

Jon Vroman ([00:02](#)):

Gentlemen, welcome to the Front Row Dad podcast. While it's common to hear men say family first, most guys are working long hours and finding it really difficult to juggle all the priorities on this show. You're going to hear unscripted conversations with guys who are as committed to winning at home as they are to winning at work each week, we're going to share a new conversation, digging into the strengths and the struggles of guys, just like you and me to help us level up our dad game, strengthen our marriage, succeed in business and stay healthy along the way. If you're new to the show, I'm John Broman, married to the free spirit known as Tatyana father of two boys tiger and ocean and living in Austin, Texas. Let's get right into our next conversation.

Jon Vroman ([00:47](#)):

Gentlemen, my guest today, Eric Rivera, we're gonna have a good time with this man. He is part Puerto Rican part Guatemalan, and a comedian who you can find on HBO max. Right now it's called Eric Rivera, super white. He also just sold an animated comedy called Ricky and cricket. And listen to this description about a down on his luck, Mexican American actor, who starts taking control of his life with the help of cricket, a brash foul mouth guardian angel from the East side of heaven. He sold it to Amazon studios, totally nuts. He's selling out comedy clubs in LA he's co-writing and developing. He's got a sitcom with Eva Longoria, pretty cool stuff. Then on the Jay Leno show featured on, I don't even know how to pronounce this by the way, I should probably figure it out, but he's been on TV. He's been on HBO.

Jon Vroman ([01:34](#)):

He's been all over. I've watched his YouTube videos, they're hysterical, but one of the cool things, and one of the reasons I wanted to talk to Eric is that he's talking about race and marriage and Latino culture and life as an American, who is Puerto Rican and half Guatemalan. And so all of that was really interesting to me. And especially a guy who's been on the road still spends time on the road. Well, maybe not as much right now, but he loves being a dad wants to take care of his kids and has a lot to say about the subject. So Eric, welcome to the show, man. Thanks for having me. And by the way, we have to say it's an adult animated show. [inaudible]

Jon Vroman ([02:10](#)):

thanks for the clarification for sure. That's awesome, man. Congrats on the success. I have friends that are comedians and I know it's not an easy business to break into, you know, it's interesting, man. I've lots and lots of questions to ask you about it, but uh, yeah. Congrats on the success. That is definitely a path to travel. It's been a long path. When did you get into it for like 15 years now? Wow. And uh, yeah, I started back in New York when I was in college, a young guy having fun and they didn't have any kind of responsibilities. I could totally just dive into it and submerge myself in it. And then, uh, you know, life happens. You fall in love, you get married, I've got kids and now it's a different ball game. When was your first show? When did you first take stage and try to make people laugh? What was that?

Erik Rivera ([03:02](#)):

It was an open mic. So with comedy, there's no school. Like you don't go to, you know, a university like, Oh, I'm going to say comedy one Oh one. Like there is none of that. So it's the one art form where it's sink or swim. So, you know, you gotta get up on stage, you gotta try it and you either sink or swim. And I did a, an open mic. I started in New York city. It's like diner called hamburger. Harry's in times square. It's not there anymore, but this was, they used to have a comedy room. So you'd walk into the diner. And in the back they have like a little storage area with chairs and stuff. They would just set it up and do

a comedy show. Like that was the coolest thing about New York city. Like if you had a spare room, you can make it whatever you wanted. And I remember jumping up on stage and getting labs and right there I was hooked. I was like, this is what I'm going to do with the rest of my life.

Jon Vroman ([03:46](#)):

That's cool, man. Do you remember as a kid being funny, like, was it, did it come naturally to you or were you kind of an entertainer and pulling it the spotlight

Erik Rivera ([03:52](#)):

Right now? I wish I could be like, Oh, I knew from the age of five now when you have immigrant parents, like their whole goal is to get to this country, work their butts off and give you a better life. Like that was my mom every day. Like, listen, I, I worked all these crappy jobs and you're going to be a doctor or you're going to be a lawyer. Like those are the only two options I had.

Jon Vroman ([04:14](#)):

All right. So I need to know one of your biggest bombs. And I'm asking this because as a speaker, you know, I've had a couple of moments that I just, it was all burning down around me on stage man and one of them, which you'll appreciate Eric. I was told a joke one time and it ended with a punchline that had the F bomb. It had an F word in it. Right. And I was accepting an award for a speech and I really wanted to tell the joke, but I thought if I switched it out and didn't use the curse word, that I would get away with it. And dude not a single person laughed. And that was the day. I knew that I was never going to be a comedian and that comedy wasn't going to be my strength, but I know what it's like to bomb on stage and know what it's like when, you know, when, when it doesn't work, I've lost my place to where I was in the middle of a speech. And I had this voice come into my head. It was like, what would happen if you just lost your place during a speech, like in front of a thousand people. And then that voice got louder and louder and louder. And I, I lost my place. So dude, talk to me about moments. Where do you have anything like that happen to you?

