

Member Spotlight: Lesa Koski



How did you get your start in the Industry? Interestingly enough I entered this industry less than one year ago at the ripe old age of 45. I finally was honest with myself and I realized how much I disliked practicing law. My oldest daughter was also heading off to college; I knew my mom role was changing. I had spent my entire life doing what I felt I should do, not what I loved to do. In fact, I really could not think of what I liked to do. I had to search my soul and it went all the way back to when I was 12 years old. I loved doing plays and musicals. So for the first time in my life I followed my heart. Things have moved very quickly. Each new moment and experience has been a blessing in my life. I met with Susan Wehmann, who I had spoken with over 20 years ago when I was in college. She was extremely helpful in pointing me in the right direction. I have been coached by the greatest acting coaches, Bill Cooper and Michelle Hutchison. Dani Warner took great headshots and my Talent agent Geanette Poole has been phenomenal. I am so fortunate to be working with such a great agent. She has gotten me more work than I ever expected. I love this industry so much that I have completely stopped practicing law and am now also developing the print department at Talent Poole.

What is your educational background? I have my Bachelors degree in Journalism from St. Thomas University. I have a Masters degree from St. Mary's University and a Law Degree from William Mitchell College of Law.

What is your most memorable/favorite project? I will never forget the first industrial project I did for Toro. The audition was driving a tractor. I was wonderful with the tractor at the audition. I got the part and drove out to Lake Minnetonka on a 100 plus degree day. The tractor was a bit different than the one in the audition. Needless to say I was not good with it. I had a small lawn to work with. I almost knocked out the lighting guy and drove off into the lake. However the staff was great and by lunch time I had the driving down and we were laughing.

What inspires you? I am truly inspired by actors and authors who take you in so much that you forget you are watching a movie or reading a book.

What are some of your hobbies and interests? I love to run and read. My favorite thing in life is being a Mom. I have children ranging from 19 to 8. I love every stage.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? In 10? I have no idea where I will be in 5 to 10 years. I do know that I will be happy because I have learned to follow my heart.

What advice would you offer to a young female looking to get into this industry? Explore lots of different areas of the industry and try them out to find the best fit for you. As you work your way up, develop a strong network of colleagues in the industry, you'll be amazed at how valuable they will be to you and you to them.

What is the best part of being a MN WIFT member? So of course my advice to young women would be follow your heart. If you are doing what you love you will truly be successful because if you love something you will do everything you can to be your best.

If you could work with anyone (dead or alive) who would it be and why? If I could work with anyone dead or alive I would work with Meryl Streep. She is my idol. She is real. I loved her and I hated her in Kramer vs. Kramer. She is gifted and she works hard at her craft.

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