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Steve Crosby

Fairbanks, Alaska

1980s

Steve Lay, interviewer

University Focus series

Steve Crosby talked about being born an actor. He remembers doing a reading of Casey at the bat at the age of twelve. It was a satisfying experience for him. It was something that became increasingly obvious to him that acting was the most important fulfilling them to him. He said acting and directing come from the same core. He prefers to act. He has been involved with social service programs. Previously he worked with the Alaska Federation of Natives with a career counseling program. He graduated from AMU. He learned from Frank Brink when he was at AMU. He received an MFA in directing. He has worked on summer stock in Kentucky and worked in Minneapolis. He worked on an episode of Theater in America series. He talked about American theater. There is more emphasis on the technical.

Steve Crosby talked about other interests in his life. He discusses the Duma theater program and accepting the position on campus. It is a unique program. He had been up to Fairbanks previously. The purpose of the theater is cultural retention. It causes the audience to emotionally become involved in the theater. It is a brand new art form for Native cultures. It is not a traditional form of expression. He was born in Colombia and raised most of his life outside of the U.S. He didn't feel connected to the main stream of American life. He didn't feel a part of anything. He has always had a relating feeling with other cultures. He talked about some of his experiences in Colombia.

Steve Crosby talked about their play. It is about an anthropological study of a vanishing culture. No culture stays the same. He described the play which he is directing. It doesn't follow a chronological order but rather a symbolic order. The play starts as if it were the morning of the day and follows a twelve hour period. There are eighteen unrelated scenes. He discussed about a scene with a dining hall and the function of the dining hall in society. He talked about the audience relating to the play. There's a good progression to the play. There's a wide range of actor ages. He selected the play because he was looking for something that was contemporary and had a touch of comedy. The name of the play is Dining room. He talked about getting permission to use the play. He talked about the actors who will be in the play. The average number of characters each actor plays is six. He wanted versatile actors. He is pleased with his cast.

Steve Crosby said he doesn't have a favorite actor or actress. He likes actors who are able to come up with a distinct character for each role. He respects Dustin Hoffman, Meryl Streep, and Robert Duvall. He likes versatility. He is attracted to character actors. He talked about being typed cast. He explains why his favorite role is Hamlet. He likes dramatic roles. He said some comedic roles are dramatic. He said

comedy is extremely challenging. He talked about other types of works he prefers. He talked about the uniqueness of his current dramatic project. He talked about his performance