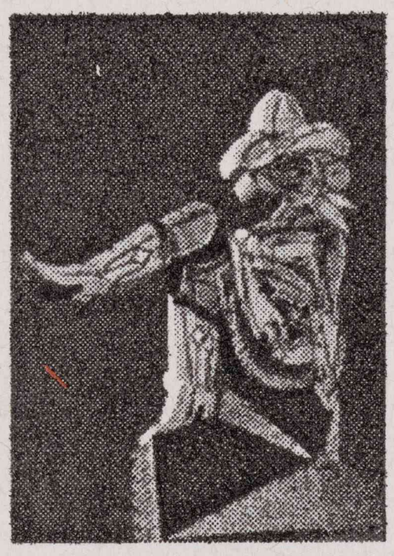
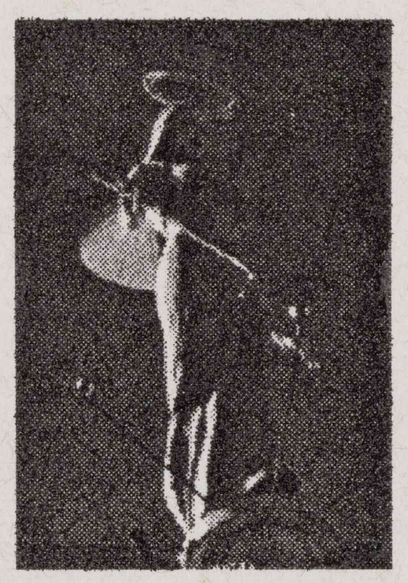
Women on the Verge in Las Vegas



WOMEN ON THE VERGE



BETA LOGS



LAS VEGAS
1247 Barnard Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89102
Voice 702-878-4786
Fax 702-385-1197
Email Balmaiden@aol.com

LOS ANGELES
643 E. Channel Rd.
Santa Monica, CA 90402
Voice 310-454-9905
Fax 310-454-3486
Email Heartofj@aol.com

Latina
Sounds Implosion
Dance Audition - Bally's
Corndex/Convention w/ Susan
More Customers w/ Janna

COMMON THREADS

Starting a new life
overcoming fear
playing multiple roles/fantasy
hard work

drunken scene of some guy -/tourists/
NIGHT INTERVIEWS

14C > Shelli
15C
7D - Mindy

Joyce Marshall
Hilton - Old House

01:00:10
Ext - Day
... we haven't seen many changes, I mean when I first started in the hotel, I mean I went to work at the Aladin in 1967 and then of course we didn't have computers and everything was done by hand but we didn't have huge hotels like we have now either because we could have never done that with the typist.

01:00:38
Q: Well I came from, although I grew up here, I came from a very sheltered environment, I mean I had a father who was less than reputable, but that worked on the strip, he had been involved in gambling all his life. And so he sheltered us all his life, my brother and I which is strange because we are all in it now but he didn't want us to be on the strip or to work out here, I mean I was a person to wear shorts until I was married so when I came to work at the Aladdin it was a entirely new experience. I was telling Amy the story of how I got my job...
(readjustment of the mike)

01:01:42
Q: the very first job I had on the strip... actually I was twenty three years old and found myself along with three small children and I had a very good job down town on the County Clark office but I really had this desire to see my children more often and I wanted to wok the swing shift and I had a friend who worked at the Aladdin so she got me an interview at the Aladdin. I had literally no experience and he had looked at my application and I could type, I guess I had this going for me and he said I am going to give you this job and he said "do you know why I am going to give you this job? Because your birthday is one day after mine..."
(interruption again.)

INTERVIEW RETAPED FROM NOW
01:02:38
Q: Well, where do you want me to start? With my father? My father had been in gambling for as long as I could remember. We came here in 1954, we came

here in 1954 because he just wanted to do what he was doing in Chicago but do it here legally, so my whole life was spent here but he'd seen the seedier side of gambling, he never wanted to have my brother and I, both my brothers and I never wanted to have anything to do with the strip or with the gambling industry and so he pretty much kept us home and he was very strict...on all of us and I was never allowed to even own a pair of short until after I got married. I had to wear bathing suit with skirts on them, it was terrible but I went to work down town and it was fine but when I found myself alone with three children at age twenty three I wanted to work a nighshift where I could be with my kids during the day. And so I went to the Aladdin and I applied where I had a girlfriend who worked there and she got me an interview and the hotel manager, looked at my application and the only qualification that I had was that I could type and said "I am going to give you this job and he said the reason is because your birthday is one day after my birthday"... and this was the first part of April and our birthdays were in May and he said "when our birthday comes up we are going to celebrate with a bottle of champagne and in a villas. Well, I laugh saying "Jee, that sounds great having no absolutely idea, never having been to the Aladdin Hotel that all the little cottages in the back were called "Villas." And so, about the first week of May he calls me into the office and say "well, it is almost our birthday and I have reserved a villa"... and it was until that moment that I actually realized that this man was serious and actually intended to take me... this married man with two children intended to take me back to one of these villas and I got out of there by crying and I cried a lot. The first year I worked there I cried a lot. I can remember one time standing at the desk checking in a gentleman and one of the bellman had come behind the desk which he did a lot. And he would stand there and put his hand up my skirt. And of course I had a guest in front of me. Today I would deck him but at the time I had no idea what to do. But at the time I had no idea what to do and I would just sit there and turn purple and deal with it and it was a different time then, it was the '60 and it was pretty standard behavior. 1:04:57:17

01:05:47

Q: Well, I think Tallhood, Tallhood was an evolution. And Tallhood did not involved, although it involved some unsuspecting souls, women that got sucked in thinking that they were just going to a party. The majority of the women there were working girls, I mean they were going in that doesn't make it any better and I think that it was a situation because they started in the '60s that they just gradually over a period of year escalated and they got

out of focus

to a point that any one knew what to do with it but contain it. I mean the Hilton... what they told the security guards in meetings before Tellwood came in, is to contain it. We are going to put them in one area of the Hotel, we are not going to let them out, we are not going to let them bother other people, we'll take all the furniture out of the room, because most of it was destroyed, anything that was left in the room, we'll make them party rooms, we'll set the bars and we will just contain it in one area and it wasn't until Paula Kauflan took a stand and said "this can't go on anymore, this can't happen," that a stop was put to it. She is the first the first one to actually file suit and since she filed suit there has been thirteen more that are in litigation or has been settled.

01:07:29
Q: She filed suit because she was forced to go down what was called the gauntlet. The gauntlet was the standard, was standard processor and the gauntlet was where all of the men would line up on both side of the hall and they would be face to face with each other and every girl that came to the party had to go down this gauntlet between these men. Now the men had in their hands, the majority of them, had stickers and the idea was to slap the stickers on this girl at the most inappropriate place they could find and it was a game, it was very cruel game, and people did got hurt, she was pinched and scratched and humiliated. She happened to go through the gauntlet at a later time during the evening, if you happened to go through the gauntlet at eight o'clock when people were relatively sober, I don't think they were sober at any point but they were not totally out of line, if you went at ten eleven o'clock at night when she went late at night, then you got pretty well got man handled. And I talked to, I talked to a few, woman that went through the gauntlet and that seemed to be their experience. If you went through at eight thirty-nine o'clock at night they got their hand put into their body, but they weren't hurt, but the people that went through late actually they got bruised and...

01:09:13
Q: Well, there're mark, there're logo that sometimes identifies their particular hairman and they all had their own and when the girl would come out they would see who scored, who got the best mark.

01:09:38

Q: We... we really had no idea what it was. What we saw was a sea of white dresses in the lobby which was very impressive and these were all good looking boys and you could understand how young girls, that especially impressionable, young girls really got sucked into that. They were invited and they felt privileged, these men were gorgeous and that's basically what we saw even when they came in their kakies or whatever they are called. They acted like gentlemen and we didn't see that part of it, we didn't even know that was going on, it isn't until I started researching it and actually talking to people. I worked with a man who brought hookers to those, to the Tallhood parties, and he did that for a superior of his, when he was in Vietnam he was under a particular officer who attended the Tallhood parties and he knew that this officer liked red heads and so as a gift every year he would bring at the Tallhood party a red head and he didn't think anything was wrong with that. And like I said until I stated looking into it the people that worked there really don't know what's going on and still don't because it's been very hushed. Security doesn't talk about it.. and so...

01:11:25

Q: Well, but not employees, people knew it was jammed, I mean these parties were wall to wall people. But this is, but there again you are looking at the evolution of Tallhood, you are looking at something that started actually at the Sahara Hotel, until the Sahara Hotel wouldn't have the convention for whatever reason and nobody over there wants to talk about it and it came over here to the Hilton and over the years it just got worse and worse. They developed the "Rhino Suite," about five years ago that was part of the evolution part. The "Rhino Suite" was a room where they had a huge picture, like a life size picture of a rhinoceros on the wall and coming of this rhinoceros was a male member dildo thing that they had wriggled up and every woman that went into this room was supposed to pay homage to this rhinoceros. Somebody had thought that up about five years ago and that was discussing ...

01:12:51

Q: Along with the fact that I the '50 and '60 and along in the '70 there were women were sexually harassed, I think pretty much worldwide, not worldwide but at least nationwide... now we have security. I think that, I think that it was harder here because of the stereotypical image that the people not only across the United Stated but here in Las Vegas the image that they had of themselves. 1:13:20

01:13:35
Two women on sidewalk.
... we moved out here right after we came to town because it had the bus stop at the corner and my mother didn't drive, so we needed to be near a bus stop, and that's how we ended up out here.

01:13:50
Q: oh yes, this particularly little neiborhood sat here all by itself and that's all there was, it was desert everywhere, hum...I think Las Vegas is typically that way, it spreaded up all over in no pattern and no set design.

01:14:14
Q: I think it's changed of course, personally I don't know wherever the work environment has changed that much or wherever I have changed, because I've been in it and in a period of the year you learn how to play the games... oh, my God, here is my house... yes it is lovely... Hum, that's it, that's where I grew up.

01:14:47
Q: there... believe it or not we built into this house, it's a true story and there was five of us, there was my mother and father and my two brothers and myself my two brothers and myself shared a bedroom, that was exciting. It was exciting being the oldest and having two younger brothers sharing my room with me...

01:15:08
Q: All the way through high school. My first bra was a media event. My brothers invited the intire neiborhood, side to side and actually the house looks about... I mean it's run down but basically looks the same. Actually we had a porch, I don't know what what thing is in the front, that wasn't there.

01:15:39
Q: we did.

01:15:52
Q: Well it sure takes me back, it makes me kinda of sad, I mean this was never a good neiborhood but it's a lot more run down than it was when I lived here and not just my house but I can look around at some of the other houses

and I can remember the people that lived there and stories about them. I remember my neighbors...

01:16:16
Q: No I never worked here. We moved. I got married when I was just barely eighteen, I had just turned eighteen and so I moved out to another new area which is now an old area near by Maryland Parkway.

01:16:35
Q: My brother and I however when I was growing up we spend all our time down there at the Showboat because it was handy and it was just about the time they were building a bowling alley so it gave us a place where to, to hang out so to speak. There was not a lot when I was a kid, there weren't places to go, there was no skating rings and you know, movie theaters were pretty much prohibited because of the price.

01:17:00
Q: Yes, as a matter of fact that was my very first job at the Huntridge theater. I went to work there, my... the day I started coincided with the premier of Ben Hur and we all got new uniforms and it was pretty, pretty exciting. Of course after six months of Ben Hur I knew the entire first hour by heart.

01:17:37
Q: Well, actually it was three daughters. Actually, it was, it was... and I think every mother goes through this. I mean I was afraid for my kids, raising my kids here, maybe I would be afraid no matter where I was but I knew what I did growing up and the things I got away and I certainly didn't want my kids to... my kids had a better life, I mean I made sure that they got to do all the things that I didn't. I mean they got lessons, they had horses they had just anything they ever wanted but on the other hand they all worked. When they went, were sixteen even thaw they were still in high school, they all had jobs and pretty much developed a sense of responsibility...

01:18:24
Jump to new frame (cont'd)
... they didn't realize this is "kids" but realized this is a pretty exciting neiborhood. There was a family living across the street with two sons, both of them are in jail. One for armed robbery and I am not sure about the other one. My brother best friend lived two doors down here was a cab driver and he did

a lot of favors for working girls. He would hobbled them around and not charge them and then in return he would they would be extra nice to him and one evening when a girl was being extra nice to him her pimp came in and shot him six times, and they found him, his mother found him in the house when she came home from work and directly down on the corner a boy that I went to school with, was in my class in grade school, ended up robbing a bank in Overtone and shooting two people and he is on death role. So we have some exciting neiborhood. My brother and I were talking the other day and we just talked about how we feel fortunate how we made it so to speak, coming out of here. We don't know too many people in the neiborhood that did, they grew up as kids...

01:19:42
Well, the town as changed a lot since I grew up of course, it was fourtysixthousand people when I came here as a child and now it is close to a million in the Valley and so a lot is gona change. As far as women and their work environment I am not really sure how much conditions are changed or maybe I have just changed, I mean I know I have changed. If you are in the work place for any length of time, you learn how to play the game, you learn how to get better at it. Now I learned not to cry, and I knew what the right answers were.

01:20:23
Q: It was effective when you are twenty three and cute but as you get older that doesn't fly anymore. By the time I was thirty, I had worked my way up, I had gone through the Aladdin and I went to the Riviera and then I watched them build this hotel across the street, which was Circus Circus and I decided I wanted to be head cashier, I think I was twenty-six. And they totally, they laughed at me. The first time I walked in they told me I was too young but I pass to them and just drove them crazy and they were so sick of seeing me, they said "O.K.! If you won't come back here for another month we'll give you the job." And so I went over there and set cashier and, and what I learned from that experience... I worked very long hours and six days a week for the same amount of money I was working just as a cashier. So one day as a joke, my girlfriends and I, including Judy, we were working together at the time, we saw a huge add on the paper that said "application being taken for the MGM." So as a joke we all said let's sign up to be cocktail waitresses and we did. There was five of us and out of us, two us got hired. My girlfriend

Julie and myself and didn't know the difference between Vodka and Bourbon... I had never served a drink, lied by way through the entire interview, actually when I went to the last interview, I have a tendency to walk as a duck, and so I was concentrating so hard on putting one foot in front of the other, I felt flat on my face and... they hired me, I don't know why, but that was a completely new turn in my life. If I though I was harassed behind the front desk, working in cocktails is an entirely new humiliation and harassment. I don't think people realize, I don't think people realize when they see cocktail waitress the type. And I think in that situation things have improved. I mean now, they have stronger Unions, the girls are not discriminated against as much they were before, we had very rigid rules, we have a weight standard that was strictly imposed we had to wear red lipstick and red nail polish, which I looked absolutely ridiculous in, we had no protection. We were expected to do what we were told and our bosses did not respect us. We were a dime a dozen. We had uniforms when the hotel first opened that were like merry widows and especially when we were carrying heavy tray the stay were stuck into our sides and all of us were bleeding. And one day I was just, I was in pain and I went down to the bar office and I said "I have to go home, I am in pain and I am bleeding" and he said "get back on the floor" and I said "but I can't" and he said "if you leave, I have sevenhundred girls waiting for your job, you'll be in the unemployment line tomorrow" and he meant it. And so even thaw I was bleeding and in pain I went to the floor and I don't think this kind of situation would happen today because, because of the Union and because management new awareness and I think there are new programs on sexual harassment had are being imposed on all new management at least on the strip hotels so conditions have improved, but are they good? I don't think so.

01:22:47

01:24:15

Q: Well, this is the only place I have ever been and I would hate to think that everywhere is like here. It is a possibility but... and I think that changing too, I'd really to think that things are getting better and that people aren't being harassed the way, the way they were in the past. But Las Vegas has an image not only around the country but a self imposed image, people that live here, a lot of them are being around to that and bought into that for years and years, and about into that and so they will loose kind of town where anything goes. And that was pretty much truth for a long time. I had a friend who was a dancer on the strip in the '50s. In '52 she came here... she danced I think up until the '60s because just about every hotel had big production numbers and

buying into that

01:25:00

they all had girls and they had the dancers, the only difference basically between a showgirls and a dancers that a showgirl wear huge head dresses and they went topless wherever a dancer didn't take their top off and did wear the head dresses and they did do, some more physical dancing but not like today, I mean the girls really dance today and then it was more the lavish kind of show kind of thing, but I talked to her hours on end about her experience in the '50s and '60s and I find that they pretty much paralleled time although it was behind the front desk and wasn't in that kind of environment, that showgirl environment... but it was the same for, I mean it was who you knew and who you put up for, a lot of time if you are auditioning for a show it was pretty ..., it was pretty critical on who you knew and who you could convince that you were the best. It really wasn't your ability, it was... and there is one thing about this town, it is who you know more than what you know.

01:26: 40

Q: Well I did actually, I... I worked cocktail for four and half years, almost... hum, well no, it was four and a half years. I promised my children that I would quit before I was thirty five. They were going into high school and quite frankly I was embarrassed and they were embarrassed, they didn't want to have to tell their friends that their mom is a cocktail waitress and I, and I think that even that aspect of my job at the time, that has lessen now. I don't think that there is that kind of embarrassment for kids to say "Well, my mom is a cocktail waitress," but it was then... I think that thirty five is a good age to quite, I don't think that you should be hushing out there and collecting social security check at the same time. It is a very demanding job, and it is a degrading job and the girls that I have worked there, the one that stayed didn't make it. Hum... I had two partners, we worked in the ... together. On of them was fired finally because she was a total alcoholic and after about one year of retirement she blew her brains out, because two weeks had passed and her phone hadn't rang and nothing had come in the mail and no one came to see her and so she didn't think she had anything to live for. And my other partner lost her husband and three children to cocaine and so I think at the time you could see those kind of problems coming. It was a time of kind of a ramp on drug use and maybe it is certainly today but it certainly isn't laid on the table the way it was in the seventies. It was, go to a party, you have the buffet table and a drug table and so, I don't think this is so much true today.

01:28:42

Q: Well, no in the hotel, the parties were held outside the hotel but were hostesses by hotel employees, you know, floor man and bell man.

01:28:54
Q: Well, the amount of money I made was phenomenal, but they don't do as well today, because there are more restrictions but... that was the most difficult thing about quitting my job, it was walking away from, you know, two three hundreds Dollars every single day...

END OF TAPE

JOYCE MARSHALL
2

JOYCE MARSHALL TAPE 2
(CONT'D)

01:29:55
... It was difficult to walk away from the money however I think it was faith because in April when I quit my job and in November the hotel burned down, so everybody was out of work for two years before it reopened again... (interrupted)

01:30:11
... I opened a ceramic shop. My last year when I was working as a cocktail waitress, the group of friends I had started really hanging out with, we all decided we needed a hobby. So we got into ceramics, we got into a ceramic store, started going into ceramic stores and started taking lessons and then after I quite I though I would like to have a shop, that would be fun to teach, and I went to school, became accredited to teach and I did that and I opened my shop it was seventy-nine, it was the first part of eighty, the first part of eighty actually January and I had it for three years and I finally sold it. I stated having troubles with my youngest daughter. And I realized that the ceramic business was very long hours and although I loved it, my kids didn't love it and they really needed me at home and so I sold and then I stayed home for another couple of years and my husband was a showroom captain at the Aladdin and they closed the showroom and that pretty much mean retirement for him because he is twenty two years older than I am, and so he was at retirement age. And we really needed some type of insurance and I decided to go back to work and I figured I just as well go to do something, and obviously I wasn't going to be a cocktail waitress, so I went back to front desk and I have been there for almost ten years now.

01:31:47
Q: hum... it's, it's an entirely different job, it's like two entirely different jobs. Hum.... firstable it's computers now, we never had computers. The hotels are three times the sizes they used to be and the hotels in the '60s and even into '70s were very personal... who knew who your bosses were, you knew the people you worked with. I don't even know the people I work with at the front desk, because there's sixty of us and so if you don't work the same shift as someone, you may... I have people who have been working there for a year and I have never seen them. So if some things have changed is the fact that people who are working there have become numbers. They're not individuals

anymore and I think we are all just victims of automation of the computer age. Computers do everything for us, we just have to push the button...

tape goes blank

Amie and Shelly are sitting on the sidewalk (laughs)

01:33:27
Q: Well... I had three children by the time I was twenty-three years old and when I was pregnant with my last child because I really realized, I think in my heart I knew, but we didn't have the test then that we have today so I just told myself I wasn't pregnant before I divorced my husband so... I hated him for years I was so mad at him because our relationship didn't worked out.

01:33:56
Q: Well, actually I found out years later that he is paranoid schizophrenic and he is paranoiac schizophrenic... well, he functioned O.K. for a few years after we divorced after that he's been in stay care, so a lot of things that he did while we were married wasn't his fault, but of course we didn't know that back then and so I found myself alone with three small children under five, nobody went to school yet and I don't think I didn't I grew up until then, when I went to work at the, at the Aladdin, I really didn't have a clue, I led a pretty sheltered life and I think that two and a half years that I spent at the Aladdin while I was a single mom before I married my second husband was, was when I grew up. I went from... I went from crying to learning how to stand on my own two feet, there was no money. I made twenty-one-twenty a shift, a shift, and out of that twenty-one twenty I had to pay all my bills plus the baby-sitter so it was pretty skimpy and I learned how to cook out of nothing and to use powder milk... my last baby never saw a formula. She went directly to powdered milk and carrow. She blames me now because she is having trouble keeping her weight down to her powder milk as a baby. But I think during that time just learning to stand on my own two feet and learning to care for these children and trying to jungle my job and the pressure that I had at work was... I had a lot of situations where I was just thinking that I couldn't do it anymore. And trying to date and even think about... I became very paranoid, I didn't let any man in house. If they asked to come in, I was sure they though I was easy because had three children. I probably passed up a lot of nice guys. But they never got passed the door. And the one time that I did date, I going out with this fellow, his name was Ray and he worked for

S&W food and I only dated him because I got free can goods. That was important thing, he would come up, he worked in California and he would come up in the week end and he would bring boxes of cans. This was important. He had two boys too, and I had three girls, and he had his boys in the week-end that his mother took care of. So one Monday morning his mother came over to the house with the two boys and said "would you take care of them while I go shopping?" and I didn't see her again for a week. It was a nightmare and I realized at that point that Ray and I would never going to make it... because he was looking for a mother for his boys and although I was looking for a dad for my girls, I didn't want to take on two more.

01:37:18
(cont'd)
... and basically the people that I did date didn't want to see my children, let along be a part of their life. Then came my husband, I have to tell you, the first time he asked me out I laughed. I thought he had to be kidding. But he turned out to be very caring and very loving and I ended up in the hospital for a surgery and he was there and he was very good to the kids. He wanted a family. Here was, here was a man who was forty two years old who said "oh my God, I am forty two and I don't have a family? and I am too old to start a family... so here's this girl who already has a family." So, basically he wanted my children. And at our reception, after we got married, we had this friend who tried to talk him out of it and just hated me to this day, think that I just married him for his money.... if he has money I am still looking for it, I don't know where it was... but he... at the reception to one of his friends, who told him "John I don't know why you took on these three kids?" and he said "Well, that's why I married her, not for her, I wanted the kids." And I remember that really hurted my feelings at the time but I learned to appreciate it over the years because he was very good to them and he always made sure they had their own rooms and they wanted horses and they got horses, they wanted to sky and they got sky equipment I guess that's where the money went (laughs)... on the girls and that was important to me and I think that ...

01:38:49
(con't)
... I came from a very dysfunctional family, although my mother never divorced my father, she should have. He was an alcoholic and he was abusive and he gambled his pay check and hers too, so I was pretty out and about giving my children a normal life where they had a mom and a dad and...

01:39:16
Q: You know, it's like your whole life, it's like before you die and your whole life flashes in front of you. It's how I feel like sitting in this house. I can't even begging telling you some of the stories that go through my head because there's so many of them. We look back, my brothers and I get together and we talk about our childhood and we talk about the fun things that we did. Like, you know, not nice things but fun things to us like we used to, we used to steal the dog from across the street because it was a pure Bread Duxon, and we had a Duxon so when the people went to work we used to go over there when our dog was in heat and steal the puppy, the little male puppy so that they'd mate and then we would sell the dogs, it was wonderful. And we'd talked about those types of things that we did but those situations were because we were hungry and because we didn't have a very good life. My brother got a paper out so many times, and his paper out was right on the other side of Eastern and many times we would have to collect them in the middle of the week so that we could eat and so sitting here and thinking about it, you know it bring back a lot of what childhood did that wasn't wonderful. And I had a lot, had a lot of hatred from my father for years and years because he made good money, I mean he worked on the strip, he was a floorman and he was a dealer when money flooded like water and he just never brought any at home (camera is readjusting shot) so up to this day I have a hard time dealing with that. But, but I do and I get older I have forgiven him, I mean he was my father and I guess I loved him and I guess I just never liked him very much (C.U.). We didn't have a very good relationship, we had no relationship. When I was thirteen I told him to go to hell and I left home, I came back two days later but we were never friends.

01:41:43
Q: I am not sure if I can pin point an exact turning point. I always knew, I mean I was my goal from the time I was little to get married and have a family and have kids, I mean I could never imagine life without children. I thought about it I dreamed about it and I got married when I was barely eighteen I turned eighteen in June and we had a little house, we bought a little two bedroom one bath and it was my dream and of course that dream felt apart rather rapidly and I think during that time if I can pin point one think that held it all together was the support network that I had through my mother who was... my mother who is incredibly strong person and a couple of close friends and my church. I taught Sunday school at the time and I was very

involved at that time in my church. It's a Baptist church I used to go Homesite church which is on 25th and Steward and I had a very strong support network and I had people there for me when I'd just didn't think I couldn't do it another day. Hum... I think that the turning point came after I married John. And he was just so good to me and he was just so good to the kids and that doesn't mean we had this wonderful life because we didn't. It was a struggle at one point I divorced him but I did remarried him. Because I saw him turning into my father and, and that maybe exaggerated and I am sure in prospective as I look back at it was, every time he took a drink I though he was an alcoholic. Every time he wanted to put the twenty one down on the gambling table he was a gambling addict and I probably drove him crazy but he stopped gambling and drinking and I guess that's the important think.

01:43:56

Q: I think as a child I did, I didn't know what the world was like and kids don't. If I had one think to change I would have gotten better grades and gone to school, I mean I turned around and went to college at age forty. I didn't o to college, I went to college for the very first time. But I... in 1962 you either went to school or you stayed home or you got married, those, those were basically the three options. Hum, girls did not move out and get an apartment, it wasn't done. Number one you just didn't make enough money to support an apartment and number two you didn't want to be the kind girl that was out there all alone. You stayed home which I could not do because of the relationship which I had with my father and besides I was eighteen years old I was sharing a room with two brothers. So I couldn't do that so the option left to me was to get married and the boy that I married was the brother of a girlfriend of mine, he was a year ahead of us and they had, if I had a bad life, their life doubled mine. Many times at two in the morning she'd be knocking at my door wanting to come in because her morning would lock her out because she had a boyfriend in the house. They had, they had a very unhappy childhood. They had a lot of dads, always new dads and so, Jimmy wanted to get out too, he wanted to have a family and so there were the two of us and I think it was a... it was something that felt together, I don't think we never loved each other. I don't think either us had a clue what it means to love someone, I don't think that happened until later in my life.

01:45:56

Q: I think, I think Las Vegas by its very nature makes you much stronger. You either sink or you survive. There are no people trading water out there. bad Jodie in shot There are a few but as we know you don't trade water for too long. You either gona, you either gona figure how to make it and how to be strong or you're gona sink. And I think that did I have three enough good reasons to be and into making it, and I think I always had confident in myself, even as a child I think that I made my own life, I knew right from wrong, I did a lot of crummy things but I never got in any serious trouble.

01:46:43
Q: Two of them. My oldest daughter is married and has four children, she hum... lives out at the Lakes, she married a Mormon boy, became Mormon and they have a business, they are self employed. She has done pretty well, my youngest child has four children, she has divorced through no fault of her own and she did every thing she could to make that work and I know she did. She also had a very good job, she is the manager of an office and she has about twelve people under her and she does very well. And although she would like to be married, she would like to have a male role model for her children, she is hanging, she is doing pretty good and my middle daughter of course lives in California and she is a sound assistant editor and she was in a very abusive relationship and ended up, finally divorcing her husband five years after she showed up. He was an alcoholic and very addicted to drugs and so she took her kids and went to California but she is doing well and she is happy.

01:48:02
Q: Well, I hope it's about survivors and I hope its about how... I have tried to tell you some of my experience, about how growing up in Las Vegas has affected me. Because I grew up here and I never was anywhere else I can't talk about other cities and I don't know how hard it was but I know how hard it was here and I think that Las Vegas is a tuffer place than most. I think that most people here even in the early sixties and seventies, most of the families were dysfunctional and a lot of people came here for divorces and stayed. People got divorces much more rashly here than other places so I do believe it is a harder place to go up than other...

01:49:15:
Q: Well, I think that people, all of my friends are survivors told you about the two people, the two women when I worked cocktails and you know, both of

them, one is day and one's brain isn't functioning on a normal level because through the drug she took. But I don't really don't count them as my friends, there were people that I've work with and I got out of that situation because I saw where I was going. And I think most of the other people that were close to me when I was working at cocktails also got out. They, those who knew that knew that this was a dead end, really a dead end, chose to do something else with their lives and so most of the people that I am friendly with are successful and I am, I am hardly impressed to think of somebody as that felt.

Interrupted
01:50:21
... to bars, or you can get into drugs but here we have the added element of gambling and that's, and that's in lure especially when you are trying making bills, you are trying to make end meet and maybe this ten dollars worth of quarters is gona get me a royal flush, maybe I am gona make a thousand dollars and pretty soon this ten dollars in quarters goes to twenty to your entire check. And I have worked with people like that, I have worked with people who, who work their husband works and they can't pay their phone bill. Because they gamble and I think if there is one a big difference that's it.

THALIA DONDERO & DOTTIE 02:00:37 (Same tape - T.C. changed)

TAPE 3:

THALIA & ANN GOLANKA

02:16:23 - What's going on on the Ship - handing out brochures - its degrading - advertising prostitution - which we don't have in Clark County ... I don't mind the girls dancing...

02:19:23 - You can't think of L.V. without thinking of a Showgirl - they're just gorgeous

02:29:00 SHOTS OF CITY HALL - EXTERIOR

TAPE 4:

04:02:30 Ann: I think they have that good old boy networks - that women are showgirls & waitresses all of the clubs - yellow pages -

04:11:50 Las Vegas is based on gambling - & gambling has been for men ...

04:12: - The whole attitude is that women are just useful - they're perceived in their function, rather than their humanity

CHISE to end of tape

Kelly Horse 7

TAPE 7: KELLY WITH HORSE
07:00:00
Kelly grooming horse (really loud sd. at beg. of tape) various shots

07:07:23
Training horse w/ whip

07:12:00
(Jodie in shot)
My Mom goes to this psychic and I was supposed to go too, and she didn't tell him what I did or my work place or anything, and he said its not good, I should get out of the situation--and he said later on when I go to get married, I'm gonna be marrying someone with political power, I don't know famous or somethin' and he actually used the word tapes would come up and would ruin my chance to get married, the relationship things from the past or skeletons in the closet, so it kinda freaked me out, she didn't tell him anything about it, I don't know, that's all.

(So your Mom knows)
7:13:00 Jodie in picture
At first she was really disappointed--she thought it was disgusting she just couldn't believe I would do something like that, because she was brought up as a Roman Catholic, she's very modest, and you know very shy and has good morals, never drink or smoke or anything--well she had a hard time at first, we didn't talk for a couple of days, but now she sees all the bills that I pay and how I'm taking care of everything and I'm really being responsible with my money, I'm really taking care of stuff,and I'm going to go to school. She's kinda proud of me. She doesn't like what I do, if I need a ride to work, she won't take me, 'cause she doesn't want to contribute to it, but I think she's actually proud, but she won't say anything--

Rest of the family doesn't know--Gramma and Dad and that side of the family she still thinks I'm a virgin, and have I kissed a boy, and here I am twenty--years old, if I told her something like that she'd probably die--

(how's your boyfriend doing?)
Ok, we've had a couple of problems, mainly insecurities, he asks me all the time, do you ever go home with anybody, and I'll tell him stories and he'll say was he cute, was he rich, and I'll say no, its not like that--you meet friends there, you get customers that are regulars, but it doesn't mean you have a relationship with them,

(What do you think about the advice you got)
14:30:00
Good advice, she was right--some of the stuff I thought well--but its just sounded too hard but I realized its all in how you present yourself-- if you have to go around and try to scrounge for every twenty dollars, its really hard you find yourself doing more and more stuff to get just twenty dollars. But if you present yourself as if you deserve the money then people think they treat you more like a lady--

(So hows' you life right now)
We're doing good at the club they're really cracking down on the girls lately--we've had alot of the girls fired--my friend--two of 'em I know threw a beer in a customers face, and the other one slapped 'em--but if a customer did that to me I would've probably done more than slapped 'em...my one friend she was dancing for a guy and grabbed her G-string and he was pulling it and trying to get his hand in, and she said let go get off me don't touch me, and he wouldn't so she slapped him, and she got fired for that. I don't know what anyone else would do in that situation, you could call for help but its like two minutes or something before someone gets there--and I don't want someone touching me for two mnutes like that. Its hard the management does what they have to--our cameras are covered now so...

16:30 approx.

Some girls to make more money--we have these cameras that go around, and that's to keep an eye on it to make sure everything going fine and some girls to make more money will look up and see that the cameras are turned and touch the customer, and now that those cameras are covered we've had girls fired, one of them for I don't know the term I should use--I guess she had her hands on the customers pants and got him off so to speak and she got fired for that which I had seen before and thought it was really atrocious--I think it was good because it makes it harder on us who won't do things like that to make money--so its a good thing I guess--

good

Totally different persepctive sometimes I think its a power trip because I'm getting alot of money because I think my life's really going somewhere and I'm doing something and then other times I'll have somebody like my boyfriend's friend is going to start cocktail waitressing there and she said all the girls that work there are whores--I don't know just to label someone like that it kinda makes me feel like--maybe I am maybe i'm not, I don't know--its hard sometimes because it is degrading when people think of you--if I was to go on a talk show like that people would look at me and just assume that I'm something that I'm not--I'm probably one of the most modest people you'd meet, before I started this job, you know I was brought up with really good morals and I don't understadn how people think that--

07:18:42
Kelly riding in the ring

22:52. best shots of riding are facing green (later in tape)

07:24:06
Wide shot of her galloping

"Who says you can't make a Silk Purse out of Sow's Ear?"

07:25:50
Silk Purse Ranch Sign

9 Jodie/NakedCity
L.V. High School
9

BETA LOG--STRIPPED AND TEASED

TAPE 9

END OF DOTTIE & JODIE

Jodie driving around Naked City

LAS VEGAS HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS RAP

00:00
I'm part of you, you raised me, what do you see, what advice can you give me?
D: I never did threaten to leave him, even when he was drinking...when I had the hotel, he was drinking quie a bit then...there was a girl staying there getting a divorce, and she said to me one day, Doris, if he's worth saving, save him, if he isn't then just walk off...

02:28
Do you think I should've kept my husbands... With Jan, yes, but you all had that terrible tragedy, and Jan just gave up, didn't he? I always thought you were forcing me into getting married--no I didn't you called up.

03:50
Often we've talked about my sadness--those are the questions we have to die to find out. Why did it happen? I'll ever have the answer. So you think my sadness comes from Lala...but she's just one of those angels up there watching over us, but these things happen, and there's no way of getting over it.
Do you remember was I happy before she died? Oh yes, very happy.

TAPE 8
JODIE IN ALL SHOTS

05:35
What gets you through all of it that keeps you so balanced? Just keepongn an open mind, faith in the Lord...that is the most beautiful thing, and accepting whatever falls, you just have to accept it, you sure can't change it.

Faith-
believing
(chance
gambling)

My Las Vegas is good friends, I play alot of bridge... People died
I like going to church

08:31
There's nothing wrong with living in Las Vegas, nothing. What's it like being older? I don't think about it--when you look in the mirror, do you see thirty? Yep, I may have a little ache or pain, but I don't let it get me down.

I find L.V. has an awful lot of people that go to church

two-shot in mirror--short

06:57
Keeps lipstick on
kinda like glue

10:34
Retin-A burns
off layers of skin

14:39 -
Part of L.V. I know
nothing about -
I've seen the signs -
I never paid attention

09:56 NAKED CITY
Jodie driving...This is notorious Tam drive..I wasn't living with my Dad but I came to visit... This is Tam drive, my Dad's friend used to call it notorious Tam drive-- I came to visit him here--we hadalot of fun, lots of kids. It's changed--it felt flatter and more open, it feels more clautrophobic, even though I'molder...still seems like the Las Vegas I grew up in, flat, flat colors...

When I started in Real Estate, I didn't think I'd sell anything but
I sold one property, & did real well in real estate -

20:26 Now the Flasha was the only real nice motel - this was in 1947 - we kept it so nice - I was a working girl then -

23:19 This hotel was built by Bugsy Segal - built by leftovers from the Flamingo

11: 59
Now you see alot of very poor families, alot of the houses are run down. Nowits a neighborhood that kinda feels like tis always in transition...this is the tower that belongs to Bob Stupak's Vegas World, and they want to take over and tear down the neighborhood...this part of the street that looks like it should be torn down isnot being torn down...so the Strip continues to move into the neighborhood...

13:20
So this is Naked City, the showgirls used to live here and sunbathe nude... its a contained area, people that come to Vegas its convenient...it continues to be squeezed in---the population now is mostly Hispanic, Black, Vietnamese, Cuban and poor white...

15:01
So right here is the Tower, and just a minute away, right here are the bunks the bunkers, where the people live, and just a minute away are ritzy houses, so they'[re caught between living in almost a third world country--so these people have tons of problems, live in poverty, don'thave jobs, its a big drug neighborhood--are watching the money being spent on really tourists, and bringing more money into the city, money that they never see--

23:36 Cutaways of Las Vegas High School

With all the topless dancers and free pornography (bad sound throughout)... they think we are all disrespecting yourself...

I had an offer walking in the mall – to dance - he gave me his card

27:08
Every girl is gonna be confronted like that sometime in their life...so you have to joke about it...

Being a woman is really different Junion hogh is different, they know things different, the guys will take advantage of you--you have to watch out with anything, any kind of girl...

28:29
I think its like the casinos and showgirls that go on, alot of them are topless, and on the strip, how many states do you know that they have free pornography on the strip

Alot of people have a tendency to think that just because we're women in Las Vegas they think we're all prostitutes or we're tall thin Blonde Bimbos...they don't know--realize we're just like them. they figure since you live in Las Vegas--isn't Las Vegas the city that never sleeps, or I guess they just think girls just sleep with everybody...there is girls out here that give girls that aren't like that a bad name...

10 - L.V. High School

10

They see what the city is like and how society has portrayed the woman and the billboards...I don't feel that way--it all starts at home, and when girls don't get alot of love, they're gonna look in other directions, and a man is gonna maniplate you in any way he can...after she be with a whole bunch of men like that this hurt her so much that this is the way they see themselve sometime..

In las Vegas if a girl is hurt or has a low self-esteem there are alot of opportunities for her--she can go topless dancing, she can go feel better about herself, and have alot of guys holler and hoot over her..

TAPE 10: LAS VEGAS HIGH--GIRLS RAP

I think Las vegas can be a magnet, maybe for girls from another state, they think oh! Las vegas, maybe I'll go and show my chest for all to see...

1:23

There is no other side...you can ignore it--you just accept it, you don't let it effect you, you're just yourself--its all whatyou make it--if you want to be something, you make something--you can be somebody, but you have to try hard not to get sucked in--you have to have a strong mentality, you can't let the pornogrpahy, a man, get yourself down--

I don't like the stereotype that Las Vegas has, we're one of the cities that has one of the highest crime rates--I believe its how you'[ve been raised, but also ...

2:12

Here, its no matter what race you are, especially the mexiscans, they're racist to each other--I really don't se alot of racism, everybody just groups up together--

3:48

It there's a white with a black, she'ss be accepted, but the others will call her trash, or with a mexicaqn, you're a sellout--

4:24

Its scary, some younger than me having childre, its scary, I don't plan on having children--its like kids having kids...my mom always said it just wasn't done, but kids these days do what they want when they want--it doesn't matter if you have it or not, but as long as you know how to treat it, if you're carrying a little kid--its your fault...

6:02

I think its selfish--we gotta support each other, we have to come together as oe and help everybody out, sometimes kids don't have the background, they know not to have sex, sometimes they need to go to school as well as we do--these girls need help--most of these boys--we need dacare

7:06

I'm pregnant--when people look at you, they just look at your stomach, like when you're walking in the halls--they don'tlook at you.

7:58
I think its good to have daycare, its goodto have an education, to take care of it and still finish their education--I think no matter how much help you have, honestly I'm sorry we have a life a head of us, we can't be worrying about mising a day or college because our kid's sick, or people you do'tknow will staqrt babysitting and that child wil be lost too...

9:22
I plan hopefully I'll go to college hopefully forall four years, and after I graduate I'll open my ow business, and move to Califoria, because

9:54
I think its up to the woman to hold the family together, because the woman is more sensitive, I think the woman basically holds it together, I'm gonna go for that, take care of my family

10:28
I know alot of is think that girls in Las Vegas are for show, but I disagree--there are alot of business opportunities for women...once you get away from the Strip its totally different, I plan to stay here-- I think L.V. proves that a girl can do something!

11:33
You see on TV the jewels and things, and they're all rich so I wanted to be a showgirl--

12:17
That's all Las Vegas is about, gambling--you can get into alot of trouble--most people who live here usually don't gamble--we go through the casinos and we see people just pumping in there quarters and getting nothing back, I'll never gamble--

13:39
First thing I would do is take all the pornography and the billboards and the topless big boobed ladies-- I hate driving by it, you stop behind a taxi and there's this lady--you're with a date and all of a sudden you see this taxi, and there's this big ol' bust--its embarrassing

14:33
I'd do things for teenagers, there's no place to go, just the casinos, they just want to make their money, they don't care about age restrictions and stuff like that...they need more drug free alcohol free for teens to hang out, that's whay there's so much trouble, there's dance clubs, but you haveto be twenty-one to get in...

16:04

I think alcohol is a big problem, because that's the key for clubs and casinos--black jack tables and slot machines, you get free drinks..

16:35
My Dad's a night man a a casino, he just works there--my father works for --(bad sound) my dad used to be a dealer, black jack dealer, and later he got into like her dad, watching for people that they don't cheat--

17:49
I don't want Las Vegas to be singled out, it has to do with a saying--tell me who you hang out with and I'll tell you who you are--Las Vegas isn't so bad, every city has its good people and its bad people, it just depends on who you hang out with, hey look we're all the same--we all smile in the same language, right?

19:02
I have alot of reltives that are from out oftown cause they think Las vegas is the greatest place in the world--there's a twenty-four hour everything--that's why people love it, and Las Vegas is one of the few places...they don't really see the badin Las Vegas...once they find out, they can't believe it--fantasy land--but what they don't realizeit, once you're off the Strip, its just the same...

20:00
The message we need to get across is this, this is an entertainment town, and behind the entertainment, there's churches, schools, parks, streets, its just like any other town, but we have the casinos...I was afraid of the bums, what do I do if they talk to me? I took a trip to Florida, andt hey asled where we're from--you live in Las Vegas, you guys go to school? What do they teach you, how to gamble? Howto play the games? I justthought people thought of Las Vegas like Vegas, justanother town--people think that Las Vegas is just the Strip, they don't realize there's a whole nother town beyond that--do you guys live in a hotel?

22:00
When you look at the Strip that's just like our beauty--what we have to show off, like if you wear a nice piece of jewelry--that's just our image, but that's not who we are.

When I go back to my hometown, they think I'm rich, because its not like here--back in Mexico, they don't have nice houses like this...

23:36
That's one good thing that's here in Las Vegas we have alot of culture, like plays and dances...but what they provide for us is in casinos, but then they give us restrictions, you have to stay in one little area, its a contradiction..its just a place to drop off their kids and go gamble--I've never been to the MGM its just a tourist place--I think we're trying to become more family oriented, thay're building casinos, but to be more families--they're trying to do what we ask, to get more entertainment for us..

Hattie- MAIDS SCHOOL

11

25:13
They're doing it the wrong way by going through a casino, but why can't they have some place with no gambling--because that's where everybody goes--even the Seven-11 has slot machines..gambling's fine, as long as its a tourist, cause they bring us the money, as long as it isn't people who live here cause then there's homelessness, but its fine with us, we live off of you!

TAPE 11--HATTY AT MAID'S TRAINING SCHOOL

00:00 Hatty teaching maids making bed

1:29 Jodie and Hatty making bed together

once you do maid work you never forget it

15:00 We're in West Las Vegas and we're in one of the Housing projects--we have graduated over 1,000 maids and housekeepers out of here--we have seventeen contributing hotels

note: all of this later V.O.

As a rule its a pretty easy job to get but sometime during the year...if the business is low its harder to get, but a maid's job is pretty easy to get, its a very hard and rewarding job ad honest job that will pay your rent. About $9.75. The job security is great, you've got your health and welfare so you can go to the doctor if you're sick...I'm excited about the pension plan...if I had not gone to the hotels when I did I wouldn't be getting a lump some.

Jodie in frame (use as V.O.)

The first hotel I ever worked at was downtown at the Mint Hotel--I worked there for about six weeks and when the Maxim opened up I went to the Maxim hotel and worked for the maxim Hotel in the housekeeping department. I was always a member of the Union...from day one.

J: What's it been like for you to create more stability and security for the maids, you've obviously come from what you're experience was--can you talk about that?

H: I can talk about it, but I'm not yet there--where I'd like to be--I'd like to see the maids not work under so much stress...i would like to see the maids learn that they don't have to do --they gotta do what they gotta do--but they don't have to rush and do it ~~or fulfill~~ fifteen rooms..

(no Jodie in frame)

There were alot of fights, there were hard negotiations, there were picket lines and strikes, just like the strike at the Frontier which will determine what we as a union do in this town...we gota win it. I've never worked non-union, so I could not tell you how a non-union maid works, but from what I hear I would not be a non-union maid...I always have to work in a union house...

What does a non-union maid get paid? She starts out a minimum wage, she has no health and welfare, no benefits, no pension--some of the girls have to pay sixty dollars a month for some type of insurance...when management is ready for you to go home, you go home--who becomes a non-union maid?

Most girls who don't want to stand up for themselves--but if she really want to be somebody, she would take a union job, and the reason I say that is the maid work taught me how to stand up and be a woman--how to take my place in society, that's what I learned being a union maid...

It was hard for me because when I first started maid work my husband was alive and he did not want me to go to work because I had these ten babies at home, and he thought he was going to have to babysit all the time..but I wanted to be with big peoples not little peoples all the time, I yet love my family, bt I wantedto be with big peoples...

Out of working I found Hatty--I didn't know who Hatty was until I got that Maids' job, and I try to tell maids not--when I meet them now-maid work means alot, you can find yourself, you can find a husband, a church and a school for your kids, there's alot of things you can find if you go out and get that job--and maid work is honest work, you work hard, its really rewarding, you can have a car, swimming pools, whatever you want you can have it, and so I'm excited about that...

Bernice and Hatty
21:00
Ms. Canty is one of the finest lady's I've ever met--in thirty years of hotel work, she's fair, she's honest, and most of all she cares about people--this is the President, and in thirty years of work--at that time, I was in management, and this girl felt that she was treated unfairly unjust, and she went to the Union Hall to report it and Miss Canty and her staff went out to that hotel and personallyshe came up there and checked and looked into things herself and i never sawa president do things like that--I wish we had more people like Ms. Canty.

Bernice is a great person too, when I met her she was part of management, but me and Bernice it was different--for a woman of that status to be that fair--I want to thank Bernice for directing the training the program...

Are you gonna go to the ~~graduation~~, take pictures?

To girl...
23:00
If you come down, Monday moring, you should come down to the Union Hall and be registered so you can be sent out on a job, OK? You got any babies?

I have two--so you're ready for a job, that's why this school is over here for you to find a job--I sure appreciate it...

TAPE 12--MAID'S GRADUATION CEREMONY

END OF 11:02 13
BINION'S MOTHER'S DAY TOURNAMENT

NOTE: Confusion of Tape numbers

'on Mother's Day its the greatest thing to do- play poker -1
balloons

TAPE 15: --RITA ABBEY, EXT MAIDS< JOANIE PART I

Rita

15

15:04:19

J: Tell us about yourself and where you are from and how you ended up in Las Vegas and when

R: Oh that is kind of personal.I can tell you my name it is Rita Dean Abbie. And ah Dean is my maiden name and Abbie was the name of my first husband.I kept that because my children have his last name. We remained a very strong family unit.

