

Deadair Dennis Maler (00:00):

Thank you so much for downloading this episode of, so what do you really do? The podcast where I am your host, Deadair Dennis Maler, speak to artists and entertainers about their day jobs and the artists and entertainer on today's show talking about her day job of being a comedian and a producer and a warmup act and all around great person, a mensch as her people will say is comedian Jessica Kirson. This is an interview that came about in collaboration with the work that I do with digBoston. So you could also go to digboston.com or pick up a print news version of this conversation anywhere in the Boston area, where you see a box containing digBoston newspapers. Jessica Kirson could not have been any more nice and gracious with what little time she had. This is how I know somebody's going to be a good person: when they reply to me.

Deadair Dennis Maler (00:48):

I reached out to her management about doing this interview to help promote her and Rachel Feinstein's upcoming prank call album and her appearance at Laugh, Boston, September 17th and 18th. And not only did our publics get back to me, Jessica got to me back to me directly in person, and I love scheduling these things with the person in question, because it makes things a lot easier instead of the back and forth nature of telling the publicist when I have available times and then getting back to me when they have available times. And of course, inevitably it all happens almost every time somebody forgets to adjust for east coast or west coast, whatever time, and the times end up not working out well. Jessica and I actually did this conversation via the phone because that worked out more advantageously for her.

Deadair Dennis Maler (01:40):

And of course I have my home studio that has set up and has been set up for a long time to take phone calls. So it was not a problem. We fixed the audio a little bit, so it shouldn't sound too much like a phone call, but phones these days sounds so much better now than they ever did. And I think it was a good fun interview. She was really opened up about a couple of things. Which I was happy about because I don't ever want to do interviews. So how did you get into comedy? What kind of things happen on the way was a crazy story from, from being a road comic? Like, that dumb bullocks. I want to actually know who they are and what they do and why they do the things they do. And I think she really opened up about a couple of things.

Deadair Dennis Maler (02:22):

And I think she enjoyed it. I know she did because she gave me, it's weird to say this, but she gave me some really nice compliments in there. And I left them in. My instinct was to actually take them out. But I do suffer from depression and imposter syndrome. And so leaving these things in while making me uncomfortable is a way for me to deal with my emotional feelings about insecurities and stuff like that. So it's not I, I'm not boasting in any which way. I am really embarrassed, but also incredibly proud of the compliments of my entering skills that Jessica will you'll hear her say 'em. And I always like when I can catch my subjects, the people I'm interviewing, not off guard. Cause that sounds like I'm like Howard Stern. And like, "I'm going to ask you about questions.

Deadair Dennis Maler (03:12):

I know I'm going to ask questions about you fucking," and stuff like that. Like that's not, I don't want to, I don't want to blindside anybody. You know, I want them to answer openly and truthfully about the things that I asked them about. And I think she did especially since a few of the the subjects that we're

talking about are things that are also relative to me in my life. And it was nice to hear that, you know, somebody who has similar issues that I do, is working through them in a healthy way. Cause we hope that I can also be more healthy in some of the things that I do that is not the best for me. I'll leave it at that. By the way, if you're just joining this podcast for the first time, thank you so much for being here.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([03:55](#)):

We appreciate it. If you came because Hey, there's a particular person that he, that Deadair Dennis interviewed that I enjoy well, help them out by going to whatever your podcast platform of choice is and leaving this podcast a review, thumbs up, stars, whatever that platforms way of saying, this is a good thing. Could you please do that? It not only helps me out a lot, but it also helps all of our subjects because the more positive reviews about this podcast, the more the aggregators and the more the companies share these podcasts with other people. The more people that gets shared with more people who listen to it, more people listen to it. More people who may like the person you came here to hear. So I would appreciate it. If you enjoyed yourself, if you enjoyed the conversation, go leave it a good review and some stars or thumbs up or likes or whatever it is.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([04:49](#)):

