

THE GRADUATES

An inside look at two distinguished Regis Jesuit Alumni

BY MICHAEL COBB & HUNTER GAUSE

@hsgause228 | 2014

During a performance of the spring play or a publication night for the school newspaper, the passion Regis Jesuit students feel for their dreams is almost tangible. For two fortunate alumni from 1981, their dreams became reality.

Actor John Carroll Lynch and journalist John Moore, two of the most famous RJ graduates, sat down with the RJ Voice for an exclusive interview to talk about their high school experience.

Both have made their mark on the world. John Moore was an award winning theater critic at The Denver Post until he left his position in late 2011 to "invite chaos into his life". He has won many accolades over the years for his work. In the October 2011 edition of "American Theatre Magazine," he was named one of the twelve most influential theater critics in the United States.

John Carroll Lynch rose to prominence as an actor, having played roles in over thirty different productions both on the big and small screen. He has acted next to such legends as Leonardo DiCaprio in "Shutter Island" and Clint Eastwood in "Gran Torino."

Both were impacted by their time at Regis Jesuit in a big way. Moore remembers it as a refuge, which helped keep him on track as his family endured an arduous divorce.

"It kept me sane during this time of great chaos around me, and it kept me centered," says Moore. "The Regis community put me in a position where I could be Valedictorian."

For Lynch, his experience at RJ changed his entire thought process, moving him towards what he describes as a Jesuit point of view.

"The most important thing that started in the process of a Jesuit education was the ability to think critically with compassion," Lynch reflects. "To boil down what is essential about anything started with the process here, which is mostly about understanding critically, and compassion for the human condition at every level. Rich or poor."

While the two had firmly decided their paths in life by the time they hit high school, the support of the Regis Jesuit community played a critical role in bringing their dreams to reality.

"Any club or program always seemed passionately devoted," Lynch says, "and that kind of passion never disappointed me."

In the end, that passion helped drive them to success.

"Both of us are examples of people who were doing in high school what we knew we wanted to do in life," reflects Moore, "and it actually worked out."

Indeed, Lynch's participation in theater and Moore's role as editor of the school newspaper, The Raider Review, foreshadowed their futures. For Moore, one newspaper wasn't enough. In his spare time, he also secretly edited an underground publication known as the Bufu Rag.

"Frequently, we would pursue journalism at Regis that the administration didn't want to see," recalls Moore. "Oftentimes, we would print in The Raider Review what we were allowed to print, and we would write about what was really going on in the Bufu Rag."

That passion that motivated Moore to edit two newspapers, the passion for what students truly

love, is something Lynch hopes the high school will focus on more, regardless of whether it fits the "college prep" moniker or not.

"What's going to make you happy?" Lynch inquires. "That is a question I'd like high school students to figure out. I'd like them to be asked that. What's going to light a fire within?"

Moore and Lynch, while visiting RJ, were pleased to see the new performance arts center going up. Both are enthusiastic about its potential.

"It sends a signal to the rest of the community that there is just the same amount of significance placed on arts as sports or anything else," says Moore.

The new complex will be the first co-educational building at Regis Jesuit.

"It's great that it sits in between the two schools," says Lynch. "The interaction of young men and women in those circumstances are the reason I got involved in theater in the first place. I wanted to meet girls."

Having had time to reflect on their four years at Regis Jesuit, both John Carroll Lynch and John Moore had a small piece of advice for current and future students.

Lynch's advice was simple. "Enjoy your friends here, because they could be your friends for life."

Moore's was similar. "I was really, really sad when graduation came. Enjoy it while it lasts, because it won't last forever."

JOHN CARROLL LYNCH



"Any club or program always seemed passionately devoted, and that kind of passion never disappointed me."

SPORTS:

Football; Swimming

ACTIVITIES:

Choir
Theater
Student Council

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

1996: Played Norman Gunderson in " Fargo "

2008: Acted with Clint Eastwood in " Gran Torino " as Martin, a local barber

2009: Acted with Leonardo DiCaprio in " Shutter Island " as Deputy Warden McPherson

2011: Acted with Steve Carell as Bernie Riley in " Crazy, Stupid, Love "

2011: Played Bud Morris (for 29 Episodes) in " Body of Proof "

JOHN MOORE



"Both of us are examples of people who were doing in high school what we knew we wanted to do in life, and it actually worked out."

SPORTS:

Cross Country; Golf

ACTIVITIES:

Newspaper
Theater
Student Council
National Honors Society

ACHIEVEMENTS:

2011: Named Favorite Denver Entertainment Columnist by the readers of " Out Front Magazine "

2011: Named One of the 12 Most Influential Theater Critics in the US by " American Theatre Magazine "

2012: Westword Best of Denver: Best Performance by a Theater Advocate

