



Interview of Quinton Walker
Interviewed by Nick Borelli

1 Nick Borelli: Okay, this is *Capturing Quarantine* with Columbia College Chicago. It is April 5
2 at 7:05 pm. Eastern. I am Nick Borelli the interviewer. I'm currently in Belmont, Massachusetts.
3 Could you state your name?

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5 Quinton Walker: My name is Quinton Walker.

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7 Nick Borelli: And where are you?

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9 Quinton Walker: New Braunfels, Texas.

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11 Nick Borelli: What's your year of birth?

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13 Quinton Walker: 2001.

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15 Nick Borelli: And your year at Columbia?

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17 Quinton Walker: I am a freshman

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19 Nick Borelli: Your major?

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21 Quinton Walker: I'm a BFA acting major with a minor in stage combat.

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23 Nick Borelli: And what is your housing situation at Columbia?

24 Quinton Walker: I lived in the 30 East dorms.

25

26 Nick Borelli: Gotcha. Okay. What is your earliest memory?

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28 Quinton Walker: My earliest memory is myself living in a house that I believe we only lived in
29 until I was two years old. And it was two stories and I was on the second story we had a balcony
30 and I was looking down from that balcony into the backyard. And I was watching, um a dog, our
31 dog, that I don't remember its name. Um I was really, really young, probably two years old,
32 maybe. I know that the house had that like really softwood side paneling that you could like
33 scratch with your fingernails and it would leave marks in it and stuff. And I remember the house
34 had a really, really steep driveway. It's probably been exaggerated in my mind over the years,
35 (hand bangs on the table) but I remember being a super steep driveway and I got in trouble one
36 time because I opened the door while we were going out of the driveway. Yeah, that's it.

37

38 Nick Borelli: What do you remember most about your childhood?

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40 Quinton Walker: Um—the thing I remember most is probably getting picked up after school from
41 my parents. Because it was always a different person almost every day I was with my mom on
42 Mondays and Tuesdays and I was with my dad on Wednesdays and Thursdays. And every
43 Friday, Saturday, Sunday alternated weekends. So I think I remember the most was all the
44 different cars that I would get picked up in after school. Whether it was my mom, my dad,
45 grandparents, step-parents. I always got picked up by so many different people. So I think that's
46 just what stuck out to me when I thought about it.

47

48 Nick Borelli: What was your high school experience like?

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50 Quinton Walker: I had a really good high school experience. I really enjoyed high school. I
51 mean, it's still sort of fresh, because I haven't even been out of high school for an entire school
52 year yet but I made—a ton of friends that I still talk to. I didn't ever really get bullied in high
53 school. I sort of got to find myself in like what I wanted to do with my life. That's when I really
54 knew that I wanted to pursue theatre and acting and that's when I got to really like, work on it

55 and do it all the time. I was a part, for three years, I was a part of what we called PROD. It's a it's
56 stood for production theater. It was also called varsity theater. And so it was like the highest level
57 theater class that you could get into because we had a we had a tier system. It wasn't good. But
58 we had a tier system. And I got in as a sophomore, which for me felt like a really big thing. Like
59 that was a big deal. And that was sort of how I spent all of my time was doing theater stuff. And I
60 felt like I went to school more to do theater in the last period of the day and then have rehearsals
61 after school. And everything I did before that was just an unfortunate side effect of school that
62 just sort of came with it. You know, I, those were the things I had to do in order to get to do the
63 thing that I really wanted to do. And so that was, that was my high school career, was doing
64 theater, being in varsity going to competitions and just like acting all the time.

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66 Nick Borelli: What was your acting experience pre-high school?

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68 Quinton Walker: My first ever show that I did was *Christmas at the Okay Corral*. in fourth grade.
69 We had a music class and we had this little Christmas musical that we put on at the end of the
70 year. And I remember I really wanted to be a, like town's person or ensemble member because I
71 knew that meant I got to be in every single number and song when the people who had like actual
72 roles were only in some of the songs, and then I also didn't have to memorize lines. And I
73 remember having so much fun up there on the stage, like doing my really super simple little
74 dances. And after that I started going to classes at this local theater. And then I stopped doing that
75 whenever I got into middle school because I could do theater as an elective in middle school. So I
76 did that for three years. And then I got to high school and continued.

77
78 Nick Borelli: What were your expectations when you graduated from high school?

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80 Quinton Walker: um I was expecting that I was going to sort of stay at the same level of activity
81 in theater that I was doing in high school because junior-senior year it was I was doing a show,
82 soon as that one was over, I was already memorizing another one and performing it the next week.
83 And it was like I was doing that over and over and over again and um graduating high school, I
84 was like, I'm going to go to college, I'm going to become a better actor. I'm going to go
85 somewhere that has so many productions all the time and I'm just going to be doing theater like
86 every single day and I'm going to audition for all the shows and, you know, I'm going to be as
87 swamped as I am right now, while still getting to do classes in very specific acting things. So that
88 was my expectation. But that isn't really how it is manifested.

89 Nick Borelli: You told me that in high school you came out to your parents. What was that like?

90
91 Quinton Walker: That? Well, it's always scary. No matter what. It's always really hard for people
92 to do that. But I was fortunate enough to sort of know that everything would be fine. Like I knew
93 my parents would be supportive. But there's always just that like really small sliver that 1%
94 chance that something bad might happen. That really like gets to people. And that's how it was for
95 me is that I was like, I know they're supportive I know, it'll be fine. But there's that chance that
96 this person who means the most to me, and I spend, I see them every single day I've lived with in
97 my entire life. They are the most [important] people, important people in my life. There is that
98 there is a change that things could go wrong. And so that was really scary. But everything was
99 fine. I told my mom first and then she told my stepdad for me, and I told my dad and he told my
100 stepmom for me. And then I told my sister and that's sort of how it started out. I'd already told a
101 couple of my friends. But then it was like once I started telling people, and started getting to see
102 what it was like to really be myself, looking back at the parts that I didn't get to be myself, hurt,
103 even more, you know, because now I've tasted what it's like, and now I have to go home every
104 day and live a false life essentially, you know. So—it was scary. It was nerve-wracking, but I was
105 also the happiest that I've ever been after I came out.

