

WEBVTT

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00:00:04.170 --> 00:00:04.830

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah. Okay.

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00:00:04.960 --> 00:00:18.469

Jasmine Nduka: so Hello. My name is Jasmine. nduka. Today is Tuesday, May 28th, 2024, and I am interviewing Miss Ahliyah Chambers, who is assistant director and manager of the Cross Cultural Center.

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00:00:18.886 --> 00:00:32.439

Jasmine Nduka: This interview will be conducted through Zoom for the University of California, San Diego Race and Oral History Project, and ms. Ahliyah, do you agree to grant the university permission to archive and publish this interview for educational purposes?

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00:00:32.590 --> 00:00:33.819

Ahliyah Chambers: Yes, I agree.

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00:00:34.630 --> 00:00:41.860

Jasmine Nduka: Okay, fantastic. So we're gonna jump right in with the first question, where are you originally from? And explain a little bit more about your upbringing.

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00:00:42.610 --> 00:01:02.570

Ahliyah Chambers: Yes. Well, thank you, Jasmine, for offering to interview so again. My name is Ahliyah Chambers. I'm originally from Corona, California, and I was born in Bellflower, La County, but moved to Corona at a like very young age, and did most of my upbringing there.

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00:01:02.976 --> 00:01:11.490

Ahliyah Chambers: And yeah, really. I mean, I come from a 2 parent household. My parents are from the Los Angeles area.

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00:01:11.963 --> 00:01:17.940

Ahliyah Chambers: More like kind of Compton. And my dad eventually moved to Long Beach for a bit.

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00:01:18.244 --> 00:01:30.599

Ahliyah Chambers: But yeah, I grew up. Me and my siblings grew up in

Corona. I'm one of 3. So I have an older brother 2 years older than me, and then a younger brother. That's 3 years younger than me, really in Corona um.

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00:01:30.978 --> 00:01:59.091

Ahliyah Chambers: we moved here at a time to where it was like kind of newly kind of developing and growing. And so even seeing the city now like 20 plus years later is like a lot more more folks. And Diversity has really kind of moved into the area of folks moving from la for a lot of different like reasons, whether it's, you know, wanting in a change of environment or gentrification, and more affordable housing, and some of those things. But when I went to school,

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00:01:59.420 --> 00:02:05.009

Ahliyah Chambers: yeah, I went to school with predominantly up until maybe about middle school. My elementary school was like.

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00:02:05.080 --> 00:02:06.979

Ahliyah Chambers: predominantly like, kind of like

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00:02:07.370 --> 00:02:22.580

Ahliyah Chambers: Latinx, little bit of folks from like kinda like Asian communities and white. And then I feel like once I got to middle school and high school. I started to see more. You know, students that were black as well, and then my high.

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00:02:22.906 --> 00:02:23.559

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:02:23.560 --> 00:02:26.031

Ahliyah Chambers: My high school was like, actually really diverse

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00:02:26.450 --> 00:02:43.180

Ahliyah Chambers: which was a good thing, too, I feel like. And I went to Centennial High school is a big like sports school. So at that time I was like, I grew up playing different sports. But in high school I really focused on basketball and so yeah, I play that up until the end of my junior year. So yeah.

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00:02:44.486 --> 00:02:49.120

Jasmine Nduka: Okay, do you? Still frequent like basketball now, like maybe as a hobby.

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00:02:50.750 --> 00:03:04.390

Ahliyah Chambers: I do. I had taken a break because I started, you know, transparently, just like getting my nails done a little bit more, and had a little like love hate relationship with the sport. Cause. I think I got Burnt out from it because I was playing at playing point.

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00:03:04.390 --> 00:03:04.930

Jasmine Nduka: Right

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00:03:04.930 --> 00:03:07.260

Ahliyah Chambers: It's always like 3 or 4 years old, you know.

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00:03:07.590 --> 00:03:08.120

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:03:08.120 --> 00:03:25.129

Ahliyah Chambers: And so like, yeah, I took a break when I got definitely my senior year, and I went to San Diego State. So I picked it back up, maybe around my second year. And that's when I played on the intermittent basketball team at Sdsu. And we did fairly well

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00:03:25.780 --> 00:03:31.750

Ahliyah Chambers: at the time I was trying to rub some elbows to be able to work at the Recreation Center on campus

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00:03:32.223 --> 00:03:49.809

Ahliyah Chambers: and so since then I've been playing it on and off, and then I picked it up last January or no, not January. I played through this past January, but I picked it up. Maybe the end of last year around November, December, just because, like, I said, I do like to be active. And so like.

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00:03:50.210 --> 00:04:01.880

Ahliyah Chambers: yeah, I just tried to get back into it a little bit. So I I played basketball, but even like a little bit before that, in 2020 I had picked up kickboxing a little bit, and so I just tried to.

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00:04:01.880 --> 00:04:02.710

Jasmine Nduka: oh.

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00:04:02.710 --> 00:04:20.509

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, I try to go to the gym, and then I'm getting tired of the gym. I try to do some type of like sport or something like that to kinda just like offset it. But since then I've I haven't been playing basketball recently. Haven't been kickboxing recently. Just been like regular kinda gym routine, but I'm hoping.

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00:04:20.519 --> 00:04:21.179

Jasmine Nduka: yeah.

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00:04:21.180 --> 00:04:23.940

Ahliyah Chambers: im hoping to pick something back up as the summer approaches.

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00:04:24.580 --> 00:04:33.869

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah, no, I love that. I kind of like the idea of of doing something different other than going to the gym, like, I know our people do like hot Yoga or boxing, All that. I think it kind of keeps you fit, though.

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00:04:34.210 --> 00:04:35.950

Jasmine Nduka: so I totally get it.

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00:04:35.950 --> 00:04:41.560

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, cause it's it's tough, you know. I think the pandemic had, like us all sedentary. And so that's why I was like with gyms closed.

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00:04:41.975 --> 00:04:42.390

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:04:42.390 --> 00:04:52.510

Ahliyah Chambers: You know, and I'm definitely a foodie. So I was just like, Okay, let me. And I think, like, just like in the in the community in the household is like learning to about like

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00:04:52.620 --> 00:04:57.640

Ahliyah Chambers: family history, you know. And like, like, Okay, well, let me.

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00:04:57.660 --> 00:05:08.740

Ahliyah Chambers: That's, I think one thing I do appreciate about being active. Younger is like it just kinda now. I've kinda taught it in cause there was times where it's like, like, you know, taking breaks and things like that. And now I'm like.

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00:05:08.740 --> 00:05:09.150

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:05:09.150 --> 00:05:14.190

Ahliyah Chambers: Well, if it's getting boring, or if you're not enjoying it, you know, then, like.

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00:05:14.410 --> 00:05:18.959

Ahliyah Chambers: maybe you should like try something else, or you know, just like I don't know. Have grace

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00:05:19.340 --> 00:05:20.730

Ahliyah Chambers: like also our bodies.

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00:05:20.730 --> 00:05:21.440

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:05:21.440 --> 00:05:28.904

Ahliyah Chambers: You know, different and beauty standards, too. So it's like, okay, what is working for you, you know. So.

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00:05:29.860 --> 00:05:35.959

Jasmine Nduka: No, that's true. That's that's honestly so true, I think. Kick boxing, though. My goodness. i dont think i could do it

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00:05:37.180 --> 00:05:54.023

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, I never was. I never got hit or never did sparring, but I did do a little bit of personal training, or like the group. Fitness things towards like somebody might like hold up a pad and like those things. But I really enjoyed it. I feel like it was always a bucket list thing for me.

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00:05:54.780 --> 00:06:18.382

Ahliyah Chambers: And like, Yeah, I think when I see, I never got that

far like to the competing level. But when I see how hard Boxers have to train, and with even individual sport. For the most part, I'm like, oh, like this is discipline. So it was a good. It was a good way. And that's why I'm like, Okay, I. And I also, I think, just as a woman like wanted some type of like self defense. You know.

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00:06:18.670 --> 00:06:19.190

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah. thats true.

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00:06:19.447 --> 00:06:23.569

Ahliyah Chambers: You know. Yeah, just cause I was like, Okay, well, this will make me feel more

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00:06:23.670 --> 00:06:47.210

Ahliyah Chambers: confident, you know, just in the event that, like, you know, like I said, I have brothers. So I'm like, Okay, well, they, you know, through being young, we definitely was rough housing a little bit. But I'm like, yeah, like as I as I'm in San Diego more by myself, like, maybe I should try something new. So it was. It was only one, and I think a really good community for during the pandemic cause it was like one of the few gyms, like as.

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00:06:47.210 --> 00:06:47.850

Jasmine Nduka: mhm

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00:06:47.850 --> 00:06:52.750

Ahliyah Chambers: World was kind of opening back up. It was one of the few gyms that was open, too. So yeah.

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00:06:52.750 --> 00:06:55.529

Jasmine Nduka: Right. No, that's good, though I feel like

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00:06:55.820 --> 00:07:01.769

Jasmine Nduka: it is like, so to be women then, have. Self-defense is possibly like the most important thing

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00:07:01.940 --> 00:07:09.159

Jasmine Nduka: you know what I mean, so I can see why you would choose something like kickboxing. Would you ever think about maybe getting in the ring with someone.

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00:07:09.890 --> 00:07:11.789

Ahliyah Chambers: You know.

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00:07:12.770 --> 00:07:19.460

Ahliyah Chambers: I don't know. I think with some protective gear, you know. Maybe I'm like.

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00:07:19.460 --> 00:07:20.080

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:07:20.080 --> 00:07:23.037

Ahliyah Chambers: I don't want no injuries, you know.

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00:07:23.830 --> 00:07:42.300

Ahliyah Chambers: and yeah, but I I think that having the it's very different hitting a bag versus a person even in front of you, and even if, like, the trainer has pads and they swing back at you, it's like, Oh, like. Now I have to duck and reflex in real time, or like block this, you know. And so I think that.

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00:07:42.300 --> 00:07:42.710

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:07:42.710 --> 00:07:52.129

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, more for the real life kind of scenario play. But I don't really have a big urge to like have to want to. I think a part of me was like, Oh, like.

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00:07:52.220 --> 00:08:12.079

Ahliyah Chambers: you know, maybe you can like compete on the side. But I'm like this is just not your calling, you know, like, just stick to the workout element of it, and having fun with it as opposed to like. I said the when I have seen people, even at the gym, like training for fights and things like that. It's like, that's your full day, you know. So it's like you're waking up miles in the morning, coming back, doing it.