J: When did you come to Las Vegas?

R: Early in 65. 1965. And I got a divorce here. I got a job teaching at the University in the art dept . at Universtiy Las Vegas.

J: And you raisd your sons here:

R: Yes. Well You are not a single parent esily and there was a lot of opportunity in the 60's and a lot of opportunity to grow as an educator and as an artist and a parent and the opportunity to support my family.

You talking about what Las Vegas was about in 1965. I found it a good place to stay because I could make a living here. And yet I was always intrigued and intranced by the desert. and the accessiblitly of getting out of town was just five minutes away at that time. And we use to go on hikes every weekend and we used out out in the desert space a lot.

J: What is it like to be a fine artist in a city like Las Vegas.? The opportunity

R: uhm are you talking about the ability to do studio art?

J: The opportunity for doing it, the influence that being in Las Vegas has to do with it.

J:I dont think that I was ever very concerned about the commercial aspects of art . Mainly I was concerned about a regular schedule in the studio and being productive as possible. You have a lot of individual availblity to grow yourself and in myself I found a lot of opportunity to do that. i was also not concerned about influences. i wanted to know specificly what was happening in more cosmopolitan areas because my students. It gave me the ability to communicate to them what was happening.

J: When you talk it seems that Las Vegas to you is more of a desert. Compared to the way most other people look at las vegas. Would you say that is true?

R: Absolutely. I see it as a place to live and I dont think that I am very conscious of the strip unless we have out of tow guests. I think that is normal for most people that are living here. I am not a gambler. I have never been interested to the intertainment to that degree. May be I have not taken advantage of the main stream Las Vegas. I have always loved the neon. I always thought the neon was very pop and very wonderful and ah it is a a kind of technology that I personally am not involved in but I ah i can still admire it and apprreciate it.

15:09:09
J: What about your students? Do you think your students were different than they would have been at another University?

R: Ah that is really a tough question. i have students from other places as well. From the Southwest and from NY as well.

J: But I have met some of your students that were show girls that worked on the strip. That expanded themselves so that after they left the strip they would have something to do.

R: Ya I think ya a lot of my students were show girls and waitresses and cocktail waitresses and I always admired their stamina and their ability to earn degrees and do this work because the worked long hours. Sometimes they would come in gleery eyed some times because they did not get enough sleep. But ah they were very good students and exrtremely sincere and hard working and it was just really thrilling to see how thier work evolved.

J: Do you think that there jobs effected their art or that it influenced their work in any way?

R: I think that they were searching. They were searching for other meanings and other ways of percieving. I dont think so.

J: Do you think that Las Vegas offers all its women opportunities to all its women that it has offered to you?

15:10:39
R: It is such an individual thing. You are not dealing with Limitations that are external so much but those are individual to those that are your own personality. So

J: Your art is so big and so grand do you think that has to do with living in the wide open desert?

R: I think I always had a need to work large may be it is my hands I get more challenged and see more possibilties. I think that I was attracked to the Northwest because of the vista and the geology and working large it does not always mean what you do it always good because it is big but I have always found that more challenging.

15:11:50:25

15:11:59:23
J: We are sitting beneath your wall of creation in a town were it tends to deny its history and destroy it constantly 20 yr old bulidings are being torn down. How does it feel to do some thing about creation?

R: To me when I recieved the commision to do this piece it was a tremendous responsibilty because I am not religious I felt that I wanted it to communicate yto the congration and fundimantly the quotation was given to and it is in hebrew on the bottom and it from psalm 104. The quoatation whcih translated - the lord my god is very great he clothes himslef with glory he covers with light as with a garment He stretches out the heaven like a curtain. I saw genisis in this quotation and I worked with mparticals of matter what I percieved with forms like atoms creating space I was more concerned with origins then perhaps history. And with the quality of the kind of emotions that the colors would create. I also used a technique which was not an orthodox technique because I wanted to exicute the piece myself.And so I used fiberglas with resin and managedto develop the piece.

15:14:57
J: Do you think that women have a role in LV that they particiapate in creating it?

R: Ya I think that in almost aspect of life in not only the arts but terms of government, and education and there are jobs that are created by thehotels. In almost every business aspect. I think that women are active all of these aspects of professional life.

J: We tend to find a lot of strong women here. Do you think that Vegas participates in finding their strength?

15:15:40.15
R: More so than in any other area? I dont know how to judge that. I think that your survival is up to you. especially if you are supporting a family. Your survival skills are ones that develop out of neccesity or out of your own need to a occomplish something. I don't know if that is an answer but that is my perception of it.

15:16:19.10
J: you have to have the gift of the room. Be alone with yurself for a long period of time.

R: What I use to do is use an old storage area. It did not have lelctricity, and I had to tote water from the next building it was jsut a spce for me to be and I would be by myself and I had that space for about thirteen years and ah it was it did not allow the facilities to do the experimentation that I wanted not consistantly.

J: but it still allowed you that space that feed the next space ...

J: What about the dangers of Tra

J: What about the dancers? To dance takes a lot of disipline. Are they ever able to roll that discipline over to the next art.

R: I think that people in the arts usually have abilities that are comprehaensive and usually reach out in to the other arts. I was always very facinated by dance myself and didn't have the opportunity to do that until I was in college and as a junior in college I danced with a group at the Univ. of New Meexico and I think that I reached a plato but it was very strong influnce on my life and I think that these different diciplines affect other parts of our lives. I think that other artist write poetry and if the don't dance they are able to do other things.

J: When you look at the difference between the strippers and the show girls the show girls have a much more grueling life with much less reward but they leave with a lot more.

R: I often wonder about the repeatitins of their paterns in the shows and how they feel about doing the same show aover and over again. but they are doing... if it is challenging for them at least for their bodies then they are accomplishing a lot. Just to keep moving like that is important.

J: and have you are you how is the desert been part of you does it continue to surprise you? and give you new material?

R: I am always finding new places. and new experiences which is what art is all about. I think that I absorb it unconsciously it continuous to ah become part of me and manages to express itself into different imagry.

15:20:32.05
J: Because you live in Las Veags but you do't really live in Las Veags from were you are on the hill is something you created.

R: Well at one time but it is rapidly you know the city is prograsssing to were it built the studio I imagine that with in a few years it will be where I built the studio. I can not sya that I am too happy about that because with that rapid growth you have the detraments of smog and big city fallouts. It is already happening.

I have lived out there for about 11 years and before that I lived about three miles from the university.

J: it seems that you live a very quite life is that your personality or is that something that came out of living in LV?

R: No before I lived in LV I was pretty much alone most of the time. Isolated. I think that I am pretty much comfortable in that situation. however I dont want to make it sound that it is the kind of isolation that makes me ablivious to whatis going on. I retired from UNLV in 1987 At that time I reverted to the kid of isolation that I had before .

Do you think LV as a work of art?

I see the strip as a form of pop art. It has alot of juxtapos for me. And that aspect is definitely is a art form. LV for me does not exclude its surroundings I have very strong feeling about the preservation of the desert. The ecology of the desert and the things are happening are very upsetting and ...

15:23:32.24
J: How did you feel when they were doing Nuclear testing?

R:Then was a major part of my concern was not only the testing but the waste. It was going to jepodize sites all over the country as well as LV. It going thru the fastest growing part in NW Vegas. The above the ground dump scheduled for 1998 is a threat. I heard Sen. O'Brian saying that he did not want LV to become a Churnoble of the intertainment industry. It expressed my senitments exactly. I am active in protesting that possiblity.

15:24:45:28
R: The womens space - I don't think that I have ever isolated that concept- the space for an individual to find work or a way of growing adjucting and surviving I seemed to be very concerned with those aspects of growing. It is so individual that i do not sepereate the sexes in that regard.

J: but all the things that you just described ...It says that vagas can be a place of freedom but it also presents a lot of obstacles along the way.

R: Don't you think you can confront those obstacles in a lot of cities.

J: Not as easily in Las Vegas -in Las Vegas it is right in your face.

R: It's out there in LV...?

J: It is right in your face.

15:26:13
R:That is true . It has not been in my face. I have been focused on a different concern. I think that survival has been in my face. Making art has been in my face - productivity has been in my face. And doing the best possible job that I could do as a parent. But the pitfalls of what can happen to women in LV is what you are saying and I still say that is more personality. You have to make your own reality to a great degree. and you have to have to have the opportunity to do that and you also have to have a tremendous amount of luck. I have waited tables not in Vegas. If you feel stuck in what ever you do you are going to have a problem. If you see it as a stepping stone to a other dreams or goals that you have theb anything can be come tolerable I am not being judgemental to those who are stuck you can reach a level of comfort with it and you don't percieve othe possiblites then you are not unhappy. When you percieve other possibilities and you can ot make that leap it can be a very sad story.

A: Was ther ever a time when you became so fed up with LV that you wanted to leave?

JOANIE 16

15:28:25.25
R: No because I always saw possiblities in the beauty of the desert. And if I was overwhelmed alls I would have to do is go on a hike and replenish myself. and go on from there I think that replinishing yourself as a person is very important. I get very upset and frustrated about the politics of Nuclear Waste.

15:29:14 to 15:30:00

Close ups on the art work.

16:00:00 to 16:02:23

Maids walking to work

16:03:15
J: So what is happening in your life right now?

JNE: I am getting ready to go onto graduate school. And I got my BA and I am finished with school and I am getting ready to leave all this woderful myth of what LV is .

I am qutie tired of Las Vegas. I am tired of living in a city that is so controlled by it is like a futile system here it is really controlled by uhm...the interest of the casinos. I understqnd that no matter where you go there is always going to be people like that but in a different form. I am just tired of thier particular form of control. It is just getting to be a little bit much. For example Steve Wynn threatening to build a power plant if Nevada does not lower its rates. So as a result his rates are going to go down and evryones else in the entire city are going to go up. And that is the sort of thing that makes me very angry that one industry can have that kind of controll over a entire community.

**J: (Jodi used Joanies name-) So Joanie can we go back and talk about yourself and how you came here?

JNE: I was born here and I moved around a lot as a kid because of myfathers job. but I ended up here and I ended up going to high school here and I spent most of of my formitive years. My family goes back very far in the state.

J: What kind of jobs have you had here?

JNE: Funny you should ask that. Every where to a minimum wage clerk to sort of dating very rich men for money. I prefer not to call it anything other than that. Some people may call it prostitution or call girl but I would not. I have down a lot of things that are available for women to do the area. I worked in the service industry.

C.U. (no Jodie)

J: Did you work in the strip clubs?

I never worked in any of the strp club. Even when I had the body I did not want to do that. They don't make enough money. When I was working on the strip dating men I made a lot of money. It was not volume. I had a few rich friends that were interesting in having me around. It was not the situation like strip clubs. I actually knew these people and I think that is what made it possible for me to be doing that. Because it was not just nameless and faceless. I think that is how I justified doing it. Was because it was not a nameless faceless sort of thing.

J: How did you end up doing that?

JNE: I met somebidy and he offered me a job and it was not a real job and i figured it out real fast that he was bullshitting me and he one night said well I have this friend and he wants to meet you and if you just show up you'll get $200 bucks. So I went and it was much easier than I thought it would be. We just had dinner we drank some champaign and when I went home I gave him some converstation and then when I went home I had $200. I did not have to sleep with him. It just openned the door and it seemed a lot easier.

J: What were you doingto make money before that?

JNE: I was cleaning office buildings. I don't want to have that in there

Chatter

JNE: I was a maid. What I was doing was working as hard as people can work. After visiting with this person and talking and just keeping him company comparing to what I was doing using my body for hard physical labor and talking and hanging out with this guy it just seemed that I was pretty much being expoited at my job then. Any job labor that is as alianating as that heavy physical labor there is no difference between that it is basically the same.

Jodie in frame

anaprostitution

16:11:23
J: How much money were making then?

JNE: I was making about $400/mos. It went from that the making that in an half a hour and so all of a sudden I was being compensated for something that was not any more alianating then what I had been doing begore. Evetually it did become to much. Eventually I became disjointed from my body. And from my entire sexuality. I no longer had a sexuality. That part of me became my labor. I imagine the same thing hapening to a factory worker punching holes in something all day long.

16:12:31
The problem came when I went to have a personal life ad there was a whole part of me that just was not there. I think that uhm when a part o you is lacking like that it is compensated in other areas.I think that the part that was probably compenstaed was probably drug use and I think and uhm that is usually the way that you make. Eventually I could not go out and see these people unless I

was on something or drinking. It just was a little over power to face that sort of exploit and to know that you had the power to end it if you wanted to and to know that you were addicted to the money and it was not just the money that you do that for it is very glamourous.

16:13:46

To go from a maid makig four hundred dollars a month to making $80.000 a year it is some time you make alot more money than that. It is like a drug in itself and all of a sudden you realize that it youare hooked into power and all o the values that are important in that system you become part of the myth of what Las Vegas is and that is very dangerous or someone that is so young.

C.U. no Jodie ↓ pans out to J.

16:14:52

And does not know enough about making their own myth. It is sort of an ideology. like hearing the sotries of Greek Gods and then all of a sudden you become one. Like a demi god or something. It s going out and shopping and getting anything you want. Going into a casino and getting anything that you want and do anything that you want because when you are with these men you can and you see anything for free in any of the hotel.

16:16:03

These are all the values that are important in this town. Making alot of money loking really good and haveing power - power with pleasuring yourself at anytime.

Jodie in frame

16:16:12

J: How old were you?

JNE: I was 20 years old at the time. I was not even old enogh to be in the casino. I always knew from the very first time that what I was doing...it was not really against my morality because again I dont have a moral problem with what I was doing. Again it is not any more explotive than any other job but people want to believe other wise. They have to be they you have to be aboe to do it before you can make that judgement call.

16:17: 00

i have done it and I know that you are well compensated or what you are doing. It is not a question of morality. That what I was doing was causing a skism between what I was doing and what was actually happeining. I think one of the reasons why it was so important to me eventually to get out was that uhm I really was just the uture was no longer it was not liveing in the here and now it was not a state of bliss. There was nothing but excitment to look foward to and I was not happy unless I had that excitement and in the future I knew that if i continued to live the way I was there were no plans ffor the future I had no dreams I was not putting any emphasis on my education.

16:18:49

Even though I did not quit school i was getting bad grade and letting it all slip to shit. And in a sense it started to rob my plans for the future and my ability to live in the here and now with out a great deal of unhappiness and discomfort.

Unless something incredibly exciting was happening. It was thrill seeking and I was not happy unless it was going to make my andreniline pump.

16:19:20

Eventually I got out of it and that was because when uhm I got scared out of it. But I had started to really just with draw from it and did not want to do it anymore and people ckeep calling me and keept just refusing to goi out and then I started to really need the money and so I went to see one of my friends and I made the mistake of not letting walk me out and to the door. nNow this is the key issue here, this why I realized why something is extemely wrong here.

16:20:33
When you are a lone in a Casino and you are doing what I was doing you are fare game to be arrested and kicked out of a hotel. But you could be wearing a sign that says "I am a Hooker" and if you are with a guy they will not do anything to you. And that is pretty much the way that it is in the brothels too. Even though I would never work there. In the sense that NOISE - airplane

16:21:26
The reasons why I think that the brothels ...it is the samething in the brothels you are not allowed to go into the town at all. But if you are with the madam you can go to the store and to town and do the things you need to take care of . You are not allowed to go to bars for the rest of your life and you are not allowed to go to Casinos... basically when you are AIRPLANE NOISE
The point is that when you work in this indust.a when you start doing something that is conemed by the legal system even when it is legal in the dcase of the brothel you become a ward of the man you give your liberty due porcess your rights even in the case when it is legal. Those women don't have due process they don't have their rights as I said the something that any womean can do in that ...in one case that you can compestae in the explotive nature of your job to make a lot of money. Its... not worth it to me it was not.

16:23:50
That is why I realized that I needed to get out of it. I made the mistake of walking out o the hotel with the man and security picked me up and they did not take me in. For that I am very grateful. I have a suspicion of what happened that night and i dont know i it is true and I know it is true I dont know the whole story but someone that I had spent quite a lot of time with and had become quite attatched to me because I was not what he had expected for a paid companion. He saw me walking out and saw me coming from somebody elses room and so he had security hassle me. I know this because there was no reason or them not to take me in.

J: You said that you were often doing drugs. Were you doing drugs that day?
16:25:23

JNE: Ya I was doing coke that day. Coke is real good and kind of spend that spends you uup and it basically numbs you. I was talking to some other women

it is a real big drugage waste or doingthis because not only does it it just gives you that rush that you always wanted and it takes some of that alientation out the sex. Even though there is not nearly as much sex as people would think. It not as big a part of what the men want it is more that the men are looking for some one to hang out with and someone to be seen with.

JOANIE

17

I was really coked out and security was hassling and I kept talikng and trying to get my way out of it and they were going through my wallet and they found $800 in my wallet. It has to be pretty frustrating when you are a security guard and you are making minimun wage and you find some 20 year old and she has $800 and youknow that she just made that and it is not a whole months pay and so it has to pretty frustrating and as a result they were complete dicks to me and so I was grateful and threw me in a cab and the cab driver saw security excorting me and the cab driver said It was funny because alls I had was $100 bill and he knew what was going on and he said ya know honey I would not tell anyone about this if i were you. Because.... And so that is how I got out of it.

16:27;59
I was at some Italian rest. with the person that had nocked me off to the security and he told me that ... at the time I wanted to be a perfiormance artist and he told me that I should just give it up. If I am not Jewish or Italian I would not be able to make it in any industry and I should just give it up. I would never..to...Look at you look at what you are wearing what you are making you are never going to go 8 hours or min. wage. Because you could just go and make an entire years worth of money in a week and I would not be able to make that switch and...

TAPE 17: JOANIE INTERVIEW

17:00

Joanie: And thhis person told me there wasno point in dreaming, and that this would be my life, that was my life and I got really angry and stormed into the bathroom crying, I came out and he apologized and I see that's when it all started unraveling, it made me angry, not so much--that his sort of person was the only person that could make it in the world and I started wanting to prove him wrong, and I did..I'm now I got out of it and now that I look back on that part of my lie and realize that sort of that part of my life is just a dream and a game for me and now that I'm going onto graduate school and that I'm following something that i really love I relaizre that now I really regret all oft hat happening and it has the potential to really cause alot of people alot of pain...

Jodie: What do you want to do with that knowledge?

Joanie: huh, eventually I would like to some sort of advocate for these women for the women tin this town that--first of all have to lead a double life of um, being the human being and um having to deal with other people and yet meoving through them, or being completely ostracized from them in the sense that you can't let anyone know what's happening in your life and so eventually I'd like to be some sort of advocate for these women that do this..as far as

personally, I've always been draw to the sort of shadows in life and that's just another shadow that I have to deal with within myself--

Jodie: What do you think the influences were that brought you to that--what was it like being in Las Vegas--did it have any influence on you?

Joanie: I definitely think so--as I said earlier, dating rich men, going out with them, gambling with their money, gambling thousands of dollars, having the ability to eat whatever you want buy whatever you want do ay activity you want at just the drop of a hat you can just have whatever you want--thats part of the myth of Las Vegas that's part of what you grow up with--its not everything, this is a city it is a normal city there is an entire community away from the strip, but that image is there, that Strip image of glamour and the showgirl and the callgirl, its all part of what forms your image of womanhood int his town, whether you realize it or not--it was very seductive to me it was very glaorous to me and when I actually became part of the myth, by playing this role, being this person, this callgirl, it made it feel larger than life--it made me think--it became part of those glamorous images that you dream of as a child, when you're conjuring up what womanhood means to you and what being a girl means to you the sexuality is so powerful that whe you realize you're gifted with the ability with having men treat you like this, just all based on what the'yre image of what a callgirl is--it brings womanhood to--it take womanhood to --not just womanhood on a pedastal, its womanhood up in a tower and Las Vegas definitely promotes that image of woman--the image of woman as a callgirl as a showgirl, you know there I remember seeing that show Vegas when I was a little kid, it was ridiculous to me at the time, of course it was a ridiculous show, but it was shows like that and shows where, Oh, people went to Vegas and they got married or they were involved in a murder mystery or they became callgirls its that sort of image that you relaizre isn't the daily reality, but its the myth of Las Vegas.

mostly shots of Jodie & Joanie

The image that Las Vegas puts out, that its had, is a myth in that it doesn't exist for most of the people here, but its a reality in the sense that it does exist for some people, and to be part of that larger tha life reality it was very seductive...

Jodie: What were the other choices for women that you saw here?\

Joanie: The main images of women that I saw growing up were of my grandmother who was--she was a cocktail waitress, in the service industry--it just seemed that there were two image of womanhood that Las Vegas puts out--there was the nice person, the nice girl, that waits on you and brings you food and drinks and makes your bed and who makes very little money, in comparison with the other girl that Las Vegas puts out, and she's the free one the glamourous one, shes the showgirl, the callgirl, she makes alot of money, she doesn't wait on you, in the sense that she doesn't bring you food, but you do have access to her body...

I think the funny thing about this --one of the main reasons why this happened was because of my relationship with my father--I had this typical father that read playboy, and I can remember being thirteen years old and thinking when i grew

up I wanted to be in playboy, be a playboy bunny, because that was who my father gave attention to, and thats why one of the main reasons this was so seductive, but now looking back on that part of my life um, its very painful because its one of those things where you feel that unconditionla love doesn't cover areas like you're daughter becoming a callgirl--so now that my future is so much brigher and that I am going to graduate school and I did so well in school here and I'm a well-respected academic-- as far as my academic life is concerned here, and now that I have all of this different--now that I have a basis for self-esteem other than my sexuality I realize that that callgirl image and that showgirl image of womanhood is really an image that is put out and is controlled by the same people that control whether or not how much they pay in their power bill--as far as goig back to that Steve Wynn thing--I now know having been part of that--having liver that life, been that woman, having destroyed my womanhood in the process//I know that it, it...its taken me a long time to rebuild..

SANDI 17

c.u. of Jodie here—

→ wide to 2-shot

You have dreams?

I have dreams now, yeah.

What do you have that relaces the fantasy that you were living?

Well, I have..I love myself now--and that definitely replaces--self-love definitely replaces that fantasy, there's no self-love in a fantasy--there's no reality--my mother always told me to follow the god of my heart, and thats what I can honestly say I'm doing now and I couldn't say that then, and now I sleep with a clear conscience..

17:12:00
WIDE--SANDY RESTORI RESIDENCE
SHOTS OF SANDI IN GARDEN

17:17:09
Sandi reads letter:

Dear Mom, get your O'douls and put on your glasses and sit and read a spell--I think there's lots for me to write about and in doing so maybe I can help myself as writing always helps me to gain perspective and at the same time communicate myself when it is necessary --you have hung in there with me for so long that I know you will always listen as I do and will always do with my own kids--I hope that you are still improving and that your time with Susan was wonderful, it is long overdue. I hope and pray that her life with Chaz will be long and rewarding, it is always possible when we both work together..

I remember returning home from Florida one Christmas with you and Dad and as soon as we hit the state line snow was everywhere, and I remember telling you how much I loved Pennsylvania and to please never move us to Florida...I was a child then and of course the economy has changed drastically since then,

but the roots I feel have not--it is a terrible thing to have suffered so much loss as we have and myself personally in the last five years--the pain in me has been so great in me I thought I would drown and never come up, and it seemed that whichever way I turned there was another huge loss and darkness, if it hadn't been for my faith I truly would not havemade it. It seemed it was just too much for a woman with three children. My attempts to keep us all from going further and further down just didn't get us anywhere and the kids all freaked from Dan's depression and withdrawal, and their losses and the whole bit.

I have suffered great pain in watching Nathan's grades go from good to bad as he is so gifted. I have had to suffer these things alone as Dan is so threatened when I try and discuss it with him--but thankfully I can communicate with Nathan well and have been able to get him help which has been excellent. Nathan doesn't blame anyone but is being resonsible to get his show oin the road, I will not absolutely not let the kids give up on life and so far they are like airplanes that took nosedives and are pulling up the throttle. For that I am very thankful. Raising three alone is damn and hard enough let alone these losses and relocating.

17:19:44
They have settled into Las Vegas on the surface for now yet know that they don't want to stay here. There is really nothing here but the gambling and the traffic. The mountains are wonderful to go to, but hard to find time to get to let alone the cars trying to climb the mountains...so basically I am done with Vegas. Yes the jobs are OK, but MGM is not trning out to be what anyone expected and so far over 3,000 people have quit--its becoming time to move on again.
We have been all over the United States which has been educational to say the least for the kids and all of us, but I am done following Dan's dreams--
I have finally gotten tired, real tired. Winters here are wonderful, but other that the winter weather, this place is not for me, especially for forever. Equally important, you two need help--I really did think that when we left Pennsylvania the two of you would be out to visit or at least Christmas, but with your ilnesses that became impossible. I kept thinking it would all work out for everyone, but it hasn't.

I just cant see living this way here with you two there with all the circumstances in both places. For you guys to sell your home and move out here if that was even remotely possible I think would be a big mistake. You wouldn't like it here any more than I do, Mom. Basically it is what it is--a big hot dustbowl out in the middle of nowhere. Lots of people call this home but they' aren't from back East--economically it does provide jobs, but the cost of living is high and getting higher--I can't see Nathan and Josh never being able to drive just because we all live in this dustbowl..its fine for them because I drive them everywhere, but between my job, Sarah, driving everywhere and housekeeping, I am totally exhausted. And for what? I dont regret having come, but I am ready to go. We really are no better off than before. Its been interesting, but I am done. I think Dan's big reason for not wanting to retire when he says he doesn which he comes and goes is his pride. In fact its his pride that has led us all around everywhere from place to place. In fact he said recently he wouldn't go back

without 20,000 I told him that would never be with the cost of living here. He still dreams of hitting the big one but as I said I am tired of chasing his dreams.

17:22:11:00
I hoped that I would like it here but I am so tired of seeing pictures of naked women on taxicabs and every kind of bum in the world on the streets. I think every kind of scoundrel comes to this town. (I remember when I went to get my health card and sitting around with other health-card getters and looking around at other people that live and work here. And thinking then..what the hell kind of people live here. Strange.) Well I did it though and was successful too as far as success in Las Vegas goes, but this town is not good and getting worse as more and more people move in, and as many move in as move out.

Somtimes my dreams keep me captive, too. I think I keep trying to restore life as it was when the boys were little out in the country and what I was trying to provide for them and all of us in terms of a happy family life. I think many times all of us moving about was part of trying to keep us all happy and together, but my heart aches for simpler times--when it does that which is most of the time--(CRIES)--I--look at Dan and inside of me wells the most enormous hatred from years long ago. Yes he worked hard some of the time but was mean as hell and scary and then would tur around and be nice. Remember the time when you shipped the boys and me, pregnant with Sarah on the train to Florida...I do try and forget all of it it is so difficult only prayer helps...but when he starts up again, it all comes back.

I do personally think my coming out here was to make him share the responsibility in raising the kids that he wanted, and Sarah, and I do think he was running away when he came here--he's so different than he was long ago and so am I and alot of it is guilt. He can hardly talk to the boys and then behind their backs, especially Nathanm and then accuses me of sticking up for him. Sayoiong that I think he is perfect. I think you were right whe you said that Dan can not relate to us and thinks he is inferior. That I see when I see that he never tried to cultuvate a relationship with them--even now Nathan and Josh are so involved in cycling and he remains aloof. There I am with the bike carrier on my car and transporting them everywhere to bike shops tracks and trails. Believe me Mom, it sometimes takes everythng I have not to hate the man.

17:24:7
I have come to know that no matter where I would relocate he would always be the same as long as he is this way especially with the boys--I think he is jealous. At least this year I have gotten the feeling of stability and that is important, it is so endearing--they boys tell me when they become successful they are going to build me a greenhouse...while Dan bitches about Nathan's grades, his eyes are glued to the TV, and not once did he even go to school for any unctio or even talk to the counselor at school. Poor Dan, he has missed so much in the life of his own children...

17:25:54
Interview...

Well, um, alot of the--I have become more settled since I wrote the letter. One reason is that I changed jobs at MGM and I'm not quite as tired...I enjoy the job that I do, which is showroom server--before I worked in the studio cafe at MGM, and I worked the 7pm to 3 in the morning shift, which with being a mother and an attentive mother, I just was running out of-on empty--so it made everything ugly. I was just way too exhausted.

SANDI

18

So I transferred into the showroom, the Hollywood Theater, and get to see al the different acts--Tom Joes and Rodney Dangerfield, and meet show business people, which was really nice, having a son that is interested in getting into that. And realizing they're just people, so I used to vcome home and tell them there's no reason you can't do anything, I mean you can do anything!

So my new hours are much better, so therefore life is a little better here. I do miss home the East, the green and the grass and the soil and the mountains, ad the birds and the all.. but the boys love it here--they're doig really well. And when my kids are happy then I'm really happy. They snowboard, they bicycle, they --work and do well in school so there happiness and school I'm much more settled, pretty much things have changed for the better---we have an excellent shift--we work seven to eleven at night, we're the're for four hours, but we get paid til one o'clock--we get paid for six--and we really only work an hour and a half for that--its great, its the best job in Las Vegas I'm telling you. So I'm home and asleep at a decent time so it makes getting upi in the morning and getting the little one off to school a bit less stressul.

I don't think Las Vegas makes it easy to be the kind of mother I was when the boys were smaller. I think there's too many distractions, to tell you the truth-- or them especially--the important thing for them is that--having been raised in a rural environment, we had our own greenhouse at home--they have that foundation. So raising them here isn't like it would be for some..

TAPE 18: SANDY RESTORI: DOING LAUNDRY AND INTERVIEW

18:00
We lived on ten acres out in the country. And uh, beautifu acres.

18:00

So, we lived in Pennsylvania, had a little farm there. Not, we weren't raised on that kind of land. We were hippy type of people and wanted to get back to the land and so we did. And it was a great life. It was nice. I had a greenhouse business and gardens and the whole thing. Had a little egg business and such. Um, and myhusband worked with the steel industry. And when the steel industry went down, so did his job. And he tried to do everything to make a living. Um, we had three children -- two at the time--actually, when that happened. And he tried everything, as did everybody else, he tried to make a living and there was just, it was just hte depression. We went through really, really unbelievablly hard time. And eventually, we realized we had to sell our

place ad move. And there was a lot of stress that goes on daily in teh process of making all those decision. And it really got to us. it destroyed us actually for a while. But we eventually did sell our home, and land, and business and ausch and moved to Florida,

18:01:49
thinking we that may be I could be a horticultrist. Maybe i the greehouses down there. And he was into painting. He had a painting business dow there. So we maoved to Florida after a short time in Florida a week , I knew that I did not want to stay there. The schools wer horrendous. The superintendant even agreed that it was not a good place or our kids to be there was nothing they could do about the situation in the schools.

18:02:15
S that and just a alot o culture ad ec=verything so we moved up to Northern Virgina right oustside o Washington DC which was a great place to live. The cost of living was so high. We were still all stressed out. The relocating three times in one year was a bit much or everybody.
18:02:56
And the cost of living was very high. There was a riend who was living there and after two weeks that job fell through so there we were. He was unemployeed again andd I was working two jobs as a horticulturer in the morning and a waitress at a beautiul rest. at night. with the kids and back p depression and then back in penn with Tim not working. So there were othe problems that made me decide that the best thing to do would be to back to Penn and to , our home was gone and everything was just about gone then.That was a matter of about a year and a half of moving around.

18:03;37]
So we moved back to Penn. And tried to get organized and reestablished. Which was hard the boys had a hard time. We did not have our home. So Dan came back and decicded to buy an old van and take a trip across the country. And the boys being cyclists thought that the west would be good and Utah is where we were mainly looking. we endde up taking the trip for four weeks and always the past is hard to forget...to keepus all together and ended up back in Penn

.
18:04:33
And Dan came out here to Las Vegas and I think that I am not sure why Las Vegas and we were not sure if we were going to stay together or not so he decide to and he flew back to Penn and surprised us all and I was not sure how I felt about all of it . Never the less we bought another old van. Loaded it up with things that we could absolutely not part with. Sold everything. Everything. Brought the bikes and the what all and moved out here. Left the antiques with my parents. Went across the united states it took us 5 days it was like being a pioneer. It was like the wagon thing. We had a big dog, a cat and igonia and unfortunately the van which was being driven by a friend of mine started chumping metal around Idiana somoewhere. so we decided to just keep going until it would not go. So it took us to Amirillo Text where it completely broke

down. There were horrendous tornados. The breeding grounds. It was spectacular. There were storms 365 degrees all around very dangerous in the van on the hwy. We rented a uhaul about then

18:06;58
I cried. I was getting stressed out. I had to do so many things. Took out all the things rom the van and put them in the Uhaul. and continued on to Las Vegas not knowing and feeling very led todo this it was what I had prayed about and pulled into this hot desert in July. After going thru the deserts in NM and the car over heating I thought what Am I doing. So procedded immediatelyto settle and find a job. I was very fortunate to land a job at the Las Vegas Hilton and uhm was getting the feel for Las VEgas and was not wild about it and thaought that this was wheere I was suppose to be.

18:08:06
The kids weredoing ok in school. The oldest had a hard time relating to the way the kids were here. Pennians have a diffeent way like New Hamshirian and Bostonians. We have a lot of routes and a lot of cultural thing s that we could not find here. They did well. The found thhings to keep them happy. The little one she just goes with the flow. about 6 months when MGM opened Igot a job and was not still happy about Las Vegas.

18:08:54
It is a completely dif culture from back east. People dont seem to be really interestedin the fine art or education. Could not seem to find artist activities. We used to go to alot of thing like ballets and things back home and the big stately mansions and with grass and rivers and flowers and It was just a different I could not get used to It seemed very transperant and glittery not ...

18:09:55
I had a turning point when I wnet to the Nevada Ballet. at christmas. And there is culture in Las Vegas. That was the turning point to my liking Las Vegas. There are pockets. There are synphonies. And they performed an outdoor concert at a mainsion that waas donated to the county. And it was free and you brought your blanket and kids and Freesbis. I could not find that here and I could not find that but it is here i found it. Doing that and meeting people it has improved.

18:10:58
Out of laundry. Working here in LV is diff. than any work I have evr done. When I was back home I had my own business. I had worked in a univ. I was use to that Academia . Moving to LV was interesting It has its pros and cons. and have made friends From all over the world. Like Bath England - my son is going to Europe and will stay with and as mother we want to keep intouch the pluses to the kind of work that I do has been metting people.

It was very hard work in the rest. that I worked in here. It ws heavy work. Thisngs could have been improved but I dont think mgment wasnted to do the thing that would have been logical. To make everyone a better work place. I seems like avery much male domintaed managemetn.

When I first cam to LV I was ...Offended ya alot of times women are looked down upon. i dont think that this twon has evolved in the equal sexes as much as back east. i think it is the acadiema situation. here you know that women are alwaqys being checked . That made me want to leave the waiting ind. but I think that it may be that way in alot of industries here. But in the casino ind. there are a lot of men who harase. And mgt. seems to think that is part of it. And that is a game you play and I am not so much into playing games so I find it difficult.

Where I am now we serve cocktails. The advantage to serving cocktails in a showroom as cocktail waitress. Mainly thereare waitresses that comein so there is not much of that male thing they do. You dont have that as a issue. I know that cocktail waitress get tired.

18:15:15
A: what kind of uniform?

S: We were a tuxido. Beautiful black jacket. The strip is one big cement prostitute. I was a flower child. natural. working here you have to do the other thing. i seem to see the unnatural as what they are. I wrotte toa friend that the casinos seemto be giant cement prostitutes just sitting out there waiting or people to come in. And people throwing there money away on dreams. It is deciving. They give me the feeling of they are places of fantasy. But there good things about casinos which are the shows if you ask me. You can see the best entertainment in the world. But as ar as going to the casinos. It turns me off. I am not a gambler. Dan says I am one in a million.

18:17:43
Well you know I'll be honest when I was in the restaurant I was very close to the point of quitting, I couldn't take it much more...the job where I do--that I'm in right now I love the arts ad working or the arts althoug its not symphony orchestras that I'm serving cocktailsto watching, but they are musicians, they are artists, and uh, comedians and peopletwho have worked very hard to get those types of careers, so I don't think its rationalizing, its working in a worl where there is creativity andi like that where working in the restaurant was more just sloven--endless open mouths of nothing....so i do work in a casino in a department where I feel entertainment is a great thing, so its not so bad, and we dont serve so many cocktails that people get real drunk and walk out, everybody gets just one drink. Its kinda nice its been an education for me--and its helped for me to share that knowledge with my son who wants to study music, art, something--for them to know that--although its in a casino atmosphere its in a creative arena...

18:19
As far as raising my children here with the billboards and the bothers me alot-bothers me a whole lot--when I first moved here and you see those thingson the taxi cabs, there's nothing like that in the whole united States you don't drive aroud and see that-- In time you become desensitized to that and I also wonder if my sons are alos feeling desensitized as such--they ask me about it--they are very logical about it because they just think its--they're past all that already,

intellectually its just a scam of some sort--they're not at all influenced by much of ==any of that that I know of---they see it or what it is, especially the older son, those things turn him off, he thinks they're degrading to women and I would say Josh feels that way too byut hes sixteen and we haven't discussed it all that much, Nathan's eighteen and he finds it degrading, anything that is degrading to women Nathan doesn't lie hes a very eveloved 18 yr. old, and alot of that goes back to being raised in an environment where things are very natural and normal and there was substance and things like that and then being put in this kind o curcumstance, thankfully they're able to distinguish the real from the--what's real and what's right-whats moral from whats not--by being that way too the've become leaders--the younger one was elected studnt of the month---his teachers even say he's a leader--alot o that is the act of taking those moral kinds of roots and substance that sortof earthy andt aking that and putting children in this environment really gives them that spirit of discernment--discretion, um..but it bother me but yet ^'m very happy that they have intelligence to discern it all.They don't choose to stay here forever--the older one is going away to Europe ad says he may not be back he says--the other one--I don't think they're gona choose to stay here forever--when they go i don't know what I'm gonna do--

18:22
Well the fact of the matter is that jobs have been very scarce and hard to get in our country--people are everywhere looking or jobs--I've seen devastation in Pennsylvania that I really pray people dont ever have to come and see. I've seem tall strong men crumble to nothing and uh--which in a way has been an interesting thing because we all think men are so strong and they are--but when men are jobless and homeless and hopeless our country has really done a job on men--it is pitiful to watch what happens and its given me great sympath or men when I used to juist basically get mad at the things they do bu t now I undeerstand why--and I read a really good book that I gave to your husband that really helped me to understand exactly what goes on inside men.

18:23
The bottom line is that when there was no market in Pennsylvania or Virginia, or everywhere its just a bad time or the American white man period...andthis city really has I think from alot of men I've talked to too--has really helped them regain their egos and their sense of manliness hopefully in the good sense and be able to be providers for their families again...so we moved here and pretty much we are all working and its livable--

18:24
I would say in some circumstances but not all--I have to say maybe a man whose never experienced huge loss of self esteem of such and so on, of of home of family mybe a man whose never experienced that who had to find a job a life to gain that back again maybe that man has not dome that necessarily at the expense of women but believeme i kow alot of men int his town who come to visit or do live here who have gained their status, positions, at the expense of women...and I have one friendin particualr who went through something horrendous rightnow and even my husband will say its typical Las

Vegas men's town--Dan is pretty evolved he doesn't --care for most of the men here, either, because they are here to use women to gain their--
and actually those are the very weakest men of all to prey on women for their self-esteem is just totally disgusting and it is here--I don't know that its not everywhere in everytown in every country it is in alot of countries I can tell you rom waiting on diferent people from different cultures and I can name exactly which ones--I never would choose to go to these countries--they have used women for years to gain their manliness.

SHOW GIRLS 19

I think American men comparatively in a worldwide uh, look probably the least the way--I'd say the English are the least that way--there are gentlemen left in the world, they're in England, but other than that the other countries theya re like that..

18:26
Living in Las Vegas, I'll be absolutely hoonest--I have learned moreso--it has been confirmed to me personally here that women are very strong and men are very weak unfortunately...I have come to see how strong I am and thats one thing. Very much I've come to see how strong I am--how much I've learned, uh loss and gain and traveling and moving really how much I've gained spiritually. I've seen alot of people who have gone throughthte same things similar, but haven't learned very much--I guess they choose not to--

As a woman here, too, I've learned I think probably what a woman really is--which is one who is able to maintain their womanliness--the ultimate womanliness--by not being too affected by the things that go on around you where you're able to have more a balance or a coherent scale to compare yourself to the typical thing that men look at as women--some here in Las Vegas. I don't know if that makes sense what I just said, it makes sense to me but I don'tknow whether it makes sense to you .

18:28
What else have I learned here as a woman? Not a whole lot since I have since I started dating about men and that is that you really just have to never ever lose who you are--thats number one you just continue to be who you are--its a very easy thing to lose, I've seen alot of women lose their identity to the men in thihs town, alot and its sad I've worked with alot of young girls that haven't quite gotten it yet that they don't really want you for who you are --they want you to change, they want you for this or that--in the long run its not really ---(someone knocks)

18:29
Shows of uniform she wears (***tape is beeping****)

TAPE 19-- BACKSTAGE STARDUST SHOWGIRL INTERVIEW

Cutaways of showgirls stuff T.C. is @ 15.00...
(changes to 19:00 when interviews begin)

19:06:22
My name is Sharon Kuzamano, and my Mum was a dancer both in London and in Paris, both she and I were classically trained and though I had no intention of going into the business, I was going to become a veterinarian and go back to England, but I ended up auditioning after I graduated from high school and stayed here at the Stardust from 76-86, and then I came back again in 1991, so I guess you could say it runs in the family...

19:07--bad sound...My name is Melinda...

19:07
My name is Aki Halma, I come from Holland, and I became a showgirl because I started dancing really late, at 16, and I didn't have enough talent to become in classical companies, where I auditioned so I ended up auditioning for a cabaret in Monte Carlo, and afterwards I danced in Paris for seven years. I met this friend in the Lido in Paris and he went to Vegas and I went visiting him one summer, and I met my husband in Monte Carlo, and I'd seen enough of Paris after seven years, so we decided to go and live in Vegas so we could be together.

19:09
My name is Marlene Maynard, but I go by the name of Vincente, that's my maiden name--I didn't exactly choose to be a showgirl, it sorta chose me, but like some of the other dancers, I started my training very late as a ballet dancer, and I was also very tall, and my parents had brought me to Las Vegas for my seventeenth birthday, and I thought that people in Las Vegas don't dance, they call it whatever, and I was so impressed with Casino De Paris and how well trained and beautiful and glamorous they all were, and I felt very fortunate to be accepted into the opening of the original MGM hotel in las Vegas, and I came here and I've been here every since and I love it. That's how that started.

19:10:00
PUTTING ON EYELASH--C.U.

19:10:00

Jodie: What would you like the public to know about showgirls here in Las Vegas that they don't know...

That we're not stupid, I don't know whether its the same--they always think that we have no brains, that its like a pretty face with no brains, and I don't like that idea...

That we're absolutely normal, we're normal, we have homes and gardens and problems and we share recipes and we go to school and there are children involved and we are normal, we don't languish around eating bon-bons all day, right guys?

So Aki, how's school going, being a lawyer and studying to be a lawyer--is it hard? It's hard to mix the two, and I've tried to do it really fast, up til now its been really hard with the rehearsals...I was really suffering from the fact that we were looked upon as like stupid and but that's not the only reason but its one of the reasons because I was tired of being looked on as a pretty face...it something nice to go into after you get tired of dancing..its a nice career to make, a career change...

19:12:39
There are varying degrees--its not like the old days when everyone used to parade aroundin huge headresses and there was very little dancing, there's a tremendous amount of dancing that goes on alot of the girls are taking areobics classes and ballet classes during the day just to stay in shape, its alot of work, you know we make our living from our looks, you've got to be able to compete--and there's lots of young girls out there, you've got to be careful...

19:33
Today I think its any female performer in a show, but that doesn't mean that they're just female mannequins in a show that walk and pose and just stand still the fact that they're in a show makes them a showgirl but they're all very highly skilled dancers that come from a variety of ballet, jazz, tap, acrobatics, theater backgrounds, acting, musical backgrounds, alot o people aren't aware--there's alot more substance there than people realize, and alot more preparation, goes into doig what we do then just putting on a costume and makeup and walking around in high heels--very much like Sharon said, then we have out other lives as well--

But this is a very glamorous life as well--sometimes we talk to each other and say oh gosh not feeling to well, this isn't glamorous its hot I'm seating, my feet are killing me, the glue's bothering me, but when you really look at it overalll, the time isshort and the years go fast, and if you're really enjoying all the beauty and glamour, its a glamorous profession, and I think people really do need to keep that image in mind, but not the image that we're just airheads, that's not the case...especially when you see the ladies that have hung their shoes up, not by choice, but maybe because time has moved on, and they have to move on to, and they go into working as CPAs and lawyers as Aki will and real estate, Melinda's done a great deal of teaching and line captain and coaching and she may still be searching for her path, but she's already got a few things happening...

Good things happen for us...
But we're one of the lucky ones who get to say we were showgirls, we were on a stage in a glamorous, sophisticated, tasteful show...

19:15:44
I love performing for people and getting a row out of them--there's nothing more that makes me so happy to see someone's face in the audience light up...
see them in the audience to laugh or smile because we're entertaining them--that feeling I get is what I thrive on and that's what keeps me dancing perforing

working hard, and that just makes me happy, entertaining people...that's what I get out of it..

If you do go out in the casino afterward or to the grocery store, someone might recognize you and say didn't I see you in the show? And that's kind of exciting, a little mini-bite of fame if you will, its um, fun, I would be lying if it didn't sort of feed our egos a little bit. But we've been given talent, and this is the way we feed our talents. As Marlene said---we may go into other things later, but I've been doing this since I was five years old, and I will use these feet and these legs as long as I can tomake a living--until this starts to go, and the rest starts to go, but until then, (knocks on wood) I'll be alright.

A: What is gonna happen when you can no longer dance?

I would like very much to be a mother, I'm very much happy being a housewife outside work, and I've just been reading a book that pegs me as a scanner, there's lots of things that I'd like to delve into, I'm absorbed in books, I've got piles of books with bookmarks everywhere...I've got my real esate license, whether I'll go back into that I don't know, but I would like to be inolved in the library district, I've been a volunteer in the literacy..don't quite know what I'll be when I grow up...

A: How hard is your life?

19:18
I imagine what pysicians go through is grueling--they're goal is to be a good pysician to treat people, so comparatively, how hard is our life? We work hard, we have long hours, some of us have injuries, many of us have worked because we want to pack in as much as possible modeling during the day and dancing at night and sometimes rehearsals during the day, then dancing at night, and then you go home and you try and catch up on all your other things, but so..I don't know that its a hard life, but its a very full life...

19:20
Working at night you have a full day to do what you want, I myself get up at 7:30 or 8 and putin a full day, maybe catch a nap, but sometimes that may work against you, that's a treat--I do missbeing at home to watch the 6 o'clock news, turning on the news, watching the sun go down, being normal, would be lovely, and I did that for a few years, but I came back to this--

19:21
I don't like the word feminist--I don't like to categorize, and I don't like the aggressiveness which comes from feminists, because I feel very feminine, and I have never been bothered by anything, you know, I don't know what their problem is, I always followed men who were great doing the dishes and all, I don';t understand the problem, so maybe I'm feminist without knowing it, but I don't like to be categorized --I don't think being a showgirl is having to do with being part of a group of certain women, its a job like any job....its not a job like any job of course, but Its not--like--

`half-hour' →

STARDUST

20

19:22
Within the feminist movement there are some women out there that feel that we're being exploited..I don't eel exploited--do any of you feel exploited? You just feel that you're using your talent--

When I'm doing backhandsprings and flips in high heel shoes, I feel like I am being applaud for my talents, if I was just walking across stage prancing showing my tits you know that would be a different story, but that's not what its about--that's not the showgirls these days, they're well-trained..

19:14
For those ladies that were mannequins, that just walked across the stage, there was nothing on top, but had beautiful 5,000 Bob Macki costumes on the bottom, it took a special skill even for them to walk properly to hold themsleves well and balance those costumes, that in itself took a skill, not all those ladies just walked off the street and didn't have to bother themselves with the kind of physical skill burdnes and pains and toleratinvg the pain and the heat and the weight of those costumes...as far as the feminist thing, we don't have time...we're just too busy to think of what we're doing is feminist, I love men. We all love men. And they seem to love us, stay with their respect--show us respect just like anyone else...and if they don't we make them aware of it...but a woman gets respect just like everyone else, but she can still be sensuous and feminine and aware and sexy, and fun, and without being a bimbo...