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107 Nick Borelli: How has that feeling of acceptance transitioned to your time at Columbia?

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109 Quinton Walker: Well, it's nice to know that I can go into this new like level of schooling already
110 being myself because I went into high school not being myself and I spent the next two years
111 telling everybody who I was essentially, but this is like, I know that I could come here and already
112 be myself and I don't have to explain it to anybody, you know? And with Columbia having like,
113 such a high rate of like LGBT students. I mean, it almost feels like being not a part of the LGBT
114 community at Columbia is part of the minority, you know? And so it was like, I knew that this
115 was going to be a really accepting space and I was really excited. Because I could just go there
116 and I didn't have to explain to anybody, anything, I could just be myself. And it was, it was it was
117 really awesome.

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119 Nick Borelli: Why did you decide to attend Columbia College Chicago?

120 Quinton Walker: I really, really, really wanted to get out of Texas. That was like, number one
121 priority, sort of. I had been applying to schools in Texas, but those were like, there's no way I'm
122 going to go there. If I don't, over Columbia. And so my parents, my stepmom works at a
123 university and that university is part of this tuition exchange program. And so, if I were to go to a
124 certain other school that was also part of that tuition exchange program, then I could apply for a
125 scholarship and have the chance to get um the tuition part paid for and I would still have to pay
126 for housing and books and stuff like that but I could get all of the tuition covered. And so we were
127 looking, they had like a chart on the website of all the different schools around the country and
128 that was one of them that I had like looked at but then glazed over. And then my mom asked me
129 one time, she was like, if you put aside money, if you put aside missing friends and family, if you
130 put aside how far away it is, and just think about where is some somewhere you might want to go.
131 And my sister lived in Chicago for like four years, I think. And so I was like, I don't know,
132 Chicago might be fun. And that matched up with this tuition exchange program that Columbia
133 College is a part of and so I looked into it and I was like, this is awesome, because it's like super,
134 like progressive and diverse and they've got acting and like it's an art school, sort of, pretty much.
135 And they're like BFA, which is what I really wanted to do. The BFA in acting wasn't as intensive
136 as others are. It wasn't as competitive. And it wasn't as restricting. And so a lot I mean, a lot of
137 BFA are conservatory style and you take these classes and you get no other choice in what else
138 you're going to do. But this one was like, you have to take all these classes, but also here are
139 classes that you get to take because you're a BFA student, and you still have this many electives,
140 that you can go crazy and pick whatever you want, and it left room for a minor, which was really
141 exciting because I saw that they had the stage combat minor and I could do the BFA and stage
142 combat minor, which is something that really interested me and I could make it all work and I
143 could get tuition-free possibly, and it's out of Texas and so it was just sort of—the perfect fit.

144
145 Nick Borelli: When did you first become aware of the Coronavirus?
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147 Quinton Walker: I first became aware of the Coronavirus in I think either early December before
148 we left for winter break or late January right after we got back from winter break. But I remember
149 I was in my friend's dorm room, because we live in the same building, and he was just telling me
150 about like this, you know, this disease or whatever. This virus that was in China, and they had to,
151 you know, shut down the whole city and like, it came from this and like a bunch of people are
152 hospitalized and dying already. And that's only the people who are reported, we don't even know
153 how many people have it and don't know it, and there are some people who have it and they don't
154 show any signs. And so that was the first time I ever heard about it. And for a

155 while, I was like, that's really scary but I'm glad it's not here, you know? And well, here we are
156 now. So—

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158 Nick Borelli: How did you feel Colombia handled their response to COVID-19?

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160 Quinton Walker: I think a lot of Columbia students didn't give Colombia as much credit as they
161 deserved, I guess. Because comparatively, living in Chicago and comparing how Columbia
162 responded to all of the other colleges in the surrounding area, we were kind of late to announce
163 like online school and just the different things that they were going to be doing, other colleges did
164 it before us. It sort of led to students being like, well, DePaul University has already canceled
165 classes and Roosevelt is already doing this. And, you know, UIC has already done this and this
166 and that about what they're going to do for the rest of the semester. But Columbia hasn't said
167 anything, you know? But then I would talk to my friends from back home here in Texas. And
168 they're like, oh yeah, they just haven't told us anything. And no one's talking about it. And it's not
169 even that big of a deal. And we had already, you know, closed, like shut down classes and
170 everything. And my friends didn't even know if they were going to be going to school the next
171 week, they didn't know if they were going to be getting a partial refund for anything. And so, I
172 think Columbia actually did well, in handling their timing of how they announced the changes.
173 And it's just that it was unfortunate that some other schools around us did it first and it made us
174 look like we were a little bit late to the game.

175
176 Nick Borelli: Where were you? When you learned Colombia was transitioning to remote
177 learning?

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179 Quinton Walker: I was in my stage combat one class, and we were talking about it at the
180 beginning of the semester or at the beginning of the class, and just checking in and he was asking,
181 or the professor was asking how everyone was doing and what we thought about the situation.
182 And we were like, oh, yeah, there are rumors that like, this is going to happen, and this is going to
183 happen. And then I remember after the class, because it's a physical, it's a really physical class.
184 And so we don't ever have our phones on us until the end of the class, and at the end of the class,
185 two of us, like grabbed our phones, and we were like, "Guys, there's an email that says COVID-
186 19 update." And I remember everyone was trying to open it in the class and apparently every
187 other Columbia student was trying to open it. Um, it took a couple minutes for any of us to
188 actually be able to get access to the message, just because the server was so flooded

because it wasn't attached in an email, it was like a link to a part of the website where they were talking about it. So it took a while, and eventually, one girl was like, "Oh, I got it." And we all like, you know, swarmed around her. And it was like, classes are postponed until, you know, April 6, and after April 6, we're not meeting again. So—

Nick Borelli: How did the announcement that the college would close impact your living situation?

