

EP4-Danny Kong_François

00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:12.880

(upbeat music)

Francois

00:00:12.880 --> 00:00:15.680

-Hi, and welcome to Untold Hong Kong Stories,

00:00:15.680 --> 00:00:17.520

multimedia narratives from the margins.

00:00:17.520 --> 00:00:22.320

This is a podcast series where we hear the stories of people in our community,

00:00:22.320 --> 00:00:26.720

from Hong Kong's non-Chinese locals to marginalized members of our community.

00:00:27.280 --> 00:00:31.360

We hope that by sharing their stories, we can think about the way we live ours

00:00:31.360 --> 00:00:33.920

and create a more inclusive and diverse society.

00:00:33.920 --> 00:00:38.800

I'm Dr. François Mouillot from the Department of Humanities and Creative Writing

00:00:38.800 --> 00:00:40.640

at the Hong Kong Baptist University,

00:00:40.640 --> 00:00:44.560

and our guest for today's podcast is Danny Kong,

00:00:44.560 --> 00:00:48.560

a musician and video game industry worker from Togo and Hong Kong.

00:00:48.560 --> 00:00:50.880

Here, he shares his story.

Danny

00:00:50.880 --> 00:00:56.160

-My name is Danny, Danny Kong, full name.

00:00:56.160 --> 00:00:59.600

I'm an artist, also my artist name is Sai Kong,

00:00:59.600 --> 00:01:02.800

Sai Kong, S-A-I-K-O-N-G, Kong,

00:01:02.800 --> 00:01:07.600

which is my half African name and my Chinese last name,

00:01:07.600 --> 00:01:08.480

which is put together.

00:01:08.480 --> 00:01:13.440

And where I'm from, I am mixed, where I first say my name.

00:01:13.440 --> 00:01:16.720

I am half, pretty a lot of mixed, though.

00:01:16.720 --> 00:01:21.440

I'm half African, oh wait, from born in Liberia,

00:01:21.440 --> 00:01:25.120

but raised from my mother from Sierra Leone, Togo, right?

00:01:25.120 --> 00:01:27.280

And yeah, and I'm half Chinese also.

Francois

00:01:27.280 --> 00:01:27.760

- Mm-hmm.

Danny

00:01:27.760 --> 00:01:29.120

- Yeah, pretty mixed everywhere,

00:01:29.120 --> 00:01:32.160

and I also have Arab blood, but let's not get to that.

00:01:32.160 --> 00:01:35.840

Being multicultural for a while, who am I?

00:01:35.840 --> 00:01:39.200

I am just a guy that is full of passion

00:01:39.200 --> 00:01:42.240

and I just love to deliver the greatest energy

00:01:42.240 --> 00:01:44.560

as much as I can to the world

00:01:44.560 --> 00:01:47.120

with as much positivity I can spread to.

00:01:47.120 --> 00:01:49.520

That's who I am, what I am.

00:01:49.520 --> 00:01:53.520

What I do, I work as, besides doing music on the daily

00:01:53.520 --> 00:01:55.120

or producing, or engineering, or DJing,

00:01:55.120 --> 00:02:00.560

I work in games, so I work as a, we're producing game.

00:02:00.560 --> 00:02:02.960

I work for this company called Apron.

00:02:02.960 --> 00:02:04.640

We do web through games and everything.

00:02:04.640 --> 00:02:07.680

So yeah, besides that, that's pretty much what I can say

00:02:07.680 --> 00:02:08.800

who I am and what I am.

Francois

00:02:08.800 --> 00:02:11.200

- Were you born in Hong Kong or,

00:02:11.200 --> 00:02:14.240

you mentioned that your mom was from Sierra Leone,

00:02:14.240 --> 00:02:14.960

or maybe I missed it.

Danny

00:02:14.960 --> 00:02:16.800

- Yeah, yeah, so my mom is pretty mixed.

Francois

00:02:16.800 --> 00:02:17.040

- Okay.

Danny

00:02:17.040 --> 00:02:19.920

- She's actually mixed, Liberian and Lebanon.

Francois
00:02:19.920 --> 00:02:20.560

- Okay, okay.

Danny
00:02:20.560 --> 00:02:21.760

- Right, so yeah, she's there.

00:02:21.760 --> 00:02:23.600

But I was born in Sierra Leone.

Francois
00:02:23.600 --> 00:02:24.000

- Okay.

Danny
00:02:24.000 --> 00:02:26.960

- Because of the civil war in the '90s, I think,

00:02:26.960 --> 00:02:28.400

family moved me to Togo.

00:02:28.400 --> 00:02:30.960

So I grew up in Togo, had a whole life in Togo,

00:02:30.960 --> 00:02:31.920

so you know what I'm saying?

00:02:31.920 --> 00:02:34.640

So yeah, and then from there, yeah,

00:02:34.640 --> 00:02:37.040

that's where life begins, I guess.

Francois
00:02:37.040 --> 00:02:39.840

- So when did you move from Togo to Hong Kong?

Danny
00:02:39.840 --> 00:02:43.680

- 2010, 2010, yeah, it was in 2010 I came to Hong Kong.

00:02:43.680 --> 00:02:45.360

I think I was 14 when I came here.

Francois

00:02:45.360 --> 00:02:48.080

- Let me ask a big question.

Danny

00:02:48.080 --> 00:02:49.360

- Any questions?

Francois

00:02:50.320 --> 00:02:53.520

- About specifically, how do you feel about Hong Kong?

00:02:53.520 --> 00:02:54.640

Is it home to you?

Danny

00:02:54.640 --> 00:02:57.680

- I get asked that question a lot,

00:02:57.680 --> 00:02:59.520

and I've also found the question very interesting.

00:02:59.520 --> 00:03:02.960

When I first came to Hong Kong,

00:03:02.960 --> 00:03:04.400

of course, getting to know the city

00:03:04.400 --> 00:03:06.080

and seeing how different it is

00:03:06.080 --> 00:03:08.800

compared to where I came from, which is Togo,

00:03:08.800 --> 00:03:11.360

it's very different, you know?

00:03:11.360 --> 00:03:12.640

You can't compare Africa and Asia.

00:03:12.640 --> 00:03:14.960

It's like two different things, two different cities,

00:03:14.960 --> 00:03:15.760

two different cultures,

00:03:15.760 --> 00:03:17.680

and everything is just so different.

00:03:17.680 --> 00:03:19.120

You know, I remember being,

00:03:19.120 --> 00:03:21.280

first time coming here in Hong Kong and being in class,

00:03:21.280 --> 00:03:23.600

and seeing class, I see how school,

00:03:23.600 --> 00:03:25.440

just school, class was different, you know?

00:03:25.440 --> 00:03:27.440

Being a schoolmate, everything was different.

00:03:27.440 --> 00:03:28.560

Back home, I had to be in class,

00:03:28.560 --> 00:03:30.320

everything is just the people

00:03:30.320 --> 00:03:31.760

and everything just feels very different.

00:03:31.760 --> 00:03:35.120

But along the years, going along the way,

00:03:35.120 --> 00:03:37.040

getting to know the city,

00:03:37.040 --> 00:03:38.640

getting to fell in love with the city,

00:03:38.640 --> 00:03:41.680

I call this today my home

00:03:41.680 --> 00:03:43.920

because I think everybody can say

00:03:43.920 --> 00:03:46.880

that they can find a piece of comfort in this city.

00:03:46.880 --> 00:03:49.200

And once you find that piece of comfort,

00:03:49.200 --> 00:03:50.880

it will just never let you go.

00:03:50.880 --> 00:03:52.160

There's just something about the city

00:03:52.160 --> 00:03:53.600

that just draws you to,

00:03:53.600 --> 00:03:56.480

that makes you feel like at home, you know?

00:03:56.480 --> 00:03:58.720

And yeah, to me, Hong Kong is home.

00:03:58.720 --> 00:04:01.840

And 'cause I'm, not just because I'm half Chinese,

00:04:01.840 --> 00:04:03.840

but that's because I lived here

00:04:03.840 --> 00:04:05.520

and experienced the life here,

00:04:05.520 --> 00:04:07.120

especially getting older to know that,

00:04:07.120 --> 00:04:08.960

okay, yeah, this is home, you know?

00:04:08.960 --> 00:04:10.640

I will be home if anything happened

00:04:10.640 --> 00:04:12.000

in a world I would like to be in Hong Kong.

Francois

00:04:12.000 --> 00:04:13.360

- Mm-hmm.

00:04:13.360 --> 00:04:16.400

You mentioned, I think, an interesting term

00:04:16.400 --> 00:04:18.640

or way of putting it, which is a piece of comfort.

Danny

00:04:18.640 --> 00:04:19.760

- A piece of comfort, yeah.