19:24

J: How did you feel the first time you danced topless?

I was an understudy and I realized I was on, and When I realized it was a bit of a shock--it didn't feel naked it didn't feel rude...

I also want to say something--in America its such a big deal, people are shocked by topless women in the show--what shocks me more is ugliness, I think that beauty can never be vulgar in any way..what's shocking to me is a woman that weighs five hundred pounds, and you see them everywhere, thats really shocking thats vulgar, and noone says anything...in America violence is OK, and nudity is wrong--I don't mind showing my tits, they're beautiful so whats the problem... but violence is OK, its OK to have fifteen guns in the house...

Marlena...at first I would not do it, I trained too hard...but when I came to Las Vegas and saw how tasteful the topless shows were I began to change my mind...at first I was thinking so much about the choreography...I didn't even realize...

TAPE 20--BACKSTAGE STARDUST

21:00
Kim (English woman)

My mother when she heard I was going topless said she wouldn't come to see the show, but she came and she was proud, but there was always that disinction when I was growing up that these were the showgirls and these were the dancers...we do get paid more--a little more for each one...(laughter)

20:01:22
Strip clubs are becoming more popular sorta like the two-martini lunch, its amazing, men go for that instead. I don't mind, I'd be quite happy working covered...

20:01:37
Dancer #2:
I think with Las Vegas becoming more family oriented, they need to make more shows where children can come and see...so I think that's why the shows are becoming more like energetic and covered, because Las Vegas with everything is being done with the amily in mind, our shows are becoming more covered

Dancer #1:
Plus with the harder choreography, you can't have all these girls running around topless with these leaps and jumps...

Danver #2:
That's a good point, the dancing's becoming alot harder...it just wouldn't look very nice.

Dancer #1:
My husband's been around models and dancers his whole life, so to him, it snothing new...

20:02:57
Dancer #2:
I think it depends on how secure the man is that you're with--I think that pretty much says it all..it seems like when alot of us dancers end up dating people within the business, whether they're musicians or comedians or the lighting people, they already have an understandng of this business... that makes it alot easier.

20:04:00
My father's 80,000 kilometers away, so no problem...my father's a man of few words, so I think he's proud, he likes to see that all those dance classes and hard work are paying off, you can see the appreciation, I don't think he's embarrassed by it, he'll say to people go and see my daughter in Into the Night...

20:04:50
Take advantage of it, because the years go so fast, every day you do your show and for some reason it goes fast and just really enjoy it, I would say if the girl has got the talent to do some classical work, try to do it before, because they are so great--I wanted to be a classical dancer but I was too tall and didn't have

enough talent, but once I discovered the showgirls and the mentality is so much more fun, they don't take each other so serious, more fun...

MARY Naked City 20'

20:05 47:06
Marlena...
Aside from your physical maintenance which you must always remember to keep up, each night that you're performing, even ifits a night that you're not that up, try to find some small tiny element in what you're doing that you haven't kept up, no matter how many repetitions you do, you'll always find something new and interesting, you won't be bored with your job.

Male sure that you have an interesting life outside the theater. This is not real, this is the stage and theater, but you have to have a home to go to, make sure that you go to school and have other interests go to school, because this is not real, this doesn't last...that was the most profound....

20:07:27
STARDUST SIGN AT NIGHT

20:10:20
CRAZY HORSE TOO AT NIGHT--EXT.

20:11:22
MARY MOVING--EXT. SHOTS

20:26:07
Mary talking with Super:
You don't have to say anything...Amie this is Fred...Fred's our new manager of this property that are empty...he's a good guy, he's on our side, he's a mediator. Did you see Stupak on the news...he dieda couple times and talked to God and got told him that they weren't ready for him yet...come back to help the people of Las Vegas...and help all his former employees that he fired out mistreated...

20:15:13
And one of the other properties this one over on Baltimore one their case in court, so I guess they're not going to take the property...

20: 15:36
You pretty much know how I felt about the situtaion ever since this happened. but moving, I'm gonna miss the people and the neighborhood...I really am I'm gonna miss these people alot--we dealt pretty much with alot o the people last year, Jodie you'vebee around too, these are nice people that live around here, and everybody that moved out of this apartment all felt pretty bad...other than that like we said life goes on, this is progress...(laughter)

SHOTS OF MARY MOVING FURNITURE--BOARDING UP

20:19:24

Jodie in frame: Why are you moving out today?

Mary: Pretty much because the city of Las Vegas put an eminent domain here on the propoerties here in Meadows Village, to add or increase or build on to the Stratosphere Tower, make a bigger and better hotel--

J: Why does the Stratosphere Tower have more power thatn your apartment building?

Mary: I don't know, we;re smaller people, they're people with money and power and they want to rebuild and make a bigger and better hotel and for them to do that they have to put people out, myself I'm fine, but I've seen people that aren't...

J: Whose the money and power behind it?

M: Grand Casinos out of Minnesota, the CEO over there is a gentlemen by the name of Larry Berman, he's the one with the controlling interest over there...actually it started with Vegas World and Bob Stupak which we all know is the owner or was the owner and he sold out to Grand Casinos, but Stupak started the tower...

J: So Bob Stupak started all this?

M: Yeah, it started out with Bob Stupak and eventually the people around here were given their notices to move and we were one of the last properties to move and well, its been over a year now, when everythig started so...
We didn't hold out, the property owners held out, I don't really want to move...

J: How do you feel?

M: As far as my personal feelings...I really don't want to move-- I like the people and I like the neighborhood, its kinda bad neighborhood, but the people are pretty well good people--they're mostly family people, children, there's alot of drugs, but there's alot of good here too. We're moving south, near the airport, I'm not familiar with that side at all...

20:22:44
I think after a year my feelings aren't as bitter as they were last year, I was pretty bitter last year, but now I've kinda accepted it...in 1990, January of 1990..
I started working for Bob Stupak in January of 1990, and I worked for him up until '94, at that time I was terminated, alog with eleven other people that live in this apartment complex, and I kinda miss the job, even though he wasn't the nicest person to work for, the employees themselves were, they all were --super people you know and um, it leaves a bad taste in your mouth..and then of course shortly after that we started hearing that we were gonna hafta move and we started protesting and getting together with Nevada Legal Services which helped us out, and we started walking the neighborhood and having meeetings with the neighbors and city officials and that to see what we could do...there

had

wasn't much we could do but we did get people monies that Stratosphere ... to pay to help move these people, mostly the people that are elderly ad the families and that...

J: What happened to Bob Stupak?

M: I think it was about three months ago he was in a motorcycle accident, he was with his son Nevada, it was pretty bad, he was in a coma I guess--yesterday on the TV they showed Stupak getting out of the hospital, he had some comments, he's kinda a jerk-like person, but his attitude changed a little bit since he had this accident because he started saying that his past employees were sending him letters and get wells and were concerned about them--and um he said he died a coule times and came back, and he said when he died the first time that God told him it wasn't time for him to die and that the City of Las Vegas needed him, for what reason I don'tknow, but he came bakc and got out of the hospital yesterday... (laughter) and he also has changed his attitude about his past employees that if it ever happens again that next time he would be a better person to them...yeah right---I don't know--but we're moving today and tomorrow, but I'm gonna miss it but I'll be back, because I'm still involved with the community center--met alot of nice people, met you guys, the people at the Union Hall...

A: Do you think you've changed in all this?

M: I think it was pretty much of a learning experience--it was something different for me, I'd never really--I've never gotten personally involved, and now I'm personally involved...I'm glad I did, made my life a little bit appreciative, I got married...

MORE SHOTS OF MARY LOADING UP TRUCK

Tape 21

Cigarette Stardust Girl

21:08:50.06
"You are entering a controlled area" sign

21:09
Okay. I'm ready. So why do we stop here?
Well, this is one of the roads that goes to teh Yucca Mountain site that we are studying .. and Yucca Mountain is right out over there. And we are stopping here because the Department of Energy controls all of hte access and you have to have...but I find this sign interesting because the department.. where they go and talk to school childeren adn tehy encourage each of thge schools to send children ... I find this sign really interesting because the Department of Energy has a huge PR campaign herein southern Nevada and they try to encourage each of the school childrens' classes to come out--I think it is from sixth grade--

YUCCA MT. 21

on through twelth grade to do tours of th Yucca Mountain site. And I remember back in the old days, in Mercury, Nevada, which is right up...next to te Nevada test site, we weren't allowed to bring children... in the area of hte gate because they said that there was a radiation throughout the area that could possibly effect children. And we always thought that was something that was just being told to us to keep us from going out there...

21:10
So what is Yucca Mountain? What is your role here? Why are you here?

Well, Yucca Mountain was singled out in 1986 through Federal legislation as the only site in teh country to be studied for a waste dump. And hte citizens of Nevada were outraged.... our representatives and hte reasn that hte decision came down...this small congressional delegation. And there were other places that were being looked at that had granite formations and salt formations that were thought to be very good...what that ridge over there is. And they were just thrown out by public opposition.

21:11

So what happened in congress was that htey decided it would be much easier to go after site you could get politically than to finishing up.. and that is how we got here to Nevada. So the citizens of Ne4vada have been really outraged and the state of Nevada then was given oversight money and part of that money was allowed to be used for public education adn to enable the public to be involved with the whole process. And we always hear that htere is a lot of public involvement, public participation..but you have to fight every inch of hte way to allow te public access to anything. Just like getting in here. This is a totally open program, ... we are going to have to go through a batching process and security checks and that sort of thing. And that is kind of the way anything nuclear happens.

21:12

So if hte elected officials are against it and hte citizens are against it, why does it continue to happen?

Because congress has the law the way that it is. Right now, congress has finally realized that it is taking way to long, it is costing way too much, and there is a lot of legislation pending... in order to change the nuclear waste policy act to either stop this project altogether or to put enough money into it and change the rules enought to make the environmental rules... and to make opposition much more difficult so that it can go ahead and get completed.

21:13

Walking

Besides having such little power in congress, what, is there any other reason that they picked Nevada?

Well, there was enthusiasm on the part of the utilities to pick somewhere. To have a place for nuclear waste. And all kings of people came up with great ideas, for talking someone into it. And one of the more inventive was from a man named Luther Carter who works for an organization in Washington D.C. called resources for hte future. And his plan was that basically knocking it down. And in some speaches he gave, was that Nevada could find.. an honest buck rather than relying on gaming and prostitution and other industries that we could be doing a service and actually be getting some money that wasn't, you know, the wrong kind of money. And I find that pretty offensive as do a lot of people. And there is ... legal prostitutes who probably would not want a job as a nurse's aid or a job that would pay them what someone might consider to be honest dollar rather than what they are getting now. So, everyone has sort have had their own take on what sin is by looking at Nevada I guess. Or maybe what it isn't.

21:14

So what are you up against in your field?
What are you up against in your fight? Are you supported in your educatino of hte public .. who supports you?

Well, we are tremendously supported by teh public. The public here and across hte country have questioned teh fairness of something like this. They have certainly have serious doubts about the transportation campaign that would have to go on. This stuff is going to have to go past a lot of doorsteps to get to Nevada. And that alarms people and as I say, the unfairness is something that they feel uncomfortable about. And, ... are that hte utility industry has a tremendous amount of money. It gives a lot of money to campaigns, it gives a lot of money to the public relations. It is a lot of full page ads in national papers. And,... you know, kind of a David and Goliath sort of situation here. And if it weren't for people who work as volunteers and work very hard and are very dedicated to what they do, it would be awfully hard.

12:15

And we have had substantially less funding as time has gone along. The state has been flat funded. They have gotten the same amount of money. And as this project has taken off, with teh tunnel being dug, with all of the, I mean, you know, the department of Energy gets about $500 million a year on average, and then the state is supposed to oversee all of that work. So there is very little money for what we have been doing. And we were just recently awarded a foundation grant... that this was an important job to be done, and it allowed us to put in a natioal nuclear waste coordination center.

12:16

Looking out, how do you feel, looking out at Yucca Mountain, how does it make you feel?

Well it makes you feel all kinds of ... very familiar with a lot of hte Shoshoni people who have treaty rights to all of this land. And Yucca Mountain is an extremely sacr4ed place to them. And although, I obviously would never claim to know what that is like--the spiritual feeling--... you have a tremendous appreciation for the desert and the sort of fragility that it is. It looks like a wasteland to somebody that works at a utliity on the east coast and wants someplace to dump something. But when you are out here, it starkly beautiful and you see incredible weather patterns and there is just a lot of wildlife that is dependent on this and there are whole cultures that are dependent upon exactly what you see here. This is exactly the sort of place... that they have been here as long as any of hte little creatures that have been here. So, they get very angry and they should at hte people who are transplants here. That come in and as soon as the furniture is arranged and the new apartment Nevadans. And these are hte people who were always here, whom they believe came right out of hte earth and will always be here. They have no plans to relocate. So they planned for this not to happen. And a lot...

12:17

Well people, why is there an argument?

Well, there has been a court case. And the Shoshonis have just now joined... asked to be intervenors in a court case that is now going on.... There have been court cases and the Shoshonis have just now asked to be intervenors in a case that is going on in this county... has rights to te land and the Shoshonis became extremely unnerved and offended when they realized that two separate... over land that is theirs by treaty. And treaties in this country are the ultimate law of hte land. They supersede any sort of laws that congress passes and so forth....International law as we know it. And hte Shoshoni should not be treated as a minority, not as a a group of people in a community. They should be treated as a different government. They are a government just like te U.S. is a government.

21:18:47.

So how long have you been an activist?

Oh, for a very long time. Um, probably close to 20 years. Not certainly on the Yucca Mountain project. Because even though there was work going on on Yucca Mountain that long ago...but I opposed nuclear weapons testing, because they opposed the arms race and we all thought that this was where teh bombs were born. That was our idea about it. And testing needed to stop before you could have the arms race stop. And so there were quite a few of us involved in that sort of thing.... And the arms race now is sort of gone into less of

an issue for us. But just about hte time that hte world is all changing, and you saw the soviet union changing and you saw the wall come down.

21:19:41

And up comes Yucca Mountain adn I live here, I have three children who all live here, I have three grandchildren who all live here. And I don't think of it as a ... thing. I think of it as something that we do not know how to do. And I think America... time with the idea that there is something that they do not know how to do. We watch movies that have wonderful special effects... we have scientists and people who figure that something that is impossible just takes a little longer. And I think...why you see a lot of women being involved in these issues is because we tend to think differently... we don't have that same kind of a can do mentality. I always think we are very strong and we are very energetic about what we do. But I think we understand that with children we do not take chances. You are not as inclined to say, well, let's give it a shot...You sort of want to know that those children are protected and for hte very long term.

21:20:44.29

So what is the story out here, what are the risks, and when do they show up?

Well, they don't show up for quite a while. That is hte problem. That you have people who can finish out very lucrative careers. You have politicians that can finish out long terms. You have utility executives that operate on yearly bottom line... for a while. Adn this problem is going to pop up later, and hte longer you go on, the worse the problem.

21:21:13.03

I think that women think about a whole picture nad a bigger sort of cycle kind of thing. I think issues like the environment, something that is long term, that is gernational, that goes... women tend to focus on because you think in cycles. We tend to think that much differently from men. And I am not saying right or wrong, I just say different. And where you create a baby and you bring forth a baby and you watch these children... in terms of their protection in teh long term.

21:21:52

And I think that also is something that we tend to respect the Indian people for, because they think in terms of seven generations. You look at now, you look at seven generations back and you look seven gernatios forward and then you make a decision that is not going to hurt either one. And with nuclear war, we could not only ruin everything for the future, but you also destroy the very rich past. And with nuclear waste, you are up against about hte same thing. Only it is silent and it happens and what you see here is probably not an exploding mountain, but that has not totally been disproved. But you would be more likely in many thousands of years in that direction where we are looking at California over there, at a community of Indian people where children are starting a very

sick, wher babies are stillborn, where you have these kinds of problems. And nobody is going to know why. And I think you can point right back to the water.

21:22:50

Part of what happened in Southern Utah after hte testing.

Yeah, that was atmospheric exposures and this would take much longer, because the ground water would have to travel. But that is where it goes. And that is where it would show up when it comes to the surface. And if you travel down that road, you find ponds where hte water comes right up to te surface.

21:23:13.00

Picture of sign saying, "U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Test Site Yucca Mountain Project."

12:23:37.19

"No Trespassing" sign.

21:24:00.21

White truck next to sign "Nevada Test Site"

21:24:34.10

In the car (blond woman in passenger seat)

In this effort.

In this effrot, just ilke a lot of hte environmental or the peace and justice efforts, you have a lot of women. And it is a real problem because you are almost always dealing with men and they will talk about5 hte fact that htey do not pay attention to emotional arguments. And what they hear from women tends to be emotional arguments. It is not technically based. And so when you have a women who is very intelligent who is extremely concerned stands up and makes a statement that concerns her children, that concerns the place where she lives and it is hard to talk about those things without becoming rather impassioned--... called a hysterical at worst or an emotiknoal argument at best, and those are ruled out because they want a very coldly calculated kind of an engineer's take on this thing and that would be what they... the wise approach to this idea.

21:25

Okay now, slow down here because we are coming to the gate and you are not going to be able to get through without a badge.

Why? What is up here?

Well, they call this the most open and overseen project in te country, but you still, because of its location near hte Nevada test site, and because it is a DOE project, you have to go through all of the security and all of hte badging and checking that goes on. And it is very difficult. It makes it hard for public access. You had better stop. It is reserved.

21:26:16

Stopping at gate.

21:26;33

turning around

21:26:45.27

I am trying to remember where I was.

Um, whether you had support from the women in Las Vegas. Are tehy active enough?

21:26:52.28

Yeah, you know, if you are at a store or in some public place where there are other people. I have never had hte issue come up, and it comes up alot. I have never had a conversation with somebody who is in favor of bringing nuclear waste here. But I don't think that is a Nevada phenomenon, I think it is, you would find that anywhere in teh country. Nobody wants to be a nuclear waste dump. Women are very cooperative about talking about this sort of thing. They just feel it is just a common sense...sort of issue. Adn obviously if we had something for people to do, we would do that. But we have already done a lot.... well,

21:27

Three resolutions passed in our state legislature. There has been a law passed that prohibits this. The voters of this state will not elect somebody to a national office unless htey are opposed to it. There are women working all the time to support this effort. But it is very hard to tell somebody exactly what they can do when you are virtually working with an act of congress. So I don't know what percentage of phone calls are made by women to the congress or to legislature to te energy department. But I would certainly guess that hte vast majority are.

Because those are the kinds of people you find that will... to do it. They just do what has to be done. And that is always the way it has been.

21:28:21

CAROL

22.

How is being involved in this all htese years influence you as a person?

I think you get a sense of youself in the big picture and you do not concentrate so much on the day to day, or the... see everything is a big picture. You get an idea of even how if you turn the lights on, you are playing a part in something that goes on with this. You become very conservation minded when you realize that we have bought into this power source and that we are going to have to replace it with something else. So you don't want to waste power. You... of a whole ecology a whole environment and at hte one ponit you put yourself in the big picture--possibly you find out that it is also true that maybe you are less important than you might have thought that you were too. Because it takes a whole lot of people and years and everybody efforts here. You are really not anybody that can be singled out as a champion to do it on your own.

21:29 end

TAPE 22: CAROL ALTMAN & SISTER

22:00

voices no picture

22:00:53

Three women sitting at a table (redhead drinking coffee) brunette with necklace and redhead with back facing us.

What did you find when you showed up? Did you like it?

I didn't like it. My husband like it. And then he hates it. Now I like it.

What do you like about i?

Making money mostly when I can

22:01

And there are machines everywhere you go. She is not telling hte truth.

My grandmother lives here. She goes to Smith's and plays the machines.

Smith's? That's not a bad place.

She won there once.

Once, I won there a few times.

22:01:28

You have to be in a casino with her. This is a good machine, I won here. $22. This one I won $100. This is good.

Well, I did win a lot in the machines.

22:01

How do you pick which hotel to go to when?

You don't pick any. You play the machine near me.

22:01

Jodie in frame

She won $15,000. Well, I think my whole family were gamblers. We were game players. We always played peanuckle, in fact, I was thrown from a horse and a vertebrae was loose and the doctor didn't kow what was wrong with me. But, my back hurt and they wanted to play kanasta. So they tied me, because I couldn't sit up, so they literally, this is true, tied me to teh chair with towels. And I was playing kanasta and I fainted dead away. With the chair and everyting. They took me to the hospital. I had scoliosis. I got into a cast. But my last moments were playing kanasta. We were game players.

22:02:22

When you were kids, and then on?

All the time. In fact,

My father

During the war, my father invited soldiers, sailors, anybody in uniform we had to go on the street. WE lived on Broadway and 95th Street in Manhattan and we had to go on the street and bring home anybody in uniform and my father would feed them and let them make phone calls back to their home and all this, but my sister and I, I was only 5-6, she was 8, 9 or 10 (pointing to friend) she was living with us because her husband was in the navy. My sister an I would say, let's play games. We would want these poor guys to play bingo and scrabble and kanasta. Anything, parchesi. And they wanted to eat. And get out.

22:03:09

I never saw that. I was married and lived alone during hte whole war.

Carol:Eleven hours standing on the bus to sampton air force base to see him.

Sister: With the wives through security, we belonged to that club and we would go to the meetings and sometimes bring home a couple of sailors or soldiers adn I would give them a key to my apartment nad move in with my friends. One of them saw the radio near hte bed ad he didn't know what it was. REally, somewhere from Kentucky or Mississippi I don't know where, they didn't even have shoes.

22:03;46

There was a lot of dollar poker,

22:03:50

J:So did you come out when she came?

Carol: No. No. When I got divorced I came out for two months. I used to knock on her bedroomndoor and sy I have a new system. Her husband wanted to kill us. At three in the morning we would go out. We used to play craps in those days.

J; You like poker better than craps?

C: I like poker better than craps for a lot af reasons. Craps is just luck. In poker Iam learning and really trying to become a good player.

Sister: She does speak to people. The whole table.

22:04:51
C: I talk to everybody. I make friends with everybody. I find it a very challenging and very ... I was telling Amie that every few minutes...It is a microcosm of life. You set up you gaot some tools to live your life with. You make a decision what to do with these tools. And then you have to read everybody else to see if they have better tools than you. And if you are using yours better than they are. And it is very exciting and then you either fail or you win. Every three seconds you have this challenge and this failure or this win. And this excitement. And the learning with the failure and the having fun with teh win. You know, it's ... exciting chain all the time and fast changes too, like what's going to come up and you have no control over...vision.

22:05

What is your background?

I am a clinical psychologist and my specialty is sex. I am a sex therapist. I wrote a book called "you can be your own sex therapist" which was an award winning book. I had my own television show. I was kind of, had a very exciting, jet setting life in Manhattan. But then I was raped. And I was very, very badly hurt. I was almost killed. My life just changed. I went from being in control of everything to feeling lost. In fact, when I wrote about it, I wrote when you are killed you are dead, but when you are raped only your eyes die. And that is kind of how I felt, like my soul was gone. It took me a very long time to come back. So, I kind of hung out in Massachusettes and had a little house up there and had a restaurant for my kids. And I did those kinds of things adn slowly started getting back into doing therapy and stuff. I started having some problems with my kids and I said, "I'm out of here" let me have my own life and I moved here. This was the perfect option. She is here. I have a niece here. Who has a little baby. And her daughter is a principal in L.A. So very close. Her son is here. And I love to gamble, the excitement. It is a great town.

22:06:50

She loves

I don't know about that. You can't run through a casino with Natalie, she is at a machine. She found a machine. She is gone.

N: No really, I used to go out like on a job in the morning. Go to te bank and play craps with my sister. We did it every day. I did. I made money every day.

6-8

No, no

5, 6 8 in the field

No, no.

You never told me this.

I don't tell you a lot of things. And then one day at te Frontier, a lady made seven passes. She knocked me out.

Oh, there was a

I played both sides. It was a good system. If I would have gone back to it, I would be fine.

22:07

What's it like to be a women who plays a poker, that is usually, a man's game.

Oh, no, not any more.

I would say there is like 25-30% women playing. I think it is very, very interesting and when I do win, I win at least 40% more than I should. Because men get very very macho. And when you are streaking and when you are winning, they don't want to believe it. Just hte other day, I was with a man from Italy, I wasn't with him, I was at his table. I won $755, $400 of it was his money that I never should have won. He was raising me, betting into me, even though I had it. His wife was yelling at him. So it was really funny. So I have that edge, which is very interesting. I also use flirtation. Even though I am a feminist and all that, I kid around a lot, I flirt a lot, I disarm the men, I make believe I don't know what I'm doing. She gets mad at me because I talk to myself.. I will walk over to a table and say, oh I would never check raise. I would shake, it would be like a volcano happened here. I would be like... bet unless I had the nuts because I would be too nervous and they really believed me. And most people go out when I bet. We're using those kinds of willies. I also get friendly with people. If they are winning a lot and are on a streak, I get friendly with them. So they won't bet into me. They'll check. So I have a chance to maybe win that hand or something. I use that psychologically a lot and I find it very social. I've met wonderful people... very interesting friends that I have met Right? Doctors, lawyers, captains. I mean there are some very nice people. There is one woman who I met who owns her own publishing company.

22:09:25.06

Now do these people live in Vegas?

They live in Vegas. Yeah, they live in Vegas. And um,... there are a lot of wonderful women in Vegas who are doing all kinds of things. It is true that many of hte women who are successful that I meet are not gamblers. In fact they hardly ever go to the strip. There is a whole other world in Vegas that

good sound-bite

knows nothing about te hotels or casinos. They just don't. One politician that I know, she hasn't been in a hotel except to go to one of the ballrooms or go to a show. So there is that world. And there is the world that Natalie and I are professional gamblers. We like to play.

22:10:07

So can you say that gambling is something that you do for a living?

We could.

You could. But I don't really make a living at it. And luckily I don't have to.

22:1017

In fact, I was asked to do a book on women who play slots and I am not interested.

No.

In fact...I feel that women who play slots feel less adequate and sefl confident than women who get involved in teh real human games, whatever they are. Even if it is baccarat or black jack. It is much more human and interactional. And you need to be much more aware of... records of whatever, even the dice. You have to know the system and you have to be really bright.

go to women playing slots

That is why they like te machines. You don't have to answer to anyone. And no one bothers you. Youa re just on that machine.

See, I think it is more than that.

No no, that's it.

There is no interaction and there is no challenge and there is no need for success. If you fail, it was only teh machine and only bad luck.

That's true.

22:11:10

If you win it is only good luck. It's nothing. If you win, I didn't do anything. So, women who play other games, I think anyhow, are much more confident and wiling to take hte risk and willing to fail and say, when I loose at poker, I played badly. I absolutely played badly. There is luck of course, but there is also bad play. If I lose a little bit, sometimes I have a few bad beats, but it is...take ownership of that, that I played badly. A machine, you don't have to take any ownership.

22:11:38

Then how do you...

I like them because they pay off a lot of money. I mean, in a polker game, I take in a pot and it is four or five dollars. Maybe 30 at hte most in my game. I play a dollar game. But a machine, if you hit, you hit $150, $200, $250

$1,000

$15,000

I won $14,900.

22:12

What do you play, quarters, dollars?

No, those are dollars. I think the most a $1,000. But um, much more than the tables.

22:12

Did you ever play 21 when there were single decks?

I studied adn I went out to play and the table was always full. 6-7 players. Adn I wanted a break...

She memorizes the numbers.

No, you don't memorize, there is a system. Counting cards.

22:12

Any other game than te machines is really a game. It's a challenge it's everything. I think that the machines are inadement.

22:12:46

And also, I would think that some of hte men would come in pretty serious. They are not playing a game. It is serious. And also, they get pretty macho,.

Absolutely. And te ajority of people in te hotels where I play, although 70-80% local. Very rarely, you will find only in Mirage or Treasure Island will you find

Weekends

those kinds of people. You find the tourist. But they are here to make money. 70%... are there to make money and htey are very serious. And the more you can disarm them and get them disrupted, the better your game is going to be... There are some people when they come over, I want to get rid of them. They are really good players.

I can't get rid of them

You know, one guy that I just don't like. He wins all the time and he is lucky and he is an excellent player. I giot rid of him last night. I just talked a lot. He said, "you talk too much." I'm sorry Johnny, don't leave. I'm so happy he's ... but um, anyhow.

22:13:48

So when you are sitting at tables you start getting Are there people who are actually making a living playing poker?

Yes, there are people... Say that htey win and we see people that win pretty much.

There are many people

Frequyently

22:14:04

How does the house make on poker?

They take a .. on the top of the pot. That's how they make.

10%

10% of the first $30 or $40. It's usually.

22:13:14

So You are not usually against hte house at all.

That's why it is the best game. You are playing against other players and you have choices.

22:14

What is the different between gambling and risk taking and you also said that hookers ~~have found~~ this game because it gives women a chance to win.

a feminist

Yeah, I think so.

That will be our last question.

Yeah, women don't really have many chances in life to win bedcause they are just, te glass ceiling or hte brick ceiling. But in a poker, game, there is no staopping you and you can really (in fact you can win against men even more easily because of the things that I have said and because of hte cards and because some of the.. that is why I think it is a feminist game. You can really use everything against men they have no awares of what you are doing because they are so involved in themselves.

Jodie in frame - can move in

Many women come from Europe for hte tournaments.

22:15:01
Oh, the tournaments are people worldwide. In fact the iteresting thing in Vegas, the difference between gamblig and risk taking. I think that gamblers are hte people who play for a living. They gamble ad they know all the odds adn they know exactly what to do and htey play the odds. They play the same way every single time. There is always another game. They don't get involved with this is it like I will. I am more of a risk taker. For me to win on the hard way on a crap table is much more fun than to have the ten come in 6, 4 and have the odds come in.

I wouldn't play that.

She wouldn't play that because

Because it pays 19% on the hard way from teh house!

22:14:39
And once I'm in the right position at the poker table I'll play a 2, 3, I'll suit you. You know, I'm in the right position. I'll do that. And if I win on that, that is te big thrill those are teh things I remember. I won on a 3, 4, 2 $870 pot. And that is one of my grea tmemories in life. Nine men jumped across the table. They wanted to kill me. I had four 3s. It was like incredible. But all the times I

22:16:00

All the times I went in with it and didn't win. But that's the risk. Being that risk factor that makes me more of a risk taker than a gambler. But,...well like her.

Me, I'm not a gambler.

WEll, no, but...you play right. She's very smart. She plays eveyrthing right.

22:16:20

What do you think of the women in LV?

They don't know how to play. I have 2 house games and htey don't know how to play. You play in te house twice a week pan and once a week.. some of them are very good.

The women I have met of course are varied. I have met some very sleazy crazy women that I really wouldn't want anything to do with. I met a woman who lost her entire life gambling. Her house, her children, her husband, everything. And she is living here in a rooming house now and she's playing the machines.

Same with me. They

22:17
But in general the women I have met are successful, hard working, sometimes sad, single women that are really struggling. I was telling Amie about my niece who is a wonderful, wonderful girl who has a baby, she has a husband. But life is so hard for her. Her husband works nights. She works days. She has the baby he watches the baby. Their lives are crossing. She is in this transition now. She sees it and it is distingtrating in front of her eyes. Because money is tight. But there are struggling and they are smart and tehy are talking to each other and they are...really wonderful and working very hard. But basically, I have met some wonderful, wonderful women ad good friends. I am on the BOD of the NV opera company. We did South Pacific. I met Robert Goulet. I am doing volunteer work. I am working at Sunrise Hospital with the children. So, I meet women in that way of life.

22:18
I am also doing a wonderful thing through hte national conference. I am in charge of something called, it's right there, the green circle program. I am helping children to enhance their self image. And I am in charge of the whole

program in teh school system. I have to gfo into the shcools, teach the teachers how to use it. So, there are so many facets of everybody's life. I am no unusual. People do all kinds of things like that. A lot of volunteers in Vegas. And a lot of amunitiona nd discconnection. But if you seek out your own, you know, you find people like that. And I found wonderful people. And Natalie too. She has really good friends, real estate brokers, teachers,

All te casnio

Yeah, and she found them in teh casino. They all gamble too.

Yeah really.

22:18
Can you just take a sip out of your tea?

Cheers.

End.

22:19
Pictures of photos and poker tournament trophy.

TAPE 23 : SHIRLEE LASPANO IN HER HOUSE

23:00:40.23

Blond woman sitting behind a desk.

Now, what's your story?

My story is that I was a very successful carreer woman in Las Vegas. I have been here since 1969. And in my second marriage of 12 years, I ended up going through a very devastating divorce in which I was thrown from my home. I had my home removed from me. And I suffered tremendous financial losses. I was put into bankruptcy. They damaged me approximately $400,000. I had stocks taken from me. I lost my IRA's. I basically just lost everything. I am 47 years old now. And at the time when this happened, having been a career woman, professional, danced, worked in the entertainment field and also the media ... approximately 4 months after he did desert me and before we went to te divorce hearing, I started working my ideas and working through my emotions and also the financial situation. Getting back into what I had as a career and I wrote 3 books. I proceeded to have 15 songs that came in through me. Lyrics for words, and I did a clothing line. I started working on all these things at hte same time I was being taken into court trying to recover. I had restraining orders and different things I had to deal with. And this whole time period before I actually got to the divorce.

10E: CULINARY CAMPAIGN RALLY, HATTIE Campaigning
Dry Lake, and MIRAGE POKER

10:00:32
Crowd and speeches (after Hattie speaks) Night shots
Great cutaways

10:03:04
"Three More years"

10:03:48
Hattie inside office with volunteers

10:10:09
"Best of Las Vegas" sign--overexposed
Thai Restaurant--another angle is better

10:11:21
Exterior of Thai Spice Restaurant
10:12:17 Hattie campaigning outside Maxim
And we gotta make sure you get a good pension. Ok, hhow many years you been here--'cause you know what's happened as much trouble as you've gotten into, we need you--I'll be there.

Hey sissy girl, how you doin. Are you comin' to vote? I don't want you to just take that thing and say you're comin' I'll be there--

Alright you guys come on, just come on up...where you gonna be at next fourteenth--at the meetin' at the Union Hall--uh uh, don't come to the union hall, come to Cashman Field when you get off, Ok? Cashman Field, we'll be there. Is that all I'm gonna get is a hug?

How ya doin' --They say they give her a paper she spit on it and step on it-- that's my kinda person, a hattie Canty type of person--Georgia, you come here. Where are you gonna be at May 14th? Bring your husband too, he's comin' We not gonna wish that on georgia--alright girl, thank you--

I know you such a good union member-I'll be there--yah Hattie--how do you like that picture? You don't like that --but how do you like this picture? How you doin? I got some literature for you, how's your family? How many years you been here? nine years, that's good, got your pension, huh?

How you doin' ladies, we need you to come to the polls May 14th, make it happen. Also you.

(with young guy) How long you been here--three days? Are you a member--you need to go join the union--I'll be looking for your May 14th--I need you--do that

CULINARY CAMPAIGN 10E

09:24:09
Hattie waves hello

Good afternoon brothers and sisters--we have a saying and the writing inside--it says all peoples, all colors, all in this together--(clapping)

I look around this audience tonight, I see Sochi, Gio, Danny, all of these guys have been with us from Day One. And you know what I'm angry tonight. And one reason I am angry tonight is because there's a group of people out there they are saying what we all did in '87--I'm sorry--(Spanish)--

What we have already accomplished, we did it wrong--and that make me angry tonight. Was we wrong when we struck the Horseshoe hotel? Was we wrong when the City officials would not give us permit and we rallied anyway? Was we wrong for maintainin that picket line for over four and a half years? Was we wrong for running Bob Maxey out of the MGM? Where was you this four and a half years out on that picket line, we don't know you, we didn't see you there--we don't even kinow 'em and they work in your hotels--

We have something to be angry about--we gotta fight for our '97 contract, we have to fight for our fair share, we have to fight so we can be in continuous growth in this community--so that's why I am glad that you guys are here tonight, I'm sorry about Aurelio, but you know I'm angry--and when you angry it shows--

So I want to thank each and everyone, because its this team that is gonna lead us to victory. I just feel it. I can reach out there you know and I got it. I got it. Do you guys have it? (Lots of cheering)--

HATTIE-
Grad Cer.
12

TAPE 12: HATTIE AT MAID'S GRADUATION

12:00:00 Mhm.

Man: Gpod afternoon everybody, welcome to the Culinary Union training center graduation ceremony. We're really pleased to have all our training center graduates this afternoon. I know its been a long couple of weeks, hard couple of weeks, you've worked hard, and now's the time to enjoy the benefits by getting your diploma....but tonight we have a very special person I want to introduce, that's Hattie Canty, the President of the Culinary Union, local 226. I'd like to bring her up to the microphone now--Miss Canty-- 12:00:46

Hattie: Thank you Mark. I would just like to say first of all congratulations to all of you--whether you're working in housekeeping or whether you're in the kitchen serving food, cleaning the restaurant or cleaning in housekeeping. You have made a great step, one that I'm very proud of. At one time I wish that this was training here for me--because I started out as a maid in 1973--its a job that I'm very proud of, you work real hard, but its a job that paid my bills, it took care of my ten kids, it got me that car that I needed to get to work, and if you look at it like that, you will accomplish something in your career working as a maid. A kitchen worker, a food server., whatever job you decide to get, I want to tell you tonight, do your best--you put all you have into that job.

12:02:11

There's another important part of it--you get up in the morning, you get yourself ready, you get to work on time. If your shift start at nine o'clock, don't get to work at 8:30 so you'll have time to change--if you don't want to eat --if you want to eat you should get there at eight o'clock. You have time to change, kinda wind down, you get your keys and go up on the floor so you won't be late. You don't set a very good record--I don't care if you come to work every day, if you late every day--you in big trouble..nowadays the hotel terminate--and we should not start out like that.

You went through this training program, its a very good training program, and the hotels pay for that--the union hotels in this town seventeen of 'em pays for you to get this training and most certainly you should take advantage of that. When this program came along, I wasn't a maid anymore, and I remember where I came from, I never shall forget when I was a maid. And my first few days at the hotel I was under alot of stress just thinking I wasn't going to make probation. Because with all of those ten babies and with all that housework I did, I yet did not know how to make a hotel room up--I knew some things, but I did not know how to make those beds like what is my little friend's name over there? Nellie? Nellie really knows how to make a bed. I wished I had a Nellie in my house every day--she does a great job. And that's what you learn when you come through this program.

12:03:51

And you know I want to um, give some respect to our instructors, the instructors from housekeeping, Rosa, Leticia, Theresa, would you please stand--turn

around so everybody can see ya. I want to tell you a little bit about all three ladies--at one point they were all three maids. Leticia came right out of the Mirage and I knew she was a maid in the Mirage, shop stewar--Rose and Theresa came from the Dunes and they worked their way up the ladder--where are my instructors from the restaurant?

Rickie and Jose--he's my morning instructor, he and I go around sometime, but you know I always win--they love their job, they love what they are doing, and we have a jewel in this department, and that is noone other than Bernice Thomas, she is Director of housekeeping department.

sound drop out

You are so close to my heart, I want you to do well, I want you to achieve, because one day I was in an area, about where you are now. And I didn't let anything stop me and I'm saying to you' all tonight--don't let nothing or nobody stop you. Whatever goals you have set, reach 'em. You can reach 'em. And one thing about it--this town, Las Vegas? is a growing town and I want to grow with it, and I'm sure you want to grow with it too. Demand, take from those bosses what you gotta take from 'em. You gotta go in, you gotta demand respect, you gotta be able to communicate on the job. And don't ever be afraid of anybody, do not be afraid of anybody. What you have did, you did a great job and I want you to continue on to do good, I most certainly will be in your corner, when you come to the Union Hall, come by and see me. And lets talk about it and lets get it together--

12:05:24

12:06:00
Getting certificates

12:08:51
Eating cake--cutaways of various people

TAPE 13: Shots of Hattie w kids in Park

13:34:34 - I want to be a great, great Granma...

TAPE 14: HATTY IN PARK

13:41:30--Sitting on the picnic table
I never shall foget the first day we came to Vegas, it was on a Sunday, and when we got near the Flamingo Hitlon I said to my husband, I said why in the world would you want to bring me to a place like this. because on one side of the road it was just desert. And when we got to theplace we were going to be livin' at we was really out in the desert, the wind was blowin and the sand was getting in your eyes and mouths. And I was really upset because I had never been to a town like Las Vegas. I'm talkin' about the sand and the dust that was the worst--to me that was the worst thing that happened to me then. But I grew on this town. It took me two years to really like this town. But now I really like this town. I'd rather be here than any town that I know of in the United States.

13:42:40
It was terrible for us, because housing was real bad. The houses was built rather cheaply, it cost so much to cool the houses in the summertime, to get 'em warm in the wintertime. There was no transportation in West Vegas when I moved to West Vegas--and when we did buy the home up in Winslow Park up there, our kids had to walk from up there all the way over to Matt Kelly's school to go to school, there was no buses--the school buses didn't run up there and neither did the city bus. So if we didn't drive 'em to school they would have to walk to school, and we would have to walk downtown or we would have to walk to the movies--it was very inconvenient.

Rhonda: When we first moved here? I was real little, I can't remember that.

Hattie: One thing about my husband and myself, I don't care how hard life was, our kids didn't know how hard life was becuase we made everything convenient for them, and they didn't know it. I really think they were rich kids--they thought they were rich kids, because they always had everything they needed. But we neglected ourselves to make sure that they had these things, and if there was a play at school we made surethey got to school, and they always went to Sunday school every Sunday morning, we went to Church--they didn't know how hard it was, only myself and my husband knew--or theboys as they grew older and wanted to go to the movies, they knew there wasn't any transportation orcity bus to get them there.

13:44:42
I would love to say things started changing in the sixties--but it really didn't. The change is beginning to really happen right now, and that's you know--um, maybein the eighties thing sbegin to change, but I see a bigger change since I seen things here in Vegas the last thirty years. The biggest change has been in the nineties. I think that's when peoples decided to take charge of their own lives, they wasn't afraid anymore, they had more energy to do it, and peoples decided politically I can change things and thats when things began to change, and like I say that happened in the eighties, as far as I am concerned, people might say it happened in the seventies, but I don';t think so I was here in the seventies, and in the seventies it was just as hard for me in the sixties--

After I graduated from high school, I went to work in Mobile, this was in the sixties, and I wasn't making any money. Maybe I was making thirty some dollars a week, and I'd gotten married, had a couple kids, and I just wanted to get away--I felt like I could do better. And I went to San Diego to live with my brother, and after moving down there, and I was there just maybe a month before I met my second husband, and I worked down there for a long time, and then I got married. Things was good and they wasn't good--and the kids started coming. And I could not work because I had so many kids--

nice c.u. shot of Hattie

13:46:00
I think I was about nineteen years old, I was having a problem with this guy, I really don't want to go into details abou it--and I was heartbroken, and I knew I

wasn't going to get this person back, but I had to do something to this person that would leave a lasting impression on him, and I had bought a ticket to California to go visit my brother, and I did not have transportation--and I thought the way to get back to this person at that particular time was to get him to take me someplace, and he didn't know where he was gonna take me, and he came over and picked me up with my suitcase, and he thought I was taking the train to go visit my Mom, but I was catching the train to go in the opposite direction, and he asked me where was I goin' and I told him I was goin' to California and bye--and it was just that simple. I never shall forget that.

Once I got to California I did worry--it bothered me because women got that little soft touch. And I never shall forget someone told me, an older man and he say you can do bad by yourself and you don't need nobody to do bad with you you know just constant like that got me to where I am today, and moves like that--and I'm not talking about moving to another place, but I've always been able to make a move and sometime my heart would hurt, but after a few weeks or after a few days it didn't hurt anymore. And alot of times you hate to pick up and leave, but I would advise any young woman that if she's doing bad or she's hurt in one city--and she's not into a real good job, hey--go to another place and look for another job, and it will work out. It did for me. so.

13:49:04
Vegas has been great to me, so great when my Mom died, they wanted me to come back to Alabama and live in that house, and I told them I said, that's not home anymore, Las Vegas is home for me. And you know I really mean that--this is a great town, this is a growing town, there are opportunities out here, and if it happened to me it can happen to anybody in Vegas or anybody in Alabama, Mississisppi, or wherever they are. This is a town with opportunities, they are knocking at your door, all you gotta do is open the door and let them in, or you go out and get involved with them.

13:49:52
Shots of THE MAXIM outside--various angles and f-stops

TAPE 11C: PEGGY THE CLOWN @ CIRCUS CIRCUS (B-ROLL)

11:00:00
Shots of Peggy juggling

11:02:56
Peggy on tricycle

But it was fun? In fourteen years of doing freebies for every man and his dog in town, this is the best piece I've ever done--

Susan: we just have the best time, all three of us working together...we talk alot, we never rehearse--it makes it here, I feel in these shows you can be older and still dance--it doesn't take such a toll on your body, whereas in a ballet company you're thirty and that may be it, you may be so badly injured,
Friend: Hip replacement--
Susan: If you just keep your body in shape--At least here it really babies your body--
Friend: You can be workign on stage like Linda until you're forty-two years old plus--but this stuff, I'm about done with the concert work
Susan: I'm just getting starter
Friend: She's only a baby

Nice 2 shot ^ Closer

23:20:21
Susan enters rehearsal house from truck in sweats

23:21:20 Hattie with dog

23:22:35 Hattie pulls out of driveway

23:23:11 Cutaway of Santa Fe Sign
Hattie pulls into driveway

23:24:07 Looking at Pictures
This was 9/27/77--let me see that--you look much better then...(Delton looking at pctures)--that's Tracy--(the laugh)--look at Rolanda--you guys was over in California, for a reunion. Look at that baby's teeth--this is when you first went away to school--this is your greatgrandmama...

23:26:27
these pictures really bring back memories huh--we gotta get that organized first--(what was it like growing up) It was rough--she was tough--she was a mama--very strict, there was rules--you guys have rules like I had in your household--I got some of your rules, but most of 'em--Mama its hard to enforce rules because Delton--he'll impose the rules--come here sweetheart--he rules you--we has to go to church, and we gonna raise him just like he was a girl with all the good things you taught us--sometimes that can be a mistake if you have two different set of rules wth boys and girls, you kinda neglect the ones you're not so stiff with--

We couldn't be out after dusk--I couldn't be out the gate--we had to do our hoomework and we had to act right at school--every Sunday we went to Sunday school, we went to sunday morning service and sunday evening service, Sunday was the sabbath and we just had to go to Church all day long--we couldn't do any house chores, no makeup, no fingernail polish, no pants--she had really high standards for us.

TAPE 1E: HATTIE @ HOME WITH DAUGHTERS

1:00:10 This may begin too early??

Remember when you got this necklace from? Mr. and Mrs. Dimartinos--the one that they had bought us Christmas--look at that hairdo--is that a flash from the past? God, Mama--that's Lisa Datson--Charles is back there visiting Lisa--

It still is a family requirement to go to the picket lines--I don't think they remember back in those days--but I remember that I had to pay fifty dollars a month for health and welfare, they don't remember me worrying that I couldn't pay it because nobody was covered...I was finer than Janet Jackson right there-

01:02:08

M is for Mom, O is for the other things she gave me, I guess he couldn't find a T- word--H is for her niceness--e for her eternal love and r is for really loving me--that's Eddie, that's Eddie for sure.

01:02:56
The others come in

Happy Birthday--Happy Birthday! What happened to the cake--it had run in it--no it didn't have rum in it--

They took this picture over at the Maxim, this is our tenth anniversary, and I lost my diamond necklace that night. Isn't that something, we did ten years, and they gave us a ring --I remember that--

Momma and Jessie jackson--that was the frist time we met Jessie Jackson...

This is a letter--the last letter your Auntie wrote, I will never be able to express to you how much it meant for you to say I could have Cambell's share of mama's house, though I would never do that, it meant alot to me, you made me happier than I've been in five years-- you're the only person since my mama and father died except Gail who sends me money--I had to cry--you restored my faith in humanity--I know the lord has blessed me--since my parents death I had been kicked around so much that I started to believe there was no one in the world that was fair and just--oh, that's enough--

HATTIE HOME 1E

01:06:23
In the kitchen--cutting the cake

01:07:16
Dellene sings:

Holly, I wasn't able to give you a birthday gift, but I'll sing a special gift just for you.

Song:
Who made the mountain, who made the tree, tell me who who sends the river
Flowing out to the sea, and who sends the rain when the earth is dry

Truly somebody bigger than you and I...
Who makes the flowers bloom in the spring, tell me who writes the songs for the robin to sing, and who gives me faith that I'll never, never doubt truly somebody bigger, bigger than you and I
He lighteth my way, when the road does get so long and he keeps me sweet company, and with the love to guide me, he walks right beside me just like he'll walk with you, oh--yeah --when I am lonely I'm so filled with depsair, tell me who gives me courage to go on from there
And who --who gives me faith, faith that I'll never, never doubt
Truly somebody bigger, truly somebody much stronger
It was somebody bigger than you --than you--and I

(applause)

Happy Birthday Holly...I had to cough and I didn't want to interrupt you--
Jetelle is crying...

