

# AT Banter Podcast Episode 289 - Bold Blind Beauty

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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## SPEAKERS

Steve Barclay, Lis Malone, Rob Mineault, Sylvia Stinson-Perez, Stephanae McCoy, Ryan Fleury

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**R** Rob Mineault 00:18  
Hey and welcome to another episode of AT Banter

**S** Steve Barclay 00:23  
Banter, banter.

**R** Rob Mineault 00:26  
Hey, this is the podcast, of course, where we talk with advocates and members of the disability community to educate and inspire better conversation about disability. Hey, my name is Rob Mineault. And joining me today, Mr. Ryan Fleury.

**R** Ryan Fleury 00:53  
I've got it together.

**R** Rob Mineault 00:58  
I mean, really, if you didn't have it together, would you really know that you didn't have it together? I don't know.

**S** Steve Barclay 01:02  
He did say joining me today. So maybe you're joining him. So he's got it together.

R Ryan Fleury 01:06  
Maybe?

R Rob Mineault 01:09  
Okay. And also in the room. Mr. Steve Barclay,

S Steve Barclay 01:13  
That's me providing samples of sarcasm as required.

R Rob Mineault 01:19  
And Lis Malone.

L Lis Malone 01:23  
I will be very well behaved this week.

R Rob Mineault 01:25  
Thank you. I appreciate that.

L Lis Malone 01:27  
You're welcome, Rob.

R Rob Mineault 01:29  
Yeah, so look at us. Back to full strength again. We were we were short handed last week. Just me and Steve. But yeah, we've we've returned to the ice at full strength.

S Steve Barclay 01:45  
Oh, hey, Ryan, less you know who missed you guys last last week?

R Ryan Fleury 01:49

 Ryan Fleury 01:49  
Who?

 Steve Barclay 01:51  
Nobody.

 Lis Malone 02:00  
Probably.

 Rob Mineault 02:03  
No, you guys were missed.

 Ryan Fleury 02:06  
I can take next week off. I love it.

 Rob Mineault 02:09  
No taking any more time off. How was the dentist?

 Ryan Fleury 02:13  
The dentist? Fantastic. Yeah, absolutely. Fabulous.

 Steve Barclay 02:17  
Always a great experience, isn't it?

 Rob Mineault 02:19  
Right. And now wait a minute, so and I did promise the audience that I would do this. But what about Lis, where were you, Lis?

 Lis Malone 02:27  
I had to get my nails done.

**R** Rob Mineault 02:31

That's what I thought. Priorities. Yeah. Okay, she's not telling me. Forget it. Yeah, we'll just It's okay. There's some conspiracy theories rolling around the internet just. But that's fine.

**L** Lis Malone 02:43

Yes. Yep. Always.

**R** Rob Mineault 02:47

All right. Hey, Ryan. Yes, Rob? Let's get straight to business. What are we doing today?

**R** Ryan Fleury 02:55

Today we have a couple people from boldblindbeauty.com. Joining us we have Stephanae McCoy. And we have Sylvia Stinson-Perez who have joined us. Welcome, ladies.

**S** Stephanae McCoy 03:09

Thanks. Hello. It's nice to be here.

**R** Ryan Fleury 03:13

It's great to have you here.

**R** Rob Mineault 03:16

Yeah, we've been we've been actually looking forward to this a lot. I love the website. And we will certainly get to it momentarily. But maybe first, we could just start out with maybe just telling us and our audience a little bit about yourselves first.

**S** Stephanae McCoy 03:33

My name is Stephanie. I like to be called Steph McCoy, and I am the founder of Bold Blind Beauty. I am so I'm a writer. I'm a podcaster. What else am I? I am many things. I am a mother of three adult children, three adult sons and a GG to three grandchildren. So and bold blind beauty I should count Bold Blind Beauty is one of my children because it is my baby, my passion project. So that's me in a nutshell.

**S** Svlvia Stinson-Perez 03:38

And I'm Sylvia Stinson-Perez. And I am fortunate enough to be on the Bold Blind Beauty Advisory Council to be a blog contributor, and to be one of the co-hosts on Bold Blind Beauty On Air. And in the rest of my life, I'm the mom of an adult daughter and married and I live in Florida. I work for the American Foundation for the Blind and I've spent my entire career more or less in the blindness field which has been just a privilege and honor for me.

R

Rob Mineault 04:51

Wonderful. So now tell us a little bit about Bold Blind Beauty and sort of how it all started.

