

John Boccacino:

Hello and welcome back to the 'Cuse Conversations Podcast. I'm John Boccacino, senior internal communications specialist at Syracuse University.

Maximilian Osinski:

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John Boccacino:

I am so thrilled. Our guest today on the 'Cuse Conversations Podcast, he is Maximilian Osinski. If you are not aware of that name, you should be. He's a very talented actor who portrays the enigmatic Zava in the third season of the hit Apple TV+ show Ted Lasso. He also earned his bachelor's degree in drama from the College of Visual and Performing Arts here at Syracuse University in 2006. His acting career has included such roles as Dennis on AMC's The Walking Dead: World Beyond and Agent James Davis on ABC's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.

But again, the one that's really captivated our country has been Zava, the charismatic forward who joins AFC Richmond early on in the third season. Maximilian is quite busy, but he's making the time to join us here on the podcast today to talk about his breakout role on Ted Lasso, his accomplished acting career, the impact Syracuse had on his life and more. Maximilian, thank you for joining us today.

Maximilian Osinski:

Thank you for having me. Hello, John.

John Boccacino:

It's great to have you here on the podcast. I think the first question I want to ask you is this, just how surreal has it been being on this cultural hit show Ted Lasso? What's the role been like for you?

Maximilian Osinski:

It's been definitely one of the most unique experiences out of any project I've been lucky to be a part of. I was a huge fan of the show myself for the first two seasons. So, then having joined it, that was very surreal. Then just fast forward, jump to when it's released, the fans have been amazing. The people have reached out to me on social media or stopped me on the street in the States or in London. It's been very surreal and heartwarming. It's nice to meet people who say they like the work you did and love the character you worked on. With Zava, you're not sure whether how people are going to take them in because of the kind of role he is.

So, it's been very interesting to see the different reactions and comparisons and the joy. It's been great because the people who watch Ted Lasso are really great people and they're usually in a good mood and they're happy to see you. I've done other shows where you're dying, someone else is dying. So, this was really nice and I don't really haven't done a lot of comedy. So, to be surrounded by such great people who know comedy so well, it was just a gift. Yeah.

John Boccacino:

When you say you get recognized and it's hard with you being 6'4" and chiseled to not get recognized on the streets, but what do people say to you? What kind of reactions do you get?

Maximilian Osinski:

Definitely, 6'4" and chiseled. No, definitely not that. It's mainly like, "Hey, are you Zava from Ted Lasso?" or "Oh, my God. You are Zava," that kind of thing. Then I just always laugh like, "Oh, yeah, yes, I am." I try to get to know them a little bit. I'm still at this stage in my life where it's very flattering and humbling and it's really nice. Well, you took the time to say hello to me. What's your name? Oh, what do you do here? Oh, you go to the same gym. Okay, we talk and talk. Well, I guess you'll see me doing lunges now for the next 10 minutes and I'll try to act normal. Yeah.

John Boccacino:

Really, I'm a believer that things come around for a reason. During 2020, we all were dealing with this unknown pandemic that had people scared, had people afraid to leave their homes. This awesome feel good show comes out of nowhere, off of the NBC skits starring Jason Sudeikis and Ted Lasso is formed from there. Connect the dots for us. How did you get involved in this show, especially given the fact that you didn't have, like you mentioned, that comedic background with your acting?

Maximilian Osinski:

Yeah, well, I guess it just started like everyone else. You're at home, you're stuck, and then you're like, "Hey, this is a really fun show." My wife was somewhere for work and she said, "I've been watching this show, Ted Lasso. You should check it out. It's really funny with Jason Sudeikis." So I did because what else are you going to do during the lockdown? Then we both got hooked and we just watched it and loved it like the rest of the world. Then toward the end of the pandemic, lockdowns were lifting and things are starting to get back to normal. Me and my wife were just a bit fatigued, just sitting around in LA and she had this crazy idea. She was like, "Why don't we rent our house and just go to London for a couple months and just for an adventure to get out?" At first, I was like, "What?" No.