01:11:29
Eating the cake around the table

I'm not shocked and I'm not amazed--she deserves this--lets be realistic--its great its a good thing, to believe this happened to my Mama, Miss Hattie Mae--that she's been recognized and getting all this attention, Miss Hattie Mae Canty--people from Alabama call me Hattie Mae--for those of us--who have a speech imperative--

There's a porblem up here at the house--if we had moved out of the house they wouldn't have built me a house and this past thursday Tracy and I looked at the plans for a new house--but that new house we won't be able to get in the new house, we'll all have to be outside all the time--we can bring you to the union hall, go down there--

good c.u. of girl eating cake—

Paulette: They say I look most like here, I'm so straightforward, I got her straigtforwardness--
Hattie: I think Paulette is the most like me, she has alot of fight in her, (I'm alot of in the background)--but that was the way I was for a long time, when I got ready to come out of the--how you say--come out of the closet, I came out of the closet ticking, and when that time come for you to come out you gonna come out ticking--also Dell--Dell is real agressive, what is the word? You got endurance
Dell: Tenacity
Hattie: Because Dell got married, she had a baby, she's continuing on with her education, and that's great right there, many a girl would've stopped--
Paulette-Are you sayin I don't have that?
Hattie: You got that to, you go to school--that's what I love about my daughters, they're constantly trying to better their livelihood--
Paulette: But I'm not the Culinary--
Rhonda: I believe folks have a deeo deep seed--there's something wrong with her if she don't want to be cuddled--

01:15:40
Paulette: By having all these brother and sisters you always had a best friend--there were enough baseball players in the backyard, even teams. If anyone at school wants to beat you up you told them who you were, and they thought you had older brothers and sisters they wouldn't mess with you--how did she do it? By the grace of god--solely, it was amazing, especially when my father died--I think it was because of her background, her upbringing, my father, when those two were together, intertwined, there--she realized if she gave up on us then we wouldn't have a chance. She never gave up on us--she forsaked herself for us, she was in the background, when Daddy died, you weren't workin' I was working that summer, I was the only one working, I was fourteen--I just knew, my mother had the same ideals, that no matter what we did, we had to bring it back to the family so we could all benefit from it, when the family decides we can't be selfish. You can't take something for yours because it might be the last, and if its the last, then the younger ones will have it, you are willing to give it up so that somebody else can have it...

I can see why that family's so happy--(cake is moved in front)

better

How did she do it? Um, I think my mother was driven by that unseen announced power of love that wasn't always verbalized in our family--nor did we always see it, but it was always there--being the fact that if you scraped you knee, somebody was always there--and it was always instilled in us especially her teachings--especially for girls, it was no different teachings for the boys, but especially the relationship that she had with her daughters, that really put the thing down that we knew what we had to do because of what she was doing--if she was doing all that she could for us then we knew we had to do all that we could--not getting into trouble--we didn't get into trouble--she knew where we were, she said you had to be home from school--you had to be on that school bus. And when she started working she had to depend on us and that love, that support that we all had that wasn't always foreshownto everybody else--it was shown in obeying her and respecting her and beating up each other after dark--

Dellene:
You know Mama I always describe--people ask me you know Hattie;s your Mama--what's it like? She's just always been mama to me--she's just--she still expects things out of me, I think more, the older I get the more she expects out of me--(I don't think so) I think she does, Rhonda, I think you choose to ignore her--
Paulette: I think Hatti'e hasn't changed
Rhonda: You forgot to say one thing that was really important--when you were coming up, before our Dad died, Pualette, maybe every wednesday or Thursday--he would preach to us--it was every wednesday--he would preach to us about what we would do and what he expected of us. And then we got our allowance, it was five dollars, the three of us and we all got five dollars--and he would sit us down from me all the way down to Dell, he would tell us.

Paulette: The year Daddy died they were planning to get the paperwork together so we could go to Gorman, they wanted us to go to Gorman--I was in high school, fourteen when he died--Daddy was going to buy property so we

could move way out--he always said he wanted us to move far enough out so the boys wouldn't come--and we were all going to get shite Pintos so we could drive back and forth to school. It was something that was instilled in us from Daddy and Mamma, that union there, and that carried on so when Daddy passed away we still heard his voice, we knew what we had a resonsibility--we still had to be truthful to our Mama--we could not make it hard,-and on my daddy's death bed he called every one of us he called all of us to his side and he spoke to every single one of us, and he told us all, be a good girl, he instructed the boys, and he didn't leave any of us out-he instructed all of the boys---and it was because of that relationship right there, when my Daddy was alive, my mamma was basically the discipinarian --she made sure that everything was taken care of--but if she ever had to say I'm tellin' Campbell, then that was it you knew you was in some serious trouble--I don't think any of us had to be disciplined by Daddy--what are you lookin' at me--
Rhonda: I cannot remember, but you had to calm him down--You thought I was crazy, remember
Paulette: When we were really small, we took baths together--for some reason you were always agitated, she took me and pushed me to the limit, and I pushed her and she hit her head, and I saw the wrath of James Campbell Canty...and ^never had a problem ever since--

01:22:37
Rhonda; For me when we were growing up there was alot of things I wanted to do that they would not allow us to do, like spending the night with other people, and little small things and I didn't understand why my mother had to care so much about me--now that I have kids, I guess the way she felt about me, I feel about them--I do not want to put my kid in a predicament to be hurt or to be molested or to have anything like really really bad--to go wrong--now I understand why Hat did not allow me to go to block parties or concerts--I never could understand what could happen to me at a concert in those days--now I see what she meant-I appreciate everything she had told me that I couldn't do, although I wish I had did it--I had to wait until I was--how old was I? I think I was twenty-seven the first time I went to a concert--

Rhonda: It was a joke because--I can't even explain it--young and stupid I just did not know what I was doing--me and my husband we really wanted to be together, and Paulette had just gotten married like two months before we had gotten married and we didn't want a big wedding you know so we just decided to get married and keep it to ourselves--
Paulette: Isn't it the story, sister that you dared him
Rhonda: He told me that he if he had 35 dollars , that he would marry me right that minute, and I said OK, and I went to my best friends house, and I borrowed thirty-five dollars and we went down to the justice of the Peace and we got married and we didn't say anything to anyone for I think two months--we got married May 21st--we just lost our minds--
Hattie: Did you guys get afraid then and say maybe we shouldn't have did this?
Rhonda--yeah we did, but it was too late, then but Ronnie had told me a few days after we got married we went out of town and he stayed here and tried to call a lawyer--you tried to throw me out, too...

Hattie: Well, was I wrong? You know Rhonda was real moody--I had never seen Rhonda like this before and so I knew something was wrong with her and she wouldn't tell me so I thought you must be having sex, and for some reason I wanted all my daughters to be virgins when they got married you know so that was one of the things I really really worked on--and I say I'm calling Ronnie right now I thought you had been sneakin' out--in the meantime Rhonda called Ronnie, and said my Mama's goin' crazy, you better come over here right now, and I was messin' around in the kitchen, and I heard someone at the front door and I went to the front door and Ronnie was standin' there and said --here it is right here and I said what is it? And he said, that's our marriage license--so I took it and looked at it, and it said they were married--all the wind went out of me--he was scared and shakin'

Rhonda: he thought you was gonna kill him--to know the wrath of Hat

But Dellene you did the same thing--

Dellene: No big mouth Rhonda--the thing I liked most and appreciated about her was that she would give up anything for anybody to see someone do better, she forsaked herself-- And she worked two jobs to put me through private school me and my brother Eddie and she was just very giving, she went without so much and after my father passed away--alot of people thought oh look at those Canty girls, they're all gonna end up wild and get pregnant and out on the street, and she did everythign in her power to keep us all together, she still raised us with the same standard that she and my father raised us with--and I knew my mother was gonna get her reward--and I said they're grooming you for something big, and you said no--I said you're gonna do something big--and the next thing we knew she had the article in the New Yorker--and my mother she gave up herself worked really hard for herslef--I remember her telling me Dellene, just don't be no raggedy--lokkin' mama, because when we were little she was, she was raggedy lookin' sometimes because--you know\

END

2E: HATTIE W/DAUGHTERS AT HOME

02:00:44
Paulette: Grangran is raising Jetaime and Holly, Dellene is my daughter--
(is she as strict on you as she was on her daughter)
J: We can't spend the night over at the house--look at all these cousins
P: We didn't ahve no cousins to spend the night with-
P: I don't think she's that strict--I was able to go out to school dances and stuff like that even though I did break curfew--but I still ahve to wait until I'm sixteen to date--how long do you have to wait until you have a boyfriend? Sixteen--
And he gotta come through all of us...

02:02:08
Me and Holly we love it--during the summer, me and Holly always used to go to the Picket line, and always used to make up songs and stuff just to keep people from going into the Frontier, we would sit on the wall and call everybody scabs and sometimes people would clap because we were so loud and stuff we would tell all kinds of stories just so people wouldn't go into the Frontier--we had nothin' to do and we just task Gran gran if we could go and she say OK--
Dellene: You remember the one time you were shocked to see Mama talk about people, how she would be out there yelling scabs--oh yeah--it was fun

VERY LOUD
Good segue to line. Frontier

02:03:33
(Do you think Hattie's a feminist?)
Young boy: Mama, what does feminist mean?
Paulette: A positive, a good--
Boy: Like she's sick or something?
P: It means someone who's really really strong and really believes in the rights for women--
Boy: Oh yeah that's Grangran--
P: But to the point sometimes to get their point across-they'll step on--all feminists aren't big bullies--and a feminist in a sense is almost like a female bully, and I don't think my mother's that--I think my mother's just a woman who's endured, and by her enduring and she has acquired the necessary utensils to get her job done, she knows what she needs in life she knows what she needs to make it through, and she's been able to do that in life right there--that's the reason why she's where she's at now--she believes in something and she goes after that thing and she stands for that thing--she doesn't take a back seat to that right there--if she feels like she's right--she's gonna let you know she's right and she's gonna stand on it until she's persuaded until she feels any different from that right there--I always call her Grangran--she's the boss--because when she has somethign on the inside and she feels like she's right--and I gotta say she's not wrong, she's nopt wrong in that right there--

HATTIE w/daughters 2E

Hattie: I think I am, the girls might not know it--I may not know it sometimes, they see me as Mama, and they might not want to see me--that's how they want to see me, but i do think I am because that's just me--maybe I'm at that point where I'm coming out of the closet, but I came out slowly, and my daughters and my

sons yet see me as Mama--and I like that--I like for the people to see me as Mama, and I like being Mama--but I know there's somebody else there and I know that, so...
P: I just think she's strong
Hattie: I'm strong, yes--
Dellene: I hope I can get some of that strength
Hattie: You got it
D: I think Paulette got it--yeah you got it--

02:06:41
Hattie: I can't define it right at this minute--
Dellene: I think feminism-- that's just such a vague term, and I don't want to think of my Mom as a feminist because I've spoken with people who call themselves feminists, and um al think it kinda limits you--
Hattie: if you let it Del--
Dellene: That's true, Mama, but before feminism was popular, it was just strong women, now its popular--I think you go way far beyond feminism--
Paulette: A strong woman who knows her rights and can carry her rights does not necessarily make a feminist, not saying that she's knocking an individual such as that right there--a strong woman will stand up for her rights--but i think she's just basically a strong individual who knows how to stand up for her rights--
Del: I think its kinda a trend, too--like feminism came into a wave like you know--and I don't want my mother to be seen in that light because I think once you get yourself boxed into that feminism role--
Rhonda: But there's nothing wrong with that--
Del: But before you didn't hear anything about feminists, I know-- so what I'm saying is--
Rhonda--Angela Davis--
Del: I know they're older now--they were just some strong women--There's nothing wrong with her being--she's a feminist and more, that's all I'm saying I want to say she's beyond that--she's that and more--
Hattie: Do you guys remember the night that reporter came out here form UNLV

02:09:10
Del: I'm afraid to disappoint my mother, I never want to disappoint my mother, and I carry that throughout my life, when I go to work, my job, when I go to school.
H: We have to argue and disagree on that because Eddie he said the same thing, too--and its not so much as disappoint me, I don't want you to disappoint yourself, forget about me--
P: You got to first be true to yourself
Hattie: If I could just get that over to you--don't disappoint you, don't hurt you, don't deveice you--
Del: I won't do that to me, I just don't ever want to disappoint my mother--I know you get mad when I say that--
Hattie Yes I do

02:10:21

H: What am I afraid of? I don't have any fears, I really don't sometime I'm afraid to be home by myself at night, and that's not at a point to where I can't sleep, and the fear might come for a second and then I go to sleep and I think that's because there's so much happening, there was a lady up here that was in her house alone and someone broke in and stabbed her quite a few times--
P: Your being alone?

02:11:10
Hattie: I didn't have time to think about that I wasn't gonna make it, I had to make sure that the nsurance was paid on the house and make sure that there was food here, lights was always on or the gas was on--and I didn't have time ot ever think that I wasn't gonna make it--there were times and I talked to Paulette--there were times when I needed more money and I told Paulette that I just got a feeling that I am gonna hit the lottery--so she said did you get your ticket--and I said no--and she said the only people who win are those who play so I never played the lottery and so--I just always knew I was gonna do better, and I always strived to do better--if it meant me working three jobs a day--I worked real hard and the kids know I worked real hard, because I was doing the work at thehotel and then I'd go and clean peoples homes--and maybe a couple of times a week I would clean two houses in one day, and that meant more money--I got good pay and you work real hard. I really worked for good people, but I worked for the type of people who really keep a real good house---and when you walk into a house and that house look clean, you'd have to work doubly hard to really clean that house up because the Dimartinos, she had a phobia about her bathroom, so spent alot of time in her bathroom--those people were good to me, and I've always been this type of person--if you're good to me, i repaid you by giving you all I had and more--and I think I was giving up more me than I was actually gettin' in pay, but I knew the tuition would be paid for Del and Eddie and if you guys I would help you with that. I was so thankful that at that particualr time that Rhonda and her husband were able to help us--whateved I needed he always made sure we had--he did the same thing for his Mom

02:14:08
Del: Amazing Hattie, Amazing Grace--because she really is amazing...or just Hattie, remember you had those buttons you were the Democratic Committee person, everybody was wearing buttons that just sad HATTIE and everybody just yelled HATTIE--and you knew--that's all you had to say...

One life to live--that's a soap opera--
Amazing Woman--
One More Day...

02:15:03 Backstage @ Bally's
Susan takes off costume--it flies up

02:15:50
Take two of costume

(talk about the first time that you came into the office)

Oh god, that was scary. Now, if someone asks me, "what are you afraid of?" Now, I'm not afraid of too much, but then I was. I was afraid of this office. I was afraid of this title, just being president of the culinary union, because I never dreamed, I never thought, I never desired this position, and when I was asked about running for president, I looked at them and laughed. I said no-way-jose because I knew it was alot of heartache. I knew it was a lot of dealing with people that were tough to deal with and you got to get out there and really get in the trenches with people. I wasn't afraid of doing that but sometimes when you get in the trenches, your in the trenches fighting right with, you got to fight with them to make them stand up for what they need and I didn't know if I wanted to do that on a big scale like being the president of the culinary union and once, I don't think I ever really decided, "yeah I'm going to do it," but other people, they kind of helped me, they kind of stroked me and said you can do it, your a people person and if you don't do it there's somthing really wrong with you and I did it and I'm really glad I did do it.

(05:15:55)

(can you describe that first day walking into the office?)

Yup, that first day was really scary for me and I came into this office and I had to walk around this desk to come sit in this chair and you know, I did that and I got up. As soon as I sat down, I got up. Because to me, that wasn't a job to me, a job where you sit down and make money, I didn't really want that and I yet don't want that because of who I am. I'm Hattie, and Hattie is a lot of action in Hattie and I've got to be doing things, so I didn't see an office to much that day. On the next day when I came in I didn't stay behind the desk. I went into Jim's office and I told him that I wanted to be involved with every phase of the business and at first it was like, Hattie's just a girl and everyone would be taking care of business and so I wasn't called in some of these meetings and I would be sitting over here and I could see what was going on out there and I just decided if I'm the president of the company I got the right to just walk in a meeting when I'm ready to see whats going on, so I just did it. I got real nosy about what was going on and I got involved in what was going on.

(05:17:08)

In the beginning, It was really hard for me because it was never said that you should do or you shouldn't be some place, but the way the meetings were being set up and I wasn't invited to some of those meetings, I had to just invite myself and being president of the culinary union, like I said, I had that privilage. I could do anything in this building that I wanted to do. I could look at any finances so I said, "why not go into a meeting?" So I would just walk right into a meeting and I would say hi, take a seat, sit down, and listen to what was going on in the meeting and I know there were people in this building that did not want me to be in there. There were people in this building at that time that would try to talk in a language that I would not understand what they

were saying, but you know, am really thatnkful there were people on staff that always guided me and I always took a mental note of what was going on and when those meetings were over I would go to Dee Tayler and I would say to him, "What does this mean, what are they talking about?" And he would always say this is what their talking about and he would just make it clear and Dee is just one of those people who molded me and he guided me, he protected me, he told me what I should do, what I should not do and if he told me I should be in I certain place, I always was there and he himself thought that I should be in all these meetings and I was there because even, I made this statement because at one time at lunchtime, no one would come and say, "Hattie, lets go to lunch." So, I told my friend, "You know, its lonely at the top at lunchtime," because I was not used to eating lunch all by myself. I never at lunch by myself. When I was at home, I had the kids there. When I was at the hotel, I had friends we would go to the lunchroom and eat together, but when I got here it was a different thing. On any day, if I atelunch I would eat alone because everybody was going there separate ways or, if you say, "do you want to go to lunch?" They'd say, "Oh, I got to go into the hotel." And so I just didn't go to lunch with a lot of people and so I learned to eat lunch all alone. That was tough, eating alone.

(05:19:40)

(Do you still eat alone?)

No, I do not eat lunch alone anymore.

(05:19:47)

(what do you think is different about you now than the first day that you walked into the office?)

cam. cuts here

I'm more assertive and I'm more confident in Hattie/ I feel like I can do it and I know that I can do it. I'm not afraid, I'll challenge anyone I'll.. I've ever been in my life and I'm confident with Hattie. Today, I'm satisfied with Hattie, I like Hattie. That's the difference in Hattie today and Hattie in the May of 1990. It took me maybe a year. I remember when I got here there was a runner here, he's not here anymore, and I would ask him to go do my car, he was doing Jim's car. He would wash Jim's car. He would do anything for Jim that Jim wanted him to do. And one day I said to him, "go wash my car," I said, " Jerry would you go wash my car?" And he said, "I don't have time, I got to do this and this," and he just named off all of these things that he had to do for other people. And so I didn't say anything and I got home that night and I was thinking. I was really thinking about what he had done to me. He really disrespected me and I also was thinking about a long time ago back in Alabama, a black woman or a black person period could not ask a white guy to do certain things for them and it made me feel like I was back in Alabama in 1950. I felt real bad, real bad. Then I said to myself, "what are you going to do about it?" So, I come to work the next morning and said, "Jerry, can you go wash my car?" and he said, "I'm busy." I said wait a minute, come to my office for just a minute. I asked him, "do you ever look at your paycheck?" And he said yeah.

I said, "do you see who is signing your paycheck?" He said Yeah, you and Jim sign my paycheck. I said go wash my car. If I have enough power to sign your paycheck, you better go wash my car. So I never had any trouble out of Jerry anymore, he washed my car and I know that he didn't like it cause he told other people that I was being pushy. And there wasn't anything that they could do because they couldn't tell him don't do it and I never threatened and I don't want to be threatening with my power but I want people to respect me, at one point here I had to tell people, " you might not like Hattie the president, but you're going to respect the office that Hattie holds and I mean that and I yet demend that my door is always open for the workers in here, for the workers out in the field. I do anything I can for them but they have to respect this office.

(05:22:53)

What do I think the labor movement needs to do to be successful? I think the labor movemnt needs to be more assertive. They need to continue to organize. They need to get more political. They need to have more people working on political projects. The political is very important to us and I know it is to any other union out there because when we were not involved in political action here in this town the city treated us like we were third class citizens not even second class. Now that we are involved politically we are being treated like first class citizens because everybody wants a piece of what the culinary union can do for them and we have to be able to pick candidates or support candidates that are going to support labor. Those are the major things that I think we have to do to be more successful right now and to continue to grow because if we don't organize and if we don't get involved politically, the successful growth will not continue.

(05:24:37)

(what did you do differently than the president before you?)

Number one, as I stated, I did not stay here and rock. You know, this chair will sit here and rock if your allied to but I don't. I got back out there in the field. I went back into hotels. I was really interested in the maid department , the housekeeping department and still am because that's where the backbone of our union lies is that housekeeping department. That's a quite a few people and so the guy that was here before me, he didn't do that. He did not get back out there in the field and work with people. He was too passive, I'll say that because I served on the board with him and he was passive, he knows he was and I was different, I got involved.

(05:25:41)

The union has changed me and I think I think I stated a few minutes ago I'm satisfied with Hattie, I love Hattie, and just being able to do things for people and things that mean a lot to people has changed me in a sense that it has made me a better person because I wasn't a slouch before I got the position and it just added more on to who I

am. It just made me a better person , a better mother, a better person in the community, just an all around person, it made me better.

(04:26:36)

(What's special about this union that made people stand up and pay attention to the union?)

The industry here, is growing like no other industry in the United States, and the union here, we set the standards of living, our wages for most people here in this city. In this union, the culinary union, we have the best health and welfare and pensions of anywhere in the United States. Its one that I'm not ashamed of.

(05:27:31)

(is there something about the way your running the union, is it because there are more women involved?)

You know what, I have a staff to represents the workforce. We have blacks, latinos, we have an array of all of these people. It's a melting pot in this building and it represents the workers out there in the workforce. We have a happy staff. We have a staff that really wants to organize. If I had to rate this staff on organizing from one to ten, we might have a lot of sixes but they want to do it, they are out there, they are trying, they'll give it all they have, so that's one thing that we are blessed to have. We have a good staff that wants to organize and they know what we need to survive and if we don't organize, we are not going to survive as a union. I remember when culinary had a lot of money but we weren't doing any organizing. Nowadays, since we organize, things change around a little bit but that's where it's at -organizing and I think we have somthing here on staff that a lot of unions would love to have, we know how to organize.

(05:28:52)

(do you think there is somthing special about you being a woman and the fact that you have a lot of women in it that makes it different?)

TAPE 6E- HATTIE AT OFFICE, SHIRLEY LEAVING WORK

(06:00:20)

There was one incident and this incident I really remember and I think about this all the time. I don't care about how hard I work, as a black woman I have to work twice as hard as a white woman. We had been in this organizing drive and it was election time coming up and governer Clinton, he was still governer at the time, he was coming here to this state and I had this VIP pass to go and see Clinton and I was happy about that because I had this special VIP pass to go see him but when I got there I noticed that my co-worker had a different colored pass and I was trying to make my way up to where he was but I couldn't get there, so I just told all of the elected officials what I wanted, and what I really wanted was to take a picture with the Governer then because I knew he was going to be president. I had been out in the street talking about this man and I knew anytime I talked about someone like that, they had to be the president of the United States. I wasn't in this room out at UNLV, they did not let me in the room and I had told all the elected officials that were on that stage that I wanted to take a picture with Clinton. So, when it was time to go in the room, Jim goes in this room and I'm behind this rope. I can't get into this room but Jim he walks right in so I went underneath the rope, there were a lot of us who went under the rope, but I was one of the first to go under and I got under the rope near the door where they were going in to take the picture, Mr. Clinton saw that there was someone who was really pressing their way, almost like the lady in the Bible that really pressed her way in and that's what I did and he came back to the door and when he come back to the door, I'm on the outside and he just reach out with his hand and I shook his hand and someone snapped a picture, but his security people were pulling me away. They were pulling me by the same arm and they were trying to pull me back. That hurt me. I was so hurt and so angry knowing that I had been sent out in the trenches. I had been sent out to West Las Vegas to help organize and get people to the polls and I did that, and we did that that year (CU of picture of Hattie and Clinton on the wall). I was so hurt that now I'm excluded, I'm really excluded, and I had made a statement when I was elected as democratic national committee woman, that the democratic party was not an exclusive party and all of that come to me, if the democratic party was not an exclusive party, now I'm in an exclusive party because they had excluded me and I had to make it right. I went and got help and we wrote letters and I wrote letters and I wrote Mr. Clinton a letter and I ceded to every public official that was out there at that meeting and I feel all right. The end result was, I didn't get the president. There is always someone out there who will try to keep you in your place. They feel like a black woman or a black man don't have a reason to do certain things. But we got paid off on like a Thursday, and

Hattie
Shirley
6E

on Friday, I ran to the bank at lunchtime to cash my check. So when I get to the bank to cash my check and I went to the bank, I didn't go to my bank, I just went to the bank that the check was written on because it was much closer that my bank and I get to the bank and this little teller behind the counter looks at the check and he looks at me and he looks at the check again and looks at me, and he asks me, "Who gave you the authority to put your name on this check?" I said, "what did you say?" He said, "who gave you the authority to sign your name here?" I said, "where is your supervisor?" I said, "You go get me your supervisor." When his supervisor came up there, I say, "how dare this guy ask who gave me the authority to put my name on this check when my signiture is back there on a mircofilm in this bank." I said, "everybody here shou;d know who I am and if they don't, they'll know after today." This guy started apologizing. He said, "I'm so sorry." I said, "tell it to your manager but I want you to do somthing about that because he should not have asked me that question." I said if he thought that I had done something, you've got ways to check it out but not the way that he did it.

(06:05:18)

It hadn't really set in yet. After the elections that night I went home and I didn't wake my family up and I went to bed and I went to sleep, I actually went to sleep. And in the morning they asked me, "who won mom?" And I said I won, and they said, "you really won?" They asked what were the numbers and I told them about two to one. I go back to the hotel where I had worked and everyone there knew I had won and I got congradulations from everybody, even the general manager. He came down and he congratulated me and he said, "Look Hattie, I'm going to tell you something, you be careful because, he said, a lot of those people get their heads busted open and I said, Joe, well we called him uncle Joe. I said, "Uncle Joe, you don't have to feel that I'm going to get my head busted open because, I'm Hattie, I'm different from the rest of the people you know." He said, "OK, just be careful other people thought the same way too." Then I remember when culinary started to grow and from '87 up until '90, I know this union was together and this was a union that we all were proud of because we had seen the growth and in '87 we had 15,000 or 16,000 members and today we have a membership between 36 and 40,000 and so we were on a roll and I knew this union was clean. It was squeeky clean from '87 up until now so I have somthing I can be proud of. I will never go to jail because of this office. I might go to jail because of a picket line or a corrupt owner out there who is defying the membership, who is messing with the civil rights of some of those members out there but because of money or anything in this office, I won't go to jail for that. But I will go to jail, and I have been in jail many times for rallies or things we needed to do downtown or on the strip. And I want to tell you about the first time I went to jail. I'm a mother of ten, had never, had never, maybe I had a speeding ticket, I got a ticket for not knowing where I was driving because I didn't know how to drive and that was back in '72 or '73, but anyway, when they was doing this sit-in down at the Las Vegas club and they wanted different people, especially leaders to go to jail and I was at the Maxim hotel, I was working as a maid working in housekeeping in the uniform room and so I told my friend Dorothy, lets go to jail, and she said, "You know Hattie, I can do alot of things with you but I

can't go to jail, I'm to nervous," she said, "you know Hattie, I've got this allergy and I just start scratching and I just won't be able to act right down there." She said, "are you going?" I said yes. She said, "Ok, I'm going to support you if you go I'm going to support you." I said, "well what are you going to do?" She said, I"m going to be right there cheering you along." I said, "OK, let's not talk to anyone about it, I don't want anyone to know about it," because I was real nervous and the only way I could deal with it was I had to prepare *me* . I couldn't have everyone running around over at the hotel talking about Hattie going to jail and it might have been easy for somebody to talk me out of it, and so I kept it from the rest of the co-workers for about maybe two weeks and I started preparing myself to get ready to go to jail the next morning and I knew what time the sit-in was going to be and I went to the beauty shop and got my hair done and at this particular time, I didn't wear pants because I felt certain parts of me looked larger in pants than a dress, so I went and bought a pair of black pants and this beautiful white tee-shirt with these great big polka-dots in it, and my friend as we were going down to the Las Vegas Club, says to me, "You couldn't find a tee-shirt with stripes instead of polk-dots, they wear stripes in jail." I said, " Oh god, Dorothy why do you want to say that, I'm psyched out as it is, so don't say anything else." So we get in there so when it comes time for me to get arrested, I think Oh god, what have I gotten myself into because I had never been in jail and on TV you see how the jail doors slam shut and I'm thinking oh boy, this is something else, but I did it, and I'm proud that I did it , my family is proud that I did it and I have done it more that one time and if need be, I'll do it again. I'll do it as many times as need be so that workers in this town will get their fair share because as Jessie Jackson said something about we don't want welfare, we want our fair share. That applies today in this city. We don't want welfare. As long as hotels in this city are owning up and they're paying $9.25 an hour we don't need welfare, but we do need our fair share and that's what we are fighting for. We are fighting for our fair share. We are fighting to continue our health and wealfare and our pension. We are fighting for higher wages, jobs security, garrunteed work weeks; we are fighting for that. A maid can go to work at the Maxim hotel and if she don't have three rooms to clean, a manager can't say we don't have enough work for you, you've got to go home. They have to keep her there, unless she says you don't have enough work for me to do, I'm going home to be with my family so that's what were fighting for and I'm glad that I work for a union that fights for these things. I'm glad that I belong to a union that my children and my grandchildren are proud of and they are pproud of this union because 100% of my money has always come from this union. When my husband was alive, he worked for local 631, and after he died, I went to Maxim. Thtas 226 and my children, they work for unions. And I'm one of those grandmothers that caught up into raising grandchildren and when I got elected, I don't think anyone here knew that I had grandchildren but Detam and holly were there then and that's been over six years ago and Detam now is 16 and Holly is 13, so they were little babies in a sense when I got this job but my families, my daughters were so supportive. They said, "Mom if you want to do it, you do it. The kids will never be alone. We'll pick them up from school." They'll never ride the bus to school. Someone will always pick them up, someone will always drop them off. We make sure that those kids have breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The things that they need and we will never, I tell my daughters now, "You make sure you get up and give

your children a hot breakfast. Don't depend on the system to give them a hot breakfast because it might not be a good breakfast for that child to go on through that day. So, if it were not for the union in this town we couldn't do what we are doing. I could not have kept my house. I probably would have lost my house just to taxes because taxes are high here. I kept my taxes up, I kept my car up. Whatever I had, I kept those things. It was hard, sure it was hard but it made me, it made my family, appreciate what we had, and so the union is where its at. (CU of union business cards on desk) And I would tell anybody in any town, you need a union. If you don't have one, try and get one.

(06:13:04)

(Tell me about meeting Richard Trumka)

CU of picture of Hattie with Richard

Oh that was great, that was really great. It was as great as meeting any other labor leader out there or greater because the man is so down to earth and he's got a way of moving people, he can move people and it was just great.

(06:13:33)

When I met Richard Trumpka. At the time I met him, he was president of the coal-miners back in Kentucky. He's the president of the coal-miner's union and the first time I met him, he came here and we were doing a do's increase, a union do's increase, and he pulled that off for us and then he came back other times and he spoke, but the last time he was here, he was running for the position at the AFL-CIO and he has that the position now.

(06:14:13)

(What do you think of Hilary Clinton?)

I like her. She is one of my favorite ladies. She is the lady who is taking a beating now and I don't think she deserves it. I get angry every time, especially this guy that call her a liar (CU of picture of Hattie and Hilary). It just makes me angry. I feel like they're disrespecting her and I feel like she's a lady, she needs more respect than that. And when she came here, she visited one of the hospitals and she was over at the Las Vegas Hilton and that's where I got that picture of her and she's just a great lady.

(06:14:45)

CU of picture of Hattie with Clinton. Camera tilts up from the handshake, tilts down and zooms out

(06:15:21)

Shots of various plaques on Hattie's wall

23:22
When I would go to this divorce hearing in May of 1993. I felt very comfortable, I had a 3.5 hour divorce hearing and I really thought I would come out. I was able to purchase my home, which I had as you can see the art room set up, that I have worked with my almost entire life. And I really thought that I would be able to get half of te community because we are a community and separate property state and I brougjht in, I was worth $68,000 coming into the marriage. And I did have traceable, receiptable, separate properties that did come out of the hearing of approximately $46,500.

SHIRLEE
1B

23:02:40

Okay, so you get to court.

Right. I had the divorce hearing on May 5, 1993. And I felt very comfortable. It was a 3.5 hour hearing. All hte iformation came out. They knew that I was in school. I was hoping that at the time, I was working on developing a

.**********!!!!!.. to be continued later, Amie said skip...

1B TAPE

Shirley cont'd

01:00

The biggest thing that makes me different, not only the tools that I came in with and my previous situation. What I find is that I really dealt with it, hte emotions, I did with them myself. And one of hte things that I worked early when I perceived hte problems, is taht someone is not going to do this for you. The attorneys, the

judges, the system where everybody knows everybody. They are afraid to go in, even when attorneys tell me, you need to do something. I'm going, but you are an attorney. Oh, yeah, but I'm in this system and I can't do that. What I try to instil in women is what's really helped me is that I do the work myself. I tell these women not to depend on what your attorneys tell you. Do not depend on anybody. You go to the law library. You find out what hte law is and ultimately you have to prepare to fight for your own being and your life because nobody else is going to do it. It has been tremendous on me because I care so much about these people. I know what is going on.

01:00:24

But I was financially devastated. I was in a situation where I was handling my own desperation. And when these women would call me emotionally, I would try to give them that support, but I would try to have them talk to their families. Or suggest that at night, they lay down real early and take time for themselves. You know, read books. I read a lot of philosophy. I went into a lot of inner type things. And so often these women, I do have a problem with it, because I care so much, but I've got to be careful because I really can't do it for them.

01:02:03.03

One of the things that brought me strength is the fact that I had to do it myself. The fact that I learned myself, that I knew, because when I went in with that type of inner strength, I felt like I could face anybody. They didn't frighten me. It is like this whole veil slipped away and I really looked at them from a bigger picture. I pulled back. I tried top ull back and be outside the situation.

01:02:28

I'd like to show you some of hte little things that really brought me solace and really helped my creativity. First of all, if you kind of pan, you can see all my beautiful little plants. I grew up in a family with lots of plants. I've had plants my whole life. When I was in the home up at hte Lakes that I designed, I had about 100 with waterfalls and pretty things. I had some wonderful growth from these plants. I've got plants growing into trees. They just give me tremendous energy, like my animals, which I have up in the room. I'd like to show you a little waterfall. And normally, they are running. I love hte sound of water. I have one upstairs. I like to sleep to the sound of water because that is very comforting. ...

01:03:20

I have all these plants. I also like to have my waterfall on because I love te sound of water. I find it very very peaceful. I also have one upstairs so I can sleep with the sound. You will also notice I am an avid reader. And, I am a speed reader and I read constantly. I read a lot of philosophy. A lot of things on women's issues on health, politicds, history. I really read a variety of everything. I;ve gained a lot of information and it really helped me because I consistently read a lot of philosophy and positive affirmation type things. I also,

as you can see, have a lot of little knick knacks and stuff that I have collected over hte years. And.

01:04:05

Can you show me some of your favorites?

Sure. I am such an animal lover. This sort of describes me. ...Boyfriends, relationships, the dogs. This is me. I like to think of myself as sort of a...mother theresa, mother earth. I love nature. There is not probably any plant or animal that I don't love. I love giraffes. If I could, I would have giraffes, elephants, I'd have a pool full of porpoises. I really love life. I have a real bond with nature. And I don't feel like I am above anything or below anything. But I feel like everything has a purpose. Everything has a life energy.

01:04:50

I just think ... connect you. I love art work. I love neon. I at one time wanted to go and take classes in the art.

What do you like about neon?

I like color. I like the softness of hte light. I just think it adds a real artistic, eclectic type look. And this is really cute, Like this little lady here. This was given to me by a stripper. And she sold it to me for like $10.

01:05:28

That was like in teh mid 70's, and this was when they were doing all the little life sized dolls. It's cute. It holds a lot of mementos to me because it was my career. And you will notice I also put out like a photo of myself working as a dancer. This is a cover from the REview Journal. ... It is not too clear of a picture.

Where are you?

I'm right here, standing.

01:05:59

And when I went through this, it was kind of interesting. I went back through my year books. About me being a dancer and hoping to see me on Broadway because I always knew I wanted to dance and I really went forward and did that. And when this happened to me, I got out my year book. I went through all my pictures. I went, my gosh, you know that's really me. I watched movies of myself dancing on stage. And I just put my work out and everythign to help me get back into this part of my life. And so often you do feel abandoned. You feel like I'm not good, I'm not worthless. ... I really was. I liked my life. I had a wonderful life.

01:06:48

I liked my life. I was a very happy content person. I enjoyed my career. I was at te top of my career. And I use this to say, hey, this is what I did, this is what I am. And that helped me to focus to get back into other things. You'll see also I have the sun here. Because hte sun to me, again, I love to...little things. I love the sun, I love moon designs. I love stars. And it just represents a real positive with the rays shining and everything. You can see hte shells and just all hte little knick knacks and things of my life that really helped me. I like them being around me. They give me comfort, solace, and they really help to inspire me. I really try to have my surroundings be positive and uplifting. Just some of hte little things. I love rainbows as you can see.

01:07:42

Talking

01:07:54

01:08:09

Okay, this first song I am going to sing,..... there is actually three I would like to sing. I wrote 15 of them.

01:08:28

This first song is for ... Remember, I am not really a good singer, but the words are there. I'm happy with it.

SONG:
There is power that is greed and there is justice that's not blind. And the laws they get so twisted, it gets confusing in my mind. We know ther eis power that is pure evil. We know there is justice that's not pure. But every now and then, a truth shines through, and of this you can be sure....

Up through the fire and into the light. LIke a phoenix rising, I come through my fight. And up through teh fire and there in my sight, like a phoenix rising, I've done what is right. Now if you and your life with your love that brings change. "And it's you with your touch that brings rainbows through rains. And it's you with your cloud through your tears and a wink... that can clear through those clouds by joining Power, Justice, Inc.

Priorities of women's equal rights in Justice, Inc. In NV courts, I'm fighting for me, I'm fighting for you. Priorities of women's equal rights and Justice, Inc. in the NV courts, I'm helping you up, won't let you sink.

Up through the fire and into the light. Liek a phoenix rising, I've done what's right. Up through the fire and into the light. Like a phoenix rising, I've done

what was right. Now it's you in your life with your calm that brings change, and it's you with your touch that brings rainbows through rains. And it's you with your cloud through the tears and a wink. That can clear through the clouds by joining Power, Justice, Inc.

Fighting for women's equal rights, and Justice, Inc. In NV courts, I'm fighting for me, I'm fighting for you. Priorities of women's equal rights in Justice, Inc. in NV courts, I'm helpin gyou up, won't let you sing.

01:11:19

There is power that has beauty, and there is justice that is fair. And law can help protect us, see that we're given our fair share. We know this power that has greatness. We know that there is justice that is pure. And every now and then, right here and now, it opens up for you.

That is Power, Justice, Inc. And now I have a cute little song that's on the courts.

01:11:49

Now I am going to do a production called hte court line. Where I wrote some songs at. And I wanted.. to have chorus line. And I went through auditions for Devastated, Inc. for women. Don't come in your make up. Bring your restraining orders and we try to get te most devastated. And I just, the little song I haven't completed is Pink Shopping Cart Blues. .... And I do a striptease to let me entertain you, but it is don't let them dare detain you. And I go from suits to like rags and then te third song is about hte system. So this is the other song.

01:12:27

..Lived in Las Vegas for a long, long time and I've had my ups and I've had my downs. I've loved and laughed throughout I've worked to say trhat family court here destroyed me is a crime. That's why I'm here to say. The good old boys have been around too long.....

01:12:55

saying the same thing above.

What I want to do is hold auditios for devastated women.....etc.

01:13:26

I did three little songs for it. The first one is "don't let them dare detain you" to let me entertain you done with suits.

01:13:49

SONG
I've lived in LV for a long, long time. And I've had my ups and I've had my downs. I've loved and laughed throughout I've worked to say that hte family courts here destroyed me is a crime. That's why I'm here to say. The good old boys have been around too long. It is time to throw them out time to sing a new song. Cause the good old boys, they never were our friends, come back through deals they only hurt us in our ends.

SUZ

1B

It's time to tell the truth. It's time to expose all their perks. It's time to throw out those crooked old jerks. Our courts here have corruption. Our Judge's they defeat. They are destroying innocent women trying to stand up on their feet. Judges screwed up on my assets, ignored all of my facts. Now I need a CPA to make the proper drafts. Judges who are biased, attorneys who don't care. LV needs to see hte truth, it's future's in the air.

Because this good young lady standing here today and I'm not giving up and I won't go away. I need to have justice gain back all the courts took. And I won't give up my fight if that court is the crook. Because the good old boys. Because hte good old boys. They never ever were this city's friend.

That's the Good Old Boys.

That's really kind of neat. Why this came to me, I don't know because I haven't dated in three years. Not that I don't want to, but there are so many things to do.

....

01:17:18

Suz Brna--at Studio

How long ago did you move to LV?

3.5 years ago.

Where were you before that?

Chicago, ARizona.

So, why LV?

Um, my parents had moved here and I would keep coming out and visiting and wanted to finish and get my degree. I had 6 hours left to go. I knew with being

so close with my kids, I was able to have my mother watch my kids, I could finish my degree and through that I met so many people through the university and began to get into the shows,

01:03

I was able to get a job out here in engineering, it was great. And the weather out here. I love it.

What does your daughter think of it?

01:03

I think she got involved in cultural arts with Reed Whipple and really likes to write and schools have encouraged her in that direction and she has done some productions with Reed Whipple. So, for her, it is exciting too. What they have at hte cultural arts center.

01:04

Has your painting changed from Chicago to here?

Oh, drastically. It has been so great because it is my little tourist. I love hte impressionists... and I feel like this city is classified as that "sin city of paris" and there is just so much to paint. I usually resopnd to what is going on around me. And I can paint emotionally all the way through and in Vegas there is so much to see and feel and paint.

01:04:48

What about women? Bodies of women? You paint them alot.

I have a lot of dancer friends. I love hte theater. And, so I had seen the Penney Francis review and began working with...I wanted to get in there. I want to paint you. You are hard working. Nobody realizes the work that they do and the ... and the baby pictures ... and everything in teh dressing room and yet everyday they come out in this marvelous performance and you think, how do you do this with your aches and pains and family and day care. But they do. So I wanted to represent how hard that. It's a job, it's a struggle and it is just as hard as any other job, maybe harder than all the other facts that go into it.

shot of Jodie listening

01:05:37

Then I ... the bodies adn women and hte powers htey have with their beauty and with their sensualness of them and strength.

When you came here, did you have an idea of a show girl or stripper that has changed much?

01:05:57

I really thought that it was great that we began to show the bodies of te hookers. I have no problems with any of them. I know so many dancers and theater people that I understood the work probably better. I think the part that upset me was sitting in an audience, with an audience that would not even clap. Or, it is a limited thing. It is just expected that this should just be like this here. And I think that is what really got me excited about shwoing, hey, you know, this is not .. ~~it is~~ just a glamorous thing that you walk out here and you just put on your best every night. If you really think about it, how difficult this job is. And I don't think that hte audience credits what goes on behind the stage.

You don't think that there is appreciation for what hte women actually do.

01:06:49

I think that there is in this town, the people here, but I think the rest of the world does not see that part of it at all. There is an image an they expect it.

01:07

Europe, that you began to appreciate. Or they have a different understanding of LV?

I was just recently in Europe and they respoded to my LV painting, the dancers and hte dressing and I think that they are so much more open adn in tune to theater productions, they can accept the body in sculptures, nude, not so closed minded as Americans. NOt only ... they spend as much on cultural arts in Germany as they do in te Entire U.S. So when you go oever there as an artist, you are appreciated as you are on the same level as a technician, and electrician or carpenter or business accountant. You are on that level. Where here, you are looked at as a second class citizen. How much money do you make? Why are you doing this?

01:08:12

...part of history part of representing what is going on through time.

Is there something that you see here where te body is more objectified in LV and not as objectified there?

01:08:27

Um, I would say that here it is really flashy, really bright. In Europe, I think it is toned down. So here there is no limit to it. So I would say that it is freer here in LV and it maybe what entices them to this city.

01:08:53

Singers, all that. So they have a lot of fun with this painting, trying to understand why ____ is in there because he didn't have anything to do with the RT. But then they just assume that what it was was that there was an odd ... Prussia for establishing Germany. And so that part of hte RT and now that it is going to be the capital again. Because it was the capital prior to Hitler coming in and when Hitler came in and blew it up, and ... architechturally are gone. Hitler came in he had the whole thing blown up again.

01:09:38

You just came from germany?

Yeah, I was visiting Berlin and I have some family there and I was looking to put some of my work into the galleries there. So I rolled up my paintings and took them with, and then one of the women at te gallery was planning a show because Cristo was trying to RT and it was a major event there. She asked me after she saw my other work if I could paint a painting of the RT for her. So, I came home and worked, you know, for a month, as quick as I could so that I could ship it back in time for this show. There was just one other artist from France, Spain, myself from American qand then a German artist. There are. I have Hitler with his pants down. I have, it is just a political game I wanted to incorporate because..through a history of leaders and politicians. I had given speaches up at the RT and the german women were hte ones who are underneath te building and holding and supporting hte building. I have just hte sculptures representing hte arts that were ..... and that the women were te ones that picked up all of hte brick. My mother was one of them and cleaned up the city. Because hte men were either killed or gone and so the women were the ones who scrubbed and cleaned the bricks and used hte same bricks.

01:11:11

So then the Prussians came and brought all of the artists to .. Germany and Berlin area particularly established his home and escaped and what not. But he gave the french ... they were having trouble there with their freedom an religion and what not, and he allowed them all to come and then he had them work for him adn they had these beautiful things because of that. And that is exciting because...

01:11:47

Oh yeah, this was hanging at the RT the entire show was based on the RT and it being ... Cryso had been working on trying to wrap the RT since 1972 with his wife. Adn finally the parliment and hte government in Berlin allowed it to happen.

01:12:09

Showing newspaper article on Suz

01:12:22

I was so excited. I had told some friends about this painting and they helped contact the paper so I have this teriffic article about the painting and what I am doing and the next painting I was working on for hte next show. So,k I really am excited to get some recognition here and get more of the arts in te newspapers and they are starting to add more and more and this is exciting for us here. T… be a woman artist here in LV and get some press. It helps. It helps to let pe… know what you are doing.

SUZ

2B

01:13:07

How do you find it being an artist in LV?

Oh, I think it is very difficult. I think if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere in teh world because it is still new, it is still hte wild west. I think culture and wild west ahve a hard time coming together. And I think it is one of hte last things that the .. type of thing and hte art gallery type of thing, is a difficult concept for the community group to grasp. But with teh growing numbers of people and the volume of people that are visiting internationally--coming here. It has got to blossom.

Todie in frame entirely

START OF NEW TAPE:

BETA TAPE 2B AND 3B SUZ BRNA

Suz Brna

01:13:06

This was done 2.5 years ago and it was a big challenge. 6 feet of canvas to fill and to consider.. takes a lot of time.

02:00:52

Oh, this is my daugher, Meg. She is 12 and going to school and trying to be in theater and singing and that kind of thing.

What do you think of her.

I like it because ... there is lots of different theaters and there is stuff for children theaters. So it is not all adults can do culture arts. Now kids can do it too. I say

to myself every morning that i look forward to act. So, I love it that LV has all this cultural arts, different forms, etc.

What do kids do ... from Chicago?

Kids in Chicago are more, I don't know, I guess I haven't seen much of a difference, but I think kids in LV are more used to teh wild west and there, I think, some of them like cultural arts more but there really isn't a difference between kids. And basically styles travel around hte world and stuff so it is all mainly hte same.

School is a little different though.

Yes, school is hard. .....

You have to really have fight.

02:02:43

life here, you have to fight hard for getting good grades, getting the teaching and getting to your level of ... with te school.

So that is why I think it is harder than in Chicago.

..demonstrationwith teh kids?

Well, te kids are all the same. You know, you have different kids but they are all basically teh same. It is more ...