And maybe if you wanted to go the extra mile, share it with a friend, that'd be great. I would appreciate it. And I know every guest I've ever had on the show would also appreciate it, if you did that. If you are in the new England area please go see Jessica Kirson at Laugh, Boston, September 17th or 18th of two shows each night they're going to be absolutely hysterical. She is one of the best comedians out there now and probably ever and if you've never heard of her, this is your first time hearing her. You go see any of her comedy online, go see your live. You will absolutely enjoy it. I guarantee she is an amazing professional and very talented. So go to laughboston.com to purchase tickets for the show, September 17th and 18th, and also September 24th, her new prank call album with her and Rachel Feinstein will be released. That's coming out September 24th on every platform. You can download audio things at iTunes, Spotify, Pandora, iHeartRadio, Sirius XM, all those places. So if you enjoy prank calls, the Rachel and Jessica do some of my favorite prank calls, especially since it was recorded during COVID. So just a lot of COVID stuff in there, and it might be a nice therapeutic way to work through the entire madness that has been the past year and a half plus. So, and now, without any further ado, please enjoy my conversation with comedian and producer Jessica Kirson.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([06:20](#)):

Hello, Ms. Kirson.

Jessica Kirson ([06:22](#)):

Hi. How are you?

Deadair Dennis Maler ([06:23](#)):

Good. thanks for calling in.

Jessica Kirson ([06:27](#)):

No problem. I'm so sorry. I've been slammed. It's such a crazy time. I, I just got off interview and now I have like a half hour if that's okay.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([06:39](#)):

No, that's perfectly fine. We'll go ahead and get the, knock this out as quick as I can. I appreciate you taking the time. I understand you're super busy right now because the world's getting back to turning again. We're trying to get back out on the road and doing everything. So I completely understand that you have a lot going on right now.

Jessica Kirson ([06:55](#)):

Awesome. Thank you for being understanding.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([06:59](#)):

No, of course. Hey look, it's, it's great to spend any time with you. Oh, oh. Before I forget, I do have to let me, yeah. I wanted to let you know my buddy Rob Maher. I was just talking to him the other day and I mentioned that we were gonna be interviewing. He wanted me to tell you he said hi, and he wants you wish you good luck at the improv this weekend.

Jessica Kirson ([07:19](#)):

So, oh, cool. He's a great

Deadair Dennis Maler ([07:21](#)):

That, Rob's a great guy. It's, it's it's a shame that we don't get to perform together. Cause I now live in Boston and he's still back in DC where I started. So

Jessica Kirson ([07:28](#)):

Yeah.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([07:30](#)):

But anyway so go on let's so you have another new prank call album coming out. And I'm always curious because I remember Jim Florentine talking about when he did his prank call album all those years ago, that the way he came about it was just, he was sitting at home and he got, you know, solicitor calls and then decided to make an album from it. So I'm always curious how somebody goes about making a prank call album. Like, do you sit down and have to think of bits ahead of time and hope they work out? Is it completely strictly improv? What was the process for making your last one and the new one, The Call Girls?

Jessica Kirson ([08:08](#)):

That's a great question. So well Rachel and I always did prank calls and I love doing them. I'm like obsessed with prank calls and Rachel and I, you know, because Rachel Feinstein and I, because COVID, you know, it was so depressing and we're very close. We just talk so much during COVID. Unfortunately like right after COVID started and all my work was canceled. My dad passed away a month later from cancer, which is such a miserable time. And her, she gave birth right after COVID. I mean, it was insane right after it came out. And her husband is a first responder, and we were like, let's just prank calls and record them from home. So we literally both sat out in our houses and my manager, Jim Serpico, recorded them and we video recorded them and audio recorded them and had a blast and just made each other laugh and recorded all of these pranks and tortured businesses for weeks. And all of the pranks, there's at least one thing in them that has to do with COVID. And it was just our way of dealing with, with the whole situation and like laughing every week, doing these calls.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([09:35](#)):

