

BRANDON MAKOVY

Former Taylor High School math teacher and baseball coach has moved from the classroom to L.A. as a professional actor

Written by Debbie McDaniel | Photography courtesy of Brandon Makovy

Growing up, Brandon Makovy says he was always interested in acting. "I loved looking through magazines that had stories about child actors in them, and reading about their careers. I thought it was cool that kids could be on TV. Sports were always a big part of my life, so I was normally too busy playing ball to pursue acting." But through the years of college, a teaching career, lots of baseball, and discovering new talents in music and acting, Makovy decided there was no better time than the present to dive right in to this new journey, so he did.

Brandon Makovy was a teacher and baseball coach at Taylor High School

Makovy behind the scenes with famous actor Ken Jeong



With Matthew Gubler on the set of *Criminal Minds*



Tisha Campbell-Martin and Makovy during an episode of *Dr. Ken*



Makovy was a baseball coach at Taylor High School

Growing up, what brought you to Katy?

"While I was attending A&M Consolidated High School, we were in the same district as Taylor and Mayde Creek, so I made many trips to Katy during those years for baseball games and track meets. I still have family in Katy, so I will always feel a special 'home' connection with this town."

What memories do you cherish from Taylor High School?

"I spent six years at Taylor High School where I taught ninth grade algebra, and I was also a varsity baseball coach. What I miss most about teaching are the kids; I miss them every day. One of my favorite memories is when the class of 2014 baseball team headed to playoffs. I had worked with them

the years preceding, and was thrilled to follow their season of victory even from L.A. I listened to broadcasts, followed their plays, and watched from afar. I texted every player on the team and told them how proud I was of them. The week of playoffs, the team got together and pitched in money to buy me a plane ticket to fly and watch them play in the next round. It was the most thoughtful thing, I was in tears when the coach called and told me. I was so grateful to be there with them, and also for the memories of many great years working with students."

What steps did it take to get where you are?

"I got involved in acting classes while in Houston and meeting and working with people who were making their own short films. That gave me some footage to use for an actor reel. Moving to L.A. was a big leap of faith. I signed on with a great team to represent me and then just started auditioning. It takes a lot of patience, hard work, prayers, and some luck!"

What have been your favorite roles?

"One of my favorites has been the bully doctor on *Dr. Ken* who gets to antagonize Ken Jeong. I also recently played a prison guard on *Criminal Minds* who was helping a prisoner sneak out sensitive information. I've played a football coach in a great independent film called *Sacrifice*, with Dermot Mulroney and Luke Kleintank, and have acted in a role in *Days of Our Lives*, and in a funny sketch on FOX NFL."

What is your favorite part about acting professionally?

"I love entertaining and telling stories, and playing a role that's different from who I am. But the biggest part of this whole process, and what I've learned the most from, is simply the journey. The friends I've met, the experiences, working through the challenges, seeing dreams begin to come to reality; it's all a vital part of this acting journey."

Any advice to Katy ISD students?

"Don't ever let anyone talk you out of your goals and dreams, not even yourself. If you want to do something, then do it. Start taking steps forward. Keep in mind, the decisions you make now are going to start setting up the road to the rest of your life. Choose your road, and then make smart choices to make your own way. Surround yourself with people who are going to encourage and believe in you. A good, strong circle of friends is crucial to having success in life. Find who those people are in your life, then you can all rise up together. Lastly, as hard as it may sometimes be, put down the cell phones. There's a whole life and world happening all around you every day, experience all that it has in store for you." **KM**

DEBBIE MCDANIEL is a writer and mom, whose family shares a few things in common with Brandon Makovy; a love for acting, baseball, southern hospitality, and Texas roots.



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