

GDL Obba Babtunde

Welcome Welcome back to Good Day Live I'm Michelle Miraz Yes I'm Kyle True And we have the lovely so Baba Hey you guys Magnificent Thrilled to be here with you both of you Thank you I have to read just a little bit about you because for those at home that may not know you I don't think that's possible but we're just gonna say you're an Emmy winner a Tony nominee a four time lifetime achievement award winner You've seen him in movies like life how high that thing you do One of my favorites Trigger and Johnny Depp and Forrest Whitaker and City of Lies and currently as Dean Fairbanks in Netflix's dear white people Amazon's Goliath with Billy Bob Thornton and JK Simmons and as Sherman Moore's dad's pops on the CBS hit action drama series swap Um and you're also the Horse whisperer Yes Yes I am I'm so excited to get into um and then you are performing at the where art can occur Waco theater see it centers fifth anniversary Wearable Art Gala benefit if it scheduled for Saturday October 22nd at 4:30 p.m. at the Barker hangar in Santa Monica Uh welcome to the show Thank you so much And then and thank you for reading those credits It's so nice to always hear that career come back at you You know what I mean It's incredible It's incredible What's your favorite What's what's been your favorite so far You know it's so hard to say that because it would be like asking me which one of my Children was my favorite You know what I mean You know I I have two and and what happens is that I invest all of myself into the characters that I portray You know so and I've had a wonderful wonderful long career and um it continues to go on as you as you stated Um But you know it's it's like uh I could tell you some of the ones that I'm most proud of OK well on from the stage in terms of Dream Girls because it is iconic you know what I mean And um you know giving myself the opportunity along with with the with that original cast of people that that show was created in a workshop And that's that's that's amazing when you think about it was the second workshop ever done in the Broadway Theater And the and the show revolutionized the American Theater So I'm very proud of that Then there's movies like Philadelphia you know where we in in turn opened up the door to be able to identify people not by their illness but by their humanity then there's Miss Ever's Boys you know which is again a wonderful wonderful production with with a stellar cast of of the likes of Lawrence Fishburn and Joe Morton and the late Great Ozzie Davis and and and uh Alfrey Woodard and the list goes on Craig Scheffer It was just amazing and the importance of that movie

I've been involved in so many you know films that that that uh have given me the opportunity to be able to express some of the things that are going on in life presently at that time and still carry on till today So there's there's so many we could go through each one of them You know the comedies are funny and wonderful as well you know but um I always tend to want to play realize fully realized human beings That's that's my my my my claim and it comes across so much I mean you've been at like you've been to so many projects that were like the cornerstone of culture the culture kind of made a turn based on this movie Girls Miss a Boys and such different types of cultures Right Absolutely Did you No it was going like like you're in preproduction you got the role but you're preparing for the role Do you know then that it's gonna be this monumental It's a great question and it deserves a great answer You know what No no seriously You know I mean it's it's true You don't you can't ever know I don't think because how you don't know what all you know is that you are invested at that moment in that time to be able to present to to that audience and to your fellow characters You know I am that person at that time So I can't be on the outside looking in judging myself and be truly honest to the character that I'm portraying You know what I mean So it's an investment into that and then when it turns out to be what it turns out to be I always say always leave in in the in the arts always leave room for the miracle I love Yeah Yeah Yeah A little bit of a chill there a little bit of a chill there Yeah I love that Yeah Uh We we met actually through an acting uh through a project that she wrote Actually I wrote a show called The Charlotte Chronicles Uh And um I always came out I came out here for acting Uh and I did it like I did get parts and all that and I just felt like I wasn't getting what I wanted and uh I just heard this nagging voice saying like just make it just stop stop So in 2020 I adopted a very small dog and all these crazy stories started to happen and flood in and um I created this show and uh Kyle played my love interest on the show Where's the paddle on the paddle My love interest on the show so great in it And uh yeah it was just so interesting because we we met in this scene and just speaking on what you just spoke about about bringing all of yourself to a character and all of your Uh and so it was like we almost we felt like we were meeting in real life You know we were playing two characters but I think it was such there was so much chemistry even on camera though because uh yeah we had we had brought a lot of humanity just to this love story Well you know what you know the chemistry uh is real You know it's it's sincere and that's what we ultimately want to do is that you're real human beings and

