

Arts A La Carte

Cody The Talking Dog

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In a world where someone else could communicate with your pet, what would you ask your pet and how do you think they would respond? Would they say, "I love you"; "I don't feel good"; "The cat eats my food and I'm tired of it"; "I feel great, let's play"? Arts a La Carte's Writer, Jennifer Roberts recently connected with world renowned pet communicator Tim Link, Cody, an actor who happens to be a dog and Cody's human companion, filmmaker Steven Canfield Crowley. We discovered that Cody had quite a lot to talk about.



Cody, a beautiful Brown Lab and Weimaraner mix was saved by Steven from being euthanized in a gas chamber. Because of the wonderful rapport between Cody and Steven, he adopted Cody and bypassed the typical qualification process. Soon, Steven, who owns and runs Fallen Dog Films, cast Cody in a supporting role as Buddy in award-winning "documentary" Moment-of Truth: The Andy Meyers Story. As Andy Meyers, played by award winning actor Rich Haymes, approaches the ending of his life through suicide, one of the most heart-wrenching acts he does is to give Buddy away.

As a former telecommunications executive, Tim Link is the past president of the Humane Society of Forsyth County in Georgia. Prior to leaving his corporate job, he discovered his gift for animal communication. With the help of his devoted wife Kim, he now works full-time in this profession.



His role as an Animal Communicator allows him to work with pet owners and organizations like sanctuaries and zoos. In addition to working with animals that have emotional, behavioral and/or physical issues, he also spends a lot of time working on missing animal cases. According to Link, animal communication assists pet owners and caregivers build better relationships with the animals in their care by bridging the communication gap that may exist.



Let's find out what Tim, Steven and Cody have to talk about.

Tim Link's Introduction about Cody

Cody will do what he wants to do...jump in the fray. Ask questions and see what he wants to say. Sometimes animals will jump into the fray if they think they need to defend themselves against something we are saying. Or, they might just leave the room if they agree with us and are okay with it.

Cody is very talkative and will share words, colors, emotions, and smells. He is a very vocal boy. So he will say a lot of words to us. There is no right or wrong way to communicate with animals. Animals will communicate with me in the fashion they are most comfortable with, as well as in the fashion that they think we, as mere humans, can possibly understand.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - In the movie with Steven Canfield Crowley, the director/producer of "Moment Of Truth: The Andy Meyers Story", you play a character named "Buddy", a dog whose owner is going away forever; he is making his transition. Was that a difficult role to play? What does Cody think about that?

Cody/Tim Link - It's interesting...Cody is quite a character actor; because he doesn't realize that really it was a role that he was playing. It was part of him. It is part of who he is and what he does. He says he has learned a lot. He has learned either from the direction Steven has given him or just in general, he has learned what the process is all about. He was acting like himself during that time. (Tim) Just to let you know, I'm getting some feelings jumping in here. He is a very empathic type of a dog. He feels what is going on around him, so that there is a lot of positive, happy, energetic energy around him. He responds positively to that, and acts accordingly. Also, if there is a lot of negative energy, or sad energy, or energy that is not quite up to where it should be, he is going to react according to that. The good news about Cody--what he is sharing with me--is that he is able to learn from that negative energy and start to use that as sort of a healing process to help heal others. So he is a very healing type of character. (We hear barking...Tim laughs. Cody's family has just come home.) Tim: Excellent!

He is going to be a great actor by the fact that he has a very sympathetic scene, or a low-energy scene; he is not going to absorb that low energy. He is going to respond to it and try to make it better situation better, and Cody will try to understand it better.

For Cody, Buddy was not a tough role to play because that is who he is; it is what he has learned to do. But it is also part of his character and his nature. He is good at playing the role. He was okay. He liked the word Buddy; He actually likes Buddy. He has several names, but Buddy is one of the names he is actually comfortable with, and that may be something that he hears a lot. There may be someone in his life called Buddy or he may be around that, but he likes that. So calling him Buddy in the movie was a really good idea for the character and as well, he is comfortable with it. It wasn't a difficult role for him to play because it is just who he is; what his nature is all about and playing the role was just fine with him.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - In the good-bye scene, you licked Andy Myers (Rick Haymes') face. What did you feel towards Andy (Rick) at the time? Did you know he was going to die (in the movie)?

Cody/Tim - So I [Tim] am asking Cody about the particular scene called the goodbye scene; a very heart-wrenching scene where the character Andy Myers (played by Rick Haymes) is about to make his transition and move out of this world and the most traumatic time...sorry about that. A lot of emotions are starting to come through with Cody on this. Cody sensed the situation and what it was it felt more than a role. It felt like a real - life situation at the time. (Tim) He understood what to play but it was more than a role to him. Big kudos to Rick as he was acting out that traumatic scene. Cody could feel that because his nature is to heal that situation. So he was feeling those emotions. Cody is going to do what he can to help that situation or to ease that situation.