I started thinking about all the reasons why that's not a good idea, but my wife being who she is, very persuasive and positive, convinced me. So, we did. We came out and rented our house in LA and then came out in November 3rd, I remember, with our daughter. We just popped her into school here. I was like, "Why not? They were all online in LA." Here in London, they had gotten back into classes and stuff. So, we signed her up, they took her, and then we did. We said, "Let's just do it for three months, see how it goes, and we can always come back." About a month into our stay, my manager called and said, "I got a..." They called it an avail check to see if an actor's available during this time frame from Theo Park, who's the casting director out here in London for the show.

They want you to read for something, and I was like, "Sure, yeah, I'm available," but in my head, I was like, "It's Ted Lasso season three. They can get anyone." I was like, "Yeah, yeah." You don't put a lot of weight on it, because they just said, "Is he available?" It wasn't even an audition. About a week later, I

got the appointment and I read the breakdown and it says, "World's greatest soccer player, any ethnicity, can be from anywhere in the world. Record this scene and then please record yourself demonstrating your soccer skills." I was just like, "I give up. That's not me. I play zero soccer."

I literally was started talking myself out of taping for it, because I've seen the show and I've seen all these great actors like Cristo Fernandez and Kola Bokinni and Phil Dunster in these wide shots playing really good soccer. Actually, some of them played in minor league soccer divisions and stuff in Europe. So, I said, "I've got no shot." I just called a friend of mine, Damien, in Australia, because I was literally about to call my manager and say, "I think we should just pass, man. They can get anyone. They can even stunt cast this role." In my mind, I was like, "They can call a real soccer player to play the best soccer player in the world." He was just like, "No, no, no, just show them what you got. Highlight your skills. You're Polish. You're in physical shape like a soccer player."

He was like, "Don't worry about the soccer stuff, do the audition, and then go to the park, take your shirt off and work out like the guy." So he talked me into it. With the help of my wife, we did this scene. I improvised a little bit in Polish, then we went out to the park across the street from our apartment. I remember it was 50 degrees and I just started working out in character, just having fun, doing pull-ups on tree limbs and squatting tree logs and warming up like one. Then we recorded some slow motion soccer kicks and headbutts. I don't think that fooled anyone over at the show that he was good, but I think that kind of bravado and confidence to the camera maybe is what caught their interest. Then we improvised a little bit additionally to that in character via a fake interview as the guy.

Then I sent the tape and then it was quiet. My reps thought it was funny, but it was quiet for about three weeks and I just remembered I'm still in London. I just said, "Hey, did we make fans with casting?" As an actor, your only job is to do the best work you can for the tape. Whether you get it or not is way out of your control. To worry too much about that and give that so much weight over the long term can get pretty depressing. So, you just learn to not take it personally and just hope that you made fans and they find you interesting and maybe they'll bring you in for something else they think you're right for. So, I just followed up to see if we had made fans with casting.

They were like, "Oh, yeah, we hadn't said anything because we didn't want you to get too excited, but your tape has gone all the way up to the top. We're just waiting for Jason Sudeikis to approve it, but everyone loves you for the part." I was like, "What? Really?" Yeah, but just stay cool. We'll see what happens. We should know by the end of the week. So, that whole week was a bit... The worst thing is to get close to something and then it falls through. So, that week was a bit stressful. So, now we're looking at around December and I'm out to dinner with my in-laws who visited us here and I get a call from both of them. Usually, when your agent and your manager calls, it's good news or they're both firing you. I don't know.

So, it could have been one or the other, but I get the call and I step out of the restaurant. They say, "You're Zava. Jason just approved you and you've got the part." It was exciting and I couldn't believe it. As a fan of the show and how big the show was that I was going to get to be on it and play that role was a bit surreal. That was December 18th I found out. So, those were really good holidays out here and I ate and drank well. Then right after the New Year, I put my nose in the grindstone and really dove in and just started reading as much as I could, training. I have a personal trainer, Ash Bailey, who helped me get into the right look for the character, dialed in my diet and everything, and just went with it. The way the show works, they're always writing and writing.

