



Ceyenne Doroshow at Buckingham Palace, on a visit to London, 2018.

## Stirring the Pot

Ceyenne Doroshow shares her experience developing a supportive relationship with her family, enduring ignorance and discrimination, first meeting another transwoman, learning about hormones, and discovering Miss Major and others who she now calls her moms. Having grown up in a time when there were so few out and proud transwomen in her life, Doroshow explains how she has seen the trans movement progress, without neglecting to mention the fact that her community is pushed out of housing, portrayed inaccurately in the media, and offered short-term solutions (if anything) rather than sustainable employment opportunities and a chance to age with dignity. A longtime transadvocate and New Yorker, Doroshow offers a crucial account of her history in New York City. (Summary: Evan Zavidow)

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CD: Ceyenne Doroshow  
CN: Cyd Nova

CN Hello, do you want to introduce yourself?  
CD Hi, I'm Ceyenne Doroshow.  
CN I'm very excited to be talking to you. My name is Cyd Nova. What pronouns do you go by?  
CD She, her, lady.  
CN [Laughter]. I go by he, him, and I'm really excited to talk to Ceyenne today. Um, she is my mentor and my sister and has told me so many wonderful things about growing up in New York and of her experiences in living in New York as a trans woman in earlier decades. Do you want to talk to me first about where you were born and where you grew up?  
CD I was grown in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Um, then I moved to Bushwick as a child, which was a wonderful and family-oriented place, and scary at the same time.  
CN What year were you born?  
CD I was born in 19-blahblahblah. [Laughter].  
CN [Laughter].  
CD I was born in the '60s, um, the latter of the '60s, in-between.  
CN Yup.  
CD In-between. I'm going [inaudible] a lot of stuff, racial riots and the death of Martin Luther King, and I think it was the death of John F. Kennedy first, but there was a lot of racial stuff going on when I—  
CN What's some of your memories of that time?  
CD I oddly remember some stuff I should have never remembered. I remember a fire from our housing unit as a child, and I wasn't even born yet, but I remember that fire. When I told my parents, they were very surprised that I had that memory but it's been burned in my head. Um, one of my earliest memories of being, I guess, gender different was, um, my first communion. I wore all white. We got dressed at 6:00 in the morning to be on line at the church at 7:00. By 4:00 in the morning, that next day, I was still clean, spotless. By 6:30 communion morning, my brother was completely dirty from head to toe. We both wore white. So it was pretty much an idea that I was going to be a different kind of child.  
CN You knew how to take care of your outfits from a very young age?  
CD From a very young age.  
CN [Laughter].  
CD It was on, it was kind of acknowledgement to me that I could do something. It felt wonderful just keeping that whole entire white outfit still white.

CN And you talked to me before about that you never really came out, that you were—

CD No. I just was. I did not know what I was doing was wrong to my parents. I did not know or what society considers wrong. I was just very, very effeminate from a child. It was nothing that I turned on, nothing that I could turn off. It also was nothing that I saw as different. Everybody else seen it different. I would say my parents were looking at it a whole different way. My mom just recently said, well, you never really came out the closet because you were always you. Which is a fact. I never really changed. I tried the straight thing. I tried to blend in and mesh as a child with society, and it just was that sense of feeling uncomfortable. And it wasn't my uncomfortableness, it was everybody else around me that was uncomfortable with me that made it kind of odd, made it kind of seriously crazy to look at from a child's point of view. It was very confusing.

CN What were some of the ways that people told you you were different?

CD I was either too effeminate or weird. Um, I didn't have the normal sense of play. I didn't want to do things like stand outside in the rain or play football, I just didn't have any value in that kind of thing. And as a child you want to think your child is healthy, you want to send him out to the front yard and go play with the guys, and I would rather sleep with the guys than play with them. It was just something I fancied. It was just something that was in me. I don't think it was something, I hear these horrible stories that people make up about how their change in their life came from you know, rapes and stuff like that, and I totally feel sympathetic for it happening to them. I can't say that it was a horror story. Nothing happened to me. I wasn't raped by an uncle or none of that crazy stuff. I just was. And it was nothing that anybody pushed on me. It was nothing that a neighbor did to me. It was just me.

CN Can you tell me a little bit about being a teenager and when you went from thinking of yourself as just you and effeminate and weird to you know starting to think of yourself as a woman?

CD I think in Catholic school I had a sense of feeling, I wanted the girls' sweaters, I wanted the little plaid skirts, I wanted that uniform. I really thought that they had me in the wrong uniform for some damn reason. But I just wanted that sweater. I wanted that little emblem on my sweater. And of course the guy sweaters didn't come with all of the frills or the ruffles or the [inaudible]. We just had the horrible grey

pants and the sweater and the tie, which was horrible to me. So as a child I used to take little things like my mother's bracelets or her diamond rings, I didn't know what a real diamond was, and I would wear them to school, and of course the school would notice that I have on an unusual amount of jewelry and quite sparkly, and they would call my mom and of course I would get the normal ass-whipping, and the question would always be why? But I never knew why, not until adulthood. So when I first started as a teenager to identify, I think it was about 13 or 14, and I realized that I did not like men's clothing. It just bothered me. It made me feel uncomfortable to house myself in something that I didn't feel comfortable in. And basically that's what I thought of clothing as, housing. It's just to cover up what's inside. And I would take little things and wear them out and of course, never, never in the house. But if I had five minutes out to go out or to go to a party, you could best believe I'm taking something of my mother's and making a wardrobe change on the way. I'm sort of like Wonder Woman in a way because I would leave the house looking very dapper and get to whatever function I was going to looking very elegant, [laughter]. There was no order in how I achieved this until I started getting caught. My failure to I guess launch was I didn't know how to put stuff back where I got it, which would get me busted. Of course because there would be nobody in my house but me and my brother, so who else would play with women's clothes or move them or—it was me. Um, so I think those were the first times when I realized, when I was about 16, 17 I had a boyfriend. And he apparently liked me better when I dressed, because then it was me, and whenever I had to wear boy's attire, he positively would not talk to me. And later on he called me and say I hated that outfit, why did you wear that? And at that time I was like, oh my God, I think he's right. And how do I go about this? How do I spring this on through earth? So I shifted into like, unisex clothing like parachute pants and stuff like that. I got my first pair of Billy Martin pink cowboy boots, which my father hated, but as long as I didn't wear the pink or the purple parachute pants with the pink boots, it was okay. It was the combination of the pink boots and the purple pants would send my father into total chaos. But if I could find a normal pair of jeans and wear the pink boots, he would let me. I can't tell you how many times he's actually thrown those boots out and I went and got them. [Laughter].