Francois

00:04:19.760 --> 00:04:22.080

- What is that piece of comfort?

00:04:22.080 --> 00:04:23.520

Or maybe there's several pieces of comfort.

Danny

00:04:23.520 --> 00:04:25.920

- Right, so in the piece of comfort,

00:04:25.920 --> 00:04:30.480

it's something that makes me feel at home.

00:04:30.480 --> 00:04:34.080

I'm not sure how someone would describe at home,

00:04:34.080 --> 00:04:36.560

but to me, at home, it's a place

00:04:36.560 --> 00:04:38.080

where you have a peaceful mind.

00:04:38.080 --> 00:04:41.440

Home is a place where you know people,

00:04:41.440 --> 00:04:43.440

where you have people that you love one

00:04:43.440 --> 00:04:46.480

and where you grow to build relationship with people.

00:04:46.480 --> 00:04:48.320

And to me, that's what a home was.

00:04:48.320 --> 00:04:50.160

That's what Hong Kong is to me.

00:04:50.160 --> 00:04:53.120

It's a place where I found myself a peace of mind.

00:04:53.120 --> 00:04:54.160

It's crazy.

00:04:54.160 --> 00:04:55.200

It's a lot happening.

00:04:55.200 --> 00:04:55.840

It's stressful.

00:04:55.840 --> 00:04:57.440

It's a busy city, you know?

00:04:57.440 --> 00:05:00.880

But despite the midst of everything happening

00:05:00.880 --> 00:05:03.600

in the fogness, you still can find that shed of light

00:05:03.600 --> 00:05:05.760

that makes you feel like, well, this is home.

00:05:05.760 --> 00:05:07.440

This is my place.

00:05:07.440 --> 00:05:08.560

This is my country, you know?

Francois

00:05:08.560 --> 00:05:09.120

- Mm-hmm.

Danny

00:05:09.120 --> 00:05:09.620

- Yeah.

Francois

00:05:10.720 --> 00:05:13.840

-And then I also want to ask as a result,

00:05:13.840 --> 00:05:15.440

I mean, I'm asking about Hong Kong,

00:05:15.440 --> 00:05:19.760

but I'm interested also in about your relationship

00:05:19.760 --> 00:05:22.160

to the place you were born in Sierra Leone

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and where you spend a lot of time, then Togo.

00:05:25.360 --> 00:05:28.000

How do you relate to those places?

00:05:28.000 --> 00:05:30.000

Are they home as well?

Danny

00:05:30.000 --> 00:05:31.200

- Home.

00:05:31.200 --> 00:05:32.400

Home.

00:05:32.400 --> 00:05:34.400

Like I said, home is not one place.

00:05:34.400 --> 00:05:36.240

Home is where the heart is, right?

00:05:36.240 --> 00:05:37.280

Not just the heart, but the mind.

00:05:37.280 --> 00:05:38.960

Home is where the heart and the mind is, right?

00:05:38.960 --> 00:05:43.680

And to me, it's, I think both place,

00:05:43.680 --> 00:05:48.640

I've never really made a debate to myself

00:05:48.640 --> 00:05:50.800

where this is home or this is not home and that.

00:05:50.800 --> 00:05:53.520

To me, both places home because I found comfort

00:05:53.520 --> 00:05:56.160

both in both the different way.

00:05:56.160 --> 00:05:57.920

They're both different in different ways, you know?

00:05:57.920 --> 00:06:00.880

I cannot, when I go back home in Africa,

00:06:00.880 --> 00:06:04.800

I find the way, livelihood there is very different.

00:06:04.800 --> 00:06:05.840

Style of living is different.

00:06:05.840 --> 00:06:08.800

So there's a sense of, okay, where I can find my comfort,

00:06:08.800 --> 00:06:10.560

where I can say that this is home.

00:06:10.560 --> 00:06:13.920

And I call it home because of the people, my family,

00:06:13.920 --> 00:06:15.600

and there's just a passion of it.

00:06:15.600 --> 00:06:17.760

Everything, you know, it made me who I am.

00:06:17.760 --> 00:06:20.800

You know, it made me culturally growing up,

00:06:20.800 --> 00:06:22.720

getting my ass whooped by my family,

00:06:22.720 --> 00:06:24.320

my parents, when you do something.

00:06:24.320 --> 00:06:27.120

So all of those, like just everything happening

00:06:27.120 --> 00:06:29.680

in just one country just makes me who I am.

00:06:29.680 --> 00:06:33.760

So that is home because that's where I grew my childhood up.

00:06:33.760 --> 00:06:34.800

Everything went down.

00:06:34.800 --> 00:06:37.680

Come to Hong Kong and made a new life of me.

00:06:37.680 --> 00:06:40.000

And this was a different version of me,

00:06:40.000 --> 00:06:41.200

a different teenager of me.

00:06:41.200 --> 00:06:44.160

And then I'm like, oh, well, okay, now this is home too.

00:06:44.160 --> 00:06:46.080

So yeah, I'm telling you, like it's,

00:06:46.080 --> 00:06:49.680

it's, I've had a lot of talk with people

00:06:49.680 --> 00:06:52.080

where this is a debate too, like where's home?

00:06:52.080 --> 00:06:52.640

What is home?

00:06:52.640 --> 00:06:53.440

Why is this not home?

00:06:53.440 --> 00:06:57.600

But I think home is not, home can never be just one place.

Francois

00:06:57.600 --> 00:07:01.600

- I think you're, what you're describing about home

00:07:01.600 --> 00:07:04.800

is also very, it's very much about the heart, right?

00:07:04.800 --> 00:07:05.280

- It is, it is.

Francois

00:07:05.280 --> 00:07:07.920

- For some people, sometimes a home is also

00:07:07.920 --> 00:07:10.160

where they have the right to be, right?

00:07:10.160 --> 00:07:12.240

Like I'm French, for example.

00:07:12.240 --> 00:07:14.720

I also feel home in Hong Kong.

00:07:14.720 --> 00:07:17.360

And at the same time, I think that I have a sense of home

00:07:17.360 --> 00:07:20.320

in different places because I have some experiences there.

00:07:20.320 --> 00:07:22.720

Sometimes because I have a status there, right?

00:07:22.720 --> 00:07:24.400

For example, I have a French passport,

00:07:24.400 --> 00:07:28.640

which I feel in my particular case,

00:07:28.640 --> 00:07:31.600

feel like even if I never go back to France ever,

00:07:31.600 --> 00:07:34.640

the fact that I have that, you know,

Danny

00:07:34.640 --> 00:07:35.840

- It's still home, you know?

Francois

00:07:35.840 --> 00:07:38.160

- It's a connection to that place.

00:07:38.160 --> 00:07:40.320

I like the way in which you basically--

Danny

00:07:40.320 --> 00:07:41.760

- Yeah, there's just certain things

00:07:41.760 --> 00:07:43.360

that you could just never change.

Francois

00:07:43.360 --> 00:07:43.680

- Yeah.

Danny

00:07:43.680 --> 00:07:45.200

- And then there's one thing, it's just

00:07:45.200 --> 00:07:48.720

when you call a place home, I think every human

00:07:48.720 --> 00:07:51.680

do describe a place home according to

00:07:51.680 --> 00:07:54.240

where their mind and their heart would settle, you know?

00:07:54.240 --> 00:07:57.760

And that's for me, to me, my heart has always been settled

00:07:57.760 --> 00:08:01.520

between both place, two places I can never choose from

00:08:01.520 --> 00:08:03.920

because they're both different in their own ways.

00:08:03.920 --> 00:08:06.480

You can never compare the way of living in Hong Kong

00:08:06.480 --> 00:08:08.160

to a way of living back home.

00:08:08.160 --> 00:08:10.080

I can never compare to living back home

00:08:10.080 --> 00:08:11.600

to living back home here.

00:08:11.600 --> 00:08:12.800

So it's two different things.

00:08:12.800 --> 00:08:13.680

It's just very different.

Francois

00:08:13.680 --> 00:08:14.960

- Yeah, sure, sure.

Danny

00:08:14.960 --> 00:08:19.200

- But the difference is what makes us accept your fate,

00:08:19.200 --> 00:08:23.280

you know, and that love, if I can say it personally,

00:08:23.280 --> 00:08:23.920

that word, yeah.

Francois

00:08:23.920 --> 00:08:25.280

- So home is love.

Danny

00:08:25.280 --> 00:08:26.560

- Home is love, yeah.

00:08:26.560 --> 00:08:27.920

Home is where you got love, you know?

00:08:27.920 --> 00:08:29.040

And if you don't get love,

00:08:29.040 --> 00:08:30.320

you're not gonna call it home, right?