So, from the day I found out I got it, I didn't get to set until about end of February. No one called and said, "All right, here's the arc, here's what's happening, here's what we want you to do." So I prepared it as if I was playing a biopic of one of these guys. So, I just read and watched so many documentaries and watched so many interviews and tried to get into the mindset of who these guys are, why they are that

way, why they present that way. So, then when I got to set, I can do anything for them. That's what ended up happening. They write amazing scripts, but they're always changing little things up or getting inspired in front of the camera. Sometimes scripts change week to week that you thought were set in. So, I had to be very flexible on my toes and it ended up being one of the great lessons I've had on a set in a while.

John Boccacino:

What was it about that confident, charismatic, and enigmatic Zava character that really appealed to you, that really drew you in and said, "You know what, Max? This is the role I want to play"?

Maximilian Osinski:

I thought it was an interesting role to try and do. I remember when I was just taping for it, I watched a few interviews and I got a sense of that energy. They based it on a couple of players. I mean it's all over the internet now, but they were thinking Zlatan Ibrahimović and Eric Cantona, this amalgamation of those guys. So, I watched these guys talk and stuff and I got a sense of their bravado and stuff. I felt like I was able to bring something to that person, to that character. Then after that initial layer of, "Oh, what do they sound and behave?", I needed to get into the psychology of why they present the way they do. Why would someone say that stuff to the press?

But then you read these books about what they're like in the locker room and what their work ethic is and what they're like with their family, it was very, very different. There was a big juxtaposition for some of these players, not all of them. Some of them present very humble. Some of them don't. There's very different reasons for them. So, I thought, I love that dichotomy and I just thought it was one of the first roles where it embraced my height and my physique too. Sometimes with an actor, if you have a dialect, there's also that he can disappear more into the character as well. I really enjoyed just not sounding like myself and behaving like myself. I think that allows for a little bit more freedom and play.

Especially if you just do some of the work and then you're in great hands with the guys who Brendan Hunt, Jason, and Joe Kelly and Brett Goldstein. Those guys know football so well too. So, they knew where those guys were coming from. So, when you put all that together and you're in such good hands, it made for a lot of fun. I just showed up uncensored doing my thing, and I didn't get fired. So, I was like, "I think this works." You get some laughs and then good feedback and you start to even feel more confident and you just sink in and you own it.

To their credit, and I've said this in other interviews, but I have to say it again, to play that alpha king character on that show, half the work is the other cast. Because the way they talked about him before he even appears on screen, the way they react to him and then when he does appear and how they react to all of that, that's them helping me sell that whole character. So, without their great work, it wouldn't play in my opinion.

John Boccacino:

So you're saying that Zava's extravagant wardrobe isn't directly from your wardrobe and from your closet, the clothes that he rocks out there?

Maximilian Osinski:

No, no, no. I mean, yeah, the yellow trainers, I remember I was talking to Jacky Levy, the costume designer. I was like, "Hey, I found these yellow trainers in Paris, liked them and I brought them in for one of the fittings." She said she liked them. She just ran them by the guys and they said, "This is great."

Then she just got me the high top versions of that. I took those with me after the wrap. But no, the Versace-

John Boccacino:

Nice move.

Maximilian Osinski:

... jackets and the Zava, Zava, Zava white T-shirt. Unfortunately, I don't have the Max, Max, Max yet.

John Boccacino:

We'll work on getting you a sponsorship deal. I'm sure we could skip forward to that.

Maximilian Osinski:

Yeah, yeah, yeah, some of juice related. Exactly. Yeah, they'll sell well.

John Boccacino:

So many people rode the rollercoaster of Ted Lasso and enjoyed everything the show had to bring. Season three just wrapped up. I'm not going to ask you to say anything that you can or cannot comment on, but in your humble opinion, do you think there's enough for the show to come back for a fourth season or do you feel like everything has been resolved sufficiently that this might be the end of it?