Excellent. I loved the, and I want to watch it again. I just haven't sat down and done it, but I want to watch Hysterical again. I loved the documentary the first time around. I love that it was introducing every comedian, every comedian. And then you guys jumped in to the story of some of the things that women have to deal with and using that narrative on the second half of it, because it felt so good to watch the first half where you're just meeting all these. Now I'm familiar with all these comedians because I am a comedian myself and a comedy fan. So I knew who all these people were. But as a viewer standpoint, I thought it was great that you guys opened the first half of it with just here are so many various different female comedians.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([10:19](#)):

And then you guys jumped into, you know, the young lady who called out Max Weinstein and got you know, who started the whole Max Weinstein thing and all the other stories that interwove back and forth that a good documentary has. There's always a narrative of some sort, but I love the beginning of it where you're just like, here's a female comedian, here's a female comedian. Here's a female comedian because there's so many female comedian women, you know, so many women in comedy now compared to a few years ago. And I think it was very good for a lot of people to see that when you guys were putting this together, was there thoughts on how you were going to go about and what stories you're going to tell?

Jessica Kirson ([11:00](#)):

Yeah. I mean, of course, you know, we talked a lot about that and, you know, I didn't direct it. So basically it came down to the director's point of view when it was all said and done, but, you know, it's, it's, it's so complex. The whole thing, I it's it's really, God it's, so...

Deadair Dennis Maler ([11:24](#)):

No, that's fine. Cause I, I know you're a producer on it and it's oh, the producer is the most broadest term at all of entertainment. It's always hard to tell what somebody's involvement was when they have the word producer as that.

Jessica Kirson ([11:38](#)):

Right. Of course. And you know, what the great thing is is that it's very rare that, you know, I, it all came from my idea and, and it'll all generated from that. And thank God that director was so open to, I mean, honestly, every decision she made, she came to me first. And that is so rare. She was really great. She, you know, a lot of times like she, a lot of times the director doesn't even like take the suggestions from the producers and they don't even like, they just do whatever they want to do and they twist things around and they're like, so egotistical and she would, Angie and Evans was so like so curious. And so she didn't like have a lot of ego at all. And she was just so like, you're the expert, you know, what you're talking about? And she really listened to us and was so curious and I'm so grateful for that.

Jessica Kirson ([12:36](#)):

And you know, she would like she would edit it and then show us the copies of it. And I'd be like, no, no, no, this is not you please like, she would give us a copy of it and I'd be like, can you please put like funnier stand up in it? And can you do this? You could change, can you do that? And it was just, it was a dream in that way. I just have to say I'm so I'm actually amazed, like, even since the movie came out and everyone was so enlightened and so many comics were like, oh God, and even male comics

were like, this is incredible. And I'm so blown away by it. And I can't, so many people were like, I cannot believe what female comics go through. And their eyes were open to so many things. I'm looking at all these lineups recently. And I'm like, what the fuck is going on? Like, things are honestly even kind of worse than they were. I'm not talking about in New York, but God in LA, I'm looking at these lineups and I'm like, what's happening?

Jessica Kirson ([13:40](#)):

I haven't seen one woman comic. I'm like, what? In New York, it's good. Like, there's a lot of women on on line ups in New York, but in LA I'm like, is this it's something going on where they're like, purposely not booking women? It's really incredible.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([13:57](#)):

I, I'm not gonna try and claim to be a woke person or a feminist or anything like that. But I notice it myself too,

Jessica Kirson ([14:05](#)):

I'm not either. I'm not a woke person, like I'm actually pretty in the middle on a lot of stuff. I'm not like a lot of that stuff drives me crazy. But I'm really like, is, are they purposely not booking women? What is what is going on?

Deadair Dennis Maler ([14:23](#)):

It's sometimes feel that way. This weekend was I called the cavalcade of white men comedians, this, this past weekend where it's like, we had an early show that was three white guys a five o'clock, you know, show that was all like the, the Friday, the, the Wednesday show earlier that week was three white guys. You know, the weekend show was two white guys and one white woman I'm like, geez, can we get a little bit of change? Like, and it seems that way. Like, I don't, I don't know if it falls under the, maybe maybe you notice this, or maybe you can speak to it, or maybe it just makes you as worried. Is it, is it the people booking or is it just sometimes harder to find, right.

