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AARON SORKIN

SCREENWRITER
& PRODUCER

Born in Manhattan and raised in Scarsdale, N.Y., Aaron Sorkin had an early interest in acting, which led to him earning a BFA in musical theater from Syracuse University in 1982. Sorkin struggled as an actor through the '80s, delivering singing telegrams and bartending, until he sat down at a friend's IBM Selectric and started writing. Several plays led to an agent and *A Few Good Men*, inspired by his sister's experience defending a Marine hazing incident at Guantanamo Bay. In 2011, Sorkin won the Academy Award, Golden Globe, Critics Choice and British Academy of Film and Television Arts Award for the screenplay for *The Social Network*. Sorkin's HBO hit series *The Newsroom* debuted in 2012. The show received a Golden Globe nomination for best drama series and the third season begins Nov. 9th on HBO. And to add to that enviable resume, Sorkin is currently adapting *Steve Jobs*, Walter Isaacson's biography of the Apple guy.

WHAT CHARITY DO YOU MOST IDENTIFY WITH?

I try to help schools however I can. I'd like to see all of our schools as good as our best schools. I think our morality commands it from us, but if that's not a good enough reason it would also immeasurably benefit everyone in our society in every conceivable way.

WHICH CHARACTER FROM FICTION DO YOU MOST ADMIRE? Don Quixote. He was the kind of guy who could say what I just said about schools and really believe it was possible.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT? I've kept my daughter alive for more than 13 years.

IF YOU COULD BE THE CEO OF ANY COMPANY, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE? Smith & Wesson. I'd call a meeting of everyone on the factory floor and ask, "What else can you guys make?"

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE LAW, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE? I'd raise the minimum wage significantly. I'd have it bear some sort of relationship to what it costs to not live in horrifying poverty.

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE LOVE? You're not making this easy. I don't think I can define it. All I can do is sort of point at my daughter.

WHAT IS THE GREATEST THREAT CURRENTLY FACING SOCIETY? I keep reading about fish who suddenly walk up onto dry land. I think we should be more concerned about that.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR CLOSEST BRUSH WITH DEATH? There have been a couple of *New York Times* reviews I feel lucky to have gotten out of alive.

WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INNOVATION IN THE LAST 10 YEARS? I'm sure there have been important medical advances that I'm not aware of so I'll say TSA pre-check.

DESCRIBE YOUR PERFECT DAY. I write well, do homework with my daughter and then take her and her friends to a Broadway musical. If you asked her what her perfect day was, I don't think me or homework would be anywhere in the answer.