

00:00:00:00 - 00:00:31:01

Austin Wolff

I wrote a story about a young man who just wants to find love, and he thinks in the world of math equations and not like me. There's parts of the story where our character thinks about the probabilities of things happening, such as the probability of finding love or the probability of this date going well. And I guess I just I felt the need to share with the world the way that I go about dating.

00:00:32:06 - 00:00:42:11

Austin Wolff

It's it's a shade of the spectrum that I, I don't see often.

00:00:42:11 - 00:01:22:08

Eileen Lamb

Welcome to to Adultiing on the Spectrum. 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, I am Eileen Lamb an autistic author and photographer and I covered this podcast with Andrew Komarow. Hey Andrew

00:01:23:01 - 00:01:50:02

Andrew Komarow

Hey Eileen. And I'm Andrew Kamara, an autistic entrepreneur, co-host of this podcast and can answer movie trivia better than Eileen. Mostly because I've seen more than two movies today. Our guest is Austin Wolff. He is an autistic screenwriter and is currently making a movie called Wally Jackson that draws inspiration from his own autistic experience. Thank you for joining us.

00:01:50:11 - 00:01:51:07

Austin Wolff

Thanks for having me.

00:01:52:00 - 00:01:57:15

Andrew Komarow

So I don't know if you've listened to our podcast before. We'd like to start off. Oh, you have awesome few episodes.

00:01:58:00 - 00:01:58:05

Austin Wolff

Yeah.

00:01:58:10 - 00:02:13:05

Andrew Komarow

Sweet. More than I have. No, I just I don't like the sound of my own voice. So we like to ask each guests how they prefer to identify Asperger's, on the spectrum. Autistic? No preference.

Do you have a preference? And if so, what is it?

00:02:13:14 - 00:02:17:04

Austin Wolff

No preference at all.

00:02:17:04 - 00:02:19:04

Andrew Komarow

Favorite answer. Sucking up.

00:02:19:04 - 00:02:19:10

Austin Wolff

Already.

00:02:21:07 - 00:02:29:04

Eileen Lamb

Is just amazing to me. How like most of the guests and Sarah, no preference when you go on social media, you'd think that, you know, if you use like autistic.

00:02:29:04 - 00:02:37:08

Andrew Komarow

Oh my God. Is social media not exactly like real life. And this is a this is a revelation. Hold on. I thought this is crazy.

00:02:39:08 - 00:02:45:15

Andrew Komarow

You did say he's a little sarcastic. So. So we can we can be sarcastic. I like I said, I wouldn't be sarcastic anyway.

00:02:46:07 - 00:03:06:04

Eileen Lamb

Yeah, I enjoy that. Sometimes our jokes full fledged. Can you tell us a little bit about your diagnosis journey? So you were diagnosed the first time as a child, and then you got a diagnosis as an adult. How does a read diagnosis work? Can you tell us about that?

00:03:07:01 - 00:03:29:02

Austin Wolff

Absolutely. When I was a child, my parents were very observant. Somehow, I was very disruptive in class. Apparently, I was at this big jungle gym and I bit some kid on ear when I was a kid. So my parents said, okay, something something a little different with our one. So they took me down to the hospital. I got a diagnosis for Asperger's and I was eight.

00:03:30:01 - 00:03:57:10

And then my parents put me in social skills classes. I eventually ended up getting into taking some acting classes because my sister was into acting. And so through the social skills class and acting classes, I sort of learned to communicate in the way that other people like being communicated with, or at least with respect to acting classes, pretending to communicate in a certain way.

00:03:57:10 - 00:04:24:09

Austin Wolff

So that sort of helped me mask through middle school and high school, which is, you know, still a little bit of a challenge. But I was at least able to function with the the neurotypicals. And then after high school, I, I needed a little bit of help with college just because there were certain things that I wasn't accustomed to.