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00:08:12.080 --> 00:08:12.840

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:08:12.840 --> 00:08:18.339

Ahliyah Chambers: I I got things to do that I I can't be, you know, doing all that on my body. So.

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00:08:18.909 --> 00:08:19.479

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:08:20.050 --> 00:08:29.169

Ahliyah Chambers: But yeah, no, I'm like, never, never say, never, never say never. But I'm like I do. I do enjoy the the bag, and like the the community, too, you know. So.

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00:08:29.170 --> 00:08:31.670

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah, that's good. I like that.

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00:08:31.930 --> 00:08:38.069

Jasmine Nduka: Okay, so straight into our second question, what influence your decision on coming to Sdsu.

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00:08:38.659 --> 00:08:57.479

Ahliyah Chambers: Hmm! That's a good question. I think the biggest thing for me, like I said. I went to a very diverse like high school, and I went to scsu. I visited it because initially I wasn't super interested in San Diego transparently, because I had visited Ucsd. Playing basketball.

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00:08:57.850 --> 00:09:07.603

Ahliyah Chambers: and the campus was just really big and when I saw the hills and all this stuff, and like from my high school to where it felt very central I was like.

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00:09:08.230 --> 00:09:32.710

Ahliyah Chambers: I don't know like this is feeling like. And it's funny now, because it's like I walk up that hill like every day, you know. But yeah, I'm like, no, I I couldn't do it. And so my mom actually had applied. She ended up going to Cal State Dominguez hills for her undergrad, but she had applied to sdsu and had gotten she had gotten in, but didn't get housing, and so I think that that was something.

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00:09:32.710 --> 00:09:33.250

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:09:33.250 --> 00:09:54.335

Ahliyah Chambers: It's like she would just nudge me like, you know, like once I got admitted. And like, you know, it was like competitive. She was like, you know you should, you should check it out. And so we went on a visit to where what they called harambee weekend, and they invite all the admitted, like black students and their families down there for a weekend, and pretty much like organize events.

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00:09:54.720 --> 00:09:56.290

Ahliyah Chambers: around like

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00:09:56.320 --> 00:10:07.599

Ahliyah Chambers: getting involved with, like the black student orgs on campus you get to meet like black faculty and staff like black folks working in like the residential, like. Just kind of a big community thing.

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00:10:07.600 --> 00:10:08.000

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:10:08.000 --> 00:10:12.710

Ahliyah Chambers: Or the like, explore Sdsu, or like admitted student day. And so.

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00:10:12.710 --> 00:10:13.710

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:10:13.710 --> 00:10:17.830

Ahliyah Chambers: I went down there for a weekend, and I think it kind of created in my mind this kind of like

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00:10:19.263 --> 00:10:28.079

Ahliyah Chambers: and I think solidified even for my mom, like this network of folks that like I would be supported by, and that like, that was the, I think, from being

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00:10:28.170 --> 00:10:31.850

Ahliyah Chambers: yeah, from having a diverse diverse high school. I was like, Oh, like this would be.

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00:10:31.890 --> 00:11:00.209

Ahliyah Chambers: you know, the go to, you know. And I think that even though I'm very grateful for it. I think that as a student I still experience culture shock being a part of it because there was a weekend. And then, if you continued on as a first year and a second year, eventually you were able to get a mentor and they would kind of guide you like through your first couple of years of college, and like just like checking with you, there was a class associated. And that's also how it was like once it went from the Harambe

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00:11:00.523 --> 00:11:06.799

Ahliyah Chambers: and, like I said, we stayed overnight in the Res halls and everything to like the Harambee program, and so.

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00:11:06.800 --> 00:11:07.240

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:11:07.240 --> 00:11:15.130

Ahliyah Chambers: I had a mentor in my first year. And then yeah, in like my second year, too. And then, like both of those, had me kind of like.

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00:11:15.150 --> 00:11:18.650

Ahliyah Chambers: okay, well, just felt supported. But I think that.

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00:11:18.650 --> 00:11:19.120

Jasmine Nduka: Right.

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00:11:19.120 --> 00:11:45.150

Ahliyah Chambers: My first year I experienced a lot of like culture shock, because I think I went from like I said, a diverse high school to having this imagery in my mind of like what Sdsu was gonna be for me as a black student to then getting in on campus and realizing that a lot of the times when I was surrounded more about like around black folks was like, cause it wasn't a black resource center. So it was, you know, in the harambe classes on Fridays for 50 minutes in a Africana studies class

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00:11:45.180 --> 00:11:52.450

Ahliyah Chambers: that the program had enrolled us in but outside of that it was like, maybe one or 2 of us in my psychology classes are in my intro class.

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00:11:52.820 --> 00:11:54.249

Ahliyah Chambers: So I felt like.

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00:11:54.440 --> 00:12:03.449

Ahliyah Chambers: this is like, I just got a big culture shock, and honestly leaned a lot back on, like going home or hanging out with friends from high school, or asking my parents like.

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00:12:03.540 --> 00:12:05.840

Ahliyah Chambers: you know, either, being like I did have one.

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00:12:05.840 --> 00:12:06.290

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:12:06.290 --> 00:12:20.314

Ahliyah Chambers: Black like roommate, and so I feel like we really leaned on each other a lot. But she was a little bit more introverted, and so like I think it kinda caused me to like, really lean into like I'm not feeling super comfortable, but eventually I kinda set myself like

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00:12:20.600 --> 00:12:44.333

Ahliyah Chambers: through the mentors and through like just kind of getting comfortable. I left the first year, and I was like, you know what like I need to when they drop me back off at the second year. I was like, I need to figure this out. And that's when I like, declared Africana studies as like a minor and then just started getting involved cause even though I was psychology, they had a black student science organization, for like social sciences, too. And so I hadn't gotten involved.

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00:12:45.180 --> 00:12:46.200

Ahliyah Chambers: and like.

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00:12:46.530 --> 00:12:55.713

Ahliyah Chambers: yeah, I gotten involved in like pretty much all of the black orgs as well. And can I ask you a question. Would we be able to pause for.

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00:12:57.380 --> 00:12:58.949

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah, we can pause real quick.

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00:12:58.950 --> 00:13:00.460

Ahliyah Chambers: Okay. Sorry.

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00:13:01.880 --> 00:13:16.690

Jasmine Nduka: Okay? So I have actually a question about you studying Africano as your minor. What? Exactly, I guess. Like, did you learn like throughout your classes, and throughout you like engaging with your black peers like with that minor.

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00:13:17.040 --> 00:13:23.370

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah. So for me, that was like the first time. I think that I was able to learn about like.

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00:13:23.610 --> 00:13:29.990

Ahliyah Chambers: just like, both historically and in like current blackness, like in an educational context. Like, I feel like I.

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00:13:30.410 --> 00:13:31.659

Ahliyah Chambers: Little bit like

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00:13:31.850 --> 00:13:34.867

Ahliyah Chambers: at home, you know, through like

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00:13:35.480 --> 00:13:42.760

Ahliyah Chambers: my grandmother, one of my uncles is like very like, you know, involved in like just ethnic studies.

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00:13:43.450 --> 00:13:53.499

Ahliyah Chambers: It still was like I had never. I don't even know if I've had a black professor up until college, you know, teacher, you know. And so I think that was like.

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00:13:53.660 --> 00:13:55.670

Ahliyah Chambers: you know, I'm learning about

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00:13:55.970 --> 00:14:09.919

Ahliyah Chambers: yeah, just that colonization, like all those things to where it's like, I feel like it really had me like kind of go through even that identity development of like Wow, like the K through

12, or the education that, like, I was exposed to.

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00:14:10.270 --> 00:14:14.239

Ahliyah Chambers: Was telling, you know, one sided narrative, you know. And so

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00:14:14.800 --> 00:14:42.150

Ahliyah Chambers: yeah, through like learning, not just about the history or reading like black authors and literature, like different ways of like telling our story, whether that's through like again the historical pieces, or even like that was like my time to where I was like introduced to like Afro Futurism, or authors like, you know Octavia Butler, to be able to like. Imagine different realities, you know, or different realms of the blackness, too. And then I think, for my peers like

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00:14:42.560 --> 00:14:44.960

Ahliyah Chambers: I don't know. I just feel like I learned like

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00:14:45.080 --> 00:15:12.820

Ahliyah Chambers: I think, that that's really. And that's when, like also the term, like black excellence, was very like, you know, I think it's still big, but it was definitely there. But I think that like just seeing all of us like black folks in business, you know, and engineering like, I said in the sciences, like even medical fields. Now, like even after like when I started working there more like seeing more black folks like in law, and like some of those things, and it like, really, or the arts like it really showed me like, Okay, like.

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00:15:12.820 --> 00:15:25.619

Ahliyah Chambers: you know, we can occupy all of these like spaces and are able to like, tell our story. You know how we how we want to tell it, you know. And so yeah, I feel like for me that being the first time

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00:15:25.660 --> 00:15:46.534

Ahliyah Chambers: it definitely was like identity development piece. And then something I just grew to love because I felt like, even through one of my literature classes, one of my professors, my second year. Who I interned or not, I I intern, but who like later, we work together at the black resource center. It was like, still, to this day is like one of my lifetime mentors, Dr. Bonnie reddy and

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00:15:46.910 --> 00:15:57.570

Ahliyah Chambers: She was the first one who really again, like introduced like black literature, and would have us like critically, think, you know. And and when we when you weren't getting it, I think that was like, okay, like.

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00:15:57.660 --> 00:16:21.230

Ahliyah Chambers: I'm intimidated by office hours. But like a second year, I think, you know, and I'm I'm gonna go. And through there it was like she had introduced us to to like different areas in the city to like. There was a black museum like, or an African kind of museum in Old town. That we got to like, connect to like San Diego City, or we got to connect and like like go to like the black church, and different things like that that had me like

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00:16:21.500 --> 00:16:33.910

Ahliyah Chambers: even zoom out of San Diego state and realize that like oh, you know that this is surrounded by me, because, like I said, although Corona was, that is diverse, and I feel like there was newly developed like there wasn't a whole lot of like

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00:16:34.100 --> 00:16:36.260

Ahliyah Chambers: black culture that really existed.