As for the question, does Cody know if Andy (Rick) is going to die, he is puzzled by that question. I don't think he realized that this was a situation where Rick was playing a character or a role. He thought this was

true to life. He thought that the emotions and the things he was going through by the actor was a real-life type of situation. He knew that the emotions were really powerful and sad at the time and he was going to do what he could to make it better.

We have a really feeling character here, in Cody. He likes being in any situation. When you look at him in normal everyday life, he is fun, he is playful, he is energetic, and he is all these wonderful things. But when you get him in a situation where there is a where the energy is low, or you do more acting scenes where the situation is really heart breaking, he is going to act accordingly. He is going to be very sympathetic.



Arts A La Carte Magazine - How do you like being an actor?

Cody/Tim Link - Cody likes being there. He likes being involved in things and in situations. He doesn't really view it as acting, though. He is being himself, understanding what is going on in this situation and acting accordingly. He is very intuitive, and understands why it is happening. He liked being part of whatever the action was. He is the kind of guy that he likes being in the action, being part of things, going places, traveling, going to new locations, these kinds of things he finds really exciting. If he were to act again, yes he would be up for it again; Cody would put himself into the situation of delving into the situation at hand.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - What are your favorite things about acting?

Cody/Tim Link - This is funny. In addition to being part of the scene and getting the attention, and being part of the action, food is coming into play here. I don't know if Cody was given treats for his acting jobs, or if there was a buffet there, it looks like plentiful type of food, really excited, he is showing me a lot of food right now. I don't know if you had a nice spread on the set—or what—but that is what he is talking about—he likes the extra goodies.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - Do you like being in front of a camera?

Cody/Tim Link - The answer is "Yes". Cody likes being a part of everything. The camera doesn't bother him at all unless it is too close to his face. He is showing me the camera really close to him and he wonders...he wants someone to tell him what is happening He likes being the center of attention.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - Did you enjoy working with your fellow actors, especially Rick?

Cody/Tim Link - Yes, he liked that especially Rick. Rick is a great character himself and a great actor in general. In addition, Rick has an empathetic heart; he has a huge heart, and Cody picked up on that. I know Cody does that very easily, so I think they share a lot of characteristics between Rick and Cody. He liked being with Rick; liked being in that situation, interfacing with Rick, and I think that is one of the reasons the movie took off so well. They have a real connection, real understanding of each other and their hearts are in the same place. Cody is excited about all this so we are getting more information coming through and more feelings coming through.



Arts A La Carte Magazine - What was it like being filmed by your dad (Tim calls it “Human Companion”) (Steven Canfield Crowley), how does he feel about that?

Cody/Tim Link - Cody seemed puzzled because it seems like an everyday thing. Steven has a camera in hand (just like a good filmographer will have a camera in hand at all times). It’s a natural part of life, so Cody understands that, and obviously he has a real heart connection with Steven. He listens well in those situations.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - Did you like the character you played?

Cody/Tim Link - Cody likes playing. He is jumping in: playing is always good, so maybe we need to change that word in the question. We can do some playing of any sort for Cody. He liked the process. This is something that is sort of natural. Cody has a real good understanding of who Steven is, and what he does for his career; and he adapts to that situation well and to most situations well. When you put him in a situation where he can use that, it is going to be good for him

Arts A La Carte Magazine - How do you think the character felt about being given up by his owner? (Andy Myers)

Cody/Tim Link - Cody is not giving a clear answer because he didn’t understand that it was acting; it seemed like real life to him; in the movie. To Cody, it is more important that he can jump into those situations, both positive and negative energy, and understand, deal with those emotions, accordingly, also with understanding, and respond accordingly. Envision that you have a character and if you are the type of actor that gets into that character and stays in that state; an actor that really understands what is going on around

you, but stays there and absorbs that character as if it were your own, that is what we are talking about with Cody. He absorbs the situation he is in, he understands that, and thus he is able to act accordingly. Keep in mind for him that it's not really acting, it is really responding to what is happening around him. He will respond both positively and any negative energy that is around him he will respond accordingly. So for Cody, getting into those roles, he is able to understand that, and sure, after the movie was done or the scene was done where we had to cut and go on to the next part of the movie, he was able to break away from it. He didn't absorb it so much that he continued to suck in those emotions. It was more that he understood what those emotions were at that time. When we cut the action and went back to normal life, he absorbed whatever the energy was around there.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - If you were the Buddy, the dog you played, what would you do if your owner gave you away?

Cody/Tim Link - Cody doesn't like those types of questions. (Tim) I'm telling him he is not going anywhere; he is at his right and perfect forever home. So I know he is real sensitive to that; I know we will talk about what his background was; he is very sensitive to those types of questions. He likes it where he is at and he doesn't want to go anywhere. So I am telling him that is not the case, we are just asking him a question, so we will move away from that question.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - Did you have a script to follow, or did you make up your own actions?