Quinton Walker: Um, so the way it sort of happened is, I didn't, I didn't plan to leave until they told us we needed to leave, um, but before they had announced, you need to be out by, you know, the Friday after we went into like extended spring break, my roommate was also not going to leave unless they told him to. And then he came to me and he was like, "Hey, by the way, I have a plane ticket for Monday and I'm leaving on Monday." And I was like "What? You said I thought you said you were going to stay no matter what?" And he was like, "Yeah, well, but I read a bunch of things about everything that's happening in New York and I got scared and so I impulse bought a plane ticket home." And I was like, oh, gosh, maybe I should do that too, and I was like, I don't want to live here if I'm not going to be with my roommate, because my roommate is like one of my really good friends now. I pretty much lucked out a lot with him, but I didn't want to be there if he wasn't going to be there. I didn't want to be living alone. And so I was like, "I'll get one too". And I did and I bought a plane ticket. And I left the Monday after they announced we were going to be not having any more classes for like, the next three weeks for extended spring break. And then I was already home with the majority of my stuff still in Chicago in my dorm room, when I got the email, and it was like, there's a confirmed case on campus. Everybody is being moved out of the dorm rooms. You have until Friday, and I was like, whoa, I'm glad I got out before then but then I later sort of regretted that because then all of my stuff was there and, you know, caused more issues in the future.

Nick Borelli: How did you handle getting your stuff back?

Quinton Walker: Um, so I actually haven't gotten any of my stuff back, but, because my mom was really nervous about going up there. And she was like, not making any decisions. And I couldn't really just go up there alone to get all of my stuff. And she was like, "Well figure out what your roommates are going to do. And then we'll make a decision." and he wasn't making any decisions. And so- but eventually he was like, "Okay, so I signed up for this date to move out."

Which was the 29th of April. So last Wednesday. And he was like, "You should sign up for the same day too." And then later, a couple days later, he was like, "Actually, if you want, I can just move out your stuff for you." Because we're moving into, we have a lease already signed for September for an apartment in Chicago. And so he was like, "If you pay half the storage unit, I can just take all of our stuff and take both of our time slots to move all of our stuff out into a storage unit, and anything you like really need, I can just bring back with me." And so that's what he did. Except that the stuff that I like really needed and wanted him to bring back, I won't be getting for another week, because he flew on a plane and was like, "There's no way I'm going anywhere for the next two weeks after being on a plane and being in the dorm room and being in a big city." So he is self-quarantining himself for the next two weeks, and I should be getting my important stuff sometime next week.

Nick Borelli: Describe your current living situation.

Quinton Walker: Currently, I'm living back at my parents' houses. Most summers, I usually spend two weeks at one house and two weeks at the other but right now we're doing one week at one house and one week at the other. And so every week I pack all of my clothes into the duffel bag and I grab my computer and you know all my important stuff that I need and like my fake swords that I have to use for my online stage combat classes. And I put it in my car and I drive to their house and then I do it again every Monday and I pretty much keep all of my clothes in the duffel bag at all times and haven't really taken any of my clothes out and put them away. Because if I put them away, then I won't have it at the other house and, you know, it just becomes a whole like thing. So that's my current living situation, but I don't know how it's going to change whenever summer hits.

Nick Borelli: How seriously did your family take the virus when the news was spreading?

Quinton Walker: My dad and my stepmom took a lot—took it and are taking it a lot more seriously than my mom is. My mom's taking it seriously. For sure. But she sells clothes, she resells clothes online. And so in order to make money, she has to go to the post office and mail stuff out. And so she does that almost every day. And she's cautious and she always wears masks and gloves and has like this germ jail in her car of things that she's not allowed to touch for a certain amount of hours and they sit in the sun and, you know, but my dad and my stepmom pretty much just don't leave the house at all unless they have to go get groceries.

258 Nick Borelli: What are your news sources?

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260 Quinton Walker: I honestly don't really pay a lot of attention to the news. um I get a lot of my
261 information about what's happening from my parents. They are a lot more active with that stuff
262 and will always update me but I also get a lot of stuff from my friends who see it or Twitter or
263 people talking about it on tik-tok, and you know, but I don't really do a whole lot of research
264 myself. And I know that's like not a good thing but things are just changing all the time. And so I
265 don't really have time right now with all of my classes to try and do that, but also stay educated
266 and keep up with exactly what's happening because all I need to know is that I need to stay home
267 and not see anybody. So—

268
269 Nick Borelli: How do the infection prevention restrictions recommendations in your new
270 location differ from the stay at home order in Chicago and Illinois?

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272 Quinton Walker: So, actually last Friday, Texas, the Texas government has started a phase
273 system and there are multiple phases and right now we're in phase one, that is a two-week period
274 where they opened up all businesses again and allowing only 25% occupancy. And the thing
275 that's kind of ridiculous about it is that they said "At the end of the two-week period, if we don't
276 see a flare up, then we'll move into phase two." And so it's almost as if it's an experiment to see
277 like, Hey, why don't we open up all the stores again, to test it on all of our, you know, citizens to
278 see if they all start getting the virus and if they do, then we'll stop. But if they don't, then let's go
279 further. Even though the incubation period for the virus is two weeks, and so some people might
280 not being, like might not start showing symptoms until after two weeks. And you know, not
281 everyone's going to go out on the first day and so having a two-week trial period is really kind of
282 ridiculous because we're not going to, we are going to see changes but if there are significant
283 enough changes into what they're looking for, it's not going to happen for three to four weeks,
284 you know, and then by then they've already opened up businesses to 50% occupancy. So—

285
286 Nick Borelli: What do you think they could be doing differently?