00:04:26:04 - 00:04:52:01

Austin Wolff

And the college would only help me if I had gotten a diagnosis. So I went to a therapist to see if I still was on the spectrum. I'm pretty sure I was. But again, I'm so experienced with masking that when most people meet me, it's a shock to them to learn that I'm on the spectrum. So I ended up speaking with a therapist and I asked her, I'm like, okay.

00:04:52:05 - 00:05:17:13

Austin Wolff

She ended up saying that, yes, I do. In fact, I'm still on the spectrum. I asked her, though. I said, What? What were the main indicators that I was? And she said specifically, it was the way that I thought, the way that I think apparently not everyone thinks the same way. I do. And that to her was the key indicator, the masking a little bit as well, but more so the way that I that I think about things.

00:05:17:13 - 00:05:26:08

Austin Wolff

So after that I got the help that I needed through college. And that's sort of been my major to me with the diagnosis.

00:05:27:12 - 00:05:47:06

Andrew Komarow

Well, awesome. Thank you for sharing. Were you nervous that they may like on diagnose you? You know, it sounds like that you went to a pretty good one, right? But I you know, who seemed to, you know, understand. Yeah. You nervous at all?

00:05:47:14 - 00:06:13:08

Austin Wolff

I'll be honest. Being on the spectrum wasn't quite part of my identity. By the time I was preparing for that second diagnosis when I was 19, I just because I was an actor, I had I had learned to do

the things that people call socializing, you know, learning to make friends. And again, not many people would have said that I was on the spectrum, so it didn't matter that much to me.

00:06:13:14 - 00:06:44:08

Austin Wolff

However, I will say after being, I guess, diagnosed, it has become more of my identity in the way that I have accepted it more. That's become very important in my relationship. I've been dating my partner for almost five years and within the first six months of our relationship, I think I was 21. She noticed that I was a little bit different than the other partners that she had dated, and she ended up doing research into a partner, having not being on the spectrum.

00:06:44:08 - 00:07:05:04

Austin Wolff

And she noticed that it had begun to express itself in ways that were negatively affecting the relationship. So she brought it to my attention and she was very kind and very sweet hearted about. In fact, she wrote a five page report on how me being on the spectrum might be affecting our relationship. And she did it with such care.

00:07:05:11 - 00:07:32:06

Austin Wolff

And when she brought it to my attention and essentially we talked about it and she essentially said like, hey, you, you do these things and that's awesome. You do X, Y, and Z. I would appreciate it if sometimes maybe you could do A, B, C, and then I in turn will do X, Y, Z for you and essentially that sort of opened my eyes in the fact that up until that point I had really gotten along throughout my entire life masking.

00:07:33:04 - 00:07:54:01

Austin Wolff

But again, it's the way that I think and the way that I go about things that's that's with me forever, whether I mask or not, especially in an intimate relationship. So with that, I've really sort of accepted my identity a lot more that, Oh, this is who I am. It's going to the way that I think about things and go about relationships is the way that I do it.

00:07:54:01 - 00:08:08:04

Austin Wolff

And I just need to be mindful of that and make sure that you're the person that I'm communicating with or in a relationship also feels heard and loved and accepted in the way that they love to be heard, love and accepted. So that's all.

00:08:09:10 - 00:08:32:00

Andrew Komarow

And do you think that let's say after that five page report that how you might mask, you know, specifically like at home around her, do you feel like you were masking a lot before and now you

don't need to as much or the other way around? Or what does masking look like for you and how has it changed?

00:08:32:10 - 00:09:08:00

Austin Wolff

Yeah, that's such a great question. It's funny, I, I don't feel like I have to mask around the people that I love most. It's probably why I feel so comfortable with them also. The main thing that we sort of talked about was it wasn't so much the the masking part was the communication part. So I'm very direct. I like to get to the point and sometimes that can possibly hurt people's feelings if it's not if criticism or things that I want or said in a certain way that aren't taking the other person's emotions into account.