Cody/Tim Link - He is a very character-driven actor as we talked about earlier. He is showing me guidance when he was put in a certain place, and setting in certain scenes, but he basically took on whatever the action was that was going on in the movie, and he was himself at that point. He gets into that character and understands what is going on around him. Give him direction and guidance, but he is more of an ad libber, we will call him the "Robin Williams" of acting. He will follow direction but if you want him to be the type of character where you say, with a clicker, which is not what he prefers. He prefers you explain to him what you want and then he is going to act out the scene based on the people and the energy and everything around him.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - Would you like to act in a movie again?

Cody/Tim Link - Yes, he is going to do another movie again. This is part of movie again. He is doing a video right now. [Steven is filming him during the interview.] He knows it is part of his normal life because it is part of Steven's life and in this case he feels he plays in movies all the time. So he will be up for the task if you want to do another documentary or feature film again. Having the camera with him at all times, filming him, doing various things he likes it because he has adapted.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - If you could play any role in a movie, what would it be?

Cody/Tim Link - "Me: The life of Cody." You can change the name to Buddy, but Cody likes playing himself. Any role that will let him be himself, and shine, and be himself in his empathetic way where he can feel things around him and act accordingly is going to be a good thing for him. More roles of Cody, more documentaries of Cody would be a very good thing.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - Tell me about how Steven became your human companion.

Cody/Tim Link - We know Cody was adopted from a rescue facility.



Arts A La Carte Magazine - Tell me about your life before Steven became your guardian.

Cody/Tim Link - He is not too concerned about it. (Fairly common, the fact is animals live in the present and their purpose, their jobs, mission and purpose.) If there is any concern about what happened before, he is not concerned. He has released all that. He does say it was pretty hard. He mentioned several other dogs and he was treated as a dog. He showed me [Tim] a hard outdoor kind of life. Now, he likes being part of a family. He has released the tough challenges but he has moved on from what happened. Cody is very strong and smart.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - What is it like having a human who makes movies? Does he get you involved when he makes movies?

Cody/Tim Link - Yeah, he smiles and shows a lot of passion, lightheartedness, passion and love. He understands what Steven is all about and being around someone with passion provides a great house. He has a good understanding. He loves it when things are thrilling and light. He responds accordingly. When things are not up to their best, he feels that and he is a healer, and will be patient and help Steven and family get out of the funk. Being around the camera and the family is good.



Arts A La Carte Magazine - What do you have to tell humans about adopting a dog from a rescue?

Cody/Tim Link - He said “any other way”? What else would you do? Of course everyone should be adopting from a rescue. He understands the roles of what adoptions and rescues are all about. He has a good grasp and to him, it would be silly to do it any other way. Cody could be a good ambassador through the films, helping rescues, finding the right and perfect animal. Or let the right perfect animal find the family.

Arts A La Carte Magazine - What would you like to tell other dogs about being an actor?

Cody/Tim Link - He thinks it is good. All animals should be doing this. He seemed puzzled but he thinks this is a natural part of life. When he has a real family and life, instead of just being a dog, he thinks this is the natural right and perfect thing for them. He thinks all dogs should be actors. So get them involved and get them to help out with shelters.



Cody's owner, Steven had a few question as well and here is how Cody responded, according to Tim.

Steven Canfield Crowley - Are you feeling ok, is there anything troubling you?

Cody/Tim Link - A little bit of heavy chest, breathing. Will do some clearing of the bronchial areas. Introduce whole foods and probiotics. Tim will do a clearing there. Emotionally he is very strong and feeling very good.

Steven Canfield Crowley - Do you miss running with Valentine at the park? How did you feel when she got sick and couldn't play with you anymore?

Cody/Tim Link - Yes, he loves the park. He loves playing. He likes having companions and Valentine around. He understands. Either Steven told him or Valentine told him. There were some discussions ahead of time.

An understanding, not sadness. Yes he would like to spend more time with Valentine in the park. Should still take him to the park and he is okay with it.

Steven Canfield Crowley - Do you get upset when I rescue other dogs and bring them in our home?

Cody/Tim Link - NO, but he wants to check them out first and to “Know” in advance by checking them out ahead of time, such as going to the shelter or a neutral place. Will not say “no” but will like to check them out ahead of time. So when that foster dog gets placed, he is going to be a happy camper.

Steven Canfield Crowley - Is there anything I can do for you to make your life happier?

Cody/Tim Link - He seems very happy. Does not let things bother him. Likes having other dogs around. The thing that makes him happiest is being involved. Continue to put him in new situations. Talk to him ahead of the time about what it’s about and why it’s going to be good for him.

Steven Canfield Crowley - Is there anything you want to tell me?

Cody/Tim Link - Very talkative, happy, sensitive. Will be a healer to those around him.

An additional article about Tim was posted on *Arts a la Carte*: <http://artsalacarte.com/timlink>