287 Quinton Walker: Uhh. Not doing that. (Quinton Laughs) Um, I think it's just kind of ridiculous
288 because it's just going to create, I feel like it's almost inevitable that it is going to cause more
289 problems. Allowing people to go outside whether it's not a whole lot of people or not, that's still
290 more people who are going places, and doing things, and sitting down in restaurants, and, you
291 know, going to movie theaters, and being in those spaces together, it's almost inevitable that
292 something worse is going to happen and it's going to flare up and peak and, um, I've been trying,
293 I took a screenshot of a chart that showed how many reported cases, deaths and amount of people
294 who have recovered from the virus of what that was on the day that it started. And I'm going to
295 try and compare that two weeks from that date to see how much it has changed because I expect
296 it to go up, probably. Also, I think they—they could—if we can't not do the phase one and phase
297 two, then they could extend phase one into an appropriate enough [amount of] time to where they
298 could actually test that. Because I mean, like I said, with the two-week, two-week incubation
299 period, that it takes a lot of people to start showing symptoms, they're not going to start showing
300 symptoms until after they've already moved into phase two. So—

301
302 Nick Borelli: How do you think the President has handled his response to COVID-19?

303
304 Quinton Walker: (Quinton breathes out) I honestly don't even know. I don't really even pay
305 attention to a lot of the stuff that he's been saying about it. Um, I—I honestly can't form an
306 opinion because I don't put enough effort into seeing the kind of things that he's said about it, and
307 so I don't really honestly know the things that he's said about it. And I don't really learn about the
308 changes he's making until they start affecting me, but—yeah, I honestly don't know. I haven't
309 been paying enough attention to him.

310
311 Nick Borelli: Let's circle back to the remote learning that Columbia is offering. How do you feel
312 online classes have impacted your learning?

313
314 Quinton Walker: They've definitely made it harder. Trying to shuffle through Canvas, looking at
315 all of the different things that I have, every single one of my teachers, professors, organizes the
316 classes, their classes differently. And so it's difficult to know, like, okay, so for this class,
317 everything is organized in modules and I just have to look at modules to see my assignments for
318 this week. And this class, he's sending everything out in announcements and so I have to go to
319 announcements and look at this is a list of the things and this one, he's just throwing a bunch of
320 files out into, you know, onto the page. And we have to look at them. And you know, this thing

321 isn't graded, but he still wants us to do it. And this teacher isn't having us meet on zoom. And so I
322 have to, and she doesn't know how to work canvas, and so I have to watch my email for emails
323 from her every week. You know, it's so it's crazy because it's a lot. Everyone is doing it
324 differently and it's a lot to keep up with because, I mean, it's just, there's just so much more. And
325 it's kind of nice because I had, I had two classes that just aren't meeting on zoom at all. And so
326 it's nice because I can then take that time that I would normally be in class um to just do my
327 assignment for that week, and it takes me 20 minutes. And then I'm done with that class for the
328 week. And then I have the other five and a half hours that I would have been spending in-person
329 to do other stuff. And so that's like, the good part about it is that it's also freed up a lot of time
330 that I have to start working on assignments that would normally be taken up by in-class meetings,
331 or rehearsals for shows, or hanging out with my friends, or you know, having to go to the dining
332 hall to get food. So—

333
334 Nick Borelli: How do you feel your teachers have been handling the pandemic?

335
336 Quinton Walker: Well, like I said, some of them have done really well. And some of them haven't
337 really changed like this class hasn't been any easier or harder to sort of juggle than it was before
338 because I think she organizes it really well and it's really clear exactly what I need to do every
339 week, and how much that's going to affect me, and how much time I need to put into that. But
340 then I have this other professor who doesn't know how to use zoom, doesn't know how to use
341 Canvas. Sends everything out in emails, and I get this super long email chain with 10 PDFs
342 attached to each email. And, you know, students are accidentally replying to everybody instead of
343 just her and that class has been the most difficult to balance because it's just I don't know, it's so
344 difficult to sort through all of this stuff to try and find, okay, this is due then and then and then and
345 then, and none of it's on canvas. And so I don't have the little you know, to do lists like this is due
346 on this date, so you better get it done. It's I have to screenshot her emails every Tuesday Thursday
347 and go back into my camera roll and look. Okay, this is due on this date at this time. So different
348 teachers are handling it different ways. Other teachers, it's not even like the organization part, but
349 just the classwork itself. I have one professor who has substituted in class discussions with 200
350 pages of reading every week. And that is just almost impossible for me, because I, admittedly,
351 hate reading. And having to do that much reading every week is really difficult. And then he just
352 like, won't ask questions about it, it won't be on the quiz. And so it's like, why did I read 200
353 pages. But then like my stage combat professor has found really, really good ways to teach us the
354 stuff we need to learn no matter what, and my, some of my theater professors have found
355 awesome ways to adapt things that would be in person into online and have made them almost
356 more fun to do online than it would have been in person. And so it's really teacher to teacher class
357 to class content to content.

358 Nick Borelli: How are you and your professors communicating?

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360 Quinton Walker: They're some of my professors I just don't talk to at all. And I just submit my
361 stuff and then it's, that's it but most of them are really- They're more on top of being able to
362 respond to emails than they were before because I mean, now I can't go in for office hours. I can't
363 talk to them at the end of class or beginning of class. I have to send them an email. That's the only
364 way I can I have the ability to really get questions answered that I need to. And so I think
365 communication with my professors has improved because it's so much easier to just shoot a really
366 quick email through Canvas than it is to like okay, well, I've got to schedule time for office hours,
367 but I have a class then so I have to go Wednesday or you know-

368
369 Nick Borelli: What is quarantine like with divorced parents who live in separate houses?

