

Greyson Chance And I

It has to be said, by way of an introduction, that I do not personally know Greyson Chance (GC) and that he is probably unaware of my existence. Nonetheless, there is a close connection which I am going to relate here.

In October 2010 I got to know about him for the first time thanks to the YouTube icon of an iPad; I first came across his Paparazzi video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxDIC7YV5is>, which had already collected about thirty million views. As so many others, I was fascinated by his performance and especially his voice, and began to seek out videos I did not yet know; these existed as the results of instalments of the Ellen Show, early songs and many interviews (he being already treated as a kind of YouTube sensation).

Then the number of GC videos began to grow rapidly as songs for his first single and his album (frequently performed for TV stations and audiences) came into being. Going on his concert tours with Miranda Cosgrove and Cody Simpson added yet another large bunch of available videos to the already existing number. At that time I was already so sworn in on him that I wanted to get my hands on all his videos; I watched the best of them so many times that I spent about two hours a day on them and in passing also got a good insight into the pop and rock scene.

This intense exposure to his videos led to the following:

After a death in the family I was rather depressed, not to say depressive. I noticed, however, that watching GC videos markedly lifted my spirits, which led to the idea that it could make sense to deploy them in care homes for the elderly and for invalids; it would be a pastime and might just help cut down on the consumption of antidepressants.

This discovery led to a desire to preoccupy myself with him even more closely, and so I decided to pour the knowledge I had collected about him into an article. This made it necessary to chase up more information about him on the web, which increased the daily amount of time I spent on him to about three hours.

This was followed by stretch of time that rather distressed me:

In the autumn of 2011 I read in a text he had posted that he needed 'a lot of water and lemonade' in the recording studio, and at the same time I noticed that he had always at least one water bottle within easy reach on stage and drank from it after each song. He also seemed exhausted after powerful vocals and took short breaks, something he had never done before.

What was probably meaningless to others alarmed me as a type 1 diabetic of long standing; both possibly indicated that GC had contracted type 1 diabetes himself without knowing it. And as this was going to lead to severe health disorders if untreated, I grew restive and wondered how I might point it out to him.

The following video, which shows him drinking ten times in the course of 13.5 minutes, may serve as an example of his water consumption:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5q64GwR_vco

However, what I had imagined an easy task turned out to be impossible:

- His parents seemed to have moved house and my letter came back as undeliverable.
- The City Manager of Edmond, his home town, whom I asked for help, was very cold and provided no help whatsoever.
- Letters to Interscope (to GC and Interscope itself), where he has his fan mail address, did not come back; nor, however, did they lead to any reaction.

I calmed down only after some months of restlessness: GC still had the bottles on stage, but I noticed no further symptoms of untreated diabetes; so his thirst and the breaks seemed to be due to other causes, after all.

This preoccupation with him also had quite another effect, however:

As I am a passionate painter and choose my motifs on the basis of how much they inspire me, I could hardly avoid painting him. During the winter of 2011/12 that kept me away from outdoor activities (such as biking, one of my dearest hobbies) for a long time, no fewer than five GC paintings saw the light of the world. More are going to follow, but what will happen to them? Actually, they will wait to be discovered by GC, and should this happen, it will decide their fate; if not discovered, they will join me on the way of all earthly things, as will all my paintings with but few exceptions.

Because of GC's rapid artistic development, I will not cease to preoccupy myself with him. He has become a fairly stable part of my daily routine, and so I have decided to be his painter and chronicler for the rest of my life. So there will frequently be new contributions about him on my homepage.

As I am not personally acquainted with him, I do have to pull every bit of information not found on the web from the videos by way of interpretation, but, having taught pupils of his age for the space of thirty-four years, I think I am succeeding reasonably well and the videos are going to reveal to me details or connections they may not reveal to others. All these things will be described in my specialized articles.

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