

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

WADE ROBSON, an individual,) CASE NO.: BC508502
)
Plaintiff,)
)
vs.)
)
MJJ PRODUCTIONS, INC., a California,)
corporation; MJJ VENTURES, INC., a)
California corporation; and DOES 4-50,)
inclusive,)
)
Defendants.)
)

CONFIDENTIAL
VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF
JOHN BRANCA
VOLUME I
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017
10:35 A.M.

1 APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL:

2 FOR THE PLAINTIFF WADE ROBSON:

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12 FOR THE DEFENDANTS:

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20 ALSO PRESENT: GIGI FADICH, Videographer
21
22
23
24
25

10:53:08 1 A I don't recall.
2 Q The time you do remember meeting him, when was
3 that?
4 A I think he came to my office. It was around
10:53:16 5 2011.
6 Q And how did that come about?
7 A He asked to meet with me.
8 Q Why did he ask to meet with you?
9 A He wanted a job as a choreographer and/or
10:53:30 10 director or something in the Cirque de Soleil show we
11 were preparing.
12 Q Which Cirque de Soleil was that?
13 A It's called Michael Jackson One.
14 Q And how long was that meeting?
10:53:46 15 A I don't recall.
16 Q Do you know who set up the meeting?
17 A No.
18 Q Do you know if it was set up by your office or
19 one of Wade's people?
10:53:53 20 A He called us.
21 Q Personally?
22 A I don't answer my phones. You'd have to ask my
23 secretary.
24 Q Who would that be?
10:54:02 25 A Well, at the time it would have been Marquis

10:54:56 1 A We did not hire him.

2 Q Was that your decision not to hire him?

3 A In the end. I discussed it, I believe, with
4 somebody at Cirque de Soleil -- I don't recall exactly --
10:55:05 5 but we determined that he wasn't really qualified.

6 Q And that was your decision, you felt he wasn't
7 qualified?

8 A We thought there were better people for the
9 job.

10:55:16 10 Q Ah. Do you have an e-mail or a letter or
11 something --

12 A No.

13 Q -- substantiating that?

14 A No.

10:55:29 15 Q No? Was there ever an e-mail or a letter sent
16 to Wade or Wade's representative telling him that he was
17 not --

18 A Why would there be? We didn't hire him.

19 Q Well --

10:55:40 20 A I didn't have an obligation to send him an
21 e-mail to tell him we were hiring Jamie King to direct or
22 Rich and Tone Talauega to be the choreographers. They
23 were just better for the job. I don't need to embarrass
24 Wade by telling him he wasn't good enough.

10:55:55 25 Q No.

10:55:55 1 A I had no animosity for him. I didn't hardly
2 know the guy.
3 Q Yeah. My question was --
4 A So, no, there was no email.
10:56:00 5 Q Well, you can tell someone that they're not
6 getting the job without telling them you don't think
7 they're qualified.
8 A I'm sure that's what I did.
9 Q Okay. So you do think there was an e-mail?
10:56:10 10 A No, I didn't. I might have called him. He
11 might have called me back.
12 Q And would that have been on your office line or
13 cellphone?
14 A I don't recall.
10:56:16 15 Q Could have been either one?
16 A One of thousands of calls. I really don't
17 recall.
18 Q Okay. What's your office line?
19 A (310) 552-
10:56:27 20 Q And what's your cellphone?
21 MR. STEINSAPIR: I'm going to instruct him not
22 to answer that. It's not relevant. If you do want it
23 for some reason, we can talk about it off line and I can
24 get it for you but I don't want to put it on the record.
25

10:56:40 1 MR. FINALDI: Sure. Well, you want to go off
2 the record and give it to me?

3 MR. STEINSAPIR: We can talk about it after the
4 deposition.

10:56:51 5 BY MR. FINALDI:

6 Q So it's true that you use your cellphone to
7 conduct business, correct?

8 A Yeah.

9 Q Okay. And you've used your cellphone to
10:56:55 10 conduct business for years?

11 A Sure.

12 Q Okay. Do you know if you ever talked with Wade
13 Robson on your cellphone?

14 A I have no idea, whatsoever.

10:57:04 15 Q Who's your cellphone provider?

