

From: Robert Foor - Campaign for Vice President

Welcome to my campaign platform and thank you for taking the time to read what I have to say.

I wish to start by thanking whoever it was that nominated me. I considered submitting myself, but opted against it. I thought that if there is at least one person out there who respects my views, they'll let me know. They did. So, here I am.

The first thing I want to stress is this. I make only one guarantee. I will fight for the things for which I am campaigning. I cannot promise that what I say here will come to fruition, but I will bring them before the board and fight for them in the interest of you, the members, and for the growth of MOFA, the organization.

TERMS – Having a completely new administration come in all at once is difficult and would cause MOFA to flounder for a few months while the in-coming board members get on their feet with roles and responsibilities. I will recommend that the terms of officers be staggered. Example...

- 1) President
- 2) Vice President
- 3) Secretary
- 4) Treasurer
- 5) Public Relations

Out of the above listed offices, the even numbered roles would serve their 12 month term from July to July while the odd numbered offices would serve from January to January. The incoming VP and Treasurer will have an already acclimated and savvy President, Secretary and PR officer to help step into their respective roles. This will allow a smoother transition. It will require that one group of officers serve a 6 or 18 month term (my lean is toward the 18 month) initially so that those roles may be so staggered.

TRUSTEES – I believe that certain persons outside the film community should be invited to join the board. It will be beneficial to have an outsider's perspective. I suggest individuals with Legal, Entrepreneurship, Corporate Financial and Web experience.

AVAILABILITY – I send the following question off during political campaigns. I have yet to hear it addressed, but I will ask it of myself, here in this forum. "How do you plan to make yourself available, and thereby accountable to those you serve?" My answer is this. I will be available 24/7 for contact. All MOFA members will have every means of contacting me. And everyone can expect a response to any message they leave within 72 hours. That message may be updates of what research I am doing to answer their question, but they will receive an answer.

Accountability – Every board member should be held responsible for completing their duties and should be answerable to the other board members and MOFA members in general.

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OPEN – I will recommend that MOFA hold open board meetings 2–3 times a year, for members to address concerns, bring up new ideas and learn what is happening with the board and the direction that MOFA is headed.

OHIO AT LARGE – I will suggest that alternating board members travel to SOFA meetings to network, strengthen the ties between MOFA and SOFA and report back on what things SOFA is doing that MOFA would do well to mirror. I will also contact notable persons in the Toledo, Cleveland and Akron area to encourage the establishment of a Northern Ohio Filmmaker’s Association. Once established, I will recommend travel to those meetings and the creation of the OFAA (Ohio Filmmaker’s Association Alliance.)

MID OHIO – ‘Mid Ohio’ should undoubtedly include cities and counties outside the Columbus area. Newark, Delaware, Springfield, Yellow Springs, Zanesville, Logan, etc. should have informal branches of MOFA. MOFA should also outreach to colleges and schools that have programs in the arts. CCAD, Fort Hayes, OSU, OU, etc. I will work to create student–filled liaison positions in participating schools.

ALL OHIO – Through the student and branch city liaisons, MOFA members can more easily find talent and crew for projects outside the city limits. I will work to create such a network with all Ohio Filmmakers so that travelling actors and crew can find additional personnel, shoot sites and perhaps even accommodations during extended shoots outside their city.

MEMBERSHIP – Membership in MOFA is strong. There are currently around 900 members. I will work to make maintaining that membership more and more lucrative. I will work with the PR Director to actively pursue new members.

BENEFITS – I will compile a list of businesses within MOFA’s scope and network with those businesses not only for the reputation of the MOFA name, but for offering members deals on all things related to the field. Discounts on purchasing and or renting film equipment, accessories, software, make up, movie and theatre tickets, etc. Also to build a repoire with local businesses so that when needed, those businesses would be more willing to donate time, personnel, supplies and their own locations for the purpose of making films in Central Ohio.

NETWORKING – I will ask that MOFA network with local television stations, production companies, advertisers and agents to increase MOFA’s notoriety and possibilities within the community for MOFA members.

EDUCATION – I will encourage filmmakers to take on apprentices during projects. I will encourage filmmakers to open auditions in lieu of pre–casting roles which limit the already too few opportunities for actors.