Francois

00:08:30.320 --> 00:08:31.920

- That makes a lot of sense.

Danny

00:08:31.920 --> 00:08:33.760

- Yeah, I mean, love is family, love is everything.

Francois_Danny
00:08:33.760 --> 00:08:35.840

So. - Thanks for that.

Francois
00:08:35.840 --> 00:08:41.520

-Could you please share maybe two or three significant events

00:08:41.520 --> 00:08:44.320

that you feel have shaped who you are?

Danny
00:08:44.320 --> 00:08:50.320

- Right, I cannot say a specific event.

00:08:50.320 --> 00:08:52.480

I would say the journey.

00:08:52.480 --> 00:08:53.760

That's the journey.

00:08:53.760 --> 00:08:55.520

I mean, to be honest with you, it's the journey.

00:08:55.520 --> 00:08:57.680

And that's what to me, that what matters the most

00:08:57.680 --> 00:09:01.920

because an event cannot change a whole person,

00:09:01.920 --> 00:09:03.120

but a journey does to me.

00:09:03.120 --> 00:09:03.840

That's what I believe.

00:09:03.840 --> 00:09:06.640

So I think to me, the journey of the process

00:09:06.640 --> 00:09:08.960

of going through things, for example, you know,

00:09:08.960 --> 00:09:14.960

let's say going, for example, my music, for example,

00:09:14.960 --> 00:09:18.560

all the experiences that I've gotten in going out there,

00:09:18.560 --> 00:09:21.520

trying to find shows, doing shows, my group 707.

00:09:21.520 --> 00:09:25.760

So I have this group 707, which is very different cultures.

00:09:25.760 --> 00:09:28.880

We're all a group of guys from different countries,

00:09:28.880 --> 00:09:32.000

Philippine, Colombia, Tanzania, Indian.

00:09:32.000 --> 00:09:34.240

And we are very, we're all like very different group.

00:09:34.240 --> 00:09:37.040

And we came together 10 years ago

00:09:37.040 --> 00:09:39.520

and the idea is that we all love music.

00:09:39.520 --> 00:09:40.720

We all love to rap.

00:09:40.720 --> 00:09:42.320

So let's all rap together

00:09:42.320 --> 00:09:44.160

and start doing shows according to that.

00:09:44.160 --> 00:09:47.600

And I think the idea of being with different people

00:09:47.600 --> 00:09:50.960

from different cultures and embracing them

00:09:50.960 --> 00:09:53.600

and learning that, it taught me to be open,

00:09:53.600 --> 00:09:58.720

being free and open in that they're different people

00:09:58.720 --> 00:09:59.680

on this earth.

00:09:59.680 --> 00:10:01.040

And that's one thing that,

00:10:01.040 --> 00:10:02.320

one of the biggest thing that shake me

00:10:02.320 --> 00:10:05.920

having these guys in my life, this step.

00:10:05.920 --> 00:10:08.640

So I'll start with first significant thing is people.

00:10:08.640 --> 00:10:10.560

The people that came in my life

00:10:10.560 --> 00:10:12.240

that has done a lot of significant things.

00:10:12.240 --> 00:10:14.640

And those people are mostly people I met in Hong Kong,

00:10:14.640 --> 00:10:16.480

for example, is people from different cultures,

00:10:16.480 --> 00:10:18.960

different places, like just like you,

00:10:18.960 --> 00:10:20.800

meeting you and being in a restaurant

00:10:20.800 --> 00:10:22.960

and having that small experience of talking.

00:10:22.960 --> 00:10:25.520

And then you meet the person couple of years later

00:10:25.520 --> 00:10:27.280

and that person is, so really it's,

00:10:27.280 --> 00:10:29.280

it's really all this experience that I can see.

00:10:29.280 --> 00:10:32.480

But yeah, I can say that that's one thing is the people.

00:10:32.480 --> 00:10:35.360

Secondly was where I put my shoes in,

00:10:35.360 --> 00:10:36.960

meaning where I put, where I stepped in,

00:10:36.960 --> 00:10:37.760

every places I stepped.

00:10:37.760 --> 00:10:39.200

So I guess when I stepped in,

00:10:39.200 --> 00:10:42.240

I'm always trying my best to get educated from somebody.

00:10:42.240 --> 00:10:44.640

And that's where I learned that,

00:10:44.640 --> 00:10:46.800

I learned about myself is where you learn to

00:10:46.800 --> 00:10:49.920

look at your surrounding left, right,

00:10:49.920 --> 00:10:51.600

and learn from these moments,

00:10:51.600 --> 00:10:53.440

learn from anybody's mistakes,

00:10:53.440 --> 00:10:54.720

somebody who can hurt you,

00:10:54.720 --> 00:10:56.480

somebody who can try to stab you,

00:10:56.480 --> 00:10:57.920

or somebody who can be there for you,

00:10:57.920 --> 00:11:01.120

or some, any, any, any sort of thing that can just happen

00:11:01.120 --> 00:11:03.920

over in a period of that journey in that life.

00:11:03.920 --> 00:11:05.440

Yeah, that's one big thing.

00:11:05.440 --> 00:11:07.520

And the third thing, wise men.

00:11:07.520 --> 00:11:10.720

Being younger, I've always liked to hang around

00:11:10.720 --> 00:11:11.920

with older people.

00:11:11.920 --> 00:11:14.160

Pretty much their journey has,

00:11:14.160 --> 00:11:16.160

and seeing them talking about their journey.

00:11:16.160 --> 00:11:17.840

And so that made me go, I think,

00:11:17.840 --> 00:11:20.880

made me shape my life in how I want to live

00:11:20.880 --> 00:11:23.120

and how I want to see myself in the next 10 years.

00:11:23.120 --> 00:11:25.120

You know, seeing somebody older than me,

00:11:25.120 --> 00:11:26.640

who could talk it up,

00:11:26.640 --> 00:11:30.080

for example, talking about just being married,

00:11:30.080 --> 00:11:31.840

you know, and his life and being married and all that.

00:11:31.840 --> 00:11:33.920

You're like, oh, okay, slowly, slowly,

00:11:33.920 --> 00:11:35.520

meeting different people that tells it,

00:11:35.520 --> 00:11:36.640

older people that talks about that,

00:11:36.640 --> 00:11:39.280

you're like, okay, you start developing an attitude

00:11:39.280 --> 00:11:41.360

of seeing things differently.

Francois

00:11:41.360 --> 00:11:44.800

-I can relate to the question of marriage myself.

00:11:44.800 --> 00:11:46.960

It took me a long time to sort of like,

00:11:46.960 --> 00:11:48.720

you know, understand what it could be.

Danny_Francois

00:11:48.720 --> 00:11:50.560

-Yeah, you know, -and then to get into it.

Danny

00:11:50.560 --> 00:11:51.920

-Older people are like the best people

00:11:51.920 --> 00:11:54.240

that you can grab that wisdom from, you know,

00:11:54.240 --> 00:11:55.760

and said, so I can say that

00:11:55.760 --> 00:11:58.800

I will use the third significant thing is wise men.

00:11:58.800 --> 00:12:00.000

Always listen to the wise.

Francois
00:12:00.000 --> 00:12:07.360

-So who are some significant people, places or wise men?

Danny
00:12:07.360 --> 00:12:07.920

-There's a lot.

00:12:07.920 --> 00:12:09.760

So I'm gonna say,

00:12:09.760 --> 00:12:12.000

let me speak in the sense of being Hong Kong.

00:12:12.000 --> 00:12:14.960

In Hong Kong, it will be a lot of people

00:12:14.960 --> 00:12:16.400

that I've been with, meaning, for example,

00:12:16.400 --> 00:12:18.880

start with the first one is friends,

00:12:18.880 --> 00:12:20.160

friends, right?

00:12:20.160 --> 00:12:21.360

So you meet different friends,

00:12:21.360 --> 00:12:22.640

you choose your friends, right?

00:12:22.640 --> 00:12:24.160

And you choose who you are with.

00:12:24.800 --> 00:12:27.200

They say who you are with makes you who you are.

00:12:27.200 --> 00:12:29.600

What you surround yourself with makes you who you are.

00:12:29.600 --> 00:12:34.400

So I guess those first step is those friends,

00:12:34.400 --> 00:12:35.680

those people that I hang out with,

00:12:35.680 --> 00:12:36.880

they made me who I am, you know,

00:12:36.880 --> 00:12:39.040

just being them catching that energy

00:12:39.040 --> 00:12:40.480

and floating with them every day.

00:12:40.480 --> 00:12:42.720

Secondly, will be the people who taught me.

00:12:42.720 --> 00:12:45.200

That would be professors, teachers,

00:12:45.200 --> 00:12:46.480

you know, go to school.