Erik Rivera ([05:21](#)):

Yeah. Well, as a comedian, you bomb, that's the only way you learn. It's almost like, you know, when a kid falls like that, then he knows, Oh, next time I don't do that. And the same thing comes with a company. There's a lot of bombs. Like I don't know when I first started, like I, you know, you'd go do these bar shows or these little open mikes where the audience may not necessarily know there's going to be comedy. And then all of a sudden you're up there and you're, Hey guys, I'm going to do comedy. And they have no desire to hear you. Like I remember when I first started, like there was an open mic I did where I could literally hear the sweat dropping off my head and the stage. That's how quiet it was in there. Like if I don't hear last night, get to hear my breath and other things like it's not going know. And when you first started, you just want to do any kind of show. Like I had a buddy of mine, who's running on an open mic at a gentleman's club. And when I tell you that no body they've got a gentleman called,

Jon Vroman ([06:21](#)):

Oh, that's crazy.

Erik Rivera ([06:24](#)):

I never made it on stage because the host went up and they booed him off. And that was the end of the show. But those things, those experiences help you learn, help you grow with Tufts for, you know, those

moments when you're in front of you have a TV thing or you have a large theater, those things have made you tough and you're you're ready for any situation.

Jon Vroman ([06:43](#)):

What does that look like to have tough skin? Right? Cause I, I wonder how much of it is you just getting better and not getting as many boos or bombs and how much of it is the survival in that game is the thick skin.

Erik Rivera ([06:56](#)):

I think like for somebody who's been doing it, like I've been doing it 15 years now. So if I can get on stage and I know that the crowd isn't vibing or the crowd isn't reacting the way that they're supposed to be, like, I've done the market research, I've done these jokes. I've told these stories numerous times. Like everybody always thinks that like a community is just coming off the top of his head. It's our job to make it look that way. But in reality, we've been telling these stories and tinkering with these stories on the road. So like, Oh, let me move this word here. Let me move this way. It works better if I do this punchline as opposed to that punch line. So now I'm at a point where if I get them on stage and that audience isn't giving me what I think it deserves, I don't go into what a newer comic would go into. It's sort of like survival mode of panicking and then quickly losing material because I'm just trying to find something I'm not sweating it. Like I can take that step back and let the audience know. No, no, this is on you guys.

Jon Vroman ([08:00](#)):

I've told this joke a thousand times, you're the only audience that hasn't laughed. You gotta check yourself.

Erik Rivera ([08:04](#)):

Yeah. I've told you. I was like, I know

Jon Vroman ([08:11](#)):

That's funny. That's funny. That's funny. I love this conversation, man, because I have so many touch points in my own life about being on stages. And I feel that how much of the stage life do you pull into parenting? If I get right into dad life, right? How much of being on the road and standing on these stages has prepared you for fatherhood?

Erik Rivera ([08:32](#)):

Well, for me, cause there, there is the performance aspect of that. I like, I try to help my kids not be shy. I try to help them be able to not, not to perform like I'm not Joe Jackson, Jackson, five, like you guys are gonna perform, but in a sense of being able to be vocal, like, you know, how do you do that? It's funny because kids do have different personalities. Like I think when you first have kids, you don't realize that you're just like, Oh the kid, like now what do I do? And you go with as much flow as you can and try to think about you're the parent that you had. And, but like I have two boys and they're both super different. My lowest one, super social, super vocal, likes to talk to people on the street and hi, how are you?

Erik Rivera ([09:12](#)):

And, and have conversations and not scared of anything. Now the older one, a little more reserved, a little shy, which as a performer, I'm like, no, we have to, you're going to have to speak up, man. So like sometimes, you know, like I know he gets mad at me for it, but like, if there's a situation when I need him to speak up, it's almost like you're going to have to do it. But dad, can't you ask now, man, for you on it, you're going to have to ask, like we, we went to, this was before the lockdown, we went to target and they had like a Lego display and he loves Legos and there was a guy there and he was giving out like free Legos to kids and he really whined. Dan, can you go over there? Nope. I don't want the Legos.

Erik Rivera ([09:52](#)):

Who wants the Legos? You you're going to have to go and ask, talk to them, find out what's going on. See what the Legos are because I do want that to carry on in his life where he's able to speak up for himself and be able to communicate what he wants and what he's, you know, when he's going to do, like, that's never been me. I'm on stage. I'm telling the world all my problems. So I don't want him to go that far, but I do want them to be able to be vocal about what's going on with them.

Erik Rivera ([10:23](#)):

Um, my oldest one now I tried to tell jokes and he just looks at me. He's like, dad, come on the little one. He's four. So for him, anything is funny, you know, uh, if you're a dad and you've got a three, four year old farts are always funny. So for him, it's like hilarious. And how about balancing? What you bring from home onto the stage? Because I know that in the world of comedy, it's really powerful to bring your personal experiences and things that happen at home and in your life. How do you balance that privacy versus opening up and being vulnerable? You definitely want to talk about your life because that's what people gravitate towards. Like, you know, I've got my first specialist called I'm no expert. And this was at the point where, and I'm still trying to figure out life. And you know, I talk about my wife and us expecting our first child.