CN So that's how you know your parents reacted to you, what about the world around you?

CD The world around me was much different. I found outside to be more acceptable to a trans youth than my own family. I found my own community more of a challenge than my family. I found the GLBT community which at that time was just G L and B, there really wasn't a T connected, to me. Of course I seen—at that time, very few girls that were out and proud and just living their everyday life as a lady. So I didn't have references, I didn't have any focus point to say this is who I patterned myself after, because all I had was my mom and my grandmothers, and that's who I basically am. I am my mother's child, definitely. But it was that sense of my own community had no place for me. Equally said, I needed therapy. Needed Therapy. I remember a psychologist telling me, in his own personal opinion, and he closed the door to tell me this, um, it's not a gay issue. It's a gender issue. And as a teenager I didn't understand what the hell that meant. What

do you mean gender, and he was like, your gender assignment is what's throwing you off, and that's where people are having a problem. Where I had the question okay, so does my community help me, because I'm in-between suicide as a child and running away, the options were becoming thinner and thinner when it was clear I could not stop what was going on with me. It became more volatile for my dad. My mom just totally didn't get it. Um, there were—and it wasn't like I didn't have gay people in my family. I had an uncle that was gay, a great uncle, but again, we had just started accepting gayness in the '60s and '70s. Here it is, a child stuffing into these shoes at a very early age, my mother often referenced why can't you be like your uncle? Your uncle is conservative, he's quiet, he doesn't wear women's clothing. And as a child, how do you say, I don't know why this is happening. I just am. And I'm going to take the ass-whooping because I'm going to do it again, and you're not going to like it again, but I'm going to do it. There was no—I remember going to Gay Men's Health Crisis. They had these groups, these Glenny Groups. And I went to the group and they had a circle of gay and lesbian youth, and they put me and another girl outside of the circle and said if we had anything to offer to raise our hands, but because this was a gay and lesbian group we could not be in the meeting but we could participate. How awful was that? I immediately said okay, I'm about to take another ass-whipping. The school said I have to come here, I don't want to come to this. And so here again I'm shunned from my own community. Um, at this time I started running away. I started running away, I'd rather be on a train than have to go home and face not being me. I'd rather run than not be me. It's a terrible price to pay.

CN When was the first time that you had someone support you around your gender?

CD Oh, I would say—it wasn't my boyfriend for sure. Uh, I would say well into my 20s, well into my 20s I worked for—I was a home health aid, and I worked with a guy that had the virus. Um, he was not doing well at all. Um, very nice guy who was from Broadway who totally got me. Got me from the first day and made no mistakes and said look, you look a little uncomfortable, let's go shopping, and actually took me and bought me a couple of conservative but feminine women's outfits, and outfits that basically wouldn't be able, unless you went into the store to buy it, you wouldn't know that that was women's clothes, you would just think wow, that's pretty. Um, but I guess his line of work on Broadway, he worked in clothing, um, he was able to help me shift into dressing in a more conservative way to protect me. Um, he did tell me, “Oh I know a ton of girls like you, but I see the seriousness and confusion in you. How about me help you through this? You're going to need some help.” So I was able to learn a lot about community through him, and I was also able to learn that I'm accepted. If I hear somebody who didn't really—

CN Okay, okay. Just trying to get the [inaudible].

CD I can't believe it. [inaudible]. It's just what he wanted.

CN Um, so you were talking about, um, the person who, uh, went and took you to buy some outfits, he bought you, um, when was the first time that you met another trans woman?

CD I was in 96 West. It was a little cabaret lounge. Um, I found it through the gay and lesbian—there's this tiny little book of resources, it was like a hidden book that one of my deans actually gave me so that I could have some clarity into—or talk to people. And um, I went to 96 West and I met a young

man named McArthur that introduced me to the guy that, um, the movie *Six Degrees of Separation* is based upon. I met that guy, Demaria. Hung out with him for days. We all believed that he was Harry Belafonte's son. Um, not—Sidney Poitier's son. He was very nice. I don't know whose money he was spending, but they were [inaudible] he was spending a lot of money, and he had colorful people always around him. He was in a loner apartment. Um, we didn't know his whole story, his real story or nothing. Years later I found that out. But he had just a collective group of people, and this one girl um, very beautiful, very, very beautiful, took interest in me, and I was totally floored. I didn't know that she was trans, not until she asked me to give her a hormone shot that I learned, because at that time I found out what hormones were. And I said wait—when she explained I said wait, wait, wait, you're? And she said, I'm just like you, sweetie, with a little fluffing, I'm just like you. And these hormones will help your fluff. And I said, so you're—I'm confused. And she said no, you're—Ty, turn it down. Ty?

TY Yeah?

CD Turn it down. Um, it wasn't that image, it was the image of this woman, this very beautiful woman, coming to ask me for to give her a hormone shot. Well, I had to do the homework because I was confused. So I asked one of the guys, one of the gay guys, why does she need a hormone shot? And he said uh, hello, because she's—at that point, he called her a crossdresser, but that's not what it was. And I called her on it. I said, so you're a crossdresser? And she said no, sweetie, I'm a lady and you're going to be a lady too. And I said how do you know? And she said trust me, I know, and you are well on your way. And she says, I'm going to give you the needle, I'm going to tell you what to do, you do it, and I'll see you in a couple of days and I'll give you a needle. And I said oh my goodness, this is insane. And she said no, it's not insane. Actually, I started out like you. I've been on hormones for 30-something years, and I was like, so you're really? And she says yes, I'm just like you. And she said it is possible. She said that it's not easy, you're not going to have the luck I had. Um, she transitioned while working, which was unheard of at that time, but um, she worked for a magazine, a fairly well-known black magazine as their publicist. And she was indeed a trans woman. I didn't even see it coming. Um, and a lot of our conversations after that day were all surrounded around the sense of community and how separated it is and some of the privileges and some things that weren't [inaudible]. Um, also education was a big part of what she spoke about because my education would lie in jeopardy because of my gender identity. Um, it was rough all the way around the board, and I explained that school basically is a horror story from 8:45 to 3:00. I'm, like, at my worst because I'm living my worst. Um, the persecution alone from the students were unbearable. But to add that to the teacher's ignorance in gender identity was just the worst. It was the worst. And at that time, teachers could say words like faggot and get away with it, so if the teachers could say it, surely kids could. So this was, you know, the regular. I hate to say that this was the norm, it was okay to [inaudible] me because I was not [inaudible].