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00:16:36.920 --> 00:17:03.309

Ahliyah Chambers: You know, in the I.E it could be different, you know, and I'm not sure if it was different for you different areas. But I think, because a lot of folks kinda like you know, like folks are kinda like not displaced, but move there. It just feel the his. The history of the of the areas as different as opposed to like like San Diego, like like. That was the first time, too, that I got connected with, like the San Diego Black Panther party, and like that like, blew my mind.

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00:17:03.310 --> 00:17:03.950

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:17:03.950 --> 00:17:08.520

Ahliyah Chambers: You know, and I later, like, you know, still connected to them. But

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00:17:08.599 --> 00:17:10.249

Ahliyah Chambers: like it, just like

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00:17:10.450 --> 00:17:13.030

Ahliyah Chambers: it had me like dang like this is.

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00:17:13.030 --> 00:17:13.680

Jasmine Nduka: (sneeze)

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00:17:13.869 --> 00:17:22.599

Ahliyah Chambers: Pieces of history, you know. And so yeah, that really, I think solidified and made me really proud. And in my blackness, but also, knowing that like

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00:17:22.889 --> 00:17:28.269

Ahliyah Chambers: blackness, doesn't. I think when it comes to identity piece, it doesn't look a certain way for everybody, you know.

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00:17:29.019 --> 00:17:43.100

Ahliyah Chambers: And we all come to that in different ways, and express that in different ways. So it's like, although we might have some commonality or can see it's like, Okay, well, we're all still have different interest. And you know, histories and things like that, too. So.

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00:17:43.540 --> 00:17:46.009

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah, no, that's right. I

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00:17:46.120 --> 00:17:47.649

Jasmine Nduka: I wonder, with

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00:17:48.240 --> 00:17:55.090

Jasmine Nduka: like your minor, your major. Now in psychology, do you apply that to your work at the cross cultural center today.

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00:17:55.730 --> 00:17:59.827

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, I I do. I think that when it comes to

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00:18:01.200 --> 00:18:15.350

Ahliyah Chambers: yeah, I think when it comes to like the ethnic studies like piece of it. I definitely feel like I even enjoy being a

part of like spaces that are like like the black studies project. For example, at ucsd like continuing the conversations.

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00:18:16.115 --> 00:18:34.129

Ahliyah Chambers: Like the Black diaspora, like department, you know, like some of those areas. Or like, you know, we'll be doing a program up this week. Actually, it's on like one of my zoom interns. Rahel is doing a program on like the law and like social movements. And so, seeing how like

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00:18:34.180 --> 00:18:46.330

Ahliyah Chambers: the law has like or yeah, law or policy has influenced certain social movements and the advancement of it with a focus on, like the Black Panther party, and so through that it was like I was like, oh, like

134

00:18:46.400 --> 00:18:53.979

Ahliyah Chambers: I know a member of the you know the party like right now, like one of the chairman's like, you know, like. And so he's gonna come, sit on a panel. And so I think that there is ways that it's like.

135

00:18:53.980 --> 00:18:54.600

Jasmine Nduka: Oh!

136

00:18:54.600 --> 00:18:57.470

Ahliyah Chambers: I, yeah, did I bring that into where it's like, this is.

137

00:18:57.470 --> 00:18:58.160

Jasmine Nduka: yeah.

138

00:18:58.160 --> 00:19:22.410

Ahliyah Chambers: Some panels and things like that with the panthers at at Sdsu. But this is the first time bringing it to Ucsd, so I'm like excited for the students to continue to know, cause I think sometimes people again didn't have. They'll probably have that same Aha! Moment that I did of like, wait! There isn't San Diego original Black Panther party. Wait. They're still active. They're still doing stuff in the community and can tell the stories about like how the FBI or Co-intell pro infiltrated.

139

00:19:22.410 --> 00:19:32.899

Ahliyah Chambers: you know, or heavily police them and really tried to stop some of the movements. And so I think that's easy to translate, because I feel like sometimes when we see what's happening in the world. Now we get surprised, and I don't think that it's not

140

00:19:33.280 --> 00:19:39.399

Ahliyah Chambers: should be shocked because we should, we should expect more. But at the same time it's like history repeats, you know.

141

00:19:40.000 --> 00:19:43.010

Ahliyah Chambers: And I think to the psychology side,

142

00:19:43.550 --> 00:20:00.170

Ahliyah Chambers: like at one point I was like, Oh, I wanna be a a therapist. I wanna be a a high school counselor and and all of these different things. And so I I really think that the psychology, like the people relations, and I think, even like again, acknowledging folks is upbringing is different. And

143

00:20:00.510 --> 00:20:13.879

Ahliyah Chambers: our experiences, you know, then eventually end up molding us. And so I think that yeah, I I feel like, I really like the social kind of psychology, because I know there's like the neuroscience and some of those things of like your brain and all those things.

144

00:20:13.880 --> 00:20:14.270

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

145

00:20:14.270 --> 00:20:21.599

Ahliyah Chambers: Even that like is like, you know, working with college students, for example, is like a lot of times like this might be focuses

146

00:20:21.710 --> 00:20:27.440

Ahliyah Chambers: first time really kind of making more independent decisions for themselves, you know, as opposed to like, maybe my family

147

00:20:28.220 --> 00:20:41.063

Ahliyah Chambers: Just telling me to choose a certain major, or you

know I I have to do this to please this, this person or that person, or this is what I know my whole life to where I feel like colleges. There's this kind of like self discovery, you know, and

148

00:20:41.320 --> 00:20:41.860

Jasmine Nduka: Right.

149

00:20:41.860 --> 00:20:44.669

Ahliyah Chambers: Think when like thinking about that of like, Okay, well, my

150

00:20:44.710 --> 00:20:52.419

Ahliyah Chambers: frontal lobe might still be, you know, forming, or maybe, even if not like, even if it's somebody who's again like a student that

151

00:20:52.460 --> 00:21:01.769

Ahliyah Chambers: might be considered like non-traditional is like again, there's there's different things, I think, like things that even we were talking about before this call that it's like, okay, that folks

152

00:21:02.100 --> 00:21:05.599

Ahliyah Chambers: there, everybody's taking a different journey to college. And so I think, understanding.

153

00:21:05.940 --> 00:21:20.897

Ahliyah Chambers: Okay. Somebody's a parent, you know, or if somebody's first Gen, or you know, stopped and came back, or if they came from a community college like, I think the psychology allows me to like, and through experience has allowed me to like, connect to different people on where they're at, you know.

154

00:21:21.180 --> 00:21:21.570

Jasmine Nduka: Right.

155

00:21:21.570 --> 00:21:50.759

Ahliyah Chambers: Not not make anybody feel bad for it, you know, but just to like, meet them where they're at and figure out like, okay, was this goal you have in front of you ultimately to graduate, and probably, you know, get a job or start a business, or whatever. So it's like, you know, it's like, how can I in this time period, help

you in that way? And so I think that that's what I did a lot at Sdsu in their black resource center and have been able to, you know, adjust and do it at the Cross cultural center. But just more work with a lot more

156

00:21:51.090 --> 00:21:54.149

Ahliyah Chambers: folks, and I think even being able to like

157

00:21:54.510 --> 00:22:09.630

Ahliyah Chambers: the Africana studies lens is like, yes, very valid. And has. This is space in the discipline. But I think even being exposed to like other ethnic studies or other, you know, ethnicities and backgrounds and identities. That is like, okay. Well.

158

00:22:09.670 --> 00:22:37.170

Ahliyah Chambers: you know they did. This form of oppression on you know my people, or I see how this is here, but also see how they took that and did that over here, or, you know, worldwide, everybody was kind of like having these different systems. So that's why I'm like, it's not anything that's new. It's just more. So it's been duplicated. So something we talk about the cross cultural centers like our liberations like being connected, you know. And so it's like freeing of all, and I think that's something that, like

159

00:22:37.170 --> 00:22:40.000

Ahliyah Chambers: Fannie Lou, Hamer said. Like, you know, none of us is free until we're all free.

160

00:22:40.360 --> 00:22:41.740

Ahliyah Chambers: So we really just kind of.

161

00:22:41.740 --> 00:22:42.060

Jasmine Nduka: Right.

162

00:22:42.060 --> 00:22:44.250

Ahliyah Chambers: Lean in, lean into that a lot.

163

00:22:45.510 --> 00:22:59.829

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah, do do you ever come across like as like you do work in the cross to center black students who also are pursuing psychology or ethnic studies. And do you kinda like, I guess, try to navigate them as best as you can.

164

00:23:00.440 --> 00:23:08.886

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, yeah, I feel like what I see. And I I love to. I see folks that are ethnic studies. But

165

00:23:09.330 --> 00:23:14.789

Ahliyah Chambers: I see folks. I think it depends on the person and their interest. I see folks in medicine.

166

00:23:15.337 --> 00:23:20.570

Ahliyah Chambers: I see a lot of folks in law, you know, and I think that just with the

167

00:23:20.680 --> 00:23:28.679

Ahliyah Chambers: climate, you know these days to where it's like folks are really focusing on policies, and how policies are ultimately

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00:23:28.700 --> 00:23:41.095

Ahliyah Chambers: keeping certain systems, or, you know, keep gatekeeping other opportunities and things like that for people. So I feel like I've seen a growth in like black students and just other students of like policy.

169

00:23:41.930 --> 00:23:44.499

Ahliyah Chambers: I think something that like, yeah, that I

170

00:23:44.560 --> 00:24:01.999

Ahliyah Chambers: saw at Sdsu, and I've seen a little bit at at Ucsd but maybe it's just again my viewpoint at the cross cultural center, but like the arts, and like the storytelling and some of those pieces, too. And I think that that's been something that again has been

171

00:24:02.010 --> 00:24:15.979

Ahliyah Chambers: in my viewpoint. But, like again, I think I just like through like literature, and some of those things seem like black folks really kind of like. Take up space, you know, or or storytell, or or even just like

172

00:24:15.990 --> 00:24:22.690

Ahliyah Chambers: feel valid, and having a seat at the table through like our lens, you know. So I think it's a very unique lens that

173

00:24:23.090 --> 00:24:33.164

Ahliyah Chambers: that people have, you know, when they're when they're coming from like a certain background or things like that. But yeah, I feel like, I think there's been a there's been a couple of psych students. But

174

00:24:33.560 --> 00:24:39.510

Ahliyah Chambers: but yeah, right now. I feel like folks are like on their kind of changemaker, storyteller journey, you know. Not. Say you can't do that.

