



RECENT NEWS

SERIES: Backstage At 'Boot Camp - A Closer Look At Radio's Next Generation Of Stars

THE MOUTH, AUGUST 31ST, 2021 — In our latest installment of 'Backstage At 'Boot Camp' where we take a closer look at some of radio's up and coming personalities, our spotlight today lands on **Audrey Drake** (shown left) cohost of the Compass Media Syndicated **Dave & Mahoney Show** (below right) which originates from KXTE-FM Las Vegas. Audrey started radio right out of college in Lexington, KY. She tells us, "Regional Senior Vice President **Michael Jordan** and Program Director **Dennis Dillon** hired me on part time for: nights on WKQQ, middays on both WWTF & WLLK, and as a morning co-host for WJQQ. Yes, I wore many hats as a part timer!"



Audrey adds, "My first big break came when Market Manager **Dan Kearney** and Operations Manager/Program Director **JB King** took a leap of faith and hired me on as a midday talent for KLUC in Las Vegas. During one of our station events I bonded with

Mahoney, on KXTE, over beer and music which lead to me being featured on his Beer for Breakfast Podcast along with Dave. During that time all of us realized we had great on-air chemistry



and the banter was fun and easy- everything you want when working as a team!! A year later, KXTE Program Director **Ross Mahoney** called me into his office to let me know I had landed the third chair position for the Dave and Mahoney Morning Show!!

JL: You come from a radio family (Hubbard's Cat Thomas in Seattle is her Father). At what point did you express an interest in radio?

AD: Radio stations have always felt like home. When we would do school projects on "what I wanted to be when I grew up," mine has always been radio. I have always taken an interest in the happenings behind the microphone (see top right).

JL: Were there shows you liked listening while coming up? Any you consider mentors?

So it's really funny because I can vividly remember getting my first radio in the early 90's and I know that thing for years rarely moved from **Chris and DeeDee** on WZYP in Huntsville, Alabama. This was before the time of ever knowing what anyone looked like on the radio, so I just imagined her being this beautiful rock star of a woman, and thanks to the internet I know that she is just that! I've never had the pleasure of meeting her, but if I did, I would tell her that she had such an influence on me as a kid.

JL: So you join the D&J show, and BAM, you're suddenly in syndication via Compass. How much more has that added to your on and off-air work-load?

AD: It has been one of the coolest experiences watching this show grow. I would say that we implemented ways early to set us up for success later that it feels like a well-oiled machine at this point. What I mean by that is, we are already videoing and live streaming every day for two hours during our show on Twitch. We use that to cut promos for our show for social too which makes it far easier to ensure we have social content for all stations. Our producer, who is just the absolute best, **Ian Schebel**, has a routine down to where the audio is ready to go to our affiliates shortly after the show is done for the day. I'll say this again, Dave, Mahoney, and Ian are fantastic partners to be with and are true professionals that take pride in their product, as do I.