S

Stephanae McCoy 05:01

Well, it started as a result of my sight loss, I began losing my sight back in 2005. It spanned four years. So I had a four year period to sort of get adjusted to it before I was declared legally blind and heard those words, no one wants to hear that, you know, there's no more that they could do for me. I didn't know that at that time. But they should have put a comma after that me and said, you know, there was no more they could do for me medically, however, there's all these other cool things that can be done. So I learned through trial and error that there was this rather phenomenal community of people of advocates and business people and just amazing people who happen to be blind, who are doing amazing things, I immersed myself within that community. And that helped me get through it. Because as many people who lose sight later in life, we find that it's a very difficult process. It's, it's kind of lonely, because you find yourself surrounded by a lot of caring people who want to help, but they don't know, quite know how to do that, because they've not experienced sight loss. And that's where I found myself. So I created Bold Blind Beauty after giving a speech to a group of blind women, about how to apply makeup. There was a lot of questions after the speech. And it showed me that there was an interest definitely in this area. So I thought, why not just, you know, create a blog, addressing some of these topics on beauty and sight loss, blindness, awareness, that type of thing, and use it to empower blind women. So essentially, I created it to empower women who are on blindness spectrum, to embrace their beauty, increase their confidence, claim their power, and to boldly break barriers. And I'm so proud to say that today, the site features stories of people across the blindness spectrum, from all walks of life to further our mission of improving humanity, by changing the way we perceive one another. So it essentially was born out of my own personal experience of losing my my sight and trying to help people to understand that there is no one way to be blind.

R

Rob Mineault 07:44

So did it just start out as just sort of a blog?

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Stephanae McCoy 07:46

Yes.

R

Rob Mineault 07:46

And how often did you did you post?

S

Stephanae McCoy 07:49

That's the funny thing. When I first started, I did my first post in December of 2014. I don't know if that post is still up, because I've went through the site as years of progress and, you know, taken some stuff down and cleaned it up a bit. But I started off with the intention of posting every single day.

S

Steve Barclay 08:18

I have that intention, once

S

Stephanae McCoy 08:21

that lasted that lasted about six months. And I told myself, at the six month mark, this is hard. This is very, very hard. And I don't know if I could sustain this. Because at that time, you know, you truly don't know what you don't know. And I didn't know anything about blogging, I had to teach myself how to do it. And I took a year to do research on it. But I just totally was not prepared for all the work that was involved, and then adding to it to social media that was connected to it as well. There was just so much work. I had to scale back and rethink something.

R

Rob Mineault 09:02

So, 2014 I mean, that's ... let me do the math on that. What is that six, eight. Clearly, this is not a math podcast. I mean, eight years. I mean, it's it is remarkable to think that, you know, it started out as a blog. And today, I mean, it's it's much, much bigger, and you know, with all with all the contributors and your merch. You've got a podcast, which which we'll talk about as well. But I mean, so what was that process like? Like how fast did it grow?

S

Stephanae McCoy 09:41

Yeah, it actually it grew slowly, which is my preference because I am very methodical and systematic about the way I do things. So I was okay with that. Plus, I wanted to figure out a way to monetize it. And with it being just a blog at first I wasn't sure what it was going to look like, until I had a designer create my icon, the brand icon, Abby, who's on the side, she also has her own personal backstory. And she's the one who I use to create the merch. So, you know, it took some time and it took connecting with other people. And I think that's the most important aspect of it is the other people. I had one woman reach out to me through the blog, she gave almost her whole life story, one comment with her phone number, and I almost had a heart attack. I'm like, Who does that? You never put your phone number in a blog. But we connected, we develop this wonderful friendship. And she was the one that helped me to really streamline it, get the messaging in order, and just create all these wonderful articles and things, telling

Abby's story and just so many wonderful things she helped me do. And then in 2019, she died suddenly. And I thought, well, now what am I gonna do? And Nasreen, who's not with us today, but she is like, my right hand person. She, Nasreen Bhutta, she was traveling to India, I was traveling to Kansas. And she sends me a message through Skype or something I can't remember now. And she's like, hey, you know what's going on, just want to check in with you. You know, I really like what you're doing. And I want to help. And she was more or less like saying she was going to help, whether I liked it or not. And so she came on, and helped me to take it even further. And then we started meeting other people like Sylvia, and some of our other advisory board members. And ever since then, it's just like, that's when the magic began happening is because we've been connecting with people who are really, really passionate about our mission.