175

00:24:39.510 --> 00:24:40.150

Jasmine Nduka: yeah

176

00:24:40.150 --> 00:24:49.200

Ahliyah Chambers: But people are like, you know, I'm I'm gonna go, you know, do political science, or I'm gonna go and do premed and all those things. So I'm like we need us all for real, you know.

177

00:24:49.690 --> 00:24:52.230

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah, in all spaces, all facets.

178

00:24:52.230 --> 00:24:53.020

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah.

179

00:24:53.660 --> 00:24:54.260

Ahliyah Chambers: yeah.

180

00:24:54.260 --> 00:25:02.480

Jasmine Nduka: Alright. So straight into our third question, is there anything that occurred in your upbringing that also influence your interest in higher education?

181

00:25:03.690 --> 00:25:08.690

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, my grandmother was very big on like education.

182

00:25:09.780 --> 00:25:25.310

Ahliyah Chambers: and like, really push on my mother's side. She really pushed like my mom and her siblings. To go to to hire, pursue

higher, Ed. And so, my mom, my mom is the youngest of 5. And so 4 out of the 5.

183

00:25:25.710 --> 00:25:26.739

Ahliyah Chambers: So went

184

00:25:27.273 --> 00:25:34.919

Ahliyah Chambers: and then I'd say another one definitely, I would say, probably would next be my mom. At a young age I saw her with like me and my

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00:25:35.020 --> 00:25:46.859

Ahliyah Chambers: siblings like she was, you know, pursuing her masters like online. And I've seen how that has really helped her career, you know. And so at a young age, I was just telling myself, like, Okay, like

186

00:25:46.920 --> 00:26:04.978

Ahliyah Chambers: at minimum, you're getting your masters like we'll just go straight through. We'll figure out what you know. But we're gonna get this masters and and then go from there and then I had an I have an uncle who? I have an uncle and a cousin who both work in education and I kind of reference a little bit because he was like

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00:26:05.380 --> 00:26:08.421

Ahliyah Chambers: He was very involved in, like the ethnic studies

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00:26:08.850 --> 00:26:13.949

Ahliyah Chambers: and like, even like helping students, black students get college access to

189

00:26:14.455 --> 00:26:30.420

Ahliyah Chambers: and so I feel like we always have, like deep talks. And then one of my cousins, his son, went to park Atlanta and had joined like Alpha Phi Alpha, you know, one of the oldest fraternities or historically black fraternities, too, and so like

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00:26:30.560 --> 00:26:34.770

Ahliyah Chambers: I don't know at the time I didn't really realize that, like these folks were.

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00:26:35.440 --> 00:26:57.249

Ahliyah Chambers: I knew that they were family, of course, but I didn't realize, like some of the nuggets that they were dropping, but I think that between grandmother most most like that I could feel was like, definitely my grandmother. And I think, seeing my mom go to school to where I was like, okay, like, you know, I I wanna do this so I can before I get to the point of like, you know.

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00:26:57.890 --> 00:27:02.709

Ahliyah Chambers: let's say, settling down, and things like that like, let me kind of already have my career.

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00:27:02.710 --> 00:27:03.340

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:27:03.340 --> 00:27:06.727

Ahliyah Chambers: Back or let me pursue it. And then I I think that, too, like

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00:27:06.990 --> 00:27:15.719

Ahliyah Chambers: seeing how like it opens up a lot of opportunities. I don't think that school is necessarily for everybody, you know, and cause I don't also don't want to say like, you know, there's any

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00:27:15.740 --> 00:27:18.989

Ahliyah Chambers: less value in a person if they don't decide to pursue.

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00:27:18.990 --> 00:27:19.830

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

198

00:27:20.333 --> 00:27:22.850

Ahliyah Chambers: But I have seen how

199

00:27:23.090 --> 00:27:26.239

Ahliyah Chambers: it gives more options sometimes of like, okay.

200

00:27:26.240 --> 00:27:26.880

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

201

00:27:26.880 --> 00:27:40.170

Ahliyah Chambers: You know, this is a certain field or area I want to break into, or folks that maybe I don't have access to in my hometown, you know, and so, or or resources and things like that. And so I feel like, Yeah, I just

202

00:27:40.380 --> 00:27:51.933

Ahliyah Chambers: I I just wanted to kind of continue that for sure. So but yeah, I'm always. I'm always grateful to them. And then even I have an an uncle on my dad's side, and my dad's younger brother,

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00:27:52.420 --> 00:28:04.069

Ahliyah Chambers: who also, like you know, went and got his bachelor. And you know, even now it's kind of like self teaching himself like even like the paralegal system and things like that. So I think that, like, I see how

204

00:28:04.430 --> 00:28:20.340

Ahliyah Chambers: through books and some of these things. So we're now we're seeing they're trying to ban in certain areas. It's like, not like this is really, this is really how we kind of, you know, can break out of this like narrative that they were trying to even like, you know, again, teach me in K through 12, you know. So it's like without.

205

00:28:20.340 --> 00:28:20.730

Jasmine Nduka: Right.

206

00:28:20.730 --> 00:28:29.120

Ahliyah Chambers: Have an exposure to other education. It's like, you know, we start to make life decisions and think that certain opportunities aren't available to us. You know.

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00:28:30.010 --> 00:28:30.690

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

208

00:28:30.900 --> 00:28:32.451

Jasmine Nduka: do you feel like

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00:28:32.950 --> 00:28:41.730

Jasmine Nduka: There was anything else, I guess, like that you wanted to do, instead of maybe psychology or or higher education. Was there

something else that you were very passionate about?

210

00:28:42.590 --> 00:28:49.364

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, I think that I've I think that I've started to like change a little bit over the years like I said,

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00:28:50.580 --> 00:29:18.113

Ahliyah Chambers: I think I've I I got psychology later. But I think that I also have growing interest in like law. You know, policy. I think that again, seeing the world. Is like, Oh, yeah, like, we need that. So I feel like, at 1 point in high school. I was like, Oh, I want to be a part of the mock trial, you know, but it just wasn't for me at that time, you know. One of my sorority sisters is also like has, you know, is studying right now to

212

00:29:18.400 --> 00:29:21.260

Ahliyah Chambers: Do the bar to pass the bar, you know, and she will, you know.

213

00:29:21.700 --> 00:29:22.140

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

214

00:29:22.566 --> 00:29:31.219

Ahliyah Chambers: But I think that seeing that is like, Okay, but I feel like now for me, the creative side has really leaned into the storytelling.

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00:29:32.000 --> 00:29:33.920

Ahliyah Chambers: You know, like.

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00:29:33.930 --> 00:29:37.841

Ahliyah Chambers: yeah, creative world, you know whether that's through

217

00:29:38.580 --> 00:30:01.850

Ahliyah Chambers: you know, literature film, you know, journalism cause. I think that there's power. And again telling the story at that time how it's, you know, written as opposed to like. Let somebody else tell it later, and it's like that's not. That's not how it happened, you know. And so yeah, like, that's a big thing. But I also like really enjoy.

218

00:30:01.970 --> 00:30:14.989

Ahliyah Chambers: And I think, too, like from a young age like. I consider myself kind of funny, you know, and so like I enjoy the like comedy. And some of those things cause I think, that, like, we have to have joy, you know, and especially like.

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00:30:15.180 --> 00:30:23.169

Ahliyah Chambers: just as as humans, we need that. But I think that like, yeah, very seeing a lot of like comedians. And some of those things, whether it's like

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00:30:23.370 --> 00:30:38.809

Ahliyah Chambers: poking fun at, you know, political issues or personal things like or community things. It's like, okay, like, there's ways that like again, there's certain, you know, maybe politics or things that folks have to follow to make sure that it's like it's still

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00:30:39.080 --> 00:30:46.990

Ahliyah Chambers: not totally offending anybody, but I think there's some value, and being able to like, laugh at ourselves and and find joy. You know.

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00:30:46.990 --> 00:30:47.390

Jasmine Nduka: Right.

223

00:30:47.390 --> 00:30:48.500

Ahliyah Chambers: Always like

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00:30:48.540 --> 00:31:15.789

Ahliyah Chambers: looking at what's wrong, you know, cause it's like ultimately, what has happened and where we are now, it's like, that's not any of our doing, you know. So we get one life, you know. So how do we make the most of it now? So I've I've been trying to find new ways to keep that joy and that like storytelling. Or, you know, comedic relief just involved in the education cause. I feel like sometimes things can feel too heavy like I was at the black resource center.

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00:31:15.790 --> 00:31:16.190

Jasmine Nduka: Right.

226

00:31:16.190 --> 00:31:21.030

Ahliyah Chambers: Height of the Black Lives Matter movement like when George Floyd, you know Brianna Taylor and.

227

00:31:21.030 --> 00:31:21.520

Jasmine Nduka: mhm

228

00:31:21.520 --> 00:31:36.239

Ahliyah Chambers: Several others were, were, you know, murdered at the hands of the police, and even before that, as a student we were marching, you know, and saying Black lives. Matter, you know, like 2016, you know, 2015 in Africana studies. And so I think that

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00:31:36.440 --> 00:31:54.649

Ahliyah Chambers: that caused me a lot of like. This world is heavy when we're when the world is paused in 2020, or we're all in this pandemic. And we see we see this happening. And and you know I'm I'm in a position to support black students. But I'm also grieving as a black person, too, and angry and sad, and

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00:31:55.080 --> 00:32:09.319

Ahliyah Chambers: and all these things. So it's like, I think it took some time to really instill, you know, because again, it's not like we're living in a perfect world. Now, it's just like, okay. Well, how how are we dealing with this? You know. Day to day, you know, cause it's a longer.

231

00:32:09.750 --> 00:32:14.050

Ahliyah Chambers: Longer, marathon, that we gotta keep going, for, you know. So.

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00:32:14.050 --> 00:32:14.780

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

233

00:32:15.030 --> 00:32:17.096

Jasmine Nduka: The marathon keeps going.

234

00:32:17.510 --> 00:32:18.516

Ahliyah Chambers: For real.

235

00:32:20.920 --> 00:32:29.979

Jasmine Nduka: So I actually kind of had a question about like your work in educational equity, in like undeserves or students that don't have access.

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00:32:30.407 --> 00:32:35.749

Jasmine Nduka: What do you see? As like the biggest barrier? And how are you addressing these challenges in your work?