00:12:46.480 --> 00:12:49.040

Then they may have looked like

00:12:49.040 --> 00:12:50.320

they have not taught me nothing,

00:12:50.320 --> 00:12:52.720

but they have taught me a lot about maybe life.

00:12:52.720 --> 00:12:55.600

You know, just it's, I may say,

00:12:55.600 --> 00:12:57.280

maybe what I learned about math and everything,

00:12:57.280 --> 00:12:58.640

I didn't really care about,

00:12:58.640 --> 00:13:00.720

like, I mean, growing up,

00:13:00.720 --> 00:13:02.720

but just the way the attitude,

00:13:02.720 --> 00:13:04.000

the way they contain themselves,

00:13:04.000 --> 00:13:05.280

I think you've learned from that,

00:13:05.280 --> 00:13:06.400

the way you watch them.

00:13:06.400 --> 00:13:08.640

So it's really that, it's really that.

00:13:08.640 --> 00:13:10.480

And the thirdly is the silent people

00:13:10.480 --> 00:13:12.320

that you never speak to,

00:13:12.320 --> 00:13:13.760

or you never say nothing to,

00:13:13.760 --> 00:13:14.960

but you've only watched them.

00:13:14.960 --> 00:13:18.320

And these are the people like, you know,

00:13:18.320 --> 00:13:20.640

like have you ever had an old uncle

00:13:20.640 --> 00:13:23.360

or older friends or older people

00:13:23.360 --> 00:13:26.000

who just sit down and talk with you?

00:13:26.000 --> 00:13:27.840

And then you just look into their life,

00:13:27.840 --> 00:13:28.800

watch into their life.

00:13:28.800 --> 00:13:29.920

And then along the way,

00:13:29.920 --> 00:13:31.600

you just being there with them,

00:13:31.600 --> 00:13:33.200

but then that's still teaching you a lot.

00:13:33.200 --> 00:13:34.080

Yeah.

Francois

00:13:34.080 --> 00:13:36.000

- So kind of people that you observe?

Danny

00:13:36.000 --> 00:13:37.040

- Yeah, you observe, yeah.

00:13:37.040 --> 00:13:39.120

You know, observe, it's like to me, yeah.

00:13:39.120 --> 00:13:41.760

That's again, again, like I said,

00:13:41.760 --> 00:13:43.360

you become where you are

00:13:43.360 --> 00:13:45.440

or who you surround yourself with.

00:13:45.440 --> 00:13:47.360

You know, like there's a saying back home,

00:13:47.360 --> 00:13:48.640

they used to say,

00:13:48.640 --> 00:13:49.760

if you grew up in a jungle,

00:13:49.760 --> 00:13:50.800

you'd be Tarzan.

Francois
00:13:50.800 --> 00:13:51.600

- Yeah.

Danny
00:13:51.600 --> 00:13:52.560

- You know.

Franocis_Danny
00:13:52.560 --> 00:13:54.000

(laughs)

Francois
00:13:54.000 --> 00:13:55.840

- So it is about the environment.

Danny
00:13:55.840 --> 00:13:57.040

- It is really about the environment.

00:13:57.040 --> 00:13:58.240

That's why I say the environment

00:13:58.240 --> 00:14:01.040

between being back in Africa,

00:14:01.040 --> 00:14:03.600

back in Togo and being in Hong Kong,

00:14:03.600 --> 00:14:05.200

really those environments shape me,

00:14:05.200 --> 00:14:06.080

made me who I am

00:14:06.080 --> 00:14:09.040

because it wouldn't be impossible without,

00:14:09.040 --> 00:14:09.680

like I think,

00:14:09.680 --> 00:14:12.080

I was telling this to my friend the other day,

00:14:12.080 --> 00:14:15.280

I think if I grew up and stayed in Togo,

00:14:15.280 --> 00:14:17.120

I would be somebody different.

00:14:17.120 --> 00:14:19.440

If I stayed and grew up my whole life there.

00:14:19.440 --> 00:14:22.720

If I never, if I was born in Hong Kong

00:14:22.720 --> 00:14:24.160

and grew up in Hong Kong,

00:14:24.160 --> 00:14:26.320

I'll be somebody else, totally different.

00:14:26.320 --> 00:14:28.560

I would not be this person I am today.

00:14:28.560 --> 00:14:29.840

And it makes sense

00:14:29.840 --> 00:14:32.240

because I've met so many other mixed people just like me.

00:14:32.240 --> 00:14:34.640

And I've seen them grow up.

00:14:34.640 --> 00:14:35.600

I know one mixed guy,

00:14:35.600 --> 00:14:36.880

he's just Blazion just like me.

00:14:36.880 --> 00:14:38.800

And he grew up in Africa.

00:14:38.800 --> 00:14:40.480

I know one guy who grew up in Hong Kong

00:14:40.480 --> 00:14:41.680

and look at these two guys,

00:14:41.680 --> 00:14:43.600

it's like, whoa, okay, these guys are very different.

00:14:43.600 --> 00:14:45.200

And it just makes sense, you know,

00:14:45.200 --> 00:14:47.520

like just the surrounding and where they are

00:14:47.520 --> 00:14:48.880

and how they grew up with.

00:14:48.880 --> 00:14:50.880

And it made them who they are today.

Francois

00:14:50.880 --> 00:14:53.840

- Is there like some, I guess, precise

00:14:53.840 --> 00:14:56.720

or aspects of who you are or your life

00:14:56.720 --> 00:15:00.240

that you feel you can directly link to Togo

00:15:00.240 --> 00:15:01.120

or to Hong Kong?

Danny

00:15:01.120 --> 00:15:02.720

- Yeah, there is definitely.

00:15:02.720 --> 00:15:06.880

Well, for Hong Kong, I wish I could speak Cantonese.

00:15:06.880 --> 00:15:10.160

My biggest thing, but for me, Togo,

00:15:10.160 --> 00:15:13.680

it's just my passion for things, you know,

00:15:15.200 --> 00:15:19.440

being very romantic, always agitated.

00:15:19.440 --> 00:15:22.000

I guess I got that flow of being over there.

00:15:22.000 --> 00:15:26.320

Being in Hong Kong, I think learning how to be calm,

00:15:26.320 --> 00:15:29.600

learning how to like handle situation,

00:15:29.600 --> 00:15:32.400

mental way of thinking things.

Francois

00:15:32.400 --> 00:15:37.360

- So really almost kind of like two sides of the same coin.

00:15:37.360 --> 00:15:40.480

Like on the one hand, you say you got the passion from Togo

00:15:40.480 --> 00:15:41.760

and at the same time, the calm.

Danny

00:15:41.760 --> 00:15:42.960

- But that's because of the age,

00:15:42.960 --> 00:15:44.480

because the age I came to Hong Kong,

00:15:44.480 --> 00:15:47.680

I think I came to Hong Kong and I was 15, 16.

00:15:47.680 --> 00:15:49.920

So then I'm more like teenager,

00:15:49.920 --> 00:15:51.680

I'm starting to think more like, you know,

00:15:51.680 --> 00:15:55.840

so and back home, I was there more since I was born

00:15:55.840 --> 00:15:57.520

until I was 14, 15.

00:15:57.520 --> 00:15:59.520

So it was more like, you know,

00:15:59.520 --> 00:16:02.800

just, you know, the young kid just enjoying around,

00:16:02.800 --> 00:16:04.880

going through life, you know?

Francois

00:16:04.880 --> 00:16:06.320

- Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Danny

00:16:06.320 --> 00:16:07.200

- So it's pretty much so.

Francois

00:16:07.200 --> 00:16:08.800

- I can understand that.

00:16:08.800 --> 00:16:11.760

And so how, you know, I'm going back to music a little bit

00:16:11.760 --> 00:16:12.880

because you mentioned it

00:16:12.880 --> 00:16:15.120

and also that's how we got chatting in the first place,

00:16:15.120 --> 00:16:15.620

I think.

00:16:15.620 --> 00:16:18.640

How did music come into your life?

Danny

00:16:18.640 --> 00:16:21.280

- Music has always been in my life, man.

00:16:21.280 --> 00:16:25.520

Since, well, I cannot tell you since how old I was,

00:16:25.520 --> 00:16:26.640

I've been obsessed with music.

00:16:26.640 --> 00:16:28.880

Since I was a kid, I would be singing,

00:16:28.880 --> 00:16:30.720

see myself singing on the roof,

00:16:30.720 --> 00:16:32.960

seeing myself with, yeah.

00:16:32.960 --> 00:16:35.200

But then I think I took it seriously

00:16:35.200 --> 00:16:36.720

when I came to Hong Kong, actually.

00:16:36.720 --> 00:16:39.360

When I came to Hong Kong, I think I took it very seriously.