So you felt hte system supported you more in Chicago as a student than as here?

Well, yeah, but also I'm older now and I'm in junior high, so it is a lot harder than when you are in elementary. And my mom used to fight more for me and now I am fighting by myself a little bit. And she's still helping me.

02:03:44

Well, I love it because I mean, she's got, we have painting on every single wall. And I can always say my mom's an artist and all of this. I think she's probably going to become famous and it's okay to have. So, I am really glad that she is an artitst.

Do you go with her when she's taking pictures and sketching of the shows?

No. I'm usually at school.

SUZ: or in bed.

...I'm learning how to be street smart, how to be safe from crimes and all of that. And you learn alot being in a city instead of a suburb where everyone is kind of like protecting each other and stuff.

Well, what about LV?

02:04:45

Well,

the billboards with teh big busted women...

well yeah.. I've got really, I think that you get a lot out of LV because if you go to a small town, it's just, it's so quiet and peaceful but in LV, there is a lot of big boards saying, you see showgirls on every single billboard and it kind of makes you realize that you are not hte only one out there. TYhere is lots of other people. I don't know really.

You think you will be a gambler?

No. I think LV just because you live in LV doesn't mean that you are going to grow up to be a gambler or something like that. It just means that there are lots of them because it is a big huge city. So there is so many opportunities for you.

02:05:56

And you are in theater arts. There is lots of opportunities and also my mom's been fighting for all kinds of politidcal stuff.

Okay.

02:06:11

When did you paint this one?

2.5 years ago I painted this. Then this was, I was trying to do some of ... methods in the painting and I was also strying to show that a lot of the women run the shows in LV. They are the ones that do, half of the dancers even do the costuming. Once a designer has done it, they fix them and htey mend them, they sew them ad some of them even design costumes and work on that later on. And when they are 35 and they stop dancing, they do coistuming or they do health or they do nutrition, or they befcmo photographers and things like that. But, most of them are going to college while htey are dancing or working on their future. When they are 35 they can do something different. And tehn it's just you know, you get out there, it's your, time and you better have it straight. And you are talking about it to each other and hte fight and the big strengths between them. It is competitive and one of my dancer friends dances for Siegfried & Roy and there were 90 people trying out for 2 poarts. And it wasn't that you had to be the best dancer, it had to be that you could dance just like

every other dancer that was there. You didn't have to have one kick higher or lower than anyone else.

02:07

It's very tough to get into these jobs and some of them are great and some of them are not. They have insurance and health care and what not, and those are hte ones that of course, the best jobs. And the more people ttry for those positios.

What was it like to bring this together? Did you go and sketch? Did you go back stage a lot?

02:07:53

I'm very sensitive to what goes on. I had been, we had put together a show girl show and through that I've had the costume designers and te costume managers and was able to tour the entire back stage and to see the grops of technicians hte guides and the timing and the... everything is just like a conductor coordinating back stage. And so te front, you would never see that. TEh front would never appear to.. if there wasn't all that directioning that goes on in back and I met ____ who producjes that show and it was... produce that was a producer but she runs it and manages the entire thing.. you know, handling the girls I guess to te legs didn't come up. So, it was just a thing that went on back stage and I'll try again. There is a lot involved in this. Just even the cost of one show and te amount of people involved and for the viewer that comes in from ___ or NY or KS or whatever, have no, never think about that and that's what I think when you consider that... There is nothing that wretches my heart more than when someone performs and you cannot resopnd. That's like saying thank you.

02:09:01

So, you are talking more about how hard it is to work when you work here.

Who is your art for, who is this painting for, is this?

Always in my art, what I've always told my dream is that if my work can be viewed by everyone. Especially teh people that cannot afford it. You know, NY critic or the rich model that can afford to buy a painting. I was always hoping that I would be relating with the .. people and to say to them in all of my work, I understand. I have sympathy, I understand. And if anything, I hope that you can get release and you know that you are not alone. So I see in my paintings. So I'm going for a universal appeal. And I'm going for a very ... finely thing. And I am also trying to incorporate history and sewing that together because that is the important thing. Art, not the rich .gallery curator that decides who's painting is worth this many dollars. So, I think after a ___ in this country and I think in Europe they are still willing to do new things and be aggressive in teh art world.

REalizing a part of hisotry where the U.S. cutting all te funding for hte arts, they are taking it away. It's just, it's not an important thing.

02:10:25

in this town or supporting LV art museum. They kick them out of their space. I mean, that really says alot about how struggling we are as artists.

But there is not a lot of original artists in LV?

WEll, yes. I, you know, it's tough.

02:11:30

..they'll pay $400 for a framed print. They will have an art gallery that just sells prints and htey say art gallery. And I ... where's your original art? They don't have any. So I resorted to doing different sorts of things. There was a women opening up as the state interior and she is just new at it and she is just getting started and she was selling tapestries and other things. Now that is something that a lot of the artists that she contacts were, oh, no way would I be involved. You know, it's not just white walls and concrete floors. But I figured, she is interested in supporting artists and trying to sell their work and getting it into the people's homes. To me, that's my goal. Is that it does become part of your life and ..while you're painting because it's emotional to you. Not just hte value of it.

02:12:15

How are artists received... there is a certain in LV who don't want this to be hte vision of LV.

I don't really know that I've had to resopnd in that way. I've felt that what I call is couch art is what sells to people in LV> They are affraid to step ahead and hey, I'm not going to have .. on my wall. I want something that is something or says something about LV. So, with my work, just to you know, paint the painting for this person, for this house. I've always hoped that if more people could see it and if more people could... you know, the paintings I've sold..Now I thought, who would ever buy that painting? It meant a lot to me an I thought it was a good painting. But who would buy a painting on rape? Who would buy a painting on divorce? I meant, I sold one to, I sold a divorce painting to an attorney who totally related to this and said this is about divorce. And I said, that's right. An attorney. So they were really thrilled and the rape painting, a woman bought it and put it in her house and over in teh Summerlin area and I thought well, I am so glad that seh appreciated it. And that just keeps me inspired that there are people-- and maybe it's because there are more and more people moving here--more people that will jump over the fence and say hey, I'm going to buy something that is not a print and there is not 5,000 of them and it's not a publically acceptable.

What would you..

This should be a base and flowers.

What we titled this our documentary?

Yeah, well, It was a strip tease and I though.

02:14:17

I love this town. I'm going to utilize this .. and a woman and being feminine in this town adn utilizing it to the max. And uh, I just love painting hte body ad I think this whole magic that is presented here is something that I would never want to lose. And strip tease is just like I don't want that to go away. I think that hte magic that we have in LV with the femininitiy and this goddess of love and lust and, you know, I think that is wonderful and I would hate to see that lost. Because every other city is so closed up adn women are trying to dress like men and trying to fit into their molds instead of jumping out of them and saying, hey, I am a woman and I can do just about anything that you can or close or better.

Do you think there is any exploitation in this town?

02:15:15

There is. But I don't think that it is something that women are being forced to do. I think that htey look at it as a job. And a woman getting ahead. And a way of making some cash. And I don't really have a problem with that. And I think that if they are attractive, I mean, that's a young thing anyway. It is a very young thing. And it is a good way to get the money quickly to be able to, of course you are going to move on and do different things. And maybe you manage the Glitter Gulch or whatever, but I think it juist allows you every opportunity to do anything you want. You can be a city government or you can be a hooker or a freak. And, yet, you'll both be doing the same things. Like paying your bills, getting your car fixed and taking your kids to day care.

k02:16:10

And um, so, I just look at it as an opportunity for anyone to do anything. And, uh, use their feminity in any way they want. ..

Do you think ever in this town teh woman's feminity is used against her?

02:16:41

Yeah, I feel like it's a think, if it's comfortable for you, I odn't have a problem with it. I think too, if you are providing a service for some loneoy old guy, that's a good thing. You are being good hearted. I don't think that it is bad. I think the

men may think m ore on the terms of, there being, I don't know, I guess when I think of it, the men don't see us like hte women here.

Do you think the dancers are well paid, the show girls?

Oh, absolutely not. You know, of course, who is ever paid enough? But I really don't thnik. I don't know that they are paid that high. But I think that htye meet a lot of people and they are doing something they enjoy. Or, you know, they want to sing and dance and there is not.. just like being an artist, I can't say, okay, now I'm going to be a lawyer. You know, it's just not in your heart.

02:17:29

This is a painting that I did of Caesars' restroom and I just ran down there one day and.

Suz Brna's living room.

This is a painting that I did of Caesars' restroom and I just ran down ther eone day and brought all my .. and my camera. Because I had seen teh bathroom before and I thought it was just so .. looking and it was such a retreeat. Adn there are so many different characters in one place. So, I had a, I photographed one of the cocktail waitresses and she was just exhausted. ... Taking a load off of her legs. You know, been pinched and had her whole day. Get close to te end of her shift. I did a lot of drawing of hte iterior. And the maids live in there. And tehy were so receptive to me, drawing and painting and they ewre excited .I was paying attention to what they were donig and uh, So I decided it was just a great contrast of different characters in a ... and that. Maybe they all wish that they could be the one that takes a vacation here and enjoying them and everything, but they are not. They are just people that are working here and.

How about the way the maid uses her body more than the cocktail waitress?

02:18:38

Right. She's definitely more medicinal in working and cleaning. But even in, she has this navy costume and of course yes, showing her breasts and your legs and you get more drinks that way. So that is why that is working. And I don't think that unless they mind it, if I had to waitress ... costume because I could get more business and make more tips. So, but these are the girls that are out on the town is looking for Mr. Right possigly or whatnot. We dress almost the same.

Let's walk.

02:19:22

I have waitressed. And I've had cocktail waitressed. And I konw, it was a hard job, beating them off with a stick, and getting all te stupid comments. I mean that's, it's real tough. I've done it ad I needed hte money and that is what I did. And I didn't have any other skills at that time. I was going through school. Adn that is how I got through school ad whatever else work I began on the side, I tried to have... worked in factories and I couldn't do that either because that was just mentally, I couldn't take that constant mundane you know, work. I have to use my mind. And that is there was nothing to thnik about. It was all physical action. So, this is another one of a dancer scene that I did prior to ...

02:20

just the coordination, organization, hustle up, .. get over here, over there, get the crowd down. And the stretching and the practicing and all those are things that you need to do before you even get on stage. Your make up, your costume and they spend quite a bit of time--2 hours before a show-- so.

Is there a lof of life backstage?

Oh yeah, it's really so busy and so fast and everthing is hustle, hustle, hustle, you know, and that part is too. I wanted to sort of put in there. I enjoy --Degas did a lot of this stuff and I do the same sort of thing with the --stage and backstage and so I tried to uh, get that part in there.

02:21:09

I worked with uh, Adam and Eve and with that whole concept and uh, te snakes and I think in LV you can create any kind of atmosphere and be there and so I figured this was my heaven adn I guess that influenced me because I can make any kind of background I want. Because that is what you can do in LV.

Do you thin

Another thing.

Is there a LV color?

Oh yeah, bright lights and bright colors and everything that they do in LV, it's got to be very attreactive. It's got to jump at you and grab you. And so, yes,\ I think bright colors and that. I'm not afvraid to use them. I'm not afraid to just like you know, artists before, they want to keep it quite and keep it calm. You know, this is for my couch. And you want it to blend in with this, you know, rug, so. I don't care about that. I can explore everything and I can put all the colors together to keep different palets working together. And bright. Yeah, it's got to be bright.

So, you were talking about people coming to watch te shows and htey don't appreciate what goes on behind the show. But what about, you are using these colors, and they are bright and htey are saying something and you are out

there, is there the appreciation for that? I mean, what, when people come here and htey are taking the brightness, but are they really receiving it?

02:22:27

I ... just because there isn't the venue for me to show the people. The city and hte government here has not helped very much at all to help encourage artists to give them any kind of a course as far as where to go, where to show it and to get the people to understand what hte artist is doing here. And allowing them to .. so, it's a very limited viewing of what, you know, ... a couple of them do print the gallery listings so that you hope that some of hte people that do come and visit get to go to the galleries and see what hte art is like. The art here I think is really fresh. And uh, just checking out Santa Fe is supposed to be this great art capital and uh, going there, there I felt very few galleries that were representing what is going on in art today. And basically, most of them were just working on teh commercial end of it and still trying to.

... just like trying to sell hte NY scene ad even in Santa Fe, they are saying the NY scene is dying down.

02:23:49

Beginning when you first get here?

Uh huh,

A bit of your Chicago pull?

Yeah, I'm working a lot on the collage kind of idea. And I pretty much have taken most of hte paper away and uh, because my painting styles are changing so, I'm growing. What the idea is once again is the woman that comes and gets all dressed up and gussied up to attract that male, you know, puts on your chamelion coat. And how difficult it is to be single and to be looking for somebody and where do you go to find that person. And so, this is ___ Cafe and there is so much action going on and there are so many things and yet you can be so alone. Even in a huge crowd. So I think that is kind of what I was working on here. I actually saw this woman in the Cafe while I was there with some friends. And it was so compelling to me that I sketched her out on a napkin and came home the next day, stretched my canvas and started work on her. So it was a very emotional thing for me. Being single.

02:25:09

Looking at the divorce painting.

This is a painting on divorce and um, not that I've experienced this myself, although I'm pretty sensitive to having a lot of that in my family. And my brother's divorce was really close to me. So, it's just, she's here with these 3

kids and he's in this cloud and he finally takes off his make up and she sees who he really is. And it's like neither one knew each other. Adn now, whree do you go from here? With 3 kids and alone, and I felt that it was a real madonna type of thing. Just stunned and shocked and now it's past due to move forward and pull up whatever energy that you can possibly find out of hte smallest person... to step over this hump ad move on. So it, really emotional. And agin, to try and let others understand, I know what you are feeling adn if I can help you by lettin gyou know you are not alone, that other people understand how you feel, then I have fulfilled my need to give back to people.

Do you get a lot of that,

Yeah, I think divorce is high. I think it is high around the country. but yeah, there is a lot of single moms. And even my kids. I've been married the whole time with my kids, but they are frightened of ... because so many children are from separated homes. And it is something that my kids are dealing with. ARe you going to get divorced? That is something that they come to expect rather than thinking that used to be the way I grew up, parents stayed together. So I think that attitudes have chanhged. I think te marriage concept has changed adn I also think that people are living longer and you are thinking, can I stand to be with you 90 years or 50 60 years. If my life is short really, and then, are we happy together? I think that they are more willing to set aside their marriage for their happiness. Where otherwise people would

SUZ 3B

02:27:47

sound is not working.

close ups of all hte pictures of Suz Brna's living room
02:29:17

02:31:10
close ups again. There is black space. TAPE 3B (T.C. 2:30:00 →)

2:37:00 Suz Painting in her Studio
Jodi and Suz at the Temparary Comtemparary Looking at Strpper Painting.

02:42:39
Walking and talking about paintings.

That's what's happening there. So to portray it any different might be wrong. Any other girl that's on top. Look at Vegas Vicky, she's a typing too. She shakes her leg up and it's like "come on down." And Vegas Vick's right across the street checking her out.

02:41:45

You know, like Vegas has the wildest carpet in the whole world. So they are really fun for me... It's always very intense an a lot of life. And then these black balls that hover from the ceiling hwere you are being watched. You know, so I wanted to incorporate that. You're beingt, everyone is being watched all the time. And that may be bad, but I find a security in a woman. I've been ... everywhere I go, I can get valet parking. I've never been worried or frightened to go out alone because there is security in hotels, they are walking around, you just yell security and you would have a guard standing right next to you. If somebody was hassling you. .. and watching the people.

02:42:14

Oh yeah, the airlines, hte desk pepole, the air force here. Yeah, it's like if you know I'm watching you, not that they didn't kow.

When you lived here with your husband and you were saying that they are watching, what did you feel or perceive that you wanted to portray in your painting. What would it be you were trying to communicate?

Well, I mean, they were just, htey were working hte money. They were working hte money. And they came down to the people and you know, they grabbed the dollars from teh guy and the guy was torn up. And that's what I was thinking, what did I do wrong? And uh, so I think that's .. they make more money than I do. So I think that was something I saw. They had that great dance, they were using their stuff. They basically came up and was helping me. You're really worth something Suz, ... give me a dollar and then I'll take my top off. Then I'd put it back on and they'd go to the next table. They never allowed the same group of guys, there's nothing that would be boring. And it's nothing like you would ever, they wear wigs and then they go out to the grocery store and hte day care. So I mean, they are playing a part. And they are playing it well and they are making good money.

02:47:50

But there is a way, um, the men aren't really showing up. The women ..

So we can make hte men the background for the shoot.

Right, they are doing all those things. They are smoking, drinking and spending money and being entertained, but yet, hte women that. I wanted it to be sexual, I wanted men to see this. And I found five guys when I first brought it in, and they had --- when they are gathering. All of a sudden five of them were gathered looking at my painting and I looked at them and they were almost embarassed. But you saw me here as if they had gone in the painting nad were there. I saw that a lot of times with my paintings, it's just shut the men up. Stop in your tracks. So I was visiting, I was on Channel 5 in the morning show and they flashed my paintings up on the camera there and everyone was talking in teh room and then as soon as you know, thgat part of for sale, where it came up, the room was just silent. So, I did want entice men with my painting. If I were a

dancer, I guess as a painter, I wanted to say I'm dancing for you. So, I guess I'm doing the same thing, but just in my way. I don't, I can't.

02:49 looking at painting

What's happening in ... stripper.

What's different is that he showed up there.

I think it's about the same thing. I think that it is the ones that haven't been there may go now.

02:49:35

But I was trying to incorporate young and old. ... you had every kind of walk of life of man. And there are women that go and with a man, so, ...sexually after you do a show like this is great. It's exciting. Because you can feel more free. You don't feel so uptight because you weren't dancing up there and like anything you do would be less than dancing on the tables.

So it just opened up the ... for you.

Yes.

02:50:1

So you think that there is something about a woman watching a woman dance?

Well, for me it would be more watching hte men's reactions to women dancing. And oh, if that works so well, if that excites you so much, I now have another thing to do for you.

... do you think she feels open? Or do you think she feels closed.

I think she feels like she's working.

No, no no. If a woman is there with a man and she doesn't have a body that looks like this. Do you think she feels more open or more closed?>

02:50:41

I guess it depends on the man, because, yeah, I guess you could feel real envious and .. that and uh, the people that I had gone with, there were three couples. I never felt that. And also, I just thought wow, I can dance too. And I don't think, when you're all at home, and you are playing with your husband who you are used to, I don't think that it would create an intimidating situation.

So why do you think it upsets so many women in town about hte dancers and the strippers?

02:51:44

It is such a funny experience.

Well, maybe if their husband overindulges in it. Or maybe if their husbands just go in there and that causes ... at home. I don't really know anybody that upset about that. But my mother's from Berlin and I come from a real different kind of background that, nudity and prostitution adn all that is, they were teh people that bought hte hats from my grandmother. So, my mother used to deliver hats in Berlin. And sew hats and send everyone to uprchase them. And they were always wonderful to kids. So I've never really had any... I really don't know about people that would be saying, oh, this is just awful. I can't really see why anyone would do this. You know, they woud say, I won't do this, but they don't really have an aversion to somebody else using it for means to make thier money.

02:52:52

What about hte fact taht this is the one that is ... a lump of money in and men who have worked...

That's the job and why women take their clothes off. Well, you don't need as many prerequisites to do that. It takes a lot of money to get a degree to work behind an office. It takes a lot of time and a lot of effort. And that is not to say that the dancers aren't working towards that. So I think by just saying that they are all just going to stay there and that's the only thing they'll ever do. Or this is the only person they want to be and this is their favorite job. I don't think so. I think there are some that make it into something special and become the best strip tease in teh U.S. But I think a lot of them are using it as a financial way to get out of it and to move forward and do other things that they can face. I'm sure it must be difficult for a woman to tell her daughter's friends' lover, well can she come over and play. Well, I am a stripper over at your club. So I don't , I mean there is not hte respectability about it. So that part is negative. Because society looks down on it.

Well, that's the part that

Yeah. I guess society does look down on it as wrong and indecent and exposing yourself, but I see it more in the work end and hey, if it is a way for you to get some money, you can get a college eduction then or you can pursue something else and get through raising your kids and whatnot. Also, there's this age thing too. You cannot be a 40 year old dancer.

But I mean, a stripper, amybe you can if you had a lot of surgery and whatnot, I'm sure ...

02:45:47

But I don't think that that is the idea. I think that it's a temporary position. It's money. It's a lot of money. You can make it quickly and I see it as exercise too. My gosh, how much work can you keep in shape while I go to the gym when you could dance over here you know?

How is the stripper's reaction to te entertainment have any of them seen it?

No, they haven't.

Have any of hte strippers seen the painting?

No, not yet. But, I hope to get some resopses from them. I think that it would be, I would love to see how htey felt about being portrayed, if they felt it was an accurate record .. on what was going on.

Do you know any, or do you have any friends?

Well, no, but the ones that were there in the dressing room that were coming in, one of hte gals at the, I guess the public relations director that allowed me in, she said do you want a portrait for this painting? Oh, no, she didn't want to, so I don't think they want to be connected with their face you know, because like you say, a lot of them wear wigs and do things to themselves to keep their identity separate from what they do because of society's, American society's look at that.

02:46:13

Suz and Jody looking at hte picture.

It's black. It's the only thing that there is is lights. And, in fact, I can hardly even photograph this. They had to take all the filters out of hte light when you shoot the place because it was so dark. But they keep it that dark so that hte men don't really have to recognize each other, who's there and whatnot. And I don't know if that adds to te excitement, but I think that it does.

All these women were drawn from your imagination?

Yes....You know for photos of hte faces and of the bodies. I drew much, I just have that down now, I've been doing it so much that I'm more concerned with te pose than any. I'll make the part, give the parts volume.

02:52:45

As far as men explaining women, and using women.. naked and enjoying that. I guess I can say that I am using the women through my painting and painting these women. But hte difference that I fgeel in my work is that I'm also

suggesting the work end of it and I try to I guess, try to document in my own way through my art what is going on here. What are the women doing here. And,

So you are looking at it for everyone to see the world...

Life. This is what's here. And uh,

That's what we say.. when we saw the men watching the painting. What's different from them participating there. Are they able to get an objective view of what's going on?

Through the painting?

I don't know how. The resopnses that I've met, they've just. A couple of hte respmnses that I've had from a few of hte men were oh, breast-taking or hooters or something like that. So I don't think they are looking at hte men. I think they are still looking at hte women. Just as they would do in the nightclub. They wouldn't be looking at hte guy next to them.

JODIE W/DAD 4B+5B

So the girl would yell down to them and say, hey the show's up here.

...

02:59

Yeah, I dance for hte painting. I just, I guess it would be for hte man. I have a hard time. I think it's... I don't really paint for men or for women. I'm painting as a woman so I don't know however you perceive me. I come out from teh canvas. I can't give a very difficult time.. saying this painting is for a man or this painting is for a woman. I did consider thinking I wanted to make this painting as sexy as I could. I wanted to make it sexy and I guess my audience would be a man. So, I guess I did have that.

02:59:53

END

TAPE 4B JODIE WITH FATHER

J: So Daddy what do you think I'm doing with this film?

Dad: I think you're makng a movie about abused women--

J: Oh really, thats interesting--wht do you think about abused women?

D: You think they're abused because they make lots of money in las Vegas for doing what we consider entertainment..if a cocktail waitress walks around with a low-cut dress on we think thats the way to get people's attention if they come

into your club if thats using women I think thats like using a doctor because he has a smart mind...and is more capable--we all have our own attributes and I think women have their's--why what do you think you're doing?

J: I think I'm making a movie about all the Las Vegas women--

D: All of them?

J: Do you think they all use their bodies?

D: No, not all.

J: What else do they do?

D: Well we have the Attorney General, is a female the mayor is a female--

(adjust mic.)

J: What do you think of Las Vegas women?

D: I think Las Vegas women are just like women in any oher place in the world?

J: Do you think they have different obstacles than anywhere else int he world?

D: In Califonria? No, I don't think they have any more obstacles than they do anywhere else in the world--in fact I thinkthe opportunities in las Vegas for women are much better than anyplace else int he country.

J: Why's that?

D: Because there's good work, plenty of work, just even for men or women I think Vegas offers a variety of things and to make a living at and a good living

J: What did it offer you?

D: It's where I grew up its kinda like home--it never really offered me that much, I never really got involved in the gambling as much as I did the development of Las Vegas, but the development came as a result of our gambling..

04:04
J: What about working out at the Test Site?

D: I think working out at the Test Site was something like workingin National Defense it was something I had no reservations about doing what I was doing as far as atomic testing in the restricted environment, underground testing--

J: What do you think about the safety of that? The land...the people that lived near there?

D: I really don't give a damn--(laughs profusely)

J: Can you imagine how much fun it was at the dinner table?

04:05
D: What was Jodie like as a young girl? She was smartm worked hard, always kept her room clean, I remember that... she was always very thrifty--we put her in charge of all our money when we'd go to Disneyand--and she would keep the budget balanced--

J: About a hundred dollars for a weekend..(laughter)--that'll tell you how thrifty I was

D: I set the budget she managwed the money--

A: Do you think it was a good place to raise a child, Las Vegas?

D: Back when Jodie was growing up it was Vegas was changing--I thought it was a good place to grow up when I was a child, I went to high school here, grammar school in Boulder City and the gambling prostitution didn't efect what we did the drinking--we had sheriffs that watched out for us pretty closely--but now I think Vegas has changed a great deal and may not be a place that a certain family may not want to bring their children to--grow up but I can't I don't go to school so I don't know...

J: What about when I was growing up--

D: Like I said it was changing at that time--it was becoming not such a great place to go to school--

J: (bad sound)--Do you think --

04:07

J: Would you have been as strict with me if we were in another city?

D: Yes, but you were the one that --you would make it necessary to be strict on no matter where we lived--

J: (laugh) What did I do?

D: Jst hard to keep track of.

J: What about not letting me date and things like that?
D: What do you mean not letting you date?
J: You didn't.
D: I didn't?
J: No.

04:08:27

D: Just hard to keep track of you--

J: What about like not letting me daye--

D: What do you mean I didn't let you date?

J: You didn't--

D: I didn't?

J: No-- Except or David Boyer.

D: I did not let you date D. B. I didn't even know that you went out with him.

J: you forget.

D: I guess I do.

J: do you thing that the Women in Las Vegas has to go against anything diff. than women in other cities. ...such as the billboards that use womens bodies to sell Las Vegas?

04:09:06

D: I thought gambling sold Las Vegas. I did not know it was womens bodies. I thought that was just another attraction to las Vegas.

J: Do you think LV is an add stamp?

D: No not at all. I think that all you have todo is walk throw the casinos and see how many women are gambling compared to men.

J:Why do you think I am doing this ilm?

D: I would hope to make money.

J: (laugh) Woow. You don't make money when youmake a documentary.

D: Well I guess because you grrew up here in Las Vegas and you some knowledge of what goes on here you thought it might be a good subject to make a documentary about.

J: you don;t think that I have any questions as a women that I might woant to ask.

04:10:54

D: I don't think you have have all the questions. I think you think that you have all the answers. I think that you just want to show someone else what your thoughts are about Las Vegas. Did you ever work on the Strip?

J: Ya I was a maid.

D: Did you ever serve Drinks?

J: No

D: Were you ever in the shows -the club shows?
J: No.
D: Did you ever walk the streets:
J: NO.
D:But you knew it all happened.

J:I got propositioned for all of it.

D: did you see something there that you did not like.

J: I felt something I did not like.

D: What was that?

J: That I was constantly related to as a body or as an object with men.

D: And you think that would not happen any where else but Las Vegas?

J: It did not happen any other place at all.

D: not in Cal. or anywhere else you have been.

J: Men did not have the opportunity to come up to me on the bus on my way to say How much are you today?

D: You say thatt freedom doesn'[t exist now?

J; What freedom?

D: Does that freedom still exist now and is Las Vegas the only place that it exists?

04:12:03

J; in that way ya

D: what did you do when some one approached you tht way?

J: Felt sick?

D: Did you call a police man? (no)Did you report him? (no)

J: I did 't think I could. I don't think people think they can now. Cocktail waitresses are treated that way daily.

D: Well see you are talking to the wrong man. Because I don't think I have talked to a cocktail waitress that way ever and I have been to a bar or two once - once or twice.

J: Do you think that visitors the men are different than the men that are raised here?

D: yes the men that are raised here think that it is jsut any other town. The men that come visit here think that it is some thing else. Many of the kids can go in to shops away from home and shop lift because they think that they can get away with it away from home. Don't you think that men feel that same way in Vegas.? Then they do in other places. What about the male stripper they have all over the place in Cal. Missourri ... are they being abused?

04:14

J: Do you think that womes go up to men on the bus and say how much are you to day?

D: Well no no one has approached me like that but a lot of women have come up to me and asked if I wasted to have a party. I would not do anything.

Amie: Do you remember anytime when Jodi was younger and maybe had questions or anytime that she felt unhappy?

D: I didn;t know she had been on the bus or propositioning her on the bus or I would have been happy to go on the bus with her and check that out.

J: You seemed to be very concerned about me sexually as a teen ager that was a big concern of yours.

D: Well I think that any parent is wether their son or daughter as to not to feel not to go out and start experimenting.

J: So you remember the pimp that lived aroud the corner from me?

D: NO You mean...

J: No. Remember Leslie that the gay guy that lived ....

D: But see I don't remember anything.

J: What do you think of me?

04:16:03

D: I think that you are beautiful.

J: Do youthink I am happy?

D: I think you think that you are happy.

J: If you think I think I am happy what do you think is really there?

D: Well I don't know you have to do all these things and no sense talking into you so I just let it go.

J: What do you think of the way I live my life?

D: That is not for me to judge I am not responsible for how you live your life. You just do what you want to do. and if that is what you want to do then go ahead. I don't think that any one should try to tell. I ... you know how much we disagree on many things...the atomic bomb... for one.

J: Do you think there is anything we agree on:

D: if I gave me opinion I could guarentee that you would have the opposite.

Amie: Is there any way that you might have raised Jodi differently now looking back?

D: No I am not disappointed withJodi in any way at all. I may disaggre with her but that does not mean I am disappointed with her.

Amie: Is there anything withyour life?

D: OH my I have muddled throug life. I am a muddler. Mine is about over and here I am I have kind of enjoyed it I don't think many people would have admit that.

04:18:34:

J: Would you have changed anything in the time that I lived with you?

D: Absolutely, certainly I was not a good parent--I had no patience, my mind was always made up--you can't confuse me from acts--alot of things...
Can I pull back out a bit?

J: Does it ever bother you sometimes the tension in our relationship?

D: No, not anymore.

J: Well what did you come to, maybe you can help me--

D: Just don't bother cause it doesn't matter--what are you talking about our relationship for I thought you were going to talk about something else--I remember I'm the guy that drove 90 miles to play tennis with you then got in the car and drove 90 miles back--now that was when everything was going good--you decided it wasn't worth stopping by the house--that's up to you, I just let it go--I'm not going to fight it like some people--

J: I was too much for you?

D: No, do you still beat your wie?

J: What was it like growing up in las Vegas?

D: What was int like growing up in Las Vegas I imagine it was like any other town--before I came here I thought it was about the same--people walk downtown and look in all the casinos which had high ceilings and cigar smoking men--and maybe a few gals sitting at the bar, Wayne Newton I used to watch him in the Fremont Hotel or a 50ent beer and see his brothers for an entire show. We would come out to the lake and go waterskiiing then go back into town or a free buffet dinner.

J: Why would you get a free dinner?

D: because that's the way they used to run the strip, before it became incorporated in all the hotels.

J: Do you feel the change from when it was mafia run?

D: Well see I didn't know it was mafia run, so..

J: You didn't read the newspaper?

D: Sure I read the newspaper, jusy ddn't know anything about the mafia--I mean we knew Benny Binion was in jail for tax evasion when we were going to school--but we didn't hold it against its kids, they were all his friends..

J: Did you feel the change from maia run to corporate run?

D: No, we didn't have anywhere near as much crime as we do now --because the corporations are taking over

J: Any other change--

D: yeah, its just not the same city--i those days it was kinda like who had the most juice, who nkew who--that's they way everything happened in Vegas, that's the way it still is, I guess, I don't know anything--

J: You were a native, you had lots of juice--you knew everybody in powerful positions--

D: I knew probably everybody on every footbal team in the state of Nevada, too but we only had about ten football teams back then, and Vegas was only about 18,000 people--its grown a little, things have changed..

A: Did you ever wanna leave?

D: Didn't wana leave, but I did--to keep a job.

J: Do you wanna leave now?

D: One of these days--I'd go back to California--

4:24:28

Cutaways of driving boat--Jodie gets tearful

D: Ta da!!!

J: What traits do you think I have of yours? I've got your legs--

D: My legs--you have your mother's legs--

J: My mother's not bow-legged, you are---my mother's got beautiful legs--

D: I know--I don't think we have any traits--

J: You don't think I got anything?

D: No,I can't think of anything--maybe freckles

J: My mother has freckles..I get my rec hair from your moustache--

D: No you got your red hair from your aunt--all my dad's relatives were all redheads

J: You can't see anything in me that when you look at me you see yourself--

D: No.

J: How about my stubborness?

D: Gee, I didn't know you were stubborn--

(Laughter)

D: Are you stubborn?

J: Daddy...

A: What are some o your avorite stories about Jodie as a kid--things that you remember?

D: I don't think I have any real good stories--

J: What did I do when I was a teenager, besides dig a hole in your backyard for a swimming pool..

D: One time we did dig a hole for a swimming pool and had all this sod left over, and I was working out at the testsite, so I told the kids to haul it all the way down to the desert which was a good long block away, and I knew it would probably take them about three days, because there was alot of dirt--came home from work that day and Jodie said Dad we got all that dirt hauled away.
I said that's impossible--what they'd done I had a little two-wheel cart, and what they had done, instead of attaching it to the car, which I would have done, they had dragged that trailer with the dirt in it all the way down to the desert, dumped it out, brought the trailer back got rid of all that dirt--THAT was shocking, I thought that I had geniuses--

'SHOWGIRL'/CAROL BINION'S 6B

D: Yeah, there was alot of on the lake stories--you water skiing or jumping of cliffs--spending the night out there watching television after dinner--

J: How about when I almost lost my legs, remember that?

D: No.

J: You put me up on the bough--you told me to keep my legs up and it was really horrible, and right before we crashed ito the rocks I pulled my legs up--and when we crased into the rocks you thought my legs were gone--

J: Didn't we hurt the boat--

D: No we didn't--we were hitting it pretty hard that time--

TAPE 6B--BINION'S W/ CAROL PLAYING POKER

6:00:00:00--6:08:00

SHOWGIRLS REACTION TO FILM SCREENING

6:09:45 Showgirls arriving in theater

6:11:06--no sound, reaction shots of girls watching

6:15:31

Man: How long do I have? Um actually this was my second time to see it, and I came back because I really wanted to say something because I'm so offended. The scenes in the movie that have to do with the gentlemen's clubs and the lapdancing establishments, I have no idea what that's about I've never been involved with that part of the business. But as far as the production shows I've choreographed and produced shows in this town for over thirty-five years. And I really hope that every producer and director and chorepgrapher and particualr all th dancers in this town I hope they are as outraged about this movie and the way we are depicted in this movie as I am. I am really outraged and offended.

I assume that whoever put this piece of trash together did some kind of research--I don't know whether they talked to the wrong people or they just ignored some of the people they talked to--but some of the things in particular that bother me are the way the rehearsals and audtions are shown...I want you to know I can't imagine there's not one person in this town that has auditioned for me and there's been hundreds, who would ever let one person at an audition let one single one of those episodes happen that were shown without everyone clearing the rooma nd vacating immediately. This bit with the ice-cubes on the breast--can I say what they said in the movie? About fucking the fat off and then coming back and see me, if one of those type of things were said, these dancers in this town would clear out so fast you head would spin--this is ridiculous.

6:17:39

And where in the research did they come up with these dance terms? You know, how can--I'm worried about your balance, what the hell does that mean, and please if there are people around like her that can go, no, no, watch it once and then we'll blend you into it--I mean send them to me please, and I love the moment the music stopped--and by the way, you're going in tonight? What happened to rehearsals and blocking and costume fitting and buying shoes and having them braced and rubbered, you know?

Man 2: It's just making a joke out of our profession, its juts making light of what we work--we pretty much start our college educaiton at five--ok, so--for us to made so, you know, its hard sometimes to make our profession feel lke its something important but we do serve our purpose in alot of different forms, ok, and to make light of that is an insult, and to think that um, we're that stupid and that carefree and easily replaced, people are replaceable but to make a joke out of an entire community is just--

6:19:03

Woman with black hair: It's not only a joke, but to make constant references to drugs, and sexual things going on at work, when we go to work, we go to work. We're not back there pushing girls down, having cat fights, getting on stage and throwing things so people will fall--there's not always a time when people can get along, but we don't take it on stage, we're all pros, this does not happen.

Its totally insulting for us to be made to look like we'll screw anything that walks and talks, do drugs, go--that we have no morals and no values whatsover, we have all worked hard at what we do, and people who do not live in this city even people in L.A. or people ni the midwest or people so far away that have no idea what Vegas is all about they're going to believe this. So now we have mothers that go to work at night and pay for the sitters for their kids and run home after work to get to their children, and everything else that other people are going to believe that go to work in this type of environment and are part of this--its so insulting and so absolutely ridiculous. I saw something in this character did nothing but fight back about something that she WAS the entire movie.

6:20:37

Girl with bangs: I understand that they think that sex sells, and maybe they think they have to do all this, but there are so many incredible stories that happen backstage. I mean if they wanted drama, there's plenty of it--and if they had done some research, its obvious that they didn't, they would've found all the aspects that go on and all the beauty and all the sadness, there are so many beautiful stories--they show that there's no skill involved in what we do, and as it is, when people ask you what you do for a profession, and you say you're a dancer or a showgirl, they automatically kind of assume that you're just walking around parading around, and there's just so much skill involved. We are in the same calibre of gymnasts that train for the olympics or something, we're always having to work on our body and get better, we're always having to improve. They just show it as if it is nothing, and its really sad because we do have a beautiful story that should be told, and it was not told at all in this.

6:21:40
Lily: Does anybody have any idea at what age we start training to dance in these shows? And pan this audience, do we look like anybody in that movie"

Jeanine: None of us our wearing our false eyelashes today!

Brunette w/ curls: Oh my god you start so young, and the older you get the harder you have to work, this is almost like a for of racism in a sense--its almost a form of racism, its just phony, its so wrong--they're showing the lights of Vegas, its not Vegas..

Jeanine: They could do a story about--I want to know why in the end, I mean, I thought there's a glimmer of hope, even though she could be totally exposed in the film for you know for her prostitution or whoever, she's going to do it for her friend. She doesn't care if the police come down on her, because he raped her best friend. In the end she kicks his ass--what is that--she risked nothing--and the one glimmer of hope that this film had, the one redeeming message they had they missed completely. And there's so much you could talk about--yeah there's drama, we argue, but we get along like family, and every family argues.

When you drop shit on stage, if necklaces break, you're kicking them into the audience and shouting look out, someone's gonna get hurt. You may really

hate somebody but you know what your body means to you and what it means to them, and that's the last thing that any of us would do to each other They don't talk about the drama of people trying to have a family, and going to school at night, and during the day and trying to raise kids and yeah some of us dance topless in order to do that...not because we get to wear big eyelashes and be a star ons tage and you know whatever, guys lifting us up and people applauding thinking we're trampy, yeah what big compliment that ohm you dance topless so you must be a tramp? No, People do it because they have other things they want to accomplish, and it just so happens that sometimes you have to make the decision to be covered or to be topless, and sometimes its just to keep working if you want to put yourself through school or whatever your goals are--being toples is one of the things you have to do, but in no way does that mean that one of us would step into Cheetahs and slide around on a pole and take our G-strings off. And they also depicted every one of these dancers as not wearing fishnets--which I would love to have a body that I didn't have to wear fishnets on stage, but that's not the case. Its so full of not lies necessarily but miscommunications and falsities and its just unbelievable.

6:24:45

Blonde w/ ponytail: I don't think one single character in this film was portrayed as a real person, except maybe the fat lady whose tits popped out when she went like this--(laughter)--she was probably the only one.
I mean we're real people --we chose this profession because we love it and we have a definite love for it that's why we do it, and we're normal people we're regular people, we go to the store, we do this we do that, and you know I think they didn't try to make a film about showgirls, they made a film about sex, sex abuse, anything that's to do with being sexist, really, I don't know, they needed a forum for, um, these things they wanted to put in, and I think they just picked this one, it wasn't anything about being a showgirl, or being in a show or anything about a Vegas production show. Again I don't know anything about what goes on in Strip clubs, I've never had any dealing with that. I think they missed the mark with the title and whatever, they just needed a forum to do it and they picked this one, but its not relaistic whatsoever.

6:26:13

Stripper: They started out with the reputation of gentlemen's clubs as sleazy, and then made them even sleazier. I've never known a girl thats rubbed on a guy's lap like that, I mean in twenty years of this I've never known a girl to do that, if they have twenty other girls have gotten on her and said hey, we'll all go to jail if you get caught doin' that. Even in full nude clubs, I've seen some pretty sleazy stuff where guys have got naked and girls have got naked but that kind of contact you wouldn't risk it--I mean the reason that girls work in gentlemen's clubs is because they don't want to be prostitutes, they don't want to have--you know, whatever, all over their bodies.

Man: So now people are going to be expecting to see that.

Stripper: And people are going to be going to that particular club to see that, and that's not even a nude club. You know I worked there for three hours, thought it was too....

TAPE END.

TAPE 7B SHOWGIRLS REACT TO SCREENING OF "SHOWGIRLS"

(note: beginning of tape has no timecode)

7:00:03
Stripper:
They use Las Vegas to begin with and they used an actual club name--and the girls that work there if tgheir mother's know that they're dancers and they have to go home and they've bever seen'em dance, and their mother's see this film they're not going to be able to say, you know, that's not what I do, I don't rub on a guy's lap or rub him til he gets off..

SHOWGIRL FILM 7B & 8B

Jeanine: I can't believe that the Stardust Hotel which has been in this town forever which has a good reputation allowed themselves to be depicted in that fashion..and their entertainment director would allow prostituion, and I'm not saying that its never happened, but what I'm saying is the entertainmnet director works for the hotel and that's how the man was depicted in the movie, and he was allowing the director of the show to push girls into prostitution and allowing himself to be looked at in that way--I'm shocked by that. Especially now when Vegas is trying to move so far away from showgirls and the nudity and the sex and the drugs and we're a family atmposphere and there won't even be showgirls where you wear a G-string anymore, and I'm stunned that they allowed that.

Short hair, pregnant woman: I've done alot of promotions for the Stardust and um, I don't think they were completely aware because that's not the Stardust style. And since I am on maternity leave, I have to say that this is real life, right here. I'm Mom, I have a seven-year-old. I belong to the PTA. I have a life, I do aerobicsI do massage therapy, and that's what showgirls are about. I would just say that I am more the norm than someone you would just see up there on stage like that. This is the norm this is real life. And what you see up there on that screen is totally Hollywood, its all Hollywood. And that's all I have to sau about that subject.

7:02:11
Man w/cap: I think they missed the boat in so many ways in this movie, but in one way they really missed the boat in this movie...a choris line was one of themost successful shows of all time it ran fiftenn yearsm, it one every award posible, it made millions of dollars..the two guys who wrote that were ex-dancers, so they wrote the truth. the two guys who directed it and choreographed it, Michael Bennett was a gypsy, they knew what they were talking about. they didn't invent stories and they didn't exxagerate. The original

people who were in Chorus line and they took it and made wonderful stories about it.

There is so much going on in our community here that's just as in every way as interesting as what happened in Chorus Line, but they ignored it. I mean I know characters and personalities that have worked with me in Shows here that are really interesting in all different veins..so they really missed the boat..

The rape scene?

7:03:16
Blonde ponytail:
I've never been this sick since I saw Clockwork Orange in college. I thought it was very violent, in just --the whole thing about everybody being so blind, i mean the lead, Nomi, just totally ignoring this guy just from that little comment he made, what a you know how he was, and then she let her friend go with him, it was disgusting, it was horrible..

Dark-hair singer: The violence unfortunately I'm used to in movies you know, but the thing that really really offended me because I knew it wasn't actually happening in real life I got beyond it, but what really offended me was, again, this whole film started out by insulting Las Vegas entertainers, now they're going to take it to an even higher level to insult an entertainer who is a star, and because he's a star, he now gets away with rape. Come on, its just making us and our town look even worse, that was just like the final edge of someting that--these people are trash lets really make them look like trash, and lets let this star get away with brutally, brutally raping somebody, it was just--insult to injury, that would not happen..

7:04:52
Guy in cap:
Did you all get the stardust dressing room together, wiht a cage of animals passing through the dressing room, and little kids in the dressing room--I mean the Stardust dressing rooms are mammoth, there must be twenty dressing room there, everybody has their own...and hurry up the stairs you have tow counts of eight left...please...

7:05:47
Lily: Whan I used to sell costumes to the girls in the clubs, I never knew one girl who wanted to be in a show because they said we work too damn hard--for no money--and to call them a stripper, first of all they are not strippers...first of all strippers come on stage in beautiful costumes who come on stage and perform a well-choreographer number, and at the end they may be naked, ok, that's a stripper. Then there's topless dancers, we call them titty-bar dancers, they work in the clubs and grind on people's crotch, OK, they make their money by picking dollars off the stage and alot of them are great people, I know none of them who want to be a show...then there are trained dancers in the shows. We start at five years old we take ballet and jazz, we are the dancers in the show. Then if we want fifty more bucks, we take off our top, then if we want to be a showgirl, we

have to be six feet tall, we don't have to have ten years of training, and then we can stand there with big costumes. That's how it goes folks, that's how it really is..am I right guys?

7:06:44
Guy with cap:
Showgirls are a thing of the past--there are very few shows left in this town that actually have showgirls. This was not about showgirls at all, this was about dancers, so why do they call it showgirls, we're all dancers--here, OK, there are no shogirls or showboys--ots a thing of the past. Showgirls do not dance--even the dancers who make fifty extra bucks dancing topless, they're good dancers, and there are good dancer in this town, let me tell you, lots of 'em, showgirls are taller, they usually have almost no training at all or they happen to be too tall that they can't get a job as a dancer, or they're older and they don't want to work that hard anymore. They wear the big costumes and parade, the few of them that areleft...but this movie didn't show you one single showgirl, there was not one shogirl up on that screen.

7:08:04
(one by one are interviewed)

Brunette: Being a dancer you work very hard, its also for the love of performing, you're out on the stage performing in front of people and you've trained long and hard to precise everything--its not just --I can't find the words--its not just -five six seven eight go... its here not here, I mean this much difference, you work your butt off--its pain and dedication, and also the love of performing, that's why er're here.

Raspy voice: I am not a dancer, or a showgirl, I am a cocktail waitress, but my sister's been in the business for over twenty years, so I've been around it--the people that I've met backstage whether they be dancers or showgirls or whatever part of the business they're in, they've been some of the highest moral people I've ever met, some of the kindest, some of the most warm-hearted, genuine, care-giving people, who are doing what they do, whether its topless not topless like the young lady said, because its what they want to do, its in the heart, its in their being--and for being someone that works outsied of their busieness, I've met more people who I would want to call their friend than in that business than the ones that are outsied the business...

British: I've been dancing professionally for almost eighteen years now, I am married I'm a mother, and I'm a realtor during the day...I love to perform that's my favorite thing, and I love the peopleI work with, but there;s another side to it as well that's a very painful side for me...everybodty looks up there and sees wow this is great, but they don't realize sometimes the pain that you're in, and as much as that's really tough, you still go out there and give it everything you've got, And I love it and I will miss it because I'm retiring in about six weeks.

7:10:01

Short hair lead dancer:
Well, I'm a lead dancer in a show and I';ve never pushed anyone down stairs to get my job, I don't know anyone like that. I think its a great business, its all that I want to do its all I've ever wanted to do and I just--disgusted at the movie and the way they made us look. I'm worried that my Mom's going to see this movie and think that's the way it is...I don;t know what else to say...

Ponytail: ...before this movie came out...she's not sweatin' back in Pennsylvania--I think being a dancer most of us picked something we loved, We went for it, we dealt with alot of mental and physical um, challenges, it take stamina to do what we do, alot of stamina, we're consistent, we work every night doing the same thing trying to make it um, fresh and its difficult work and we do it because we love it not because we plan on having our faces on billboard and lots ofmoney...this is our life its real life its not glamor and glitz and all that.

