



Meet Rebekah Bora Bak

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We're excited to introduce you to the always interesting and insightful Rebekah Bora Bak. We hope you'll enjoy our conversation with Rebekah Bora below.

Alright, so we're so thrilled to have Rebekah Bora with us today – welcome and maybe we can jump right into it with a question about one of your qualities that we most admire. How did you develop your work ethic? Where do you think you get it from?

From my upbringing.

My parents were immigrants who couldn't really speak English. They worked hard for our family and that rubbed off on me and my sister.

After school we had to go to the family restaurant and peel carrots for hours. Haha They put us to work at a really young age and I am now super grateful.



Let's take a small detour – maybe you can share a bit about yourself before we dive back into some of the other questions we had for you?

I'm freelance makeup artist who recently moved to L.A.

I have been in the industry for over 15 years now.

I started painting at a really young age, and always knew I would be involved in some form of art as an adult. I originally started makeup in Korea when I was 19, and I did it as a hobby, I just fell in love with it and have been completely obsessed since.

I'll never forget this one weekend, that ultimately paved the road to my career. My makeup teacher at the time was asking all the students in my class who would be available that coming weekend to come out and do a volunteer gig. She told us it wasn't paid, and it would be long hours. I didn't care, I signed up right away and had the best experience ever.

The following Monday, my teacher pulled me aside and gave me an envelope with cash in it. It was a couple hundred dollars, and she said that they deliberately don't tell the students there is compensation involved because they want to see who's truly passionate about makeup. I'm still in touch with that teacher, 20 years later.

That moment changed my life. I had no idea you could even make money from doing makeup. To have that much fun, and genuinely enjoy it, AND get paid. I was so excited.

You have to really want it, to make it.

The LONG hours on set, hustling, and making a name for yourself. Networking your butt off..all of that has to come from a genuine passion.

My work has also been featured in Sephora, Fashionista, ABook, The Kit and The Guardian.

Some of my credits include a variety of commercial jobs for New Balance, lululemon, TikTok, Alipay and Hyundai

My film credits are such- Moonfall, Supergirl, Avatar the Last Airbender and Grey's Anatomy.

Additionally, I was also involved in several k pop music videos- most recently solo album for artist "V" who is a member of BTS.

In the past I have also volunteered for charities such as "Look good feel better" an organization funded by Estee Lauder, helping to teach people with cancer on how to manage their appearance-related impacts from cancer treatments. As well as "Because Im a girl" which is a charity helping young girls around the world get an education.



There is so much advice out there about all the different skills and qualities folks need to develop in order to succeed in today's highly competitive environment and often it can feel overwhelming. So, if we had to break it down to just the three that matter most, which three skills or qualities would you focus on?

I think some of the best advice that was given to me early on was from my mom. She always told me, you have to make yourself known. And to always have your phone on you. And its completely true.

You have to network and get to know as many people as you can, and when you do get that text or call for the job- you have to make your self available as fast as you can. Because a lot of times, they're just going to go to the next person and youre going to loose that opportunity.

She also told me to always "be ready" there were sometimes long dry spells early in my career. Like any freelance artist would think "Am I ever going to work again?" haha we all have times like this. And she always told me to get ready. Which again is true. Because whenever you get a call for a 6 month long show, trust me, there's that thought "ugh I should have gotten all those things done" like whether its go in and renew your license or finally go and get your oil change etc.

Oh but of course, last but not least. Be nice to everyone. I mean, be nice just for the sake of being nice, but also, that PA can be the producers son. Just saying.



Okay, so before we go, is there anyone you'd like to shoutout for the role they've played in helping you develop the essential skills or overcome challenges along the way?

Jo Ann Fowler. She is a Emmy-nominated Makeup artist in Vancouver, with an organic makeup line called Sappho Cosmetics (which is amazing, you should check it out if you haven't yet)

She was my mentor from, almost the very beginning. I was so lucky to meet her and have her in my life. She shared all her wisdom and experiences with me, I learned so much from her. Not only in regards to the industry but also just in life.

Another mentor of mine I hold close to my heart is Ve Neill, a multi Oscar-winning Makeup artist, I had the privilege of working for her almost 10 years ago on a movie. She is probably one of the most busiest people you will ever mee, but she has always made herself available to me whenever I had a challenge to overcome or needed some advice/guidance. She's an awesome human and I feel very grateful to have her in my life.

Contact Info:

Website: <https://www.borabak.com>

Instagram: @makeupbybora

Other: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4924979/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1

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