00:16:39.360 --> 00:16:41.840

We went to high school and met a free friend

00:16:41.840 --> 00:16:44.320

and then we had a band, started with a band.

00:16:44.320 --> 00:16:46.800

And then from there, I started learning

00:16:46.800 --> 00:16:49.360

how to learn instruments and then we get into rock,

00:16:49.360 --> 00:16:50.240

all type of genre.

00:16:50.240 --> 00:16:53.120

So music, to me, music is the same thing,

00:16:53.120 --> 00:16:53.920

just like my life,

00:16:53.920 --> 00:16:56.480

because the way it's open and the way it's diverse,

00:16:56.480 --> 00:17:00.000

it makes me feel like that's what my life is.

00:17:00.000 --> 00:17:00.960

My life is so diverse.

00:17:00.960 --> 00:17:03.920

So, and then, so, and then getting to that journey,

00:17:03.920 --> 00:17:06.400

I got to go along the way,

00:17:06.400 --> 00:17:08.880

I got into making music with different people,

00:17:08.880 --> 00:17:10.640

jazz, here and there, gospel.

00:17:11.280 --> 00:17:12.640

And then, yeah, and then after that--

Francois
00:17:12.640 --> 00:17:13.440

- All this in Hong Kong.

Danny
00:17:13.440 --> 00:17:15.200

- All this in Hong Kong, I mean, yeah.

00:17:15.200 --> 00:17:17.920

And then after that, I went there

00:17:17.920 --> 00:17:21.600

and I started doing hip hop, started DJing

00:17:21.600 --> 00:17:24.000

and then, yeah, doing shows from shows, shows, shows,

00:17:24.000 --> 00:17:24.960

shows, and shows.

00:17:24.960 --> 00:17:25.920

Yeah, it's pretty much,

00:17:25.920 --> 00:17:28.640

that's the experience I got in music in Hong Kong,

00:17:28.640 --> 00:17:30.320

like if I can sum it up.

Francois
00:17:30.320 --> 00:17:34.080

- So if I get it right, like the passion of music

00:17:34.080 --> 00:17:36.080

and the urge to do music has always been there,

00:17:36.080 --> 00:17:38.080

or at least as long as you can remember,

00:17:38.080 --> 00:17:41.280

but then it sort of became more concrete, I guess,

00:17:41.280 --> 00:17:42.320

when you came to Hong Kong

00:17:42.320 --> 00:17:43.760

and you started to meet different people--

Danny
00:17:43.760 --> 00:17:44.480

- Meet different people.

Francois
00:17:44.480 --> 00:17:46.080

- That got you into different sort of--

Danny
00:17:46.080 --> 00:17:48.000

- Yeah, 'cause back home, back home, it's not,

00:17:48.000 --> 00:17:49.920

'cause I was still 12, 13, 14,

00:17:49.920 --> 00:17:52.320

so it's like, it's more like I was just,

00:17:52.320 --> 00:17:55.600

you know, just having fun with it, you know?

00:17:55.600 --> 00:17:57.280

And when I came to Hong Kong,

00:17:57.280 --> 00:17:58.400

I was still just having fun with it.

00:17:58.400 --> 00:17:59.760

Of course, I'm in high school,

00:17:59.760 --> 00:18:00.880

so I have fun with the friends,

00:18:00.880 --> 00:18:02.640

but they're like, of course, you know,

00:18:02.640 --> 00:18:04.560

every boy has a dream, you know,

00:18:04.560 --> 00:18:06.320

you dream yourself being at a big stage

00:18:06.320 --> 00:18:07.120

and all that, right?

00:18:07.120 --> 00:18:10.080

So those are the dreams, being young and all that.

00:18:10.080 --> 00:18:12.640

I think that dream and that passion

00:18:12.640 --> 00:18:15.680

is what kept me alive till the very day.

00:18:15.680 --> 00:18:17.360

Because, you know, again,

00:18:17.360 --> 00:18:20.240

going forward through the years,

00:18:20.240 --> 00:18:23.360

being in Hong Kong, it's difficult.

00:18:23.360 --> 00:18:24.960

Why would I say that?

00:18:24.960 --> 00:18:28.080

It's 'cause Hong Kong is such a busy city,

00:18:28.080 --> 00:18:30.480

it can take away people's dream, you know,

00:18:30.480 --> 00:18:32.880

of course, it's a business city,

00:18:32.880 --> 00:18:33.840

people go roaming around,

00:18:33.840 --> 00:18:38.240

but I think it's, as long as you keep your passion alive,

00:18:38.240 --> 00:18:41.600

discipline your passion to really want this and all this,

00:18:41.600 --> 00:18:43.120

and I think it will happen for anybody.

Francois

00:18:43.120 --> 00:18:46.000

- Would you say that you're pursuing a career

00:18:46.000 --> 00:18:47.840

in music in Hong Kong, or you would like to?

Danny

00:18:47.840 --> 00:18:50.560

- I've been pursuing a career in Hong Kong for a long time.

00:18:50.560 --> 00:18:54.000

So I've been in the scene of music for a long time.

00:18:54.000 --> 00:18:57.040

I'm not focused on the full Hong Kong scene

00:18:57.040 --> 00:19:00.800

because I don't make music in Chinese.

00:19:00.800 --> 00:19:02.160

'Cause if I did make music in Chinese,

00:19:02.160 --> 00:19:03.680

it would make sense, right?

00:19:03.680 --> 00:19:05.360

Same thing like in France,

00:19:05.360 --> 00:19:07.360

I would not make music in English, right?

00:19:07.360 --> 00:19:08.240

It just doesn't make sense.

00:19:08.240 --> 00:19:10.560

So yeah, I mean, so for that,

00:19:10.560 --> 00:19:13.680

as a person who's only speaking English,

00:19:13.680 --> 00:19:16.880

I had to look at it in a different perspective of how,

00:19:16.880 --> 00:19:20.480

what skills that is good that I have,

00:19:20.480 --> 00:19:23.040

okay, I'm good at this, I'm good at this,

00:19:23.040 --> 00:19:24.400

and people like it when I do this,

00:19:24.400 --> 00:19:25.200

okay, I'm gonna do it.

00:19:25.200 --> 00:19:26.640

This is where I'm gonna focus.

00:19:26.640 --> 00:19:27.680

Okay, I'm good at emceeing,

00:19:27.680 --> 00:19:28.640

I'm good at hosting people,

00:19:28.640 --> 00:19:30.480

okay, I'm gonna focus on doing that,

00:19:30.480 --> 00:19:31.760

and this is where I'm gonna go.

00:19:31.760 --> 00:19:33.040

And yeah, pretty much, you know,

00:19:33.040 --> 00:19:35.840

I think there's a way in every wave.

Francois

00:19:35.840 --> 00:19:37.280

- Right, right.

00:19:37.280 --> 00:19:40.560

There's the question of language that is in there,

00:19:40.560 --> 00:19:41.840

and I can relate,

00:19:41.840 --> 00:19:44.720

as well as a non-Cantonese speaker living in Hong Kong,

00:19:44.720 --> 00:19:48.400

you know, like it reduces basically the city for you,

00:19:48.400 --> 00:19:50.640

like the city sort of becomes a little bit smaller.

Danny

00:19:50.640 --> 00:19:51.120

- Smaller, much smaller.

Francois

00:19:51.120 --> 00:19:52.400

- Exactly, much smaller,

00:19:52.400 --> 00:19:53.760

because there's so many places

00:19:53.760 --> 00:19:55.920

or so many things that you can't really participate in.

Danny

00:19:55.920 --> 00:19:57.760

- People, you don't feel, everything's smaller, yeah.

Francois

00:19:57.760 --> 00:20:01.360

- Do you think that there's a place for you

00:20:01.360 --> 00:20:04.640

doing non-Cantonese music in Hong Kong?

Danny

00:20:04.640 --> 00:20:07.120

- In Hong Kong, no.

00:20:07.120 --> 00:20:10.480

Because I've been in the scene for so long,

00:20:10.480 --> 00:20:12.880

I've done shows here and there,

00:20:12.880 --> 00:20:15.440

and I've done big shows and all that,

00:20:15.440 --> 00:20:17.760

and at the end of the day,

00:20:17.760 --> 00:20:20.960

you would just, especially during COVID time,

00:20:20.960 --> 00:20:22.560

you know, I came to a realization like,

00:20:22.560 --> 00:20:24.560

hey, you know what, I'm rapping in English.

00:20:24.560 --> 00:20:27.680

I'm making music, I'm singing in English.

00:20:27.680 --> 00:20:28.720

It doesn't make sense.