00:09:08:03 - 00:09:28:14

Austin Wolff

One thing that really helped me with that is I thought about it and I thought to myself, okay, I'm a screenwriter, right? I'm writing a movie. And there was one point when I had a previous partner in high school tell me that she didn't like the movie and she said it in a way that was very direct and it hurt my feelings.

00:09:29:01 - 00:09:57:08

Austin Wolff

And I was like, Oh, man, I wish she said in a certain way. And even though I like to speak directly, apparently, I also realize that I don't like to receive criticism directly either. I would love if criticism is sort of wrapped in compliments. And so once I recognize that in myself, I was able to also it helped me communicate with other people, knowing that I myself aren't going to like someone telling me that my work is terrible and I'm bad at this.

00:09:57:11 - 00:10:17:02

Austin Wolff

I would have much. I like construction criticism and I love receiving data in a certain way. So once I realized that I was able to adjust my communication skills to make sure that whenever I'm talking to someone, they also feel like they're being communicated with with respect, if that makes sense. I know that that was a long answer.

00:10:17:14 - 00:10:19:07

Andrew Komarow

Yeah, that that makes sense.

00:10:19:14 - 00:10:39:11

Eileen Lamb

That's great. And it's such good insight because, you know, I'm also like very direct and most of the time I do like being spoken to, like in a direct way, like just so I know, like what people expect of me because it's hard for me when people like being nice. And I'm not sure if they're like being

nice because that's what people do in America. They're nice, but you don't really.

00:10:41:00 - 00:10:42:13

Andrew Komarow

I'm not that nice to you. I like and maybe that.

00:10:44:12 - 00:11:03:00

Eileen Lamb

That's why I like it, because, you know, and I know, like when you are nice, actually, when you're nice, I feel like, Oh, my God, did someone die? But yeah, it's it's confusing, you know? So I like times when it's too near a victim. Like he is like this. This person hates me. So it really depends, like from who it's coming from.

00:11:03:00 - 00:11:27:05

Eileen Lamb

But like, I totally get what you're saying. Like, it's good, a good insight that, you know, don't touch people the way you would like to be. You say that your mind is like different in the way like you think and process things. Right. And I know you think sequentially I mean it questions like what does this look like in your mind?

00:11:28:06 - 00:11:51:14

Austin Wolff

Yeah, it's it's hard to describe it because, you know, it's the way that I've been thinking my whole life. So to me, I'm like, oh, this is how humans think. So it's hard to describe the differences. I guess I'll just describe my experience of the world with respect to I like to say that I think linearly and sequentially again, maybe a lot of people think this way.

00:11:52:12 - 00:12:15:04

Austin Wolff

My therapist didn't, but maybe other people do. I like to think of terms of, okay, this is going to happen and this is going to happen and this is going to happen. How that sort of manifests itself maybe with respect to our relationship is I don't most of the time I don't like to go with the flow. My partner, she's she's like, all right, Austin, let's do this.

00:12:15:04 - 00:12:50:04

Austin Wolff

Let's change plans. And I'm like, No, no, no. That wasn't the plan. You know, at 2 p.m., we have to leave because it then takes us 30 minutes to get movies and then X, Y and Z. So that's sort of how I like to go about things. And it really works well for business also writing because you have to think about consequences, but with respect to having fun and having a relationship where the other person doesn't think that way, I have to sometimes find myself letting go, sometimes of the sequential thinking to be more free, be more artistic, artistic.

00:12:50:04 - 00:13:04:09

Austin Wolff

But yeah, that's that's sort of how I like to think of things. This happens and this happens and this happens, and that sort of affects everything that I do from business to fun to everything in between.

00:13:04:09 - 00:13:14:07

Andrew Komarow

So you got your you do screenwriting. I think most of us know what that is. But if you could tell us what it is and also what got you into screenwriting.

