

*Kevinandbeanarchive.com interview with Lisa May (posted Feb 2, 2009)*

**You went to Cal State Fullerton, getting a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, right? What was your career goal at the time?**

I really had no idea what I wanted to do with my life, so a degree in Business Administration seemed to me to be the most practical thing I could do. You have to pick an emphasis and mine was sales and marketing. I really, really hate sales but people always think I'd be good at it because I'm outgoing and friendly. They're so wrong.

**What kind of non-radio jobs have you had in your life?**

I started my illustrious career in high school at Kentucky Fried Chicken. I smelled like chicken fat every night when I went home. Strangely, some guys thought that was hot. After that I entered the rewarding world of waitressing. I was not good and when I quit I swore I'd never waitress again. Then I went to work as a teller in a bank, and eventually, while I was still in college, started what they called a "money desk". Basically, I tried to get other financial institutions to invest in our jumbo CDs (\$100,000,000 Certificates of Deposit with different interest rates depending on the term). I got fired from that job for reinvesting \$300,000,000 into an S&L in Maryland that wasn't FSLIC insured and failed. The only time I've ever been fired. I was out of college by then, living alone, and I was just destroyed. . Eventually I went to work for a broker. I didn't want to do that job but I didn't know what else to do. I decided to go to broadcasting school at night and on weekends because I figured it I didn't make a big change in my life then, I might never do it. And then, when I got an entry-level job at Metro Networks, which paid about \$7hour, I did the unthinkable. I went back into waitressing, working as a cocktail waitress. That's called paying your dues, my friend.

**You've worked in different capacities in broadcasting. What stations have you worked for?**

I've always worked for Metro Networks, and as a traffic reporter I've worked with a bunch of stations – KLAC, KMPC, KPWR, KCRW, KNX, KGIL, KMGX, KIKFM, KROQ, KBBY, and a couple of others that I can't recall right now. I did traffic for an Urban Station as Judy Starbuck, on KMPC I was Erin Wyatt and on Power 106 I was Lisa Lert. I had to tape the names on the walls of my studio so I wouldn't get confused.

I did work as a jock at two different radio stations – KMGX in the Valley (adult contemporary) and KLAC (country)

**What are some of your memorable moments from those gigs?**

**What are some of your forgettable moments?**

The moments I remember best are the worst moments. At a station in Ventura they had me doing sports, which I know absolutely nothing about. So, I was talking about basketball and instead of saying the NCAA, I said the NAACP. I was doing a shift at the country station during Dottie West's funeral and I said Dolly Parton's funeral by accident. I had no idea I'd said that and then the phones started ringing off the hook. Those are two of my favorites.

**How did you get involved in traffic? What training is involved?**

I already mentioned how I got involved with traffic. As far as training goes, I learned how to do it by listening to other traffic reporters. And since I started as a producer, I was able to learn all the Southland freeways and terms (South bay Curve, Orange Crush, Downtown slot, etc) before I ever went on the air.

**When did you start with KROQ?**

I started in 1991, one year after Kevin and Bean started.

**Please describe the evolution of your participation in the show. How did you go from traffic reporting in another location to working out of KROQ?**

I started out doing two traffic reports an hour. I had 4 other stations on which I was doing traffic and news and K&B were always late going to me and keeping me on the air too long, making me late for other stations. It was hell. Over time, I lost some of my other stations because they changed format or replaced the entire morning show, freeing me up to be on

KROQ for longer periods of time. They wanted me to be on for all 4 breaks every hour, even the non-traffic ones, and we eventually got to that point. Since KROQ was the only station I was doing, it made sense to let me work out of the KROQ studios, but it took several years before we were able to make that happen.

**I had read an article that suggested the first couple weeks were brutal and you weren't happy about the move to the studios. What was it like when you started in the studio, and how did your feelings about being there change?**

Being part of the morning show is akin to hanging out in a guys' locker room. They are merciless in their teasing, and if they see a weakness, they go after it. And they talk just like guys talk in the locker room. They're gross and crude and dear God – the things they say about women. I called Metro after my first week at KROQ to ask if I could go back. Eventually, though, I developed a thick skin. It helps that the guys aren't all mean-spirited. It's all about the funny.

**What are some of your favorite things about the Kevin & Bean show, and about being on the show?**

The stuff I hated in the beginning is now the stuff I love the most; the Camaraderie, the joking around and teasing. We also get to meet some amazingly cool, talented people and see great concerts. And we have great listeners. And I get invited to the openings of new plays at most of the big theaters in L.A. Woo hoo!

**What are some of your least favorite things?**

The FCC has sucked a lot of the fun out of this job. There are so many things we could have done pre-Janet Jackson that we can't do now, and things to be getting stricter as time goes on. One complaint from one person can send a huge corporation into a panic attack, and then they come down on us. And now it's not even about the FCC. We're getting kicked for saying things that clearly do not violate FCC rules, but offended one or two people – often people who don't listen to our station – people who don't even live in California.