7:12:39
Little girl voice:
There was absolutely no love in this movie and I think that we're all here because we love what we do, and I think its really sad that people are gonna misconceive dancers and showgirls and think that we do whatever we have to do just to get by because its not like that--we're here because we love what we do. I hope people will see past this movie and come see us for who we are.

Short blonde hair:
Um, I'm a dancer and none of my family, my Mom and Dad saw my show, and they misconceive what Vegas is all about as I did before I moved here. I had a couple of friends here, and I also stereotyped it, and then until I got here realized the difference about it that showgirls and dancing and dancing topless is compeltely different, than in the movie is very misconceiving and its really frustrating..I don't know what else to say...

Just the whole stereotype of Vegas and dancing and the showgirls and just prancing around and not showing their talent and what they've trained to do all there life--just meeting everyone and being in the shows--its not like that..
I have a marketing degree and I'm probably going to move back home in a year, you know, its just people get pregnant and have relationships, like everyonw its not drugs and alcohol and sex.

Brunette: It's getting up at nine am to be at a rehearsal to rehearse for a show until 6 p.m., then at six o'clock leaving to be at your show at 6:30 to do two shows that night. To go home at twelvethirty one o'clock in the morning to get back up at nine am again to be at rehearsal the next day. That' shard work that's part of being a dancer, and if you're not doing that maybe you have a child and you have to take care of that family or you're going fulltime to school and you're goimng to work at nighttime...its not that viscious.

Older brunette: I think that this might be really really hard to understand, you're asking what it 's like---what its like is a normal life, just like going to work nine to five, but its harder work and its different hours, but we're normal people,

we don't go to work and throw people down stairs, then do lines of coke then go screw this girl then go screw this guy, we dont do that--basically what we're offended about we're normal people except that we don't work nine to five, but we go to work and take care of our kids and take care of our bills and take care of each other and I think its harder work than most nine to five jobs--and in the sens that its different from that film, we're just normal people.

...and we respect each other...

7:16:25

Long blonde hair
Form Ohio originally, and it was always a dream of mine to be a dancer and to this day I still can't believe I'm doing it, and i feel I was always told that I couldn't do it and then I came out here, it wasn't easy, as for me because I was always intimidated by everything, still I can't believe its actually happening...but I've been on tour, and I've been in alot of different shows, and I've met alot of wonderful people, and no matter what the cast always sticks together, no matter what. My family's back in Ohio, but I consider the people that I've met my family here now...

British--younger:
I'm from England too and it was always a big dream to come to Vegas its a big thing, and I've trained since I was three years old, and its a great job I love it I wouldn't switch it for anyting right now until I become thirty years old and I can't dance anymore, but ....(laughter) that's what age I would like to finish) its helped put me thorugh school and helped me to do what I want to do, travelled alot and met alot of great people, my husband who I love very much--yeah, I mean we spend all our birthdays and Christmasas together, we all become like one big family...its not like the movie at all.

7:18:30
Short cropped blonde:
I think dancing is a way of life for most people here, its about striving to be better striving to be the best you can be, several people have said they started training when they were very young, and they way this movie depicts dancer s or showgirls is that you can just walk in off the street if you're sexy and you can move well and just push a girl down the stairs and get a lead spot. Everything in the movie was associated with sex, some people may live their life that way, but some people in any profession may live their life that way--I mean they associated sex and drugs and most dancers worked their entire lives--just like any great artist-- to learn what they do and to perfect it and develop it.

Short bangs, brunette:
I'm a dancer--its something I've always wanted to be for the pure love and the joy of it, for the drunk feeling you get at the end of the night being on stage, there's just so much--to ask what its like you'd have to like come into our world, you'd have to like camp out backstage for a bit because its so hard to like put into words...yes we are normal, but we are at the same time, we are a different

species in our own right, we are entertainers, we're performers--like the kids in New York on Broadway, the kids in L.A. that are working in the television shows, I never wanted to come to Vegas to start, I always thought that Vegas is where you go when you can't find anything else, but being here, and taking the time to be here, I see there's so much talent in this town, I mean this place gives you steady work which is something you can't really get in New york or L.A....and that is what's beautiful about being in Vegas is being a professional and being able to work steady...and at the same time, you can still keep the talent going. There are so many showcases that go on in this town, its just endless, I just wish they would do the real story, and there's just alot to be said, and it would be very entertaining and vert shocking and it would be all that so...that's it, thanks.

7:21:46
Jeanine:
I think what I want to point out is that people in every profession have alot of ambition and you want to move up and move forward, and you don't really have that opportunity in dance, if you get a show and you work for a long time, great. You've achieved pretty much everything you want to achieve. And if you're the right height, and the right look and in some cases you can sing then so you're featured and you get to be a lead and you make a little bit more money, but the end result is the same. You get into your thirties, you've had your career, maybe you've been a lead or you haven't-- you've done shows you've been proud of, you've done shows you haven't been proud of, you have alot of good memories, but then you have to find something else to do because there's no further to go. And nobody puts up with that kind of a job, with the pain the pysical anguish, the blisters the pulled muscles the knee surgeries, the back surgeries, whatever you have to go through to keep dancing until you get to be thirty-something, fortyish, and you have to quit anyway, and you don't do that unless you love it....

emotional

TAPE 8B SHOWGIRLS REACT TO FILM

8:00:31
Brunette:
If you break your knee you';re not going to be out for only thremonths, that is your career... (laughter)...she was just saying off camera, you get sick or you have a headache or 101 temperature, you still show up for that show--yopu still show up, you've got sprained ankles you've got a broken wrist, something's wrong, you've had a bad hair day, you still show up for work. You don't stay home and sulk, you do what you have to do and you come in,,

Singer:
I'm a singer and I've been a singer for twenty years and I've never missed a night because I've been sick, I mean, you just--you dont' I have it a little bit easier than the dancers because I can have tracks made and lip sink to my own voice if I'm so sick that I can't sing but you're up there trying to stand up you can barely stand, but you're up there singing and moving on and that's definitely something you don't do unless you love it. We've worked really hard and we

deserve alot of respect and even thought his movie is fiction, alot of people have misconceptions about us and about our town and this just insults us and our town even further when we work so hard and get so little in return anyway, to have this movie out there and to have people believe it and you know they will. It's very insulting to us.

Lily:
This is what I really want to say about the fact that you have to always show up, I remember a time when I was pregnant and they had to put a bucket offstage for me to throw up in when I cam offstage, pretty gross, huh folks, real glamorous--I remember one time I came off stage and I was doing cabaret at the college and I had the rubber guerilla suit on, the whole guerilla suit and I took the mask off and they said your daughter just went into surgery an emergency apendectomy, my six-yr. old daughter. Did I leave, no, you have to go back on.

But What I want to say to the people out there, we're sitting here saying all these horrible things yet you see us on stage and we're glamorous and we're beautiful, so why do we do it? Well I think that we are sensual, its not sexual its sensual we're aesthetic. We want you to see our beautiful smile and our beautiful body, but we want you to notice the pointed toe that took ten years to get...you know the high kick--and I've done everything. I've stripped I've been a ballet dancer, I teach at theuniversity, I've done everything, except be a showgirl because I'm too short. And its wonderful and I love it and its enabled me to--Amie wants to know what its like--to have a beautiful ranch in the mountains, to havehorses, to raise five children here, to get two degrees in dance from the university, to do many shows, to do theater, to do everything that I ever wanted to do in dance and in life as a woman. I have a beautiful family, a beautiful husband, my horses, my teaching dance, I can go to theater, I can go to our dance companies here...I can be the sexiest woman in the world or the frumpiest.and that's what las vegas dancing has done for me and I think its the greatest thing in the world...I'm sorry that they did the movie like this.

Girl in hat
8:04:10
I was born and raised here, and I've been dancing since I came out of my mother's womb, and that's all I've ever wanted to do and that's all I've ever have done--I've worked steadily in this town, and I've done really great shows and I've done not so great shows also--um, but every night I go in and I work hard and I dance hard, and whether it hurts me and whether I;m having problems at home or whatever, I still have to go on and put on a pretty smile. not only that but I'm also involved in a dance company that's been going on for the past six months that I rehearse at night for after the shows, and I don't get paid for it but I love it because that's what I'm about and that's what I've always been about--I'm just very insulted by this entire movie.

Short blonde:
I was also born and raised here in Las Vegas and I love to dance but honestly my life is about my family and just being here, I make the girls watch video tapes of my nephews, in between shows, that is what life here in Vegas is all about.

Teaching kids all afternoon, I teach three-four year olds, I'm the main mini-jazz teacher--I love to dance, its a wonderful feeling, but I can't wait until tonight, its our dark night, to go be with my famly and play with the babies and go swimming, that is what is important to me in life. I was born and raised herein vegas and I don't have that slutty--I mean I'm not--I don't feel like I have to do drugs. What's important to me is my family, being happy, and one day getting married, having children, that's what I want..

Man in baseball cap--
8:06:29
I've chorepgraphed for television, for Vegas and for Broadway. Let metell you the dancers here they're the same level of dancers that I had on Broadway. In many cases they're better, even better trained, they're just as dedicated and in many cases more dedicated and even work harder. So its no different from me doing a show with these dancers than it was on Broadway. I love dancers I love to be around them, and I'm so proud of everything I'm hearing today from thes kids...I want to say something about that damn audtion scene... (laughter)
I'm doing a new show and I'm so happy--this week I had two auditions..you saw him tell one smart ass little remark and then tell them to get out, that's not the way it works. In this one audtion we danced for an hour before I eliminated one person and it broke my heart to eliminate every single person, and I fell so guilty and I always say thank you for coming--the while auditon took three hours--its so completely contrary to what this trashy movie made it look like.

Young guy w/ glasses:
I have a million things that I could say but um, most everybody here knows I'm not just s sluffy dancer that just passes--I've worked everywherein the world,. I've lived lits of different places, N.Y. and L.a. included...everytime I've come here to Vegas has offered me more than Hollywood or New York. I'm not putting those lifestyles down, but the thing that attracted me to las Vegas overall was because it was the only place that I could dance and trust the people that I was around, make good friends, good friends..I wanted to meet real people and have a real life, where I could know that I had something to do with dance at all times but I can build something in my backyard, or take care of my dogs, or borrow my neighbor;s lawnmower if mine was broken, you know its just --its so much more real here, and for this movie to make a Hollywood image--but Hollywood is full of crap. I mean there are honest people and moral people there too but the people that run the business are just thinking about money and it will always be like that andthey well always try to portray--whatever is going to bring people into the movie to see it, that's what they're gonna portray, not the truth...so I've made my choice..everyody has their choice, and Vegas is my home.

Singer:
8:10:22
I said before that I've been singing for twenty-two years in Las Vegas I've been lucky to do nothing else but sing my whole life to make a living. There's one scene in the movie that we haven't touched on, its a possible misconception of people in shows--the prostitution. This town is very protective of one another.

Noone would ask anybody to do that, and if they were asked to do that whoever was in charge would be the first person to say don't even think about it of course that's not involved. I think what everybody here has said of course its definitely a protective and family environment here, its a small group of people the entertainers here in Las Vegas and we know each other and we all care about each other and I wouldn't change the last twenty years for anything...and I think noone of it was anything at all like this ridiculous trashy movie.

TAPE 9B SISTER ROSEMARY AT TEST SITE

9:05 :35

yes I love to make a cross when I come out to the desert because its such a symbol both of suffering and of hope, and its recognized by many people. This form of the cross was actually loved by my patron, St. Francis, but I think when I come out to the desert of the colossal suffering by what has taken place here at this test site. The explosion of hundreds of nuclear bombs, many of them above the ground, the serious health effects, the calamity that's happened to mother earth because of it. Then I think of the thousands of people who have come outhere to pray, to fast, to meet one another, to experience the vastness, the great simlicity of the desert, the beautiful encounter that they have with the spirit of God, even as it was for the prophets and saints of olden times, and that gives me hope...and I think the cross symbolizes that as well.

SISTER ROSE 9B

9:06:53

NOTE: DID NOT USE ANY OF SISTER ROSEMARY!

Amie: So how did you find your way to Las Vegas?

Rose: I somtimes say it was poetic justice that I cam here, before I came to Las Vegas I lived and worked with my headquarters in Rome, Italy. I'm a Francsican sister and I was part of the leadership or administration ofmy congregation of Franciscan sisters. And so I was one who encouraged the first sisters to come to Las Vegas. When my time was finished in Rome, and I was supposed to come back to the US, they asked me to come and work with them so I thought how could I refuse, after all I had asked them to come here and work.
I asked them to come here because at that time the Catholic Bishop of Las Vegas actually the whole state of Nevada was asking the sisters to come to a very actually impoverished area of the city, the old West side, a very contained black ghetto where there was alot of misert and poverty, and theBishop felt that these people were not receiveing the kind of care, pastoral care that they needed. So the Bishop asked the sisters to come and look at what could be done. So the head of the Franciscan group of men at that time asked me if a few sisters woulod also like to come and work with them, and I thought it would be a wonderful project..some years before the actual vigils at the desert began as well.

9:08:40

I arrived along time ago, and Las Vegas seemed to me as I was coming in on theplane it looked to me like a town built among these kind of broken bushes of the desert, it really wasn't a very large city at that time, there were the two clusters of the casinos, the old ones built downtown on Fremont street, those that had been built on the Strip and of course many many have been built since. May of you know about the vast changes that have taken place...but I went immediately to this area on the West side...and I have to say that it captured my heart, and I was thrilled to think that I could do some grassroots work, and I was so accepted by the people. I was excited to have finished my work in administration and once again be working among just the ordinary people,

And it was not very long after that, just a matter of weeks that I discvoered I was living next to the Nevada Test Site, and that discovery made a great change in my life...even though I continued living and working on the West side, I participated with a small group ion Hiroshima day of 1977 to come out here at the gates of the Test Site. At that time there wasn't the little police shed, there was no barbed wire, no fences, no signs, there was open open space. And this road, which was not very well surfaced, led up to the little town of Mercury. And before you got to Mercury, just a couple of miles before that there was a sort of entrance, and so on this Hiroshima day, we organized a small group, there were only about nineteen people. We called ourselves Citizens Concerned Against the Neutron Bomb, because at that moment President Carter had spoken about building the neutron bomb and was trying to get money from COngress to do so, and somehow or another it was leaked to us that the bomb had already been built and had been tested out here at the Nevada Test Site.So out group decided to call ourselves by that significant name because the neutron bomb was a particulary horrible bomb--the one that destroys people and presumably leaves buildings standing.

9:11:20
So we went up to the entrance to Mercury and had an early morning vigil --we were out here when the sun came up. And what a magnificent morning it was! I saw that golden light coming up and illuminating the beauty of the desert, but my heart was breaking because of what I had learned was happening on the other side of those mountains. That morning it was as though I received a kind of message, maybe ot was a new calling for me, and I thought that my life from then on would somehow be involved with trying to do something to stop the horror of the neutron bomb. And of course I looked on the Nevada TEst site as the motor of the arms race. I began learning more, I began meeting the radiation victims, I began discovering the ecological calamity, the tremendous suffering that had been caused, I learned how much propaganda wasswaying our minds, and of course this was the peak of the cold war. But also I discovered there were good people everywhere, but just uninformed people, almost noone knew what was going on here. At that time every two to three weeks a bomb was exploded...(when was that?) That was during the late seventies and early eighties.

9:12:43

And of course earlier than that they had all been exploded in the open atmosphere--that was when the mushroom cloud had been carried hundreds and hundreds of miles upto thenorthern part of the state, further up--radiation traces have been discovered in the snows of Canada, and in the depths of Lake Eerie, and they've been analyzed and proven to have come from nuclear testing at our test site.

9:13:39
When the Las Vegas public knew about the bombs being exploded out here? I have to say that in those years we do have to think about the mentality was like at the time. I believe the general population in Las Vegas was more or less oblivious to the danger. In the end there were about six to eight thousand people working out here, brought in the big busses out here, some of the big bosses coming in by private plane, they had connections to the great labs of Sandina, Las Alamos, and Lawrence Livermore, so there was a network of people working in the city. It kind of became the devil that people knew..there father had worked out here or their uncle, and even though slowly it began to seep into the consciousness that Nevada had an extremely high rate of cancer, it was not connected with the Test Site. I know different people have said noone was ever obliging enough to come out and lie down and die at the gates of the test site, so it was always a little hard to prove. Further more, the people who worked here were always convinced that they were doing a very patriotic thing. They were pledged many times to the tightest secrecy and security about their work. As I began to meet these radiation victims, both up in Utah, ex-test site workers, downwinders, ex-military people, because there were hundreds of US soldiers stationed in an area over there called Camp Desert Rock. They were not volunteers, they were obliged to observe nuclear testst, the above-ground tests, from a rather close distance without any protective clothing, They had to go in to ground zero while all the radioactivity was still high. Many of them died of cancer, many of them were sick in the trucks that were taking them to the sight of the bomb. So it was a big calamity. I began talking to the people who had survived all these things, also talking to their surviving relatives. And I heard one horror story after the other. Especially how the govt. was defending this and not paying any attention to the very legitimate claims of these radiation victims, so all of this was rather horrifying to me and motivated me rather strongly to organize the test site workers to represent their cause as radiation victims, to establish contacts with different parts of the country and slowly to help with the organizing of vigils out here at the test site and also to make friends with journalists who were able through their profession to help spread this information.

9:16:47

I don't think there's a contradiction. Actually I think there's a kind of relationship. If we look at this in a kind of more global context, we know that we needed that I'll say "needed that" atomic bomb to assert our dominance. Of course during the cold war period most people thought that we had to keep ahead of the soviet union, and only later did most people learn that out of the twenty or so escalations of the arms race, our govt. was responsible for about eighteen of

them, so we were escalating the arms race with more constant technology, with more deadly, more swifter, smaller bombs. And of course also with new tupes of bombs we got the hydrogen bomb for example, and alter the neutron bomb. But most people accepted this because we had been so schooled to think that our country had been the best, the most wonderful, the most generous and it became very difficult for most people to see te real true faults of our country. And actually the fact that our industry has kept on even after the fall of the Soviet Union, that we still have a military budget equal to what we had during the cold war, only proves that point. That unfortunately we have not learned how to relate to other ...

9:18:28

If I could use a kind of biblical relationship, I would say that out here in the desert we had the altar to the gods of metal, who were those bombs and inside Las Vegas we had the altar to the Gods of Mamon, referred to in scripture as this kind of destructive, equating our happiness with material riches.

(And yet both the test site and the gambling industry created jobs for normal Americans)

9:19:00
I noticed you say normal Americans, yes I;m sure most of the people were pretty normal--but I'm asking myself aren't there other constructive things to do? There's enormous amounts of research to be done, health problems, they shouldn't just be a byproduct of militaryt research. The whole ecological problem of the desert, the question of water, the preservation of natural resources, these things create jobs...in fact it was the department of labor that published statistics that the department of military produces fewer jobs than any other category.

9:19:42
I like to refer to it not so much as the anti-test site, it was that, in essence, certainly it was that... but I like to think of it more as a positive urge to create a more peaceful world and I think that the women who are the givers of life, who are so sensitive, who feel an interconnectedness with everything and I think that the more recent feminist theologians have been a great power in promoting a spirit of relatedness among women. I don't mean to downplay the great work that many men have done as well, but I have to say that the women have been the leaders. I think its been that have not been so ego-oriented, they're not so controlling, they're not so insistant on dominating the scene, but in general we immediately found the way to form the community, to work together for something greater than ourselves., something outside of ourselves, And I think we didn't have that ego threat around us all the time.

9:21:14
For one thing if I'm referring to the same experiences as you are...the State of Nevada was rather proud of this test site. As I said there was alot of propaganda that was focused on something good, something important, something patriotic,

something vital..so people would refer to this if they thought of it at all as our magnificent Test Site, so they had things like a perfume, the atomic whiff...make your charms radioactive, the great seal that was in the sidewalk in front of the Clark County courthouse had a picture of the great mushroom could coming up--there were displays in the town, magazine articles, all kind of exploring what I call the mystique that hung over the test site, I mentioned the guard houses, but there was a kind of mystique that hung over the test site. Las Vegas was kind of caught up in that in those earlier years, and I talked to many people who actually witnessed the above ground bombs..I recall numerous people who were taken out on their porches or driving out here into the desert to watch this fantastic experiecen of the mushroom could, this pink rosey cloud goind up into the sky and being carried away by the wind. We know that the journalists came out--anybody who's taklen the tour of the test site which I've had the pleasure of doing several times...was shown an area called Nob Hill, it was news nob, where a couple of hundred journalists were invited to watch the above-ground explosions from a short distance, and many of them died of cancer bot long afterwards, they were exposed without realizing it. But this was part of that fantasy that existed around the test site.

9:23:25
I think that the notion of using--first of all there's a fascination with the women's body, we know that, there's a tremendous fascination, so wasn't it logical that given this fascination, and with the atomic venture, and the fascination with the women's body, that it somehow merged together--I think that's the explanation. I think it was that sort of thing.

(What was it like to be one of the first women out here?)

9:24:01
I did. The way it happened after our first morning vigil of Aug. 19, 1977 as I described, I began researching more and more into the history of the test site, and one thing I learned that twenty years to the day, when we came out in 1977, a small group of quakers came out here. There were I think eleven men and one woman, I later met here, Lilliam Willoughbym she came to the test site during theyears that I was here, and we had the wonderful privilege of leading a group of women into the Test Site, the two of us..I just began learning and reading about the history, especially knowing that one woman had the courage had the courage to come out. She had the courage to camp in the desert, in fact if you look up the local newspapers from that date, you see they refer to this group as the Adam Lopers--they had a littel office downtown, they prepared for their action, and they camped out here for a couple of weeks, and on the morning that an above-ground test went off, with their bibles in hand, a group of them kind of walked into the area of the bomb, and one of these was Lillian Willoughby the one woman in the group. So I was inspired by that. I was also inspired by other women around the country who showed so much courage and leadership going back to the historical time. And I thought of Dorothy Day who founded the Catholic worker movement and how she protesting the militarism of the country and risking going to prison and so on. And so I felt related to these women, I felt thrilled and happy I felt part of something, something that I certianly

didn't envision would grow. That was part of it, but I was simply fascinated with the desert, there were no fences, no blocks..just to come out here, there were no signs...it was just a wide open vast expanse, and it was wonderful to come and wander a little bit all around. I grew up in the Arizona Desert so I feel related to this particular aspect of out mother earth, and I love the desert and all the seasons.

9:26:47
I think that the desert could be a marvelous symbol of the female, of the feminie because first pof all, what oppression, waht difficulty, just the hardship that our mother earth in thisplace is suffering. The aridity, the exploitation, but at the same time that she has the courage to blossom. After the rain-you all know the marvel of the desert, when the desert comes to bloom, look at this lovely little what we call creosote bush that is next to us., look at its lovely small green oilt leaves and its beautifully formed dark branches, this is a life-giving plant, and we know that our brothers and sisters among the Shoshone, from them I've learned so much, its been another big privilege in my life to become acquainted with this group of people, the Western Shoshone. And I have many dear friends among them, I have learned from their spritual leader, and I've been deeply impressed with their relationshop with their leader, and also with this spot. I think its an example of resistance, of courage, of perseverence, of fruitfulness under very hard conditions, so in that way I do think the desert is a feminene symbol.

(What's it like being a nun in Las Vegas?)

9:28:20
Well I becane a Francsican sister at a rather early age, and I had a number of wonderful experiences in my life, I had the opportunity to studt at a number of wonderful universities, I had companions...but I think its been mainly in the later years as I've begun to think about a kind of new cosmology. I've began ti understand relationships in a new way. Many people know that my patron St,. Francis has been called the patron of Ecology, many times you see his statue out in the garden or whatever, but its more than just that he loved animals or that he lvoed nature, it was that he really sensed this oneness, this deep relationship--knowing that I cannot injur anything, I cannot injur this little bush without somehow injuting a part of myself--as I began learning more and more I thought that's what St. Francis wanted to teach us. So it makes me happy that as Franciscan sister I can live with great simplicity and with great joy and with great relationship..and amazingly with great hope--I naturally have some fears about what vcan happen, but I think that good is always stronger than evil, and I think that love and forgiveness can carry us so far along the way to peace so that I really am trustful particularly with the wonderful and energetic engagement of women, that we will come closer and closer to this unity that I dream of for the world.

Tape 10B Sister Rosemary at housing project

00:2:18

We're in a housing projectthe arms it's just on the border of Nortth las Vegas, and an apartment in this complex was our home. The home of Sister Clarita and myself for 15 years. and as you noticed when we came in the majority of the units are borded up, this is really a clamity, this had largely before we left, in fact the administration had told me, that out of the 300 and 50 units only 50 are occupied, this was or when we lived here was a privately owned project which had an agreement with the government.

00:3:54:06

This is an apartment complex called The Sierra Nevada Arms, and although it was owned by a privately owned corporation, which I understand owns several varius apartment complexes. There was a contract with HUD, so that the residents who qualified had Title 8, supplementary rent payments.
And I have to say that,for me it was a heartbreak to see what has happened to this project. Recently there have been a number articles in the paper about the happenings at Sierra Nevada Arms, in fact Hud rated it one of the 10 worst administrators , bad examples, of public housing in the whole United States, so you can imagine what that was.

SISTER ROSE 10B

Recently and learned that of the 350 or some units, only 50 are occupied, and as you can see as we walk along the majority are boarded up. What happened awasthat during our stay, there was alot of mismanagement, and this was acknowledged, actually by the public housing itself, later, and the tennants had almost a rebellion, and demanded that a little more honesty be practiced. In fact, one time, we even recieved a small check in return, from because they had defrauded us in of some way we were not even exactly aware. The tennants when we first came....

00:05:28

We lived here during the peak of the conflict in Lebanon, and the police had code names for varius areas of the city, and this was Beruit, becausethey were constantly being called here, the situation socially and economically deteriorated so badly, and I had somuch compassion for the people. Many times the children were alone at home, because the single mothers were forced to work, maybe they had a very low paying job, and came home late at night, the children wre hanging around... things were bound to happen. I have to saythat in my years here, I personally saw, every type of abuse andsocial ill that you can imagine, within 50 yards of this front door. It shows the deterioration, this house, this is where we lived. (Looks like there's a fire?) There might have been, not while we were here but.. Top one..This was my home, yes, I lived with

another sister, and I have to say in spite of every thing, we had very happy years here, but when, I say; to pick up where I was speaking before,I don't know if I should repeat it or not, we really had a first hand view, I will say of every type of, I will say, family calamity, and social calamity that you could imagine.

00:7:00

For example, I saw a man who lived in that upstairs unit, bring a small child out screaming, and threaten the child, holdiing iti by one foot off that balcony, the child rising and screaming, and theman threatening to drop the child. I saw another case where a little girl, probabely, 9 or 10 years old, and an adult man, with a belt, lashing the child on the steps, in those cases we had to report them as child abusers. Most of the time, we did everything we could to be friendly, and to be good neighbors, especially to be supportive of women. There was a single mother living there with two children, we did babysitting for her, another couple lived in the upstairs apartment overthere with two small children, we babysat for them, many times. In the apartment, the lower apartment on the other side, there was constant conflict, there was a young women pregnant..

00:8:02

I chose to live here, for a very particular reason, I had just come from my work in Rome, and it was important for me to live among the people. I had been traveling around and doing many things, many interesting things, but I wanted a work right among the people, grass roots level. Also, our small Franciscan center, which was one of those numerous justice and peace centers, which were springing up in the 70's. Our center was located, not very far from here. So, those were reasons enough for me to try to find a place to live, be among the people, and close towhere I would be going every day. I have often thought it was amazing that as things wworsened in the project, I think it was almost a miracle that I didn't experience fear. I was mugged once, on the steps. I was on my way up, when a person with a .. man, with a black thing over his head smacked me from behind, and dragged me down the steps. I did manage to pry one finger off my mouth, and just scream, "Help me", and a couple of fellows came running out of other apartments with a gun, the I was terrified they would shoot, and I screamed, "Don't shoot", and I ran after the man. We later learned that he had raped another women, perhaps more than one, during that same night, right over here in the desert, off Lake Mead, so I know that I was saved, and say miraciousley so. And I have to say, that for months afterward, even though I was not thinking about it, it was in my subconscious somewhere, because when I would approached the steps, my knees would just turn to water.

00:10:00

I would almost have to boost myself up the steps, sol know, i had some interior fear, of which I was not aware, but I didn't feelafraid coming and going, even though the last year or two, ther were rather serious crimes committed around, and we had to yell...

I think that the poverty here is so very demoralizing, partly because the presense of such extreme wealth. I know that in many places this terrible contrast is very evident, but if you live in a city where their pushing carts with millions of dollars up and down the isles of casinos ever night, where literally, millions and hundreds of million of dollars change hands everyday, and then you see other people, who are scraping to make it, who are working, even those who have a job, cannot afford to move into most apartments, we know these facts. So, I do think that there is a particularly degrading character.

Also the fact that Las Vegas, is in a sense, abusive to women in general, and I think this reflects, in the whole conduct of many people. During my years here I got aquainted with many good women, who suffered terrible abuse, and of course the abuse goes on, then the children are abused.
In one case, in the apartment just below us there was pandmoium all the time. A young woman was pregnant, she had one sick baby who died, and her livein boyfriend, who was not supposed to be there, because she had the right to the apartment, and was not supposed to bring in another tennant, but she did.. He got so angry one night that he threw her out the window, we heard the great crash of all the glass, and we had to call the police. The police talked to him outside the apartment, they saw the broken glass.

00:12:00

After a few minutes, they shook hands all the way around, and the police drove away, they did not talk to this young woman, they did not interview her. The next morning I was standing outside with another tennant, a man, and I said," Did you hear that last night, he threw her out the window?" He thought a few minutes and he said, " Well, she must have made him mad." That was the end of that terrible episode, nothing ever happened. We saw repeated examples of women screaming in the night, one rape took place, right outside our window. These were things that happened, we knew that the women, many times were in trouble, we saw them victims of drug trade, and in many times they took over trading and drugs themselves, so we understood that there lot was very tough. We always tried to keep our apartment looking attractive and nice, we had house plants, we really tried to keep it nice so that when we invited them, theywere astonished that our house was so nice.

Their poor houses were so thrown around, so knocked up, so abused, they were like another piece of merchandise within the house being abused, I'm sure in many cases, so, I have to say looking back, even though in many ways, it was a difficult time.. I think I mentioned also that I several serious cases of child abuse. Later the drug trade grew, the guns were everywhere, shootings were taking place in front of the house, our carwas hit in a drive by shooting, our house was hit. Welearned that this complex was subdivision, for a home of the Los Angelos "Crips", then next housing project over had the Los Angelos "Bloods", so of course therewas consistant war. And you know who suffers most in these cases, certainly the young people themselves suffered, we had seen these children grow up, after all we had been here 15 years, they were well disposed to us, after all, they liked us, and either offered to protect us with their

guns, which of course terrified us, I would have felt dreadful, had anyone else shot another person to protect me.

00:14:18

So it wasn't that we didn't have the good relationships, it was actually the period very rich in human contacts, and human relationships. For me it will be an unforgettable chapter in my life, even though there was a lot of sorrow connected with it.

I think part of the calamity here is that it could have been otherwise,the apartments are , exhibit "A", the case of an absentee landlord, we seem tohave had indication that money, was going to be availiable, for necessary repairs, and there were scandels connected with it, it changed hands from time to time. It became impossible to truly find out, who was the owner. Whoever was the top authority, it was imposible to get to whoever was this person in charge. I'm sure it is not an uncommon story, but it resulted in great suffering on the part of the people. And fraud, there were clearly cases of fraud, even during the time that we were living here, and it hurt us so much, because there certainly very good people, and they really desearved
a little better chance. Many times the women living alone, raising the children had to work , they had to do everything they could to get the rents, even with o without the subsidey. Children running all around, and many times they wouldn't go to school. We would see the school bus drive up, and often high school children were fooling around.

SISTER APT. 12B

00:16:05

They kind of dimly knew, sometimes that we were sisters, we never actually told anyone, we didn't make any big story of it, but they kinda sensed seing us 'cause I know once in a while, the children would say, "You a nun?", and I would say ,"Yes, I am.", and they would say, "Well, where are you nun dress?" I would say that,"I haven't had one for a long time ." So, we knew that there was a little talk like that, that people were kinda aware, that there was something different about us. I will say, that people, were not afraid to come to us if they needed something. For awhile there were two prostitutes, they were sisters, that lived in the lower apartment there, every single night they came up to us on some excuse. They simply wanted the contact, could they borrow an envelope, could they borrow a salt shaker, could they have a postage stamp? There was always some little item, to get them inside the door, they just needed to talk.
Finish 00:17:14.03

TAPE 12B--SISTER ROSEMARY in APT. COMPLEX

00:20:00
Talks with young black mother about the apartment...

00:22:51

Shots of driving around Sierra Nevada Complex w/ Sister narrating:
We knew the people who lived in all of these apartments during that time we either met them at the laundry or at the mailbox or in some other way got acquanited with them. There are a number of initiatives, for example, I don't think you could say this is just Las Vegas, but the St. VIncent's dining room has been opened for years and years and serves a hot meal with breakfast and rolls or something and its a long running dining room. Its opened on Christmas and Ester and 4th of July and every other possible day...

(What does it make you feel driving through here now?)
I feel the same way as I did before, there were alot of good people who are kind of down on their luck and yet they're making the best of their life. Look there's a house with every single apartment in it is borded up. What a waste.

It makes me feel again that there are possibilities that we are simply not utilizing. Its very hard for me to understand why with the amount of money that's been devoted to the project all these units aren't open, occupied, well-managed, I think that the housing authority has the right to demand something of the tenants, to take care of thier place, but for me this is a public scandal, to have the number of units on both sides just blocked up. I have to say we lived for a time with one or both of the units on either side unoccupuied and its really a rather creepy feeling people came and had parties they took the boards off the empty apartments and had parties, threw trash into them, so it became a health hazard, and things like that are very hard to understand...you asked me if Las Vegas takes care of the poor people...there has been something on the drawing boards which now is being built that sheltar which is being called MASH, thats an acronym for managed assistance something or other, and I'm hoping that it will really prove to beo something of true service to the people. Also the Christ Church Episcopal opened a clinic, that's a privcate, church initiative. There are a number of churches that have food pantry ot other forms of assistance. At the time we were the last. When we first came their were others--but there were also some Mexicans and orientals, but the demographics almost changed completely

12:09:02

Shots of Forum Shops...

12:16:30

Cathy: So you were born in Las Vegas. I feel like I'm a native.

Jeanine: Well after what thirty..

Cathy: Well, fifty-eight, dod I count that? Were we counting? Thirty-seven something..
J: Yeah, well that just about makes you a native.

C: For a while I was saying I moved here when I was a baby, 'cause of my business, you know, well, our business.
J: Right, right.
C: Did you do some ballet?
J: I've trained, I'venever worked for a ballet company or anything like that.
C: Whose you teacher?\
J: I've had a few teachers.
C: Backstage, did you go to Backstage?
J: Not for ballet
C: Christina Biroshka, Rosemary Tall, London dance academy
J: Backstage was my focus for jazz
C: It was my focus for keeping my stomach bound--being all the object, I'm so happy not to be the object anymore, being like the sex object...
J: You don't miss it?
C: Oh no, its why I won't die my hair-- I figure its like kinda like an immunity you know in the old days--when were you born, don't tell me when were you born?
J: 1962.
C: And that makes you?
J: 33 in December.
C: (Laughs)--oh 33, gosh of course--yeah 33, you know I think dance keeps you young, performance keeps you young...you're already 33
J: Getting ready for retirement.
C: Bless your heart--how long did you perform
J: So far thirteen.
C: So far you've put in thirteen years
J: Right--how long did you?
C: I did fourteen years as a showgirl, do you know whart that is?
J: Been there done that..
C: Parading showgirl--I never danced, I had a few dance lessons as a kid, but I never danced--you work on stage
J: I've seen girls that couldn't walk on stage so you have to train to do that, too.
C: Well I've seen well-trained ballerinas on stage try to do this particular walk and they look funny because they got the turn out and the shoulders--
J: They don't work it
C: Oh no, We had everything jiggling.

12:19: 00

C: Tell me where you worked, I've got to stop pounding on things, a little anger showing through there I guess.
J: I've worked just about every show. The Jubilee, Spellbound, Melinda the First Lady of Magic, Legend in Concert, what a nightmare.
C: Melinda, she's my ex-husband's daughter..
J: Really?
C: I'm Cathy Saxe, that's Melinda Saxe.
J: I hear she's a real nice girl.
C: Well with a father like that-
J: The rest of the family's a little off kilter

* Use these only as V.O. (can't use Jeanine - younger dancer)

C: Well you know I was --I couldn't understand why she would marry him, or do we acquire husbands simply because we're raising a couple of children?
I was thinking that's the reason, the guy's got a salary, I was so gratelful that he got married again, he used to follow me around, he was OK..there was never anu kind of danger...you know I have that sort of history, I like to call it I have worked every room in town..you know kind of self-deprecating thing, I can't help it, its my habit from the old days, when it wasn't the girls it was da 'broads, yeah, yeah.
J: I think there's nothing wrong with having moved around, at least it keeps you from getting bored. And I'd rather say that I've worked every show in town than oh I did Jubilee for twenty years.
C: Boy you can get really stiff doing that. Well another thing I've heard through the years about dancing or performance, I'd like to include it as performance, I haveing been a showgirl from another era, and you you know a dancer a dancing performer of today, I would call gypsies.
J: Definitely, we still refer to it today, if we talk about doing a gypsy show, for the showkids, its getting less and less used
C: I wonder if the nightclub gypsy if that's where they thought of the name..
J: Could be, that;s how it started.
C: Showkids love that thing..

12:22:02

C: I used to walk through the casino with all kinds of make-up, crap games would stop, you know and have you had that experience where they'd all just stop..
J: Sort of, I've walked through casinos in my show make-up and been mistaken for a hooker--isn't that nice?
C: What by the tourists?
J: Yeah, I've been propositioned people thinking that I'm a hooker because of all the makeup and the big eyelashes..
C: How did you feel about it?
J: I just thought it showed the middle Amwerican ignorance thinking that anybody with that much makeup on is a hooker instead of thinking gee maybe they're in showbusiness, maybe they're in a show--
C; Well there isn't that much charity ou there is there? I think that I in my day have ben stereotyped, objectified, and I'm sure I guess that's going on today..
J: After fourtenn years you don't miss it?
C: No.
J: Did you miss it right away after you retired?
C: Well I retired from performing as a showgirl where I was incredibly objectified and decided that--(I'm, still fine, thank-you)--I decided why don't I objectify myself, and I put together a monologue on what it was like to be a showgirl in Las Vegas, and we were becoming a convention town, at that time 1972, and I just went, I mean I thought I had worked every room in town, but now I was working every convention room in town... and uh, I found that my audiences were really grateful to learn the truth, about as gorgeous as she s her feet hurt.
J: Right, her back hurts
C: We got the ugliest feet in town..hang around the pounds oof wardrobe..

oh there's food, excellent.

12:24:27

J: Don't you think there was a time when it was more fashionable to be more voluptuous, and then suddenly that changed.
C: Well I've certainly seen it change. I've seen it change from fashion magazines to movies to TV even. I mean Clara Bow she was so round, I mean the Perils of Pauline, I mean way back, these were rounded little plump females, and the only clue that I had that people were going to be long and tall and muscular like in an out of proportioned sense was that when I first discovered El Greco. Those elongated figures of the Stardust, it seems that this is what we have today, these elongated, I was tall, extremely tall, one of the longest and skinniest girls in Las Vegas, and now I'm short and fat..
J: well I don't think you're short or fat. Well, they still go for tall, because at my first job at 5'7 I was the shortest girl in the cast. That was a non-singing, so everybody was 5'8 to 6'4...\
C: Do you have a weight problem, you have to weigh in these days?
J: No, actually we have had jobs where we've had to weigh in, but i've had jobs where we don't, but I've been really lucky, but about the time I turned 28 I had to start really being careful and watching what I ate, and cutting down on stuff and exercising a little bit more, really putting an effort in it.
C: Really working it girl, weren't ya? Well, you still are.
J: Still
C: Let's see you said you're 33? How do you feel about a seciond career, have you made any plans, or are you taking any classes? You know its a cul-de-sac career..being the object, like I was the object , then I turned myself into the object, and then even that ended so I like I'm into I think I'm in my fourth career, I was a little legal secretary in Chicago, and left because of the chill factor, oh I hated that cold. Then ended up in Las Vegas, found out that I had the basic qualifications, you know we just..we didn't even audition, we stood on stage and they checked the bone structure and the choreogrpaher would say ok you step forward you step back, they hated us, they wanted to be us. And I didn't know whether the back line was sent away or the front line and the girls are still selling themselves, you know--just shooting them up there..

this not on tape (VHS)

J: Its not too different now except that everybody auditions.
C: You have to do you pirrhouettes, and your this and that/
J: They give you a combination whether you're gonna be a showgirl or a dancer, because everybody has to move, but there are getting to be fewer andf ewer showgirls now, strictly showgirls..
C: You mean there are still showgirls--
J: Tropicana still has showgirls.
C: For heaven's sake I wonder if they still have to mix..
J: No, they don't do that anymore, that ended in the late seventies...
C: Now you tell me-
J: No more mixing..
C: I know.

12:28:24

J: Did you mix? Did you have to go out and talk and...
C: Yeah. It was part of the job order, oh yeah.
J: Really.
C: Mixing, oh yeah, I called it mangling. Self-mangolation. Because it was painful, we got these free drinks, the management bought us drinks, you know performers aren't supposed to drink, and we thought oh alright we'll have these drinks and have a pretty sloppy second show and...did they assign you tables?
J: No.
C: The manager would assign us two girls to a table in the lounge whereit opened out into the casino where the high rollers could see "da broads are der.." So we wore cocktail dresses, then really nice dresses, people dressed up to come to the shows...well I dressed up to come here today...
J: I dress when I go to shows, I maintain that old tradition because I think its the way it should be, you dress to go to broadway, you should dress to a Vegas show...
C: Do you think I heard a rumor that they're not even dressing up to go to Broadway shows.
J: You still see it, especially in the evening, but i think that's what makes it special.
C: Anyway, about mixing, we had to sit there when the show let out for about an hour, we had to really be there, kinda like on the guard, and then the high rollers would see us and stay in the joint and ask us to gamble and all that then we got to go and have a bite to eat before the second show. Did you ever make any money gambling with these guys?
J: I never did that..you know the only place that I've done that is in Japan, where they call it hostessing, where you do a show and then after the show you come out if they request, if they specifically request, you go and sit with the japanese customers who usually you can't even really talk to because they don't speak much English, so you kind of nod and talk and 'America?' and then they buy you a drink after you sit there and smile with them for a while they give you ten thousand yen which at the time was about 80 bucks and you go home.
C: Geez, how did you feel about it?
J: It didn't bother me to do it in Japan because it seemed --

CATHY 4 JEANINE 13B

Tapes 13B--Cathy Saxe and Jeanine talking at Cafe

13:00:37

Cathy: Where are you working now?

J: Right now I'm not working anywhere I finished up a year contract at the MGM Grand doing effects opening that and then they had a change of management and downsizing laid off 800 people. and every department including the show

C: What hotel is EFFEX at?

J: MGM

C: OH, that replaced Jubilee?

J: No , Jubilee is at Bally's, which used to be the MGM

C: DAH

J: So right now I'm not working anywhere.

C: AAH, So you were laid off, how bad for you.

J: Not good, really not good.

C: You didn't take it personnally though?

J: Ya, sure I did, sure I did.

C: OH, 'cause they cut , they didn't....

J: Yah,

C:In other words, like, like they say, okay.. you, you, and you.

J: Right

C: Out

J: Right, there are 38 girls and they could've chosen anyone, and I was one of the ones they chose.

C: Unhuh

J: So, how could you not take that personal? I did.

C: Well, how many girls remained on?

J: 34

C: You had 70, 80, girls in that show?

J: No, there were 38 girls, and 15 boys.

C: Oh

J: So, they cut 4 girls out.

C: So, you were one of the 4 girls?

J: Right.

C: Oh Gosh you know, everytime I've ever got fired, it would be the whim of a boss, because I wouldn't ...

J: cooperate?

C: Yah, cooperate in the hotel suite area, you know..So, I tell you

13:02:07

C: So, when did this happen that, that they laid all these girls off?

J: A month ago.

C: Are you over the shock? How are you feeling about it now?

J: No, I'm still..I'm angry, I guess still, I still think about it, if I talk about it...I do... I get pretty worked up... you know? I haven't really adjusted

C: But, it show business.. and rejection is 90% of show business

J: Yah, yah, and I totally agree with that, and when you go to an audition, and you put yourself on the line, and you don't get hired, because you're not tall enough or you're not thin enough

C: Or they got to many brunettes for God's sake!

J: Or you're not the right look, right or you're not the right look, that's one thing, but to get hired in a show after three days of auditioning, to work for the company for a year, at their call...sometimes 50 hours a week or whatever.

C: Gave my all to the company, yah.

J: Yah and exactly.and then to be let go , is more to be bitter about in the long run for me..anyway.

C: We, didn't really get that bitter. UH, we ju.. kinda accepted it, I think, but I think.. today, umm...with the equal opportunity, all this stuff..aaaaa...people get angry, they get militant when they get fired , you know?

J: Well, I've never, I have never had an experience like that before, so it's a new one for me.

C: YAAAH..

J: And that may be part of the reason too. You, know what I mean?

C: So, you going to look for another job , or you going to do something else,or?

J: NO, to perfectfly honest with you, I'm not at this point and time relly motivated, I want to go back to Japan, I'm trying to get a job, going back to Japan.

C: UN HUH, in a show?

J: For a couple of months, yah.

C: Motivated because of this, this a being fired.

J: I don't know, I honestly couldn't tell you, It might be partiatlly that,it might be partially umm...

C: They fired the body though, they didn't fire the person, I mean..

J: See, but I don't feel that way..

C: You're not fired, don't you know?

J: But see I don't feel that way.

C: UNHUH

C: I say feel it, but there I am giving advice again..Well, maybe I should say to you, go through it, go through all the feelings. HAVE your feelings, but try to work through it, ,you know,wonderful, and realize what a .. you know what a wonderful person.. (laughs) I mean look at you,.look at you.. If I were the jealous type, I would say," I'm not going to have lunch with you. (laughs)Look at ya honey?

.

J: Yah, well..

C: You're gorgeous.. you could.. do you know that you could, do you know that you have the world in front of you? That you could start any career, I mean you are quite bright?

J: Thank you.

C: You could do anything that interests you.

J: Well, I think that might be part of the reason that I'm not motivated, because I was in this job with the mind set of..in a few years, I'm going to retire from show busisness, I'm going to move on to something else, I quite hadn't made up my mind yet what that something else was.

C:MMMM, hmm.

J: So, now I feel like part of me is ready to retire right this minute, in the light of what happened.

C:: Is that out of anger? Is that out of anger.

J: Partially.

C: Yah. or being shot down?

J: Yah, yah, or maybe this is a sign, it should all be now, instead of the future, or something don't know.

C: Signs are bigger than that.

13:05:19

C: I was asking God for a sign,when Iwas supposed to retire from doing my lecture series at the conventions, and the lights accidentally went out. (laughs) Iwas on stage, and she said that uh ," What thought have you given umm.. I say you can work, you can work.. you look so young, and I'm sure your technique is just wonderful, and your body sure is.uh, I 'd say you've got ten years ahead of you if you want it, and you could work up to a principal, and you know having all this experience, 'cause you know that stage." you know, you know every flit of a performance. Say, you don't want to, say that the rejection is too painful. Have you given any thought to what else you might do?

J: Well, that was part of my retirement mode that I was in, sort of, at the MGM. Well stay in this job, go to school. get a degree.

C: YAH...

J: and move on.

C: In what?

J: Hadn't decided, probabley hotel administration.

C: YA...

J: So, I'm..

C: You've been in this town, you live here right?

13:06:24

C: Acting, and to me, being a showgirl was, I had to do some inner psychic work, you know to, make sure you know, to like, make sure I knew I wasn't a showgirl.. because the stigma hurt me.

J: Really?

C: it did?

J: YOU talk about being objectified, you felt that way you felt like an object?

C: Yes, and the way I got through it was, I considered it an acting job.

J: Sure it is.

C: I will just go out on that stage, andI will act the part of a showgirl. As far as I was concerned, I send my body to work, and my sole would stay home.

J: Definately. Ther is a part of that sure, I do the same thing.

C: Do you ever get vain of your face when it is in makeup, and start to believe the image?

J: Believe the image, no, but ,no but, I liked it. If I can walk, there was a time that I said that....if I can walk around in my show makeup 24 hours a day, I would do it, because you know your complexion is flawless, and your eyes are real big, and you just have like all this color....