00:13:15:01 - 00:13:44:03

Austin Wolff

Yeah, yeah. Writing for writing stories for or specifically movies. It's not something I'm currently being paid to do. It is a it's a movie we're currently making, but I've been writing the script for like seven years now. We're finally set up enough money to do it. So I got to do it because I was an actor when I was a kid and I would go on auditions and I don't want to be mean to other writers, but sometimes I felt like I could write it better, especially when you're the one acting.

00:13:44:03 - 00:14:07:02

Andrew Komarow

You read the lines and you're like, Okay, no human being would ever say this, so how would I say it? And eventually, you know, I will say, I guess I would consider myself a person who is screenwriting, although I would never want it as a profession, because writing is very, very, very hard. And in my opinion, it doesn't really pay the amount of effort that goes into it.

00:14:07:11 - 00:14:43:10

Austin Wolff

So my day job is I'm actually a coder and that really, really fits well with the way that I think sequentially. So that's also very rewarding for me. But with respect to the screenwriting, I wrote a story about a young man who just wants to find love and he thinks in the world of math equations and not unlike me, there is parts of the story where our character thinks about the probabilities of things happening, such as the probability of finding love or the probability of the state going well.

00:14:43:10 - 00:15:14:11

Austin Wolff

And I guess I just I felt the need to share with the world the way that I go about dating. It's it's a shade of the spectrum, too, that I don't see often. But, you know, there's like, for example, the Big Bang Theory, right? We have Sheldon Cooper now, we have community, and those are fun characters. But you know, the whole monotone robot voice, it's not in my opinion, it doesn't show it all parts of the spectrum.

00:15:14:11 - 00:15:22:06

Austin Wolff

And I guess I never really saw a story with with my side of the spectrum being told. So I just sort of wanted to share that with the world.

00:15:24:03 - 00:15:43:13

Eileen Lamb

And so you just mentioned the Sheldon from the Big Bang Theory, but do you think there are any TV shows or movies that almost go to try to gut their artistic representation close to what you would consider to be a good artistic representation?

00:15:44:08 - 00:16:19:02

Austin Wolff

That's a good question. It's hard for me to to answer that directly just because from my opinion and again, these are just my views, I think we have a spectrum and there are good and bad representations from different shades of the spectrum. I can say that my my personal or my most recent favorite is there's a show that came out of Australia on Netflix called Heartbreak High, and one of the characters on it that she's I think are the actresses name is Chloe Hayden.

00:16:19:02 - 00:16:48:09

Austin Wolff

She's in the show. She's she appears to be high functioning and she ends up dating this this other girl and the other girls was surprised that she's on the spectrum. But one thing that I just I loved about this character is it the drama didn't come from her being autistic. There was one point where she had a disagreement with her partner because they were in a very loud and noisy restaurant and she was just getting overwhelmed.

00:16:48:09 - 00:17:05:05

Austin Wolff

And that's something that I could relate to. But it was the small things like, for example, the actress would play with her necklace when she was walking or stressed out. And that's something that I do all the time and I don't really see anyone else doing. Maybe that's just unique to her and me and a few other people.

00:17:05:05 - 00:17:30:06

Austin Wolff

But I just felt like, you know, what she was going through wasn't played for laughs, It wasn't for comedy. It just it felt real in it. And it really felt relatable to me. Not saying that other characters aren't accurate representations, but this one specifically was is one of my personal favorites.

00:17:30:06 - 00:17:54:01

Austin Wolff



I know of that show. I haven't seen that show. So no, that's a good one. Yeah. My my two favorites I always mention and nobody's ever seen them. I was just talking to Eileen about the bridge and I was telling her there was a Swedish and an American version and she thought there was a bridge from America to Sweden and she thought that was weird, so I shouldn't let her live that down.

00:17:55:12 - 00:18:18:00

Andrew Komarow

But I did like I like the bridge. I also, you know, I mean, you know, I think whether like Sheldon is or community is like I'm on the fence, you know, whether that's the case. Like you could make the argument of like you're basically doing an artistic version of the character from numbers. If you wrote a book on the mathematical equations of love.

