

Key

Changes

Historical Events

Personal History

Identity

Negative Experiences

Positive Experiences

Macie: Howdy, I'm Macie Legaspi, on faceTime with my dad, Paul Legaspi, in California in the U S of A. Let us begin.

When and where were you born?

Paul: I was born September twenty-fifth, 1967 at eight thirty-nine p.m.

And--uh, where?

-Riverhead, Long Island, New York.

Where did you grow up?

-I grew up--uh, mostly on Long Island. We relocated to Arizona for a while, when I was in the third grade. We returned to New York, lived in East Rockaway, which is right next to Queens [mumbles] um...for a little bit; then we moved out to Suffolk County, Long Island.

Okay--uh, what was your childhood like?

-[blows out air] That's a rather...broad question.

Well, give me a long answer, then.

-Okay...typical, suburban childhood--[laughs]while my daughter makes faces into the screen--uh, just a typical, typical childhood. We did move around quite a bit because my father went through a few jobs.

Right.

-I'm really having a hard time trying to concentrate while you're making faces into the camera [laughs]. I was a shy kid, growing up, but overall just...an average childhood.

Oka--

-That's it?

No. What is your ethnic background?

-I guess...I am Irish-Filipino--is what I tell everybody. My mother's side of the family came over in the second wave of immigration through Ellis Island. The maiden name--Summers and Naoise were the Irish names. Summer was her father's side and Naoise was her mother's side. My father's father was a Filipino merchant marine. I'm assuming he got his citizenship through marriage. [My father's] mother was German.

Have you ever been there [Ireland, Germany, Philippines]?

-I've been to Germany, and I've been to Ireland. Haven't been to the Philippines. Ireland was beautiful; I just remember green countryside. I've been to Ireland and Scotland. You'll notice this about certain parts of Europe--they vibrate at a different frequency than the United States. The people don't live life angst-ridden. ...I didn't see anybody hustling and bustling about, anxious to get from one place to the next.

Germany seemed...old--seemed like an old person to me. Couple of world wars, having lived through that, it seemed like they were of an older culture--is what it felt like to me.

What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?

-Don't opt for the easy way out, because you miss the good stuff--the good stuff happens during the journey, when you feel something is adverse or challenging.

Where did the events occur that spurred these lessons?

-One of them is parenthood. Parenthood teaches you a lot about yourself. I often say that I've learned more from [my children] than I could ever hope to teach them.

How has your life been different than what you'd imagined?

-I never saw myself as being a father. I never envisioned myself--I didn't not, but I never thought past my first goal. I never thought past "I want to play drums for a living."

What is a moment in history that you personally remember?

-I remember getting a call from your mother, and from the moment she said "I have to tell you something," I knew she was pregnant, and that it'd be a boy. Somehow I just knew it. You can confirm it with her.

What do you think drove you to being a drummer?

-Well, because we moved around a lot, I was an incredibly shy kid. Very, very shy. And-I think it all happened when we moved back from Arizona and we were staying with my grandfather. The

school I was in--two of the kids in my class played the drums, and I would see them with their drumsticks and practice pads leaving class and going to this mysterious place. I also had a music class and the music teacher taught us two songs: one of them was *Sir Duke* by Stevie Wonder, and the other was *Southern Nights* by Glen Campbell. We learned the songs and lyrics and she told us about who Duke Ellington was--I think I had a crush on that teacher, as young as I was, and I think that sparked something. I also heard a song called *Oh What a Night*, and it had this section in the middle of the song with hi-hats that went [makes hissing sound repeatedly] and I remember hearing that in the song and tapping it out with my lunch money--it was a nervous habit. I would *tap tap tap tap*, nervously tapping, and my fifth grade teacher happened to be a piano player, and one day he sent me down to the music room, right then and there. I auditioned to be in the band, and that was it.

Do you think your personality--or, your character would be different if you hadn't moved around a lot as a kid?

-Yeah, I think that, no matter what, your character is always affected by how you grow up.