

What did it feel like when you won the competition?

"It was very surreal. I thought for sure Ian was going to win it. And so, I was actually thinking in my head how I was going to congratulate him. And uh, you know because I didn't want to look like an idiot and congratulate him awkwardly. So, I was thinking about how I was going to go about that. And then, um, they said my name and it took a second for me to like register about that because it wasn't the name I was expecting. And uh, it was just a really weird feeling. I got, my knees started to get weak and I felt them get kind of shaky. Yeah, it was really surreal. Even that whole day, it didn't really sink in that it really happened. The producers were coming up to me and 'What's it feel like, after you won?' It didn't feel like it happened. It didn't feel real. It was really weird, a really weird experience."

What did you win?

"I won \$100,000 and \$25,000 in makeup supplies and a new Toyota Camry Hybrid."

Do you feel like your time here at the University prepared you for this particular competition?

"Yes, absolutely. I think, um, my degree in particular is a new degree and it's really innovative and really creative with the creating itself. The professors that are affiliated with it are brilliant. Every time you have a critique, it wasn't too different than going up in front of the judges on *Faceoff*. You sit there and you have to have a good reason for why you designed something a certain way. It was no different than the university. You learned to get help and talk about our projects and be able to critically think about why we would do something a certain way. Even though the degree work wasn't necessarily in makeup or special effects, it is a very artistic field and it is also very scientific. You have to really bring your brain with you when you come to class every day. I really look back on, of all the things I've learned in life, I think that the outlook on the university and that degree in particular, put me ahead of the game as far as conceptually compared to the other contestants on the show."

Was there anything about the university that inspired you or that you feel like made you who you are today?

"I definitely don't know what would have happened in a competition like this if I hadn't gone to the university. Specifically, the program that I was in. I was also able to do some other classes with Ron Walters that we kind of converged with other colleges. There was some really innovative and outside-of-the-box stuff that's being done at the University of Idaho. If we can continue on that path, and kind of not steer away from the normal, but I think you have to be able to break out of the mold a little bit. I think the University of Idaho is definitely the place for that. For me personally, that was what I gathered the most from taking all the classes is to push forward and keep new ideas and keep trying to innovate. It will evolve to anything around you to this point."

It's a pleasure meeting you....

"Thank you. I really appreciate. Also, make sure everyone knows how much I really appreciate the support of the university as well, through all of this. People watching and rooting. It's been amazing. So, thank you."