00:18:18:00 - 00:18:30:03

Andrew Komarow

Right. I don't think he is either. Just a math genius, right? So sometimes I still think like my my favorite, though, was probably the The Outsider, the Stephen King miniseries.

00:18:31:13 - 00:18:36:12

Austin Wolff

AVC I've heard great things about the bridge, too, as far as representation.

00:18:36:12 - 00:18:55:12

Andrew Komarow

So but sometimes, like, I like the ones where, you know, it's maybe not as, you know, like, like in the bridge, at least in the U.S. version, they never say she is. Same with like the outsider, but it's like, so clear. But it's also that way from the beginning, not where people are like guessing like maybe or like I think it was.

00:18:55:12 - 00:19:25:08

Andrew Komarow

Ellen, have you seen Bones? I've heard of like, bones is one where they never say she is right. Yeah. Writer says he model that after his friend who had autism. And it was just because it was an early twin and that they were actually scared of that being a part of the show. So she is. But they never say she is like he might all that after somebody now, just like where they're like, So anyway, I don't think I had a point there which, you know, Oh.

00:19:25:08 - 00:19:33:00

Eileen Lamb

I love it. I'll, I'll, I'll, I'll definitely I definitely want to check out the bridge and probably check out the outsider, too. You know, Stephen King Short mini series.

00:19:33:00 - 00:20:06:05

Andrew Komarow

I really liked it. I liked it. It was definitely a different, slightly different represented. And yeah, the Swedish version of the bridge is had like six seasons. Oh wow. But that was and then they do say that she is in the U.S. version. She's just different but they hired a what's his name Alex from I don't know but they they hire consultants like she clearly was from the beginning like whether or not they say it first just like people assuming it's canon or something.

00:20:06:05 - 00:20:11:13

Andrew Komarow

So I always appreciate Yeah I like those a bit more than, like, hypothesizing. So yeah.

00:20:12:02 - 00:20:17:00

Austin Wolff

I appreciate that too.

00:20:17:00 - 00:20:30:15

Andrew Komarow

So have you started working on the movie at all? You know, is there it looks like there's a Go Fund me. Has there been a moment so far that stood out to you or and how far along are you?

00:20:31:06 - 00:20:57:07

Austin Wolff

Yeah, yeah, we're we're shooting in March. I'm pumping all my life savings into it. But we did start a little crowdfunding campaign just to help out with post-production, because I will run out of money, but we will get the movie made. So that's fun. We're doing casting right now. I'll be playing the main character, so there will be, I guess, accurate representation there.

00:20:57:07 - 00:21:11:09

Austin Wolff

Yeah, it's going well. It's very stressful, but so far it's been very, very rewarding. So definitely recommend to anyone that wants to do something big to go out and do it because it'll be very rewarding in the end.

00:21:11:09 - 00:21:14:10

Andrew Komarow

They were going to say, Go make a movie, but in general, go out in.

00:21:14:10 - 00:21:33:07

Austin Wolff

General. Yeah, I actually don't recommend producing a movie because it's been hell, honestly. But honestly. But the end result is that's what's, that's what's going to be worth it. The actual work itself, I could I could live without it. But you know, no one else is going to make it. So we're making it ourselves.

00:21:33:07 - 00:21:42:14

Eileen Lamb

So the million dollar question, what do you think Hollywood can do to be more inclusive of the autistic actors?

00:21:43:13 - 00:22:08:00

Austin Wolff

Yeah, I have so many thoughts about this. Number one, more autistic writers by far the most important point. Number two, autistic directors. The only reason I point that up is because one of my favorite books is a Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime. For the listeners that haven't heard of it, it's about a kid with autism who discovers that his neighbor's dog has been murdered and no one cares.

