

Jeff Around Town – September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Otis:** Jeff Around Town.

**Jeff:** Good morning, Otis.

**Otis:** How are you buddy?

**Jeff:** I'm well, I'm well. How about last night?

**Otis:** That was fun. Happy 20th to CFAM.

**Jeff:** CFAM, for those who don't know, that is the College of Communication Fine Arts and Media and they were celebrating, we were celebrating, the 20th anniversary of that last night. Our own Sherry Brownrigg was the emcee. We heard from Dean Michael Hilt who talked about how creativity and innovation was at the core of the creation of CFAM to put all of these things, art, music, writing, theater, journalism, communication, is so much more under one roof.

**Otis:** We should say CFAM stands for the College of Fine Arts and Media.

**Jeff:** Yes.

**Otis:** CFAM. Because people like doing, you know, just acronyms, right? Yeah.

**Jeff:** And it's a family. Hey, the FAM, the CFAM.

**Otis:** The CFAM. Alright.

**Jeff:** That's right. And UNO Chancellor Joanne Lee spoke about the importance of human creativity and encouraged us. I love this. At the end of it, she said to close our eyes for a moment and to imagine the next 20 years of creativity because it is celebrating creativity and innovation. As you know, Otis, that night was filled with performances from incredible musicians.

**Otis:** Yeah, different students. Boy, everybody was really good. The flute piece.

**Jeff:** Oh, yeah.

**Otis:** The whales.

**Jeff:** I know. The vocalist, the theatrical performance, and the forensic, the impromptu speech was incredible. Chloe Ellison, who was given two minutes, Sherry gave her a prompt.

**Otis:** A topic.

**Jeff:** Yeah. And said, okay, you've got two minutes, opens the envelope, go off stage, figure this out, and she came back and she knocked it out of the park.

**Otis:** She did a speech that included Sesame Street and where else?

**Jeff:** Star Trek. But it worked. It worked. And that jazz ensemble, they riffed on September by...

**Otis:** Earth, Wind and Fire.

**Jeff:** They changed the lyrics a little bit.

**Otis:** I tell you, that horn section, they were... incredible.

**Jeff:** They were incredible.

**Otis:** They were going.

**Jeff:** So, everybody for that was standing, clapping, including you. You were in the front row.

**Otis:** Yeah of course.

**Jeff:** Well, I snuck around. Well, maybe we'll get this posted on social later.

**Otis:** Okay.

**Jeff:** I have a photo of you up there clapping along with that music. It was great.

**Otis:** I hope it's a photo because videos will show how bad I dance. But a photo might come out.

**Jeff:** No, no. It's a good photo. So, and everyone else was also standing for you because it was the last public celebration for you, Otis.

**Otis:** That's it. Everything else was in private.

**Jeff:** Everything is sitting down or napping on the couch. So what was one of your favorite things from Boston?

**Otis:** I liked it all. I mean, no doubt, boy, they closed it big. That was a big closer. Yeah, I liked the Mad Hatter monologue mainly because I knew the answer to that riddle.

**Jeff:** Oh, yeah. Oh, yes. Which?

**Otis:** Yeah, it is. How was a raven like a writing desk? Did you know?

**Jeff:** I didn't know. I'd heard that, but I couldn't.

**Otis:** They're actually a couple. But the solution the author himself came up with was that both produce notes that are usually flat. So...

**Jeff:** Yes, that was great. So right beforehand, I met one of your big fans, Sharon Struve, and she brought you a gift.

**Otis:** I have it here. It's a roll of toilet. No, I'm sorry. Paper towel.

**Jeff:** Paper towel.

**Otis:** At first I thought it was toilet paper because it was wrapped and, you know, yeah, it's paper towel.

**Jeff:** Paper towel. But it has.. what does it have on it?

**Otis:** It has Mozart. Morning Mozart on it.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**Otis:** Some Mozart music music scores. Yeah, it's all the same. So it's not like an endless roll. I didn't unroll the whole thing.

**Jeff:** Maybe. Maybe. So...

**Otis:** Maybe there's a surprise later. But it's very nice. And a note on it. I really appreciate it.

**Jeff:** And when I met her, she was wearing this wonderful sweater with musical notes.

**Otis:** And she said and there's a card in there, too, with an absolutely wonderful note. No return address. So, you're gonna have to get me because I'm going when things first thing I do in my retirement.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**Otis:** Is write thank you notes.

**Jeff:** You're gonna be busy for a while. I've got are you a big thank you note guy anyway?

**Otis:** No, I'm not usually I'm really not usually but...

**Jeff:** It's nice when you get one. And I always think I should do it. And then and then if it there's that threshold, or if you wait too long, then it's like....

**Otis:** My daughter-in-law Kumiko is really big. You know, all the kids all her kids, my grandkids are trained to write thank you notes. So, I feel like I have to live up to that example.

**Jeff:** Exactly. Practice what you preach.

**Otis:** Exactly.

**Jeff:** Well, Otis, I just it was a great night. And thank you for everything. And happy retirement, sir.

**Otis:** Thank you, sir. I appreciate it. It's been it's been a long strange trip. See you on the backside. Thanks, Jeff. And good luck to you, man. Thank you. Jeff Koterba will be taking over this this this blighter. A little later. Yeah. Jeff Around town.