Erik Rivera ([11:17](#)):

I'd take us through the whole process of even being there at birth and as a dad freaking out and not knowing what's going on and there's, you know, me and my wife do have those conversations. I think in any successful marriage or relationship, you have to communicate, you guys have to be able to know, you know, like w when she got married to me, she knew, this is what I do. I'm going to talk about stuff on stage. So it doesn't come to any surprise to her when I'm like, Hey, I'm gonna talk about delivery. And she will be like, run it by me. What are you saying? Okay, that's cool. I give you a little piece of my life because I'm also trying to help guys out. Cause there's a lot of stuff we don't know going in now. Same thing with Parenthood. Like I there's a lot of stuff happening then I'm just like, I didn't even know this was a thing. And I'm hoping this helps other people out. And it's funny. Cause like, I'll do these, I'll tell these stories. I do get parents come up to like, Oh my God, my kid's doing that too.

Jon Vroman ([12:14](#)):

Yeah, of course. Did you ever, do you ever tell that story that got you in a lot of trouble when you got off stage where you're like, ah, yeah. That's the last time I'll ever tell that one.

Erik Rivera ([12:22](#)):

Yeah, I've done a couple of things, but that's what the road is for you.

Jon Vroman ([12:27](#)):

It's right before the comedy special. That goes on HBO. Yeah. Yeah. That's why you clean it up before then. That's interesting. That's cool.

Erik Rivera ([12:33](#)):

That's what company comes with for like, Hey, when people go in and like, Oh he, wasn't funny tight. That's a guy workshopping stuff at home. I'm at home with the kids during the day and I'll come up with something in my head like, Oh, that's funny. And then it's my job to then go to the comedy club. I'm like, Oh, Hey guys. I thought I had, what do you guys think is honest? And he goes, Oh no, that's not good. So I, it sucks that you get judged on it. Like, there'll be somebody in that crowd, even that funny today. And then they'll later on, see me, like on HBO to like, how do you get a special, like I saw him that Tuesday and he was off.

Jon Vroman ([13:06](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. That's interesting, man. That's so interesting. Yeah. Yeah. I can appreciate that. Let's talk a little bit about questions that you're tired of answering in the spotlight man. And I would imagine you have some fame now. I mean, looking at your social media, like people are following you. And as a guy, who's getting some fame, there's a lot of people who've achieved a great level of success that are part of our audience and that are successful business owners and all that. I'm always curious when I'm interviewing guys like you, because part of our mission is to create a brotherhood, to create guys that can connect and talk to each other. Are there questions that you get that you're tired of answering or are there questions that you wish you would get more often? And that can be personal.

Erik Rivera ([13:46](#)):

I think the thing when you're a comedian, sometimes people don't believe it's all real. So like one of the questions I do get is your wife, your kids, are they real? I didn't make all this up like that argument I have with my wife on stage, that habit I have with my kids that happened. I'm not making this up. Is that common by the way,

Jon Vroman ([14:07](#)):

Most comedians, I mean, where do most comedians fall on that? How much of that is actually for them real and how much is embellished upon a good bit?

Erik Rivera ([14:15](#)):

I've always said there's two types of comedians. There's the people that tell you the stories about their lives. And then there's joke writers. And sometimes those joke writers do go off into like this whole little world and create stuff. So it really depends on who you're watching.

Jon Vroman ([14:28](#)):

Who do you watch? Who cracks you up?

Erik Rivera ([14:31](#)):

Chappelle, I still think is one of the greats. I watched him from the beginning to now, you know, Leguizamo was an early influence with his one man shows when I first started watching comedy, which now that I'm a parent, I'm like, my dad should not have been, let me watch any of those specials. Yeah. Right.

Jon Vroman ([14:53](#)):

Exactly.

Erik Rivera ([14:54](#)):

My oldest, my oldest is age. And now that I watch it now as a parent, you know, when you start watching stuff that you grew up on, you go, Whoa,

Jon Vroman ([15:02](#)):

What were they exactly.

Erik Rivera ([15:07](#)):

I said that with my kid, the other day to watch a Peewee Herman, like that was a big thing. My wife had never seen people hurt, but she's watching. She's like, what's wrong with this guy? This is what you grew up watching. It's like, yeah. I don't know why I love, watch this guy. He's

Jon Vroman ([15:24](#)):

Yeah, exactly. When you look back on your childhood, do you pull from those painful and positive experiences? Does that influence your comedy?

Erik Rivera ([15:34](#)):

Oh, of course. I think it imposes my comedy. Cause you know, I talk about my upbringing and now, you know, looking at it from the scope as a parent, it's, it's, it's funny to see like the things that you thought were the right way of doing things. And now the way I'm doing things, you know, like even parenting, like I remember, I remember one time, this is my kid and my oldest was about like three or four. I was there with my wife and I did something and she was just like, Hey, listen, you really got to work on your parenting style. You can't just do the opposite of what your dad did.

Jon Vroman ([16:07](#)):

It's interesting. What for you were some of those specific like warnings and examples, like when you look back on your childhood and you're like, man, I'm going to pull that forward. I'm going to repeat that. Cause that's good. And then what do you look at and go, I'm doing the exact opposite of that because that was horrible.

