

Donor # 4500 Interview Notes

Sitting and talking to Donor 4500 was very easy. He is calm with a demeanor not expected for someone his age. It made me want to get to know him better. Donor 4500 appears to be solid and confident, in a way that makes me think his confidence is completely warranted, not inflated. It seems like it might take a lot to get him riled up, because he is so grounded and calm. He is quick to smile and laugh and when he does his entire face lights up. It is easy to be drawn in by the donor's huge brown eyes; he is good looking with full lips, a strong straight nose and nicely defined cheekbones. He has a short cropped beard and his hair is thick, wavy, and short. He was comfortably dressed in a grey v-neck T-shirt and brown hoodie, with stylish new shoes. This donor comes across as a grown man, not a boy, and I would have guessed him as older.

The donor loves martial arts and talked about what a huge role they have played in his life and his way of interfacing with the world. He explained to me that being involved in martial arts is a lifestyle choice and that is really more like a philosophy than a sport. When I asked him to explain this to me, he said that it is similar to playing a game of chess, where you have 3-4 different things to take into account at all times. He said that you have to focus different areas of your mind and let go of your ego to let your body react on its own. The practice is about being centered in one's body and maintaining mindfulness. It seems to me that the donor is able to practice mindfulness and stay centered in his body throughout his daily life and it lends to his centered presence.

We spoke the most about the donor's career as a filmmaker. When I asked how he got involved in that field he traced his history with film back to his love of movies as a child, and all the time he spent studying films and thinking about what makes a good movie. As a senior in high school donor 4500 took a film production class and created short films. He really enjoyed this class but at the time thought of it as a hobby, not a serious career. As a sophomore in college the donor took another film class and enjoyed it so thoroughly that he spent his remaining years almost exclusively taking film courses. He said his last 2 years of college felt more like a trade school learning vocational skills. Upon graduating, he landed a job at a production company and after that he worked for a marketing company. Today the donor is freelance and does everything from camera operations to production assistant. I have every confidence that donor 4500 will be very successful in his field and I would be interested to see where he will be in 5 years.

My interview with donor 4500 flowed smoothly and comfortably in a manner that made me think he would be a fun and easy person to hang out with. The donor mentioned that he enjoys playing poker and is skilled at the game. In addition to film and poker, donor 4500 also has a strong interest in photography and loves going to art openings and galleries. The donor loves food and enjoys cooking on occasion. He mentioned that he doesn't cook often but when he does he likes to make things like brined pork chops with polenta. The donor loves the Bay Area because of the abundance of organic fresh produce and other foods.

Overall my impression of donor 4500 is that he is an honest, open person who acts with integrity. When I asked him why he did not write anything about his paternal grandmother's interests in his long profile the donor told me that he didn't know much about her and didn't want to guess and end up writing something that was untrue. We spoke briefly about why he chose to be a donor and the fact that he has two friends who are donor conceived. Donor 4500 shared that at first he felt the experience of being a sperm donor was really a weird thing to be doing but the more he has spoken with our staff and his friends about the process, the more comfortable he has become. He told me that he is very comfortable with his decision and is happy to be an Identity-Release[®] Donor; he didn't even consider donating any other way.