Maximilian Osinski:

Well, first, I don't know anything. I don't know anything about what Jason had in mind. All I know is from what I've read is that he wanted to tell three seasons of this story. So, I think he's done that and I think he's done that really well and he wrapped it up and the finale beautifully. As far as is there more stories to tell, absolutely. I mean with Rebecca and Keeley and Roy Kent now is the head of AFC, spoiler alerts. Yeah, of course. Yeah, there's definitely more to explore. I know the fan base, all the fans would want it and Jason said himself that it's a big compliment to the show that they would. So, I have no idea. I honestly don't know. There's no secret that I know that I was asked to keep.

John Boccacino:

Sure.

Maximilian Osinski:

I have no idea, but that's up to the gods and Apple TV+ and those guys.

John Boccacino:

Just the fact that we all believe so much in the power of the characters goes to show a testament to the genius of Jason and the team that put this together. I want to switch because we could spend hours talking about Ted Lasso, but our audience might not know. This isn't the first role you've played with a sports background. I want to talk about your first pretty well-known sports movie you were in had a Syracuse tie to it, The Express, where you star a Syracuse quarterback and halfback Gerhard Schwedes, telling the life story of Ernie Davis. Just how cool was that? I mean, being an alum and you're getting to be in this movie that's telling the story of the Elmira Express.

Maximilian Osinski:

Yeah, that was really manifest destiny. That was very strange. That was my first side job and it was a feature studio film. My manager sent me the thing and I went in to read for that. I remember when I did the callback for the director and everyone, all these actors came in and they're all wearing Syracuse jerseys and swag and coats. I graduated from there, but I didn't really use that to sell. I was just like, "I'm just going to go in and do my thing." They don't care where you went to college. They're looking at the work, the actor. So, I remember just seeing everyone trying to wear Syracuse paraphernalia, and I didn't. I didn't. Yeah, I went in and I did it a few times and left. I think a week later, I got the offer and I was really excited, because I was living in New York City at that time.

So, I drove down to Syracuse and I met Ger Schwedes with his wife. I just talked to him about that whole time and took notes and asked him what he did before he started a game. What were some of his ticks and rituals on the field and stuff just to try? That was my first professional job, so I was very actory about it. I was like, "What side of your hand did you tape your wrist? What were you thinking when the kick was coming your way. Oh, you were humming a song? What song were you humming?" I listen to that song. Yeah.

So, that was really cool. That was a really, really fortunate blessing and to be in that movie and then be an alumni of the school as well and to just know the history of that whole time, which honestly, I knew of Ernie Davis, but I didn't know the full story. So, I did a lot of historical research and put a whole new perspective on my time there when I was a student and football program and the history of it. So, that was an amazing blessing. Then I got to go up to Syracuse for the premiere, which was a lot of fun. So, yeah, that was a blast. So, I was honored basically, short of it.

John Boccacino:

Yeah, no, I can't think of anybody better to take on a role like that than against someone who is a proud alumnus. I think the fact that you didn't have a crazy sports upbringing as a child, maybe that plays to your benefit because you probably could break the mold a little bit instead of being, "Oh, here's the guy who played football in high school." You didn't really know too much, didn't have familiarity, and you could bring a fresh perspective to the role.

Maximilian Osinski:

I remember that one. I was really young and they were saying, "Didn't you play football?" I was like, "Absolutely, absolutely." I didn't do that for Lasso, but for that one, I was really eager and I was like, "Of course, I can play football." So I did BS my way in that area, but I think, yeah. I don't know. I have this athletic look and it's helped me in that way. But I think when they're casting this stuff and it all depends on the writer or creator or the director, sometimes they want the real deal. They want the athlete and then the performance is going to either be supernatural or super real to that athlete. Sometimes they just want an actor first and then they worry about the football second.

Everything I've done though was sports related always had doubles, always had guys who knew how to do it. If there was anything super dangerous, they just swap you out. For The Express, any hard tackles, they had amazing stunt guys that had played college football that would do the hits and do those moves because actors are delicate. You're not allowed to hurt him. Yeah, I remember they made us wear pinnies. The actors all had these green little pinnies on. I remember the coach. The football stunt coach was talking to all these really buff players and they were like, "These are the actors. If you touch them or they get hurt, you're fired." I never felt so weak and my manhood was gone. I was like, "Oh, wearing a green pinny with these real athletes."

