

DitM – 01 Erika's History_Erika Hedtcke

Transcript of Audio from the Backstory Clip

[DitM - Erika Hedtcke - 01 Ingenuity and the Tools of the Trade.mp3](#)

00:00:04 When I was a child, I was always building something, creating something – whether that was outdoors, indoors, art projects, anything that I got to put my hands on and anything then that could help somebody as well. So I would love to show somebody: ‘Here's a little invention or something that we made or here's a way to make this better,’ but I never had any inkling that eyeballs, like I never had a fascination with that, and so that was something that surprised me as I got older and fell in love with.

00:00:35 I am glad that I got to use everything from being a kid. Everything I learned from my dad, some of the same tools that I worked on cars with my dad on, we use here in the lab, so it kind of comes full circle when you look at that. My boss, who has been training me always says takes a little bit of ‘MacGyverism’ to get through every single patient.

00:00:56 And so we get to use all sorts of different tools I actually use a socket from a wrench kit to paint my eyes on because it allows me to hold the eye in the correct position to be able to paint it in its entirety. We actually use a tea bag infuser to wash off eyes, so that way we don't drop them down the sink. Because [there's] nothing worse than working on an eye all day long. And then it ends up down the drain.

00:01:24 It's really fulfilling to look around your kitchen and I make an eye in a pressure cooker. It's just extraordinary the amount of everyday things that allow us to make something that's so profound in somebody's life.