00:20:28.720 --> 00:20:30.000

Like, I get it,

00:20:30.000 --> 00:20:32.400

everybody may love me because of my hype,

00:20:32.400 --> 00:20:33.760

because of what I can deliver,

00:20:33.760 --> 00:20:35.680

but the music will not live forever.

00:20:35.680 --> 00:20:37.360

The soul of the music will not live forever.

00:20:37.360 --> 00:20:37.840

Why?

00:20:37.840 --> 00:20:39.360

Because they don't relate to it.

00:20:39.360 --> 00:20:40.720

And in music, you want something,

00:20:40.720 --> 00:20:42.480

everybody wants something that they can relate to.

00:20:42.480 --> 00:20:44.000

And I also make the same thing in France.

00:20:44.000 --> 00:20:45.760

So I have a lot of friends from France.

00:20:45.760 --> 00:20:47.280

They told me, when I go to France,

00:20:47.280 --> 00:20:49.760

I cannot do English, I have to speak French.

00:20:49.760 --> 00:20:51.280

So I was like, yeah, okay.

00:20:51.280 --> 00:20:52.800

But it just makes sense.

00:20:52.800 --> 00:20:55.280

Like, you know, it's not about because

00:20:55.280 --> 00:20:56.480

they don't like this or don't like that,

00:20:56.480 --> 00:20:58.160

just per se, the culture is this.

00:20:59.120 --> 00:21:00.960

The language, this is the main language,

00:21:00.960 --> 00:21:03.520

and this is what everybody will relate with

00:21:03.520 --> 00:21:04.560

if you speak the main language.

00:21:04.560 --> 00:21:05.600

It's like, if I go to the Philippines,

00:21:05.600 --> 00:21:07.040

I cannot go and speak French there.

00:21:07.040 --> 00:21:07.920

Make a French song, right?

00:21:07.920 --> 00:21:08.640

It will not pop.

Francois
00:21:08.640 --> 00:21:12.560

-So language is kind of like the glue for you to do something.

Danny
00:21:12.560 --> 00:21:14.720

-Yeah, language is what connects us, you know what I mean?

00:21:14.720 --> 00:21:17.200

Language is what makes, we can communicate with each other.

00:21:17.200 --> 00:21:19.120

Language is what makes us understand each other.

00:21:19.120 --> 00:21:21.280

You know, besides understanding each other

00:21:21.280 --> 00:21:23.520

from eye to eyes, heart to heart,

00:21:23.520 --> 00:21:26.320

the first thing will always be words, you know,

00:21:26.320 --> 00:21:28.400

words of mouth.

00:21:28.400 --> 00:21:32.160

So I think that's the first ultimate things

00:21:32.160 --> 00:21:35.760

of what makes us human connect, word of mouth.

Francois
00:21:35.760 --> 00:21:37.840

- You just explained how, you know,

00:21:37.840 --> 00:21:40.240

the fact that you don't speak Cantonese

00:21:40.240 --> 00:21:43.680

affects your musical activity in Hong Kong.

00:21:43.680 --> 00:21:45.440

Is there other ways in which the fact

00:21:45.440 --> 00:21:46.400

that you're not a Cantonese speaker--

Danny
00:21:46.400 --> 00:21:47.280

- I will not say affects.

Francois
00:21:47.280 --> 00:21:47.600

- Okay.

Danny
00:21:47.600 --> 00:21:50.560

- I will not say the word affect because, yes,

00:21:50.560 --> 00:21:54.800

I found a way for me, I say personally,

00:21:54.800 --> 00:21:57.600

I found a way for me to still find a way

00:21:57.600 --> 00:21:59.520

to get my, I love it how in Hong Kong,

00:21:59.520 --> 00:22:01.360

I still get shows and all this

00:22:01.360 --> 00:22:03.040

because I can get a crowd hype.

00:22:03.040 --> 00:22:04.880

And that's amazing for me.

00:22:04.880 --> 00:22:07.040

I just thank God, that's amazing, the energy.

00:22:07.040 --> 00:22:09.440

So the one beautiful thing about music

00:22:09.440 --> 00:22:11.440

is the impact of the energy,

00:22:11.440 --> 00:22:14.000

it's more powerful than my language, you know?

00:22:14.000 --> 00:22:16.480

And that's something, one thing I learned

00:22:16.480 --> 00:22:17.680

in being in Hong Kong music

00:22:17.680 --> 00:22:20.400

because I've sat down with people

00:22:20.400 --> 00:22:22.960

that don't understand English and much,

00:22:22.960 --> 00:22:25.440

and they just love me rapping and freestyling

00:22:25.440 --> 00:22:27.520

and just going at it with their whole hours.

00:22:27.520 --> 00:22:30.320

And then me too, I've sat down with people

00:22:30.320 --> 00:22:31.920

that just, a lot of Canto rappers

00:22:31.920 --> 00:22:33.040

or a lot of Canto artists

00:22:33.040 --> 00:22:34.240

who just sing to me in Canto

00:22:34.240 --> 00:22:36.320

or rap to me in Canto and freestyle.

00:22:36.320 --> 00:22:38.320

Of course, they don't understand, but I understand.

Francois

00:22:38.320 --> 00:22:40.000

- You relate to them, you connect, right?

Danny

00:22:40.000 --> 00:22:40.880

- It doesn't make sense, right?

00:22:40.880 --> 00:22:42.560

You don't understand, for example,

00:22:42.560 --> 00:22:45.520

we did a cypher where we had Canto

00:22:45.520 --> 00:22:48.320

and then we had Hindi, we had Tagalog,

00:22:48.320 --> 00:22:49.760

and then we had a Nepali, all those,

00:22:49.760 --> 00:22:51.440

they were rapping all on different culture.

00:22:51.440 --> 00:22:54.000

It was beautiful because none of us

00:22:54.000 --> 00:22:56.480

understand each other, but we all understood each other

00:22:56.480 --> 00:22:57.600

in some way, like, you know,

00:22:57.600 --> 00:23:00.960

where I understood the form of energy you transfer.

00:23:00.960 --> 00:23:03.360

I understood the pain that you're talking about.

00:23:03.360 --> 00:23:05.920

I mean, I understood it clearly,

00:23:05.920 --> 00:23:08.080

but I know what you're talking about in a sense.

00:23:08.080 --> 00:23:10.080

So that's the beautiful part about music.

00:23:10.080 --> 00:23:11.120

And that's the beautiful thing

00:23:11.120 --> 00:23:12.400

that has helped me in Hong Kong so much

00:23:12.400 --> 00:23:14.000

is for me and the music.

00:23:14.000 --> 00:23:15.600

So I would not say it never affected me.

00:23:15.600 --> 00:23:18.000

The energy of impact is still there.

Francois

00:23:18.000 --> 00:23:20.400

- Yeah, it's quite significant what you're saying.

00:23:20.400 --> 00:23:23.200

I mean, am I exaggerating if I'm saying

00:23:23.200 --> 00:23:25.920

that then for you, music has been a way to belong

00:23:25.920 --> 00:23:28.960

in a place where you don't speak the language?

Danny

00:23:28.960 --> 00:23:30.960

- Yeah, yeah, yes, in a sense, really, really.

00:23:30.960 --> 00:23:33.840

Because, you know, like we always say,

00:23:33.840 --> 00:23:35.680

music is a universal language.

00:23:35.680 --> 00:23:36.880

It's a universal language.

00:23:36.880 --> 00:23:40.640

Like, it doesn't matter if you don't understand,

00:23:40.640 --> 00:23:42.240

you don't understand what my language,

00:23:42.240 --> 00:23:43.200

or I don't understand your language.

00:23:43.200 --> 00:23:45.760

If you put a beat that we both love, we'll dance to it.

00:23:45.760 --> 00:23:48.640

And once we dance to it, we'll connect to it.

00:23:48.640 --> 00:23:49.600

We'll connect with each other.

00:23:49.600 --> 00:23:51.600

That's the beautiful part about it.

00:23:52.240 --> 00:23:55.600

You know, so there's, I mean, in everything in life,

00:23:55.600 --> 00:23:56.880

like I said, there's a sun and a moon.

00:23:56.880 --> 00:23:58.320

That means there's a bad and a good, so.

00:23:58.320 --> 00:24:00.480

In every aspect of things.

Francois

00:24:00.480 --> 00:24:01.520

- Right.

Danny

00:24:01.520 --> 00:24:02.160

- Yeah, so.

Francois

00:24:02.160 --> 00:24:04.400

- That's a nice way of putting it.

00:24:04.400 --> 00:24:09.440

So how does gaming sort of fit into your life at the moment?

Danny
00:24:09.440 --> 00:24:11.680

- Oh, so gaming, that's what I do for work.

