go and go and go until the goal is reached. And having that kind of that kind of focus is hard to come by. But I think when it comes to the film industry, especially, you have to have it because it is such a hard thing to do. And to succeed in that if you don't have that kind of, you know, focus to really achieve that goal, no matter what you're not going to. So I think that it's really helped me in that way. But for in terms of Oh, and also creative thinking. So as an autistic person, I see things a bit differently. So I come up with solutions for things that are kind of outside the box that other people maybe didn't see or think of because they you know, they have a different way of thinking. So I'd be you know, the first one to kind of come up with well, hey, why don't we try it this way? Or, you know, even though that might be a challenge to you, let's try this, you know, but in the way that it's really been challenging for me I'd say is communication. I one of my biggest things regarding my autism is that I need very direct and clear communication. And I found that sometimes, especially here in Ireland, it's been definitely a struggle. People here are not very direct. And, and I think, in general, people are not as direct as I am or as direct as I would like them to be. So I have to, I have to really, you know, make sure that I'm understanding clearly what somebody is after and what they're looking for, or what their instruction is. And I found that that can seem that can almost seem quarrelsome sometimes, because you're asking so many questions to really understand, because you're not getting the actual basics that you know, everyone else sort of seems to just work with, even though they're not clear, they'll work with those kind of explanations, you know, or instructions, or whatever it is. But for me, I needed to be completely 100% clear from start to end, before I can really start or to really grasp something. And so, I found that a lot of times autistic people are seen as quarrelsome or argumentative, because they ask so many questions. And because they clarify so much, it seems, it seems almost, you know, it doesn't seem adaptable, or flowing, or, you know, it seems a bit bold, but, um, but I don't feel like it is, but other autistic people that I've that I've communicated with don't seem to

have a problem with it, and we communicate very well as you probably know yourself. But when it comes to, when it comes to just neurotypical people, there's always going to be a problem with communication, unless both sides are very good at being clear. That's sort of been my biggest hindrance, I'd say.

### **Andrew M. Komarow**

You have an example of a time where that hurt you in your career, and what did you do about it,

### **Anna Czarska**

I sort of do, I have to leave out names are not allowed to speak about it. But um, but I can say, anyway, that I that I was working on a film project. And it was, I was working with another producer as a co-production. And, and they, they seem to have a very different idea of some things than I did. And that didn't come out until the end. But I had, I had tried to clarify, once I realized the misunderstandings were coming up. And it ended with with, with this person first didn't want to respond to me for days, then took me off of some of the things that we were managing together took me off as post production entirely. And then we had to actually, we were talking about consulting lawyers, because of how broken apart the communication had become. And it was, it was because I was being I was trying to be very clear about what I thought was, you know, said in the first place, and they seem to kind of be going back on it, but but they, I guess, weren't clear enough in the first place for you know, what they wanted. So everything that I understood was lined up here, here and here. And that's what I expected at the end this, this and this, and when it came to the end, you know, there were so many other things and so much problems. And I felt, I felt that, if they would have just been a bit clearer in their communication, it would have been a lot easier. And if they would have understood my intentions, that I wasn't trying to be hostile, I was trying to understand exactly what was going on. And to, to make sure that I'm getting what was owed to me, if that makes sense, or what was said to me. So in these sorts of situations, you know, it's really been a learning lesson to make sure that things are completely clear in your contracts. Rather than find out later, you know, because you have an email that says this or that, you know, to really just clarify from the get go on both sides, exactly what's expected exactly what is given the deliverables, etc, you know, towards the end the credits everything, because it really can burn bridges, you know, if you're not 100% clear, and I think that, that that's an important lesson, really, for everybody. Just be very, very clear in your communication, when you're starting a partnership in the first place.