CN What age did you meet her at?

CD I met her at about 17, 18. 17, 18.

CN And did you stay on hormones then?

CD No. Shortly after that, like a couple of years later, she had

kidney failure and some other real funky stuff going on, and some of that was related to the hormones and that kind of scared me. That kind of scared the shit out of me, and then when we lost her, that just broke me. Here was my savior so to speak, who is now gone, and some of the conversations we had was about hormone abuse and going to the doctor and never over-medicating because it could cause serious problems, and she was a prime example of that. I mean, she was taking her hormones and flying across the world and getting their hormones and combining them, which winded up shutting down her organs. I learned a lot from her though, I learned that I can look for a job and never to give up. Whether they hire me or not. If you don't fight, nobody is going to fight for you. She also told me to find mentors, find people to guide me into a better me, because it's not all necessarily going to happen just by myself. I'm going to need help. And she explained clearly, my parents were not in a place of understanding, so I was going to have to look for outside resources. As far as family, I didn't get that, but I got a family, and she said sweetie, you're going to make another one, and you're going to have to have two in order for this to be complete for you. And it subsequently was the truth. It was the truth. I now realize by having this collective of family, I'm in one of the safest places because I now have the support of my parents and I now have the support of my other family. What more could I ask for? You know, that kind of support that I have to kind of keep coming back, and even at my parents, I had to—one, I had to prove that I can be somebody without you looking at my gender, look at my body of work, look what I've done, and yes, I was a ho. I kind of, and I tell my parents, I could not get a corporate job and be me. Um, or a job. If you're effeminate and you identify as effeminate, sure you could work in retail, but I'm really not a retail person. Sure I could work in a kitchen, but it depends on what capacity. Would I like to work in a sweaty kitchen with a whole bunch of people I don't know? No. So there were things, and then it was a sense of entitlement that I started to feel once I started transitioning and realizing that I'm okay. I'm not batshit, I'm not crazy, and I could self-identify that I'm in a safe place with this, then I can tell the world, I'm okay. Um, I'm not butt naked, I'm not running around. You have freedom to wear whatever you want, but I structured myself sort of like my mom so when I did start to grow into being transgender, my mom started to see reflections of her in me. She was like oh, okay, you remind me of when I was young. And it's those things that give me the reassurance that I'm on the right track, for her to acknowledge that, but for my dad to acknowledge, you remind me of my mother. And it was at my grandmother's funeral and he was like, you are absolutely gorgeous. You blew the church away. You were the perfect lady at this event. And I needed to hear that. I waited 40-something years to hear those words, unfortunately it was my grandmother's funeral, but no time is as good as the present. I took it and ran with it. That made me so happy, the years of fear over my gender identity, especially connected to my dad. This was a way to say, it was a way for him to acknowledge that he'd seen me for what I was that day, and who I am in life, which every now and then he still has butt farts and he'll call me and say, well you know the Lord has told me to tell you a message that you know, things could be better for you. Sweetie, things are not bad for me. I'm okay. I'm okay. But if

you give your life to Christ—I’ve done that too. I don’t know where you get gender identity connects to my salvation. It does not. It does not. If anything, I’ve gotten a little more spiritual because I realized the flaws in our commonality—

Phone: [Alert noise]. New messages received from Justin.

CD And I realized that we, society hates society. Society puts this air of just discrimination and—it’s bad. It’s bad. Oh my [inaudible]—it’s bad when you think you think you’re okay, you think that you have this sense of family that’s right there behind you. Um, and you find out by accident that they’re more concerned about what everybody is thinking, what are the neighbors going to say? And it’s that kind of stuff that calls for, you know, being discluded from family functions or, better yet, me not even wanting to attend. So I would disclude myself after a while because I just [inaudible], I don’t need to go to that, because I didn’t want the persecution that went along with attending, or the—I could see the look of nervousness in my parents face if I played too much, or if I had just a little too much sugar, would she totally fag out, what’s going to happen? So there would always be that air of, I’m watching you. As a child behind all the trauma and everything that was going on surrounded around my gender identity, I used to bedwet when I was little. This lasted up until I ran away. When I ran away, never bedwet again. So I clearly identified bedwetting with my fear of my



Ceyenne Doroshow, Judith Blythe and Jonas Gueterez at the 25th River Fund Anniversary, New York City, 2016.

parents, fear of just anything, because I was so abnormal. Fear, mainly my fear was I’m going to the bathroom to pee, I’m going to sit down and my father is just going to knock the shit out of me, why are you sitting and peeing? But that was just my concept and my process of my gender identity, but those questions always came up though. You said you had to pee and why did you go behind the truck and sit? Because I felt comfortable. How else can I say that? But you can’t really tell a fairly religious person that you’re having these feelings and that you really like the guy next door, and I just—so everything was closeted as far as my self-expressions, I guess. I had to be sheltered or shelter myself in order to protect myself, for something as simple as moving my hand in an effeminate motion I would get slapped. So I realized that this could be bad, [laughter], I’ve got to go, and it was those situations that told me this is not safe. And God help anybody that’s actually having to go through what I’m going through. At that time I felt like I was all alone. I felt even in my community I was alone. Wasn’t

until later in my adult years, in my late 20s, that I got to see the girls, but in a different kind of capacity. I got to see them in a nightclub setting, which they verbally attacked each other non-stop. Maybe it’s a banter, it’s called silly banter, but I didn’t find it silly or playful. I found it harmful and I found that I didn’t want to be a part of that. I didn’t want to sit in this catty free-for-all and be called all out by name because you’re my friend. Um, that just didn’t sit well with me, and I watched it a couple of times happen and I said oh my God, if I was that child I’d be crying. And they’d be oh, you have to have tough skin, it’s not that serious. And I’m like, yeah, for somebody like me this is very serious, and is this what’s going to happen to me? And they just basically went, it depends. Well girl, you’re going to have to start hooking now. So this was some of the advice I was getting.

CN And when you were meeting other women, other trans women and you were getting this advice and you were witnessing these things, can you tell me a little bit about the environment, what year was that, where were you going to, what bars were you going to?

CD It was from the ’70s, the late ’80s, the early—I was sneaking away to Nickel Bar and Sally’s Hideaway—

CN Where are those bars?

