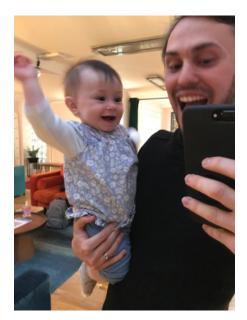


I smile as I organise the plans but secretly I am now in need of swimming lessons for the large pool of sweat my nerves have just produced.



feeling excited, learning the job was to voice a children's toy figure and it was my first session back in a studio since the pandemic hit so there was plenty to look forward to. Days go by, and the session is fast approaching, but no time has been allotted yet and all of a sudden the phone rings. Another client wants to book me for an on-screen commercial shoot on the same day as this toy gig. Uh oh, stress alert! What am I to do? The screen gig needs the answer now so I say yes but tell them I am only free at 1pm (aware I needed to allot half the day to the toy client). Fortunately, they only needed me for 2-3 hours so I figured I could make it work. The TV job accepts my 1pm arrival and now I have to convince the toy booking to see me in the morning. I ring

them up and yes, fortunately, they can see me at 9am allowing me 2 hours to do the session. Phew everything seems to be going smoothly at this point!

Fast-forward to the first session; I arrive

and learn that it is not just a VO job but

a facial recognition job and sadly the

software is broken. The session starts at 10am (one hour late) but I am not worried because my next session is only 20 minutes away (how lucky is that?) It gets to 12pm and they tell me they need me for an extra hour as there are more characters to do... Trying not to feel stressed, I think about how I can make this work! After having so much fun I tell them I can successful? A billionaire be back for 4pm might not agree. and can record till 5pm and I dash off to my on-screen gig where upon arrival, they tell me they are running an hour behind. Still at this point I try not to feel stressed while feeling deeply amused that I could have stayed at the toy voiceover session after all! Fortunately, we wrapped at 3:30 pm and I was able to get back just in time to pick up the last character for the toy voiceover job. In the space of five hours, I filmed an on-screen commercial and voiced a golden retriever, a pig, a sloth, a lion cub and a T-rex. I got paid an extra hour and had LOADS OF FUN!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Two weeks later my agent calls and asks how old my daughter is - nine months, I tell her. She then asks me if I can attend an audition with her in London to which I agree. I smile as I organise the plans but secretly I am now in need of swimming lessons for the large pool of sweat my nerves have just produced. Nine-montholds DO NOT like to sit still (I don't blame them, neither do I). London is over 200 miles away and the idea of going across the country, dealing with the tube and then doing an audition with a baby certainly made me feel like I was juggling with fire whilst on a unicycle. Anyway, my wife Molly decided to come along and we made a nice family day of it. Sadly, Grace and I did not book the job, they decided to go with a baby boy instead, but she adored the journey, she adored all the attention and we had so much fun playing together.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

I promised a nugget of wisdom right? Well, here we go. I'll give it a try.

The idea of achieving your goal is harder in your own mind than it is in actual practice. In both of these instances, I was concerned about the timings, the distances and the performances but in reality, I had more fun than I can ever remember. I ticked two huge goals from my bucket list. I got to enjoy time working with my daughter and spending time together as a family and in a day's work, I got to be a dog, a pig, a sloth, a lion and a T-Rex! What a wild couple of weeks! But I would not have it any other way. Success is measured by perspective.

What as success won't one person deems be aligned with as success won't be aligned another person's with another person's perspective perspective of success. Is being of success. Is being a millionaire a millionaire successful? A billionaire might not agree. My point is that things we really want don't just come to us on a plate; we really do have to work for it. We have to balance

What one person deems

on a unicycle whilst juggling fire but do that long enough and you become a pro at it like those circus performers we mentioned earlier. The first go might seem hard and hey you might even slip up along the way, but YOU WILL GET THERE, enjoy the process and have fun.

Hang in there folks, your dreams await you!