Erik Rivera ([16:22](#)):

Well, I, you know, I, I don't want to be the cliché. Like I used to get spanked when I was a kid and it's so funny. It's like, you know, you start reading these books and then you have kids and you start talking to them, you realize that they are smart. They understand what's going on. Like, and if you can communicate their feelings and get them through whatever's going on, it's like, Oh wow, wait, why didn't my parents ever talk to me, saved me so many of those other little punishments and whatnot. But it's definitely one of those things where I was just like, I, I wanted to make that difference. I've always believed that after reading all these books and you know, even, even going to therapy, it's like, that's something that was frowned upon. And culturally with us, it's like, you don't, you don't go to therapy.

Erik Rivera ([17:01](#)):

But in through therapy, I learned, you know, with relationships, communication is key and which sounds ridiculous. Like, Oh, everybody knows that, but you don't realize how little you do it or not do it. Like my father and mother, I don't ever remember them having long conversations on the couch or hold on, we're talking right now, son. They barely communicate. So what happens is, as a kid, you watch that and you start repeating that cycle. So you have to make that conscious effort of going, Oh, I don't want to do that. So like going to therapy, I learned, Oh, I didn't know how to communicate like me, my wife, first couple of years, we were butting heads and stuff. And it was her constantly yelling. Like you don't communicate. And in my head I'm like, yeah, dude, my old man barely spoke. I at least give you five words. Like, are you talking about? Yeah. So just learning those tools that I didn't have. And I'm hoping now me being that example to my kids, like, I'll pass that forward and they'll repeat that cycle instead of the cycle that, you know, I was passed down and I broke. When you looked at the last year of your life,

Jon Vroman ([18:07](#)):

You think you've done that. You're really proud of like what adjustment or correction or implemented idea strategy, et cetera that you've done in the last year as a dad. That's

Erik Rivera ([18:15](#)):

What are you proud of? I try to tell them every day and encourage them to, you know, encourage them to try new things, which as a kid, I, you know, the rule of thumb was, I was like, Hey, shut up, goes in the corner. Don't do that. And with the kids, like I try to let them explore stuff. Like, you know, there's this thing I saw on this MIMA where I, it wasn't a meme. It was a video of this guy. Uh, he talked about, he sees this kid, who's about to jump in a puddle and his parent calls him, like, don't do that. Right. And he just talks about how, what that kid would have learned by splashing in that puddle gravity, and just the way water were. And it was like this whole thing where it's like, yeah, that's, that's all the kids are trying to do. They're trying to figure stuff out. And I try to, you know, nurture that. Like I try to help them so that they can find those things. Like, dude, my mother made me take piano classes for seven years. I hated piano. And I hope I'm not upsetting the pianist community. I just didn't like it. That was not my thing. But I remember her just everyday would sit me down at the piano for an hour after practice hated. My cousin would always joke. Like you could see the keys have tear stains on them.

Erik Rivera ([19:34](#)):

And for me, I said, I'm not going to do that. So for me, it's like, I try to nurture them and help them find what they do. Love. Find those passions. I'm not going to force my kid to play baseball. He doesn't want to play baseball. I've got one kid who clearly love sports. Like he's, he's my little bruiser. He runs around he'll he'll pick up a ball, throw it. He'll knock people over. And he loves sports. That's his thing. My other kid, he's more creative. He likes art. So why not? Hey, if that's what you love, let's take our classes. Let's Oh, you want to, if he wants to play guitar, let's let's play guitar. Do you want to take Lego classes and science classes let's do that. And instead of forcing him to go, no, no, no, no. I grew up watching basketball. You're going to play basketball and him hating it. So like, that's one of the things that I love that me and my wife we're on the same page about, I was like, Oh look, can we help them explore? And what are their passions? And we can help cultivate that.

Jon Vroman ([20:29](#)):

What's up guys. I want to take a quick break to talk to you about our private mastermind that we call the brotherhood. Now we created this unique community for a very specific type of man. And you may just

have found your tribe if you believe in the power of relationships. And perhaps you're always trying to out-give everyone around you, you crave ideas that make you effective and efficient in all areas. Life you

Erik Rivera ([20:48](#)):

Resonate with the idea of being a family man with a business, not a businessman with a family, by joining our brotherhood, you'll have access to weekly interactive training calls get to join as many or as few as you like. Our guys commit to one of these each month, optional, small groups designed to create meaningful connections and higher accountability, a private resource library accessible to only our members. And we have challenges throughout the year to help you push your limits. And we even involve your family in a few of them, the brotherhood is where I'm connecting every day. I'm asking questions when I need help and giving support wherever I can. Our brotherhood was created for men with wisdom, but also those who are wise enough to know there's more to learn. And the guys who value investing time to work on their families so they can make the best of their time when they are with their families.

