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FREE LECTURE: "THE SKLAR PRINCIPLE"

America's leading expert on young performers explains the universals of success.

Renowned New York Talent Scout **Peter Sklar** knows a thing or two about helping aspiring child stars achieve success. His list of protégés includes **Sarah Jessica Parker**, **Reese Witherspoon**, and **Mischa Barton**, to name a few, along with many current and former Broadway, TV, and film actors, singers and dancers.

Reality shows like *American Idol* and *So You Think You Can Dance* have springboarded some of the most talented kids in the nation into super stardom. But with so much available talent, what really sets one kid apart from another?

According to Sklar, any career- in or out of the arts- is about two things: self-image and health. He argues that these qualities outweigh looks, training, connections, and even talent, and apply universally.

In "**The Sklar Principle**", a lecture for students and their parents on **Thursday, December 1st 7:00 pm** at **Atholton High School** in **Columbia, Maryland**, Sklar will explain why his views are in synch with the needs of top New York and Hollywood agents and casting directors, as well as college admission boards, and job interviewers in virtually all fields.

"The people who sit behind the table are trying to decide two things: do they like you, and do they believe you," Sklar tells young audiences. "If you don't feel good mentally and physically, you won't open up and show us who you really are. When that happens- no matter how smart you are, or what you've achieved, or what you look like- we've already lost interest."

Alluding to a dramatic rise in self-destructive behavior, such as smoking, drinking, drugs, and eating disorders among so-called "happy" teens, Sklar marvels at how often these activities secretly co-exist with good grades, good behavior, and virtually every other outward sign of stability.

"The kids I interview are the smartest and most talented- the highest achievers in the nation," proclaims Sklar. "And they're too often the most unhappy, unhealthy, and least employable."

Sklar boasts an Ivy League pedigree, (Masters Degree in Education from Harvard University), formal training in concert piano, (Juilliard School of Music), and four decades of professional experience. He's been the subject of multiple feature-length articles in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Kansas City Star* and numerous others, was interviewed on *E! True Hollywood Story*, appeared as a guest expert on *Donahue*, and has had his work presented on the *Bravo Channel*, *Good Morning America*, and every major national television network.

He's currently developing an original musical based on his experiences entitled "The Kid Who Played the Palace", to be directed by William Martin, (Broadway's "The Lieutenant", recipient of five Tony Award nominations).

"**The Sklar Principle**" is open to teenagers, young adults, older children, and parents. There is no charge for admission, but reservations are strictly required. Nobody under age seven (7) will be admitted with or without a parent, and students under age eighteen (18) are encouraged to attend with their own mother or father.

WHEN: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST 7:00 pm

**WHERE: Atholton High School
6520 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD**

MORE INFORMATION: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Sklar www.petersklaronline.com