Jessica Kirson ([15:02](#)):

No. It's not hard to find female comedians. There's, it's not hard to find female comedians. So that's not the excuse. And I'm very realistic and I'm not an angry female comic. I get a shitload of work. So I'm not resentful. I'm not bitter. I get an enormous amount of work because I'm a funny female comic. I'm a funny comic period. So I am not lacking in work. I am every day, I'm turning down a shitload of work. So it's not coming from a place of, "I don't get enough work. I'm a female comic and I don't get enough work." I am, I get an enormous amount of work and I'm very grateful, but I am looking at these lineups at some of these clubs, and especially in LA. And I'm like, cause they're posted on Twitter and Instagram, whatever. And I'm like, is, is there, is there something going on?

Jessica Kirson ([15:55](#)):

Like what is happening? I mean, I'm not kidding. There's 15 comics and I'm not seeing one female comic. Like, is there, what is going on? What is going on? There are there, especially in LA, there's like, there's a hundred female comics that are really funny. Like, it's not like I'm talking about maybe in a town where there might not be. I mean, I'm being realistic right now. There might not be a ton of female comics in some of these places that are really strong. There might not be in some cities and that's real, there might not be, but in places where there's cities, where there's a lot of female comics who were really

funny, why are they not being booked? What is happening? I mean, is it what is going on here or black comics or... And listen to, I don't agree with, let's just book women, black people, Asian people, and Hispanic people, so that it looks like they're being diverse.

Jessica Kirson ([17:03](#)):

I don't agree with that, but let's book them because they're funny and they'll kill, and let's show diversity because that's, that's, what's coming to the club. And let's show all different kinds of comics because that's also what people want to see. People want to see a diverse lineup. They don't want to see straight white male after straight white male. After, you know, when people see a diverse lineup, when they go to the comedy cellar and they see that they come at it and I hear it constantly, they come out of the show and they say, what a great fucking show. I saw every kind of person that is a great show. That was really like an amazing show. I'm so glad I got to see every, every different kind of comic, every different points of views, different ethnicities, gay, straight, trans, this that, I mean, it's like, it's more, it's a better show. It's more interesting

Deadair Dennis Maler ([17:59](#)):

I agree. Out of the, from the documentary, is there any interview or is there anyone that was, must to be a part of it that ended up on the cutting room floor that you just didn't fit in and you regret getting,

Jessica Kirson ([18:11](#)):

No.

Jessica Kirson ([18:11](#)):

oh, it's good. Everything got it.

Jessica Kirson ([18:12](#)):

Yeah. Everything got in it. I mean, some, some things like a lot, of course, a ton of things were cut out. Yeah. So of course,

Deadair Dennis Maler ([18:20](#)):

But it was there anything like specific, like we really wish we could have gotten this in, but...

Jessica Kirson ([18:24](#)):

Yeah. Well, I mean, no, like, I mean, there was a lot like that I was filmed about my family that I wish got in, but there just wasn't time. There just wasn't enough time, but like, there were a ton of people we reached out to, to be in it that, that either were filming stuff at the time. Or, you know, they couldn't do, weren't interested in doing it. I mean, that always happens. So that sucked, you know, people that I wish, you know, could have done it. But no, there wasn't like, there wasn't stuff like that.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([19:05](#)):

I, if it's okay. If I may ask you a couple questions about your family, because I know there's a well-to-do experienced filmmaker in your family. When the conversation of this document that was coming up, or some of the old some of the former movies you have worked on and stuff, do you and him consult, consult each other? Or is there a notes conversation? Is there any good advice or tips that you've received from, from your stepbrother or that he's, or you've turned around? It's like, Hey, I know you've

made movies, but here's something you might want to be aware of. Is there ever a family conversation about filmmaking?