**S** Sylvia Stinson-Perez 12:06

So I have been visually impaired my whole life, from RP. And so I've gradually lost vision. And I've always been really cognizant of appearance and really just focused on looking my best. And as I said, I worked at my career in the field of blindness. So with all ages, and do a lot of work with young people, and even older people who want to look great, they want to wear makeup, they want to fix their hair. And so I also teach people how to do all those things. As a certified Vision Rehab Therapist, I've spent lots of time teaching people how to put on makeup, and how to organize their clothes, how to pick out clothes, etc. And so when I happen to meet Steph, and learn about Bold Blind Beauty, I was like, Oh, my goodness, this is just amazing. I want to be a part of this. And I think essentially, Steph, the minute I met you, too, I was like, oh, please, please like me, me. And I started off by writing blog posts. And what I love about doing that is mine are usually more on the kind of motivational, inspirational side and that is my very fun kind of creative thing that I get to do for writing. And just, I feel like so my I started off as a social worker. So it's kind of my social worker coming out encouraging and inspiring people to be their boss to to think about where they're going and what they're doing and to really embrace their blindness and their beauty. So and then, as I was, Stefan invited me to be on the advisory board, and we started talking about okay, what what's next? What's, what's the big thing we can do? And I said, I think we should have a podcast.

**S** Stephanae McCoy 14:19

And what did I do?

**S** Sylvia Stinson-Perez 14:23

Steph was immediately like, Oh, God, really? And then she researched and learned everything she needed to do edit and all of that and to get it on all the different platforms. So she embraced it after she had a heart attack.

**S** Steve Barclay 14:46

Ryan, Rob, which one are you knuckleheads told me I needed a podcast?

**R****Rob Mineault 14:52**

Actually, I forget it was too long ago, but it might have been both of us. So what I find really fascinating thing, because we've, we've been podcasting for far too long. But you know, what we've sort of discovered in our own podcast is that you talk to a lot of people, and especially people who, who have gone through that process of a vision loss. Really, what is a common thread among all their stories is that a lot of times, they will find something that helps them deal with that loss. And sometimes, in fact, it can be not necessarily, I mean, I pause to say, it's not a negative thing, but because, of course, you know, losing your vision is, you know, is a hard process to go through. But it can also be a very transformative experience and a positive experience, especially if you can latch on to something that you're passionate about that, that you're able to do and participate in. You know, we've talked to people who were never athletes prior to their vision loss, and they lost their vision and they became a paralympic athlete. And I feel like the site and and what you've kind of built is kind of is kind of that it sounded like it started out with a way for you to sort of process the things, but it's grown into something that actually helps other people process their own vision loss.

**S****Stephanae McCoy 16:36**

You are so correct. I started it, I believe, with the intent of yes, empowering others. But it was sort of cathartic to me to be writing and sharing my story. But then as I met more people, and began sharing their stories. That is, I think, when it began to change, and it wasn't really about me, because I'm almost like, I don't want to use the word flabbergasted, because I think that word is probably not used anymore, at least not by the cool kids. But at any rate, I'm always surprised when people ask me how I lost my sight, because I almost never really talk about my sight loss. You know, it's always about the stories of other people. Because that's really what Bold Blind Beauty is about as well - sharing the stories of these other people, and just how amazing they are. And it's not because they're blind. I think it's just much more than that, like you said, I think it's a transformative process that we go through. And it's like, you know, I always felt like I wanted to do something to help improve the world just a little bit, you know, before I die, that was always sort of my goal. But I really didn't know what that was, I've always had sort of a deep not sort of, but a deep appreciation for equity for people. For each person, I think we're just to focus on the numbers of people. And it's too easy to group people, like into a bucket like, and social media doesn't help because it's all about likes, and, you know, comments and how many you can get, as opposed to focusing on just one individual, and just that one individual's needs, and what they need, because each of us are unique, you know, biologically were the same. But beyond that, we're all different. And there's nothing wrong with that, we should be celebrating our differences, and it is transformative, it's powerful.

**S****Sylvia Stinson-Perez 19:03**

I would also add that, that every challenge we go through gives us an opportunity to find the courage within ourselves, but also to, as you talked about, connect with other people and find the, you know, inspiration in other people as well. That's a lot what will Bold Blind Beauty does.

**R****Rob Mineault 19:27**

Yeah, I know for for us. I mean, that's, we've we've started to kind of have the same experience in the life of this podcast. You know, when we first started this podcast, you know, we were we it was just going to be a podcast about assistive technology, because that was the field that we all happen to work in. And I think that lasted about four or five episodes. And then we we started talking to members of the community. And we were just completely floored at at just how powerful a lot of the stories were. And we found that the value in I'm sharing those stories. And I think that, that platforms like podcasting, and like blogging, is is really powerful. Because being able to share those stories with with people that are in different places on their own journey, I think I just can't understate how powerful that can be.

