Kirker Butler Feature

VFTH

4/16/15

A WKU Alum who has written on shows like Family Guy, The Cleveland Show and even ABC’s recent mini-series Galavant is back in Kentucky promoting his new book.

Amy Bingham talks to him in this week’s View from the Hill.

Kirker Butler grew up in nearby Ohio County and graduated from WKU in 1993. He currently lives with his wife and two little girls in Los Angeles but he couldn’t forget his college town when it came time to promote his book.

 “When I walked in and there were posters of me it was a little disconcerting, a little haunting.”

Kirker Butler may be an author now but that’s not what he planned while attending WKU.

 “I was an actor, I thought that’s what I was going to do.”

The Theatre and Dance major starred in productions like Dangerous Liasons after a Theatre Appreciation class with Dr. Bill Leonard got him hooked.

 “He was such a great teacher and it was fascinating to me. I’d always loved movies and I’d been a comedy nerd since I was a kid.”

That comedy nerd gene has paid off for Butler who eventually tried his hand at writing and was hired by Seth Mcfarlane to write for both Family Guy and later it’s spinoff, The Cleveland Show.

 “When I was there he was in the writers room every day and I was able to spend four years with him everyday in a small room and I got to soak up as much of it as I could.”

In between shows, during the writers strike, Butler began writing a book. He spoke to WKU students about his career path during a stop here to promote “Pretty Ugly” which is a satirical look at the world of children’s beauty pageants set in Owensboro.

“I started writing this before toddlers and tiaras and honey boo boo were even a thing and they’ve sort of come and gone since this book has been around.” 16:44 “I’m really happy with it. It really changed how I am as a writer I think.”

Butler most recently was co-executive producer of the miniseries Galavant, a chance to switch gears from teenage boy humor to his love of musicals. A reminder of his days at WKU and how his time here has gotten him where he is today.

 “It’s who you know and making the connections I’ve made here, this got me my first real writing job.”

“Pretty Ugly” is on sale now and has gotten rave reviews. Butler, who has been nominated twice for a Primetime Emmy Award, has written another animated TV show similar to Family Guy that he’s currently pitching in Los Angeles.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

###