Erik Rivera ([21:29](#)):

Now, of course, you're a badass. You can do a lot on your own. You likely have for many years and yeah, you probably don't need front row dads to have a great family to love on your kids and have a great relationship. But one thing I know for certain is that men for years have done better in tribes versus trying to brave the world in their own. Here's what one of our members has to say about the brotherhood, the message of what you're doing. And putting out there resonated with me at such a high level. I knew I had to be a part of it. And because I didn't know that this existed, I didn't know that front row dads was there and that community existed in that way. I mean, family men with businesses, not men with families that changed everything. That one line shifted my entire thought on what your, about what this community is about, what this brotherhood is about and what this group is about.

Erik Rivera ([22:15](#)):

And I would say, if you are a dad or an entrepreneur or a father or a husband, and that resonates with you, this is a great community to be a part of because it's unlike anything else that I've seen have. We want our kids to have great relationships and learn from others. We should lead the way and model the behavior we want to pass along. Hey, look, guys, the time is now to pour into your family. I read an article by Tim Urban that put everything into perspective for me, but how important it is for me to get parenting. Right, right now he wrote that 93% of all the time he'd ever spent with his mom and dad happened before he was 18 years old. And it's crazy to think that I've got only eight more years before my oldest son is an adult. I feel confident saying that, no matter how old your kids are, the time to go all in on your family is right now.

Erik Rivera ([23:00](#)):

We have members with newborns and we've got guys with kids that are grown adults members with only one child and guys with 10 people with blended families and everything in between. But by joining our brotherhood and choosing to invest one to two hours each month, we can help you make the most of your time that you do have with your kids. So no matter how great you are at fatherhood, marriage, juggling your work and your personal life calendar, we can help you be better. If you're ready to take the next step, go to [frontrowdads.com](#) and click join the brotherhood today. And do you find that they do, they naturally gravitate them towards stuff because, and I asked that it's kind of a loaded question

because I'm coming at it with some baggage and also some questions from our community, which is guys have said. Yeah. When I don't tell my kid what to, and I don't tell him, you have

Jon Vroman ([23:46](#)):

To go take piano lessons or whatever. My kids don't want to do anything. They just lounge around and complain, you know? And so there's a moment when you've heard people tell stories about how they were like, Nope, you're doing this. And then the kids later are like, thank you so much for pushing hands. And there's like the opposite side of that story too. So I'm just wondering how that shows up. Like it's a beautiful philosophy, right? Allowing them to pick their path and nurturing the thing that they're passionate about. But are, is there a dark side of that for you guys? Are there moments of frustration where you're like, I'm giving them all these choices, but they're not stepping up or is it just like, yeah. Tell me about how that plays out in your home and are there moments when you're like, no, you are going to do that because that's the right thing to do.

Erik Rivera ([24:26](#)):

I think right now we've been blessed that they're young enough that they haven't hit us with a, I don't want to do that seven and four. They're still at the age of like, Oh, I'm curious about that. Cool taking classes. You know, we're going to do the class for this many times and whatever. So luckily we haven't been hit with that. I think, you know, once we get to that, like there has to be some kind of drill line drawn in the sand. Like if let's say he starts taking karate and all of a sudden, Oh, I hate karate. You sort of not making it like, boom, you got to do it. And you're going to hate me for it. But sort of, you know, keeping him on that path of like, Hey man, you gotta do this. And these are the reasons why, but I'll tell you once we get there, man, cause right now, so far, what are the laws? Are they listen,

Jon Vroman ([25:11](#)):

Any parenting advice when you were, had kids on the way, or you had kids that, you know, when you're one or two or whatever, where now you look back and go, that was good advice. They were spot on. They said something that turned out to be true. Anything like that?

Erik Rivera ([25:24](#)):

No, there wasn't anything. Cause like, you know, my mother's advice was always like just off the wall. Like it wasn't even like legit medical advice or anything. It's just like, Oh, he's sick. You gotta run. You gotta rub a lemon on his back. Like, wait, what?

Jon Vroman ([25:40](#)):

I

Erik Rivera ([25:43](#)):

Both, both sets of parents always tried to help. But I think like with time, you know, you find that because we would read these books and stuff and we find that what they knew had been changed by the time we got there, like, you know, even just as little as like, Oh, you gotta let them sleep on his stomach. And then you read the books like, Oh no, no, no, no, let him sleep on their stomach on their back or whatever. You know what I'm saying? So we would always take every piece of advice with a grain of salt because also every kid is different. Like we went to mommy and me classes, you know, you'd hear the horror stories of sleeping. And our first kid slept like a champ within the first couple of weeks, he was sleeping six, seven hours straight. And we're like, Oh wow. We lucked out. We hear the

horror stories will be cocky, baby. And this, that and the other. And it just like, Oh now what do I do? You know, every kid is different, you know, you know, you never know what you're gonna get. Like the biggest myth I think is like the terrible twos. Twos were great for us. Right? Like three, four, not so much. Cause then they start having their own little.

