

# Special Interview

## Cory Danziger

Actor  
(Kipper)

### **What was your first impressions of the series production?**

*I was really impressed with how ornate all of the underground locations were. There was a lot of smoke that they were filling the tunnels with. So much so, that some of the crew wore breathing masks, from what I remember. Each set was like a work of art with extensive detail put into each element. It was really remarkable.*

### **Was there anything you wished you had known before you walked on the set?**

*Great question. I took it all extremely seriously and looking back that was a good thing. However, I wish I had taken photographs of my experience. These days, we live in a world where taking photographs with the phone is so commonplace. I would have loved to have shots photographs from the production.*

### **What surprised you most about your role in the production?**

*I'm most surprised that 30 years later, I have the opportunity to share memories with everyone about the show. Beauty and the Beast was a different kind of production with so much life that it is great to know that it is remembered to this day. A lot of programs I was on don't have an afterlife, and it's wonderful to know that Beauty and the Beast does.*

### **After 30 years, what is your fondest memory of the production?**

*My fondest memory is that I got to spend time with my mom (Carol), learn lines with her, and spend time together. She passed away a few years ago. I really had a special bond with her, as she was there with me as I worked on the show. I love thinking about those days because of the time I got to spend with her.*

### **What episode did you personally find the most challenging? Why?**

*Children's Story was the most challenging episode. There was a lot of components that were shot outside. Whenever you shoot outside and in this case, in downtown Los Angeles, it is a challenge as you're dealing with*

*elements and life happening around you. When you shoot on a closed set, there's a lot more control.*

**Which episode do you think was the best? Why?**

*I really think each episode of Beauty and the Beast was phenomenal. My favorite was Children's Story, but each program in the series was dynamite.*

**From your perspective, what has changed on sets since 1987?**

*So much has changed, but most incredible to me is that shows are no longer shot on film. Now the top programs are shot digitally. It allows for production to be much cheaper and easier to shoot.*

**What experience did you find most rewarding?**

*Looking back, there was a lot of rewarding experiences that I had while shooting. I think the first and maybe most rewarding was having the opportunity to work with Roy. He was so incredibly talented. He was also extraordinarily generous with his acting guidance. I loved working with him.*

**Looking back, what do you wish had happened differently?**

*I really don't have any wishes to change any of it. It was perfect on many levels for me. I enjoyed playing "Kipper". I enjoyed being on set and working with the cast and crew so much. It was a special program and all of the folks that worked on it were so talented...Just as all of the folks that continue to support the program are very special people.*

**If a sequel were possible, what would be most important?**

*If a sequel were possible, I think it would be essential to involve the fans in crafting the storylines and the character developments. The input that the writers would receive from them would be extraordinarily valuable.*



**POSTED ON CORY'S FACEBOOK PAGE OCTOBER 2020  
(reproduced here with his permission)**

*"A quick story on a Friday night...*

*GOOD ARTISTS are GENEROUS...I learned this lesson from the SCARIEST moment in my professional life.*

*When I was on the series Beauty and the Beast, there was a particular episode where I was supposed to be reciting Shakespeare with Roy Dotrice, who played "Father" on the show.*

*I was all of 10 years old at the time, and Shakespeare's words meant nothing to me. It was literally like speaking Portuguese, I didn't know what I was saying, but I knew I had to memorize the lines.*

*I did in fact memorize every word, and I showed up to the set prepared. Roy, who was a master Shakespearean actor from England and in his 60's, showed up and was very encouraging to me as we rehearsed.*

*Then the lights came on, and we were ready for our first take.*

*I froze.*

*The words somehow got jumbled into my brain and nothing came out. The director called "cut" and I tried to regroup. Roy and the extras around me prepared to start again. Only on the second take, I froze again. This had never happened to me before. I panicked. I could sense the frustration of the crew...it was like I could hear a collective "sigh." I was fucked.*

*Here's where the spirit of generosity comes in, Dotrice immediately grabbed the book I was to be holding as I was reciting Shakespeare. He shuffled through the pages, as he knew exactly where to look to find the exact lines I was to be reciting. He then underlined the lines for me, handed me the book, and saved the day. I was able to literally read the lines straight from the book in the scene.*

*Actor to actor, when one of us starts to drown, it's up to your fellow artist to lift your head above water.*

**(image from the episode scene where this occurred  
– 'Everything is Everything')**

