

Geoff Hoff

Geoff Hoff has been a paper boy, a dishwasher, a janitor, a grounds keeper, a telephone operator, the assistant manager of a pizza parlor, a fine-art picture framer, a file clerk, the office services guy at a law firm, the MIS guy at another law firm, a business owner and an independent end-user computer consultant. Mostly, though, he pursued his true passion for acting, writing and directing. Since teaming with Steve Mancini and the creation of the satirical serial Weeping Willow, his career and work have finally begun to get noticed.

Hoff was born on October 9, 1955 in Tokyo, Japan, the second in a family of five. He attended Fort Wright College of the Holy Names in Spokane, Washington, a Catholic girl's school. It reputedly had the best drama department in the Pacific Northwest, and he was swallowed up by the resident company, The Interplayers Ensemble, for four years, being involved with at least five productions a year. Soon after he left Spokane, the college closed.

After college, he moved to Grass Valley in northern California with the plan to eventually go to San Francisco and disappear happily into some stock or rep company. His plans changed drastically after seeing the movie The China Syndrome. On the way home from the theater in a borrowed car he decided he wanted to be part of an industry that could produce something so powerful. A month later he was living in a room in Hollywood about five blocks from Hollywood and Vine. He shared the bathroom and kitchen with the other tenants on the floor and the drug addicts and hustlers who often used the hallway as shelter from the night.

Hoff lived in six or seven places in his first two years in L.A., finally moving to a house in the Valley with five other people, where he lived for seven years. It was there that he wrote his second novel, Equinox, which has since been re-written as a screenplay called 2 John Parr, and re-re-written as a novel.

He had a long stint performing with the LA Connection, an improv group (in the same cast as Matthew Perry) and a short one studying with the Groundlings. Hoff wrote, produced and performed in a one-man-show called Man at Work which was about the relative energy we as human beings bring to what we choose to do in our lives, all the way from great apathy to great passion. He did stand-up for a couple of years, performing at The Comedy Store and several other venues in and around Los Angeles. He finally quit acting for good, and shortly after that was cast in his first professional production, The Wild Duck, at the Los Angeles Theatre Center.

He directed a few plays and performed as the comic relief and only human in a science fiction/fantasy movie called Wild Magic, which is still, these many years later, in post production. While working on these last few projects, Hoff started to notice some consistent things that actors were missing in their craft. He created Passion for Acting, an actors' workshop, and taught it regularly for over six years.

In the spring of 1998 a friend called and asked if Hoff would come to a meeting to talk with a bunch of writers about a project he wanted to get started called Tony Mack's Swingin' L.A. Hoff started working on the show as a writer, then as a regular performer in it. Eventually, he became the director. It was there that he met this very quiet and mysterious man named Steve Mancini. Hoff doesn't remember Mancini speaking a single word the entire first meeting. They would eventually become writing partners, business partners and together would create the hit comedy Weeping Willow, first as an on-line serial, then as a book.

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