Francois
00:24:11.680 --> 00:24:12.080

- Okay.

Danny
00:24:12.080 --> 00:24:15.520

- So it's what I do for work, and it's also what I do

00:24:15.520 --> 00:24:18.080

because I love playing games, video games and all this.

00:24:18.080 --> 00:24:19.440

I don't know if you do.

Francois
00:24:19.440 --> 00:24:21.920

- Well, I just got back into it recently.

00:24:21.920 --> 00:24:23.280

I just bought the latest Zelda.

Danny
00:24:23.280 --> 00:24:23.920

- Oh, okay.

Francois
00:24:23.920 --> 00:24:25.920

- I'm losing sleep.

Danny
00:24:25.920 --> 00:24:27.680

- It does that.

Danny
00:24:27.680 --> 00:24:29.440

Did you like the story of Zelda?

Francois

00:24:29.440 --> 00:24:32.080

- Well, I mean, that's a side story.

00:24:32.080 --> 00:24:33.680

I used to be into it when I was a kid,

00:24:33.680 --> 00:24:35.680

and then I got out of it.

00:24:35.680 --> 00:24:39.360

But then these latest games sort of looked so interesting

00:24:39.360 --> 00:24:41.360

and so cool, and I'm getting back into it.

Danny

00:24:41.360 --> 00:24:42.560

- It's so different.

00:24:42.560 --> 00:24:46.400

Yeah, I mean, gaming is something I've done always my whole life.

00:24:46.400 --> 00:24:48.800

I mean, we've all played games and all that, right?

00:24:48.800 --> 00:24:51.600

So for me, I've been deep into games,

00:24:51.600 --> 00:24:54.480

like playing any sort of games, create stories,

00:24:54.480 --> 00:24:56.080

create things that come up.

00:24:56.080 --> 00:24:58.400

So I really love, I've always been a fan of

00:24:58.400 --> 00:25:01.600

how people develop games, how people develop,

00:25:01.600 --> 00:25:05.840

like, you know, come up with things that are out of the blue,

00:25:05.840 --> 00:25:09.040

like, you know, for me to enjoy, you know, how can you be so...

00:25:09.040 --> 00:25:10.640

It's just like music.

00:25:10.640 --> 00:25:14.880

It's entertaining, it's creative, and it's enjoyable.

00:25:14.880 --> 00:25:18.320

And you don't need much...

00:25:19.200 --> 00:25:21.840

It's, in a sense, it's a universal language.

00:25:21.840 --> 00:25:22.980

Gaming.

00:25:22.980 --> 00:25:25.280

It's a universal language.

00:25:25.280 --> 00:25:25.780

Tetris.

00:25:25.780 --> 00:25:28.000

I don't need you to understand, I don't need you to understand

00:25:28.000 --> 00:25:30.320

for you to play and have fun with it.

00:25:30.320 --> 00:25:31.600

So in a sense.

Francois
00:25:31.600 --> 00:25:35.920

- And if I can add, it pays the bills.

Danny
00:25:35.920 --> 00:25:36.960

- Yeah, too.

Francois
00:25:36.960 --> 00:25:38.160

- More than music.

Danny
00:25:38.160 --> 00:25:40.560

- Yes, that is also a big fact.

00:25:40.560 --> 00:25:43.360

The big fact is, of course, of course, that, I mean, yeah.

00:25:43.360 --> 00:25:45.680

I mean, you know, like I said, in Hong Kong,

00:25:45.680 --> 00:25:49.360

Hong Kong will take you away from the reality,

00:25:49.360 --> 00:25:51.680

will make you see reality of things, you know,

00:25:51.680 --> 00:25:54.320

'cause bills, your rent is high.

Francois

00:25:54.320 --> 00:25:54.820

- Yeah.

Danny

00:25:54.820 --> 00:25:57.680

- Everything is high, so you know,

00:25:57.680 --> 00:25:59.520

I gotta put food in your stomach and everything is high.

00:25:59.520 --> 00:26:02.400

So I mean, yeah, I mean, once you get to that realization,

00:26:02.400 --> 00:26:05.680

so being in Hong Kong, I had to take jobs of jobs of jobs

00:26:05.680 --> 00:26:06.960

just to keep the music alive.

00:26:06.960 --> 00:26:09.760

But at the same time, I realized, oh, hey, maybe find it.

00:26:09.760 --> 00:26:12.400

How about I find a job, balance things in my life?

00:26:12.400 --> 00:26:14.400

How about I find a job that I quite enjoy?

00:26:15.040 --> 00:26:19.360

So in every job that I find myself doing in the city,

00:26:19.360 --> 00:26:24.320

I find a way to enjoy them in a sense of,

00:26:24.320 --> 00:26:28.480

I may not like it, may not be for me,

00:26:28.480 --> 00:26:29.840

but I want this experience.

00:26:29.840 --> 00:26:35.200

I may not say that it was for what I was meant to be, right?

00:26:35.200 --> 00:26:39.520

But it was, I found a way to love it.

00:26:39.520 --> 00:26:43.360

Meaning when I mean love it, it means do your best.

00:26:43.360 --> 00:26:45.680

Do your best at it, come at it.

00:26:45.680 --> 00:26:46.960

Don't look at it as just a job.

00:26:46.960 --> 00:26:50.080

Look at it as you wanna gain something from this.

00:26:50.080 --> 00:26:51.280

And what can I gain from this?

00:26:51.280 --> 00:26:53.360

For example, restaurant, I found a way to gain

00:26:53.360 --> 00:26:56.080

was the idea of connecting with people.

00:26:56.080 --> 00:26:59.280

For me as a music, as an artist,

00:26:59.280 --> 00:27:02.080

that's as an artist, that essence of connected people,

00:27:02.080 --> 00:27:04.080

being with people, making drinks for me,

00:27:04.080 --> 00:27:05.600

that with rhythm and everything.

00:27:05.600 --> 00:27:07.840

To me that, okay, you know, I find that.

00:27:07.840 --> 00:27:10.000

All right, now I used to work in a cargo.

00:27:10.000 --> 00:27:11.600

I didn't like it.

00:27:11.600 --> 00:27:12.880

I don't like carrying things.

00:27:12.880 --> 00:27:17.440

But the fun of having a song in your head

00:27:17.440 --> 00:27:18.960

while carrying things and make you feel

00:27:18.960 --> 00:27:21.120

like you're doing rhythm things and all that,

00:27:21.120 --> 00:27:24.080

that idea that just kept me want to come back to work

00:27:24.080 --> 00:27:25.520

and go there.

00:27:25.520 --> 00:27:27.200

So really at the end of the day,

00:27:27.200 --> 00:27:30.320

it's all about perspective, how you wanna see things.

00:27:30.320 --> 00:27:34.400

And I know, like I used to tell this one friend all the time,

00:27:34.400 --> 00:27:36.080

Hong Kong is a cemetery for dreams.

Francois

00:27:36.080 --> 00:27:38.080

- A cemetery for dreams.

Danny

00:27:38.080 --> 00:27:39.200

- It's a cemetery for dreams.

00:27:41.360 --> 00:27:43.040

Cemetery is the saddest place

00:27:43.040 --> 00:27:44.640

because it's where so many people have died,

00:27:44.640 --> 00:27:46.800

no dreams have ever been realized.

00:27:46.800 --> 00:27:49.040

And you never know who could have been the greatest writer

00:27:49.040 --> 00:27:51.680

or the greatest artist or the greatest pianist

00:27:51.680 --> 00:27:53.520

or the greatest interviewer, who knows, right?

00:27:53.520 --> 00:27:57.920

But one thing I do know is I'm not going to allow

00:27:57.920 --> 00:28:01.680

or let anything or any sort of thing that comes in your life

00:28:01.680 --> 00:28:04.880

be a reason for my passion to die.

Francois
00:28:04.880 --> 00:28:06.880

- Yeah, that's a really...

Danny
00:28:06.880 --> 00:28:08.000

- It's, yeah, it's...

Francois
00:28:08.000 --> 00:28:09.120

- It's hard to do.

Danny
00:28:09.120 --> 00:28:10.720

- Yeah, it is hard to do, man.

00:28:10.720 --> 00:28:14.320

It's especially, you know, being different culture

00:28:14.320 --> 00:28:15.840

and all of them be like, "Why are you still doing music?"

00:28:15.840 --> 00:28:16.800

"Why are you still doing that?"

00:28:16.800 --> 00:28:18.640

But I'm just like, I love it.

00:28:18.640 --> 00:28:21.200

It's what I see myself doing.

00:28:21.200 --> 00:28:23.120

It's what I always been doing.

00:28:23.120 --> 00:28:25.120

So how do I do it without stopping?

00:28:25.120 --> 00:28:28.240

How do I do it, but still keeping my reality of it?