Jon Vroman ([26:41](#)):

Yeah. Hey, you told me about the terrible twos. Nobody informed me of the fucked up fours. Oh man. That's so funny. That's so funny. Uh, what do you hope for this year, man? What's in store for you. And when you look ahead, like we've got this changed world,

Erik Rivera ([26:59](#)):

I'd imagine that your travel schedule has changed in the near future. Traveling is not happening. Comedy clubs really opening up, like there's some that are attempting to, but I'm gonna take it like when a new iPhone comes out, I'm not going to go buy right now. I want to see what the bugs are. First. I want to see the problems with it first and then go out and get the next model. So travel is off the books for me. And luckily I've been, I've been blessed with having these projects. You know, the Amazon show, I've been writing that script and working with Eva, developing that script. I just started working on this kid's animated show idea. So I'm busy, which is good. I'm busy at home, which is good. So now I don't have to travel as far as the near future. Again, I don't know when comedy clubs is going to open up.

Erik Rivera ([27:54](#)):

I'd love to start getting back out there and working on the next special, but we'll see when that happens. And as far as school we've already been notified, we're starting homeschool. So we started moving stuff around the house to sort of set up a classroom. Cause we want to be able to give them some kind of routine or some kind of normalcy to all of this. It just been, you know, playing it by ear. Cause there is, there's no guidebook for this. No one saw this comment. No one's set up. Hey Corona, raising kids, guidebook. It hasn't been and there's not. So I think we're all just playing it by ear and trying to figure it out. How are you and your wife,

Jon Vroman ([28:35](#)):

The lead on that is that mostly her camp. Are you involved in that? Are you guys deciding collectively what type of education they're doing or are they enrolled in a school? That's basically handing you.

Erik Rivera ([28:46](#)):

So my, my oldest son he's in elementary school. So they're going to be, they've already set up, they're setting up this online curriculum now where he's got to take online classes and then they send the work over. Uh, we just, we have to go buy a Chromebook so that he's ready for class, the little one he's still in preschool. So we're pretty much figuring out what he needs to know at this age letters, colors, numbers, and we're setting all that up. And my wife is one of those people she loves to. Over-prepare like, she's that person, when you go on vacation, you're like, Oh man, we're going to lay around and Oh, maybe we'll go explore. She's like, no, no, here's the itinerary. This is what we're doing. Isn't that fun? She's at home full time. She's been her job. Luckily, you know, set her up here at home and she's been working from home. I've been working from home and it's a lot, man. We're always around.

Jon Vroman ([29:37](#)):

That's right. Tell me about that, man. What structures you put in place that has allowed that to work successfully? Because we're bumping up against that right now. And my wife had a really difficult week this week because the gym was, she thrives on going to the gym and getting these workouts in. Now you've got a schedule. They don't have as many spots. You've got to wear a mask while you're working out. Like all these things are disrupting and she feels really disrupted by going out in public and people looking at you like you're the virus, you know? And like all she's an empath. So she's feeling all that energy and it's really, and then the kids are here and our friends are out of town and God, you know what I mean? That's a lot, dude. How are you guys doing it?

Erik Rivera ([30:17](#)):

We set up a, we got this little backroom that we set up as an office for her. So she can, again, trying to find our version of normal, where she can go and work and sort of disconnect from the house. So when she's done, she can come back into the house and feel like it's a different environment. And I think that's, I think that's the hardest thing. And I feel, I feel for people that don't have the luxury of having a separate room to disconnect because I do most of my work here at the dining room table. So I'm at the dining room table. Like I'm home. The kids are here. Like it's a lot to try to process and do one thing and not be distracted by all these things. But for her she's, you know, lovely, boom. She's got that little back office.

Erik Rivera ([30:54](#)):

We're trying to, again, set up a classroom for the boys to sort of, I guess almost like a container store thing. Like have different compartments of the school time. This is work time. This is our time. You know, we try to do workouts at home. I'd get up at six 30 in the morning and I go for runs. Cause that's the only time I know I'll be able to do that because while she's at work, I'm watching the boys. And then two weeks ago we took a, like a mini vacation. Cause it was one of those things where I feel bad for the boys. You don't realize, and we don't know what effects is going to have on kids yet, but we've disrupted their whole schedule. Like they were at school now they're here and now summer vacation is here and now guess what? We're going to start school in a couple of weeks and it's here again.

Erik Rivera ([31:36](#)):

So like we went to Palm Springs, which is like an hour and a half from us. We found this little house that's been sanitized and we went and sort of gave them like a, a little recent and you know what, me and my wife, we needed that reset to cause you go crazy being at home. Like it really challenging relationships. Like my wife used to go to work, come home dinner, be on table and we'd be able to talk. How was your day now? You don't have those conversations about like, how was your day? You saw me

Jon Vroman ([32:05](#)):

Exactly what the hell I was doing. Yeah.

Erik Rivera ([32:07](#)):

Watch me, watch me all day. You know?

Jon Vroman ([32:13](#)):

Uh, yes man. Exactly. Yes. Yeah. And being a writer you're with your kids, you're in the, I did, how much do you need to be in flow with that and how you deal with interruptions and does that make you furious? Like well, does it knock you off your game?