respectful suggestion that voice is never wrong that voice that you heard inside of you It's the voice that's given to you You see I always tell people people always say what advice do you have for people that wanna be in the entertainment industry And I I say they cannot take from you what they did not give to you your gifts your talents and your abilities those were given to you You heard that voice and you were wise enough you were wise enough to follow that and look here we are today You know what I mean You you know you just put it out there and and with the intention it comes back it always will I can tell you that because I'm living proof of that I always say self praise is no praise So I'm not saying that to big myself up But I can tell you that there is a difference between good and great and when you to thine own self what be true you know what I mean It's it's not just a statement it's a reality And so here we sit today you know thank you for inviting me I'm thrilled to be here Thank you for being here I mean I I feel I was gonna cry just then I was like I've had three chills already It's so cool I mean uh before we went live uh when did you get the voice to act When was that You know that that the thing about that is that I think it chooses you you don't choose it you know So it's always there You know what I mean You'll find that it's it's not just acting it's it's it's the course of your life but the key is that is when you start paying attention Ok Because success is a journey not a destination Right Right Right Yeah Yeah Yeah We just downloading your thoughts right now Um Speaking of downloading we were right before we started the show before the camera started rolling I apologize Um We have we're having a great conversation We were speaking about your mother and her advice to you and having an inside intuition Yes Yes What what she said which is very simple And then I'll give you a story which is associated with that if I may is that um she said there's two things you can never do with a closed hand and a closed heart you cannot give nor can you receive So open your hand and open your heart and watch what happens I've tried to live my life like that and I continue to do that you know and and you were complimenting me kindly uh about you saying wow I've seen you you know for many many years and you still look the same I'm catching up to him We're almost similar like I've been watching since all the kids and and and and you know what I said I said to to my friend I said listen it it's my friends a lot of them say oh we know what you really look like You must have a picture somewhere that shows what you really look like And I was saying though that that the outward manifestation as a result of an internal circumstance And so that is what I believe is that who you are I have another saying I have a bunch of

them they'll probably come out in these conversations that we're having today Um Is that your do is not necessarily your who your do is what affects change in your life But your who is how you affect change in someone else's life And at the end of the day you see I'll give you the story about what that how that manifest in my life Um and why it can manifest in yours Uh Mrs Smith Miss Alma Smith was the mother of my best friend growing up One day I came home from school I must have had a bad day OK And she for whatever reason took my chin in her hands looked pulled so I could look up and see her and she said she never knew what happened I don't even remember what it was but she said she said it's going to be ok because you're special And for whatever reason whatever reason guys I heard her and for whatever reason I believed her And I sit here today as a repository of that statement And the reason I share that story with you is that we all the viewers and you guys and everybody in the studio we all have the ability to be an Alma Smith in someone's life that they can be having a difficult day and you could look at them and say to them it's going to be ok because you're special and they may hear you and go on to be able to be able to tell that story to someone else as I'm sharing it with you Wow I yeah that It's so true You hear that be kind all the time You never know who's listening how they're listening Yeah You never know what somebody's going through and it's just it's my heart I just felt that so hard I'm gonna have to cut so I can just digest this all beautiful Uh it's it you do is not your who is your do is not necessarily your who your do is what affects change in your life but your who is how you affect change in someone else's life And you know they say that if you've been able to affect change in just one someone's life in your walk then your living has not been in vain So identify that you're doing that right now You're doing that right now You're affecting change in someone's life they're watching and for that moment that you came into their life you're affecting change So guess what Right now you can live saying I know today my living has not been in vain I met Joe across the street at the parking lot Right Great guy great guy Right He he directed me right here But guess what Joe while he's working that's his job but that's his do That's not necessarily who he is who he is is the guy that I met that said oh I know where you're going You know it's right across the street over there and directed me here See he affected change in my journey by who he is He couldn't have he didn't have to say anything He could have gave me the ticket and that would have been that but he did and that's your do So that's the deal that I piggybacking on that Uh I was a nanny so I can I'm not here for acting