S

Sylvia Stinson-Perez 20:23

And as it as it relates to technology, I think it also helps people who maybe have, you know, experienced that vision loss, realize, oh, my gosh, I couldn't I couldn't do this, I couldn't learn the technology that enables me to continue to use the computer or to podcast or to get my voice heard out there. So I think the technology part, you know, I know you're AT Banter, and I think technology is really important. And, you know, you've I've heard in my whole career, it's the equalizer for people who are blind, and that is so true. And we're using technology, through the blog, and through the website and through the podcast, to to bring that voice to the world.

S

Steve Barclay 21:11

Technology can be really powerful in people's lives. But what what you're doing is, is you're enhancing self esteem, which is essentially the same thing that that technology can bring to the table. You know, anything that that helps develop somebody's self esteem in strange, strange circumstances, for many people, you know, going going through the process of vision loss, can can be, as Rob said before, transformative. But there's often a lot of depression that comes alongside that. I mean, there's the whole grieving process to it. And to be able to break out of that is, is hugely empowering, and I love that you guys are, are helping develop that, that self esteem that people need to move forward in their lives.

S

Stephanae McCoy 22:05

Oh, that's so important, because we recognize that. You know, it's through sharing these stories and amplifying our voices within a community, that change can happen. The idea behind Bold Blind Beauty wasn't just for blind people, though. It was yes, to empower blind women. But it was to connect sighted and blind people because I recognized that sighted people needed to understand blind people and vice versa. I felt that if it was just a blog or platform reaching just blind people, that that would have its benefits, but it would almost be like preaching to the choir when I felt like we had a broader message. You know, our mission is about improving humanity, by changing the way we perceive one another. That's a really broad mission. But it's that way intentionally because in my mind, we have to begin there looking at people, really looking at people and I'm always saying, Sylvia, has heard me say this a million times. We have to accept people where they are as they are.

S

Sylvia Stinson-Perez 23:26

Yeah, we all have challenges.

**S** Stephanae McCoy 23:28

Yes, everybody does. Everybody does. Even people who are considered able bodied, which I like to call temporarily able bodied, because all of us can at any time in our lives, acquire a disability. And it's only through fate or you know, the stars that we might not, but the older we get our risk for acquiring a disability increases exponentially. So that's another reason why I felt like we had to talk to not just blind people, but sighted people as well. And then connecting everybody to let them know, this is even bigger than blindness. You know, it's really about people it's a human thing.

**L** Lis Malone 24:16

You know, Steph at the beginning of this podcast, you actually used the phrase which I loved. You said that there's no one way to be blind and what's interesting is that when I was going through all of your rich content, you know, I got to watch some videos and listen to podcasts and read some blogs as I my one of my takeaways was wow, there is no one way to either be beautiful or, or more so feel beautiful. And I definitely felt that radiation of content that this is for any person who wants to just really sort of engulf themselves in hey, I can feel good whatever in whichever way I want. and take little tidbits of lessons learned from all different types of, of women, it seems like it's mostly women content that you have. And it is so applicable. Regardless whether you're sight impaired or not. It's just very good human advice, which I, I absolutely adored.

**S** Stephanae McCoy 25:20

Thank you so much. And I'm so glad to hear you say that because when we started, we had men, we had women, we've had younger people, we've had more senior people. And that I didn't expect, I really didn't expect that. And Silvia can testify to the, the idea of what you were talking about, there's more than one way to be beautiful. She talks about this a lot of times in her pieces. And what she said here on this podcast, there is so many ways to be beautiful. And to see beauty.

**L** Lis Malone 26:03

Yeah, and to just radiate beauty. And, and I, and I think that, you know, beauty really should be, should be viewed more as a gender neutral word. You know, I think we always think of, you know, beauty has to just be you know, women and their hair and their makeup. It's really just a feeling and expression. But I think that the content is so inviting. And I think it like we were saying about how in this landscape of so much ugliness that we sometimes all experience on social media, you have created this new look of this positivity, which I think is, is very refreshing.