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00:32:38.400 --> 00:32:43.534

Ahliyah Chambers: think there's a few, I think what first comes to mind is definitely

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00:32:44.520 --> 00:33:12.560

Ahliyah Chambers: like financial access, you know, and even like knowledge about resources. I feel like, you know, a lot of what I think about now is how and I wanna continue to address is like, how, for instance, like redlining or like housing. In certain areas, is ultimately what decides on how high schools or elementary or middle schools are getting access to certain education, you know. And so it's like.

239

00:33:12.890 --> 00:33:42.810

Ahliyah Chambers: Totally based on where you live. And the financial median income in that area might determine. If there's even giving you access, you know, to to college, or or to just knowing that you have options outside of you know, whatever they may be telling you and like cause some students to like. I feel like from a young age. In some ways I'm like, I know that I I hold, you know, privilege, and not being necessarily first Gen. But even like as like

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00:33:42.900 --> 00:34:00.049

Ahliyah Chambers: an elementary school like I was labeled as like a gate student, or like a gifted student. And so I would get like like in like second grade. I would get like extra assignments to like, do this report or do that. But I think in retrospect, like, even though I'm grateful for what it did for me, and and kept me engaged in the classroom. It's like.

241

00:34:00.050 --> 00:34:00.640

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

242

00:34:00.800 --> 00:34:10.230

Ahliyah Chambers: I feel like learning sometimes in the educational system. Looks like it gotta be a certain way. And I think that that's a certain of like, there's folks that are like more, maybe like

243

00:34:10.639 --> 00:34:22.820

Ahliyah Chambers: like kinesthetic learners that maybe they need more of like feeling. Or, you know, just like, yeah, we all learn in a different way. So it's like, not everybody is is their strength may not be

244

00:34:23.560 --> 00:34:49.739

Ahliyah Chambers: to just write a report to take a multiple choice test. Write a essay, or, you know, like some of those things to where it's like somebody might be able to give you this. You know better in the arts, you know, they might be able to draw you a picture and and demonstrate their learning. So I feel like definitely financial, you know and how that like has trickled down like that pipeline, and and how that determines access for folks who may know.

245

00:34:50.150 --> 00:35:00.100

Ahliyah Chambers: I think, like I said, education being so like type a. I feel like folks are now having a conversation about different spaces, but I think that that also again depends on where you are.

246

00:35:02.160 --> 00:35:09.899

Ahliyah Chambers: I think I'm trying to think I feel like, even in the kind of tied to financials like basic needs, you know. And I think we can talk about like.

247

00:35:10.280 --> 00:35:12.339

Ahliyah Chambers: Housing, and some of those things.

248

00:35:12.340 --> 00:35:12.900

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

249

00:35:12.900 --> 00:35:15.239

Ahliyah Chambers: Think sometimes folks are like, you know, I don't wanna

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00:35:15.280 --> 00:35:32.500

Ahliyah Chambers: get into a bunch of debt, you know, behind this. And because of this, or because maybe there's different things that again

are presenting themselves as obstacles is like, you know, folks are struggling, especially in California, you know, and I think nationwide. Now, too, like, you know, with houses, you know food.

251

00:35:33.820 --> 00:35:43.589

Ahliyah Chambers: I think that it's always been there. But now it's more talked about is like, you know mental health, you know. I think that sometimes folks again, we don't get to choose. You know

252

00:35:43.910 --> 00:35:50.779

Ahliyah Chambers: our upbringing at all, you know. A lot of times like, you know, folks are

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00:35:50.900 --> 00:35:54.279

Ahliyah Chambers: at some point have to just deal with whatever

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00:35:54.360 --> 00:36:10.834

Ahliyah Chambers: you know. Whatever their upbringing was, or whatever they may have been exposed to or not exposed to, you know. And so like, I think that. And then you're ongoing like the experiences kinda go. And I think that's where again, the psychology kind of comes in of like dang, like, you know,

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00:36:11.280 --> 00:36:18.449

Ahliyah Chambers: and mental health support is like a field that we're all talking about it. But then we overtax the therapist.

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00:36:18.450 --> 00:36:18.920

Jasmine Nduka: yeah.

257

00:36:18.920 --> 00:36:30.609

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, or you got a therapist who maybe doesn't understand your experiences or not from, you know, familiar. And so I think that that's probably a big one. And I think through addressing it is really like.

258

00:36:31.890 --> 00:36:51.999

Ahliyah Chambers: I think, instead of like, I said, sometimes these problems can feel so big to where it's like, how do I, you know, even make an influence, and it's like understanding what your scope is, you know, and and then connecting with other people. And that's why I feel like there's a lot of value in like that, like that. Connections of

like, we all have some type of strength there, you know.

259

00:36:52.320 --> 00:37:06.392

Ahliyah Chambers: you know something I didn't know. I know something you don't know. And then now we come together. And then we're like, Okay, well, how do we put our resources together to address that so like finding like minded folks that are like also committed to like that access?

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00:37:06.700 --> 00:37:09.789

Ahliyah Chambers: for example, like having access to like folks that

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00:37:10.100 --> 00:37:27.838

Ahliyah Chambers: are on the campuses like having access to like psychological resources or knowing about finances. Or you know us talking about and actually doing the work with going into the high schools or inviting the high school students or middle school students, you know, to the school. And so even.

262

00:37:28.530 --> 00:37:54.599

Ahliyah Chambers: What was it? It was like? Maybe a couple of months ago there was a middle school students like in San Diego area, and it was predominantly like black and brown students, you know, who came and tell that even though they're in middle school, and they were having all their, you know, middle school fun. I'm like, shout out to all the educators in that room because I'm like, it takes a different level of patience and thick skin. But yeah, it was just like talking to them

263

00:37:54.730 --> 00:38:01.025

Ahliyah Chambers: and seeing their interest and seeing that exposure cause like I said for me when I was in high school

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00:38:01.360 --> 00:38:19.618

Ahliyah Chambers: and like again, some people haven't seen anything. But when I went to campuses I never really thought myself up until I was really about to go to Sdsu like I remember visiting Ucr. And the campus didn't feel didn't feel like fit for me. And I and I I think that that's also where it's like, every student is different. Some students, you know,

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00:38:20.440 --> 00:38:31.749

Ahliyah Chambers: can really find to where it's like, okay, this Uc

system is nurturing for me. This state system is nurturing for me, or you know, community college is my next step, you know. And so yeah, I feel like

266

00:38:31.750 --> 00:38:56.000

Ahliyah Chambers: finding what's right for folks. But I think folks have to be presented that option, too, because sometimes it also feels like again, Higher Ed or nothing. And it's like, well, let's reintroduce those trains like, let's bring that back. So people can like again start to like cause. I figure I I started to learn that like, especially through undergrad, but I just take it more on. It's like, sometimes you never know which. Sometimes people know what they're gonna do, and they go for it, you know.

267

00:38:56.000 --> 00:39:17.460

Ahliyah Chambers: and other times we go for it, and we learn what we don't want to do, you know. And so I felt like, even as I'm navigating like my own journey and have in the past, too, is like some of that comes from crossing stuff off the list to where it's like, Okay, well, you know, I like this aspect, but maybe I don't like this aspect, or maybe I should do a pivot over here and like, you know, and so

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00:39:17.805 --> 00:39:25.760

Ahliyah Chambers: but having that having that ability and and and I think also like self, like efficacy to feel like, okay, like, I can do that. And I had to support.

269

00:39:26.065 --> 00:39:26.370

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:39:26.370 --> 00:39:30.860

Ahliyah Chambers: You know, to to kind of back for me a little bit.

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00:39:32.458 --> 00:39:34.210

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:39:34.210 --> 00:39:36.879

Ahliyah Chambers: So I feel like that I feel like That answered your question. But yeah, like I said sometimes.

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00:39:36.880 --> 00:39:37.630

Jasmine Nduka: It did it did.

274

00:39:37.630 --> 00:40:03.277

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, I'm like, let's let's just do a drop in the bucket, and and not underestimating that impact either to where it's like, Oh, well, you know, did I answer those questions right for them students? Or you know, Nope, is anybody utilizing these services? And and then I think, sometimes along the way, whether it's like, do different metrics that, like somebody, I find that like metrics are helpful, like quantitative. Yes, but I think when you hear from somebody like

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00:40:03.630 --> 00:40:12.210

Ahliyah Chambers: Oh, like, you know, this was really beneficial to me, or this changed my life, or this actually made me. It's like, Okay, we're doing it right. You know we're doing the right.

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00:40:12.210 --> 00:40:16.000

Jasmine Nduka: Right? Yeah, making a difference. Right?

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00:40:17.340 --> 00:40:25.199

Jasmine Nduka: So kind of switching gears a little bit into like your work as a Freelance journalist. What kind of inspired you to.

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00:40:25.620 --> 00:40:29.440

Jasmine Nduka: I guess. Pursue writing and pursue journalism.

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00:40:30.710 --> 00:40:32.885

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, I think that.

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00:40:33.680 --> 00:40:40.429

Ahliyah Chambers: I feel like it's not that I necessarily wasn't confident. As a writer, I think that I was used to writing

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00:40:40.470 --> 00:40:43.635

Ahliyah Chambers: in educational settings, you know. And

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00:40:45.110 --> 00:40:53.410

Ahliyah Chambers: it made me think about like again, I think, going back also to the storytelling and wanting to, you know, create those records

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00:40:53.700 --> 00:40:56.409

Ahliyah Chambers: that yeah, ultimately, like.

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00:40:56.750 --> 00:41:21.739

Ahliyah Chambers: we're like truth telling, you know, and highlighting different folks. And so I've done stories on, like, you know, profile pieces on like individuals who maybe have been really big and education or influential cause the I wrote for and still sometimes right, for, like the voice and viewpoint. Which is like the oldest, like black newspaper in San Diego. And so, even though folks, they have online resources as well. So even though, folks sometimes.

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00:41:21.740 --> 00:41:27.460

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, some folks pick up newspapers. Other folks are just solely online or social media. And so

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00:41:27.460 --> 00:41:30.929

Ahliyah Chambers: yeah, I just kind of wanted to like, be able to tell the stories about

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00:41:31.020 --> 00:41:34.020

Ahliyah Chambers: things that were happening, and also knowing that like

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00:41:34.340 --> 00:41:38.430

Ahliyah Chambers: again, I think going back to like you, said, the educational equity question is like.