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Sponsoring – I will suggest that MOFA expand into not necessarily hosting, but sponsoring workshops and events for members to learn, improve and share their skills and how to better market themselves by learning about the how-tos of Resumes, Demo Reels, Headshots, etc.

Membership dues – MOFA currently boasts around 900 members. Were MOFA to collect an annual membership fee of a mere \$25, the board would have well over \$20,000 each year, allowing them to do some amazing and wonderful things within the film community.

WEBSITE – I will work with the web developer to have a space on the MOFA website where local talent can promote themselves via contact info, abilities, interests, resume, headshots and demo reels.

3 WORDS – Location. Location. Location. I do not see a sports bar as a place to meet and network. It is a place to sit and watch sports. To stand and mingle is to be in the way of wait staff trying to do their job. It is not conducive to networking. Some people have made the comment that Coaches has great food and drink prices. That works if you are going there for the main purpose of eating and drinking. These are social lubricants, but eating and drinking can be done anywhere. The utmost consideration for a location must be that there is room to move around and that conversations may be had. Tied with this is a central location. These considerations should not suffer because an establishment has half price well drinks.

What I am suggesting will take a lot of work. I will do what I can and expect that the rest of the board will do the same, but your help will be needed. As a MOFA member, you have rights, but also responsibilities. Working hard for the best interest of MOFA is something all of us should do. This will have a rippling effect across the board (no pun intended). As MOFA grows in recognition and reputation, more people will be encouraged to join. As those people network, more creativity will be inspired. As more projects are created, the talents of all concerned will be more widely recognized. This will increase the desire to work and the drive to succeed. This will bring pride to the MOFA members that participate in these projects and notice from the film community outside the MOFA scope.

Thank you for your time reading this.

Please vote. When you do, cast a well-informed, thought out vote.

My Story.

Some of you may well be asking... Who is this guy? Well, I'll answer that as best I can without putting you to sleep.

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I grew up in Columbus, moving to Pataskala when the area around us started going downhill. Have done some moving around since, but always seemed tethered there. Now I'm back in the house I (kind of) grew up in and am renovating it to make it more mine.

They say the path to your career is never a straight line. I have found that to be so very true. I still find it ironic how most every career has segued one into the next. Here we go.

I have been working since I was 14. Volunteered at Children's Hospital and The Ohio Historical Society. When I turned 16, I began working at Big Bear (grocery store) while spending a school year living with my father. Not content with that job, I decided to enlist in the USArmy. When I went in to sign up, they had three choices for me. Truck Driver, Cook or Dental Assistant. As my mother was an R.N. at Grant and my father was a paramedic for the City of Columbus, there is no question to the road I chose. I did basic training the summer between my junior and senior years of high school. After graduation, I was off to Fort Sam-Houston for the specialized training. I returned to Ohio and continued to serve in the Army Reserves.

Eventually I got itchy feet and moved to Daytona Beach, Fla. That didn't last long. The Army helped me get out of there and sent me (on signing up for active duty) to Fort Devens, Mass. where Air Force recruits were trained in Intelligence. Massachusetts is beautiful and I would love to move back there one day. Something keeps me here in Ohio. Once I figure out what that something is, I will either accept my fate and stay or cut the ties and move merrily along.

While pulling on-call duty over weekends in the hospital dental clinic, I would pass the time with a friend in Radiology across the hall. On occasion, her daughter would visit from the Deaf school she was attending a few towns over. I had previously dabbled in sign language. I credit her with pushing me over the tipping point and turning dabbling into genuine interest.

I returned to Ohio after my time in the Army. I continued in the dental field by working (once again) at Children's Hospital. There I met more and more Deaf children and parents. I cornered an interpreter one day and she told me of Columbus State's Interpreting program. When I went in to ask about it, I found one last open seat for in the upcoming quarter. I took it. I was a quick study. It all clicked. I left Children's Hospital for work that was better suited to a college student. Itinerant assistant work with dentists and reception work for a few Deaf service agencies.

After school, I felt secure enough and established enough to hang my shingle as freelance interpreter. I did so for several years quite successfully. My focus was medical and mental health as well as artistic (theatre, music, etc) interpreting.

One agency that I regularly contracted with asked me if I would do a theatrical assignment with Shadowbox Cabaret. I agreed and worked well with them in the prep

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and execution of the show. After, the president of the company approached me and said that he liked what he saw and that he would like to see more. I told him that I really enjoyed it and would be happy to interpret more with them. He clarified that his intention was that I audition to join the company. I did. They accepted. That began 12 with Shadowbox.

