

## Interesting People

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Dr. Andrew M. Morgan, Professor  
Clinical Pediatrics Medical Director;  
Easter Seals; Pediatric Rehab,  
Children's Hospital of Illinois

## Interesting People

## Andy: Today

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- Professor of Clinical Pediatrics @ U/C/M
- Developmental Pediatrician @ U/C/M
- Director
  - Diagnostics Center
  - Cerebral Palsy Center
  - Pediatric Rehabilitation @ Children's Hospital; Easter Seals
- Different roles:
  - Actor
  - Doctor
  - Producer
  - Director
  - Professor

## Interesting People

### Edgar F. Allen (1922) Founder of Easter Seals

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- “We have but one life to live. We get nothing out of that life except by putting something into it. To relieve suffering, to help the unfortunate, to do kind acts and deeds, is, after all, the one sure way to secure happiness or to achieve real success. Your life and mine shall be valued not by what we take, but by what we give...”

## Interesting People

# The Beginning of Andy

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- Birthplace
- Parents
  - Siblings
  - Youthful sports
  - Passions, activities
- Spouse: Kathy
- Children
- Your early passions
  - Dreams
  - Destinations
- Intelligences
  - Analytical
  - Practical
  - Combination

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# The Adolescent Andy

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- Fondest childhood memory
- Your acting eyes?
  - Convergent brain
  - Divergent brain
- Passions
  - Travel
  - Sports
  - Academics

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# Career Influences

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- Influence
  - First
  - Most vivid
  - Most recent
- Non-professional interests?
  - Guitar, drums, vocalist
- Your adolescent passions?
- What was the “tipping Point”
  - Interest in the special needs?
  - Interest in acting?

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# Tinker Bell: The Penguin Project

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- Tinker Bell: Alice; Dorothy
- 2004: Penguins can't fly
  - Differences do not interfere
  - "...but that doesn't prevent them from soaring."
- Eastlight in East Peoria
  - 85 (48/39) participants ages 8 to 21/mentors (18)
    - 50%/5 shows
  - Costumes: Florida company
  - Rehearsals
- Shows
  - Beauty and the Beast
    - Talking clocks, wardrobes, light fixtures
    - By Bye Birdie
  - Kathy Morgan, Assistant Director

## Interesting People

# 2009: The Penguin Project

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- Going on the road
  - Decatur; State of Vermont; DeKalb
- Disabilities
  - Down's Syndrome
  - Cerebral Palsy
  - Autism
  - Visual, hearing, learning
  - Neurological disorders

## What is Cerebral Palsy?

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- “...group of chronic conditions affecting body movements and muscle coordination
  - Damage to one or more specific areas of the brain
  - Occurs during fetal development or infancy
  - Inability to control motor function
- Neither progressive nor communicable: not curable
- Education, therapy and applied technology
- 2 to 3/1,000; 6/12 months

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# Penguin Stories

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- “Like birthing a baby”
- Down’s child
  - 2 rehearsals: closet
  - Couldn’t get him off the stage
- Boy with cerebral palsy
  - Stood up for the 1<sup>st</sup> time on stage during show
- Naomi Hardesty: age 7; traumatic brain injury/CP

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## Participant Benefits

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- Feeling good
- Positive expectations
- Some may
- Not really working for long (like a car, our identity), but participating in a meaningful part of life
- “...what do you do, is a word mask for what is your purpose in life?”