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00:41:38.480 --> 00:41:50.840

Ahliyah Chambers: Oh, through me, sharing about this resource for my vantage point of my scope, seeing it like, Oh, on college campuses, there's this new program at Ucsd to where high school students can do this or at state. They can do this like it's like

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00:41:51.240 --> 00:42:13.363

Ahliyah Chambers: through putting that in a newspaper or saying like, Hey, parents, you could do this like you never know who's gonna clip your article or who's gonna like, take that and like, share with their student and stuff like that. So I think through that, you know, highlighting black business owners has just like even helped me to like build connections again, like throughout. You know the space.

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00:42:13.810 --> 00:42:21.860

Ahliyah Chambers: and yeah, and just highlighting like sources of joy. And things like that. So I feel like it's even though there is a certain like.

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00:42:22.170 --> 00:42:35.350

Ahliyah Chambers: I don't wanna say formula, but depending on the like platform that you're writing for. It's like there might be certain cultural things that you're kind of like, okay, well, this is for this

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00:42:35.350 --> 00:42:57.730

Ahliyah Chambers: platform to, whereas, like, you know, do a playwright, or maybe through a a black media, you know platform or a different media platform that might feel differently or have different like just parameters, I guess, is like, I think, as a writers like I've started to learn like some of those like, you know, like experiences and lessons that come with that, you know. And so I'm grateful.

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00:42:57.730 --> 00:42:58.100

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:42:58.100 --> 00:43:03.170

Ahliyah Chambers: Like have written written a lot, but I think it also shows me of like

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00:43:03.510 --> 00:43:08.891

Ahliyah Chambers: I I can. I can do pretty well with formulas in in writing, you know.

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00:43:09.510 --> 00:43:24.879

Ahliyah Chambers: But I again, I I've really started to right now. I'm kind of leaning into the space of like, and I wanna hold space for all. But I I enjoy the kind of like, even though it's a different format. But like through the playwrighting group, for example, like being able to

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00:43:26.020 --> 00:43:30.588

Ahliyah Chambers: express certain themes, but through characters, you know.

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00:43:31.370 --> 00:43:31.580

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:43:31.580 --> 00:43:48.090

Ahliyah Chambers: I think that that can translate into like again plays. You know, people. I haven't given any screen writing. But people can do TV and film, you know. Books, you know, an ex, an example. You know, things like that. So I feel like, yeah, through

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00:43:48.190 --> 00:43:54.439

Ahliyah Chambers: journalism. I but I think kind of going back to the original question. It definitely helped me like when even when you see, like

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00:43:54.710 --> 00:44:02.309

Ahliyah Chambers: was it like Ida B. Wells, who was like really big on, like recording the lynchings and things that were happening, you know, at that time to where it's like

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00:44:02.410 --> 00:44:21.839

Ahliyah Chambers: at that time. I'm sure I'm sure she knew her. Why, behind it. But now it's like, you know, years later, folks are able to reference back or to, you know again, it's kind of like people can't argue that down about that happening, because, like, you know, and we're writing it from from our stories as opposed to like again letting

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00:44:21.840 --> 00:44:36.305

Ahliyah Chambers: you know, whoever adopt this and teach it in schools and say what wasn't slavery? It was indentured servitude, and they wanted to be there. And all of these things. It's like, no like, let's let's tell it how it is in real terms, and.

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00:44:36.620 --> 00:44:37.010

Jasmine Nduka: Right.

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00:44:37.010 --> 00:44:37.840

Ahliyah Chambers: You know.

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00:44:39.810 --> 00:44:42.995

Jasmine Nduka: so still in like the realm of of journalism.

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00:44:43.700 --> 00:44:48.426

Jasmine Nduka: how do you ensure the voices and perspectives of the black community?

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00:44:50.410 --> 00:44:51.420

Jasmine Nduka: are like.

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00:44:51.650 --> 00:44:58.029

Jasmine Nduka: I guess, like as well as like with your work with the black newspaper, are like effectively represented in your work.

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00:44:59.710 --> 00:45:00.569

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah,

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00:45:01.460 --> 00:45:03.429

Ahliyah Chambers: so a lot of the times it

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00:45:03.990 --> 00:45:18.439

Ahliyah Chambers: it's like me spending time with the person or the project that I'm writing with, and so like, and I always try to like run it by folks and use quotes. And also again, I think, with running by and having

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00:45:18.490 --> 00:45:30.730

Ahliyah Chambers: permission is like. There's things that have been shared with me in an interview that like I'm not sharing exactly what had happened, you know. But I'm I asked, you know, for permission to share that theme you know of, like

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00:45:31.223 --> 00:45:37.506

Ahliyah Chambers: like there was somebody who I did a profile piece on, and who had shared like some intimate things about her journey and

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00:45:37.850 --> 00:45:46.749

Ahliyah Chambers: with and like. And so, instead of like saying exactly what had happened, like, you know, through her family or through her journey. It's like, Okay, well, I'm sharing that like again.

317

00:45:47.109 --> 00:46:04.039

Ahliyah Chambers: Sometimes folks look at certain people and put us on these pedestals, but you don't know what folks have been through, you know. And so I think through like spending time checking in, you know, checking in with the editor of like, okay, what's the goal of this piece? And communicating that.

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00:46:04.040 --> 00:46:04.359

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:46:04.360 --> 00:46:14.399

Ahliyah Chambers: Or even if I'm pitching something. That is like, okay, like, this is where we're at. But I do really like to use direct quotes, and so either, if.

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00:46:14.830 --> 00:46:18.010

Ahliyah Chambers: If I'm writing it and transcribing it, I might, you know.

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00:46:18.220 --> 00:46:33.282

Ahliyah Chambers: ask somebody like, Okay, is this what you said? Or do you mind if I like, record this purse, this portion of like what you're talking about like I've recorded interviews and things like that. Even afterwards I'll share it with the person like after it's published.

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00:46:33.660 --> 00:46:44.089

Ahliyah Chambers: and yeah, like, 9 times out of 10 even, I feel like, so far, unless somebody again they can hit me up, but it's been. It's been pretty good feedback of like this was accurate, and thank you, for you know.

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00:46:44.090 --> 00:46:44.540

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:46:44.540 --> 00:47:05.249

Ahliyah Chambers: Bringing highlight, which I think even shows more to like the essence of like the voice and viewpoint. And I think that's also why I really wanted to write with them. To even start this off like I'm open to to other opportunities, you know. Again, as long as it aligns with, like my my own values, and how I want to share. But but I think the essence of how they are is they're very big on.

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00:47:05.250 --> 00:47:30.100

Ahliyah Chambers: you know, highlighting what's going on in the community talking about, you know, social political issues and and trying to share resources and those things. So it felt like a a big alignment. Between us, too. And I know that again, that because it's one of the oldest like black media sources in the area that a lot of folks, you know, elders, you know, downward really like kind of connect with the with the story. So

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00:47:30.240 --> 00:47:31.100

Ahliyah Chambers: yeah.

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00:47:32.720 --> 00:47:47.389

Jasmine Nduka: I like that. So I also wanted to talk about your work in the as a black queer women, theatre, how do you see? I guess the landscape of theater evolving for black queer women, and what changes you'd like to see in the industry.

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00:47:48.110 --> 00:47:51.340

Ahliyah Chambers: Hmm! That's a really good question. I feel like

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00:47:51.520 --> 00:47:59.409

Ahliyah Chambers: so full transparency like even being like again, like you, said a black, queer woman that it's like, that's something that like I've

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00:48:00.090 --> 00:48:06.359

Ahliyah Chambers: like. I think I was very comfortable in some areas of being like black. You know what I'm saying and feeling like.

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00:48:06.360 --> 00:48:06.800

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:48:06.800 --> 00:48:09.070

Ahliyah Chambers: Our intersections, maybe

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00:48:09.824 --> 00:48:14.579

Ahliyah Chambers: and even still, now, it's like, there's certain like, I guess, like, I don't wanna say necessarily like

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00:48:14.690 --> 00:48:20.159

Ahliyah Chambers: privacies. But it's like, I just learned that especially, I think, working in higher Ed and like, even at the.

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00:48:20.550 --> 00:48:27.080

Ahliyah Chambers: cross cultural Center more so has, like allowed me to be like how all pieces of our identity are valid. You know.

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00:48:27.765 --> 00:48:28.130

Jasmine Nduka: Mhm

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00:48:28.380 --> 00:48:51.259

Ahliyah Chambers: And like everybody, defines queer differently, you know and like some of those areas. And so when I saw the black like the black queer like women playwrighting group the theme of our this workshop, which was, I wanna say we were the sixth cohort and they pretty much. We go through 10 weeks. And you write a 10 min play and so a few.

338

00:48:51.730 --> 00:49:09.870

Ahliyah Chambers: Group had written before. For me. It was my first time, but the the overall theme was like claiming space, you know, and I think that that's the biggest thing that can be helpful, because I feel like there are folks and maybe in all industries. But even like we said in storytelling. That is like

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00:49:10.430 --> 00:49:16.380

Ahliyah Chambers: folks that maybe maybe don't feel as comfortable sharing about their queerness. Or maybe they're in the background.

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00:49:16.380 --> 00:49:16.790

Jasmine Nduka: Hmm.

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00:49:16.790 --> 00:49:26.899

Ahliyah Chambers: Even just being like a black woman like, even if you're a black, heterosexual woman. And it's like, Okay, well, maybe I'm kind of like underwriting, or I have to move to the certain, you know.

342

00:49:27.110 --> 00:49:43.176

Ahliyah Chambers: right to a certain thing. A certain audience, or tone this down. Tell my blackness down till my queerness down. So whatever me being a woman down, and and so I think that that overall

element of like claiming space authentically

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00:49:43.610 --> 00:49:44.890

Ahliyah Chambers: has

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00:49:45.170 --> 00:49:59.240

Ahliyah Chambers: like, and I'm sure a lot of folks will probably say, like, through different different depending on their viewpoint. But I think just like the more arenas that we have to be able to claim that authentic space. And I think also

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00:49:59.550 --> 00:50:17.300

Ahliyah Chambers: going back to like even stuff that, like Taraji P. Henson has brought up recently, you know, like, you know, equitable pay. I think that that's I know other women have brought that up. Black women have brought that up before, but like being in the arts as well like making sure that like folks are getting that equitable pay, you know, cause it's like.

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00:50:17.300 --> 00:50:17.900

Jasmine Nduka: Right.

