

20 Questions with Jeff Mortensen



20 Questions with Jeff Mortensen, a former Shumka Dancer who is performing Fritz in Clara's Dream, Edmonton's Ukrainian Nutcracker, Dec. 29 and Dec. 30 at the Northern Jubilee Auditorium. Jeff is also a former So You Think You Can Dance finalist and is now a performer for Disney movies.

1 It's Sunday morning, what are you having for breakfast?

Fresh squeezed orange juice with mushroom and brussel sprout omelet topped with a swirl of sriracha.

2 If you didn't do what you do for a living, what would you be?

I would probably be an optometrist if I didn't dance and choreograph for a living. I went to U of A for a year taking my pre-requisite courses before I left for Cirque in 2007.

3 Who's your hero?

I don't really have a hero. I like to be inspired by the people, places and experiences that are around and happening to me. However, I am constantly learning from my parents.

4 Last book you couldn't put down?

Tina Fey: Bossy Pants audiobook... she is hilarious and a boss!

5 Who was your childhood celebrity crush?

Hahaha. I never had one honestly. I was too busy training to even care what celebrities did. I am the most thankful that I didn't grow up with anything Kardashian.

6 What's playing in your iPod (CD, cassette or eighttrack) right now?

Yes I know what an eight-track is, but what is playing on my phone right now is Panama, Ibeyi, Rhye, Stromae, and Christine and the Queens.

7 If you could see one concert, what would it be?

The Beatles. They influenced an entire generation and continue to inspire today's youth.

8 What's the best thing about Edmonton?

SEASONS!!!! I know winter is eight months long but I miss the seasons so much.

9 What's your weirdest habit?

When I flush the toilet in an airplane I plug my ears.

10 What's your biggest pet peeve?

My mom will love hearing this one because it drove her crazy when I was growing up. I loathe when someone leaves a dirty dish on top of an empty dishwasher.

11 What's your fast-food guilty pleasure?

I feel no guilt at all buying a half-dozen doughnuts from Tim Hortons but it is definitely a great pleasure.

12 What was your most embarrassing moment?

I am a total klutz so I have learned early on to not take myself too seriously. I'm always the first to laugh at myself.

13 Which person, alive or dead, would you like to have dinner with?

I would love to have dinner with both of my Grandmas. I can only image what they think of the show they have been watching over these past years.

14 What's your favourite vacation destination?

I have such good memories of Denmark with my Dad's family. I don't know if vacation is the right word though. I would probably move there. Haha.

15 What is your favourite TV show?

Friends is a go-to. I could watch it all day. (Thank you Netflix) Also Black Mirror is a crazy BBC series on Netflix. You should check it out.

16 What's your dream car?

The Tesla Model S is one of those cars that I want to see in my garage one of these days.

17 If you could have one super power, what would it be?

Teleportation! Hands down. Anywhere in the world or universe in an instant.

18 What's the one thing you haven't done that you'd love to do?

I would love to live in Europe. (Denmark or France)

19 If we're buying, you're having....

A trip to every restaurant featured on Chef's Table on Netflix.

20 What are your words to live by?

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. It is our Light, not our Darkness, that most frightens us." -Marianne Williamson