Jessica Kirson ([19:41](#)):

Yes. Like, so Zach [Braff] and I have talked, we talk a lot, you know, I, he came to my show. Zach has been coming to my shows at the comedy cellar every week, actually. Cause he's in town in New York. He's about to film a movie in our hometown in Jersey with actually a drama, very serious drama with his girlfriend, Florence [Pugh], and then Morgan Freeman and Molly Shannon. And so he, and he loves coming to the comedy cellar. He loves coming to standup shows. So he came with my mom the past couple of weeks and my sister came last week. And so it's really fun. It's really great to have my family come to my shows. And he, I actually sat with him and ate dinner the other night and picked his brain. Cause I have a situation with a business thing with a sit-com deal that I have with NBC peacock.

Jessica Kirson ([20:39](#)):

And I asked his advice and asked him a ton of questions about how to handle it and what to do. And it was great, you know, it's so I feel very grateful that I can go to him, and ask him these questions of what to do and how to, you know, how to do it. Cause he has so much experience with this stuff. So he's so smart. He's really, I mean, he's so brilliant. Like he's a, he's a writer, he's a director, he's a producer. He has so much knowledge. So it's really, and then he comes to me and says, "my God, how do you do up? I could never do that." I mean, he came on stage with me once at the sailor, he was in the audience and I said, come on, stage me. And he's like, no, no, no. And I, I brought him on stage, I have it on tape and he was panicking. He's hilarious. He was having like a nervous breakdown on stage with me. And he was it's hilarious. He was wearing this blue t-shirt and he had like huge sweat marks. He was having so nervous to be on stage, doing stand up, not stand up, but we were telling stories about our childhood and he was freaking out. So he can't, he can't even imagine doing what I do. And I can't even imagine doing what he does

Deadair Dennis Maler ([22:01](#)):

Acting for the camera and performing for a camera and performing for live people are too worldly, different skillsets.

Jessica Kirson ([22:08](#)):

Oh, sure. Yeah.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([22:10](#)):

Oh, that's adorable. I love hearing that you guys get together, or that you get along because sometimes you hear about sibling rivalries in the entertainment business with two people. I mean, my brother and myself, my brother and I haven't talked in eight years. Because of his choice, not mine. I wish we could, he just doesn't want to. So that's just the world I live in. So it's nice to hear other people get along with their siblings.

Jessica Kirson ([22:31](#)):

Every family has that. I mean, we have our own stuff. You know, he's great. He but everyone has their tsrus. That's a Yiddish word for like, you know problems and whatever, in a family, of course there's politics stuff. And in my family, there's always like stuff that goes on and, and different things that happen. But with him it's it's cool. It's definitely it's, it's definitely good.

Deadair Dennis Maler (23:03):

Excellent. I know your mother is a therapist you've talked about in your standup. It's a, it's a known thing. And I don't know if a lot of people know this, but you also went to school to be a psychiatrist, a

Jessica Kirson (23:14):

Social worker, social worker. Okay. Yeah, because

Deadair Dennis Maler (23:16):

I thought you had a degree in sociology from university of Maryland go TURPs. But the so I was wondering when you started to make that transition into standup, was that a conversation that you had to have with your mom about not going into the necessary family business there? Was she understanding, was she supportive or was it one of those things you just had to convince her that this was your plan for life? This is the road that you need to go down for you. And it took her time to understand or anything like that?

Jessica Kirson (23:45):

So I went to school to be a social worker and then went to NYU was fortunate when I told my parents that I was going to be a standup comedian. They were like, are you out of your mind? Like literally out of my mind, but they also knew how funny I was. You know, I was always, I had the gift of being funny and that sounds egotistical, but I, if anyone knows me and follows my career, they know I'm filled with self-hatred. Part of the reason why I'm funny of main, the major part of why I'm funny. So, you know, they thought I was nuts. They also, in the beginning, you know, it was horrific. I was doing open mics for years. I made a dollar. I would do these shows in the city at clubs and make \$10, \$15.