370
371 Quinton Walker: It's definitely made it more difficult having to move every single week. And,
372 you mean, here at my dad's house, I have a desk and we have plenty of room in our living room
373 for me to swing around a 42 inch PVC pipe for stage combat. But also we have way worse
374 internet. And so that makes it like a lot harder. And, but like here, I can make food for myself way
375 more easily than that, like my mom's house, who, she's vegan. And everything that she makes is
376 like from scratch. And so in order to just like make something really quickly. I kind of can't do
377 that. I can't just like whip something up super fast. I have to like put time into, okay, now I'm
378 going to make food where here I can be like, okay, I'm just going to grab this. And then I can
379 come back and do that while I'm doing my assignment or while classes going on. And then, like, I
380 don't have a desk at my mom's house. And so I have to do all of my classes sitting in bed. And I
381 don't have a big living room space. And so I have to go outside and it's Texas, and it's 90 degrees,
382 and there's mosquitoes, um, and I have to put on bug spray, and then take a shower after class,
383 because I was, you know, rolling around on the ground pretending to be an animal for my theater
384 class for three hours in the grass in the 90 degree heat when I could do it here and I'm inside in the
385 air conditioning and so, um, it's it's difficult because it's different every week and I don't really
386 have- I can't really control that. I have some, two of my classes where I have to record myself
387 doing things, like performing scenes, or I know coming up, we're about to have our state combat
388 final. And I have to record myself doing like the choreography. But it's, I have to submit that I
389 have to submit a draft of that like this week. But then the final one, after I get the revisions to the
390 draft, um, on like Wednesday, and that's in two different places. And so it's like, I have to totally
391 change everything around because I'm going to be in two different spaces that week. Um, and

392 like, sorry, I can't record this seed this week at all because I'm in the wrong place. I don't have
393 the same materials. And so it's made it difficult, just because, like oh my gosh, I have so many
394 different things available to me in each place.

395

396 (Tapping on desk)

397

398 Nick Borelli: Due to the pandemic, in what new ways have you and your family bonded?

399

400 Quinton Walker: Well, in an effort to, like not be stuck at home every single day, um usually
401 whenever my mom goes to mail out her packages, I will ride in the car with her. And I don't ever
402 get out of the car or anything, but it's just nice because it's like, I spend that time just talking to
403 my mom when normally I would have a phone call with her twice a week, you know? And now
404 it's like, I talked to her about my life and she talks to me about her life every single day. So it's
405 like, I mean, it's, it's made the difference. Even over the Summer, I mean, I wouldn't be going
406 with her to mail her packages every day because if, if the pandemic weren't happening, then I
407 would be hanging out with my friends or it'd be like, I don't want to go with you. So that has
408 really, like improved. You know, and like, being—I'm now in town for Mother's Day. And I
409 wasn't gonna be in town for Mother's Day. And so I can actually do something with my mom for
410 Mother's Day. Rather than, you know, having to just mail her a gift or, have you know, call her
411 and say Happy Mother's Day!, you know, I can actually do something and put effort into it and
412 that has helped a lot. And same thing with my stepmom. I'll be here with her for Mother's Day.

413

414 Nick Borelli: How has the pandemic changed your relationship with your parents?

415

416 Quinton Walker: I don't think it really has. I think it's pretty normal. I—really it's just talking to
417 them more. And I guess confiding in them more when I'm like frustrated about things when
418 normally I would do that with like my roommate. Now when I'm, you know, tediously working
419 away at the transcript for the interview that I conducted, and it's taking, you know, 14 hours or
420 whatever, and I can, like, take a break, and I can go, like, talk to my stepmom and be like, oh my
421 gosh, this is taking forever. But I mean, if I over the summer, I don't have things like that. And
422 during the school year, I'm in a different state. And so yeah, I just I spend a lot more time with
423 them.

424 Nick Borelli: How has your daily routine changed?

425
426 Quinton Walker: Well, I don't eat out as much as I used to, or like at all. I used to go out to eat
427 like four times a week, if not more. And I would have to you know, schedule time for this and
428 that um and now I can really just like do whatever I want. And I wake up super late every day
429 and I am up until 3am, which isn't uncommon—wasn't already, isn't uncommon for what I was
430 like already doing. But like, just having more time and being at home. I play a lot more—I play a
431 lot more *Dungeons and Dragons* than I used to. I have like four games running right now. Just
432 because, since I'm home all the time, and I don't have to go to class every single day, I have all
433 this free time and my friends and I can just do—we can just do that if we want to, like over the
434 internet and so, yeah, but other than that it really hasn't changed because I didn't have a job. I
435 didn't have a significant other, or anything that I would spend time with or that I would make
436 time for. Um, so it's, it's, it's pretty normal. I just don't hang out with my friends as much, or at
437 all. And I don't have to go to class physically.

438 But I want—well, one thing that has changed is in an effort to spend time with my friends every
439 single night we do a movie night over FaceTime where we all have headphones in our phones,
440 but then Also headphones on our computers and we sync up our movies to play at the same time.
441 And we just like watch a movie every night. And we have been doing that every single night
442 since like, mid-March. And so I've watched so many movies.

443 I also just spend a lot more time on my phone, because you can see your phone activity. And I
444 spend probably an average of between nine to 14 hours on average per week, as compared to
445 like, while we were in school, it was more like, I was like, oh my gosh, I spent six hours on
446 average, like seven hours on average, on my phone this week. Like that's crazy, you know, and
447 now it's like, only six hours. I was only on my phone six hours today. That's crazy. You know.

448
449 Nick Borelli: What has been the most challenging part of quarantine so far?

450
451 Quinton Walker: It definitely has been switching houses, just because it doesn't leave a lot of
452 room for guarantees. I mean, it does but it's not a guaranteed every week it's they're bi-weekly
453 guarantees, guarantee that I'll have space to do my class, guarantee that I can I don't have to go
454 outside, guarantee that I'll have multiple, you know, changes of clothes even. Like there was one
455 time I went over to my mom's and I was like, I only have four pairs of socks here. What
456 happened to all of my socks? And all of my socks were at my dad's house. You know, so it's, it
457 just it doesn't leave a lot of room for guarantees and consistency, I guess.