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00:50:17.900 --> 00:50:28.934

Ahliyah Chambers: A lot of times. We are the blueprint. And so it's like, you know, make sure that it's like we're feeling that that value. So I think that that claiming space, you know representation

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00:50:29.758 --> 00:50:49.109

Ahliyah Chambers: and then, you know, valuing, showing folks that they're valued in the industry and can tell their stories again. I feel like that. Just it's just beneficial, for sure. So it was nice for me to like, I said, to be just around other folks that again. We're queer, but we all also identify differently in in that.

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00:50:49.430 --> 00:50:57.820

Ahliyah Chambers: Being a black, queer woman. But there's ways that we can connect and still take up space, and whether we were talking like mine was more of like a

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00:50:58.050 --> 00:51:22.759

Ahliyah Chambers: comedy kind of romantic comedy type of thing of, like someone, you know, getting over a relationship. And their family,

one of their best cousins was like trying to bring them out like girl like, you know. Forget all that all those things, whereas, like other folks like in their plays and I think there's space for all of it. But, like other folks in their plays, were talking about like again, like identity, you know, and and how maybe certain people.

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00:51:22.960 --> 00:51:24.660

Ahliyah Chambers: as they were younger.

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00:51:24.750 --> 00:51:28.019

Ahliyah Chambers: told them to tone it down. You know, as far as their black man.

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00:51:28.360 --> 00:51:47.769

Ahliyah Chambers: You know, like some of the some of those themes, or you know folks talking about mental health anxiety, you know, being on the autistic spectrum, for example. So I feel like there was a lot of like range and so I think that again, that goes back to our intersectional identities and like our experiences. That is like.

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00:51:47.770 --> 00:51:59.860

Ahliyah Chambers: you know, we can maybe fall under this umbrella. But there's so many different stories to be told. So I think that just continuing to claim space and be value for it is, you know, is important for sure.

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00:52:00.800 --> 00:52:08.260

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah. And then still in the playwriting spectrum. Do you have any other skills in theater other than playwriting.

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00:52:08.760 --> 00:52:11.140

Ahliyah Chambers: You said. Do I have any experience in theater?

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00:52:11.140 --> 00:52:15.449

Jasmine Nduka: Any any other skills other in theater other than playwriting.

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00:52:16.390 --> 00:52:17.220

Ahliyah Chambers: Right now.

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00:52:17.220 --> 00:52:17.670

Jasmine Nduka: do you act?

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00:52:18.080 --> 00:52:18.760

Jasmine Nduka: do you sing?

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00:52:19.220 --> 00:52:29.999

Ahliyah Chambers: Right now. No, I know if I sing. No, I've done little like, and I haven't acted for real either, because I wanna, you know respect, and the time that folks put into that.

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00:52:30.000 --> 00:52:30.420

Jasmine Nduka: right.

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00:52:30.420 --> 00:52:31.940

Ahliyah Chambers: Always enjoy

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00:52:32.100 --> 00:52:35.009

Ahliyah Chambers: theater attending more. So

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00:52:35.283 --> 00:52:39.850

Ahliyah Chambers: and I think with the writing it's gotten me into that realm. But I I mean I have

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00:52:40.140 --> 00:52:46.199

Ahliyah Chambers: played with the idea of like, you know. Well, maybe you should like, I think, from writing characters. It's like.

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00:52:46.210 --> 00:53:03.750

Ahliyah Chambers: then you start to feel like, well, I know this character so I can, you know, act, you know some of those things. So not, I will say, not yet. But even like as we were talking about, like, you know, like with you, and like film production like, you know, I've thought about like, you know, somebody who I'd really admire is like Ava Duvernay, you know, and stories.

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00:53:04.430 --> 00:53:08.110

Ahliyah Chambers: And you know, issa Rae, another one, too. More.

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00:53:08.110 --> 00:53:08.700

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:53:08.700 --> 00:53:16.580

Ahliyah Chambers: But like different areas. And so those are like 2 women that I really kinda look up to. And sometimes you see

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00:53:16.630 --> 00:53:22.409

Ahliyah Chambers: more. So, issa. I know Ava Ava has different ways that she tells stories, you know, which you're still.

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00:53:22.410 --> 00:53:23.280

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:53:23.280 --> 00:53:32.390

Ahliyah Chambers: And appreciate it, but, like issa, kind of being in in kind of a jack of all trade, sometimes, you know. And so I think that that kind of

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00:53:32.950 --> 00:53:46.849

Ahliyah Chambers: that ability to not box yourself in allows me. And even especially like I said, coming into actually doing it later, you know, for me, like, has had me like, okay, like, there is growth, cause you sometimes see, people in theatre

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00:53:47.220 --> 00:54:12.783

Ahliyah Chambers: To where it's like they they do this, you know. Some, you see, some child stars, or some folks, maybe, in their twenties or early thirties hit it off. But like, sometimes people are putting in the work, you know, and and you really, you know, and and it and sometimes it like it feels like an overnight success. But it's like, No, I've been putting putting in. And so I think that that's something to where again I wanna respect the craft in the field, but know that, like I, I am open to

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00:54:13.790 --> 00:54:24.299

Ahliyah Chambers: to finding different ways, to tell stories and to get involved in that you know whether that's behind the camera in the writers room or or in front of the camera eventually. So we'll see.

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00:54:24.820 --> 00:54:25.230

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:54:25.830 --> 00:54:34.945

Jasmine Nduka: And I I think you had mentioned that you were an avid reader, and I wanted to ask, are there any authors whose work you always look forward to, or

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00:54:35.300 --> 00:54:39.840

Jasmine Nduka: ones that you like you. Maybe you haven't read, but You're familiar with their work.

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00:54:40.780 --> 00:54:45.409

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, I'd say, like I said earlier, Octavia Butler is definitely one.

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00:54:45.890 --> 00:54:52.470

Ahliyah Chambers: Afro Futurism, and that ability to imagine futures has really stuck with me. So she's a favorite.

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00:54:54.740 --> 00:55:01.134

Ahliyah Chambers: let me see, who else would, I would say, I think that, like Audrey, Lord's work, bell hooks

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00:55:03.310 --> 00:55:09.230

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, has really like stuck out to me like I think, with like, just elements of like love. And you know, communion.

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00:55:11.780 --> 00:55:15.960

Ahliyah Chambers: I'm trying to think, I would say, those may be my top

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00:55:16.360 --> 00:55:29.089

Ahliyah Chambers: 3 that are coming to the top of my head. I feel like I'm I've picked up books through like other folks, you know. Along way. But I'm trying to think.

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00:55:31.190 --> 00:55:40.719

Ahliyah Chambers: Yeah, I think bell hooks would be one. There's somebody else, and I'm slipping on her name. It may. I'm pretty sure I'm thinking about bell hooks thinking about Bell Hook.

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00:55:40.720 --> 00:55:41.370

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:55:41.370 --> 00:56:01.843

Ahliyah Chambers: You know, cause it's like sometimes these authors, too, like I feel like there are books that like, you know, when things like come out that it's like I may look forward to of like hearing a name like someone who like Dr. Patina. Love, I know, has, you know, written a couple of education. KA. Education books on project, particularly like black students in education, that

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00:56:02.140 --> 00:56:02.590

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:56:02.590 --> 00:56:17.369

Ahliyah Chambers: I leaned a lot on in the last, like 4 or 5 years, you know. And she recently dropped a book that I have, too, but like but yeah, I think that with it. I've looked back, you know, to the reading.

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00:56:18.233 --> 00:56:33.499

Ahliyah Chambers: And I think a lot of like I said my mentor doctor. Dr. Reddick, like will tell me a lot of like, you know like Oh, well, like, you know, referencing like James Baldwin, or, like, you know, autobiography of Malcolm X. Is still one of my favorites, or, like you know, I think, through even

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00:56:33.600 --> 00:56:43.980

Ahliyah Chambers: writing something that I also enjoy as well. It's like, I like reading books, but I also like essays, poems, and sometimes short excerpts, or like books that compile.

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00:56:44.420 --> 00:56:45.305

Ahliyah Chambers: Well

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00:56:46.190 --> 00:56:46.680

Jasmine Nduka: Right.

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00:56:46.680 --> 00:56:52.740

Ahliyah Chambers: And so I think that like again, certain just the way that folks like kind of tell stories. But yeah, I feel like I'm kinda

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00:56:53.550 --> 00:57:18.699

Ahliyah Chambers: those may be my top, but I feel like I can be like a little bit all over the place when it comes to reading, like I said different realms, or like through Afro Futurism, or some of those elements, has introduced me, cause I didn't grow up as like a comic kid, but like through that. It's like, Oh, well, like I've read kindred kindred by octavia Butler, as a book, but then I, you know, was introduced to it as like a graphic novel, and and some of those things.

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00:57:18.700 --> 00:57:19.250

Jasmine Nduka: mhm

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00:57:19.250 --> 00:57:25.749

Ahliyah Chambers: How like again, that folks, whether it's through telling those stories, or even folks kind of going more of the.

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00:57:26.140 --> 00:57:49.120

Ahliyah Chambers: you know, maybe superhero, or some of those realms like it's like, Oh, wow! Like folks are really kinda telling stories in in different ways and occupying space. And so something I can't really name, and altered off the top of my head. But did I have like in the clearly, as you see, is like my interest. They're vast, but it's like I have a niece now, my my oldest brother, and she's 2

400

00:57:49.673 --> 00:58:03.766

Ahliyah Chambers: Amari, and so it really makes me think about like children's books, you know, and and ways to like. You know that there's books already out there, but ways to continue to again like tell stories, or allow children, you know

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00:58:04.260 --> 00:58:13.300

Ahliyah Chambers: to see themselves, you know, in it, and see the diversity, too. So I know a lot of authors again are doing that work, but it's like we gotta continue to do it, because, like we said that there.

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00:58:13.300 --> 00:58:13.840

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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00:58:13.840 --> 00:58:17.322

Ahliyah Chambers: They're literally doing national bans Federal bans on some of these things. So.

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00:58:17.590 --> 00:58:18.070

Jasmine Nduka: Right.

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00:58:18.070 --> 00:58:29.770

Ahliyah Chambers: We need these books to be able to refer to the schools that aren't doing these bands so that way, folks, you know, students can see see them, you know, not only see other students in the books, but can see themselves, you know.

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00:58:30.240 --> 00:58:33.370

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah. Would you ever see yourself writing a children's book.

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00:58:34.070 --> 00:58:43.339

Ahliyah Chambers: I wouldn't be opposed definitely. I think that, like, you know, maybe I need. I don't know what I need. I need to like. Sit down and just have that project you know, to go for. But I definitely.