CD 42nd, 43rd. Nickel Bar was on 72nd and Amsterdam, and between Amsterdam and Columbus. Um, very tiny hole in the walls. 96 West was a real big cabaret, which is phenomenal. Um, and old school, so I had a sense of learning. Um, and then I went to a place that one of my “suitors” took me to a place called Andre’s, on 125th Street. And the joke about Andre’s is that I got into this beautiful place and I got through the doors and my uncle tapped me on my shoulder. And he said come with me outside, I want to talk to you. Me never questioning what Uncle Andre is doing at Andre’s, but it turns out Uncle Andre was Andre’s, and this was a family secret, nobody told me. I had to find this out on my own. Wow, your uncle owns a gay bar. Well how nice would that have been for me to know this, because maybe I could have met some people more like me. He opened up a world for me. He not only told me that there was a legacy there, that they thought it was better to protect me not to tell me. I said you know what, look what happened anyway, years later, I’m here. So that kind of was something that was meant to happen. It was meant to go down. Um, I’m sure that my father would be surprised if he ever hears this story, he’d be like oh yeah, well—but I think it was a mechanism for them not to let me know and, like a dirty little secret. Your uncle owns a gay bar, which not only was a gay bar, it was one of the oldest bars where they had trans and drag performances. So this was my not only opening up into this, this was like a big showgirl event, and I didn’t even know it existed. So I hung out there a couple of times, needless to say, which led into a whole lot of other stuff.

CN Do you have any stories about any particular times there that you want to share?

CD Oh, that my godfather had a talk with my so-called suitor that night and let him know that I’m his god-baby and screwed me around, which my night ended early because they did not screw me around, he also said get me out of there. They had a curfew of 12:00, at 12:00 you’ve got to be going.

CN [Laughter].

CD Yeah, sick, sick, sick family of mine, but it’s structure. It’s where I come from, it’s what I come from. It’s who—it’s

all of that. If I had to do it again I probably would. Why? Just because they gave me everything I got today, minus a couple of situations I would like to go back and fix. But it opened up the doors to some real conversations and real tears and there was some very bad moments but I would say the good outweighs the bad. Throughout it all, I sheltered myself, even through homelessness. I did that with an air of self-preservation. In order for me to get through this I’m just going to have to tone out and be on my game and protect myself. But the option of going home was not an option. Not that I could see fruitful. Not me. No. Mm-mmm. It was a rough time. It was a rough time crossing over into independence abruptly, because I had to um, I had to do a lot I wasn’t ready for. But at the same time I was ready. I was ready. Because the choice of being suffocated or killed or, I didn’t know how long it would be before my parents either killed me or I killed myself. So by removing myself I was able to help myself.

CN What was your life like after you moved away from your family?

CD Quite colorful. Quite colorful. Um, I went through my ups and downs with homelessness. But I met Flawless Sabrina at Bently’s Nightclub at a Susanne Bosch party, and that was almost 30 years ago, 35 years, and it’s blossomed into one of the greatest mother/daughter relationships I’ve ever had. I can honestly consider to be one of my great mentors, and I only have a few, but the few I have are iconic, and I’m so grateful for that. How many girls get to say that they have, like, three wonderful moms? I honestly couldn’t because all three of them bring something totally different to the table. My mom, [inaudible], Flawless Sabrina, and Miss Major are my three mentors that just changed my life dramatically. Miss Major did it from [inaudible], Flawless kind of the same way. She’d seen a broken ship and she tried to fix it, and she did really good by me. She did really, really good by me.

CN Can you tell me about your relationship with her? What were the ways that you spent time together?

CD I needed rest. She sent me to a masseuse for a weekend. As soon as she met me she could tell I was a little—I needed to change clothes, I needed to shower. She sent me to a masseuse, she sent me back to my mom’s house in Bushwick and tried to have a sit down so we could discuss how to get me back in the house and back in school, which at that time really somebody stepping up, but she did. She did, and for that, my mother could have shot her. My mother didn’t have a clue that was going on. As the years went on my mom realized now who Flawless Sabrina is, she says oh my God, but at that time Flawless took interest in me when nobody would. Nobody would. Nobody could give a damn. And it was those kind of needs—she would take me to art galleries and show culture [inaudible] to me, getting me ready to accept more into my life by building in my mind, building a better me, that was able to teach me how to maneuver through society because I had a sense of, oh, I want to do this, I want to be an artist, I want to be a dancer, I want to be a cook, whatever I want to be. Flawless would say, do it. You’re all brilliant, I love you, do it. I don’t want to hear you fail. I want to hear you did it. And it was that sense I needed. Yeah, I love her. Old gal.

CN [Laughter]. You told me some stories about staying at Our House.

CD Oh lord. So yeah, so Our House is quite the collective. She has aluminum foil ceiling which looks like brass, but it’s actually foil, that my dad actually did, Curtis, actually did the ceiling years ago. From the wear and tear of smoke and cigarette smoke and of course pot smoke, the ceiling is now a beautiful shade of bronze, but what you might think is beauty is really just old age on a ceiling. But it’s picturesque, it’s everything. It’s—those little things and the art and just the bathroom with no door, it’s all of it helped make me a better person. It helped me realize that wow, here’s somebody who probably came up the same way I did, but at a time when it was much harder, but has made it. And I can make it. There’s no challenge too small or too big that I shouldn’t come to terms with because if I can handle it and I’m still here on earth, then I can handle it—

CN Just a second. Okay, it’s still going. Going to hit that cake?

CD Yes—no, no.

CN [Laughter]. Um, you are a writer and a chef and an activist and many, many other things. Can you tell me about um, some of the things that you’ve done in life that you’re most proud of?

CD Ohh, um, I’m proud of a lot that I’ve done, but I could say I’m most proudest of being able to be a part of a community. Um, several communities. I’m proud to be a part of the Riverfront Food Bank because the gift of giving is so powerful. Um, it’s not so much the acknowledgement of what I’m doing, it’s the gratification from being—it’s the hugs from people that don’t even know me, that accept me and are willing to hug me and thank me for something I’m volunteering for, I’m not getting paid for this. And I’m most proud of my book. I’m very proud of my book.

CN Can you talk a little bit about your book?