But yeah, it's a different talent stack. Sometimes the movie wants the actor who can believably look like the athlete and sometimes they need an athlete to play the part. There's other movies that would've been fantastic that wouldn't cast that way, but for me, I've been lucky where they're like, "Oh, we're looking for the acting and the role first, and we'll worry about the soccer later." Then Ted Lasso, that's what they told me. They said, "Look, we saw your tape, you got the character, you got the swagger." They're like, "It's clear you can't play football," so they're like, "but don't worry about that. We'll take care of the football, you take care of the swagger." I was like, "Deal."

I trained as much as I could. I trained one-on-one for that. I did all those kicks that Zava does that in the wides. I did that stuff. They only used maybe a double for some close footwork and some super wide shots if there was a long complicated play to use. He was great. So, I tried to do as much as I could and I have the receipts for that. I'm proud of that because I learned a massive amount about football and I have so much more respect for the game, especially being a kid from the US, soccer in the US, football in Europe, isn't really as popular, at least not when I was growing up. I feel like it's changing now.

John Boccacino:

Well, Maximilian, there's no easy way to make the transition I'm going to try to make here.

Maximilian Osinski:

Just do it. Just rip the bandage off.

John Boccacino:

Go right into it.

Maximilian Osinski:

Just go right into it. There's no such thing as transition. Let's do it.

John Boccacino:

Well, so before all your acting success, you come from very, very humble beginnings. You were born in a refugee camp in Austria. Your parents had fled Communist Poland, seeking refuge. I know you were very young when that happened, but can you describe for our audience how that experience impacted you and what lessons your parents taught you from again, those very humble upbringings?

Maximilian Osinski:

Yeah, I don't think I realized what I got from that, what lessons I learned from that until after my time in Syracuse. I started to realize how privileged I was to be able to even pursue acting as a career in the States. My dad, he had fled Communist Poland with my mom while pregnant. He had dreams and hopes when he was my age. He was like 32 when he came to the States. He had me and I was like six or eight months old. He started from scratch. At 32, I was already married and had a daughter. So, looking back now, I'm very grateful for the choice he made with my mom and the chance he took, because it wasn't easy to do what they did at that time and to be raised in the States. Then he worked in a drill bit factory and then sold used cars.

My mom became a psychiatric RN later on. I value what I saw them go through and how hard they worked made me value what they gave me and my brother growing up and the opportunities they gave me and the fact that I had an option to not go, "Well, I have to do labor or I'm going to go get a 9-5 job. I had this crazy dream of I'm going to go study acting. They said, "Sure." Then I got into Syracuse

and a couple other schools and I chose Syracuse through the drama. It's just a massive privilege to be able to do that. He was too busy trying to provide for his family and make a living and put a roof over our head. You look back at that and then that allowed me to have dreams and hopes and living in the States allowed me to pursue them. That's amazing.

So, I'm always forever grateful to him and what they did. I never forget that, never. My only fear and hope now is that my daughter has that same appreciation because they always say the third generation doesn't... I didn't experience the struggle firsthand. I saw it, but my daughter, she's not seeing that with me and my wife right now, luckily, fortunately. I'm not saying everything is cushy, but I'm just saying, I don't want her to take everything for granted and what it means to grow up in a Western world with a free society and freedom of speech.

You don't have to wait in line for an hour to get a couple legs and loaf of bread like he did. I would imagine myself, what would it take for me to just leave my entire family in Poland and run away to a new country without any skills or even English at the time and start. So, I'm in awe of it the more older I get.

John Boccacino:

It's really a remarkable story and it's not new. A lot of immigrant families have exactly that story that you're talking about, but it's refreshing too to hear the humility that does get passed down the generations. I'm sure your daughter, you and your wife will do everything you can to give her that great upbringing and stay humble and stay hungry. I really appreciate too, talking about Syracuse. Let's go a little bit more into the orange for a second here.

Maximilian Osinski:

Sure.

John Boccacino:

What was it about VPA and the drama department that really called out to you?