### **Eileen Lamb**

Even for neurotypical I mean, every communication is so important. And yeah, it's, you know, what you said about people kind of get upset when you ask a lot of questions, or they think it's rude, but like, it's so much better to do that than to end up with these big miscommunication and, yeah, yeah, your experience,

### **Andrew M. Komarow**

And I do find to, you know, it can sometimes be helpful to, you know, say like, the reason that you're asking the question and the reason doesn't have to be you know, you're autistic. So, you know, that might not be helpful to the person who doesn't even have a good understanding of what that means, even if they are autistic. So no, I think it's definitely helpful for hey, I would like to just clarify this point in



the contract because you know, here's my concern. And I always find that that's usually helpful, because then both parties like, Oh, they're not just trying to, like, screw me over, like, Here is their concern. Now we can address it. Like, you know, if they kind of know why, you know, you're asking it can maybe bring things a little, you know, closer together, because the reason somebody might be asking for something, well, that might be different than the reason you're thinking they're asking, right? And maybe there's a different way to solve for it.

### **Anna Czarska**

Yeah, absolutely. I think I'm very clear in explaining my intentions in general. But I think that, especially here in Ireland, people are not used to people that are very direct. Like I said, in the US, I think it would be a little bit easier. And it's funny, because people in the film industry in the US tend to be difficult to work with there. They can be more disrespectful, especially if you're not male. Here, there's a better sense of teamwork and a better sense of equality. And people here just a bit more respectful no matter what your position is. But, but I do find that their sort of lack of direct conversation is, can be difficult, because when you have when there's somebody like me who's autistic and needs very direct communication, it can cause a lot of problems when there's a culture difference as well for them being particularly indirect. And I think that that causes a lot of problems for me with my autism.

### **Andrew M. Komarow**

Can you tell us about the movie you made, "Mildly Different" ?

### **Anna Czarska**

Yeah, it's a short film. And it's, it's about a young woman on the spectrum, who struggles with the world around her until the kindness of one person sort of helps her to grow her self confidence, and allows her to sort of do things that she was hesitant to do before in her life to move forward in what she wanted to do. Because I think that all of us everybody needs connection, whether you're autistic or not. And I think a lot of the perception is that autistic people shy away from connection, which has not been my experience at all. I think a lot of autistic people that I've known, including myself, actually really crave and want that connection. It's more just that the way that people judge them and precede them can be a hindrance to finding that connection. And this film was, it was actually it's starting an autistic actress Jordan Jones, she's, she's an all tech autistic actor. Written, directed by myself. A lot of our casting crew are neurodiverse not all autistic, but, you know, ADHD, OCD, all the different variations. So I was trying to be as inclusive as possible, we had, you know, we had the story was based a lot on my experiences, and a lot on the experiences of people who I've met in the past who were autistic in the autistic community. So there was a lot of that in there. And I really wanted to kind of show the world what it's like from our perspective. Because again, like I said, something like connection, you know, that somebody wouldn't see how important that actually is, and how much that can change our, our way of going about things, our self confidence or self esteem. And so I felt like this was, this was kind of the, you know, really important in the, in the film, and in the story to show what it's like for us from an authentic perspective. And also to, to show that connection is so vital and important to us as well, which is often misunderstood. And, yeah.

### **Eileen Lamb**

Do you have a favorite memory to share from during the production of the movie?

### **Anna Czarska**

Yeah, I, um, you know, I really all of it is, I couldn't, I can't think of just one. It's kind of just I really, to me, it was it was years in the making. So it was so important for me to just be able to actually make the film and be there with everybody. And everybody was so supportive, we had such a wonderful casting crew. And I just, it was, I think just the overall support from from everybody on set, and how lovely everybody was, how talented the actors were, and how much they put into the role as well as the community support that we received was also tremendous, and very much appreciated. And I think that that really just made it a lovely experience. Whereas a lot of I mean, obviously, there's stress on every set, and there always will be. But I think because everybody really believed in the vision and really wanted to be involved in this project. It it kind of made a made for a really lovely set experience, a lovely team experience, if that makes sense. And I think that's really what I took away from it the most it was one of the just best gelled teams that I've worked with. So it was really amazing to have that.