00:22:08:00 - 00:22:24:04

Austin Wolff

No one presses charges, so he decides is going to solve the murder himself. I love that book. I think that the writer nailed it as far when I was reading the book, I literally felt like, Oh, this is how my brain works. Like, okay, I'm reading this, this is great. I saw a play of it is just some play.

00:22:24:04 - 00:22:47:05

Austin Wolff

It was like an off-Broadway play of the actual book because they turned it into a play and I thought that they played off the autistic stereotypes too much, and it really hampered the experience of the play for me. The actor himself was autistic, which is great. I love that they cast an autistic actor. The director was not, and to me it was painfully obvious.

00:22:47:09 - 00:23:02:09

Austin Wolff

So I think that there needs to be first and foremost, more autistic creators behind the camera, and I think that will help bleed in to better representation on screen for us actors.

00:23:02:09 - 00:23:10:10

Eileen Lamb

Andrew Would you want to comment on the incident of the dog in the night? I butchered it, but I think the one guy who has been.

00:23:10:11 - 00:23:38:03

Andrew Komarow

Censored, I am not a play person. So like, you know, just I go because my wife likes some plays. Although Josh Groban and Sweeney Todd was fantastic, so I did see that as a birthday present. I almost actually a very autistic moment. There was there was Josh Groban is not

available during these dates, and I almost balked thinking it was Josh Groban is only available during the call.

00:23:38:07 - 00:23:44:04

Andrew Komarow

So I went out, looked at for the complete wrong reasons. No wonder there were more tickets on those days. Yeah.

00:23:45:07 - 00:23:50:07

Austin Wolff

So that's awesome. That must've been a great play. Josh Groban as Sweeney Todd.

00:23:50:07 - 00:24:02:02

Andrew Komarow

And it actually was like, It was really good. Yeah, great. And you know who that is? It's not a movie so you might now I link doesn't watch any movies. It's like a trope at this point.

00:24:02:05 - 00:24:03:00

Austin Wolff

It's like.

00:24:03:06 - 00:24:22:07

Andrew Komarow

Have you seen Keep the change. It's a, it's a, it's a it was autistic I think. Was it directed, enacted or. It was very much like I think something along the lines of like what you're trying to achieve. It was very small like budget too called Keep the change. You should check it out if.

00:24:22:07 - 00:24:23:03

Austin Wolff

You open it up.

00:24:23:12 - 00:24:41:06

Andrew Komarow

And I think I don't know if the director was, but it's me. It was there were definitely autistic actors, definitely very autism, just inclusive in the entire process in general. Yeah. So it you found it. I know Eileen hasn't seen it, so I won't even ask.

00:24:41:13 - 00:24:45:02

Austin Wolff

Did that come out a few years ago? 2018, 20.

00:24:45:02 - 00:24:52:12

Andrew Komarow

17, 18 sounds about right. Yeah, maybe a little sooner. But now 2018. Yeah, that sounds.

00:24:52:12 - 00:24:54:05

Austin Wolff

Oh, wow. Yeah, it was. Looks great.

00:24:54:06 - 00:25:02:01

Andrew Komarow

Not loose change with Conspiracy theory 911 documentary also good but let's not talk about different little bit keep the change Yeah.

00:25:03:03 - 00:25:04:14

Austin Wolff

I love it. It's great. All right.

00:25:04:14 - 00:25:29:12

Eileen Lamb

It's almost so Austin are you on social media at all? And if so, where can people find you? But also, like I'm curious if you experience some of the controversies and debates, for lack of a better word, on social media and what the discord in the autistic community? You know, there is a lot of disagreement on many things.

00:25:30:03 - 00:25:39:10

Eileen Lamb

And I'm curious like how how do you do you deal with it like you've experienced it firsthand? And yeah, share where people can find you if you on social media.