CD Um, so *Cooking In Heels* is the name of my book, and we wanted it to just be a small memoir, not realizing that this is a chance to teach without actually saying “here’s a lesson for you to learn.” So our first set of e-mails we got back were from people that really enjoyed being a part of our Kickstarter to raise funds because in their eyes they’re seeing this as an educational-based thing. Um, in my eyes I just seen it as a book, I just want to write a book to say I wrote a book. But getting some of these e-mails and actually seeing faces connected to these e-mails was priceless. People, like, literally stopping me on the train crying because they got my book. And I’m totally dumbfounded because, sweetie, why are you crying? [Laughter]. Oh, I have to take a picture with you! I can’t believe this! I have your book, I paid for this. And I’m like, okay, calm down. Calm down. But I don’t know, I guess younger people growing up in this, to see that there are positive role models means everything because it can give them the sense of going on and wanting to stay on. Not so willing to burn out or change. Like I said, we flip flop all over the place. No, I don’t think we flip flop as much as we’ve been pushed all over the place. So we’ve been gentrified, we’ve been pushed aside, we’ve been—we have been pushed all the way down the totem pole as far as people go, as far as humanity go. We are the new slaves, technically. We have went through feminist movements, we have went through slavery, and now here we go through gender identity 101. We’re having to teach society, it’s okay to call me “she.” It’s okay to call him, “him.” And it’s okay for them to identify any fucking way they want, it’s their business. How does it hurt you? It’s just, ugh, that pisses me off because people tend to think that you know,

you have a choice, basically. It's your choice to be the way you are. Life could be much sweeter if you just decided to cut those breasts off and make yourself a regular person. I could be flat-chested and I'm still not going to be regular. It's not going to happen. It has never been in my DNA to be regular. This is as regular as I'm going to be. This is true.

CN This is true. Um, you talked a little bit about Miss Major. How did you first meet her?

CD Oh, I met Major in Vegas at a Deseray Alliance Conference, which is the sex worker's conference. She was the keynote speaker, and I introduced the keynote speaker. Um, not knowing this would connect me and this lady for life. My mom's ex-boyfriend Frank Bebe-Smith was a negotiator in Attica with Miss Major. They both were co-conspirators for the negotiations for Attica. Fast forward years and years and years and years, she wanted to pay tribute and tell his story, and I heard this story and immediately called my mom, and she told me yeah.

CN I remember that.

CD Yeah, told me it was true. It went on from there. We're now lifetime friends and conspirators together, [laughter].

CN You've been doing some traveling with her, um—

CD Yeah.

CN Do you want to talk about something with the movie Major?

CD Um, well, traveling with the movie Major is hilarious. Uh, her in herself, she's a one woman show. So you can expect all of her juiciness and all her loves to come out for the little bit of time you're with her. It's like she has a re-filling button that just keeps her looped in and fabulous, because she handles everything very well. She does.

CN You went to Peru recently.

CD Yeah. Yeah, and that was a shitshow. No, that was hard because they don't have rights. They don't have the rights we have, and you take that away by '12. So that, mm-mmm. Mm-mmm. It wasn't the kind of place I would go if I'm going to have to go on vacation. That's not going to be it. Um, beautiful place in the nice part of town. I mean, you step out of the nice side, [hissing noise]. Devastation like you've never seen it. Um, pipes running across the street for electricity. It's a real shitshow. It's not—[inaudible] no, it's horrible. Peru was horrible. Um, the kids were nice. They were enthusiastic and they wanted to learn. Mm. Hard, hard, hard. It's amazing though, how there's so much progress in this world and we're still at a point in time when we have to do gender identity studies and trainings so society could know how to handle people who have been there forever. Um, but every now and then the language changes and that's what they're at, they're learning ebonics. That's what they're doing. I know. I know. There's going to be a [inaudible], I know. This modern day shit that they're [inaudible]. It's really, I'm not going to say life has come full circle, but it's on its way. It's on its way. And some of the things that they're not willing to give us now like good housing is sure to come. [Inaudible].

CN Hangovers, girl.

CD [Inaudible]. Oh, God.

CN Um, alright. Oh my God, it's still doing it. Alright. Someone is going to do a lot of editing. [Laughter].

CD So trans people in the media in the past decade. So we've gone from images of non-trans people portraying trans people to be the popularity. Um, there are very few roles actually, that actually stars a trans woman as a trans woman, so something said and wrong to be said about that, but we

have positive images, um, Janet Mock, who I absolutely love and adore, who is not so much—she's a journalist. A fabulous journalist, and I guess host of a show. Um, and Laverne Cox, who is in *Orange is the New Black* and some other things. But these are very sheltered images of trans women in the media. And then we fast-forward to Ms. Jenner, who is highly privileged and I would say erring on the side of political and that throws a nasty taste into my mouth altogether, being a trans woman who has struggled for things like surgery and corrective surgery, and struggled to get the help to make me feel like I feel or to make me look like I feel on the inside, to have these miracle cases now come up where it's okay, just anybody can get SRS, um, surgery, but is it coming under the same battlefield that I had to go through? Um, the mental health therapy and all of that. Um—

CN Actually, will you tell me a little bit about your experiences of accessing hormones or accessing surgery?

CD The hormones were not as much of a problem, it was the surgeries. Um, I of course couldn't wait because I was going into a field of work where I felt better with breasts, and I felt like the odd man out without. And um, I suffered because I went and got silicone to fix my problem, which didn't fix my problem at all. It has caused me lots of problems over the years. It's causing me more of a problem to get it removed with dignity and a sense of seriousness because this is serious. A lot of my girlfriends that have went the same route that I have, silicone, now have cancer or have died of cancer. I don't know if it's linked, but clearly there's a linkage here. And how do you present that? Now that you have all of these clinics opening that are giving girls surgery, is it really—why didn't we have this years ago? If progression is supposed to be anything, we should have had this years ago. A lot of people have lost their lives trying to transition on someone's couch, trying to get these surgeries because the desperation of having breasts, of having features the way they want them, was that severe. But people don't see it that way. Society doesn't see oh, you did it because you wanted to be a freak, well you wouldn't know. I did it because I wanted to match. I wanted to feel like I matched. I now today am presently trying to have the silicone removed, and that's a challenge. That's a challenge-challenge. I've had so many appointments with plastic surgeons it's ridiculous. Um, but we're in a new technical age, and now they're willing to give us all of these surgeries that we've been fighting for for almost our whole lives. People have actually lost their lives trying to achieve this. Um, it's sad. It's sad. It's helpful because now girls, younger, can start new and fresh and have everything they ever wanted, but for somebody like me at my age of 50-something, that's already done stuff, that can't be turned around. Um, where was society when I needed that help, when I needed what's going on in society today, I needed 20 years ago, where was society? Where were the medical professionals that were clearly there? Where were they? Was it no interest, or this is a popular thing now, so it's popular to be trans, it's popular to be on television as trans, but how many of us are really on television? How many of us actually get to play us? [Coughs]. Sorry. [Coughs]. *Kinky Boots* was about a trans woman who identified and lived as trans in a part of England or London or somewhere around there, um, but the story on Broadway reads as a crossdresser. The person that fills the shoes is a man, [coughs], not a trans

