

SPOTLIGHT ON JB & BEAR

The hosts of **After Market** answer 10 burning questions

By **Sheri Radford**



Join JB (**James Black**, right, the CSE's VP of Listings Development) and Bear (**Barrington Miller**, left, the CSE's Director of Client Listed Services) each week for the **After Market** video podcast on CSE TV. They welcome special guests to discuss the social and business topics impacting our world today. Sometimes funny, sometimes serious, but always entertaining.

What's your favourite topic to discuss on After Market?

Bear (Barrington Miller): Food! It always comes back to food, always. And sports.

JB (James Black): I like the show because it lets us talk about things that impact our business but aren't our business: social issues and the broader business world.

Which celebrity would you love to interview in 2021?

Bear: Kanye West. He knows something that we don't, and I kind of want to hear it. And ET, the Hip Hop Preacher. If you feel down about yourself, this guy just punches you in the belly, picks you up, gives you a kick in the pants, and you are out the door, making stuff happen.

JB: In no particular order: Action Bronson, Dan Bilzerian and RZA. I think Action Bronson is the ultimate entrepreneur.

What's the best movie or TV show about business that you've ever seen?

JB: *The Apprentice*, season 1, or *The Wire*. *The Wire* because the whole construct of "holding your corner" is analogous to every aspect of business, and *The Apprentice* because there are a lot of lessons learned in that.

Bear: *Wall Street*, that defining moment when Michael Douglas says, "Greed is good." The other movie is a holiday classic in my house: *Trading Places*.

What's your favourite book that you haven't actually read?

JB: I love the book *Good to Great*, but I've only ever listened to the audio version.

Bear: I have started *Don Quixote* four times, and each time I'm getting a little further. I have to finish it. I don't know why.

What's the first place you want to visit in the post-pandemic world?

JB: I want to take my oldest son to a football game in Buffalo. It's one of the great experiences, tailgating at Orchard Park.

Bear: Somewhere warm, with a beach. I don't care if it's Miami, Jamaica, Hawaii – I want shorts, I want sun, I want water.

What's been most surprising about working from home?

Bear: How much I like it.

JB: How much of a commodity internet bandwidth is.

What was your first job?

Bear: My first off-the-books job was as a ball boy for the University of Toronto Varsity Blues football team. I got \$5 a game, of which

my brother took a commission, because he was a player. My first real job was in high school, as a gopher for a bond-trading firm on Bay Street.

JB: I was a newspaper delivery guy, and I had over 50 houses on my route. I started that job when I was 12 or 13, and I had it all through high school. Woke up every day at 5:30 in the morning, so there were no late nights for me in high school. It kept me on the straight and narrow.

What was the first thing you saved up your own money to buy?

JB: The first PlayStation.

Bear: G.I. Joe Cobra Rattler. When I got it, it was so rewarding, because I worked to get it.

What piece of financial advice will you give your children?

Bear: Know the value of a dollar. When my kids were little, I'd always tell them the cost of things: This hockey stick cost this much. My son is employed at a grocery store, making minimum wage, working five to 10 hours a week. So, two weeks of work to buy this one hockey stick.

JB: Save early, save often. Understand needs versus wants. And don't underestimate the psychological burden of debt. Know what to be in debt for – basically a house and your primary transportation, if needed.

Who's your hero?

JB: My wife. She holds it all together.

Bear: During COVID, anybody who's managing, and dealing with it, and trying to go forward. And kudos to parents who have little kids! They're the real heroes. **PE**