**What is it like to be so universally loved and adored by so many men and women?**

It's awesome. Everywhere I go people just fawn over me. They won't let me buy a meal when I go into a restaurant. Sometimes they actually burst into tears because I'm so beautiful. Oh wait – that was a dream I had last night. None of that has ever actually happened.

**What are some misconceptions, if any, people might have about you? How about any misconceptions about the show?**

I think people get a pretty good idea of who we are – you can't really pretend to be someone else when you're on the air 5 and a half hours a day, 5 days a week. When I meet people there are a couple of comments that I've heard more than once: "I thought you'd be taller" and "I thought you were a blonde". Should I be insulted?

**What's it like being the lone female (for the most part) on the show? What's it like to be teased so mercilessly?**

I'm used to the teasing now, but it was tough at first. I went home crying many a day. It really is like being with a bunch of guys in a locker room. You would not believe the inappropriate stuff they say off-air. They're a lawsuit waiting to happen and I'm gathering up all my evidence day by day. J

**Does the constant mock-threat of being replaced by whatever woman Kevin & Bean are interviewing at the moment bother you at all? Did it early on?**

I can't lie – it really, really did bother me. But whenever I go on vacation separately from the guys, they make sure I know how much they missed me on the show, so that helps me move past the heartbreak.

**Please share with us some of your favorite guests or segments...**

Just off the top of my head - I love the Eli Manning bit with all my heart. The whole thing with the Hoff and Coachella last year is still hilarious to me. I love the "moments with" and really, just anytime we clown on each other. Also,

whenever things get out of hand when Ralph or Mike is doing a voice and they start to crack up, and then Kevin and Bean and I start to crack up – well, that’s just good fun. Among my favorite guests are Joe Rogan and Kevin Smith; super smart, really sweet, always interesting guys.

**Least favorite guests or segments?**

When the guys book a guest that’s just for them, like Playboy Playmates who have absolutely nothing to say. Who’s with me?! Anyone? Anyone? Bueller?

**Who is your favorite character to do on the show? Lika, Marlee Matlin...?**

Wow – tough question. I do so many – but I’m certainly most famous for Lika and Marlee. And of course my woman on the south side of London. My cockney rocks! (that’s what she said!)

**Who were your favorite interns? Least favorite?**

Beer Mug and Miss Cleo are hands down my favorites and now they both work here. Coincidence? I think not.

**What is your role behind the scenes? What part do you play in planning/prepping the show? How much time is involved?**

My job, and it’s tough, but someone’s got to do it, is to try to watch TV shows and movies I know we’re going to talk about. Beyond that, I try to answer all my email, which usually takes about an hour a day. That’s it. Other than that I’m completely worthless.

**Tell us a little bit about your acting experience. What about future acting aspirations?**

I did a couple of plays in very small theaters about 8 years ago, and then in 2006 and 2007 I did The Vagina Monologues at the Hermosa Beach Theater. It’s a 500-seat theater – the biggest I’ve ever performed in. My favorite thing, though, is the show I do every year that a friend of mine puts together. I get to write and perform my own 12-15 minute piece about anything I want. It’s so much fun to have full creative control. It’s also an amazing amount of work to put together a good, solid 15 minutes. You’d be surprised.

I don’t really consider myself an actress which is probably why I like writing my own stuff better than trying to perform other people’s words. Beyond what I do now, I don’t have any big aspirations to somehow slide into an acting career.

**What do you do in your spare time?**

I see a lot of theater and go to a fair amount of movies, I have lunch with friends, I go to my self-defense classes, I walk my dogs and brush their teeth and take them to the groomer (what I’m saying here is that they’re practically a full-time job), I answer my KROQ email, I work-out. Lately I’ve been trying to learn to cook (so far, no dice). I always have a book going, and I try to watch an hour or so of TV every night. God bless TiVo!

**List for us some of your favorite plays.**

The Quality of Life starring Lori Metcalf at The Geffen.  
The History Boys on Broadway  
Urinetown off Broadway  
Avenue Q off Broadway  
Hairspray on Broadway and at The Ahmanson  
Spring Awakening at The Ahmanson  
The Little Dog Laughed at The Geffen

**Name your 10 "desert island" CDs.**

The soundtrack to Hairspray, the soundtrack for Spring Awakening...I think you get the idea...

**Name your 10 "desert island" movies.**

American Beauty  
Steel Magnolias  
Terms of Endearment  
Seabiscuit  
Into The Wild  
While You Were Sleeping  
State And Main  
Role Models  
Animal House

**Do you ever see yourself getting tired of all this nonsense?**

I've never NOT been tired of it.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

I'm not one of those people who has a life plan. Everything that's happened so far has surprised the hell out of me, so my only hope is that I'll continue to be surprised.

**Anything else that I've missed or that you would like to share?**

No. I think I've already said too much.