Erik Rivera ([32:30](#)):

It does it, uh, you know, I find the right times to do it. Like so in the morning I'd go for my runs. I tell my wife, like the running is more than just physical for me. It's my data. Get the engine going and start clearing up ideas because I can't pitch the idea for the kids. One of the shows, an adult animated show, I can't be like, Hey son, about this, how do you bounce off ideas when you're writing and you don't have the comedy club estimate, they get you're writing something. You're like, how do I know if that's good? Where do you, what do you pass it? A lot of it, you know, I'll bounce it off of my wife at the time I tell her something and she gives me the look of like, what's wrong with him? Like, Oh, there's something there.

Erik Rivera ([33:13](#)):

And you know, luckily the comedy community, like we all know each other and we're friends, it's easy to call up a comedy friend. Like, Hey man, what do you think about this? Do you think there's something there and they help you workshop it? Of course it's not the same as having an audience to give you the reaction to it. But at least trying to stay active of working that muscle. Cause I think that's every comic fear right now is like, wait, this is the longest anybody's been off stage. Like even if you go on vacation with your family, like maybe what two weeks, but now like I haven't been on stage since March. Right? That's a long layoff. So it's gonna be a lot of ring rust. There's going to be enlisted with people watching and listening to this. If you go to a conference of right after, give them some Slack.

Erik Rivera ([34:01](#)):

Exactly. Do you have like a best friend in the comedy space that you call on? Who's your go to? Who's your first phone call? Oh, actually it's funny. It's my buddy mouth hall. Me and him. We did like this college tour together through NBC and now, uh, we actually do a live stream called father's day. Cause he's a, he's a new dad too. Like he just gets something, just turn one. And then me with the two kids and we have like other comedian dads come on. And we, you know, we just talked to ed stuff. Like whether it's stuff happening down the line down or whatever it is like, same thing. We don't know who to turn to for advice. So we just talk it out and see if we can't come up with some kind of some kind of advice, you know? Yeah. Speaking of that, what's a question that you're wrestling with now. What do you want advice on? Well, the latest topic was, uh, my, so we have some kids on the block, you know, we've sort of expanded our bubble a little bit because you know, it's hard to tell a kid not to socialize for so long after all we're supposed to teach them like socialize.

Erik Rivera ([35:04](#)):

Yeah. So we had an incident where the kids showed each other, their privates and I was just like, wow. I thought I had more time. Not also not to mention the way I grew up. We grew up very Pentecostal Christian. We were very strict. My mother was very strict, very religious. I don't think I got the birds and bees talk though, like 20. Like, and even then it was very, it was very basic. It wasn't like, Oh the birds do this. And bees do that. It was like, Hey, that's what the birds do. You don't do it. Right. And I was like, okay. So anyways, tell me, they said best place to have the birds.

Jon Vroman ([35:38](#)):

And the bees talk is at the zoo. You know,

Speaker 3 ([35:42](#)):

See what's going on over there.

Jon Vroman ([35:43](#)):

Yeah. Let's talk about that. That's funny. Yeah. I totally get it man. And totally developmentally appropriate. I think there's a, my opinion on that is that parents respond in one of two ways. One is like, Hey, that's kind of normal, but here's what you're allowed to do. Here's what you're not allowed to do. And then the other one is to freak the fuck out on your kids. And that does not work. That is not good. I've seen it happen by the way, seen it happen. I've seen somebody where two boys were taking a leak on the side of the building and they were done taking a leak on the side of the building. This is like a neighborhood type thing. Right. And one of the moms saw her, he came back and the kids were like, Oh, we were just all peeing on the side of the building. And she grabbed her son in front of everybody. And she's like, you showed your penis in front of other people. I was like, wow, that's going to be a lot of therapy at some point down the road because yeah. It's just, I mean, I think it just makes sense. It's like kids are, you know, it's interesting all these PPS and butts and boobies that we cover up and we try to make hidden. It's like, how do you get kids interested in something?

Speaker 3 ([36:51](#)):

Tell him it. Right.

Jon Vroman ([36:52](#)):

It's fascinating, man. It's a really interesting thing. So yeah, luckily we didn't freak out and I was like, are you mad? I was like, no, man, I'm still still processing. I'm like, Hey. And then I can play off of that. Yeah. You tell me I had the same chat by the way, on a big hike with my son. And he just asked me questions and I just answered them very matter of factly. And it was really a positive conversation. But once somebody else gave me advice, one time I thought was really great. Is that the birds and the bees, isn't one talk. It's many talks. That's an ongoing series of messages that show up at the time that it's appropriate to have that dialogue. And I think that also as parents, we need to know our kids well enough to know when to have that chat and be plugged in enough to know when those types of things happen. So perhaps do you, man, for just being, you know, the type of pair also that kids would tell you that kind of stuff, or that you'd be plugged into the community. So you know, that type of stuff so that you can be supportive. It's awesome. And it's funny. Cause like right away, you'll think dirty if an adult, if you and I show on the dirt, man,

Speaker 3 ([38:24](#)):

It's a whole different conversation.

Jon Vroman ([38:26](#)):

It's an innocence. That's why parents freak out. They're like, Oh my God, they're just yeah.