Nothing was really coming to fruition for me and I was a nanny and I was so grateful to have work But also I was really beating myself up being like why is it not happening I don't understand I'm so like this and that And then uh I had a very very clear thought It's not what you do it's how you do it So when I had that thought and that that came to me it took a while for it to come to me it changed everything like everything it like almost added like a musical element to the day because uh before I was like why me and I can't believe this and he was not performing But then I started to look at all like the things that I was like being given in that moment and like how I was like OK I was like OK if I'm if I was acting right now and I'm doing this while I'm acting and not grateful for the acting Like that's my what how I do I gotta I gotta change this around I see you got it you got it And if I can piggyback on what you said I've identified there's only two definitive in life Yes And or no And a choice at either one of those definitive moves your life forward People don't realize that Yes I'm going to do that You move your life forward No I'm not going to do that It moves your life forward It's the time in between in which you discern Right But don't stay in there too long right Make a choice because results come from choices and actions not intentions Yeah Choices come from I'm gonna say it again because sometimes it well there's a results come from actions not intentions So if you make a choice and the choice you identify is not the best choice guess what Make a different choice Don't stay with that choice That's well you know and I went through that I went through that you know what I mean That's another one I got that that this is kind of funny is that is that is that there is a difference between relative and family Mm You had no choice in who your relatives are We can be family because family is how one treats one Right Right So don't get caught up because a buddy of mine said to me man my brother makes me sick man I said well why why are you doing it Well he's my brother I said you had no choice in that that was your parents choice Right Right You inherited that situation OK All right If he wasn't your brother would you deal with him No What I stop dealing with him then you know what I mean So so that also removes guilt because there's a misconception that you are forced into something choice You have a choice in your life and don't let anyone take that choice from you That's good You were just this show in so many ways It's so I mean I wanna listen to this conversation before going into my next audition audition Let me let me give you something to that OK Both of you watch this watch this I want you to remove the terminology from the lexicon of audition and replace it with opportunity Diana Castle Huh Is that no that's I love it You know

what I mean You know what I mean But I know that there are many people that said because that just say you say today I have an audition you've already given the power to someone else today I have an opportunity OK And and and then guess what You go everybody that's gonna go into the that opportunity right No one's going to be you and no one can be a better you than you So now the requirement is on for you or you or myself to be the best me at what I'm doing as possible That's on me See that that that that's it because think about this if you go into that situation with hey guys I know a lot of people who have read for this part Wait wait do y'all see what I got for you now OK You are I teach your master class from time to time I I was gonna ask you that Yes yes yes And and and and and I tell people I said listen I can increase They said oh but you work all the time I said well I can help you increase your booking rate Come in What do I gotta do I said well it's really simple but then you got to actually do it Ok You know and that is one identify that you are prepared So get prepared do the work that it that it's required of right And I'm not interested in the pearl I'm interested in the string of pearls What are you referring about The gig The job is the pearl but the career is a string of pearls Nothing you do is wasted Ok So everything that you invest everything that you invest is like if we had a piggy bank if we had a piggy bank for those of you that may be not mature enough in terms of your like the the a piggy bank was a little as a bank that you put nickels dimes quarters penny silver dollars in it Now when that bank reaches its capacity the smallest denomination on an American currency the penny can break it open You don't need a dollar to break it open A penny could break it open And then what do you have You have the residual of your investment you have the residual of your investment Everything that you put in there is there It's the same thing with your careers and your life Everything you put in there is there waiting man And it's gonna break open And what happens You take that investment and you reinvest it in you you get a bigger bank right If you got a sponge this is what happens to people that don't understand this concept and I give it to you in this way If you have a sponge and you have a bucket of water once you put the sponge in that bucket of water depending upon the side of the sponge the sponge becomes saturated It can then hold no more water correct So if you want to hold more water you got to get a bigger sponge Ok So that if you do that guess what happens it just keeps growing and growing and growing and growing then you don't get caught up in someone saying oh well will it ever be enough They said well well Joe got 44 or five cars He don't need four or five cars He said wait a