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00:58:43.980 --> 00:58:44.970

Ahliyah Chambers: wouldn't be imposed

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00:58:46.160 --> 00:58:57.886

Ahliyah Chambers: cause. Yeah, I I love. I love seeing more and more of those more and more of those come out for sure. So yeah, we'll we'll see. We said, I'm clearly I'll be writing something in the future.

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00:58:58.180 --> 00:58:59.146

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah, yeah.

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00:59:00.400 --> 00:59:06.039

Jasmine Nduka: yeah. And wrapping it up with our last question, can you discuss any notable successes

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00:59:06.160 --> 00:59:09.729

Jasmine Nduka: or achievements you've had as a playwright, or as a journalist.

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00:59:10.750 --> 00:59:12.270

Ahliyah Chambers: Hmm!

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00:59:13.600 --> 00:59:14.790

Ahliyah Chambers: You know.

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00:59:14.900 --> 00:59:17.240

Ahliyah Chambers: now that I'm thinking about it, I think

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00:59:17.280 --> 00:59:22.609

Ahliyah Chambers: the first thing I'll say is just, I guess, putting myself out, there has probably been the most notable

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00:59:23.080 --> 00:59:33.980

Ahliyah Chambers: I guess that I'm very new, as like the playwright. So you know, being able to have it, you know, read and perform by like professional actors, was like a really

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00:59:34.110 --> 00:59:38.659

Ahliyah Chambers: good achievement that was again through like the Sokus, like workshop

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00:59:39.328 --> 00:59:41.279

Ahliyah Chambers: I think, through journalism.

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00:59:42.290 --> 00:59:45.290

Ahliyah Chambers: Some of my like favorite pieces.

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00:59:46.055 --> 00:59:52.870

Ahliyah Chambers: Are likely I wrote a piece on like the Mphc. Plaza opening that happened at Ucsd.

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00:59:54.215 --> 00:59:54.560

Jasmine Nduka: mhm.

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00:59:54.560 --> 01:00:04.759

Ahliyah Chambers: I wrote another piece on the Amber Thomas, who is like a black woman in Spring Valley, who owns, like the chick-fil-a franchise.

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01:00:07.090 --> 01:00:08.649
Ahliyah Chambers: I'm trying to think

425
01:00:08.800 --> 01:00:23.600
Ahliyah Chambers: there's been so many. Oh, I wrote a piece to on when I hosted I planned and hosted the program, but then also wrote a piece between Jazzline Livingston, who's the Ucsd alum as well as Chairman Henry Wallace, who was on

426
01:00:24.076 --> 01:00:34.200
Ahliyah Chambers: again. Who's a part of this original San Diego Black Panther party, and I think to be able again to plan the program. But again, to bring together those 2 individuals

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01:00:34.210 --> 01:00:39.239
Ahliyah Chambers: have that conversation on like kind of like generational activism. And so they were. It was.

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01:00:39.240 --> 01:00:39.760
Jasmine Nduka: right.

429
01:00:40.800 --> 01:00:55.245
Ahliyah Chambers: It was in during the pandemic. So it was a zoom, a zoom program. But to be able to do that and then tell the story about. Like some of those like notable takeaways, I feel like those have been my biggest successes so far, and I think even

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01:00:55.870 --> 01:00:57.050
Ahliyah Chambers: on the

431
01:00:57.900 --> 01:01:08.009
Ahliyah Chambers: connecting it to the higher Ed realm of it has been like working with. When I was at San Diego State, one of my younger sorority sisters, ciara Watkins had

432
01:01:08.337 --> 01:01:33.549
Ahliyah Chambers: founded this like black arts or black theater organization. So we're like students that were interested in the arts. All really got together and wrote their own plays and perform them, and scripts and things like that. So really supporting them, we started our like through me, working there and working closely with Sierra like we started the first, like black film festival to where

students premiered short films and things like that.

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01:01:34.167 --> 01:01:38.320

Ahliyah Chambers: And then, even at what else is I gonna say

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01:01:38.740 --> 01:01:50.436

Ahliyah Chambers: through that? And yeah, I think that being able to like, elevate, like also me do the work and and learn, you know. But to be able to again like elevate the voices.

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01:01:50.970 --> 01:01:53.405

Ahliyah Chambers: also, like, you know, being a part of

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01:01:53.930 --> 01:02:09.660

Ahliyah Chambers: are getting connected to as well like the National Association of like black journalists, too, has been like an area of like learning and connecting to again the vast different ways that folks are like doing the story telling and things like that. So again, I think that being that I'm still

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01:02:09.710 --> 01:02:14.830

Ahliyah Chambers: newer within my first like 3 years, and some of those things. My portfolio isn't as like

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01:02:15.030 --> 01:02:18.169

Ahliyah Chambers: big as some others, but I think that through

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01:02:18.780 --> 01:02:31.080

Ahliyah Chambers: the area that I have done, you know, and have also empowered other students to kind of do that story telling or connect? I think those have probably been the biggest achievements thus far, you know.

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01:02:31.520 --> 01:02:32.210

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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01:02:32.840 --> 01:02:33.880

Jasmine Nduka: I love that.

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01:02:34.220 --> 01:02:38.520

Jasmine Nduka: I just wanted to thank you so much for taking time to interview with me today.

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01:02:38.972 --> 01:02:52.590

Jasmine Nduka: And I guess, did you have any. Lastly, remarks for people that want to follow your footsteps and and also focus on educational equity for underrepresented kids, or maybe people that also want to study afrocentric as well in school.

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01:02:54.126 --> 01:03:00.533

Ahliyah Chambers: I think and thank you, too, just for the time. And yeah, and the intentional questions, too.

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01:03:00.910 --> 01:03:05.130

Ahliyah Chambers: I think what I'll say is like like, I said. Sometimes

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01:03:05.160 --> 01:03:26.780

Ahliyah Chambers: we may not know the fullness of like what our journey looks like, you know, but really to like follow that knowing that there's certain times that we're very certain. And there's other times where we're not certain that we can't see, and we just have to again trust the process. And so I would remind somebody else that because I think sometimes we can, I know I can get

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01:03:26.780 --> 01:03:55.780

Ahliyah Chambers: caught up and like, Oh, I saw this person do that, and I admire them, and I wanna do it same way that they did in the same timing, or maybe beat their timing or this or that, and maybe, if you know, if if life doesn't work out in these certain ways that it's like, Oh, well, you know, this didn't happen for me, or you know, but it's like again acknowledging that we're all different. So I think that, taking the lessons and I'm always a resource, you know to folks. I think that that's just something that while I'm here on this earth that I'll be, you know that I you know.

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01:03:55.780 --> 01:03:56.470

Jasmine Nduka: right.

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01:03:56.470 --> 01:03:58.050

Ahliyah Chambers: And be able to serve.

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01:03:58.569 --> 01:04:01.539

Ahliyah Chambers: But yeah, I think it's like being able to

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01:04:01.570 --> 01:04:03.779

Ahliyah Chambers: again do what is

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01:04:03.970 --> 01:04:29.384

Ahliyah Chambers: what you feel like is that service, you know. If folks want to be those change makers to continue to do it and understand that there's no change that's too small, you know. In this world, you know, for sure. And yeah. And again, to continue the story telling. I think a lot of our, you know, cultures benefit from that and passing that on and continue into the legacy. So yeah, I think that that's that's something I always lean on like one of my favorite

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01:04:29.890 --> 01:04:54.789

Ahliyah Chambers: rappers is like Jay Cole, and in one of his songs he talked about like, you know, have you ever thought about your impact, you know, and that line always for me, you know of like thinking about your impact thinking about your legacy. And and you know going out and doing it, you know. So yeah, I say, just just trust the process, trust the process. But like, you know, I'm here, and I know that you're already, you know, doing a lot of things, too, you know, and continue.

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01:04:55.310 --> 01:05:01.700

Ahliyah Chambers: As well. So I'll be taking notes from you, even like you know, through the film and and all that, you know, like, seriously.

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01:05:01.700 --> 01:05:02.380

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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01:05:02.380 --> 01:05:15.319

Ahliyah Chambers: That also understanding that, like, you know, I I think to be lifelong learners is really like, just it's a beneficial thing to know that like. Okay, well, I might not be where I want to be, or I might not be good at this one thing now.

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01:05:15.627 --> 01:05:39.489

Ahliyah Chambers: But that doesn't mean I can't get better, you know. So I think that going back to like kickboxing like that showed me that, too, of like you go in there the first couple of days, and you like, I don't know. First month, 2 months, I don't know. And then you

start looking back at video progress. And you're like, Wow, like, you know, like, I'm improving. So I think that if I were to look at myself in high school now, like

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01:05:39.530 --> 01:05:57.910

Ahliyah Chambers: in some areas I'd be like, oh, like like proud of myself, you know. And so I think that again, having having those elements of those journeys of like again, I might not be where I want to be. I might not feel like this is big, but ultimately, like, you know, the younger versions of yourself would would be proud, you know, and sometimes be

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01:05:57.910 --> 01:06:14.700

Ahliyah Chambers: like, you know, in all of like dang like you. You bounce back from this, or you know you chase your dream. So things like just to to keep that going, but also take moments. I always take. Tell people, and I'm learning myself. Take moments of rest, joy. You know all those things. Don't be.

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01:06:14.700 --> 01:06:15.350

Jasmine Nduka: Yeah.

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01:06:15.350 --> 01:06:19.290

Ahliyah Chambers: Yourself. So. Yeah. But thank you again, Jasmine, I Jasmine, I.

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01:06:19.290 --> 01:06:20.710

Jasmine Nduka: No, thank you so much.

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01:06:21.036 --> 01:06:22.670

Ahliyah Chambers: I know I I totally.

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01:06:22.670 --> 01:06:25.060

Jasmine Nduka: Like we know each other so much now, literally.

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01:06:25.060 --> 01:06:28.600

Ahliyah Chambers: Literally. I'm I'm had to interview you next, you know. So.

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01:06:28.835 --> 01:06:33.554

Jasmine Nduka: I don't. I don't even know what I'll say. I haven't

done as many as many things as you done.

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01:06:33.790 --> 01:06:36.815

Ahliyah Chambers: That's it. And that's it. And that's it. So. But okay.

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01:06:37.090 --> 01:06:39.790

Jasmine Nduka: Okay. So I'm gonna go ahead and stop recording. Now.

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01:06:39.790 --> 01:06:41.030

Ahliyah Chambers: Okay. Sounds good.