### **Andrew M. Komarow**

It seems that there's a lot of controversy every time a movie about autism comes out. Or, you know what, how has "Mildly Different," been received?

### **Anna Czarska**

Very well. We've gotten a lot of comments from autistic people and their families as well as to how moving than touching the story was and how much they related to it, that they kept seeing things in the movie. And while I do that, you know, I do that, you know. So it was really amazing. So many people in our screenings in the audience were leaving in tears. So I think that was a good thing. And I, it really meant a lot to me to kind of see the reaction. And we did have a little bit of trouble in the start. And before the film was made, when we were funding the film, some of the some, you know, people are always skeptical as to who's making the film and is it really something worthwhile? Or is it just what they call inspiration porn, which we got, you know, there's a lot of that kind of stuff. So we really had to explain that this is made by autistic people, it's including autistic people in the process, it's, you know, the entire thing is to really show an authentic, authentic vision of what it's like to be autistic. And so that took a little bit of smoothing over everybody's like you said, very skeptical. But in the end, we ended up with a tremendous amount of community support. In fact, we wouldn't have a film to make if it wasn't for that. I acrowd funded 35,000 euros. Plus, we also had a grant from the Arts Council of Ireland, a disability, a disabilities work, work grant, and managed by Arts and Disabilities Ireland, so it's, if we didn't have that community support 95% of our funders were actually strangers. And if we didn't have that community support, there would be no film. So I think that speaks a lot in how, you know, the project was received, as well as what happened afterwards, once people actually saw the film. And there's just been a lot of positive, positive support. And that's really wonderful.

### **Eileen Lamb**

That's, that's great to hear. And every time a movie about autism comes out, I mean, I feel like people always gonna find something negative to say, but since you're autistic, and the actors, autistic, it's kind of like you've got the two big things covered, because these are two big criticism that you know, you hear? And then you know, it's two stereotypes. It's too much stereotypes or people can't identify. So yeah. Well, where can we watch your movie?



**Anna Czarska**

Well, I'll get to that in just one second. Do you remember the film release of Sia? The Sia music?

**Eileen Lamb**

Yes.

**Anna Czarska**

And how badly that went down?

**Eileen Lamb**

Yes.

**Anna Czarska**

I remember, we were crowdfunding at that time. And when Sia had had all of the backlash of that, I remember using that as like, you know, I was like, well, if you don't like that, here's our film. I remember posting on her, you know, on the comments about Sia, I was just like, well, here's an autistic made, like, film support us. And so many people actually did. So it kind of the fact that there was backlash of other people helps you actually work for me? Yeah. Cuz I was like, Well, we are, you know, made by about and starring autistic people. So. So yeah, that actually helped me a lot in my campaign. It was lucky timing, I'd say. But yeah, sorry, the question you just asked Oh, where you can see the film. So currently, we just went through a few festivals we're waiting on the last bit, to know whether we're going to be shown anywhere else or not there, it's going to be a few more months before we have all of the responses in after that. So once we have all of the festival run finished, then we'll be working on distribution, we're looking at possibly putting the film up on Amazon so that everybody around the world can have access to it, as well as sending it out to different organizations and educational facilities. To just you know, if anybody is interested in the film to show, you know, autistic people or their families, to just kind of get it out there something that people can use to describe what they're going through and to understand better what their family and friends are going through or even just to understand what autism is, like, even if, you know, just just to understand it. And I think that if we can get as wide of a reach as possible. I think that will that would be really great.

**Eileen Lamb**

Would be. Yeah, So you you managed to achieve your dream maybe not a childhood dream but a dream. Do you have advice for autistic people who want to pursue a career in acting or filmmaking?

