

WGN-TV's Chicago's Very Own: Becca Kaufman



Ever wonder where the voices behind talking toys comes from? Learn about an Elmwood Park woman with the gift for gab.

Jane Boal
Reporter/Producer

November 1, 2002

"I really like the way you talk," says one toy.

She's the actual voice behind talking toys for kids and adults.

"phphpt...was that supposed to happen?" another toy blurts out.

"I do a lot of really little kid stuff because I did a lot of theatre stuff when I was a kid," says Becca Kaufman.

When Becca was a kid, she also started imitating her mother and sister's voices, apparently that's where it all began.

" 'Rebecca,' you know all the time she was coming after me. And my sister Lauren, she's like a combination of New Jersey and lock jaw, 'Rebecca, what are you doing,' you know?" Becca says, imitating her mother and sister.

Now part of Becca's job is to create as many voices in her head as possible. Today at Bosco Productions in Chicago, she practices a new toy voice planned for a talking Easter bunny.

"Hip hop bunny with a mission..." Becca says in the studio booth.

"Just a little more diction, OK here we go," says Jamie Wirt, Tekky Toys CEO and producer.

"Hip hop bunny with a mission, got to hide all my Easter treats," Becca says.

Jamie says Becca has been hired to perform nearly 100 voices for popular talking toys.

"She's very fast and articulate and can come up with a voice, hundreds of voices, different sounds and characters like that," Jamie says.

"As I close my eyes," plays one of the toys with Becca's voice.

Becca's talent echoes far beyond voices for toys. She produces a monthly singer talent showcase. She writes, sings and produces children's music. She also does voice over work for popular games such as "You Don't Know Jack."

"(For "You Don't Know Jack) we did singing in between the questions and then I did some character voices," Becca says.

It may sound like this multi-talented Chicago's Very Own has the perfect career, but she says she still has big dreams for future voice gigs.

"The big dream...I really want to be a voice in a Disney movie," Becca says.

"A hip hop bunny with a mission," Becca says practicing in the studio.

For more information about Becca Kaufman log onto:

www.singerspotlight.com

www.tellallproductions.com

Tekky Toys

www.tekkytoys.com