Jessica Kirson (24:39):

They were like, what, what is this? Like, how could they pay you that much to do stand up at a comedy club? Like they didn't even, they couldn't wrap their brains around that. And it was, it was tough. It was tough for a long time. But I think once they saw that I was having some success and starting to do the road and starting to do some TV stuff, they were like, oh, okay, okay. You know, they supported it. But also my mom, you know, it's interesting. My parents, I don't know. I come from a pretty cool family and pretty cool parents. Like they, they understood art, the arts, you know, they always were like, they both did theater growing up. Like they were in community theater. They, they always supported Broadway and this and that. And they kind of got it. You know, they, they weren't, I don't know. They kind of got that. I, I, and they thought that I was good at it, even though like, even if I bought, like they still, I had potential from the beginning, so they supported it. So I was pretty lucky that way.

Deadair Dennis Maler (25:48):

I don't think you should sell yourself short when you're talking about you know, Zach being able to do all these other things, because you yourself have a multitude of talents in the comedy business, not only your stand up, you've been a writer, you've consulted on different comedy movies and stuff like that. And just in comedy itself, you know, emceeing, it's a completely different skillset than featuring, which is a completely different skill set than headlining. And of course you do comedy in different places like private shows. You've done, warm-up act as I've understood. When you go into these different versions of comedy, you have to be aware of the medium, you are in change some of the way you do things to fit the place that you're in?

Jessica Kirson ([26:30](#)):

That's a great question. And you know, a lot of times, I just want to say, I do forget all of the things I've done. I've done a lot of in this business. And I have, I mean, I did warm up for years for television. I did it for the Mike and Juliet show, which was a morning show for Fox. Which I met, oh my God. On a daily basis, I worked with, this is incredible, but I worked with Geraldo and judge Jeanine. I mean, it's crazy that I worked with these people on a deal and they weren't who they were, then, you know who they are now. They were great! And I met a ton of celebrities. I mean, I, I, I did the morning. I do warm up for the morning show the first day Taylor swift was ever on television. She was not Mike and Juliet show.

Jessica Kirson ([27:20](#)):

You know, I met tons of people on that show. And I, I worked for the view for a long time doing warmup. I worked on Bethany and Anderson Cooper and and then I did cruise ships for years. And I did college tours for years. And I've done Orthodox shows many, many, many times on the road and, and done so many different things and yes, I've done, I've done, I've produced for a lot of things. And I want to start getting into directing. And I love doing that. I, you can't just depend on just doing standup anymore. You know? If you want to really be successful in this business and make money, you have to do a ton of different things. So I love doing that. And I've had to learn if, if you want to make money I'm talking about and really make a good living, you have to learn how to do stand up to different audiences and adapt.

Jessica Kirson ([28:16](#)):

And I've had to learn how to be very, very clean to do colleges and corporate gigs and Orthodox shows and all these different things. And I've made that decision. You know, a lot of comics don't want to do that and I get it and I respect that, you know, completely, but because I have kids and because I'd want to make, wanted to make money and save money and retire one day, I decided to clean up my act at certain times and, and and appeal to different audiences at different times. Like when I do an Orthodox show, I don't come out because not because I, I care what they think of me at all, but because I know if I do, I'm going to struggle for an hour. And why do I want to put myself in that position and not get laughs for an hour? Rather than just get the job done and get a big check and go home and then do talk about it the next night and make fun of them. You know what I mean? It's like, it's my decision and I won't do it unless I know I'm going to make a lot of money. It's not worth it for me. So...

Deadair Dennis Maler ([29:21](#)):

That's inspiring to hear that, that you're aware that, Hey, if I want to perform for this crowd, I have to adjust myself to them. And, and it, because so many times you hear people go, "if they don't, if they don't find my Dick jokes funny, that's their fault." And it's nice to hear somebody is conscious and aware that this is, you know, both an art form and a business that you're in this for both yourself and also the making sure the audience enjoys what you're saying and doing.

Jessica Kirson ([29:51](#)):

Right. Exactly.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([29:52](#)):

I'm also surprised that you miss benching Bethany Frankel's name that you worked on for the show, because I feel like there was a article a couple of years ago, ma who knows with the pandemic. I dunno if it's been years a month, but like a few years ago, didn't you have problems with her show?