**Anna Czarska**

Yeah, um, well, it's all kind of different. So depending on which area you want to pursue, but I will say that pertaining to autism, specifically. It is of high, stressful, highly stressful position, no matter what you're doing, whether it's acting, producing, directing, anything in the film industry is very stressful. So I'd say you'd have to know yourself very well. Before. Before you venture into this kind of field. Know what you can handle We'll know what you can't be very clear about that when you're working towards your goal, but also, there are so many positions that if, for instance, if for instance, you can't, you can't manage the stress of, for instance, directing, or producing, which is extremely stressful, perhaps there's

other roles, like editing, or composing, which do have, you know, their time limits, and it can be a bit stressful, but those are more quiet kind of behind the scenes, and you're still being creative, and you're still able to, to contribute to making something amazing. So I'd say really research all of the roles and what is expected of each role, so that you know what to get into, because, you know, it would be very sad to see somebody, spend years going to school for something and then get on set and go, I can't do this, you know, this is just too stressful. And then they feel completely, you know, deflated. Whereas, you know, I'd say research all of the different roles, see what's needed for everyone talk to somebody specifically about what it's like on set for that role, or behind the scenes for that role, or whatever it is. And just know yourself very well. And, and there's always going to be a place that you can find that's going to work for you. But you just you really need to do some digging more so than most people would need to, just in case

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Now, that's great advice. Now, so other than your own, you know, film, What is, what are some of your favorite autistic representations, you know, in the media, so whether, you know, um, you know, let's go with TV show, movie and actor, actress and why?

**Anna Czarska**

That is a really good question. Very complicated question. Okay.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Or you can pick one, I tried to make it open ended on purpose, you know, so you can pick any of them.

**Anna Czarska**

So, yeah, um, that is a really good question. There's so many characters that come across as autistic but aren't actually, you know, said to be autistic. But I think, Hmm, I'm not even sure which to pick or what to say, there's just there's so there's so many different options. I know, for instance, like Anthony Hopkins is an autistic actor who I greatly admire, who recently just came out as autistic. And, and I will, I guess, I'll say, I guess I'll go with him. Because, you know, you can always see how much he puts into each role and the emotion in each role and everything that he does. And he's such, he's such an inspiration and so successful, because, you know, every roll of his every film that he's in, it's, it's absolutely wonderful. And it's because of, because of how much he puts into his role. And I think that that's, you know, even though I, I've been focusing more on producing, as somebody who's done so much acting in the past, it's, it's just wonderful to see somebody who is autistic do so well. And that's when, you know, you heard everything with what happened with Sia about well maybe autistic people just aren't great actors. And it's like, well, here you have Anthony Hopkins, who's, you know, winning awards, and whose films have always been very successful and such a wonderful, wonderful person, you know, so it's, yeah, I think, I think if I if I had to pick, maybe I'd pick him just because he's, he's done so much, and has been so successful very, very, admirably. So.

**Eileen Lamb**

So we are, I'm going to ask you some quickfire questions. So basically, are you telling me the first answer that comes to your to your mind? Do you have a favorite cord is so what is it?

**Anna Czarska**

Yes, I do. "If you can put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything. And that was in "Back to the Future". That was since I was a little girl I've been. I've had that one. I follow that one. I tell that to pretty much everyone. I think if you want something bad enough, you'll get it. It might take time. It might take a lot of work and a lot of patience. But if you really work on it and put your mind to it, you can get there.

**Eileen Lamb**

Your favorite comedy movie?

**Anna Czarska**

Okay, so, alright, so I I'm gonna say "Princess Bride". But even though it's kind of fantasy comedy, because I don't usually like comedy films.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Pretty good answer, although I'm sure Eileen hasn't seen it because she hasn't seen any movies.

**Anna Czarska**

You have to see it.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

You need to like, I mean, "Star Wars", but no "Princess Bride". Eileen, come on.

**Eileen Lamb**

What's your favorite alcohol drink? Or non alcohol?

**Anna Czarska**

I don't drink. But I do have a mocktail that I really like, and it's a mock Amaretto Sour. So and there's a really great one to pick a DeRose which is just down the street in the news. from where I live, they do an amazing one. But yeah, I don't I don't drink at all. So mocktails are my thing.