minute Joe doesn't have four or five cars because he needs them He has them because he wants them generally when somebody tells you what you need they've determined what that is as opposed to you determining it choices choices I mean so so so that what it is is that if if if you did that it that opportunity to the best of your ability it went into the bank whether you get the that particular gig or not is not the point because it's gonna come back to you I had it happen to me in my life in 1978 I was co starring in a world tour with Liza Mannelly Ok We were doing a world tour There was a young lady Her name is Tina Fortenberry I remember it to this day Ok Tina Fortenberry young girl I'm coming into the theater We would do four shows have a couple of days off and we go to the next venue Ok So I come in fourth show She had been there at the stage door at every show She goes hi I go you're here again tonight She says yes but it's sold out I said well you you've seen it enough times you could be in the show I laughed went inside and for nothing other than what I'll identify as a random act of kindness I went out and I said to security hey she's with me Come on in I brought her in I put her in a chair in the wings way out of everybody's way I said enjoy the show Stay out of everybody's way Right Didn't see her again 20 years later I'm trying to get into this movie that I ultimately ended up getting into Called Life with Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence They would not see me No Tell we love him We know his work Nothing in it for him I'm like it's about some black men on a work camp Let me in the room at least give me a shot And there was a lot of roles in that Ok So no can't do it All right after we let it go about two weeks later my my agent says hey they say they want to see you I go in the casting director is sitting there She says we're gonna put you on tape The director is on the phone Hey good to see you And II I do it on tape right We get the call You booked it Ok All right Third lead in the movie Ok All right All right So now the first day I go to work I'm walking from my trailer to the set Someone comes up to me and goes hi how do you do My name is Tina Fortenberry I said oh it's nice to meet you She says well I've actually met you twice before She said you did Philadelphia right I said yes She said I was a P A on that That was one of my first jobs she says and um but you did something very nice for me She said um I'm the assistant to the U PM on the show Ok And he she says um and when I saw your name on the list I didn't understand why they wouldn't bring you in And I would go in every day and say he's really good You should bring him in He's really good She says I kind of think they brought you in just so I wouldn't come into the office anymore She said but then you I came in audition Brian Grazer saw

that and said that's the guy I want So she says you got it on your own merit But I would like to believe that somehow I was able to be instrumental in helping that happen 20 years later So that's earlier My earlier point to nothing is wasted Everything you invest will bring a return OK Power I mean it was already like a major gift that you were coming today But like who would have thought that how many more No that's that's great Um for you know the aspiring actors out there who just want like that big gig right now If you listen to for like 10 minutes you can understand how to really carry yourself and don't let that beat you up too much If you haven't had your big break yet it's not about that Right Exactly Journey and so many eloquent words I think they can I I think they get it now Yes it's about the journey You know as I said earlier you know success is not a is not a destination It it's it's a journey you know what I mean So I mean because you know my my my my youngest son one time I said to him I said listen when you um grow up I want you to I want you to write for me at that time He was like 15 years old I said I want you to write for me What it is that you wanna do when you grow up right So about three or four days later he comes back and he says dad I got that you know what I mean And I said OK now before I read it I'm gonna read it If you have accomplished all of that I want you to go in right now What you're gonna do after that OK See because what happens is that Think about it if you said well I wanna do this and you did it right now What Yeah so understand it's the journey not the destination Uh So many gold words from Mr Day Do you want do you want to move on to the horse The horse I do I was just like I'm just I'm just taking it all in I get a moment So I need a moment It was so good And and so I mean it's just powerful Yeah Yeah Um I feel that way very much every day Um Super super grateful to be here Um Kyle is incredible actor and he didn't you're welcome didn't intentionally uh because I created another show called Dream on where I interview people that are pursuing their dream lives at all different stages and ages and backgrounds And Kyle came on the show which we filmed here which we you know actually don't haven't done in a while And he sat in your chair and we were sitting and we were talking and telling me about his journey as an actor and he goes I just wanna connect with people There you go And I said that's awesome But then then I was like so it's all about connection So I was like so you don't have to act And he goes what I like I like directing and producing and writing and he just made a short film recently But when he was sitting in the chair he goes maybe I'm supposed to be a host and now he's here Absolutely Yeah that's a great story And I'm glad you told it