Erik Rivera ([38:36](#)):

Taking that whole, like what do you know? And then I'm gonna go from there before I start teaching your stuff. You shouldn't know. But yeah. Have those conversations and, and not be scared of it.

Jon Vroman ([38:45](#)):

This has been a lot of fun. I want to, I want to point people to your new show on HBO max, man, can you give a little plug for that? Tell us about it. Give us a little teaser. Why do we want to go watch?

Erik Rivera ([38:55](#)):

Yeah. It's, it's called super white. It's my, uh, it's my ode of being Latin in this country. You know, everybody always thinks of the stereotypical of like, Oh, this is what it is. No, no, no. I'm a guy who married a white woman. I live in the suburbs. I go to whole foods and you know, and I talk about all that. And then I talk about my kids. Like, yo, you're going to get a dose of parenting. My last story that I tell is actually exactly what we were just talking about. This whole thing, where I got a call from the school that my son had touched into the little boy's privates and you get to see my whole reaction and I have a whole conversation with the other bed. So go enjoy that. And I don't want to give away too much, but that's the, that's the other reason I don't freak out when my kids do something because I'm like, how can I tell that on stage?

Jon Vroman ([39:40](#)):

Thank you for the material. Thank you for contributing to the family and gum. No, that's cool. I'm really excited for you. And again, as we kind of started this off, man, like building a business, taking the stage, growing a brand, being a creative and not only is that just an incredible journey for yourself, man, that I honor as a fellow entrepreneur and a business owner, but also I think it's wonderful that your kids have a dad. Who's courageous to take the stage and, uh, is, is sharing his voice and opening up and willing to take those failures in the clubs to test out the jokes. And it's really awesome, man. I tip my hat.

Erik Rivera ([40:18](#)):

Thank you, man. Thank you. It was, it's definitely been a journey and I'm glad my kids are watching it cause you know, not to get too deep at the end here, but growing up, my father and my uncle would always sit around and have a couple drinks. And it was always the, I remember them telling stories of, Oh, I could have been blank if only I had done this, I could have been blessed. So that was like the major force for me to do comedy. It was like, I'm going to do this to the very end. Like even I still have conversation. My wife's like, Oh, so when do you think you're going to retire? Retire? I'm doing this until the end. Like this is, there's no retiring. Now. I got, you know, cause at the end of day I want my kids to be able to look back and go, Hey dad, that really went for that dream. And either succeeded or failed, but either way he kept, he kept the course.

Jon Vroman ([41:02](#)):

Yeah. Well I hope everybody checks it out. Anything else you want to say, man, you can have the final words. The floor is yours. Anything we didn't get to today that you want the everybody out there listening to now?

Erik Rivera ([41:12](#)):

No, just go watch the special on HBO. Max. I also have a bunch of content on YouTube that I've been doing during the lockdown. Just my way of keeping the creative process going. It's not necessarily standing up, but trying to entertain people that are stuck at home.

Jon Vroman ([41:27](#)):

Yeah. Thanks buddy. Well, I appreciate you being here, Eric guys. Check him out. Eric Rivera, super white currently streaming on HBO. Enjoy subscribe to his channel. Man. Give him some likes and thumbs up and spread the word. Eric, take care of your brother. Take it man. Hey guys, thanks for listening to the show. And if you enjoyed this one, consider what other dad out there would enjoy it. Also in pass this episode along and guys make sure you're subscribed to the podcast so that you get notified whenever

release the latest episodes. And if you could, would you leave us a quick review if you haven't already done so. And if you have thanks because not only do I read every one, but tons of other people are reading them too. In the more of those reviews we have and the better they are, the more chance we have to get other guys to say yes to checking this out and we can help them in their journey to fatherhood and having a great marriage and just kicking ass family life.

Jon Vroman ([42:14](#)):

And also before we go, would you like to get a short, weekly email with a timely insight? And every Thursday I send out this super short three minute read with a personal photo from my own experiences as I try to go all in on family life. So if you want to get some recent relevant and real stories of my failures and the few of my wins, then text front row dads to (314) 665-1767. And you'll get our weekly insights email last on the list. Guys, if you're still looking at whether or not you should join the brotherhood, then uh, I want to leave you with a few comments from guys who are part of our tribe and here's what they have to say about why they join, what value they're getting out of our brotherhood. So if you're ready to say yes, just go to front road, ads.com and click join the brotherhood.

Jon Vroman ([42:58](#)):

I'm super grateful. I was just at an event and I wore my front row dad's hat. I can't tell you how many people ask me, like, what's that all about? And it's just so easy for me to talk about it because it's had such a big impact on me. It's a group that I've been looking for for a long time and I love what you're all about. And I'm really grateful that you created a group. I think there's this whole other level that is there. That's like Epic that you can reach. If you're listening to this, you already care about your family and your kids and your wife and growing. So I just challenge everyone. That's hearing this to take it to the next level, whether that's joining this group or some other group, but just take it to the next level to take your family to the next level.

Speaker 4 ([43:47](#)):

[inaudible].