**S** Stephanae McCoy 26:47

 Stephanae McCoy 20:47

Thank you so much. And to your point about beauty and men. It's funny you say that, because one of our first guys, well, he wasn't the first one. But he was the first one that approached me. And he wanted to be featured. And he said, and he's from Australia, so in his accent, and I can't imitate him because he has a beautiful accent. But he said I am confident in my manhood. And I am unafraid to be called a beauty or something to that effect. And so we did feature him last year as a 'Man in Motion'. But you know, it's amazing that all these guys that we featured as Men in Motion, none of them have an issue with being on Bold Blind Beauty. Not one of them.

 Steve Barclay 27:35

In Canada, we've co opted the term, right? So I can say that Ryan, he's a beauty, eh?

 Sylvia Stinson-Perez 27:46

It is about it is about living your life in a way that is courageous that inspires others that recognizes the just the wonder of living.

 Stephanae McCoy 28:07

Yes. We don't use that word enough. Wonder. Sometimes when I think about it, I think of when I was a child and just being so amazed by seeing things for the first time. And we lose that as adults. But that's what's so amazing about children, you know, they're seeing everything for the first time. And they do have a sense of wonder.

 Sylvia Stinson-Perez 28:32

And if we can see ourselves and other people through, I don't want to say through those eyes, but through our hearts, then we can recognize the beauty and others and ourselves. And you know what we didn't really talk about the bold part, that courageous part. Big thing that we try to bring to our audience, whether it be through the blog posts and the contributors or through the podcast is that living boldly, living confidently, being an advocate.

 Stephanae McCoy 29:11

Yes, yeah, we didn't even talk about that at all. The name Bold Blind Beauty. I chose to put the word blind and between bold and beauty because number one is never associated with either those words. And I felt that has to change and I wanted to embrace my own blindness, because I'm not afraid to say that I'm blind. Now for people who don't understand I will say I'm legally blind or visually impaired because that's what they're used to hearing. But then I break it down for them and help them to understand that blindness is indeed a spectrum. But to be blind, and to be out here living our lives confidently is bold. That is bold. When you think about the people that aren't blind and won't do that, I mean, it takes a certain amount of tenacity to be able to do that. And I think when you're able to do that, that's a beautiful thing. So Bold Blind Beauty.

S

Steve Barclay 30:26

I've got a great bold story for you. I was just talking about this the other day with some some folks who went with me down to space camp in Alabama. So Space Camp every year, they do a space camp for the visually impaired. And they had just finished setting up this this obstacle course which included things like a pole that you climb up and jump off of and, and a big climbing wall with a zipline coming off of it. And the folks who organized it, they had to really, really try and get the folks from Space Camp to allow the blind kids to do this course. They finally convinced them that they could do it. And over over the course of the time that I was there, our group, every single blind kid went up the climbing wall and went down the zipline. At the end of the camp, one of the guys who ran the the place went up to me says you know, we have corporate events. We have high schoolers, we have college groups, we have elementary schools. This is the first group that has ever gone up that tower and down that zipline, all of them, every single one of them. And there's so much we can do as a community when we inspire ourselves. And I love what you guys are doing.

R

Rob Mineault 31:56

So talk to me a little bit about the podcast. How did that all start? And how are you enjoying it? How are you finding it and what's the reception been to it?

S

Stephanae McCoy 32:07

Oh, gosh, the way it started was all Sylvia's idea. She's like, kill me for saying that. But it was and honestly, when she mentioned that I thought I was going to have a heart attack. I thought my head was gonna explode. Because I'm like, we are doing all these things right now, how are we possibly going to do a podcast? And then I did the research and found that podcasts were skyrocketing. And the platform we wanted to use was a good platform. And so we just sort of just dove headfirst into it. We only do one a month. Yes, that's all we can manage right now. But it's it's really enjoyable because again, because of our team, you know, Nasreen and Sylvia without the two of them, there's no way I could have pulled it off. No way whatsoever. Sylvia is so instrumental in helping us to, you know, just pull it together with our timeline with our questions, just pulling all that together, I do all the editing and everything and I sort of as much as I complain about it, I think I must enjoy it.

R

Rob Mineault 33:40

That sounds familiar.

S

Sylvia Stinson-Perez 33:42

She definitely has the hard work and, and well, we plan out in advance and we try to make the podcast relevant. And I think that probably more than anything these the the podcast do focus on issues around blindness and advocacy. Maybe Steph do you want to talk about the how we chose the AIR and what that means?