C: And as soon as I get into makeup, my face changes, like I can be without makeup, and I'll sit around, not much caring... and mushing up my face. OH, I get into makeup, and it's like that old Pavlovian theory; the dog thing, like I got ..oop...

J: Sort of , yah, a little bit. a little bit, I don't know. I just...

C: Did you get along with the girls backestage?

J: Definately. Definately

C: I didn't. (laughs) ohh..

J: I mean it depends on the size of the cast. In a bigger show, there's going to be a select few that your close to..

C: Yah, You can pick and choose.

J: Yah, that you associate with, but in a smaller show, you almost have to maintain a family.

C: 4 showgirls, 8 dancers, and the girls all looked alike, boy did we look alike and that's why we were hired.

J: Oh sure, all the same height, all the same body, all the same basic makeup.

C: Yah, I've had some pain in interpersonal relationships backstage.

J: Wow..

C: Oh yah, like they had to solve something, who cares,you know? You show up for work, and you go home. #1 I wasn't chastized, because I wasn't chips husteling, and that I would'nt use swear words.. the girls were like who does she think she..she thinks she has so much class.. You know, I am another person other than a showgirl, I always have been.

J: Right.

C: I wrote down my swear words and memorized them, like a fast poem, and I used to tell them fast jokes, hoping to become popular, little did I know that the jokes were too fast. What I was doing to my co- workers, is that I was alienating them by trying...

13:09:32
C: Was it an acting job, for you too then?
J: Oh, Yah, felt like it was somewhat, it depended on the show, and the basic focus is to just go out there smile, and dance, or whatever, that's fine, but if I was in a sexier show, to have that persona what definately an acting, definately an acting job
C: Sex object, objectified.
J: Yah, except I didn't feel objectified. No, no. I didn't, because it was my coice to be there, and my choice to be doing whatever it was that I was doing. Whatever job I had, whether it was a sexy job or not, topless job or not.
C: What made you come to the choice to be there?
J:Work.. first and foremost.
C: Just getting a job
J: Yah, work, but also just. if I felt it was okay, if felt good about what I was doing, if didn't feel like it was to sleezy, raunchy, or whatever, then I felt okay with it . I felt okay about being there, but I've had some good experiences, and some of they people I am very thankful to have worked with.
It's caused some problems in personal relationships once in a while, but..
C: Sounds like you liked your job a lot better than I liked mine, but I just loved being a showgirl, I just loved it, now that I think about it, because it proved that I was pretty, and I've had a problem with that in my life.
J:Did yo have a problem with how men might see you because you were a quote unquote showgirl?
C:It was a suprise, and I knew that a casual stranger, like a high roller or one of the bosses or someone like that, they only saw me as a trophy, and would play the part of a trophy, in order to save my own sweet little Catherine, my real deep down baby me, inside. Say, okay now, mommy's going to act, and she's going to play the part of a luscious, trophy showgirl, and I carried on more than anybody 'cause I was acting, and I guess I was objectifing myself right along with the masses.
13:12:04

C: I never felt like I could win the fight, because I excepted the humanity, and I expected that the craps games would stop, and then I would get asked out by the ugliest high rollers in the world, then I would act.

J: That's interesting, because for me, if I meet people, and they say,"Oh your a dancer, Do you dance topless?" I never answer the question, because I don't feel like that has anything to do with me as a person, who I am. Weither I dance topless or not. No, I don't need.
C: I want to try this out, I want to see what you do, I'm a tourist right, a male tourist, and I'm meeting you, we're both waiting for our cars, and he goes," He are you in the show?" " Are you a naked one?"
JYah, what difference does that make?
C: Oh, so that's how you don't answer the question, you just throw it back?
J: Yah.
C: Does it upset you, did I do a good imitation? Are they still like that?
J: Actually they really are, a lot of people. In fact, I even had met a guy camping, if you can believe that camping, of all things, in the middle of no where, no makeup. Then he came down to visit and see Vegas, the Vegas side of Vegas, which he'd never seen, when I was in a show, which I was dancing topless in, even though we'd known eachotherat that point for months, all of the sudden, I was a different person.
C: I see it, I understand it.
J: All of the sudden, I went from being this, how ever he saw me, I don't know? How ever average person..
C: How do you think he saw you when you first met you, do you know? Because I want to attempt to crawl into his brain, I want to see if it's still the same old thing.
J:No judgement was ever past at the first point, although, he must have likedme, there must have been something worth him coming to...
C:JUdgement
J: Party girl, into the nightlife..
C: He wasn't judging you when he met you, he comes to Las Vegas, he sees that your up there on that stage, did that happen?
J: Definately
C: Did you still like him?
J:Yah, it took me awhile to over come that and change his mind, but I knew it was something that I would have to fight. He would say something like," You wouldn't like it here, there is nothing to do except hang out and talk,..
C:You must have the most exciting life in the world, because your a show..they don't know that you're married, you have a couple of kids, they don't know that your going to school, and doing homework between numbers backstage, is that still going on?
J: Definately.
C:It's because we know there has to be a better career. I have a sinilar story. I went to Laguna Beach, to the art festival..
13:14:55
J:See, but I think that's always insulting, to ask..
C:He wanted to ask me that though. With the food and everything, I feel a little down, or something..

J:For you though, does the acting go on? It seems like that's part of the business you've maintained. The acting goes on, does it?
C:I know it does, I heard this expression, " My God, she's always on, about being an actress, and things. " I hate to pigeion hole myself, but I tell you, I am on. I really am on. I wrote an essay about it, and I entitled it," Acting In Real Life", like you know,put you best foot forward, give them what they want, don't say anything foolish, put on an act like the British have a stiff upper lip, and even gang members are on. You know what I mean, "I'm going to cut you up with a knife." They all got the same act that they do. I've got this act that I do, and I'm not going to do the work to drop it know, I'm not imitating anyone, but I remember when I was a ltitle kid, in my family, back in Chicago, they were ignorant immigrants, you know? They, the girl was nothing, I was the baby of the family. The boy was everything. My father was an alcoholic. My parents would beat me, they would put me down, laugh at me and call me a baffoon, and they would also ignore me. Like, I was a baby with my own needs, that of being approved of, coplemented, loved, but she doesn't desearve it she's a girl.

13:17:06

C:I would actually manufacture little skits, in my family, and I would say listen to my joke, or I would pretend, or I would imitate somebody that was talking on the Greek hour," As mode be la pareta."

SILVER
13B

C: (Speaks more Greek) and I used to do it as a kid, and I used to imitate my dad singing, and anytime I did anything that was a winner kind of thing, they would look at me and smile. MY thing is died in the wool, it's a behavior, that I'm not going to even bother upon learning, you know?
FINISH 13:17:58

TAPE 13-- continued....SILVER AT CRAZY HORSE

13:17:00

DANCER
S: My real name? My name is Silver Lakes. My real name is, Sarah Adams. I am 23 years old, I 've been dancing for quite awhile, in Vegas, for three years, on and off. I went to Phoenix for awhile. I'm from Southern California, the majoritively. I kinda grew up all over, I couple times, well a couple times I went to Idaho. Through school I went to Germany for awhile, but for the majority, I grew up in Southern California and the desert, so. No, I never really took dance lessons, except for the high school modern dance, instead of P.E. (Dancing) It just sort of felt natural. My mother recommended that I go out to Jean, or state line, south of the city, and see if I could get work in a casino, and I dicovered that, it would have been a very difficult commute, so I came up here to check around for jobs. I ended up with, looking in the paper, and seeing jobs for dancers. I got a job. I went back to California, and told my roommate, "You can come with me.. or you can stay here and try to take care of the apartment on your own, I'm going to Vegas. " He was a male, someone that I went to school

with, and I'd been in the military for awhile, and I had come back and met up with him, and we got a place and everything.

13:19:55
I was in the U.S. Coast Gaurd.
There's definately a wider job base in Nevada, and you know you have casinos, you have the chips and everything
(The ad) It was just a tiny, three line strip, dancers and cocktail waitresses wanted..but I didn't stick with that one, a couple weeks later, I met someone else, who got me into another job, with someclubs that are not paticularly liked out here. Hard Copy did a thing on them, the sex tease clubs. Well, men went in and were scammed into believeing they were going to get sex, and the girls never got into it, and the guys would end up paying like $1,500, three times in a row. They kept tipping the girls, and tipping the girls, and you know we put them through like, you know we dance forthem, we were nude. Get them in a Jacuzzi and give them a rub down.

13:21:10

Anything but what they thought they..so they got angry. My first night doing that, I walked out with $1,300 in cash, so that was rather attractive. I did that for several monthes, and then I left there, because things were starting to look bad for the place, so I left right before things did go bad, I worked for a smaller place here in town. I worked for awhile. We had security in the back, but there was a couple of girls who got scratched, hit, things like that.
I never really worried about it, I usually had a pretty good handle on my guy.
Some of my customers have left pretty happy, they felt they had ben entertained, they hadn't had company with a woman for awhile so..
Then I went to the normal dance establishment, the smaller, yah, it was the smaller place.

Well, Iwas thinking about the money, I really needed to get somewhere. It just didn't seem all that off, you know men will be that way? Why not take advantage of being the female that you are?

Not particularly, I haven't gone through any of the major dating phases, no..
I have had a couple of very good relationships, but I'm honest about men and women's characters, so.. I hate it when I hear women say this is sexist to women, or whatever, I've chosen to be this. I don't want to hear that they want to take these kind of establishments out of business, because they're degrading to women. (I want the choice whether or not to use my looks to make my money or, whether or not want to use my brain to make money.) good soundbite/e.c.u. on face

13:23:20
I try to use both.)
Well, you have to decide for character, alot of the times, you'll have conversations with men, alot of the time you don't get the money until you've spoken with them for a long time you need to know the information on a variety of things. All the experience you've had in your life helps, as far as that goes.

They come in their from all walks of life, all different parts of the country, different jobs, it's tough to understand what their saying,so..
It can be challenging at times. They come in for company, I think. Some of them just come in and watch the stage, and don't get any dances, talk to any girls, and you wonder, about them. Then again they stay quiet, and you don't have to deal with them. Then there are others, who don't really look at the stage, but they talk to several girls, for several hours, and they give them money for talking to them. It takes all kinds.

Depending on the club...A lap dance lets them get away with being a little closer than others. Mostly, we're in front of them, between their knees, in front of them. we take our tops off, we bend over in front of them, maybe like, brush against their belly, if they're fatter, maybe not.
Its not like that can actually get you in trouble. That's what gets all the girls in trouble. Noone rubs on their laps like that --its basically just for the length of a song...

13:25:00

I try to make alot of eye contact, I look in their eyes, I make them think that they're good looking, and really I do get into the music, enough so that, you know, alot of girls really fake it, I just go with themusic and how I feel when I'm listening to that song, you know, I try to be more realistic, I look in their eyes and all of a sudden they think that they're--we keep a certain distance, maybe I usually get a couple of inches from their face with my chest you know--but I don't rub on 'em , I'm not sitting in their lap grinding.

13: 26:31

Depends on thew day, some days you're thinking Ok I gotta do this because he's already given me the twenty, then some days you're thinking what do I do next, ok, maybe I'll turn around, you're thinking about what to do next.
Other times if he's really attractive or something it could be fun, its like gee, maybe he'll let me do another dance...so it really depends on the guy the day, it all has to come together...

We occasionally get attracted to 'em, its kinda hard not to. Some of the guys are very attractive, very interesting, you try to dance a little harder for him, you work a little harder at getting to spend time with 'em. You come in the back and you go isn't he good looking to the other girls...its kinda fun, kinda hard not to you know wanna leave with 'em. I know girls who do know guys outside the clubs, but alot of em have met former to that and have asked em to come in, its like if they've met before and they've asked the guy to come in, that's how they know each other. Its hard for me, I don't go out a whole lot, this is my entire social life just about...

(are you friends with the girls you work with?)

Yeah, as I get to know em, the club has alot of girls and it takes a while to get to know all of em, so....we';re not so cutthroat, that--especially like in the larger clubs they're not cutthroat, they're all just busy doing their own things, making their own money, you know, they get along in the back, sometimes there's a few arguments, but not too many. I've seen some fights but that was a couple of drunkl girls you know...

13:27:42 Silver washes her costume in sink...

There's alot of hand washing involved in this job--the costumes are pretty--How do I decide what to wear? What's clean...(Laughs) its all a matter of taste, what flatters your body, if you feel like your body's less than perfect, you might want to wear something that's a little more covering, you know...

I've gotten some tips in the past--how not to get razor rash, things that--you thought you knew everything about being a woman then other women then like actually know some little secret that you don't...
Probably the...putting deodarant on your bikini line after you shave..that's about the most memorable thing, I remember learning that and going no....
some girl tolkd me that and I couldn't believe it..

13:29:45

My mother bought me the costume--last time she was in Vegas we went to the mall and I convinced her to buy me a costume--they're not exactly cheap, it happens to be my favorite, I wear it almost constantly...

SILVER 146

TAPE 14: SILVER @ CRAZY HORSE CLUB

14:00:08

I've usually been on night shifts, the day shifts around here, there's alot of down time--we sleep I personally spent quite a bit of time, we have like a steam room and a sauna...but uh, and then back over this way we do have tanning beds but they're broken right now, I've seen alot of girls spending alot of time in the tanning beds--we have our uh...there's usually a house mom with hot food in here, most places have like snacks, but they actually bring hot food to this one, so we get a hot meal. So we have our dining facility anfd our television, so we catch alot of TV, daytime television, I've learned more right here.

During the days we spend alot of time in the back you see a couple of girls maybe crashed out on the couches--there's usually a house mnom in here, there;'s different meals, so we get to enjoy a hot meal. That's about it, I come back here not only when I'm bored, but if I'm trying to avoid a customer because sometoimes there's that customer you really get tired of and you just want to take a break, its like I'm going to go ewat for a minute,

14:02:23

Our drying system..sometimes it looks like a rummage sale...don't have dryers its either that or a hair dryer, but thay're a pain becuase you're too busy trying to get ready yourself, so you just throw your costume up..

What's your day like?

I've been eight hours here, and eight hours of sleep...my personal life is pretty boring, half of them have really fun lives and the other half of us lead really boring lives--I go home and read a book and fall asleep, then maybe I'll get up and go out and see my boyfriend, and occasionally I go dancing at clubs, occasionally-I hear girls talking about going gambling and shopping and doing all these things, getting to go here--alot of girls at clubs in Vegas come in just for the weekends so that means thay're commuting out here from L.A. or San Francisco, its like gee it must be nice to be able to do that, now especially on day shift I don't have that kind of money.

14:03:45
What kind of money do you make?

On the day shift? I haven't realy ben doing it long enough to come up with an average, but its poor...I'm probaby averaging like little over minimum wage just as an average, because on weekends I do pretty well. On weekend mornings on each morning but during the rest of the week I make around maybe forty to eighty bucks, you know, it averages out to being sixty eight a day--when I was doing night shifts there have been times when I averaged 4-600 a night on average, whcih means there were thousand dollar nights and two hundred dollar nights.

What do you do with your money?

14:04:32

Gas my truck, I eat, I pay my rent, buy new costumes maybe, get my nails done, buy more make-up, try to save some of it if I can, its been a couple of months since I've done it, but I used to send home some money to my mom, once a month, I'd drive over and give her some money to hold for me.
If I made alot of money I'd definitely get caught up on my bills, maybe pay a couple of months rent--send some home, put some in an account for a while.

What are your dreams?

14:05:27
Personally as far as my dreams go, I would like to get into one of the shows at one of the casinos, that would be nice for me, even if its not--I haven't heard that its the goodest money--but its a steady job, you don't have your down months, you don't have to worry if the convention's not here I'm not going to make any tips--either that or go ahead and try and work my way into a magazine or something like that--do some feature performing, that would be nice, get

together some feature performances, you can go up in this business, I don't know where I'm going but I'm trying--up? Looks like
I'm gonna be around, if I could go up now, I would hopefully retire about 33, go back, finish college and start my second retirement, and that looks good.

14:06:24
(bad sound--low)
I'm one of the few that probably asks if I can go on stage, I really enjoy my stage performances--you just keep getting better at it, finding new things to do, it depends on the club, if the club has poles, I like doing the pole work, some clubs that don't have poles its all about being able to stand up and perform in different ways--so that it looks interesting, I love getting up on stage, I feel strong up there--and actually during the table dances, to give it a little bit more, as much as I can, like the look in the eyes, I try to get close to their eyes--I get into the music alot, I love music, if I could I'd sing...

14:07:34
I've learned that there's not alot of response in this business, because the guys don't applaud that much --they don't as far as giving us any kind of acknowledgement, maybe a dollar on stage--for the most part, thay don't clap alot, they used to back when I started dancing but as far as their enthusiasm--I get into it I enjoy it--getting into the music, imagining that maybe there is someone out there that is watching and enjoying it alot--
once in a while there's guys that really do like seeing you dance--I work for those days...especially the days I don't make money.
I'm not trained as a dancer, so I probably wouldn't do well as a dancer, but I am six foot two, I could maybe get into one of the shows, that would be nice--I went around a couple of years ago to try and get into a couple of the shows, but it just didn't seem to be the right time like one guy his main hired guy was out in Paris for a couple of months, another guy, well, I lost my phone right at the time I was going around looking, so that made it difficult, but...I went to California and got like enhancements, and came back feeling a little better, so hopefully this time it will work out, I've got to go around and try again.

14:09:24

(facing away from microphone)--bad sound--not transcribed

14:10:33
So that makes it kinda difficult, you never know if you're too thin or too fat Some of the clubs are a little more lenient, I notice that this club takes all types of girls, and it take all types, I see guys that go for the little bit more heavier girls, guys thaty go for brunettes, guys thayt go for blondes, um, the club I was working at before they are very particular, it a high-class establishment, they try very hard to be completely into the high class--
you wear like cocktail dresses and long gowns working there--I've seen girls get sent back because their gown didn't lok enough like an evening gown, so..you know when they told me they were laying me off for being too thin I wasn't actually surprised, I'd been sick. You get all kinds of flus in this business, bad sd.

I mean everything from all parts of the country come in, and you'll be immune to one from the last person but the next person that comes around you're not immune to. I see dancers that get sick six to eight times a year, especially ones that..

14:12:13
Alcohol and drugs, well in Vegas we can drink on the job,. alot of the girls do, they get sloshed on the job, usually men ask me if I want a drink and I'll get one or two... usually a lighter drink or I'll ask for them not to put the alcholo in my drink--I don't see that many around, occasionally they'll be talking about them, but they'll be talking about them in the past tense--there's alot of drug history. Rather than alot of drugs that I see, its not like I see them dumping it out on the counter, if they're doing it, they're doing it quietly--its not that big a thing anymore-- as far as the dance thing.

14:13:02
I have a few dresses like this (holds up blakc cocktail dress)--it worked at the club I was at before, because it was classier, but as far as regular clubs I mean this isn't the most flattering because people can't see how busty you are in it, and without the cleavage you just don't get the attention--I started out being a little less than this when I started dancing and you get about half the guys who really like the sleeker look, the flatter girls, but I notice that even the guys that like them still tip the girls with the bigger chests--you know the guys that only like bigger chests don't tip the flatter ones, so it was a job thing for me to get and to stop wearing dresses like this..

14:14"01
Well actually I owe my mother for it, we went in on it together, part of it came out of my old college fund--I thought about it growing up anyway, I knew I wasn't going to be all that heavily endowed I suppose, and it doesn't seem all that off for me as far as getting cosmetic surgery--I know some people who get 'em and that's the basis of their entire ego system--you know their entire lives are great because now they look beautiful and because nopw they have bigger breasts. For me it was just something that was missing--once I got 'em they just feel totally natural--I forgot that they're not mine--I do. I forget that they're not mine, mine look a little more natural, I still have people going wow, those look real, so I got a good doctor.
And it was just the timing, I left here and I went to Pheonix and things went really bad for me so I went back to California for a "sabatical" I'd say, and then we decided to go ahead and do that while I was over there, and I'd come back and start all over again while I was in Vegas...so sometimes you have to back up and start all over again...

14:15:15
My mother is great, she's probably the one person that has the most respect for me in this world, and its not because she's my mom, its because she's earned it, I mean she was a widowed mother, when I was four years old I'm an only child so we had to grow up in a partner type situation, you know, we--filling in all the gaps as we went--and she's very strong, she's done so well in her career field,

and her career was not one that was very accepting of women when she started in it in 1980--so she's in law enforcement in Southern California--she was a street cop for many years, and now she's working in a jail facility, but uh, at the time that she went into it she was like the first female to go out to her station, uyou know she had to make it in a man's world so I respect that--and she's very open about truths in life, you know--about my career, OK, she's fine with that as long as I don't take it off the stage. I don't leave here with the customers, I don't go out call-- things like that I don't get into the lifestyle that supposedly goes with dancing, the drugs and that, and--yeah you know it would be a good career move for me to get implants, chest implants or the fact that I have to wear this much makeup when she thinks I have a nice face anyway, she's good at comprehending --she's very reasonable and rational--she hasn't watched me dance yet...the only time I ever got her into one of the clubs I wasn't dancing, I had to go and talk to one of the managers about something.

So she hasn't seen me dance, I would actually like it, not because I'm topless, but because I really love the performance, I want her to see I can do all these things on the pole. And you know--she's a fun person I think she'd probably find it fun once she saw iot, not just what they portray on TV and movies. as dancing...

14:17:38
My relationships with men, most of them happened before I was ever a dancer... I had two or three very good relationships, long-lasting, uh, but since I've become a dancer they're opretty accepting of it, alot of the guys are understanding of it--especially the guys around here, half the girls they know are dancers--the persdon I'm seeing right now he's in a band, he understands the performance value of it, he understands that I get on stage to make my money as well as he does--so it works out--I mean I get along with men of all walks-- I mean I've known men who were very rich, very high class, high profile, and I've gone to dinner with them and I've looked the part, at the time, you know, I didn't look like a dancer, I don't portray that outside of the clubs, so they're OK with me being a dancer...

When people ask me what I do for a living I say I'm a dancer at such and such, and they go on if they don't like it but they don't judge me, nowadays, I could see where ten years ago I would have been judged by it heavily. I've known alot of dancers that have been in the business for a long time, and I've heard of the stories, you know--half of 'em have gotten very lenient and casual as far as what goes on in this world in magazines--and then the other half have joined NOW--I can't stand them...they get very radical as far as saying they're portraying women in a bad light and things...but the women here are very aware--I've noticed here alot of girls have come very far--I've seem girls where its there first day of stepping on a stage, and they're very nervous, but they get very comfortable with themselves, alot of girls get very comfortable with the sexuality of being who they are, it reveals alot to yourself in a way--I mean you get to hear other girls going through the same things you do--the stories, you learn about relationships, that you'd never thought you'd hear about--its an

experience, its not a bad thing for us... I mean the ones who are forced iunto it usually don't end up staying anyway--

14:20:09
There are girls that are so far down on their life, something's gone wrong, or they have a man that pushes them into it, that wants to take all their money once they get home. When I was in Pheonix I knew alot of girls that were victims of the white slave trade--a couple of girls that were going out with one guy--because he owned both of them more or less and they were working to bring him the money--so thats a bad problem in some places...I saw girls being taken out of the clubs and being put into the white slave trade--it's dangerous at times, you gotta be careful, but alot of them got pulled into it because they were already mild drug abusers, and they got pulled into a crowd that laced their drugs and string 'em along and maybe get them to go out and prostitue for the weekend, or take 'em to their house and sell 'em at the end of the weekend--to like the highest bidder I guess--so there are dangers in certain places--I've heard it happens here, but I have not seen it.

14:21:16
Persistance, I don't know--any strength I have is just from sheer stubborn headedness, I have my down days but I still come back for some reason, and its just..I refuse to fail, that's for me, but some girls havwe their strength that they need to feed their kids, or they have to keep coming because they have to get their lives in order--they do this after maybe going into rehab, there's a billion different stories behind the girls that work in these clubs-- I've know girls that come from richer families, and they do this and they go to the nicer clubs but they do it becasue they feel comfortable with it and they know they can make money at it so they don't bother doing the college thing-- and then there's others who really weren't trained for anything, they were married for a while, they have kids and they have to take care of their kids, so there's a whole range of stories..

Did you ever want to do anything else?

14:22:22
Yeah, I grew up being interested in marine biology and oceanography, I wasn't really in the right area, I was out in the desert, and it takes alot more than I guess I put into ut--I had alot of dreams and not a whole lot of drive I guess--sometimes I have ambitions but I really don't go for 'em and I realize later that maybe it wasn't an ambition, but just a thought...so I've had a few other dreams, but they all lead up to the same things, retiring and maybe like having a house, one of my favorite places would be like--the coastal central California area, I;ike Monterey, so there's that goal in mind, it really doesn't matter how I get there, as long as I'm not laying on my back for the money I'm OK--I don't sell drugs, I figure this is pretty clean compared to alot of things, sometimes I hear about how this is a dirty profession and this and that, but because you['re involved with all walks of life so yeah half of its dirty half of its not...

14:23:44

There have been times where I've felt degraded, not in particular, but I just blow it off, there have been times where I've received degrading remarks, about once a week there's a guy at the end of the runway, hey honey check it out--that's like--for the first song we don't take our tops off for--its like relax stick with me, all you want is my chest--its kind of scary sometimes its like thats all he would look at, you know, I accept--after a while you learn most of 'em are here for the companionship or to see the girls, I get more compliments on my eyes--or my legs than I do on my chest..

The height--every second man that walks in and sees me being six-two plus for inch heels, has to stand up next to me and compare height--it helps in some ways, alot of guys see it as being very chic and beautiful and then ther's other who are like to lok at it and ask me if I play basketball and play volleyball and I don't do any of those things, and then it comes time for me to to ask them, or would you like a dance, all of a sudden they just back away, they can't handle it... its on my terms now, its like I lost them--instead of them imposiung themselves on me, while I'm walking around looking for a customer--there are times where that gets in the way--sometimes I get less dances from it because they think its too much women.. that's what they say, anyway..

14:25:51
I'm surprised how many people guess what I do--I went into a gas station once and a guy asked me if I was in one of the three D's--dining, dancing or dating--I was like--three D's--I;m a dancer, and I was like that's a D--and he says that's one of 'em, and no, you don't feel differnt walking around really unless you're in a whiole group od dancers...I guess if I'm face to face with them they guess what I do, and I'm not always walking around--I changed my hair from curly to straight every day or so--maybe they just figure if you're an attractive female they figure you must be on stage somewhere...

I think that the definitive line is how you dress--I have once dressed to go to a nightclub, sorta trashy and I went into a casino to pick up a friend and I heard a lady say Oh, there's one everywhere you go--that's the only time I've ever been mistaken--alot of the guys that come in here think that's what we do, I've been offered so much money to go back to hotel rooms the club I was at before someone offered ten thouseand if I could get a friend to come and he would just watch us on a bed together--if a girl does that-she'll get fired, its against the club rules, its against the law...I'm not really interested in that, if I can't make enough money doing what I'm doing eight hours a day, sometimes I work double shifts--if I haven't made enough money

I'm fallin behind rapidly because I'm on day shift--they have a full staff of girls on nuight shift and on day, I'm used to being a night girl--it is sorta a different type of guy that comes in in the mornings, its hard to grab what exactly they're in for or what they want--whether they want dances or whether they're here to have coffee or watch a game on TV, and I'm not making as much money as I did nights, and its making it very difficult having to go through my head right now to decide whether or not to try another club or to really get ouyt there and try for

one of the shows--but I don't want to go in all directions ---I'm not saving any money, I've been breaking even the last several months--

the more attractive females you can say are working on a shift the more guys are gonna come in--its not a matter of having you compete against each other, the more girls that come in the more girls have to tip out the percentage to the house, that is for the most part to draw on the customers. They make the most money off the bar--we make our money off the dances the stage, they make the money off the bar and drinks and cover charge--the more girls you can say are here, the more variety, the...

We don't get pay--we get tips and table dances alone, that's pretty much the norm here in Vegas, and from what I saw in Pheonix--we're independent contractors--and we pay some clubs have a set amount that you pay up to the house and DJ, some clubs have a percentage--you are paying to work, I guess, its not that bad, I guess at one point in history it got kind of outrageous, the girls were paying way to much--I've heard like 40% pretty much around it its at a level thats OK I guess.

TAPE 16B--SARAN KNIGHT PREDDY--MOULIN ROUGE

16:00:18

SARAN 16B

My name is Saran Knight Preddy and I've been in Las Vegas 53 years, of course I came here when I was a baby--(Laughs)--I wish. I'm the owner of the Moulin Rouge hotel and uh I've been in gaming most of my adult life, during the time that we came here there wasn't much to do there were very few jobs and especially for blacks, and we did have a community on the West side where they had clubs so my first job was a keno writer, I started out as a keno writer. J. in frame

After that I moved up north to Hawthorne Nevada and I had a club up there from 1950 to 57. It was alot of fun and we had a club up there, after '57 I moved back to Las Vegas but before that when I left there Las Vegas had really really gone down and it was during the time of the war and alot people had left, this was like a ghost town. When I was in Hawthorne I had a friend here and he had a club and he offered the club to me of course my family was here and I told them that I would bever live in Las Vegas again because Hawthorne was kind of booming and it was during the war and they had the big demolition plant up there. So when we opened up the club there were only two or three clubs and we had a black club there and it was a booming place for two or three years, and after a while Las Vegas sorta like rejuvanated and came back to loife and things started moving here but i still didn't come back until like four or five years later and it didn't take long until they got something going in Las Vegas and in 1955 when they built this place.

16:02:30
(What is this place?)
This is the Moulin Rouge Hotel and casino and this was the first integrated club especially with gaming throughout the world, and at that time I don't think they Jodie in frame

had too many places especially in Las Vegas--they didn't have toto many big hotels and this place was equivalent to all the hotels they built on the strip, it was absolutely fabulous and um--it was only open for about five months, and it came to sorta like an after hour place...it was opened in the daytime, too, but after 12 o'clock you couldn't get in here, everybody left the Strip to come over here and when I say everybody I say like Frank Sinatra, Touloula Bankhead, you name them all those people come over here because they had some good top entertainment over here, and all those entertainers was black--it was three white gentlemen that opened this place, but it was an integrated place and most of the help here was black...black waiters, only thing they had that wasn't black, was cooks, they had some cooks they had imported over here.

beg/ins w/ just Saran

16:03:00
And they were known to have the best food in town, the food was absolutely yo know delicious, I think after it was open like five months, I think it took so much business over from the other side of town, noone has ever come up with the true fact of why it closed because the night that it closed it was packed. Some say that the hotels complained about it and it was a power move that they wanted the peopleto close the hotel, some say they didn't make any money, and of course that comes up in everything that comes up in anything that is said about the Moulin Rouge, you know, why did it close? And I have several friends that have worked here and I know they told me how much money they took out of here when it closed, it took them two or three days when it closed to get all the money outta here, so I know they were making money, or they were taking money and some people think you're making money and you're not--

16:04:30
But anyway, after it closed, it sorta lay dormant here the man who owned it uh, he tried to run it as a hotel and by it sitting right on the edge of the black community and of course he was trying to run it like one of thehotels downtown, they didn't want blacks in here anymore, they had alot of problems, they raised the price when you came in to get a drink, or get a room or something to that effect and it just never did get off the ground floor. But after several years he started to partitioning out part of th place, like this place was cut oof and he had leased that out to some blakc people, and that went on for about two or three years and later on another gentlemen got it and leased the whole bar upto here and they made a nightclub out of it and that went on, but they couldn't get it going because nightclubs are not the thing in Las Vegas if you don't have gaming you can forget it. So then I had a club down the street about ten blocks from here and I had a full gaming license, we had twenty-one, slot machines, poker, we had a bar, a restaurant, and uh, but it was a very small place so I got the idea that the Moulin Rouge was laying dormant, there wasn't anything going on up here, so I kinda got the idea that maybe I'd like the idea of coming up here and trying to open something maybe moving the gaming up here and they said I was naive, I didn't know that you couldn't move your gaming license, I hadn't looked into it that much to know...

C.U. of Saran

16:06:11

(I'm curious at how can you be a woman and black and get a gaming license in Las Vegas, that was an accomplishment)--

Well, it wasn't easy--during the time I first got a gaming license in Hawthorne that was 1950 and during that time it wasn't hard to get a gaming license especially they didn't have a club then and all you would do is go downtown and get a business license, sorta--you had to fill out a little thing but not very much but then when I came to Las Vegas I had a club and tried to get a license and I wasn't able to get any, and then I moved to another location where I did have a full license when I moved here, it was hard, but not that hard, not hard like it was when I cam here. So by moving up closer to the big times or guys so its a but harder, the firther up you move the harder it is to get. So we moved came here with the intentions of putting gaming in here and after a year or so we would really be ablet o expand and make money and we would be able to do alot of other things, but it didn't work out that way. Because when I came here and I applied for the license they told me that I couldn't get any license because the landlord was unsuitable. So that put us back two or three years because we just had a bar trying to take care of all this expense and we lost alot of money being in here, but for some reason I guess the good lord kept us here for some reason and we stayed on fighting and with the power people because I'd been here for a long time and I knew everybody.

16:07:45

When I first moved here my son told me you're not going to be able to get any license up there, and I said oh yes I am, cause I know the governor, and I know this person and I know that person, but it happened just like he said..because after we put in they first gave us fifteen slot machines, no first before that they told me that I could have slot machines in here if I would get a vendor, that means slot machine operator to come in. So what would be the difference, I thought that if the operator was good enough to have 'em then why couldnt' I have 'em, I couldn' except that,

med. close of Sarah

(but the operator would've made the income not you, right?)

Yes, yes, But that shows you that gaming could be in here but I couldn't have it so then I said I was going to continue to try and do whatever's necessary, so then they finally told me that if you buy the place we'd consider giving you the license. By that time I'd spent alot of money and I didn't have that much money to start with so I thought if we'd gotten the license on our own it would've been a really booming fabulous place. So then I proceeded to buy the place and after I bought the place then money was getting low so then I put in I had a restricted gaming license and every six months they would want me to come back, see how you're doing in six months, so naturalloy when that six months and I'd have to go back then I'd have to spend more moeny putting in another application I did that about three times because I remember one time one of the guys on theboard told me you've made history because you've been before this board more times than anybody ever.

16:09:15

So finally we went before the board and we got a non-restricted license what we have now, there's two kinds of licenses, non-restriceted and restricted, non-restricted yo9u can have anything that any hotel or anyone else has. But you have to have the money to have that like now we only have two poker tables and fifteen slot machines. But if we had themoney I'd put in 250 slot machines and maybe four or five tables, but now we're in the process of trying to get some money to uh, refurbish the palce so we can do some marketing and make it an upstanding nice place because we want to be like some of our competitors around here--the palce is old and it need alot of work down to it but then we've exhausted alot of our funds we've been here eleven years, so all that time you keep spending money holding on and holding on. And its really been tough, but as I look back it was really just a chore to me because I been working in the commubnity on many things, trying to get a fair housing bill and I worked alot with the NAACP I was working alot with that and it was just a fight that I had gotten used to doing and now that Ilook back at all the things I did accomplish and I wonder how did I do that. If I looked back at all the things I knew like I know now I would've said let me go somewhere and get me a job and forget it! Because it has been very rewarding as far as knowing alot of people, meeting alot of people, getting alot of experience, uh, it hasn't been that rewarding financiallym naturally, because it has hardly made a living---at some time in point we'd make a fair salary and at other times we wouldn't because it really wasn't here--so there's really really been a struggle and its been more of a struggle in the past couple of years, trying to get funds and I'm nota quitter and I'm not about to give up, but sometimes I wonder with all the places that's going on getting licenses andg etting help, why we can't get any.

(So you mentioned you got used to the struggle that this isn;t the only struggle you've had in Las Vegas, do you feel Las Vegas is a striggle for everyone?)

16:11:31

No, I don't thinks its a struggle for everyone, just moreso for black people, I can't say that's it not there are some other people that struggle, too, but I think black people struggle more throughout the world United States, I don't know anything about the other parts of the country that much. Las Vegas in particular because you know when we came here there was only 10,000 people in Las Vegas and my father came here to work out at Henderson at that plant--and the west side was just about like then not too much difference, I can point out everything that's new over there and when you use both fingers on both hands, to me to see thetown grow and growing all around and we're still in a little hole. There should be something in some way that something can be done to help this area and they always make alot of excuses, like when I was trying to get some money thet say well how many management skills, and whatever, and they say that's one of the reasons we haven't been able...but I look at it like if a person been in business for forty years and stayed in business with nothing, if I had something then I could be like Steve Wynn maybe! Because I think its uhm really...commendable to see a person struggle and stay in business alot of people start out and quit, but we'vebeen able to hang on for some unfortunate

wide w/J. in frame

reason, maybe its because we're gonna get something going one of these days--

So that's the struggle that I'm talking about and as I look back um, then it sorta worried me a little but more because we haven't made enough progress. And when I say we I mean black people as a whole, not just me. Because there been alot of businesses start up over here, and during the time it was integrated the black businesses fared much better then they did after they integrated. Of course I fought very hard for the integration because I felt it would be much better, for alot of people to get a piece of the pie than just a few. Since about 1942, I remember because I started working in the clubs about 1947, during that time all the entertainers that came to town and there were many, all of 'em had to stay in West Las Vegas--because they only had two or three clubs on the Strip but they weren't allowed to live over there--they had to live on the West side, so me being working in the clubs I met all the entertainers like I'm talkin' to you--and that was Sammy Davis the Mill Brothers, the Inkspots, Pearl Bailey, everubody that played on the Strip came to the West side because this is where they lived, and when they came over here they cme to theblack clubs and of course I was the dealer so I dealt to all of them and had conversation with them, the Traniers, and Peg Leg Bates and the common party at the big show room at the Cotton Club and they had a big showroom in the back, because they could not stay on the strip.

c.u. of Sarah

16:14:42
And then it went on like this for a long time and finally they let some of them stay out there but they couldn't gamble or get involved, they had to come back here, so naturally the people who had the clubs on the West side was doing fantastic but they was only about six or seven little black clubs, but I guess the biggest income that people was involved with during that time was construction, but other people they didn't have any black teachers or doctors, lawyers, no people working for the big companies, they may have had one black person working for the telephone co., maybe one, power company same way. And so there was just no jobs where blakcs could get jobs so blacks could have money to do this things..

(So what jobs were available?)

Uh, porters, maids, jobs and a few people worked at service stations and maybe one or two worked at some store like the dress shops..there was a few jobs like that, and alot of people wroked out at the plant in Henderson, and then I can't remember what year that the Test Site was built then that brought in alot of people and more blacks worked up there, and they started making more money in those areas but segregation wasn't--I mean integration wasn't passed until maybe 1962, somewhere in there when the NAACP was sorta responsible for what they call a census, they had to hire so many blacks for a certain percentage. So when they did do that they did that right away, they hired alot of blacks and they started getting off into getting better jobs and they started moving out to nicer areas and getting better homes and I can understand that too, however it did make the black community weak and left other people out,

made it like a slum area so to speak because they went on the other side of town where they were building better houses so naturally they was spending their money over there so but then I think it was good that people have a right to love whereever they saw fit to.

16:16:58

wide of S. in frame

good v.o. for drive-bys

But then the West side have never been able to get oof the ground floor, I can almost count on one hand the number of buildings that have been built in West Las Vegas and that's been 53 years...and uh the other part of town you can tell if there wasn't 10,000 people over here, now we have a million and now the town is growing like wildfire and it just grows and sweeps right over West Las Vegas...they claim all the time that this is good land over here, the area is high and it does not flood and all those kinda things, but for some reason there's just never been any real investment over in this area. I guess I have my reasons, some of them that maybe people feel like there's not enough people over here to support it I hardly think that's the case because they're building in other areas and they're even opening up new areas where there's nobody...

16:17:58

(You said earlier you knew alot of people in power because you'd been here for a long time...why weren't you able to effect their help for you?)

Well you know um, I think when people--this goes for everybody--when people tend to move up a little bit then they have a tendency not to fall back, not too many people help you when they move up, and this happens in all races and all people, when people move up a little bit they don't reach back and I gues rightfully so you don't have to if you don't want to---and that's one of my main ambitions if I ever make enough money, I was just saying to someone last night, I want to have enough money that everybody who ask me for some i can give it to 'em even if its only a dollar! I would like to have enough monsy where I could make a difference you know to help people because uh ...I have had some help and I've had alot of people that was nice to me but not enough to make alot of difference financially. And I think people that I did know--after they get in certain positions its hard for them to do something directly, so at this point --a Senator and I know you very well and you can't come and say I'd like for you to do this and this, and its very hard because they have other people thay have to answer to, so sometimes it make 'em shy away from you because they're not able to do what they'd like to do, and I think that that could be some of the reason that people have not done certain things becuase all the elected officials and especially now they are ruled by other people and the people in power are the people that's got the money...and they do basically what they want to do they may not believe this themselves, but this is the way it is because you notice that all these people that are in power, they get what they want. They're the the ones that have the money for donations to keep you in office, so why would you stop?

16:19:57

We've never tried to market th place because --and I think we made a mistake--we felt like we wanted to get it to a better condition because we hated to have

people come over and point out to ourselves like we need a new carpet a new this...but if it had been pointed out to us six or seven years ago, maybe now we would've had more things going, but we have alot of people that come over here...black and white, we have as many white people who's curious to know about the black history. Its beginning to be known now because we've been in alot of magazines and we've had a chance to be interviewed in some of the others like Ebony, but we were trying to wait until we had something to offer before we go in Ebony and people start coming and saying this run down place is where they're asking people to come? So we've been sitting here hoping and we've had a lot of good leads for some reason, and uh but I do think once we get it off the ground floor that its going to be a place where people come because of the black history.

16:21:00
And this is something that I haven't thought of until the last three or four years about history, because I always considered myself a very modernistic person, I didn't want anything old I wanted everything to be new. But I realized now and I'm sure you do, too, that history's the thing, everybody's going back to history so I think people would enjoy coming to see what was really happening. And then I noticed they were doing alot of documentaries alot of history about Las Vegas, and nowhere did they ever mention anything about the Black community so this gave me a different thought on putting something together, because this one documentary that I saw I forgot the man's name because he's been here i think 52 years, and he had not one black person in this whole documentary except Lena Horne and she was in a show at the Flamingo and they showed the show and they showed her...and I'm pretty sure that after being here 52 years, unless he was blind, deaf or something that he couldn't see something that he wasn't involved with. I often think and I didn't think too much about it years ago because my father came here years ago at an early age and he helped to build Las Vegas...he and a white fellow went together and they bought--they had the first plant here that made those blocks that they build buildings out of? I remember them pooling their little resources together and they opened up this plant, they didn't get to be big time because someone else came along with alot of money and billed then out because they had alot of money...but I thought it was something that they could've said about bringing the black along with the other part of history.

c.u. Sarah

16:22:34 (camera goes off a little here)
So now our aim is to have a museum here and we're gonna have a hall of fame and a walk of fame and we're gonna collect all the history that we can about Las Vegas, particularly about blacks, its not just blacks only, there's been some other people here that have helped the black people, and this place it wasn't forty years old that it come to be an historic sight, but it had to have something, two or three things that have happened here...one they had a person, a significant person, and that was Joe Lewis that was connected with this hotel. And they had something significant happen here and that was that the agreement that was signed in this building to end segregation and this was way after the hotel was built, about 62 somewher in there.

c.u. Sarah

(camera OK now)
So the people that did that was about three or five whites and blacks the black leaders got together with some of the people from downtown and they had a roundtable discussion down here to lift segregation and that was the two things that caused us to get it on the National Register before the 50 years because its only 40 years old. So naturally we had our first induction into the hall of fame two years ago and we had the second one and then that hall of fame we have Grant Sawyer one of our past governors who was a very fine man and helped to get things going in Nevada and one of the leaders in this was Hank Greenspun, he owned the newspaper and he was a man that believed in everubody and he was a fair man, so he was the one that pulled them together. And at that time we had Buth Lipole was the Sheriff and Celeste Turner I think his name was the commissioner, and a couple of others and we got the picture around here somewhere where it was taken. So those people will be in the hall of fame wil be our first inductees every year. So this past year we inducted thirteen people every year and these people were people were working in the forfront at that time out there to push Las Vegas.

C.U. Sarah

16:24:53
(What about being a woman in Las Vegas?)
You know I haven't found any drawbacks really being a woman , matter of fact in some cases I've found it kind of an asset to being a woman. Maybe that's juts me being naive you know how some men they are macho that a man'd gotta do everything but I'm a firm believer that um pretty soom women are gonna take over anyway because if they just give us a chance we're gonna do a better job than they do, that's my belief. I'm always pushing for women to be out front, and I notice now particularly with the Afro American women are getting alot of the chances and getting alot of the good jobs where black men are not moving too fast as far as top positions, you know as far as a doctor or lawyer or something, but I'm talking about these top jobs that come to my mind that I have about five friends here who has top jobs that make more money than any blakc man in town unless its some professional person like a dr. or lawyer.

wide

I feel like that womenare on themove and I think that we could do even better if we pushed it a little harder, sorta like slipped up on us that now women are out there fighting much harder than they used to, it was kinda like they always took the baclk seat because the man was supposed to be out front, but this younger new generation is not doing that so much anymore, they're out there pushing and I think that we gonna wind up seeing a woman governor, we already have owmen in the senate, women--probably go further than that we're gonna have a woman president, and I don't think its too far away...I didnt see too much especially in my area, of course I worked around with alot of organisations and I found being a woman was a handicap to me, when I was working with NAACO I was v.p and I was right up front with alot of things, and I was the woman that put the Nevada Black Chamber together and I was the Pres. fo two years and that was saying something that they would appoint me the president when it got started. I guess I was always a person that had the personality that maybe I wasn't that smart I had the personality that people liked me and felt like I could be the right person to be in those positions.

wide - Zooms in

16:27:20
Several years ago they decided that they wanted to run a black person for city commissioner and they came to me abnd said they wanted to run me and I had been naive about alot of things and I said me? I know nothing about politics, you know I'd helped other people and they said you'll have to learn like other people and so finally they twisted my arm and I went home and said where on earth am I gonna get the money to run for commissioner because I said that's probably gonna cost 1,000 dollars, that's how dumb I was...I didn't know much money was invloved...that wasn't even enough to buy the stamps to mail to tell them I was even running..but after I got onvolved and naturally I was working in one area that broadened my scope to the other side of the fence to find out what was happening...

And when I ran I did extremely well matter of fact I won in the primary so that gave me the first woman and the first black person that ever won the primary, and uh I felt that that was an honor so now I was getting more confident in what I was doing. IN the general I ran against an incumbent he was aman, he was an attorney, and he was white...so I had everything against me to run in that race. So when it was over they announced that I had won...and like five minutes later they came back and said they had made a mistake that he had won.
So I never have been a hard loser, I was with my work, and everybody was so excited and they was mad but I wasn't you know hey--that's just the way the cookie crumbled...and I had people that come to me and say I was cheated, and they were going to do a recount, but my thing was I wasn't going to spend a dime to spend a dime to do a recount because if you took this out here, and you go back , what makes you think its gonna change? Well they might have done something...

16:29:48
There's not one woman who has a gaming license, I remember a lady came from San Francisco, I think her name was Briggs, and she ran the Tropicana for a short while--I think she had alot of--this is just hearsay, I have no proof, but she was a woman in there and finally lost all her money and left. But I can't hink of no other woman I guess other then connected with her husband, and I'm connected to my husband but I stand in front, like Steve Wynn and his wife, I think she plays a big part but he's in front, and in my case my son and my husband's with me but everybody always look to me because I was the one that started it you know because i was in gaming when my son was a very small child and i had four kids and they all worked in gaming on the Strip, one of them was the first black dealer on the Strip, the other downtown..

(When did that happen)
late sixties I guess, one son was a baccarrat boss at Ceasars for seventeen years and the one that's here with me

TAPE 17B: Sarann outside Moulin Rouge, Interview Continues...

17:00:00
...fized up nice, but we kinda lost interest cause we cant get no money to do what we want to do...We were waitng for an overall renovation, because we've spent alot of money having the trees trimmed, and we've had parties out here and different affairs whch have of course been very successful, that's one of the largest pools in Las Vegas when it was built because they didn't have very many other hotels in Las Vegas, there were only about five other hotels.

17:01:12
I really must get a list because people ask me that all the time, I've had several people who've said they lived here, there was a Dr. that came from Denver, Dr. Miller who was a prominent dentist here in town he got married here, but other famous people like Sammy Davis and all them I can't remember if they lived here or where they lived, during that time they could stay on the strip in 1955, no ai guess that couldn't--alot of the band leaders lived here, that's during the time I had the place in hawthorne...Deedee could fill you in. This right here they opened this up, hopefully when we could get the monet we're gonna fix it like it was, kinda like it was in the beginning.