woman. Um, I identified with Lola. I understood everything that was going on in that movie, including when Lola had to tone it down because she thought it would be good to the eye for her not to go in as Lola. [Coughs]. Which kind of threw the whole staff off. What the hell is going on? What happened? And it showed Lola, oh my God, they'll accept me the way I am. That was a big step in a movie as far as I consider, because it showed now that you don't always have to be on, you don't always have to be on the stage, not every trans woman is a breakdancer. You're not going to find these always talented girls on stage ready to lip synch a song. That's not life and it's not reality. Also there's some wear and tear to that kind of lifestyle itself, there's a lot of burnout. Within our community there is toxic, toxic burnout, just amongst our community. When you branch out into all these other GLBTIA and all of this stuff, it becomes quite confusing. Um, when I fought so long just to be trans. Here we have more to fight for. Um, everything is working in reverse when it should be working for the better. It's still working sort of in reverse.

CN Um, you bring out something that I think is really interesting, which is terminology and how the first trans woman you were introduced to, you know, you were introduced to her as a crossdresser, and how in Lola the narrative is that she's a crossdresser. When did the language change?

CD In the past five years. In the past five years it's become politically correct to use the right terms. We have more gender pronouns now than we've ever had in life. Um, it's all so confusing, but at the same time here is acceptance on crack so to say. We're now just so put off by just the T. We have all these other things going on, um, because it wasn't enough. So in a couple of years I think they're going to tag a couple more definitions or pronouns on, because it's not clear. I'm just finding out how to be me and be comfortable and happy at 50-something in my skin, and this has been about 10, 15 years. What about the girl that's still not comfortable? Um, sure, she can aesthetically change everything, but is she ready mentally to be where she's asking to be? I say that to say that my girlfriend just had the SRS and is so in question of her sexuality now.

Phone: [Ringing]. Call from Justin.

CD Hello? Hi, how are you? What are you doing? [Laughter].

CN So one thing I wanted to talk to you about was you know, what the goals were of your trans family and your trans community in the '80s and '90s and how you think they have come to fruition or not come to fruition today?

CD They've come to fruition today, but um, and that's the sad part: Today. So many of my friends are no longer here that it's almost staggering. I don't go to Gay Pride because it almost breaks my heart that all of these people that I had in my life, and when I say all, there was a point in time where every week I was going to a funeral. Every week I was hearing some horrible, horrible story of girls dying from either silicone or the virus, or—and it all surrounded around ignorance, back in the days when HIV was the most terrible thing you could ever here, it was ignorance that caused people not to get help, not to get medicine. It was ignorance that caused landlords not to house us, period. And that wasn't just on the HIV factor, that was period. And stagnating us as a community. Today there's housing for everything. I mean, housing for you name it, but there's no appropriate housing for my own community. We are forced

either into areas that are high drug traffic, or just high risk period for someone like me. But that's the only place that's acceptable for someone like me, so sure, I live in Richmond Hill of Queens, in a beautiful neighborhood, but when I leave here I might have to live in the Bronx, because that's the only place that's suitable where landlords would take my good money. So here it is again where I'm stuck because I don't know. I don't know, my own people are forced into SROs, horrible, tiny, tight little situations, to live out their days. When did this happen, that we not only downgraded and downsized in life, but we downsize our own people? Um, me being a sex worker, me being trans, me being an advocate, or being a fabulous person, has nothing to do with my ability to live in a nice place. Um, I should be able to since that's what I'm used to. Um, often when people ask me these stories, "Oh, well how were you raised, or was the projects horrible?" I wouldn't know sweetie, because I never lived in a project. But you automatically assume because I'm trans I have lived this really horrible, horrific life, which does not compute. It does not. That's not valid. And where is it written that I had to have this horrible, horrible life? Of course when you throw parenthood into genderism, there's going to be a problem. There's going to be misconceptions all over the place. But when you throw your humanity into trans situations, where's the humanity? Where's the dignity that I would have to live in this horrible place that's stapled, oh that's where all the trans women live now. I don't want to be in that box. I want to be outside the box. I want to live where it's safe. I'm going to live where everybody knows my name, sort of like *Cheers*. I want to live that way throughout life. Life is not all fluff and fairytales and flowers, but there's a sense of want that I have, I don't know about every other girl, I don't know about every other guy. It's what I want that matters. Um, I can say, a lot of my trans sisters that get to come and visit me and get to see this are often blown away, but this is the only way I know how to live. To tell me that I'm going to have to pack up everything and move to an



Melissa Broudo, Ceyenne Doroshow and Essence Revealed at a fundraising event on International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, New York City, 2016.

area that I know is a high risk for me because of my past drug history, you're asking me to go down a road that puts me in harm's way again. And without malice, it's okay, well sweetie, that's what we have for you and that's available. I don't want to see that continue to go on. One of the things I'm totally committed to do is to create something for us,

by us, that’s not connected to them. It’s for us. There’s a reason. There’s a way in. This is our special club, and you can’t—so now, this goes to tell you how screwed up society is. Now it’s sort of acceptable for men to wear skirts. It’s okay. When we’ve had to fight to wear skirts for the longest, now it’s become the “Parisian” thing to do. Sweetie, when? When we just wanted to wear skirts period and it wasn’t acceptable, but now it’s acceptable for men to wear skirts. It’s acceptable for women to be bald-headed when there was a time when it’s just unheard of. Oh, she’s bald. Oh my God, she’s dying! But no, she just got tired of combing her hair. But it became acceptable. It became beauty all over again. It’s the Nubian thing all over again. Oh, Afrocentric. So now that’s acceptable all over again when at one time, no, you perm your hair because your shit is nappy. That whole language has changed. When will that happen for us? When will we have the Clinton Hills or the Park Slopes, or the phenomenal neighborhoods that we’ve been pushed out of, Bushwick that I grew up in? I can’t even afford to rub my feet up in that motherfucker, but this is where I was raised. It’s changed so much, and it’s so much of us missing throughout society because we’re stereotyped to this one kind of way of living. We’re stereotyped to go to support groups for MetroCards, not for a job within the agency, but we need your numbers, we need you to comply because by your numbers, I’m able to pay my staff who gets to go home and live and pay rent in their cushy houses, but we’re getting a MetroCard and sometimes a shitty meal, but this is what’s offered. For how many girls out of these agencies where you so want my girls to go, but you so don’t want to house them, you don’t want to employ them. Where’s the take home in this? You get to take home, but you get our numbers. So at the end of the day sweetie, I want to know, at the end of the day can I come to your home and give you a MetroCard and tell you I’m taking your check?