458 Nick Borelli: How do you deal with feelings of depression? What are some coping skills you've
459 been using—
460
461 Quinton Walker: Um
462
463 Nick Borelli: --to deal with the anxiety from the virus?
464
465 Quinton Walker: Yeah, I don't really have a lot of anxiety about it. I get anxious if I go outside
466 and like need to go somewhere. Like, the other day, I got something printed at Walgreens and I
467 was like, that means I have to go into Walgreens. I didn't even think about that. I have to go inside
468 somewhere and I haven't been inside anywhere for so long. And like I have to be so cautious and
469 so that, like that kind of anxiety, but then also just like when I get really stressed about things I
470 talk to my friends and I text my friends. Or I talk to them when we're on FaceTime at night. Or I
471 put it on my private Snapchat story, um, in hope, in an attempt for pity. So um that's really, that's
472 really it. I don't. And I haven't really struggled that much. Fortunately, I haven't really had too bad
473 of any issues or anxieties.
474
475 Nick Borelli: Who do you talk to about your concerns?
476
477 Quinton Walker: I have about—it's really the people, the five friends that I do movie night with
478 every night, because I have, we have like a friend group and we're all in a group chat and there's
479 15 of us. But this movie night is only us six and so those right now are like my, have become my
480 closest friends and like confidants and, I can, I know that I can talk to them about anything and so
481 I do if I need to.
482
483 Nick Borelli: What part or parts of college life do you miss the most?

484 Quinton Walker: My friends lived right across the hall from me on the same floor across the hall
485 to go over to their house I just had- I would get a text and they would say, "Hey, I made banana
486 bread come get some" and I would go across the hall and get banana bread and then go back to
487 my room or you know, another one of my really, closest friends in Chicago lived just a couple
488 floors down and so if he was ever like, hey, come hang out, and I would just go down to his room
489 or so it was like having my friends so close was so nice. Because I spend a lot of time I used to,
490 would spend a lot of time with my friends when I was in Texas, but you know it's a, it's like get in
491 my car and drive for 10 minutes to get to the restaurant we're all going to eat at or, you know, I
492 have to go around picking my friends up before we all get to wherever we're going. This is
493 literally just like, okay, we're going to go do this thing meet in the hallway, you know, and so I
494 just throw my clothes on and boom, they're already there. And we're already together and we're
495 already traveling. And so that is something I miss a lot is just, (something hits the desk) they're
496 just they were just there all the time. But also I had like space from them, you know, and so it
497 wasn't. It wasn't difficult to just spend time with my friends if I wanted to and it was nice to just
498 go places, without having to like, tell someone that I'm going places. Because when I mean when
499 I was here over the break, if I wanted to go somewhere I have to be like, "Hey, I'm going to go
500 here or Hey, can I go here?" That otherwise I mean, when I was in- when we were in school, I
501 could just walk out of my apartment if I wanted to walk out of my apartment and no one would
502 have to ask me any questions. So that was that's the thing I miss the most is the freedom but then
503 also the proximity I guess from my friends.

504
505 Nick Borelli: What parts of living away from home do you now miss that you might not have
506 expected to?

507
508 Quinton Walker: Um, I miss having a roommate. Because it was like, there was always like that
509 constant in my life, I guess. Because he was always there, I always had someone to talk to if I
510 needed to. If I needed a second person to go with me somewhere I had a second person to go
511 with me somewhere. And like, I have my parents but like, I mean, they have their own room.
512 They're working in the office, they're doing this they're doing that. And like, I thought, oh, I'm
513 gonna be able to come home. I'll have my own room. It'll be so nice. I have a bigger bed or
514 whatever. But now it's like I miss coming home every day to see my roommate. And him always
515 you know, being in bed watching TV and doing his assignments. I miss. I miss having a person
516 there all the time.

517
518 Nick Borelli: Have you found yourself reconnecting with people from your past you might not
519 have expected to?

520 Quinton Walker: Um, no. (laughs) I've had some like opportunities to. Like I mentioned earlier, I
521 was in production theater in high school. And there were, that particular class had all grades of
522 students in there. And so when I was a sophomore, there was a bunch of seniors. And each year
523 in production theater, we would have like a group chat. And I still, we still talk in the group chat
524 from my sophomore year. But they've been doing like, once a week, they've been having zoom
525 calls, and they've been playing like games over the internet together, and I have sort of, like
526 chosen not to participate in those, not because I don't like them or don't want to spend time with
527 them. But just, I don't know, it's like, I haven't. Those people aren't my only friends anymore.
528 And I have other people that I'd rather talk to. (laughs)

529
530 Nick Borelli: You told me that you work seasonally at a drive-in movie theater. Because cars
531 allowed people to social distance is that movie theater up and running during this pandemic?
532 And if so, are you working there?

533
534 Quinton Walker: So it wasn't until Texas started. It's phase one. And so they opened last Friday.
535 I'm currently not working there, mostly because of classes. And I wouldn't want to have to juggle
536 doing classes and working every night and you know, knowing that, like, I won't have this amount
537 of time, like from 6pm to 1am. Because I mean, it's drive-in we have to, we can't start playing
538 movies until it gets dark. We're always there super late at night. And it's double feature. So it's
539 two movies with a break. So it's super long, sort of hours but also I just kind of don't know if I
540 want to because I don't know if I want to put myself out there and expose myself like that because
541 I worked in the diner. It's a drive-in and so it was 50s themed. And we had like this big diner
542 building where they've got like a concession stand, but then we also had like a full like menu of
543 food. And so I worked in the diner, assembling food, giving people food, taking orders for
544 people's food, all that stuff. And so that part of it is closed. Because there is no- there's really no
545 way to avoid social distancing or no way to avoid not social distancing with what they have right
546 now. They're going to open it because they're going to get like the screens and everything. But as
547 of right now, we don't have that and they weren't open because that was like their biggest influx of
548 money because you don't make a whole lot of money off of ticket sales. Most of that goes to the
549 people who make the movie. And so we got all the money from the diner, but we don't want to-
550 We didn't want to make people come into the diner, also, not as many people would come in. And
551 so they had to close it down, but now they're open. I'm not working there. But you are still
552 required to, but you are now required to park one parking spot away from everybody. You're
553 highly encouraged to buy your tickets online. There's a certain amount of people who can use the
554 indoor restrooms at a time. So they're taking precaution but I'm still kind of, I kind of want to see
555 what happens before I decide to go back.