Jessica Kirson ([30:08](#)):

That's why there was an article because I did not mean anything to go to the point it did, but I tweeted something about her because she tweeted something about what's her name? John Legend's wife. Oh God. What's.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([30:25](#)):

Chrissy Teagan.

Jessica Kirson ([30:25](#)):

Yes. Something rude about her. And I tweeted you. You're wanting to talk because I did warm up for her show for months and warm up sucks. And you have to be like, Hey, be totally clean. And like soul dies and you want to, oh, it's horrible. And you know, you have to phone it in and it's, it's great money. I mean, again, that's why I did it. I have kids. And I went there every morning and just, I mean, the crowds, they're great. They're dying to go there and be in the live audience, but anyway, show up every morning and do that. And she would come in, and the hosts are always nice to the warm of people because they know it's a hard job and they want you to do a great job because you're the fluffer. You're the one that gets the audience going so that they look great.

Jessica Kirson ([31:16](#)):

And she didn't say hi to me once. She really talked to me, like I was a piece of and was like, can you get them going more and blah, blah, blah. And I was like, this is the rudest person on earth. She was never like, "hello, I'm Bethany," or "hi, thank you so much. You're doing a great job," or "hi, what's your name?" So, and I'm thinking, who the are you? And I, you know, have worked with the most famous people in this business and God, I mean, my stepbrothers famous. I've met everyone through him. I've hung out with everyone through him. I've been to all these movie premiers. I've, you know, he dated Mandy Moore. I mean, she was at my house for Passover for God's sake. And like, who are you? I could care less who you are. You don't even phase me.

Jessica Kirson ([32:04](#)):

And I literally, one day walked off set. I had had enough of it. I was in the middle of the show and I took the microphone and put it down on the side of the stage and literally left. I was like, I'm done. It was hilarious. I'm like, I'm so done with this woman. I'm like, she was treating me like I was an animal. I'm like, I literally didn't even say goodbye to anyone. I just took the microphone, put it down, got my bag and left. I mean, that's how I am. I'll take it for, for a long time. But then at a certain point, I'm like, I don't care who you are or what you, you know, anything I'm just, I'm done.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([32:44](#)):

That's bold that have that. Self-Confidence to be able to say, I don't need to be treated this way. I'm going to walk off. So, hats off to you.

Jessica Kirson ([32:52](#)):

I am you, you can, I'd rather do comedy on the street with a bucket and created like that. I mean, I have pride, like I am not going to be treated like that by anybody.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([33:05](#)):

Is it fair to say, that I like when I watch your comedy, I mean this, with the utmost respect, when I say that, I think your comedy is very aggressive because it's very fast. It's very loud. I mean, it's hysterical and great. Do you feel that that is also a reflection of your personality in a, in a non pejorative way?

Jessica Kirson ([33:24](#)):

You know, it's funny offstage, I'm pretty mellow and socially awkward at this point. And I I'm anxious and I'm not aggressive off stage. I mean, if people are rude to me or aggressive towards me, I'll be aggressive back, but I'm not aggressive off stage. I think onstage, I feel vulnerable and you know like naked, you know what I'm saying? So I feel more aggressive and you know, I feel more powerful of course, like standing on stage with a microphone. And but there's also times on stage when I'm, you know, if I'm doing a long set I'm I'm there's times when I'm really mellow and quiet. And there's times when I turn around and I have my back to the audience and I do that internal monologue, I'm very inward. And there's times when my stand up is, is pretty mellow. It's interesting. I have all different styles on stage, but the clips that people see online are very aggressive, you know, for the most part, but it's not always like that.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([34:47](#)):

And the last question I'll ask you, since you opened up about being vulnerable, after this question, we'll, we'll let you get back to your other activities that you need to get done today is since you're talking about being open and vulnerable one of the things that I relate to because I have similar issues is I'm, I'm I love that you're open that you open up about your struggles with food addiction and you know, some of the weight issues you've experienced over your life. Is it important to you personally and your growth as a person and getting through these issues to talk about this stuff on stage, or have you only been able to talk about this on stage because you have dealt with these demons? So to speak in your life

Jessica Kirson ([35:29](#)):

Already, right? You're a great interviewer, by the way.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([35:32](#)):

Thank You. I, that this clip is going on my wall of compliments.