00:25:40:02 - 00:26:15:06

Austin Wolff

Yeah. Thank you personally. It's Austin James Wolfe on Instagram and TikTok. I actually deleted social media many years ago, so my Facebook is gone, you know, because things are gone. But I kind of had to restart it or the movie. So. Austin James what was my personal and then Walley Jackson movie is the movie's Instagram and TikTok with respect to the actual differences in opinion of everything about autism, I haven't personally experienced it only because I wouldn't I wouldn't call myself someone that creates content just to talk about it.

00:26:15:06 - 00:26:46:08

Austin Wolff

However, I will say I've been reading this book called Unmasking Autism by Devin Price, his Ph.D., and the whole point of the book is about how we need to help create a a world where people with autism don't have to mask as much, if at all. And I love that. I think that's great. One thing that the author talks about in the book is they have their own opinions about labels.

00:26:47:09 - 00:27:19:09

Austin Wolff

They specifically cite autism as a disability. My own personal opinion is, I'm sure that there are certain shades of the spectrum where, yes, it is harder for you to exist and function in this world, and in some cases maybe your disability is a good label to use. I personally don't use the disability label. If anything, I think having autism is a strength because it allows you to see the world in a different way that many people maybe do not.

00:27:19:09 - 00:27:45:09

Austin Wolff

And this is kind of embarrassing to say, but one of my favorite representations of autism, one in movies, which I know a lot of people might disagree with me on, I'm going to say the accountant. And the reason is, is our character played by Ben Affleck. He is a hitman and he helps cook books for the bad guys.

00:27:46:01 - 00:28:29:09

Austin Wolff

But the reason why I like personally, I'm not saying it's good or bad, I should just say that I really like it. I like it because it frames his quirks up with autism as a sort of he turns it into his advantage. You know, he can't be in crowds. He doesn't like loud noises and, you know, flashing lights, but he works on himself to sort of desensitize himself to those things so he can use the parts of his autism that help him see the world and gets done what he needs to get done while also working to limit the disabling parts of it.

00:28:29:09 - 00:29:00:12

Austin Wolff

So I really enjoy stories where autism is sort of seen as parts of it are used as sort of strengths because I really do believe that the different way that certain people think can be used to help people. It's a strength. I don't want to say it's a superpower, but that's how I view it. So with respect to the differences of opinions, again, I can't speak to the entire autism community.

00:29:00:12 - 00:29:24:14

Austin Wolff

I can only speak about myself and my own experiences. I personally think the brain that I have offers me strengths and weaknesses, and I love the strengths that it does give me because I'm able to do certain things that certain people might have a harder time doing, such as focusing for a long time coding, thinking linearly. It helps with my writing, things like that.

00:29:24:14 - 00:29:30:05

Austin Wolff

So with respect to that, that's really all I can comment on.

00:29:30:05 - 00:29:53:11

Eileen Lamb

And, you know, I think you're right. It totally depends on, you know, on the people though, you know, for instance, you know, on the spectrum and movies on the spectrum and like we're on this phone call, Zoom, whatever you want to call it, like we're having a conversation on this broadcast rights. But then there is like there are autistic people like my my son, for instance, my oldest son, who's almost 11, and he's completely non-verbal.

But not only that, he doesn't have a way to communicate beyond those basic needs with an iPad. And he has a lot of challenging behaviors like, you know, self-injurious behaviors and yes, something called kale, where he eats non-edible items and he's constantly like putting himself in there. So for him, it's clearly the disability and right not to her power.

00:30:15:14 - 00:30:39:08

Eileen Lamb

And to me, the issue on social media is when people, you know, call their autism a superpower without acknowledging that for some people it can be a disability. So I think there is a lot of nuance in everything. And, you know, it's part of autism. It's hard sometimes to see the gray. It's either black or it's white, right?

00:30:39:14 - 00:30:41:11

Austin Wolff

So it's a spectrum.