S

Stephanae McCoy 34:12

So I love air, we love air. So found on on Bold Blind Beauty. I came up with this acronym AIR. At that time, it was accessibility, inclusion and representation. And all of us thought that that was amazing. Oh my god, this is so amazing. So then when we came up with the podcast, we needed a name. So we reached out to you know, our team, and we're like, we need a really cool name for this podcast. And it was our global ambassador from Russia, who came up with the name Bold, Blind Beauty On-AIR and then I go back to everybody else. I'm like, but I need an image. What kind of image represents air? Then Sophia said how about a hot air balloon? And I'm like, wow, that's really cool. Okay, so we got our image, we got the name, we did change accessibility to access because we feel that access is a broader term that includes accessibility. And there's so many ways we can go, you know, in so many directions with just using the word access. So it's access, inclusion and representation. And this year last year, when we look back at all of the people that we featured last year, and the conversations we had, we felt like it was more about inclusion. So this year, we wanted to focus on access. So before each episode, I give a little sort of update on access, and what it is what it looks like. And then we launch into, you know, our conversation and stuff.

L

Lis Malone 35:42

I also really appreciate the fact that your advocacy goes a step further. And you do make representation as a woman of color. I'm a woman of color also. So I certainly always like to, you know, acknowledge, acknowledge representation. And I really do feel that you've done a very interesting job of sort of weaving all of these different elements in like this beautiful quilt. And it's very like it there's a lot happening, but somehow it all works. Is that makes sense.

S

Stephanae McCoy 36:27

Yeah. And honestly, I sit back from based on like, how does this all work? But again, it's because of all the people that I surrounded myself with. I mean, we have some amazing, amazing people who have some brilliant ideas. And every time somebody comes to me with another ideas, like, oh, great, let's implement it.

S

Sylvia Stinson-Perez 36:50

And I just, we have some new things coming.

S

Stephanae McCoy 36:53

We do we do. Oh my gosh, every time I think about just get all excited.

L

Lis Malone 36:58

Are we getting an exclusive? Are we gonna get be able to break breaking news on AT Banter

about what's happening next with Bold Blind Beauty?

S

Sylvia Stinson-Perez 37:15

Well, we're working on finding a way to have a live stream on YouTube, too.

S

Steve Barclay 37:28

Were afraid of that, because we wouldn't be canceled within the first week.

R

Ryan Fleury 37:32

We're not afraid. You guys are afraid of that. We are going live next week. Live Stream. That's right.

S

Stephanae McCoy 37:48

Yeah, that's that's one of the things we're thinking about doing. We have a number of projects going on. And we actually just recently updated the website to reflect sort of the behind the scenes projects, because it had occurred to me, just a few weeks ago, I'm like, we got all this stuff going on. But we don't have it like anywhere, like where everybody can see it. You know, we talk about it. But it's like, we need people to see what we're doing. So for example, our virtual work experience program, which is for students, high school or college students with disabilities, to intern with us. Now, obviously, we work with other companies who partner with us who actually pay the interns, and then we provide the actual training, mentorship, that type thing and help them acquire the skills they need to further their education, or even a job. The most recent one was an Awakening the Senses panel session that we hosted. And when I say we, I mean our two young interns hosted on Friday evening. And it was really cool. They acquired the panelists. So there were six panelists, they talked about topics about romance, sexting, dating, all of these types of things like that occur, you know, in the online universe, and what that's like for them. And it was really, really interesting and to know that, you know, we had this 17 year old and this 20 something, you know, do this and this was our first time ever doing something like this was awesome. Just awesome.

R

Rob Mineault 39:46

I just have to really emphasize this to anybody who's who's and I encourage all of our listeners to go check out Bold Blind Beauty because it's really amazing what's there. Because there really is like this this huge depth and breadth of of content and materials and materials. You guys are up to so much like I just I, I'm, I'm flabbergasted how you guys stay on top of it and create all this content and have all these things going on. It really is amazing.

S

Sylvia Stinson-Perez 40:29

Its Steph, Steph is the leader.

S

Stephanae McCoy 40:35

It's all of us, it is all of us.

R

Rob Mineault 40:39

Well, and that's what it sounds like. It sounds like what what's happened there is you've built this really amazing community that in this, this, this you all this collaboration that's going on. And it just goes to show you what can happen with the power of community.

S

Sylvia Stinson-Perez 40:57

Yeah, that's the power of wanting to make that positive difference. And really, the power of the message and trying to work together to really empower other people to find their bold and their beauty in their blindness.