556 Nick Borelli: How has your acting and acting classes been impacted by the Coronavirus?
557

558 Quinton Walker: Well, it's a lot different just because it's hard to perform in a scene with someone
559 when they live in Seattle and you're in Texas, and you're doing it over a screen. But we have
560 found some fun ways to sort of get around that. We're doing scenes right now for our final, that
561 we weren't going to be doing scenes for our final but we were doing scenes for our final that don't
562 require, purposely do not require the characters to be in the same space. And so, I mean, I'm doing
563 a scene where we are on a zoom call, or we're on a video chat. And so it works perfectly because
564 we're acting we were doing it over video chat. And then we just record it and we submit it and so
565 it, it's really nice because they've actually found some really great ways to adapt. But also there
566 are like some movement portions where we would be doing movement stuff before we started
567 getting into like the voice and sort of acting skills portion of the class, um, that I only really did
568 and participated in because we were in the same room. But now it's like I'm not in the same room,
569 I can angle my computer up enough to where when we're supposed to be doing stuff on the
570 ground, I can have my phone in my hand and not be doing any of it until she makes us stand up.
571 And then she'll say, like, feel free if you need to go off-screen then go off-screen. And so I'm like,
572 Okay, I guess I'll go off-screen and, you know, make myself toast while she's doing something.
573 So I've lost a lot of motivation to do those specific parts, but have gotten really excited about
574 some of the other ways they've adapted.

575
576 Nick Borelli: In what ways has your life changed that you wouldn't have expected it to in this
577 kind of situation?

578
579 Quinton Walker: Hmm. I am doing a lot less creating, I guess than I thought I would. I thought I
580 would be spending a lot of time trying to work on myself as like an actor um or I would be
581 practicing my stage combat more because I just had time to do it and I didn't have anything else
582 to do. And I would be more motivated to read the plays for classes every week because I just
583 don't have anything else to do but it's actually kind of the opposite because now that I'm here. I
584 have so many more distractions and so many more other things to do that school is like, pushed-
585 I sometimes I push school, like aside when I shouldn't be. And then it does not bode very well for
586 me but I'm doing- Yeah, I'm creating a lot less than I thought I would because I thought I would
587 have so much more time on my hands. But now I'm wasting a lot more time. I think.

588 Nick Borelli: How long do you think this pandemic will go on for?

589
590 Quinton Walker: I have no idea. I don't want it to go on for a super long amount of time. I
591 assume it's going to continue. All through May. All through June. All through July. I don't know
592 about August, probably in August. I don't know about September, I'm really like fingers crossed
593 that we'll be able to do online or we'll be able to do face-to-face classes next semester, just
594 because a lot of my classes are very physical. And it becomes so much different doing them
595 online, and I don't get the same things out of it. But also, history repeats itself. And when we've
596 seen situations in the past that are similar to this one, it hasn't lasted for months. It's lasted two
597 years or five years, or something, you know? Which obviously that sucks to even think about.
598 But I mean, it's people are rioting and protesting because they haven't gotten a haircut in two
599 months. When the, I mean, other similar situations have happened for years on end. And so it's
600 like, I guess I'm just going to have to get used to it. And it sucks because the world is so much
601 different but—I don't want to get sick and die and I don't want to be the reason that someone
602 else gets sick and dies. And if that means I have to stay home and I don't get to eat Wendy's for
603 the next year and a half, then I don't eat Wendy's for the next year and a half.

604
605 Nick Borelli: What do you think Columbia should have done differently?

606
607 Quinton Walker: I—so I know that whenever they forced people out of their dorms—so it was
608 really rushed. And I know it was really rushed because they were like, oh my gosh, confirmed
609 case on campus. Get everyone out, you know, we don't want to be—we don't want to be the
610 reason someone else is sick because we're allowing them to stay. But they forced everyone out
611 really quickly. And then I felt like didn't give too much time for people to be able to get out.
612 Because originally, I believe we had to be out of our rooms by May 1. And then they extended
613 that to May 10. But the semester is not over until like the 15th 16th. And I know one girl who got
614 a flight canceled twice. She had a flight to go, it got canceled. She had to register for a new time.
615 Tried it again. Flight got canceled had to register for new time, that time had to drive, she lives in
616 North Texas and it takes a day and a half to get to Chicago driving. And then that's all that gas and
617 you have to stay in motels. And, so I, I wish they would have allowed us to start getting our stuff
618 sooner and I wish they would have let us start getting our stuff later. The same student said that,
619 they said that we had until May 10, but there were no slots open after May 5. And so it's like well,
620 why do we have until the 10th if we can't go past the fifth and that sort of situation caused a lot of
621 stress for my parents, which then caused a lot of uncertainty for me on whether my gut how like,
622 what do I need to do to get my stuff back? How is this going to work? And so I just feel like if
623 there would have been more time it would have been okay, we have all this time

624 to prepare. Here's what we're going to do. I would have all of my stuff by now. I wouldn't be
625 waiting for my roommate to bring it which I'm so grateful that he went and did that for me. Spent
626 nine hours moving stuff out but also, there's some stuff in there that I need, like I lost all of my
627 school notes. I didn't have any of that stuff. And I have finals coming up. And it'd be really
628 awesome to have my notes for the semester to use on my finals. But I don't have that anymore.
629 So they, I wish they would have given a wider timeframe.

630
631 Nick Borelli: What would you like to say to President Kim?

632
633 Quinton Walker: Even though I did just complain about something that I wish they would have
634 done better, I think I would tell him, like, I'm sorry, for all of the students who acted really
635 irrationally. I had a friend who texted me and was like, hey, go retweet my tweet. It's about
636 Colombia. And I went and looked at this tweet and he was like, it was basically this really Angry
637 rant about how they hadn't been doing anything and this and that and that and I was like, I'm not
638 gonna retweet that because I think they're doing fine. And I don't agree, and, you know, it was
639 about the partial refund. And then literally the next day after he tweeted that they said something
640 about the refund and I was like, see if you would have just waited one more day. All of your
641 answers would have been solved and so I guess I would, to president Kim I would say like, I feel
642 bad that there are students who are acting out so much about this and I don't think that you're
643 doing poorly—with handling the situation.

644
645 Nick Borelli: What did you take for granted about your daily life before the virus?