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## Dual Roles

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- Compare and contrast
  - More pleasure?
- Community theater productions
  - 30 years
    - To Kill a Mocking Bird
    - Fiddler on the Roof
  - “30 years: the disabled”
- “When we are dreaming alone, it is only a dream. When we are dreaming with others, it is the beginning of reality”  
Helder Camara
- Compare and contrast
  - Examination of the problem
  - Being part – large part – of the ongoing solution to an incurable disease
- Vincent van Gogh: “For my part I know nothing with any certainty, but the sight of the stars makes me dream”

## The Stanislavski System

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- Paul Newman: not caught up in the emotion
  - Most actors: introvert vs. extrovert
- “Great artistic work requires the ability to look into the hearts of today’s spectators, into the soul of a role, and into the heart of the actor who will play it.”
- The mechanics: starting from nothing
  - Awareness, ease and focus
- Developing the imaginary reality – seeing, sensing, feeling
  - Visualizing the action, sensing, feeling atmosphere
  - the objective feeling
- Exploring text and character
  - Meeting the play, meeting the character, discovering the action, creating the physical life of the role, refining the role

# The Adult Andy

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- What experience changed the course of your life?
- The acting process
  - Preparation
    - Alone vs. isolated
  - Information considered
  - The pain/coming down
- What makes your profession pleasurable?
- How much, if any, dysfunctionality is just enough to allow you to succeed?

## Interesting People

# Disability: 400BC; Chains; Rush; Down

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- 400 BC: Hippocrates, Greek physician, epilepsy, brain disorder, not caused by the Gods
- 1745: Dr. Ptnel: Paris: unchains the mental patients
- 1812: Dr. Rush: “Father of American Psychiatry”
- 1861: William Little, M.D.
  - Little’s disease, cerebral palsy
- 1966: Jonathan Down:
  - Down’s Syndrome

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# Disability: Ellis Island; Polio

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- 1913: Mental examinations: Congress
  - Henry Goddard: Ellis Island
  - Deportations increase
- 1921: Franklin Roosevelt: polio
  - March of Dimes; warm springs, Georgia
- 1927: Forced sterilization of “feeble minded”
  - Buck v. Bell: US Sup. Ct.

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# Disability: 1941 Rosemary Kennedy; 1963

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- 1941: Rosemary Kennedy, lobotomized
  - St. Coletta School, Jefferson, Wisconsin
  - 57 years; dies @ 86
  - Joseph P. Kennedy, For the Exceptional Child
- 1952: Dr. Jonas Salk, polio vaccine
  - 11 deaths; 200 cases of polio
- 1963: President Kennedy
  - “The Mental Retardation Facilities and community Health Centers Constitution Act”

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## Disability: Social Security

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- 1965: Medicare and Medicaid
- 1982: Drs. Bloomington, Indiana: Baby Doe
  - Reject a life saving operation
- Where are we going?
- When shall we get there?

## The Meaning of Money/Life

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- Money
  - Proof of goodness
    - Accomplishment, credibility
    - Barometer of success
  - Capital vs. sweat
    - Lottery winner
    - Jeopardy
- Life
  - Birthing of America
    - Let's get to work
  - Work
  - Who are you
    - Ritz Carlton: “Serving Ladies and Gentlemen”
    - No luggage rack on a hearse

## Interesting People

## What's Love?

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- Your first imprint?
- Your most powerful memory?
- Your most recent memory?
- Predicate for marriage
  - “Love is a temporary disease”
    - False romantic quest for perfection – expectations
- Love = the Penguin Project
- Give and will live permanently
- The wealth accumulation process
  - ROI
  - Gross margins
  - Charge/deed/taxed
- You love – has it changed your life, how?
- Your children?
- Kathy – your “...everyone dies (a physical death) but not everyone lives (an intellectual life)

## What is a Beautiful Woman?

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- Kathy
- Woman's appearance = a reflection of her man's success
- Code word: "man's salvation"
  - Pretty Woman
    - Julia Roberts, Richard Gere
      - She saves him from a life of emotional emptiness – salvation
      - Vice Versa
- Quest for permanent adolescence

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# Love: Andy's Target

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- Hit your target
  - “Code for living is giving”
    - Intellectually
    - Financially
- To lead to strive, not for a perfect life – which changes each minute, hour, year – but instead to reach and subsist at an acceptable level of imperfection

## Interesting People

## Closing

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- Most treasured possession?
- With whom would you most wish to visit?
- Rewind your life?
- What next?