17:02:49
It would seem to me that somebody would want to put some money into this just for the history part of it, and to have a nice place like this sitting right in the middle, we;re only five minutes from downtown its a disgrace to have all this over here and in five minutes every thing is glitz and glitter, but we haven't had any luck, but we haven't had one dime from the city, one thing they did was to put some money into making the study, bt what they did when they did that they just paid the people who did the study, but we've never received a penny--they didn't even like the study so the money was wasted. If they hadda gtiven us the 200,000 dollars we probably could have fixed it up a bit instead of still standinghere with nothing...probably the little revenue...we have fifteen slot machines and a few poker tables and two bars and that's barely enough to meet the debt service, that means that when I pay everybody else and when I don't have any I don't get any...

Sarann standing outside

Oh that keeps me going, I feel like its a good project and I like to be in gaming, its the only thing I know my whole life I been in volved in it keeps me going, and I think its a good project and I want to finish it, as soon as I finish it I can rest and retire, I want to see it get off the ground and blossom because it vertainly would be an assett to the black community.

(bad street sound, traffic

17:04 :39 Wide shot of Moulin outside
Shot of Sarann walking out of Moulin

17:05:19
It feels exciting becaus it feels like we're getting ready to do something.

I think the Moulin rouge would be very unique it could stand for a place where you could reminisce, it would stand for alot of history, certainly a step forward in the black community, and because blacks do not have anything outstanding in this area and of course haven't participated in Las Vegas over the fifty-three years I think its time for us to have something and I think it certainly could be a place to have history for people other than blacks...I figure it would be a great place to come and see something different we want to have good food great food, and have a place where everybody's friendly, and everybody's welcome, we want people from all walks of life and from all over the country to see the Moulin Rouge because it will be different, it will be one of a kind in Las Vegas and maybe trhoughout the world because to my knowledge there is no other place like this place.

17:06:50
Well there times when I come here I just mentioned this morning to my mother because my sister works here sometimes when there are so many workers who take off sick and I said to my mother when am I gonna be able to take off sick and she said why do you wann be sick and I said because it seemed like there were so many others with a day off, taking off sick, but I never wake up with a painful day, I always wake up motivated , have my notes ready to see what I'm gonna do next, so it hasn't been painful that way, it frustrating sometimes when I have my back up against the wall and I can't seem to make progress as far as getting any finances to do something here...

17:07:44
I don't know anything about any other places, I think that the opportinities would be greater for me in this area that don't exist in any other places they don't have gaming just in a few places and youi know gaming has't been prevelant and just in the past few years, so this is why this place...because there's no blacks that have been involved only in ther ecent years and I mean in the last year I read in the papers...but we've been struggling here as blacks for a long time there's only two places in Las Vegas that had gaming, blacks and the other place the Town Tavern is unfortunately not open at the moment.

use

17:08:39
I think its because noone have had the experience or the opportunity a chance to go into gaming, way back then they didn't have no women involved like women dealers which is basically how you get started its how i got started--by working at an early age in gaming and then I just had a knack for it and wanted to get involved, because that' the only thing I really need to do I think they have alot of women dealers across town, and I have heard alot of people say they want to get their own place, but if they only knew what a struggle it was to get your own place and its been a struggle for all these years.

I like about gaming because its sort of a business where you get to meet alot of people, its fascinating, I certainly don't indulge in gaming myself, i went out just the other night, and I didn't even know how to play the slot machines because I don't gamble and I don't drink and I don't smoke, but I certainly wonder myself, why did you ever go in the liquor business moreso than gaming and I absolutely

cannot tolerate of stand a drunk, and I think that's so funny because I'm in the liquor business but gaming is just fascinating and I remember at an early age I used to like to play tweny-one.. just a little bit... and all the time I've been in Las Vegas I've never lost more than five hundred dollars, I've always wanted to be the person on the other side of the table, I've always wanted to be the person that takes the moeny and not spend it.

Yes, I do deal, I started out as a Keno runner, I've worked on a crap table I've worked in the poker, behind the bar and I've been a waitress and I've been a porter in my own place I've done a little of everything, so I wound up being a very versatile person and i think that helped because if you just know one little thing then you don't have to depend on someone else. And even right now I come in there's alot of things if the bathroom needs cleaning and something needs to be done..and I cook too...I do it--I think that helps being in the business knowing a little bit about everything in the business.

17:11:13

Has it been a good thing--I believe in progress I certainly would not like to see it like it was when I first came here, because I remember when they had no houses in Las Vegas on this side of town and the other side too because I remember when Huntridge was built ..and alot of the other little places and I think the growth has been absolutely fantastic I think now it should slow down a little bit because the town is growing to fast for us to keep up with it, the traffic is getting out of hand and they need to slow down a little bit.

I remember being in Las Vegas when nobody had a key to the house I remember my mother we didn't have a key to the house, we could walk anywhere in town and wasn't afraid to walk, downtown and everywhere...it had some advantages and also some disadvantages and now that it has grown there's more opportunity for people, and now we have...stadiums..

17:12:29
Since I've been here all of my adult life I think I should have a part of this, too, since I've been in the struggle and been sort of out there sometimes it make you wonder you put all your time and effort and then they come here in the later years and they get all the gravy so to speak...right people at the right place at the right time...Do I think that they did network? I think very much so, I think eventually it will go out there, its been that way for years the old boys network, but its getting weaker and weaker and one of these days they gonna figure it out like anything else they gonna grow out of it, they'll get older and weaker...but it carries on when they leave and their sons take over...

It has changed tremendously since I came here with the gaming--during those days it was almost like one man owned the club and you knew him and so forth but now we dont' know who own the clubs and all of them do have spokespersons out front and going in, you don't know who to talk to, can't get to the right person...and I think its a difference now that the companies are owned by more cooperations and it makes it harder..

TAPE 19B--Cathy Saxe Performance

Jodie: The Continental Hotel is proud to present an Old Showgirl, who in keeping with traidion has mistaken the choreography and direction the choreography of Andrani Clarke--here she is Ms. Cathy Saxe:

00:10:17
Cathy: These are distinctly amiable surroundings. As vice-chair person of the greater Las Vegas Chamber, I am pleased to welcome you to excitement city, where a star-struck public is taken for a forty dollar ride twice a night, Las Vegas U.S.A.

We are a two-faced city, the familiar face of posh resorts and the face known only to our perennials, erroneously assumed to be living in tents behind the hotels while in fact they live in mobile homes. We do not use a kid gloves approach toward arttracting visitors there is twenty four hour boogy-woogying. Pojer machines are everywhere, I think they breed. And both humans and females can expericne the as yet unproven coorelation between greed and sex. We do not keep the problems of our tourists under our hats. They are as obvious as the hairdo.

00:02:45
Nototious concerned individuals in Sicily can strangle the initiative and growth of Las Vegas, and ideas of expansion would be discarded. As for my subject keeping the tourist sedate and docile, it fdatigues me at the moment and I don't want to talk about it. Besides I've got problems of my own. You see this is the dilemma of Las Vegas and the world, how do we maintain our thrust foward on the domestuc scene , our exaggerated posture on the world front yet keep the average tourist happy. You gamble, you too may lose your shirt. But let me impart some bare truths about exploitation...as I see it. lets not skirt the issue. We'll change our persective and take a look at the bottom line. Put an asterix on that...maybe a half-asterix will do. Now this is just women's work--but bare with me here...

CATHY PERF. 19B

The brilliant philosopher Sheckie Green saids so aptly there has been many a slip between working and good taste...many of you are asking by now what is she doing up there--many of me are asking the same question...there will be a QA later, in the meantime I am freezing up here---

(music) 00:05:33
Dances the Showgirl walk with feather

whoops knees together its a clean show--clean show, dirty show--my kneecaps are sagging-- cant go onstage with anything sagging you gotta get your kneecaps up...make little faces in them...you can tell I'm not wearing any

makeup I wake up like this twice a day--but its my own hair, and you all got so grey....

00:07:16
So long, so beautiful, so gone...(puts on another wig) My tiara, its the entire costume from my last show--it was very flattering. I'm a winter you know, which is not to say I was a stripper I'm a showgirl but we should get rid of this--hit it Maestro--take it off...OK...I hope everything isin place...story of my life.
Stay (to constume) is that an endangered species? I know I am, sometimes I get lipstick on my teeth, let me just check to see if everything is till there...What a pretty girl.

This is a G-string--G-string, G-string...a little history on how theG-string got its name--we'll call this an educational session that way you can take me off your taxes. Not you sir. Its Gstring from the fiddle, because the strippers used this, it was the thinnest strongest string to keep the patch in place and it never broke--does it hurt? You bet but I've got callouses built up--you should see what its doing to my coxics, that's that bunch of bones at the base of your spine--I doubt that I shall ever ride a bicycle again. The French call it sexy--to me its a chastity belt. Notice? I did my front bump to the side--you don't do front bumps to the front you do side bumps to the frnt down up side bumps up dowm left side right side bumps, bump front, belly bumps diaganal...you got that? That's choreography.

00:10:30

Now doing bumps--I'm addicted to the bumps that's just part of my job. There's a showgirl walk--showgirl doesn't simply walk across the stage in a regular walk. Well its a condition refelx response. And it all starts with a showgirl smile. Can you see my brain through there. See what you do is you stick your fingers in your mouth, and you say the alphabet--W,X,Y,Z...try it it will improve your sex life. Now in the wings getting ready for the showgirl parade, warm-ups continue--you gotta get up on the balls of your feet. Bend the knees, shock absorbers, musn't jiggle, you know. Getting ready to present the important stuff. Wher ewere we?

Balls of the feet, shock this, buns out, boobs up, shoulders back, ain't opera, arms out, OK. Now we may proceed. Arms out--like this, not like that becasue everybody's got that, gotta hide that and this isa ll very fingers, known to Las Vegas as...(music)...Tits and Ass . Got myself a fancy pair, take a look there's something there, I have got it made top to bottom tits and ass. I got the bingo bongo drums--look at my maracas cause I'm fine..tits and ass--never look and never crack--and I do it all with ....class. (end music and applause)

00:13:29
We gotta bounce down to bounce up fast--my knees work hard because see these little rhinestones there, they catch you eyes before I do--they're sewn to your tights-- walkin like that you knpw she's stuck--up on prongs that get caught in your tights, how can you look at me like that when you're sittn' right nest to

your own wife...let's go for a nature walk...(Music)--when I first wore this in the fifties I was a three---diet---I put it in the dishwasher, you know, I thought it was crystal? You've heard of women's equality? Well, equal this honey--(sings) I'm just a simple greek girl from Chicago, Chicago...(bellydances) its a hell of a town--that's my birdcall. (music ends)

So who's here from Chicago. Did you know Sam Spermatazoa? I met Sam up on Rush street, see I had to run away from home when I was twenty-one, because my parents wouldn't let me date nice greek boys and there's no such thing--and I left Chicago because of the chill factor. When I came to Las Vegas, there's Sam. And I said Sam? What are you doing here, and Sam says I own the joint, kid. Well, put me to work--whatcha wanna do? I would like to do the least amount of work for the most amount of money...Sam says--yeah, see the Bell captain--nice girls don't do that, I mean real work--Ok, go see Nick, audition for the show...I did it, I got it, and I am still doing it. So now--for me, everytime the curtain goes up, its not just another show, its a comeback..because I am the oldest working Showgirl in Las Vegas.

00:17:06

I know I'm old when men don't call me broad anymore, and I start calling them "narrow." I know I'm old when I've already worked every room in town that's when I know I'm old, old, old. I know I'm old when my shrink says "you're simply suffering from an aging mannequin syndrome...say penis..I know I'm suffering when I can't suck in my neck anymore, I know I'm old when guys tell me to keep my eyes open and my mouth shut, and I'vehad so many facelifts I can't do either and there are bruises on my stomach from the liposuction, I know I'm old when hap;py hour means naptime and I used to say its infrequently now thats a single word, I make a shelf out of the boobs and those slide off and folks start begging me please put on your clothes--that's when I know I'm old, old, old...
(music) in a G-string or a beaded gown--I wear a smile i never frown because I'm the oldest working showgirl in this town, or your town or any town...
Thanks for coming to my therapy session...thanks Las Vegas...that's all folks...

00:19:19

I really want to be remembered as a lady--and when its time for me to quit...there'll be some kind of sign...that's all I've got.

(sitting down)
Alright I'm not speaking to you either--I just did it--that was it--put my wig on--we older women, yeah...am I the oldest woman here, sixty-two--how many shows have I done? Let's see I probably done 12,000 15,000 shows I don't know--my first job was at the thunderbird, I think to the Sahara, I was the most American girl in the world, then I went back to the Flamingo, where Sam still owned the place..and he says get rid of her, and the choreographer stood up for me, he said "I have really spent alot of time on that girl, and if I can't have her..and he said, don't cry...and now I've got some experience going, you know, I was at the Sands I was an original Sands Copa girl, I worked for Minsky at the Frontier, we

wore bighats, and the big shows there, I was wonderful Parisiam showgirl in the Folies Bergere, and then I came out of the ceiling at the Stardust Lido...my ladies are here!...

Is this your comeback...you're in for it..that's my roomate and ex-roomate, go figure...what else?

When did you retire?
That was in seventy-two because I quite accidentally got a job with the convemtion, the California Bricklayers association sent word backstage they wanted a showgirl, not a dancer a showgirl who could talk, so they sent me out, there was 500 ladies and I was telling them how they treat me...you know they weren't very nice to me, especially, I know that's my right leg and that's my lefyt leg, you know, and uh, then they said can we come and see the show tonight, and those 500 ladies were 1500 people...and in the opening number in front of the blue light with the tour group from Tokyo, you know with one arm in the kitchen, I'm over there and the whole house is applauding, my colleagues are mad at me, I really wanted to not go backstage again, so when that show closed I closed with it, and listen to this one, by that time they wanted me to keep my job, because I was starting to work conventions, that was my therapy, I got it all out, and the people used to come and see the show--they would only applaud when I was on stage and I had the dumbest spot in the whole show--you know the lady that gave me my start doing that--the lady that said Cathy something happens when you're on stage, she never explained what it was--that lady, Miss Bernie Lenz..one of themroe important people in my life--they got me down to the studio, they had a video camera... kept making walk and talk..so its a gift...

00:25:31
You know I gotta keep my gifts humbly, and just be grateful for 'em, if there are any...what dd you do in the daytime...I fashioned modeled...Bernie had so many fashion shows, the big trunk shows, she always used me in all that, I must confess my bones were a little big for that, I was a twelve, size twelve--but I kept myslef real skinny--

The difference between dancers and showgirls, OK, I got it, showgirls can walk in public....dancers can't. I was just going over that with my director, the wonderful Andrani Clark (applause) I gotta take this out--I really have very pretty hair...what am I doing now? I'm about to enroll in an art history class and and a painting class. I'm really interested in the graphic arts... there's the ladies from my sewing circle, yeah...I belong to the fashion floozies,. the greatest sewing ladies in the whole world.. hey, I made this, I'm gonna make you one two and I made the wonderful outfit my Chamber of Commerce lady comes out in, too. What other costumes? Alot of clothes and stuff...

00:27:40
Gets up (people laugh)
I had fourteen years lecturing at conventions on what its like to be a showgirl so it took me fourteen years so I took what got the most laughs, once you take a piece of anything you're doing anything you start you say OK this is going to be

my piece of work...I don't know if this is art, is this art? but the work takes you away with it, andyou start writing new stuff for it, its a piece of work I started that took its own course...1972...I don't think my director was born them--porquio pas? This Rosemary has her own ballet academy in town...you've got a policeman for me? Oh boy...

TAPE 20B--Cathy Saxe with Audience

I don't know how they found me...I'm retired I'm talking to my dog, I'm doing yard work scooping poop, trying to impress my roomates with what a good landlady I am, and the phone rings and says yeah this is Phil Donahue, oh yeah sure, he says no, it really is and we want you on our show--I said how to you did you find me, I said I haven't been around, they said we read some publicity on you, what publicity I don't know, but I said no, because those people notoriously do not pay their guests, and I said save your dime, I am not going to get on a plane and go to N.Y. to make money for Phil Donahue, and I said I have no agenda, no axe to grind, he says well talk to me anyway, and I knew I had him.
So I did five minutes for him, and he said I'll talk to my producers and see if we can get you scale, and the next day he called and I was in the yard--we were both in the yard, semantics...and I think the call is important, let me take it inside, and they were gonna pay me 550 dollars, which I shall report. So that makes this deductible..

Camera roams audience-jerky

00:31:24

Miss Ruta, the ballerina on the plane, and they had a limo waiting for us, and Ruta and I said oh its raining in N.Y. and I said you know we should know enough to get in out of here..and then on the show they sit me next to her, you know, I think I got a complex. Showgirls...I was invited to give my expert opinion on the film, I told the guy I hadn't seen it, he said its alright you'll have a screening when you get there...I got there I called the Phil Donahue office and said I gotta get down there and look at that movie now, and they said ih that's alright you don't have to look at the movie, and they said would you mind coming at 3:15 we're taping at 4..and would you mind riding down with the critic, and I thought oh that's very auspicious company, so I rode it wasn't ruta I went down real real late, so Phil says alright Cathy how didja like the movie, and I said I haven't seen a movie since a Man for All Seasons...which is an overstatement yu know i do watch TV so then we got off of that--and he mainly wanted to know about the mafia in Las Vegas like I know, I only know from Sam, and this guy from Chicago, nobody would talk to him and they were all afraid of him, that way I don't have to put anything in the trust fund...I live the babies (baby crying)...I'm a great aunt now....

CATHY PERF. 20B

Applause...thanks for coming---(she comes off the stage) Can somebody turn me off?

(Mixes with people...)
And then when will my tummy come back--oh no, did you have to do that, this is John he's gonna be starring in A Man from La Mancha, John Mackay, my friend, see am I important or what? John--Oh my god Bernie...thank you for inviting us--I got to see several signs of you...many of me are asking the same questions...I kept myself nice and dumb for class..absolutely adorable...I'm just as loud as

you are, it was wonderful and you didn't miss one line--I was you director--I'm glad you came, and I will always love you...you can swivel your hips better than me? You gotta lean for belly dance, then you keep your back leg face down and then you put the ball of your foot on the ground and pretend like you're snuffing out a cigarette, nothing to do it, easy...talented or nercy...

00:36:20
These are the ladies from my sewing circle, oh yeah the fashion floozies, sorry ma'am, she's an ex-schoolteacher, that's a rag mink she's wearing she made, rag mink coat, is that beautiful, Ok, now... we enjoyed you so much...I wouldn't have stumbled so much but I was so afraid of falling off the stage, Rosebud, it was not easy...did you see the etage they gave me? We rehearsed at the university, in one of the studios because Andrani is a dance major and she'll be performing her thesis performance..

I remembered to say I know I'm old, I have a crib note--did i say las Vegas enough? She says you gotta say Las Vegas all the time..

Cathy I just adore you--and you know we've known each other thirty years--see, wer're still kickin' and this lady is Miss Senior Clarke County the winner and she's going to be competing in Ms. Senior Nevada next month...

I went to a meeting on Sunday--oh we go to the same church--there's alot of us here...I didn't know...

(Cathy walks to room)

00:39:41

(Undressing)
You know what I knew that with all the rehearsals and everything and all the chancy rehearsals--I didn't like doing the runthrough with the sound check the way it was it was throwing me off, I kept feeling like I should stop, and I did stop so my runthrough was nothing but I didn't have any fear about doing the show I felt that the same thing that a;ways happens to me, once I get in front of an audience at that poijt I would switch into something else that goes on with me, therefore that was my expectations, that it would be a nice smooth show, do you minc if I take this off now, this thing is killing me. When I see the tape, I'm gonna check my script against the tape and see how many lines I broke...no I felt real good about it, I felt so good about --Ive got all these friends that I called and invited to the show--its kind of a rare experience for one to see all their friends together, and I didn't have to have a big party at my house, and I felt the love, like they really like me, but of course some people didn't show up...

(What was it like being on stage after all those years?)
Just like I was never off. It was um, I felt like I always felt on stage nothing changed, same thing, on stage do your thing, be terrific, same thing, I have a poem, that uh I remind myself of its in the preface to the Great Gatsby, I can't

remember the...Fitzgerald, did he write the great Gatsby or did he write the poem, uh, it goes...well then wear the gold hat if that will suit them, and if you can jump high, jump for them too until they cry oh gold-hatted high-jumping lover I must have you...yeah on stage, you're had, they possess you, you belong to them, they have you, all of you, do you fell that--so I had my gold hat on and I was jumping as high as I could and dancing as fast as I can, I feel like being on stage is second nature to me, because as a kid in my thoroughly dysfunctional family, I was the comedian, if I told jokes, then they loved my, they paid attention to me, the boy, the elder was not the most important thing in the family, because I had made a funny. So its died in the wool stuff for me. And uh I feel almost more real on stage, nobody interrupts me, I get to talk, with friends they always come in and say, yeah but yeah but yeah but--its like an audience is bound byt the law of being an audience to be effective listeners. And I can talk. I can finally talk unstiffled.

Continue

00:44:13

So being on stage is ... hah, no that is ok I will just crutch down. Hey I am gratefu that I did not have a mascetomy. Ya know there are a lot of I have a l0t of ya know what did coming down I prayed it is out of my hands. I am just going to go there and do it. Ya know when I had to stand back in the with no mirror ya know I had a little bit of nervousnous. When I held my hand out I said damb I will be darned. It is like reading for a play and the script is just going all over the place. Oh Oh well. It happens. So you know I was bragging tho everyione that I was not going tobe nervous. What was my lat show that I did? It was very closrt to 1985. It feel good. Ya know what else feels good? I don't have pack my stuff alone and go home alone and see my dog alone and who wonders where have you been. Which reminds me I would do all my shows and then I would pack up and no body cared, the audience would go home and through all the adoration and all the smiles and complements and photographs and audographs people would ask "can I touch you?" When it is over the audience is gone and itis just me. There is the adrenline high form doing thie performance and I an like dead in a vacuum and it is very and I am all by myself and it has been a hour and fifteen minute show ya know and just tell my dog "hey I was terrific." And then take the check to the bank. The check from all the engagements.

00:47:26

Ah oh I need those and I need to put my shoes on Ya know the same dog is waiting for me there and the room mate is not even going to be there. He is a great dan his name is Zorba Zues. Because I wanted him to know he was Greek.

Do you still feel like a showgirl?

I wlaways felt theat working as a sg was a part in a play and my part was to act like a showg while I was on stage. and I always thought that all this time while I was working as a showgirl I was doing the imatation of a showgirl. No I feel like

an artist I mean like a grafic artist. I feel like a seamstress. I dno't feel like a show gilr. Sometimes I I feel like a woman.

What did you feel like when you were on stage?

I felt empowered. Which is one of the reasons that going back to ah going back to the being a died on the wall the inborn the entertainer I felt like ah Ya know that saying term oh well that person has low self esteem. Well in my life I had a lot of that. and I felt very important on stage I feel powerful I feel like a person, who actually a can make a change move a mountain, stimulate thinking, change someones thinking and change some minds I feel effective. I feel, effective I feel very good. The power to ...Not something bad. I feel very good I feel a power to love being a love and capable of doing the hard physical stuff of being on stage. Its demanding.

00:50:35

It took a lot of courage to get back up there at 62. How does it feel now that it is over?

I am glad it is over. I realized that when I quit doing this the same stuff came to play like it is such hard work . I am pretty well intouch with my personal inssues. Being put down as a kid and ignored and I have down all work to nuture the little child within me and love myself and I truly do not need at this time to get back on stage. Yes I guess something majic happens when you get back on stage. That is gift . If something majic happens I guess being nice and tall that is a gift. I ve got this brain that writes and retains things that is a gift. Every bit of it anypart of my talents and physical parts - I don't have the vanity I have the gratitude.

Bernice
20B

00:00:10
Bernice Jaeger and Kathy in lounge.

So how did it go. I think it wenty all right.
B:I am sure it did.
I felt reall comfortable on stage. Ya know how I gadge it? I gadge it by how much they laugh. I don't compute applause. That way I know if I was good.
B:You are good you were always good. You look terrific you really do. It has been so long. I remember your name from over twenty years ago. You use to do that backstage...
K: Your name sounded so formilar to me. When they told me that Bernice Jaeger of the Contenental Hotel would be happy to host us and she is wonderful to work with. I thought Bernice Jaeger - ya know back there in the files
B: Ya I know I have been here 35 years. Well I am glad that you enjoyed what you did today. It shows all over your face.

K: I really did It was a lot of actual physical labor getting back into this thing. I kept thinking that my arm is going to go out and this keeps creeking and I will never will be able to to this things. I rolled over in an auto.

00:02:07 With flowers

B: Gorgeous all thos flowers and everything. Oh wonderful.
K: Oh my directors gave me these. She gave them to me. And I thought I was going to start to cry and I could not cry its erroution.
B: The show must go on
K: It was so nice that she did that.
B: What is your producers name?

B: Twenty Seven, I had two kids, I was married.
K: Did you come alone did he work here in town?
B: Ya oh Ya were got here and got busy. I wondered what it would be like to come here for a vacation. It was a big town. Fifty Thousand people.
K: You got here before I did. In 58 there were 60,000.
B: It was nice. Everybody knew each other and helped each other and just..
K: and loved each other.
B: Itwas neat and
K: And the showgirls we use to go to all the hotels when we weren't working and all the maitre des would be catering to us.
B: It was fun for the locals when you would go to the ya know the resturannts after the shows and then the showgirls would come in and all their beautiful make up and all the stars and it was just so much fun.
K: The stars were not afraid to hang around.
B: They were out there with all the people.
K: We use to go to the Algera and ya know there is Sammy and Don Rickles and ya know who I use to have lunch with between the shows? Nick DondolisNick the Greek. He was my buddy. Because he spoke greek . and we would get together and he would recite ancient poetry and

Do you miss those days? Was it better for weomenin those Days?

Cathy - Bernice

B: We were well respected. No matter what anyone might think of the gentle men that ran this town in those days. The men were curtious to women in thoe days
K: The broads were important.
B: They realized that we did w
K: We were the bread and butter
B: We were. You in your way and also as
K: What did you do?
B: I was executive secretary.
K: Immediately ex-sec?
B: No I started out in sales a long time ago.
K: I started out as alegal secretary a long time ago and I went down town looking for a job and they were so under paid they were making like $55 a week

and in LA I was making 65 and Chicago 75 and I decided that I am not going to work for that ... so I became a cocktail waitress.
B: Well listen in those days cocktail waitresses could buy and sell the town. My husband worked in the Flamingo. He was a 21 floor man. It was really a lot of fun in those days.
K: And who was the guy who would bow and say glad to see you ... the taller guy who kept bowoing to everything

TAPE 21B BERNICE JAEGER (con't from 20Bin casino)
AND MIRAGE EMPLOYEE ENTRANCE

00:00:40

Bernice: How did we get here? Well they ran us out of Kentucky in 61. So a whole colony of us came to Vegas that spring. And it was great town very small. A bout 50 thousand. We were very fortunate. Although I did not know this colony of people back home when we got here we just started all being together and we still have some of those friendships today. We women had a thing with each new comer that would come in. We had a box with just some pots and pans and linens and just something to get you started. It was a nice town everyone knew each other. It was fun in those days - everything was fun.

21:02:17
How did you go from being a house wife to running a casino?

Bernice Employee-Mirage 21B

Well I decided when the comm. college opened that I would take some classes there and finish my education. I decided to go into Hotel and Entertainment and they send you out with someone in the hotel industry and the problem was that there really were not a lot of women out there. So they sent me out with a terrific gal who is still working today-Inis Rambo-and I was suppose to go out every week and sit there and observe and I really got to liking it and This was at the Riviera. And I just sat there and watched her in action and finally she had a secretary that moved back to Seattle so she said : " well listen how would you like to work for me?" I told her I could not even type. She said that was OK and that I will learn.

So I started out in the sales dept. That was in the early 70's. And in those days the Riviera was a real high rolling place. I had a terrific job and I liked it. And from there I went to the assistant to the hotel director. He was a very exciting man, Everyone knew him. Dick Chappel. He came to Vegas with bugsy segael. And that job was like a social event. Everyday there were exciting people to meet. and very influential people from all over the world a lot of high rollers. It was a fun time.

So from there I went to the Aladdin. When Ed Tory bought the Aladdin with Wayne Newton I went over there an was his secretary. I was there for several years and then I came over here to the Continental and I really love it here and alot of nice people and a lot of
and here is one. Linda was employee of the year a few years ago.

Waitress: Is this about you Bernice
B: It is about women in Las Vegas and
Waitress: I have got to tell you something about Bernice. With her this hotel would have fallen apart. Bernice has stood by us through all the deaths and etc. and she is a wonderful lady and we love her. But I gotta go I am off the clock.

So who is Ed Taurus?

B: Ed Taurus he at one time owned the Fremont and the Aladdin a very interesting gentleman. I learned a lot from him and I truly did

Did you say that you were the secretary to the mob?

B: To the mob? I don't know that is what you would call it. But you will never sees those days again. You willnever see the management that we had in those days Everything now is concentrated on the bottom line and in those days you did not worry about those jkinds of things. In those days you gave excellent service and you gave your food away and you don't do that today it is so corporate. At one time each hotel had a personality. It was usually the persanality of the owner. It waas always so reflected and even in the decor. For example Mr. had orange red and purple it was always very passionate and ah he liked that. Today you just don't see that. The gentle men runnign the town today - you just don't see that.

00:27:18

Is it gentlemen running the town?

Not always. But we let them think so. I think in manny cases today alot of women are in important positions. I don't think that we are any the worse for It. I have my own theory. It is called MOM - Matriarchal Organization Manager. I suppose that is the I like. I like it that way here. I like to have a hands on approach. It is the way that a woman would run her home. I think that women are housekeepers and that is what they would do in a large hotel casino. You want the service to be good and the house to be clean and you want treat your guest right and you want your kids to behave. I really think that with the mom kind of theory there are a lot of hugs. I don't;'t see alot of men doing that and I am not sure why. We have so many good people all in one building. It is nice to go around and visit. It is nice I believe in empowering people and We had a very sad think happen and as Linda even mentioned When she said deaths We had one of waitresses died. This young lady need an transplant we had all kinds of things - a bake sale and a tournament we had all kinds of things.

00:09:50

So many of our guests who came in said they never did see a bake sale in the lobby of a hotelk before we would do anything for our employees, and we do do anything..just last week we had a very unfortunate we lost one of our dearest employees she was in charge of our housekeeping department- we had a memorial for her out by the pool..it make them feel good, and anything that makes thiem feel good really reflects on your bottom line that much I know. My employees make me feel good, it really is a family oriented place. Thursday we're havinga shower for one of my employees thats expecting, we're all looking forward to that--its a good way to be involved with them--when I cam

here there wasn't family so I think alot of people who work in vegas are separated from their families, and I think its a good opportunity if the place that you work can provide some sort of pseudo family for you and for instance the death of thehousekeeper last week I tried to find her husband I called and called and where I finally found him was back in our housekeeping deaprtment, because he saidthat that was his family and he just felt like if he could be there that he would feel better. It was amazing to me the amount of people on their day off who rallied and came down to visit with him and sit with him and hold his hand--I was very proud that he felt that this was where her family would be, he wanted to sit at her desk and still feel her presence.

00:12:12
Well I have to say that actually when the mob was here in many cases I found them more compasionate than some of the management that you're seeing today. In the old days if there was an employee that had a problem I often wathced a boss go in his pocket and pull out some bills and try and help and take care of that person--I've often wathced a funeral and the hotel would provide all the food for the wake or the bosses would come over and leave that widow a little bit of money. Oftentimes when in the old days when any of the secretaries would work extra hard they'd slip some money under your typewriter. They seemed to be alot closer to thepeople than what you see today--I think these mega hotels are just getting so big its just impossible probably to know al of your employees and I ust see that that's almost a shame you derive so much happiness and better working conditions when you can get out there and know your people on first name basis.

My name is Bernice Jaeger and I'm the assistant general manager at the Continental Hotel and I've been classified as Mother Hen--I don't mind that at all. I've started a book, its sitting out in my garage, its been there for years--it seemed that I was at the Riviera, so many strange things were happening that I thought I outta write this down. And that was a long time ago and it seems like it just keeps getting better and better...my position there I almost acted as a concierge, and there was a lady that came to me and asked me if I would make a reservation for Liberace and I said certainly I could tell she was an average houswwife, didn't seem like a wealthy woman whatsover, I was happy to do that I did make the reservation for her husband and herself, and the next morning she came back and she said Bernice that was the most wonderful evening that we have ever had in our lives I want to thank you I don't have any money to give you--the reason it was so important to me my husband only has a few more weeks to live, and we took all the money we had and we came here to Las Vegas for a vacation and he wanted to see Liberace and you got us in here and you got us in the front row, and Liberace came in and kissed me and I shook his hand...and I just want to thank you because that was the best thing that ever happened to us in our lives and this will be something we'll always remember because he's not going to live much longer--

00:15:54
I've gone by alot of titles, they change--one I was starting out was "When women ran Las Vegas" we had a really neat group of executive secretaries, and

we worked for some very interesting men and we always had great storeis to tell when we would get together and we actually did in many cases run alot of things, we took care of everybody's show reservations and golf tees, anything that any of the guests would want-the men didn't really have to bother with any of that, and between all of us girls we just connected we had a terrific network in those days--they were fantastic women, so very suave and sharp, very very sharp ladies--I remember we went to a dinner show at the Aladdin and we came in late we had a front row seat and the comedian was upset we were stomping in there getinginto our seat and he said--he was starting to chastise, and he said oh sorry I ddin't realize this was the juice--that's what they called us in those days because we used to handle so many things-- the guys were off doing there thing and we just sorta handled it.

I think there's still alot of networking--I know for a fact, just last week I had one of those gals in my office, I mean we still do see each other, not as often as we'd like all of us have gone onto really busy positions...\

00:17:57

Bernice walks through hotel, visits with employees..

This is Mother Theresa--how long have you been here--ten years--this is the place..what is this? This is distinguished women in Nevada...Freddy how long you been there? Six years.

00:24:00

Employees leaving Mirage Hotel

22B--Fremont Street and Downtown Exteriors

FREMONT
DOWNTOWN
22B

23B--Deedee Jasmine at the Moulin Rouge Hotel

Deedee enters and look around stage...several takes
Points to pictures and talks (no sound here)--walks around entire stage

23:14:26
(We are now seated on this stage my god many many memories, the Moulin Rouge opened up May 21st 1955--god, it doesn't seem like that long ago, we had so many great experiences, when I came here, I was here in Las Vegas for about a month before we actually opened the show here because we had to go into rehearsals--they built homes for us over on the west side because we had no place to live when we first came here because of the segregation. And so my goodness when we saw the Moulin Rouge we were just so anxious for the opening so we went into a month's training for the show and then we finally opened up, and was it spectacular! It was. We had three nights for press night and the press from all over came magazines and newspapers fron all over it was a starstudded three pressnights we had a great show. I mean I still believe comparing from 55 to 1996 those same numbers could still stand and hold its own. We had the very famous production number which was our middle number the Watusi, that was with our production singer and showgirls there's 23 of us girls and six showboys and um, the band we had Benny Carter's band, Benny Carter is still living and we had a 21 piece orchestra it was just totally fantastic, and we had acts in betweenour numbers. We openned up our number which was called Tropi Can Can and I was fortunate to be one of them. Wwhich wasspectacular within it own rights. We had George Kirby. We had the Hinds kids. Gregory and Mourice. They were about 10 years old. We had the Platters. They more or less made their deabau with our show. One of their hits wha Only You and that was performed here on this Stage!

cut to the song?

DEE DEE
23B

23:18:36
J:Can you talk about why the MR why it could not happen on the strip and why it happened in this town

In 1955, I'll tell you one thing
The MR opened and was built on Bonaza which was on the west side. We had contracts! My perticular contract had stipulations on the top. " You are not allowed on the Strip" because of segregation. We had other stipulations with our producer. The main thing was that we were not allowed out on the strip. That is why the MR was so interesting. It was intergrated as far as the public. But it was an all black show and it was on the west side. We could live on the strip and we could not go to the clubs. and that is why the MR was here on the west side. So the could have an all black show. I imagine they could have an all black show on the strip but they never had at that point.

23:20:29
What about dancers black showgirls were they on the strip?

Just stars on the Black and they could not stay on the for instace Sammy Davis he could not or if my infor. is accurate I think lena horn broke the barrier before Bugsy Segal built the flamingo I think she broke the barrier and I understood that they burned the sheets after she stayed in the hotel. I am not sure about my information but that is what I heard. But in 1955 we were not allowed on the strip at all.

Where did you come from?

I came from LA as one of the dancers and the otheres came fromall over they were from NY, Philadilphia, Chicagoe Detroit and they (the producer Clarence Robinson and casting) went all over the country trying to get all the girls and dancing boys representing all the different countries.

Was it a good paycheck?

Yes. Ya know I look backa nd we got paid very well in 55 I know thar when I worked at the Dunes I was getting 175 and that was dawn good in those days and that included board. Because they provided board and that is an interesting thing as I said we had no place to live when they opened the Moulin Rouge. When I say we I mean all the employees of the MR -your waiters, waitresses all of them that were brought in from other states. And they had to build homes. One of the owners of the hotel was a builder, Mr Bissno. And he had a comopany in LA and he built the area that is still standing today and he built the area called Berkly Square and he built cadilac arms. They built those homes for us and each home consisted of three workers from the MR. So in our case we had three girls because we had three bedrooms. They are beautiful homes. they are still standing on B St. H St .

Can you tell me about the day that the MR closed down and what happened to you?

The day that the MR Closed we were devasted. We know that the club was in a little trouble but we did not know if it was financial we did not know why. They kept changing hands and things were not running as smoothly. And that is how we detected that there was some trouble. So we did a show the night before to a full house. We had a full house every night every single night and we had 3 shows a night and our first show we did a diner show and that was at 7:30. And then we did not do another show until 2:30. And that purpose was to get all the people from the strip so that the whites could come and see our show. After the clubs had closed on the strip. So our second show was jammed. And the third went on around Four. We did three show a night. So we were jammed and the last night. And the night the doors were closed people were coming to the show-that is how abruptly it closed. Because we they knocked on our door and told us not to come to work. That is how surprised we were.

moves to C.U.

23:25:27

The reasons for that i am really not sure. I really can not say for sure . There are many many stories of why and I realy am not sure.

23:26:00 What happened to your life anyway?

After the intial shock. Which took a long time. I finally left LV and went back to LA. Where I was born and raised. And resumed my dancing career. A lot of the girls in fact they still live in LA from back east did return home. They went to LA because you have Hollywood and you had clubs. You had a lot of clubs opening in LA.

23:26:23 Why did you return to LA why didn't you just go and get a job on the strip?

We were not allowed to work on the strip there were no blacks not at that time in that capacity. I was not a showgirl now there is a difference. They had the showgirl catagory and the dancers. I was a dancer. Because of my color I could not dance on the strip. In the line. Now if I came in an act it might have made a difference. But I was not with an act at that time.

So you are back in Las Vegas now?

Oh yes I never thought this would happen but I am back and as you see with a smile to because I love it. I was in and out of Las Vegas from 1955- up to 1996. I was working I worked at the Dunes Hotel and ah with a black show I was the first black show with Larry Steels at the Dunes and I also worked at the Stardust with Steers also. And I also came here with Sammy Davis Jr. We worked at the Silver Slipper. I also came here with many movies. After about 60...I stopped dancing and then I became an actress and we did a lot of movies. So I have been in and out of LV alot until I I dfinally choose to move here. And it has been the best choice I have ever made.

23:28:01 Tell me why?

LA had become a was zone. And the work had changed in the movie industry had changed tremendously. It had became I was a contractee player and the was when they had 34 shows and it was like a family but the industry became like a factry and it was big business when it was not big business then and the unions changed everything and I remember with SAG We use to be so well protected in so many ways and that changed and the teamster came in and you had mergers...

23:29:07

I no longer needed to work and stay in LA so I came to LV. And during all of that turmoil. I had started in a lot of community work that was with the kidney fundation and ah so one thing just lead to the other so I camne to LV not to retire but to continue I guess what was meant for me to do. Which was at this age which is to do volunteer community service and that is what I am doing right now and I just fell right in to a love where this MR is a particular interest of mine because i once waas a performer here and I saw the need for the MR to ...

1C Moulin Rouge Deedee / Saran and Deedee

1C:00:00

Deedee: Ya know it is unexplainable. I am searching for words. Itwas need for me for the MR to be restored and to bring the history back. I don't know what it was but its left such an impact not only on me but many many people. Before I came here every one would say oh yes you used to work at the Moulin Rouge. It left such an impact. And it was only open for 6 months. It is really something. And that is why I feel the need and the importance to restore the "what ever" yearning and longing for the MR to have continued or to bring it back to what it use to be...in 55.

Can you go back inside and tell what it was that happened here...

I think that iis what it was at that time. When Why it left such an impact it was bringing together and we were denied to work together from the dancers stand but of black and white dancing together. And I know that there was fellow particular that I dance with in LA but when I came to LA he being white he naturally could not dance with me. But we still saw one another. He used to come over here because of our 2:30 show and we just mingled together and we just partied together and they had such a strong interest in our show and us people. As people as a whole.

The MR intergrated. BK and Whites were together on these grounds. ~~intergrated.~~ We could not go into to the Casino on the strip. But the blacks and the whties mingled here in the MR casino. They had more fun and it was jammed packed every single night. Our show room was packed and our casino was packed and they use to come over during the day. Because we had the Dovelle Room open and the coffee shop and the pool. People use to come over here and stay in the motel. That iss the type of feeling that was here. I think that it was the denial of the two races together that made the moulin rouge so special. And that was in 1955 the thing that left people with the empty feeling when it closed.

Moulin Rouge 1C

Do you think it closed because it was bringing people together?

Yes. That was The reasons for it being closed we do not know. But the spectualtions are that we had too many whites over on the westside. We had our show were packed everynight. We were making nothing but money. I can not say that for the shows on the strip. That could have been one of the reasons. There is another spectualtion. When the MR was opened it never was meant to suceed. So therefor the owners never paid a bill. So it wwas closed before it was even opened. There is another speculation and that is that was just bad management. Now those are the three reasons. So you come to your conclusion. It seemed that everyday was just on borrowed time that we worked here. But dancers not thinking about the business end thought it would last

forever. Later on we found out the things just stated. That there was not a bill paid. and it was just never meant to suceed.

What about being a black woman in LV then and now.

Well then everything was fun and games to me. I was just 17 or 18 and I was just stary eyed and I was just in 7th heaven then. And we had being black I never had the desire or never thought I was denied not being able to go on the strip. We had everything here. And we had the whites and the whites and the people on the strip coming over here and so I never thought I was denied anything. And we were happy. Because we had the best of everything and we did have the best of everything. This stage thaqt I am sitting on now is one of the largest stages now and it was at that time and iit is now. We had our dressing rooms and we had our homes and we did not have to worry about paying reent and we had the betterof two worlds.

And how about now how about the black community now? What is it to be a black woman in Las Vegas now.

It is all different now. The black are all spread out. We can live any place. I live in Henderson. Which in 55 would have been unheard of. So we are just spread out all over Nevada.

Would you say the MR was the Highlight?

It was the highlight. Period. Because ...

No-Personally yourself was that the Highlife of your life?

Yes personally at that time. The MR was the highlaite of my life. I was very young and had just worked as a dancer in LA and (for me to choosen to work in LV yes that was a big highlite) and with the big stars because Joe louis was our official greeter and he was you know Joe louis's reputation. As I said it was with Beenie Carters Band who was a big bad leader at that time and still is it was the big band of the time and as I said the MR was the Highlite of my life at that time.

good soundbite

Cutaway to 'MR' menu on wall

What is your life like now?

My life now is absolutely perfect. If Icould say that. Except for my health. For one thing which does not keep me down. It does not stop me completely. I don't dance anymore. But that is why I had to change my thoughts and everything happens for the better anyhow and It was in the master plans for me to serve the community.

The future

Zooms from menu

When they knock on our door and said don't come to work. In fact they pad locked the MR. It was just like someone had died. We had counted on working here at the MR and settled and all of our plans and everything were out the windows with a knock on the door. We had our dressing rooms and our costumes with everything lined up and ready to start the show. And we came

here to see it it was true. And we had our personal belongings in the dressing room. And we went back there and it was such a ery feeling and we gathered up our things and actually we did not know what to do because it is like...starting all over again. And not living in LV I did not know what to do. Coming here to work and living here I did not know where my next job was going to be. So that is why it was devastating and like a death. When we cam here and gathered up our personals...

Today I am doing a lot. It all started from the love of wanting to restore the MR for my community work. It started in LA and I thought we have got to restore it because everyone everywhere iwent I was the need and I talked to Mrs. Preddy who is the woner of the MR and she herself wanted the MR to be brought back to what it use to be in 55 . Where they had had the big shows and etc. So I with a group of other people we formed the organization we call the preservation association . And we decided that our purpose naturally was to restore the Moulin Rouge so we got started on that. And I became the project director so I said let me get my thinking cap on an startd putting on very successful fundraisers. And the first one started out I had 15 speakers and these natives of LV and was brought up to 1955 and many people who worked here with me we in our fireside chat with me strolling down memory lane. And the 2nd fund raiser and ther is one important thing that makes the MR so important and why we got in on the national register as a historic landmark. Because in 1960 they met here at the MR and it intergrated the strip and that took place in 1960. So our 2nds fund raiser we gave Tony Brown who is ajournalist and has a television show and we commemorated that day march 25th 1960 was when intergration happened on the strip. So that was the second fundraiser.

01:15:46

I feel very sad driving by and seeing it in the conditin that it is in now. But ya know that is my motivation. I know what a need it is to do something about the condition it is in now. And clean it up and give the people in theis communtiy a decent place for them to patranized. That is one of the things. If this Moulin Rouge was up to par many many would have jobs. And that is one of the main reason that I would like to put my effort into the it being restored.

All you see is money in Las Vegas ....Why has not the MR been...

That is where I come in and the many others with the association. That we can interset and show the need for money to be brought into the MR.

The Fremont Experience just happened. jThere was alot of money poured into the Fremont Experience and we have squarwked about it. Why does not some of that money come to the MR. We have had a lot of reasons and they are not valid enough. And that is why the people like me keep on fighting and pushing still want to push and we are going to fight until lthe money does come to the Moulin Rouge because we are not about to go away.

01:18:29 Ambient shots of the Stage Area/Saran and Deedee walking around

01:24:04 SHOTS OF THE CASINO AREA

01:25:54 Deedee and Saran in casino talking

D: People would come from all over.
S: I think that people are looking for something different and this would be different because they use to Ihave things like this on the strip and now they have all this hightech things and family typpe affairs ans so forth and this would be kind like a remenesing It would be unique.
D: And show you reall show business. As it was and still is today and never lose that old show business that should be brougth into the shows. The big musicals like Sig and Roy and MGM that is all modern of today. What we are talking about that was captured at the Moulin Rouge back then can still be captured today. That same type show could be done. I look at this now and it is not old to me. And it still could be done today and I look out and I dould see this room full. looks at dance frescoes —
S: And people would want to come and see something different. Because naturally gaming is the main ...you have got to have something Every hotel has a hook as they call it like the Mirage has got the Volcano TI has got the ships I think that every hotel has got to have its own identiy. I think that that is onw one of the things that we have got to capitalize on like the entertainment and the food. And we certainly do want to be known for the food.

D: I agreee

S: Well I look at some of the old pictures and I think that it was known for its food and it should have been because we had more cooks here then costumers. Some of the pictures must have forty cooks.

D: But the kitchen I understand is one of the largest at that time.
S: The pool here was one of the largest at that time.
They had a lot of things that were compatable to what they had on the strip then. I hope that we can get thing as effective..

D: I would say more effective. Because what we would like to bring in would be so unique. and it would be the only club in town where you could get this and expect this...because of it being black.

S: and I think that when ever we ge toff the main floor our main thing would be marketing it . Where we would be able to market it through out the counrty. A lot of people now about the Moulin Rouge now but they do not know enough. I just got off the phone with a woman who is calling she is bringing 3 buses up here and they are coming just to have a party and they are going to bring their own intertainment and music and everything and she wanted to know more about the Rouge. And I think that as time goes on and we start to get marketing the

place and we start advertising in some of the top mags and so forth then people will start coming to see the MR.

D: You just said it then that these people heardof the MR and And the impact that it had 40 yrs ago. And they are still asking and that is why the neccesity i s there
S: And it is so amazing and it is either do it or don't so they can be proud to be here so they can go a tell a friend. If you get it half going then people will say it is ok but. Be want it to be small and first class and unique. It has to be perfect.