CN [Laughter].

CD It’s scary, but this is hard. This is hard to see and face, and as the years go on and I get a little older, I get it. Funding, you need the girls, you need the guys, because you need funding. But what are you really doing for them? What are you really, really doing for them? If they go to y’all and they say they need petty cash because they have to pay a deposit that is ridiculous for an apartment, could you help? No. Would you help? No. Would you pass the buck and not even tell the truth about it? No. But you would damn sure use them as much as you can. So I—one of the things I like about San Francisco is the organizations is that it’s a sense of structure in San Francisco when it comes to the girls that you get to see so many of us working within the industry. We’re not just not-for-profits ran by, we’re not-for-profits ran by us. Started by us. That makes sense. That makes more sense to me than a not-for-profit ran by some privileged cisgender woman that’s very, very secure in her job and her roof over her head. But going to all of the trainings for trans people, you’re not trans, sweetie, so why are you there? But you’re benefitting. You’re benefitting coming to all of this stuff. You’re benefitting being at these trainings when it would behoove you to take a trans person with you because this person might actually step up or learn or grow. But you’re not going to do that because if you do that, you’ll actually have to hire a trans person that might have enough training to get by. It’s sad. It’s sad, and I think it’s structurally

wrong. I think it’s morally wrong, and every agency in New York City and around the world needs to be challenged. All these agencies that are for the GLBT needs to hire the GL-BT. Because this is the face I’m going to see on the other end of the counter. And mind you I know it’s a difficult clientele to deal with, but here’s where training comes in hand. If you train them, you won’t set them up for a fall when you put them in these positions. So you put them in positions you know they’re going to fail at, which causes you to what, fire them and get another one. Funding. It’s the funding game. It’s not about improving that person’s quality of life so they can move on to another position, and the next trans person can move in. So that’s my goal. That’s my main goal, I’m going to die doing this, but that is my main goal, to get something ran by us for us where we rehire and we decide and we plan and we make what we want for us. And we don’t let them choose what we want. We make it acceptable for us. We make it work for us. We build a garden on the roof that builds us. We take care of us. If we don’t do it, nobody else—we can’t ask a politician that is not gender variant to step up and understand what our fucking fight is, because they don’t. We have a new commission of human rights in



Ceyenne Doroshow and Peppermint from RuPaul’s Drag Race at Flawless Sabrina Memorial, New York City, 2018.

New York City who was proud to say she’s a lesbian. Wow. I’m almost blown away, because the mayor’s wife said she was a lesbian. Now the key word here was “was” a lesbian, and I’m with her if that’s what she wants to say, but how does that help us, because she “was” a lesbian? Does that make her a what, a sympathizer because she sympathizes with how we feel but we’re still having housing issues here in New York City. So if you’re sympathizing, why don’t you open up one of these houses and not give us the closets I live in, actually give us an affordable space that we can live in that’s ours?

CN Hmm. Do you have a lighter?

CD Right here, right here, right here. On top of the [inaudible].

CN Alright. I have a question that I want to ask. Um, so you know I’ve done a lot of research into, like, looking through archival materials around HIV and AIDS in the ’80s and ’90s, [coughs], and really in the 2000s as well, and I find it really hard to find, um, narratives by or of trans women, and obviously trans women were very affected by HIV. Can you tell me a little bit about what that time was like and about activism and community support [inaudible].

CD It was scary. They didn’t have—we were not—first of all, at one time they pretty much said we were, the trans women were the spread of AIDS because men would leave their wives and mess with a trans woman, which wasn’t necessarily true. When men were on the down low, AIDS didn’t just happen to gay people, it happened to everybody, but that wasn’t what you was hearing. You heard that this was a gay thing, this was, it started from a monkey and all kind of—everybody has their own little thing. Me personally, my biggest fear when it first came out was that people would go, I watched this very ignorant lady on my block put her sister in a painter’s uniform every time she had to leave the house. With the hat, the gloves, the mask, everything. Because she had the virus. This lady had to live in her own private, bigoted hell from her own family, and this was a cisgender woman. So imagine my sisters having the virus and being in nursing homes and in Bailey House and all these places where if there just could have been a conversation about the lifesaving techniques like taking your medicine, like curbing your nightlife, like stopping drugs, like, there were so many conversations that needed to be had. There were so many things about sharing needles at a time when girls just wanted to get hormones. We’re taking needles from other people, that’s my girlfriend, she’s okay. And now they’re HIV positive because they took that needle that the other girl used, all to get hormones illegally because hormones were not easy to come by. Or the IV drug user that, this is my girlfriend and she’s my good Judy sister who used her same needle and wanted to shoot up. Where were the people to say no, sweetie, here—it wasn’t until Positive House and places like this started the needle exchange here in New York City that even gave an air to the conversation, but it took AIDS to happen for that to happen? That should have happened a long time ago. But it took AIDS for that to happen. And as far as being a trans advocate, my girlfriend did an interview that haunted her for a lifetime with the *New York Times* about AIDS. Haunted her. Haunted her until she changed her name because it was so tagged, behind that interview, that it also ruined her marriage. They were [inaudible] her soon-to-be marriage, she was on her way to get married, but one of her friends said, “before you marry her you should read this,” and found the interview and showed it to her prospective fiancé. He was more upset that this was public than he was that it was gossip. It was that she made it public. But here it needed to be made public, but she lost everything behind, and she lost him and everything because she wanted to be vocal and verbal about her fight. Didn’t have anything to do with anybody else’s fight. It was her personal fight that she was willing to tell, and she suffered for it. She’s still suffering for it.

CN Did ACT UP engage at all with the trans community?