Maximilian Osinski:

Yeah, it's a good question. Well, my drama high school teacher, Karen Hall, who still teaches at Marine East High School in Illinois, she went to drama. She went to the drama program and she was the very first one who looked at me and saw that I was really enjoying what I was doing and said, "Yeah, you can do this if you want." She took me under her wing. I remember always sitting with her after classes in school and talking about acting and theater. Then I expressed to her that I'd want to go off to college and study it. She helped me apply and worked on all these auditions for these schools to apply to different schools. She didn't press me about Syracuse. She just brought it up that they had a good program.

So, of course, I applied, but I was fortunate enough to have a couple of choices. I remember when I took a train up by myself from Chicago to Syracuse to do my in-person audition for the program and what I liked about the school and when I was talking to some of the students there was it was a conservatory type training off campus. The drama program as many of the students know is notoriously off the main campus, but you're still part of the university environment. You're still required to take other electives. I wanted that well-rounded experience in life. I didn't just want to study drama and then just graduate after three or four years and not have experienced anything else except proper voice technique.



Wow, he looks really good walking on the stage. I wanted to be as well-rounded of a person as I could. I thought Syracuse offered that in spades. You got the sports atmosphere. I never did the fraternity thing, but the fraternity experience. You have all these other amazing colleges they could take electives at. So, I did history, philosophy. I took all these other great electives that I've found helped me get a really good sense and well-rounded education and experience.

John Boccacino:

It's interesting too that, because right now, you're currently in London and I heard that you had a pretty impactful study abroad experience over in London and at London, Shakespeare Globe Theater, the transformative role that that played in your development.

Maximilian Osinski:

Yeah, it was just something that was going on. I think it was junior year, you were allowed to do the study abroad at the Globe Theater for a semester. You could stay and do that. I remember going back and forth if I wanted to do it because I was really feeling like I found a good pace and rhythm at the school, but ended up saying, "Oh, I'll go travel and I get to study at the Globe and live in London." So I did that and that was great and that was a wonderful experience. Yeah, I mean, I never would've thought I would be living here years, years later, but that is something that I found really good to get out of the States because a lot of Americans don't really use their passport.

So, I had that opportunity, saved up a little bit of money, and I did it. My parents were happy to do it. I visited my family in Poland and with my friend Rafi who did it with me. I got to meet a lot of really interesting teachers out here at the Globe. Now I will live here. I walked past some of these places. I remember, "Yeah, that's right. We lived here, we ate here, and I took this train a lot to class and I showed my daughter the Globe." So yeah, it's really nice. It's full circle. Very full circle. Yeah.

John Boccacino:

I love one of the quotes that you were attributed to in a podcast talking about if you want something to happen, focus on saying make it happen. Don't focus on what you don't have. Focus on what you want to have. It seems like your whole journey has been that positive manifestation and just going out there and shooting for the stars and it's commendable what you've accomplished.

Maximilian Osinski:

Yeah, thank you. I'm guilty of breaking that rule too, and I just try and catch myself doing that. We're all guilty. We're human. You go to the negative or you're thinking about, "Oh, I don't want this to happen." I find it just like, this doesn't apply to me, this is what I'm thinking about. The more I think about it, the more I open that mindset for what I want, not what I fear of coming. I just think life in general is a lot happier and easier and you end up meeting more people. No one wants to be around moping, depressed actor. They're not very fun.

We've all been guilty of falling into that hole, but it's about picking yourself up, dusting yourself off, and just surrounding yourself with really positive people. I think for anyone listening, especially in the theater and acting world, I think that's the healthiest thing you can do. Your job is to be happy in between the jobs, otherwise what's the other choice?

John Boccacino:

We always try to leave our guests with some positive words of wisdom before the episode ends. The last question I have to ask you, summarize it however you want to, what's next for you? What's coming down the pike? What are some bucket list projects?