because it does give those that are watching today that that sense of it's it's not so finite you know what I mean You know you you had to you know uh you know there's these terms you know that we that they become slogans rather than what are they born out of Right See and ye shall find Ok Well the reason you have those shoes I have these boots you have your shoes you have this because we look for it to put it on So look for what it is and you and guess what happens you will find it and that leads you to the next step It leads you to the next step If otherwise you you're you're putting a a a AAA restriction on your own journey Yeah that's what it was really I I to piggyback off what you just said I was sitting in your chair and that's what I was like oh wait I think I'm still in my journey here right Like it was it you helped me separate the who from the do Yeah And I was like oh ok OK Yeah like who I am could do this hosting thing doing is just irrelevant at this point So yeah Yes And you're wonderful at it Thank you both Both of you are you both are really sincerely you know what I mean II I'll just share quickly with with you why I say that not just to pay you a compliment but the great hosts of the period What they have is the ability that I have identified is the ability to engage their the person that they're interviewing OK So there's a way that you could do that you know you guys have mastered that there is a comfort that that exists between the two of you And there's a realness that you connect with the person So you open that person up You know I've done tons of interviews and sometimes that person interviewing you they haven't done their homework Ok And then they go So um how are you today and tell us um well how did you get started Now now you're identifying you mean from the very beginning That was a long time ago this morning And and and that that interview just goes right You know I I saw um Johnny Carson one time was talking about he was interviewing a guy that was a fighter pilot and the guy wasn't very talkative right And he was asking them you know like oh and the guy would just go yeah Oh wow Yeah he said and so he was like oh man this is going not in a good direction and and he then asked him he says tell me what it's like when you're in the heat of battle the guy went when I get behind that cockpit and all of a sudden the Yeah Yeah And it wasn't like I'm because that person is not a show business individual they may not be comfortable sitting in that chair with millions of people watching But when you put that person in a situation where they can talk freely and you guys have that you've done that So allow me to compliment you No that that means so much that this all means so much Thank you You have the eye You were like I wish you had as a host I always look out for you I I um I mean

you you are so generous with with everything that you've you've learned along the way and all the amazing things that have happened to you and you totally deserve I like I I you saw me I will start like I must not coming out of my nose Tell me how you got the term I wanna take a different side of life Horse whisper How did this happen for you Well a horse whisperer is different than a trainer Oh trainer trains the horse or the person A horse whisper is one that connects with the horse in terms of understanding and identifying the language of the creature Ok Horses I love because it's such a departure from the industry They're prey animals thusly they have no ego So therefore it's pure spirit Oh Wow So to be able to connect with a creature that is pure spirit for me is a blessing I know that what I invest is going to come back It's not going to be oh man See with horses you can't bribe them into caring for you So someone gives a horse a carrot or a lump of sugar and they go and the horse follows him and they go oh it likes me now No it likes the lump of sugar It likes the carrot It will accept it from you You me and a bucket on the ground It doesn't attach an a particular affinity of where the origin of the treat came from right Like a dog And then somebody says well why is that Because dogs are predator So you get it from you know getting food is your motivation to survive pray fight and flight So you can't give that horse the only way that I've identified to earn and I underscore the word earn a horse's trust is through investment of time and consistency of behavior which is I think something that we if we adopt we'll be much better human beings because you don't have to worry about somebody going God you are a great actor man You're the best and then you walk away and all that you know Right Right Yeah No it's hard you know but the deal is that with horses you never have to worry about that You're not dealing with that ego or that false ego you know what I mean And what you give is what you get Now the key that I have found to horse whispering is the language of the horse We could have sat here and had this wonderful conversation today But if we weren't speaking a language that either of us understood we would get the emotional sentiment and the details Same thing If I'm gonna communicate with that horse I've got to speak its language It is never going to learn my language It understands Oh there's a reason that we communicate with horses whether they're two years old or 30 years old in the same way Oh easy It's not like you know you've had the horse 20 years and you go listen today you know uh uh uh uh uh today you know patchy boy we're going to go to the trail or we're gonna go up Skyline and the horse would understand that No every time you get with that horse you have to communicate with it