CD No. No, very few times, and when they did it was, I need you to do a show, I need you to do—something very degrading, something—well we’ll throw you a bone, perform for us and we’ll clap and we’ll be, no, they were very starchy and very uppity and they damn sure didn’t have a place for people of color. And generally the people of color that were involved in ACT UP had deficiency of the brain, because most of them that were people of color thought they were white. So, [sighs] it was kind of annoying to go sit in the meeting, you know ACT UP is having a meeting, let’s go give these very starchy, stern voices tell us how we don’t invest. Oh,

those girls—well you girls are always in the Village, you’re like fucking up our streets. There was never this [inaudible] bullshit. What we didn’t have was a place where we could be free, and that’s what y’all kind of want again. You kind of want us to go back to that time where we are not okay, to that place that we fear, and we’re hiding, and it’s too late for that. I don’t know how to be that girl anymore.

CN How did trans people organize themselves around HIV prevention?

CD Um, hmm, they became more vocal. Um, telling their stories in a more humane way other than an obituary is what needed to happen from the start. Um, to hear all of the seedy, seedy stories instead of it just being, they don’t know how many of our kids, how many of our kids were born into HIV, and it didn’t happen from sexual abuse, they were born into it from cisgender parents. But you don’t hear these stories. You don’t hear, oh, no, sweetie, she was a hemophiliac and she went to the hospital and the hospital gave her HIV. There are so many of those stories, but you don’t hear them because the red tape and the lawsuits have outlasted their lives um, it’s just horrible that our existence would have to stem on the back of a disease for some clarity and color or acknowledgement. That in itself is ugly and just—it’s how society wants it. It’s what they see should happen for us and how they want it to happen for us. Like, we want your stories to be heard but we have to tell it. Sort of like the Caitlyn story. That was not going to be aired until they found a better way to air it. So here, we wouldn’t just do a show with a trans person until we actually have someone from an Ivy League kind of life come out, and we’ll take it and we’ll put it on TV. It got cancelled. Why? Because it was a horrible show. And you know, kudos to the people that stopped it. It was horrible. It was not a depiction of my life, it was horrible. But this was accepting to society. I don’t see it. I don’t even know. I’m still stunned. I’m still stunned. I’m stunned that she’s a Republican, she can do whatever she wants but [inaudible] that she’s trans and a Republican, it makes her an oxymoron and an idiot, but that’s okay, I’ll still run with it.

Phone: [Ringing].

CD Hello? Yes. Huh? Uhh, 20. 24.

CN So, [laughter]. Tattoos. Let’s talk about our tattoos.

CD Oh, T4T. So this by far is one of the best things I’ve done because I got to do it with my brother Cyd Nova, and to me, T4T really means what it means: trans for trans, that one, I want everybody that’s trans to do this because I think it’s empowering, I think it’s something that’s ours and it belongs to us, and I just dare a straight person to go get T4T. I would laugh, actually. But it’s the sense of community doing something for community to me. It means to me that this is a lifetime thing. This is here, it’s not going to stop. Cyd did this for me, I’m probably going to do this with my daughter because I think she needs to have one, and I want her to do it for her daughter, and/or sons. I want this to be something that goes down in history, so there’s something that reminds me every day of the fabulousness between me and you and life itself, that we’re able to be a community and stand up for our community instead of just sitting in the sidelines and saying, well you know, I have a purpose, but I don’t know what my purpose is. I’m kind of—I have a purpose, I just don’t know where it’s going. That’s kind of where we’ve been for so long. And now we have these little things, these little eye-openers so like, so when people ask what

does that mean, it's the definition that means everything. They're sitting there, oh my god, I want one of those. Sure, I think you need one. it's the most amazing thing. It's a look into the future, I think. It's a step towards making our future a much better place, just awareness, just having it on my back, people are going to be able to say what does that mean, and I'm going to be able to give an answer, and more than likely the people are not even in my world. But here it is, a chance to explain. Because immediately, especially around here when I say, well I'm trans, and they go well what is that? [Laughter]. It's not transportation, sweetie. But they just don't know. They're clueless, so when you have to break down some of these stories, this tattoo will be an eye-opener, it will be a conversational starter, it will be a way to define what people have not defined. Um, I just love it. I love it, I love it, I love it, I love it. It's a way of having a connection with my brother that we are now bonded forever, [laughter], in blood.

CN [Laughter].

CD In blood, [laughter], and pain.

CN [Laughter].

CD Pain for me.

CN What does trans solidarity look like to you? What are ways that trans people should take care of each other?

CD Take care of our elders. Take care of our elders. I fear every day for Sharron Grayson, Miss Major, Flawless Sabrina. I just fear that they're not going to have anything. They were at an era where trans women could not work and could not have a 50—401(k) or retirement fund. And that bothers me the most, to think that in a couple of years she's not going to—or people are not going to be interested. So they don't help and they don't help out and you know, it also makes me think of the later, later years when she's not able to do a lot of, all of them are not able to take care of their selves. Do we stand up and say we have to do this? In Philadelphia they have housing for the aging that are GLB and T. And I went, and it blew—I didn't cry in front of them because I'm a pro, but when I came up out of there, I shed some tears. Major

was like, are you alright? I said girl, they take care of their own. How fucking awesome is that? And it's just unheard of, because we don't. We don't. We need solidarity amongst us. In order to make this work, we have to care about us, and that will show society that we're on one accord, we're trying to make a difference, not only in our new and young lives, but in their lives as well. That we mean something. And it also shows them that we're willing to [inaudible] for all their blood, sweat, and tears, that we're all on one accord to make their lives much better. It means so much.

CN [Inaudible] good. Um, is there anything else you would like to add to this interview?

CD I would like to say that we as a community can only understand community when we can help our own community. If we want society to help us, we have to help us first, and then we can pull them around. It took a long time for us to be able to walk in heels. It took us a long time for us to grow breasts and be proud of them and be able to stand up straight and walk. It took a long time to get over Stonewall, which according to Stonewall there were no black people but there were. So we've overcome all of these things. We even overcame them two horrible little statues of the two men and two lesbians, but no trans woman. So there are still things we're overcoming, but if we can just stand unified and become one, we can tackle some of the strong things like Congress, like the way society sees us. The media. If we demand more of our faces in media, it will happen. If these roles are opened up, we should be fighting to get these roles, or better yet create our own. If we see society is not going to do it, we should be doing it for ourselves. We can't beg for something if we're not going to be willing to fight for something.

CN Thank you so much. I really appreciate talking to you.

CD Thank you, thank you, thank you. What are you eating, that [inaudible]? Oh, I will be eating none of that.

CN [Laughter].

CD I don't like leftovers.

CN Oh my God.

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