S

Stephanae McCoy 41:16

Yes. And Sylvia you are, you hit the nail on the head, the message, I'm always telling people, you know, we have this merch, and we have all these things happening. But I am a horrible, horrible marketing person. Because I don't like being sold to. So I hesitate to sell to other people. But you know, finding a way to sell the message is something that is very palatable to me. We don't sell, I don't believe products, we're selling a message, we're sending a message of empowerment, we are by merit of what we're doing. You know, I'm a blind woman managing this site, and all of these different pieces that go along with it was able to collaborate with all of these creative minds. And we're all on the blindness spectrum, or we have some other form of disability. And and we do have a couple people who don't have disabilities, because they were just so inspired by the things that we're doing. They wanted to be part of our community. I think it it just shows people that. You know, even though there are barriers, there's physical barriers are sort of medical, metaphysical barriers. We can break through those barriers, if we come together as a community, and just figure out a way to do that. And that's what we're doing. We're doing that with AIR.

R

Rob Mineault 43:01

All right. Well, for anybody who is interested in finding out more and visiting the site, where can people find you guys?

S

Stephanae McCoy 43:11

We are everywhere.

**R** Rob Mineault 43:15  
And believe me, everybody, they are.

**S** Stephanae McCoy 43:19  
Well, boldblindbeauty.com is the website. We are on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Bold Blind Beauty. Oh, and then the podcast. Bold Blind Beauty On-AIR.

**S** Steve Barclay 43:35  
No, you can't mention that, we don't want competition.

**R** Rob Mineault 43:40  
Competition is good. Listen, ladies, I want to thank you so much for taking some time out and chatting.. And and really to thank you for for all the hard work that you guys are putting in and creating a really amazing online community that I think is really important to a lot of people.

**S** Stephanae McCoy 44:00  
Thank you. Thank you for having us.

**R** Rob Mineault 44:04  
And listen, we'll see you at the live stream. I'm gonna check it out.

**L** Lis Malone 44:08  
Check this out with the breaking news. We are so much more than AT Banter. We are news. You heard it here first, folks. That's right.

**S** Sylvia Stinson-Perez 44:22  
Bye. Bye, guys.

**S** Stephanae McCoy 44:23  
Thank you.

**S** Steve Barclay 44:24  
Thanks!

**R** Rob Mineault 44:26  
Man. The energy level.

**S** Steve Barclay 44:29  
Yeah, no kidding.

**R** Rob Mineault 44:30  
Like I honestly you you go to the site, and it's like, it's amazing. All the stuff they've got going on over there. I mean, I was stunned to learn that it's only eight years old. I mean, I was stunned that I could do the math to figure out that it was eight years old. But then after I did that, I was also stunned to find that it was only eight years old. Yeah, just just incredible. The amount of work that they must be doing over there because they have Advisory Councils you know, all their all the other profiles that they do on people all have YouTube videos connected to them.

**L** Lis Malone 45:09  
Yeah, they've got a team of contributors, interns,

**R** Rob Mineault 45:13  
Interns!

**L** Lis Malone 45:15  
They've got everything. It's, it's awesome.

**S** Steve Barclay 45:17  
Where do we got an intern? Intern?

**R** Rob Mineault 45:20  
I know.

.....

L Lis Malone 45:22  
We probably need an advisory council.

S Steve Barclay 45:25  
Ryan, get us an intern. Oh, man. Yeah, though. That was great. I love it ... AIR. I wish we would have thought of that.

R Rob Mineault 45:38  
I know. Right. So marketable.

S Steve Barclay 45:40  
Yeah, it really is.

R Rob Mineault 45:42  
I mean, everybody needs air.

L Lis Malone 45:44  
Good acronym. Yeah.

R Rob Mineault 45:45  
Everybody loves air.

S Steve Barclay 45:46  
Like I said, my first response. I'm a fan.

R Rob Mineault 45:52  
Well, anybody else any anything else to say about that?

L Lis Malone 45:56

L Lis Malone 45:56

We could be hair.

R Rob Mineault 45:58

Oh, well, some of us could.

L Lis Malone 46:01

I put the the H in here. I put the hair in H or I put the -

S Steve Barclay 46:05

We could be chair that Canadian home of--

R Rob Mineault 46:07

Oh, wait. Yeah, Canadian home. Air I see. Yeah, that's true!

L Lis Malone 46:17

And Rob, just just so you are caught up for Edmonton lost in four straight.

R Rob Mineault 46:24

Oh, did they? So the Calgary won the battle of Alberta?

S Steve Barclay 46:28

No, Edmonton beat Calgary and then Calgary went on to meet the Avalanche and the Avalanche spanked them.

R Rob Mineault 46:44

Well, and so what's that? What are the implications of the playoffs? Are they over?