Jessica Kirson ([35:37](#)):

Well, I'm not saying it even just to be nice. I've done hundreds, if not a thousand interviews, and you're a very good interviewer. So you deserve to be told that. And when I feel that someone deserves a compliment, I always say it because people don't compliment people enough and you really are a great interviewer. So everyone should hear that and everyone should spread the word about your podcast. It's a podcast, right?

Deadair Dennis Maler ([36:03](#)):

It's going to be both a print Q and A interview in dig Boston. And then we're going to release it as a podcast episode as well.

Jessica Kirson ([36:10](#)):

Make sure you print this too. So it's, you're a great interviewer. And yes, I feel that it's very important to talk about my food issues because it's, it's a demon for me. And you know, it's funny, it's funny you even

asked that question because someone said to me, everyone says to me, "you've lost so much weight. And why do you talk about food so much?" And "you don't need to talk about it so much." And, and, you know, you look so great and why do you? And like, it's like, yeah, guess what? I need to talk about it a lot because I deal with it every single day. It's a major addiction for me, it's a huge source of pain in my life and stress. It's something that I've had so much history with from a very young age. I've had trauma around it. I was put on diets from the age of probably eight years old.

Jessica Kirson ([37:07](#)):

I, you know, have dealt with a ton of stuff with food addiction and, and and I struggle with it every single day, every day, all day, I have to make decisions around it. And and I constantly want to act out with food and I constantly want to hurt myself with food. And it's really hard for me. It really is. And, you know, even this morning I wanted to eat, you know, eat bad food and had to really not do it and say, "Jessica, don't do it. Don't, don't eat that. You're going to feel bad," you know, trying to make good decisions. And it's really hard. It's really, really hard for me every day. And I, you know, tomorrow I'm flying to DC to go on the road for four days and it's going to be very hard for me to be in a hotel.

Jessica Kirson ([37:54](#)):

And, you know, I want to hurt myself with food. I really do. I want to, I, because a lot of times I get resentful towards other people and it's hard for me to express myself towards them. And I want to take it out on myself. I want to eat because I'm sober. I don't drink, I don't do drugs. I don't smoke pot. I don't do anything. And that's the one thing that would be very easy for me to do, because you have to eat. And it's easy. It's easy, it's accessible. I can order pizza. I can do this. I can do that. But you know what? It is incredibly dangerous because I can kill myself with food. Literally I can kill myself with food. I can have a heart attack. I have been 330 pounds. That is how fat I, that is how heavy I've gotten.

Jessica Kirson ([38:49](#)):

And I've lost 120 pounds. I've lost even more than that at this point. And and I will die from food and eating. I will literally die if I don't work on it daily. So it's a very serious thing for me. And it is, and it is funny and I can joke about it, but when people tell me, don't, don't make fun of yourself. Don't, don't talk about food so much. And why do you talk about a lot? Because I have to, and I also feel it's important because it helps other people and, people need to hear about it and people can relate to it. And so many people struggle with it. So people thank me for talking about it and you know, and I'll always talk about it because it'll always be something I struggle with. So it's it is what it is. You know, I have a food addiction.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([39:50](#)):

It's nice to hear you talk about and that people also can relate to you and can look up to you as someone that they can, you know, feel more comfortable about dealing with their issues with. So that's great to hear. I have a great time in DC and I can't wait to see you here in Boston.

Jessica Kirson ([40:06](#)):

Thank you so much. You were great. You did a great job.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([40:07](#)):

Thank you for saying that. Have a great day. Bye.

Deadair Dennis Maler ([40:15](#)):

So nice. I love when people are nice.