

9<sup>TH</sup> UNPLUGGED

PAUL PRIDEMORE

CHIEF AUDIO/VISUAL ENGINEER

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Hi, I'm Paul Pridemore.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And you are listening to 9<sup>th</sup> Unplugged.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Before we get unplugged, tell me your job title and the department that you work for.

MR. PRIDEMORE: So the department that I work for is under the technology department here at the courthouse and I am the chief audio/visual engineer, which basically means I manage the AV department.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And the AV department does what?

MR. PRIDEMORE: Pretty much anything that's electrical in this building, except for computers.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, this is a big building.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Yeah, including court reporting too.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, so you're busy.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Yeah, we are very busy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And you're the headman in charge so what is the most exciting thing you've done as a visual engineer?

MR. PRIDEMORE: So here at the courthouse, being represented or representing the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, I should say as a better example, been able to speak to large conferences about different

topics, like evidence presentation, how we do court reporting. Also some very exciting stuff is all of the people that tend to draw from the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit. We get a lot of visitors from people in Kansas City to the guys in the Bahamas, to the guys over in Puerto Rico. Pretty much anyone that is trying to do new courtroom technology comes and talks to us. So it's exciting.

JUDGE LATIMORE: This is the place to come, right.

MR. PRIDEMORE: This is the place to come.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It's because of you all. We thank you all for all the great work that you do. So let's stop talking about work and let's go ahead and dive into it. Tell me the worst thing you've ever done?

MR. PRIDEMORE: The worst thing that I've ever personally done?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes. Doesn't have to be bad but something you would not do again, let's say it that way.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Practical jokes, probably.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. So you're a practical joker.

MR. PRIDEMORE: I kind of believe that you know, just looking at numbers and the statistics of a job makes the job dull. But if we have a good working cohesive unit that can joke around and laugh and grow with each other, and I don't want to say feel for each other, but when you build more of a family than just like you know individuals at a cubicle, the whole group is much more better as a team unit, as well as you also get to grow.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, so the people you work with you are known to play practical jokes at times.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Not as much here as I have in jobs past.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so what's the worst job you've ever had?

MR. PRIDEMORE: The worst job was probably also the most fun job that I ever had and I say the worst job because monetarily speaking, you didn't get paid very much, but we had a blast. And that was working at AMC Theaters. So I was one of the first projectionists that was out at the Downtown Disney complex or at the AMC Pleasure Island. So my very first movie when I was like 15 or 16 that I started working was the Lion King. And then I worked there for like 12 years total, probably way too long.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And so you wanted to get into this field when you were younger?

MR. PRIDEMORE: I was always the kind of kid that like when the teacher was like setting up and threading the projectors and playing with technology and all that kind of stuff, I was the kind of guy that did it. You know, you had like GI Joes and transformers when I was a kid. You'd take them apart, put them back together, that kind of stuff so it's always been something that I guess that I've been naturally drawn to.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Where were you born and raised?

MR. PRIDEMORE: Right here in Central Florida. So I was born in Orlando but my parents moved to Kissimmee, and then shortly after that they moved out to St. Cloud.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What do you like the most about Kissimmee and St. Cloud area?

MR. PRIDEMORE: For the longest time when I was out there it was more of a smaller town feel. So I kind of like that type of a vibe. Right now we're out in Clermont and Groveland, actually more specifically and it's very much a small town environment still.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What is your most memorable childhood experience?

MR. PRIDEMORE: Oh, my most childhood, we were talking about this the other day. To me, family is everything, kind of like the way we grow our team here. And I remember when, probably in my teens, early teens, waking up like Christmas morning and of course everyone is excited for the presents and stuff but having like both sets of grandparents there, having my parents there. I was an only child so the more people that were a part of the Christmas, the more memorable it was to me. So that kind of stuff.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Do you have a really close friend that you consider family?

MR. PRIDEMORE: Most of my friends that were really close as I was growing up to, unfortunately, we've kind of all separated. So most of my friends exist in this building.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Especially because we probably spend more time with the guys here than we do at home.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. Name one or two things that you have on your bucket list. So you're kind of young –

MR. PRIDEMORE: On my bucket list.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, do you have a bucket list yet?

MR. PRIDEMORE: So –

JUDGE LATIMORE: Because you're kind of young for a bucket list.

MR. PRIDEMORE: I'm deceptive. I turned 45 today.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, congrats – happy birthday.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you for being unplugged with me on your birthday.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Well, I figured it was something different for my birthday so why not, right. So mainly my bucket list would be about travel. My wife and I have talked about Hawaii. My parents came back – if it wasn't for COVID, my parents would have gone to Alaska for the second time so me and my wife have talked about that. Going to Europe and the trip that we're looking at potentially for 2022, if everything clears up and we can go cruising again is Bermuda.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, I've always wanted to see if I can get to Bermuda as well. What are some of your personal rules that you never break?

MR. PRIDEMORE: That I never break.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Or try not to.

MR. PRIDEMORE: I try to be as forthcoming as possible, even if I'm giving too much information. I try to always be as transparent I guess is the best way of saying it as possible.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. And if you could be a super hero, who would that be?

MR. PRIDEMORE: Specifically. I was always a Batman fan so I guess Batman.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And why?

MR. PRIDEMORE: Because he was an ordinary person with tools and gadgets and that kind of stuff.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. If you could take a quick getaway, quick trip, road trip, where would you go?

MR. PRIDEMORE: In the COVID times or not?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Let's pretend it's not COVID times.

MR. PRIDEMORE: So quick trips would be like anything on a cruise. That's the family's biggest thing of travel. But during COVID, we've taken up a lot more camping which was like a lot more of my roots. So we've taken the kids camping several times since COVID.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And where do you camp?

MR. PRIDEMORE: So the last time we went we didn't really camp in like tents or anything. We went and rented a cabin.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Up in the foothills of Georgia, the mountains up there.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, and so do you like to camp?

MR. PRIDEMORE: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So I'm afraid of camping. So what is –

MR. PRIDEMORE: Why are you afraid of camping?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Because I don't want to sleep with snakes and insects and frogs.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So pretty much that's the reason. But tell me what is it that you enjoy the most about camping?

MR. PRIDEMORE: Camp fires for one.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, that's pretty.

MR. PRIDEMORE: The biggest thing for me is in my off time I try to, no punt intended, unplug. Cruise ships are awesome because I can take my phone with me but as soon as we get out into the middle of the ocean, the phone is dead.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Same with camping for the most part. If you go into a national forest or a national park, your cell phone is dead. So it forces me to not be looking at my phone, not working with my phone, all that kind of stuff.

JUDGE LATIMORE: If you were able to be reincarnated as an animal, based on your personality, what animal do you think that you would come back as?

MR. PRIDEMORE: I would go opposite of my personality and I'd say a bear.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Opposite of your personality.

MR. PRIDEMORE: I'm a very much-introverted person. This is very much out of my comfort zone so – and public speaking or any of that stuff is very much out of my comfort zone, but this job has kind of forced me into – into other things so I would say a bear.



JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, I must say to you happy birthday again, and you were very extroverted this unplugged moment with me.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Thank you.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So thank you so much for spending the time with me.

MR. PRIDEMORE: Thank you.

(Music)