Maximilian Osinski:

Oh, every actor hates that question, right? You're like, "Oh no, is this impressive?" I don't know. The not knowing, I find that exciting, because that means anything can come your way. I know in two days I'm going back to the States to film a really funny action comedy film that I'm looking forward to doing. That character's completely different from what I did on Lasso. Yeah. After that, I don't know. I might be doing something here in London, but this is a little too early, but I should know that probably by end of July.

I'm enjoying what my wife's getting to do. She's on season two of Severance and she has some opportunities. So, I have no idea, guys, beyond that. That's how I've learned to accept the world as it is and just take it day by day and enjoy what I do have, what's in front of me, enjoy my family, talking to meet to new people. Yeah, that's what I can say for now.

John Boccacino:

Sure.

Maximilian Osinski:

If you asked me about Ted Lasso when I came to London, I would've like, "Yeah, right." I wasn't sitting around like, "I should play the world's greatest soccer player on Ted Lasso." But yeah, I would've said, "You're dreaming." All right. You know what I mean? So I don't limit myself to my own imagination.

John Boccacino:

Again, that's a great position that everyone should take in life. Let the sky be the limit. The fact that you credit Syracuse, I guess I'll backtrack one more question for you.

Maximilian Osinski:

Yeah, go ahead. You got time.

John Boccacino:

What does it mean to you to be an alumnus of this school? If people find out, what do you want them to know and what does it mean to say that you are a proud Syracuse alumnus?

Maximilian Osinski:

It's very cold and you have a lot of snow. You were warned. No, but for real, I think I'm always amazed at how many people I bumped into who have been alumni in the school. I'm not talking just drama. In broadcast and journalism, Newhouse over there, in every aspect, there's SU alums all over the world. They keep in touch and they branch off and do crazy interesting things that are the opposite of what they study in school. I think the school has its way of keeping its tentacles out there and pulsing the orange blood with the alumni in the world. You can always find someone who went to school with you or went to school 20, 30 years before you, that'll be happy to say hi or take a meeting. I think the connection's there.

The education there is really good. I think that's the gift that keeps on giving. Evidence here, you guys reached out to me and I haven't really spoken with anyone in years since I graduated, but I've bumped into people who've worked in my field or have graduated from there and we've gone along and talked and made connections. Yeah. I'm always impressed with what I hear about Syracuse. New buildings are popping up, I think, and new programs. So, I think it's wonderful what you're doing. I got to pay you guys a visit soon because it's been a while.

John Boccacino:

Let me tell you, Max, you are welcome any time to come back to campus. You can check out the new degree programs, the new buildings, see the revamped dome. There's so many great offers.

Maximilian Osinski:

Yeah, that's what I heard. My freshman year, you guys won the NCAA championship.

John Boccacino:

Heck yeah. That was my senior year, my friend. We were down there watching.

Maximilian Osinski:

That was your senior year. Oh, you were there.

John Boccacino:

I'm a lucky, blessed man. I tried to put off the '03 on my signature everywhere I get a chance.

Maximilian Osinski:

That was insane. That was freshman year, you're spoiled.

John Boccacino:

We go back every single year, right?

Maximilian Osinski:

God, yeah. It was great. Yeah, that's another thing. Just to go back to answer your question then, you got the study abroad program and then senior Aaron Sorkin went to Syracuse and I did the Sorkin Week my senior year, where he took 10 seniors to LA on the program on his dime and to introduce him to LA. It's just like that connections and reach has really been terrific to experience inside at school and outside. I'm always grateful for that. My dad is too. He's very proud that his son went to college and graduated from there, because that's like every immigrant's dream to get their kids to go to college. So, yeah.

John Boccacino:

The first generation success story.

Maximilian Osinski:

Yeah, exactly.

John Boccacino:

You pass that down the generations. Again, they're all so proud of what you've done. We in Orange Nation are very thrilled just to have the chance to get to know you and tell your story here on the podcast. We wish you nothing but the best of luck with whatever your future endeavors are. Again, please come back to campus anytime you feel like it.

Maximilian Osinski:

I will. Thank you guys for having me.

John Boccacino:

Thanks for checking out the latest installment of the 'Cuse Conversations Podcast. My name is John Boccacino, signing off for the 'Cuse Conversations Podcast.