what you're going to do and you've got to communicate with it in a way that it understands So that's what I went and I learned all about the anatomy the way that horse works the way that horse communicates way the horse I rodeo you know what I mean And and and and and and it's something that I I love and I still do it to this day And this is footage from horse talk show It's a show I created It's incredible And I had Morgan Freeman on the show I had Jim Picket Junior on the show you know uh you know and it it what it does is it gives people the access to understanding how to communicate and that and that's and that um little piece of the video there this particular owner brought me his horse and he was you know pulling the horse and the horse wouldn't walk forward right while the horse moves away from pressure So I said rather than pulling on the horse take a step to the side of the horse now the horse can balance itself and resist you in this way step to the side of that horse and it's now slightly off balance and once it's moving it then goes with you That is So I just noticed you like started walking and his horse just went with you I was like that's a that's a £2000 animal His uh his that's my that's my my my one of my rodeo horses that I competed with on her name is Tess And you know what I was showing in that video was that if I am asking the horse to move in a particular direction and I step in front of that horse's shoulder the horse is gonna do one of two things it's gonna stop or it's gonna turn and go the opposite way because it's I'm creating a barrier and it's not looking to go into the pressure it's prey So it's moving away from the pressure But but again it's not that's I said I said horse talk everybody loves horses even everybody loves horse talk even the horses in the horse you see go I love it I love it Yeah Yeah Yeah Yeah No horses are so beautiful and I mean I think that's so what you said about stepping to the side I feel like it's kind of it's you know very much like us as human beings You know when we're pulled we we don't want to be pulled I agree And but if if we're you know maybe like show the show yeah shown the way But like but you know not being pulled a little bit of like playing to the side you can go and and feel like not so because when I when I feel pulled I don't wanna go Right I don't want to do it know like you gotta do this you gotta do that and I like no no it it but it you know like if I am aware yeah I do So I do really well with positive affirmation you know you know encouraged Well for example you know what I mean If we are kinetic beings by that I mean we can feel we could you could be standing outside and we could have been having a conversation Uh 10 people could walk by and that something somebody nefarious walks by You don't know that person You don't see that person but

you kind of go Yes Right You just feel that you're kinetic So if I say to you uh let me get past you here and I'm pushing you this way you feel is this And I say would you mind if I step past you you go Oh sure You know what I mean So that you're very in tune with that you know hold on to it I am I am I've had it ever since I was super little very very very sensitive to uh feelings and emotions and uh and it's it's it's been a journey as you say Thank you Thank you Thank you And uh yeah um I we uh this flew by we only have a couple more minutes with you I want people to uh these are your camera This is your camera over here Tell people where they can see you where they I know you're performing this weekend I have at at at Waco and um it's it's it's a wearable art wonderful organization Uh uh Richard Lawson and Tina Knowles Lawson They have created this Waco is their wonderful theater you know Um and and they do this event and and and I'm gonna be there and I'm thrilled that they've asked me to be a part of it I'm playing the mayor you know But um the the I'm not hard to find you know my my my name Oba Babatunde It's OBB a last name Babat Un de What is interesting about that is Babatunde its Nigerian origin It's loosely translated it means the spirit of the grandfather has returned in the child And for the last five generations all the first born males in my family have been born the same day the same month Next time you invite me back we'll go into that you know what I mean But but but there's you know but thank you so much guys for inviting me I had a wonderful time Thank you Hope to see you again We had we had an absolute pleasure with you You're just an incredible human and a wonderful talent And uh we're so so so grateful uh and we're grateful for all our viewers that tuned in today What a special special treat we had um wherever you are whatever you're doing uh find the good in your day and spread it to whoever you may and we will see you all so much Have a good day That's right