S Steve Barclay 46:48

No, no, the playoffs are not over. It comes down tonight to Tampa Bay and the New York Rangers. And depending on who wins that matchup, they go on to meet Colorado in the finals.

L Lis Malone 47:08  
You look forward to the end of hockey season.

R Rob Mineault 47:11  
I was gonna say that but yes, but I was gonna say I look forward to next week's update to see what's gonna happen

L Lis Malone 47:23  
We're coming down the homestretch Rob and then it'll be all over and we won't talk about hockey for now.

R Rob Mineault 47:28  
Listen, if the listeners enjoy it, then I'm all for it.

L Lis Malone 47:35  
I don't know Is anyone emailed us and complaint?

S Steve Barclay 47:38  
Not so far.

R Rob Mineault 47:40  
No, I don't think so. So there you go. Yeah, well, I mean, my team is sports so I think it's gonna win no matter what. So that's a shoe-in and if only I had a bookie that I can place a bet 10 to one on sports. I'd be a rich man. Hey, Lis?

L Lis Malone 48:06  
Who what?

R Rob Mineault 48:19  
Hey, can people find us?

L Lis Malone 48:21  
We can be found online at atbanter.com.

R Rob Mineault 48:26  
They can also drop us an email if they so desire at cowbell@atbanter.com.

S Steve Barclay 48:36  
And if they're so inclined towards them social media things they can find us on Facebook and Twitter if they go looking.

R Rob Mineault 48:45  
You know what I've realized in this new outro that we've built since Lis joined us. We didn't leave Ryan anything to do other than hit the cowbell.

R Ryan Fleury 48:55  
Isn't that awesome? Love it.

R Rob Mineault 49:01  
That's a sweet division of labor.

R Ryan Fleury 49:03  
I'm gonna hit stop anytime and lose all of you.

R Rob Mineault 49:11  
All right. Don't - power, absolute power corrupts absolutely. Clearly.

R Ryan Fleury 49:18  
Whoever said that?

R Rob Mineault 49:19

I don't know. Actually. I don't know. Somebody did. I think it was Socrates. Or David Letterman, one of the two. All right. Is that it? Are we done?

S

Steve Barclay 49:30

That's it.

R

Rob Mineault 49:30

We're done. Prepare for the live stream next week. Are you really serious about that?

R

Ryan Fleury 49:35

We'll look into it. We might livestream over YouTube or Facebook.

R

Rob Mineault 49:53

All right, well listen, I'll be there. I'll show up and make an idiot of myself. Do it every week anyways.

R

Ryan Fleury 50:17

That's just it you know we'll just be doing it live now.

R

Rob Mineault 50:21

Get some hard Seltzer and...

L

Lis Malone 50:24

I always have my hard seltzer.

R

Rob Mineault 50:26

It's white claw everybody. I bet you it's white claw. White Claw, give me free booze.

L

Lis Malone 50:34

No, give Liz free booze.

R Rob Mineault 50:35

Oh so you admit it!

L Lis Malone 50:37

Nope. I can turn on my camera just to show you the can.

R Rob Mineault 50:51

Whatever, that's fine. No, it's fine. Have your mysteries. Like honestly, somebody once said that too. The air is clear, water is wet and women have secrets.

R Ryan Fleury 51:08

it's time to go.

S Steve Barclay 51:10

That's called casual chauvinism?

R Rob Mineault 51:12

No, it's not. I'm just saying --

R Ryan Fleury 51:14

Shades of Grey or something

R Rob Mineault 51:15

like not 50 Shades of Grey. But I'm just saying she's she's very mysterious. And a lot of people like that. It's fine.

L Lis Malone 51:26

someone had a bad Bumble date recently or something?

R Rob Mineault 51:28

There's nothing wrong with that. It's it's a compliment. You gotta keep things mysterious. Gotta keep it keep things spicy apparently. What do I know, I'm single. Good point.

L Lis Malone 51:44  
There you go.

R Rob Mineault 51:46  
Anyways

S Steve Barclay 51:52  
Relationship advice from Rob Trust me I'm not giving anybody relationship advice. Anyways,

L Lis Malone 52:04  
nNext week, the topic will be self circumcision.

R Ryan Fleury 52:10  
Steve get your Dremel.

S Steve Barclay 52:14  
Listen, Steve actually couldn't give us advice on that, did you see what he did to his finger with a power tool? I exploded it a little.

R Rob Mineault 52:24  
Oh, yeah. Anyways, all right. Okay. That is going to about do it for us this week. Thanks, everybody for listening in. We will see everybody next week.