



Meet Alex Richmond, owner of Quest Adventure Gaming...

1. Describe Your Business:

Quest Adventure Gaming specializes in live action entertainment. “The spearhead of that would be escape rooms,” Alex explained. Escape rooms are themed rooms where a group of people work together to find clues and solve puzzles. Escape rooms originated in China and Japan. Currently, they are very popular in big cities in the US and are gaining in popularity in other areas. For some rooms the goal is to get out of the room, while for others the goal is to complete a series of objectives. Quest Adventure Gaming’s current room falls into the latter category and is built to replicate a space ship.

2. Tell us your story:

Alex has been a high school history teacher for nine years. “In those nine years one of the things I’ve tried to do is a more hands-on approach to teaching,” Alex said. “That has often involved me either hijacking or completely creating various games and simulations. So, it is something that I have done for a long time and I love doing it. I have a pretty strong art and graphic art background, so to put in all the game design and visual elements has been really fun for me. Hopefully that is something that sets us apart from other groups that are like us. The feel of immersion and simulation is one of the things that we have always been about.”

3. What has helped you succeed and gain experience?

“I am hoping that we’re succeeding!” Alex said. “It was a quiet first weekend, but we did have a lot of people come in to ask questions and see what we are about. It was a slow start, but I think we are going to pick up pretty quickly.” As far as gaining experience goes, Alex has been doing live action games for about twelve years in addition to the games he has done in his classroom. “It something I have been doing for a while, and now it is just bringing it to the masses,” he explained. “I also had a lot of help from some great people. My family, certainly. And I had a lot of students who came to help, which was really great. This would not have finished anywhere near our timetable if I hadn’t had quite a lot of help from quite a lot of people.”

4. What inspires you?

Alex said he is always inspired by history. “Particularly the story of history,” he elaborated. “I am always a storyteller. I think that is why I enjoy teaching history. I like building those characters in the sense of what life was like and things like that. That is something I really hope comes across in our various games. It’s not just a series of puzzles. There is actually a fairly elaborate story that is woven through the whole thing. That is really inspired by the historical background that I have. Life has characters and life has plot, and sometimes it doesn’t always go in the right direction.” Alex added that during the process of creating Quest Adventure Gaming he has been very inspired by people in the community. “There have been people in the community that have been such a tremendous help. Whether it’s the Chamber of Commerce or Judy Cherry at SCOPED, there were people who just showed up on my radar and were tremendously helpful in starting all of this out,” he said.

5. What keeps you up at night? What are your challenges?

“What has kept me up at night over the last few weeks has been putting so many hours into getting this all set up,” Alex said. “Now that it is set up I guess what keeps me up at night is just making sure it all translates into becoming part of the community and becoming part of things that people do and want to be a part of.” Now that the business is up and running Alex will be turning his attention to the business and marketing side of things. “I think that is going to be a big challenge. Just explaining to people what we are, what we do, and showing them that they want to be a part of that,” he expounded.

6. What is your favorite local activity?

“It is really great to see how vibrant Watkins Glen can be,” Alex said. “There are so many things to do. My wife and I love to go to GRAFT and just sit and enjoy each other’s company and the company of the people around us. I’m also really close with Travis Durfee who plays with The Sweats, so we’ll go to Rooster Fish or Two Goats and watch them play and have a drink. There are so many different things that are happening in the area.”

7. Is there anything else we should know about you?

“I can be really stubborn about things,” Alex said. “When I say I want to build a space ship in Watkins Glen, then I’m gonna build a space ship.” As for the business, Alex says they are playing it by ear as they figure out how they want to run things. “Currently we are set up almost like a movie theater where there are different ‘showings,’ so to speak,” he explained. “If people want to book ahead they can. If they want to walk in, if the room isn’t full they’re more than welcome to hop in right then.” The escape room is kid-friendly but are not necessarily for kids. People of all ages are welcome, but those under the age of 14 should be accompanied by an adult. Quest Adventure Gaming take bookings online, over the phone, and in person.