00:30:42:06 - 00:31:07:02

Eileen Lamb

It's a spectrum, yeah. And while some people say it's not a spectrum, though, and even the other you just mention a human price, like right now he's on social media saying that there are we shouldn't use severity levels that you know there is no severe autism. And you know when I look at my son who's just like, you know, the surgeon pulled this crew out of his colon a couple of months ago because that's you know, he's also intellectually disabled and he has autism.

He's very disabling. And I can't sit at my son's autism is the same as my autism. It's just not. All right. Like you said, like for someone like Q, it can be a superpower, but that's not the case for everybody. And I think it's important that, you know, people remember it's a spectrum. If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism.

00:31:26:14 - 00:31:31:10

Austin Wolff

So everyone's different.

00:31:31:10 - 00:31:41:04

Eileen Lamb

So if you listen to the podcast, you know that we end the episodes with quickfire questions. So basically you just tell me the first answer that comes to your mind.

00:31:41:11 - 00:31:42:09

Austin Wolff

Okay, let's do it.

00:31:43:10 - 00:31:44:07

Eileen Lamb

Favorite movie.

00:31:45:15 - 00:31:46:10

Austin Wolff

Donnie Darko.

00:31:48:00 - 00:31:50:04

Eileen Lamb

Favorite TV show.

00:31:50:04 - 00:31:50:15

Austin Wolff

Cobra Kai.

00:31:53:03 - 00:31:55:07

Speaker 2

Favorite line from any movie.

00:31:55:12 - 00:31:57:12

Austin Wolff

Am I allowed to swear on this?

00:31:58:08 - 00:31:58:14

Eileen Lamb

Yes.

00:32:00:01 - 00:32:22:06

Austin Wolff

The first line that came to my mind was one of my other movies, Eternal Sunshine. They sort of killed the manic Pixie Dream Girl trope before it even became a thing. Kate Winslet's character. She's telling our hero that even though she's different, don't treat her different because you'll end up like every other act that she's ever had, she says.

You're not some concept. I'm just a fucked up girl looking for my own peace of mind when I relate to them.



00:32:29:01 - 00:32:29:15

Eileen Lamb

Favorite music.

00:32:30:13 - 00:32:35:15

Austin Wolff

Music. My favorite band is Kurt Joyce. Very good. Check them out.

00:32:36:01 - 00:32:42:05

Eileen Lamb

I never heard of them. Favorite street taco

00:32:42:05 - 00:32:59:02

Austin Wolff

Taco in L.A. Street. Taco there is. I can't consider them a street taco place just because they're a franchise, but they're called home state and they have very good tacos that remind me of tacos. In Austin, Texas, Brisket and everything. So home state.

00:33:00:01 - 00:33:01:15

Eileen Lamb

That's right. I mean, Austin, Texas.

00:33:01:15 - 00:33:08:01

Austin Wolff

Austin. I love Austin, Texas. That's it's my second favorite place in the whole wide world. So home states, the good taco place in L.A..

00:33:08:12 - 00:33:16:00

Eileen Lamb

And everyone from L.A. is moving to Austin. And you're watching those one place in the US where I would move would be L.A. So I feel like.

00:33:16:08 - 00:33:18:14

Austin Wolff

I love it. Let's trade. Yeah.

00:33:19:04 - 00:33:46:06

Eileen Lamb

Trade. Well, thank you so much for for joining us today on this podcast and sharing your story. And I love that, you know, even though you're clearly, like, gifted in a lot of things, you know, you're open minded and kind and you you're honest and the spectrum is broad. I mean, it's good to have that perspective. And I appreciate you, you know, sharing your movie and I hope it

works out for you.

And if you want to share like anything about the movie right now, you know, I know you have an Indiegogo or go fund me for it. Now is a great time for sure.

00:33:55:03 - 00:34:12:04

Austin Wolff

Again, thank you guys so much for having me. To our listeners, if if you want to check us out I bought the domain Wally Jackson dot com it right now it redirects to our crowdfunding campaign so if you want help us make a movie, go there and support us and be part of our film. We're just follow us and see our progress.