646
647 Quinton Walker: I definitely took for granted how privileged I was that I had a job if I needed it.
648 And I have parents who, if I need money, they can give me money. And I have parents who are
649 paying for my housing. And now it's like I'm seeing all these people who are going home to these
650 really bad situations and they don't have any money and their parents are charging them rent to
651 stay in their houses, which is crazy. When they have no choice, you know, and then they can't get
652 a job so they can't move out. And so they have to, you know, it's like, I definitely took for granted
653 how nice I had my living situation and how I had such solid backup in case something crazy like
654 this happened. I had something to fall back onto, I had a job. I have a good living situation. I have
655 parents that can and will provide for me. And I don't know what I would have done if I didn't have
656 that. And I didn't even think about anything like that. So I definitely took for granted how nice of
657 a cushion I had to fall on.

658 Nick Borelli: What was the most significant change in your life due to a virus?

659
660 Quinton Walker: The thing that has changed the most is I guess, not knowing, not being able to
661 make plans. I, my friends and I here, my friends in Chicago were very big plan makers. We are
662 always trying to find new things to do. We're always planning ahead for things that are going to
663 happen in the future and that we want to do in the future. And now it's like all of those things that
664 I want to do and was going to do, I can no longer do and I don't have the guarantee to be able to
665 make more plans because I don't know what's going to happen. And I don't know how long this is
666 going to last. And so I don't know how, I, the biggest change has been that I don't really have a
667 whole lot to look forward to anymore. I always had something to look forward to. And now the
668 things I have to look forward to aren't guaranteed and you know, the One thing I have to look
669 forward to is moving into an apartment in September. September, which is like four months from
670 now. And then after that nothing, the next guarantee is Christmas or Thanksgiving. I don't even
671 know if I'm going to be able to do classes face to face. I don't know if we're going to have classes
672 at all. I don't know if I'm going to get to do any shows. I don't know if I'm going to get to study
673 abroad. I don't you know, I don't know anything that's going to happen and I have lost all of the
674 things that I had to look forward to.

675
676 Nick Borelli: What has this pandemic made you realize about yourself?

677
678 Quinton Walker: It's made me realize that I wasn't trying hard enough for the things that I
679 wanted. Because now that those opportunities are gone, I look at how much I'm like, Oh, thank
680 God, I don't have to do that anymore. Now that I can audition for shows, I'm like, Oh, I don't
681 have to audition for any shows. And I don't have to worry about auditions, which then makes me
682 think like, I had this mentality of, oh, now I have to go audition for something, you know. And
683 that was making me do less auditions, which was making me be in less things. Which, being in
684 less things, was making me upset because I wanted to be in more things, but I wasn't putting in
685 the effort for it. And so I feel like after this is over, which, who knows when that's going to be. I
686 feel like I'll put a lot more effort into getting the things that I want because I'd finally get to do
687 them again. I get to audition for shows again. I get to go to class again. You know? So yeah,
688 that's it, I will be so much more motivated to work on things and to get things done that I
689 traditionally normally wouldn't be excited about or motivated for.

Nick Borelli: How similar do you think Gen Z will treat this event to how millennials and Gen Xers treated something like 9/11?

Quinton Walker: I don't, I'm not sure. I mean, obviously, something like 9/11 was really, really awful. But the people it affected the most or the people who were directly involved or knew people who were directly involved. And now people all over the world are involved. And, you know, Millennials in England, probably don't care that much about 9/11 it doesn't affect them and they don't, on September 11, they don't think anything and they don't have ceremonies at school and people- their friends don't post about it and, you know but this, it's like, everyone's going to remember it for the rest of their lives because it has directly affected every single person. Every single person has had, has been affected by social distancing. And so many people, hundreds, thousands of people, hundreds of thousands of people have gotten it or know someone who got it or have died from it or know someone who has died from it. Or, you know, the nurses who go every single day and have to see people sick and dying and are scared and you know, of getting it and have to take all this precaution, they're going to be- they're never going to forget it. And so I think Gen Z will treat this differently because, well, one we grew up with having so much access and communication with people. And it's like, we are all using that access and communication that we have to invest in this pandemic. But, you know, people weren't making tik-toks about the loved ones that they've lost from 9/11. But people are doing that now because of the Coronavirus and things like Facebook and Instagram and Twitter, all of these like new platforms that we have and the sharing of stories is so much easier and I think it's just going to be- I think it's going to be a big deal, a way bigger deal, not because something like 9/11 was not a big deal. Because it absolutely was but like- Like I said, this affects every single person and we just have so much more access and whenever the- whenever we grow old and the millennials are starting to die off, we'll be the last generation, other than, like the people who are being born now and are like really young, we'll be the last generation to have like lived it. And we're going to be like, oh, here's all this stuff I know about it. Here are all these things that happened. Because I heard so many stories, and I saw so much content about it. And so it's going to be more easily shared, and it's not going to be forgotten.

Nick Borelli: How do you feel about the future?

Quinton Walker: I'm nervous, and I'm scared and I'm anxious. And I'm upset. Because it's just I don't, there's so much uncertainty. There's literally no guarantees. Because if it goes, if we plateau and then it goes way down, there's no guarantee that it's just going to stop. There's still the possibility that it's just going to go back up again and we're going to be back in the same

726 situation we are. And so I kind of just like want to, I want the future to be now and I want it to be
727 over with. And I don't really want to have to deal with everything that's going to happen. But we
728 have no choice but to take it day by day. And to not let the future get to us. Because while there is
729 uncertainty that bad things might happen, there's also we're not I mean, there's uncertainty that
730 maybe a good thing will happen. Maybe, you know, who knows, maybe the cure is gonna be
731 found tomorrow. Nobody knows. But maybe it won't be found for another three years, and we'll
732 be locked inside our houses until we graduate until I graduate, you know, and I'm never going to
733 go back to Chicago again and I'll, you know, spend the rest of my college career in Texas. Who
734 knows?

735

736 Nick Borelli: Thank you for your time, Quinton.

737

738 Quinton Walker: Thank you.