

HOW DO YOU GENERATE IDEAS?



I think ideas come from everywhere. I don't believe in the "tortured artist" myth—where you have to be consumed by your art or you can't reach a level of creativity. I think there's inspiration for creativity everywhere. I have found that, because my background is improvisation, I let my mind wander during the day when I'm doing mundane tasks like cleaning or driving and I think of ideas for shows, movies, sketches, paintings, images, etc then. It's a creative exercise I let my mind do in default. I also observe people a lot.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION FROM?

I am totally inspired by other actors, particularly the ones I've done improv with. I admire all artists in different genres than mine because good art is good art and I love watching people create something new and present it to the world. That's such a generous, vulnerable act



and I'm drawn to people who do that.

ONCE YOU COME UP WITH AN IDEA, HOW DO YOU DEVELOP IT?

I jot down ideas on scraps of paper and keep notes in my phone. I tell people my ideas because I like to hold myself accountable for them, so people will say, "What about..." But then you run the risk of someone stealing your idea! Usually I tell Hailey (@hailjosmith) and she's trustworthy.



CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS

with **LISA VALENTINE CLARK**
@YOURFUNNYVALENTINE

She's an actor, comedian, author, and host of her own radio program, The Lisa Valentine Clark Show. Here she shares about creativity, her creative process, and what inspires her to keep creating.

ARE THERE OTHER THINGS YOU DO THAT AREN'T RELATED TO YOUR CRAFT WHICH HELP YOU THINK CREATIVELY AS AN ARTIST?



YES! I feel that mothering and creating a home unleashed this new creative side to me. I feel like being poor and having good taste (ha!) forced me to come up with creative ways to create the space I wanted to be around and to be unconventional. I think being forced to live outside my comfort zone helped me creatively. I never feel I'm qualified for a job, completely, in acting or writing, but I do it anyway and that has helped me get better. I don't apologize for it anymore. And meeting and talking with other creative people has helped me be more bold and practice more.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO KEEP AT IT? TO NOT GIVE UP?

It never really occurred to me that I wouldn't finish something I started. Maybe that's why I enter into things after talking them out to death. I know I'll finish it. Starting is the hard part.

WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST FAILURE?

My biggest failure was not trying. For years I didn't even try, and I could have been practicing and getting better for when the opportunity presented itself. I wasted time.



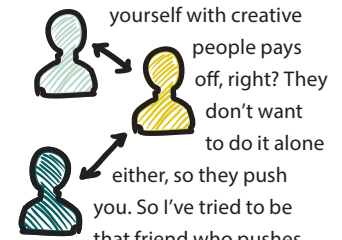
WHAT DO YOU WORRY ABOUT THE MOST WHEN YOU ARE CREATING A PROJECT?

I worry most about my family and the cost to them when I start a creative project. My husband, Christopher (@topher_clark), and my kids, and what they need to do or not do because of my project weighs on my mind.

WHAT MADE YOU TAKE THE LEAP ON YOUR FIRST PROJECTS?

Friends, or Christopher pushing me made me take the first leap. For my book (something which was totally out of my comfort zone), I was asked and pushed by my friend, Laurel. For the movie, it was Hailey and Maclain (@maclainnelson). That's when

the benefit of surrounding yourself with creative people pays off, right? They don't want to do it alone either, so they push you. So I've tried to be that friend who pushes others to do their creative stuff too, because we all benefit when they do it, with more good ideas and good art out there! I believe it feeds the community, the friend circle, or the city! Creativity breeds creativity!



WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM GIVING UP?

Ironically, what keeps me from giving up is my family. I want my kids to see you finish what you start, and I don't want Topher to be disappointed in me, and that's great motivation for large projects that have a high opportunity cost.

WHAT IS BEAUTIFUL TO YOU?

Something that is beautiful to me is seeing a friend present a new piece of art to the world that has never existed before and that they love (whether it's hair, a painting, a song, etc). When I see my own kids do that or Christopher—it's overwhelmingly beautiful to me.