Quite a few things happened in a short period of time that led me to take an offered job at The Buckeye Ranch, a kind of intermediate place for adolescents who need something between public school and jail. The Deaf residents and Deaf staff required 3 full-time interpreters. I became one of those. Evenings and weekends doing the Shadowbox thing.

To expand for a moment. Shadowbox is an entirely self contained theatre. As a member of the company, you can expect to do any and every aspect of production during your time there. And I did. Security, Box Office, Wait staff, Lighting, Sound, Clean-up, Set construction, Props, Singer, Dancer, Actor, Costumes, Writer, Marketer, I could go on. I won't.

Meanwhile at the Buckeye Ranch, I began having trouble with my right arm. To sum up years of red tape, innumerable physicians and three surgeries, suffice it to say that I have blown out the nerve. It took a long time to accept that interpreting was no longer for me. The one job that I loved beyond all others, was well established and had lauded talent is dead and gone, forever.

I continued at Shadowbox until we parted ways. Back in the outside world, I changed from working with troubled teens to mentally retarded adults. Currently I am working with the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Job two is working with Ohio Dominican Sisters. I provide security for the nuns who teach ESL in some not-so-great parts of town. Thirdly, I am teaching acting classes and workshops on the northeast side. And I have a fallback fourth job when the holidays slow down the others. Itinerant jobs allow me the flexibility to feed the acting bug.

SO WHAT DOES ALL THIS HAVE TO DO WITH...

USArmy -I served in the Army and was company clerk for the Vail Dental Clinic at Fort Devens, Ma.

Artistic - I worked repeatedly with the City of Columbus as an interpreter for all the usual festivals. I have interpreted for Melissa Etheridge, Zig Zeigler, the late Jimmy Crum, Jeff Smith (The Frugal Gourmet), Vaud-Vilities, Columbus Children's Theatre, and so many more. I was recruited to be the lead interpreter for a very special joint venture performance of 'Tartuffe.'

Business - I have worked in military, medical and mental health offices. Directly interacting with all manner of persons in a highly professional, sensitive and confidential environment. I take that duty very seriously. I have run an Army supply

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room, the front offices of two different Deaf service agencies and two dental offices. I have run my own business as a freelance interpreter.

Leadership – For 9 years, I was the Director of Interpreting for Shadowbox Cabaret in Columbus and Newport, Ky. There, I was coordinating, choreographing, advertising and coaching contract interpreters as well as interpreting AND acting in the shows, myself. As Interpreting Director for Shadowbox Newport, I received the Hearing, Speech and Deaf Center of Greater Cincinnati's Excellence in Accessibility Award.

Roles – Theatrical actor at Shadowbox Cabaret and Raconteur Theatre. Directed world premiere of 'The Replacement' for Curtain Players. Acted in commercials. Acted on television with Shadowbox Wired and The New Detectives for the Discovery Channel. Crew and actor on Two Doors Down: The Web Series. Both sides of the camera for the 48 Hour Film Project. Story Crew Leader for 72 Hour Film Project. Currently involved in the International Movie Making Project. Underwater Safety Director for 'The Dolphin Episodes.' At some point, I have performed every duty that one can. Director, AD, Producer, Writer, Editor, Script Supervisor, Cinematographer, Choreographer, Actor, Dancer, Caterer, Gaffer, Propmaster... Again, I could go on, but I won't.

I care about people, I want to see them succeed. I care about new actors, I want to see them provided with opportunity. I care about Columbus. I want to see it get recognition. I care about the film community, I want to see it grow. I care about MOFA, I want to see it become everything that it can.

I don't try to please everyone. There are people I do not get along with. But I work with them regardless. My work philosophy has always been 'I came here to work, friends are a perk.' We don't have to like each other, but we DO have to work together. I can put aside what I must to get the job done.

I promise you that all my cards are on the table. There is no hidden agenda and there is nothing held back. What you read is what you get. I have been called many things. Tenacious, opinionated, insufferable, stubborn. I am all those things when it comes to fighting for what I believe. I have also been called determined, meticulous, compassionate and focused. If you agree with my platform, I will stand up for you. If you don't agree, tell me why. Convince me otherwise. I will listen.

Thank you for your time. Vote!