**Eileen Lamb**

Who's your favorite actor?

**Andrew M. Komarow**

We asked that.

**Anna Czarska**

Well that was autistic actor,

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Oh, my bad.

**Anna Czarska**

Gary Oldman. Yeah, he's, he's a brilliant character actor. He is in one of my all time favorite films, actually two of my favorite films, "Fifth Element," and Bram Stoker's "Dracula". And you can see in every role that he plays, he's an entirely different person. And it takes such such skill to convincingly play such different people. I have an immense respect for him always have.

**Eileen Lamb**

What was your dream job as a child? I know, you talked about being a police detective. And if you had to, what was it? Do you want it the most?

**Anna Czarska**

I mean, I definitely think when I was very little acting was kind of, but I didn't really know much about filmmaking or anything like that back then. I also really wanted to be a writer, I think was probably the thing that stuck the most, that if I could choose any job. At the time when I was little anything, I think I would have chose writer even though I, I know that it was a very difficult thing to get into, which is why I didn't pursue it as strongly. I do write I do screenwriting, I do other writing as well. But But I think being a writer and being a successful writer is very difficult. And there's so much competition, and it's very hard to market yourself to sell your your material. So I never, I never went into it in the way that I wanted to. But I think if I had to pick that would have been my absolute dream job. So I do still get to do it now. But not as full time as maybe I would have wanted as a child.

**Eileen Lamb**

Yeah, I wanted to be a writer too. And, and I did it. Yeah.

**Anna Czarska**

That's so amazing. That's so amazing. It's such a hard field to go into.

**Eileen Lamb**

Not screenwriting, though I have tried my hand at screenwriting, and it is so different than the writing. I do. Yeah, it's like,

**Anna Czarska**

What do you write?

**Eileen Lamb**

I wrote two books. One is, I don't know how you would describe poetry, self help, and the other one is more memoir. And this were published, and yeah, that's why I love the quote. Because really, it was all about not giving up after getting told, no. no. no. It was like, well, you know what, I want this, I'm gonna keep trying.

**Anna Czarska**

That's right.

**Eileen Lamb**

So you get it. Right.

**Anna Czarska**

Exactly. You have to and and I find that, especially for people who are not male, I keep saying this, but but it's just it's such a struggle for for people who aren't male to to be very successful in their careers, because they have to prove themselves so much more than people who are male. Unfortunately, that's been my experience as well. It's like, when you're a producer and your man and you say I'm, you know, I'm a producer, they say what do you do? I'm a producer, like, oh, great, that person's a producer. But you know, if you're not a male, and you say I'm a producer, they go, really? And like as a real producer, you know, and like, What kind I mean, small projects, right? Like, what kind of projects have you really done, you know, and that's the difference. And I think that like yourself, you do, you do have to work even harder when you're not male, and it's I have a lot of respect for people like like yourself, who have made it and who have really stuck by them, you know, the difficulties that they've had to go through and just made it and that's so amazing. So congratulations for for actually getting to your dream job. That is that is so amazing.

**Eileen Lamb**

Thanks, I appreciate it. Do you want to tell people where they can find you if you're online or anything about your movie like self promotion? Go for it.

**Anna Czarska**

Yeah. So for my company can find me at [www.sticktapefilms.com](http://www.sticktapefilms.com). That's where most of the work will be. For Facebook we have from "Mildly Differen," we have [facebook.com/mildlydifferentfilm](https://www.facebook.com/mildlydifferentfilm). On Twitter, I'm ACzarska. And yeah, we also have Instagram, just look up Sticky Tape Productions. And yep. So you can kind of on all the socials.

**Eileen Lamb**

Well, thank you so much for joining us today in chatting with us. Yes. Great to hear about your movie and your experience.

**Anna Czarska**

Thank you for having me. And it was lovely to meet you both.

**Andrew M. Komarow**

Yeah, thank you for coming.