16 A I don't recall.

17 Q Do you know who pays the bill?

18 A My office.

19 Q It's an office cellphone then?

10:57:14 20 A Yeah.

21 Q Okay. Like an iPhone or something?

22 A I have an iPhone and I have a flip top.

23 Q All right. And what was it about Wade that
24 made you feel like he was not qualified?

10:57:33 25 MR. STEINSAPIR: Asked and answered. Go ahead

10:57:33 1 and answer again.

2 THE WITNESS: If I recall, I think I discussed
3 it with Cirque. He may have actually worked with Cirque.
4 I don't recall exactly but we felt that Jamie King was
10:57:45 5 the best person to be the director and we had other
6 choreographers who were quite good.

7 BY MR. FINALDI:

8 Q Okay. Is it true that you took part in
9 choosing some of the people who were going to be involved
10:57:59 10 in that Cirque show?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Is it true that you wanted to involve some
13 people who had either known or worked with Mr. Jackson --

14 A Correct.

10:58:11 15 Q -- such as members of his band?

16 A Yes.

17 MR. STEINSAPIR: Just wait for him to finish
18 the question.

19 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

10:58:18 20 MR. STEINSAPIR: I know. I know. It's -- it's
21 natural.

22 BY MR. FINALDI:

23 Q Have you ever read any depositions in any of
24 the child molestation cases involving Mr. Jackson?

10:58:31 25 A No, I don't believe so.

12:20:49 1 A No, I don't recall.

2 Q Do you know how it was that he came into
3 contact with Michael Jackson?

4 A No, I don't.

12:20:56 5 Q All right. Wade says that he was actually
6 hired to do the Cirque show?

7 A Huh. That's another -- another Wade Robson
8 fantasy.

9 Q Okay. Well, we've got e-mails that show that
10 he was actually hired to and he was doing work for -- you
11 know, meetings for the Cirque show.

12 Do you have any knowledge of that?

13 A Which Cirque show?

14 Q Cirque One.

12:21:16 15 MR. STEINSAPIR: I disagree with the premise of
16 the question but you can answer it.

17 THE WITNESS: I don't believe that's the case.

18 BY MR. FINALDI:

19 Q And he said he actually pulled out of the show
12:21:23 20 several times because of a breakdown he was having. So
21 you would disagree with that, correct?

22 A Completely.

23 Q All right. And would you say that he was
24 actually never hired for the project, right?

12:21:33 25 A Correct.

12:21:33 1 Q So he never would have actually been fired from
2 the project?

3 A Correct.

4 Q And the only involvement he ever had with the
12:21:41 5 project was that one meeting with you?

6 A To my knowledge.

7 Q Okay.

8 A Now, it's possible Jamie King might have hired
9 him as a dancer. But --

12:21:52 10 MR. STEINSAPIR: That' spec- --

11 THE WITNESS: Jamie King was the director.

12 MR. STEINSAPIR: That's just speculation. You
13 don't need to --

14 THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.

12:22:00 15 BY MR. FINALDI:

16 Q Do you have any understanding that he was hired
17 to be a dancer on any of the shows?

18 A No. I shouldn't speculate.

19 Q Okay. Just making that up?

12:22:09 20 A No.

21 Q Okay.

22 A Well, you asked me if he had been hired on the
23 show. He was not hired as director and he was not hired
24 as a choreographer so --

12:22:18 25 Q Yeah. A choreographer is what I was asking

12:22:21 1 about. Mr. King was not a choreographer, he was hired as
2 a director, right?

3 A Correct.

4 Q And he was only hired as a director after the
12:22:27 5 prior director had been pulled out, right?

6 A No. We had conversations with a French or
7 Montreal French director about possibly directing the
8 show but he -- we never finally approved him.

9 Q [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 A [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

12:23:10 15 Q Did you have an opinion of Wade Robson as of
16 the time that you had met with him in the whole Cirque
17 evolution because now you're saying he's a liar, he's a
18 perjurer? Did you have the same opinion of him at the
19 time?

12:23:25 20 A No.

21 Q Was your opinion of him at the time generally
22 favorable or --

23 A It was neutral.

24 Q -- did you just not like him? Neutral?

12:23:34 25 The only reason you're saying that you didn't