00:28:28.240 --> 00:28:31.680

So, and then my reality, how do I enjoy my reality

00:28:31.680 --> 00:28:34.560

without letting be like, this is just a job.

00:28:34.560 --> 00:28:36.160

I'm just doing it just to get paid.

00:28:36.160 --> 00:28:37.760

I'm just doing just go by, you know?

00:28:37.760 --> 00:28:41.680

And really, if you do something, you don't enjoy it,

00:28:41.680 --> 00:28:43.200

might as well just don't do it.

00:28:43.200 --> 00:28:46.960

If you do something and you don't find a sense of learning

00:28:46.960 --> 00:28:50.800

or progress, just don't do it.

00:28:50.800 --> 00:28:51.440

More like sleep.

00:28:51.440 --> 00:28:52.880

(laughs)

Francois

00:28:52.880 --> 00:28:56.080

- So do you think it's a cemetery of dreams

00:28:56.080 --> 00:28:57.680

because it's difficult to learn?

Danny

00:28:57.680 --> 00:29:00.720

- No, it's a cemetery of dreams

00:29:00.720 --> 00:29:04.080

because so many people could have become something,

Danny

00:29:04.080 --> 00:29:04.640

but didn't.

00:29:05.680 --> 00:29:08.000

I know some people who wants to be writers.

00:29:08.000 --> 00:29:09.760

They wanna write books and all that,

00:29:09.760 --> 00:29:12.000

but they're so dived in into their jobs.

00:29:12.000 --> 00:29:14.080

Yes, for example, I had a friend who's so dive

00:29:14.080 --> 00:29:16.720

into being a lawyer that every day that's his things

00:29:16.720 --> 00:29:18.080

he has to go pay for his family,

00:29:18.080 --> 00:29:19.440

of course, pay the rents and everything.

00:29:19.440 --> 00:29:22.560

Be, you know, be responsible that it takes,

00:29:22.560 --> 00:29:27.120

it took away and then slowly, slowly over the years,

00:29:27.120 --> 00:29:31.040

that passion for writing or even playing guitar

00:29:31.040 --> 00:29:32.880

was kind of dried out.

00:29:32.880 --> 00:29:39.200

And as older he gets, the more drain he feels.

00:29:39.200 --> 00:29:43.120

And that's where it feels like the city drains your dream.

00:29:43.120 --> 00:29:44.960

That's why I say, don't let your passion dry out

00:29:44.960 --> 00:29:47.600

because it would drain you slowly, slowly.

00:29:47.600 --> 00:29:50.720

And if you don't know how to keep yourself motivated,

00:29:50.720 --> 00:29:54.800

keep yourself going in, yeah, you find yourself lost.

00:29:54.800 --> 00:29:56.880

For sure, yeah, so.

Francois

00:29:56.880 --> 00:30:00.640

- So it's a city for you that where,

00:30:00.640 --> 00:30:02.240

you know, people can easily get lost.

Danny

00:30:02.240 --> 00:30:05.600

- Yeah, you can imagine there's so much happening

00:30:05.600 --> 00:30:08.640

'cause back in Togo in Africa, you know,

00:30:08.640 --> 00:30:10.720

the culture difference is,

00:30:10.720 --> 00:30:14.720

obviously there's not so much going on.

00:30:14.720 --> 00:30:18.400

People tend to talk about passion, passion, dreams, you know,

00:30:18.400 --> 00:30:20.400

and you want to, people want to play football,

00:30:20.400 --> 00:30:21.280

kids want to play football,

00:30:21.280 --> 00:30:22.720

they go out and play football here.

00:30:22.720 --> 00:30:24.640

Here is not really the case.

Francois

00:30:24.640 --> 00:30:29.920

- You use that word already in our conversation, creativity,

00:30:29.920 --> 00:30:32.880

right, in a way that's what connects music and gaming,

00:30:32.880 --> 00:30:35.360

you explained because gaming is just like music,

00:30:35.360 --> 00:30:37.200

a kind of creativity.

00:30:37.200 --> 00:30:41.200

So what is creativity in your life, do you think?

Danny

00:30:41.200 --> 00:30:43.360

- Creativity is a life.

Francois

00:30:43.360 --> 00:30:43.840

- Okay.

Danny
00:30:43.840 --> 00:30:46.880

- I mean, before you were given life,

00:30:46.880 --> 00:30:50.640

you had to be creative to be created, right?

Francois
00:30:50.640 --> 00:30:51.200

- That's true.

Danny
00:30:51.200 --> 00:30:53.920

- So to me, I've always found like,

00:30:53.920 --> 00:30:55.440

never let your creativity die.

00:30:55.440 --> 00:30:58.080

I feel like creativity is the most important aspect

00:30:58.080 --> 00:30:58.720

in our life.

00:30:58.720 --> 00:31:02.160

I mean, even in our jobs and everywhere,

00:31:02.160 --> 00:31:04.240

you still need to be creative,

00:31:04.240 --> 00:31:06.160

find forms of things, right?

00:31:06.160 --> 00:31:08.080

But it comes in different forms.

00:31:08.080 --> 00:31:09.200

That's the thing about creativity.

00:31:09.200 --> 00:31:11.040

It comes in different form that you wouldn't,

00:31:11.040 --> 00:31:12.400

it's not obvious creativity,

00:31:12.400 --> 00:31:15.200

but I think creativity is part of our everydays.

00:31:15.200 --> 00:31:17.920

Everyday, your mind is creative everyday.

00:31:17.920 --> 00:31:19.840

Your mind comes up with ideas,

00:31:19.840 --> 00:31:21.600

your mind speak of things,

00:31:21.600 --> 00:31:24.800

or you're thinking of what's next, that's creativity,

00:31:24.800 --> 00:31:25.360

you know?

00:31:25.360 --> 00:31:28.240

So I think like, I think that's what,

00:31:28.240 --> 00:31:29.680

to me, that's what creativity is.

00:31:29.680 --> 00:31:30.880

Creativity is life.

00:31:30.880 --> 00:31:32.320

It's a form of life.

Francois

00:31:32.320 --> 00:31:33.920

- Makes sense to me.

00:31:33.920 --> 00:31:39.280

So do you find it in a way difficult

00:31:39.280 --> 00:31:42.800

to maintain a creative life in Hong Kong?

00:31:42.800 --> 00:31:44.560

I mean, I sort of get the sense

00:31:44.560 --> 00:31:46.480

that that's what you were hinting at earlier

00:31:46.480 --> 00:31:47.280

when you were mentioning,

00:31:47.280 --> 00:31:49.760

you know, you've seen people whose dreams have died

00:31:49.760 --> 00:31:51.200

and you know, is,

00:31:51.200 --> 00:31:53.280

so is that kind of another way of putting it?

00:31:53.280 --> 00:31:55.520

Is that it's difficult to maintain a creative life?

Danny

00:31:55.520 --> 00:31:56.320

- No, it's not.

Francois

00:31:56.320 --> 00:31:56.640

- Okay.

Danny

00:31:56.640 --> 00:32:00.720

- It's not difficult, it's the choice that's difficult.

00:32:00.720 --> 00:32:03.440

The choices of creativity that's difficult,

00:32:03.440 --> 00:32:04.640

I think that's die.

00:32:04.640 --> 00:32:06.640

Creativity will always be there.

Francois

00:32:06.640 --> 00:32:07.680

- So it's not about the place.

Danny
00:32:07.680 --> 00:32:10.880

- Yeah, it's really much, it's, I mean,

00:32:10.880 --> 00:32:14.640

yes, the place can force you to do things and all that,

00:32:14.640 --> 00:32:17.680

but every human have a choice, right?

00:32:17.680 --> 00:32:19.840

So I think it's the choices that we make.

00:32:19.840 --> 00:32:21.600

It's not like, you can be,

00:32:21.600 --> 00:32:23.680

you can go to a job that forces you

00:32:23.680 --> 00:32:24.960

to take away your creativity

00:32:24.960 --> 00:32:26.880

and just do this, do this, follow this format,

00:32:26.880 --> 00:32:28.880

follow this, follow, we do this like that, right?

00:32:28.880 --> 00:32:30.240

But then if you decide to be like,

00:32:30.240 --> 00:32:31.520

I want to put my creativity in it

00:32:31.520 --> 00:32:32.560

and that doesn't work out,

00:32:32.560 --> 00:32:35.200

you can find other ways of making things work out

00:32:35.200 --> 00:32:35.920

for yourself, right?

00:32:35.920 --> 00:32:38.800

So there's a saying, think outside the box

00:32:38.800 --> 00:32:40.960

when you get to a deep, deep situation, right?

00:32:40.960 --> 00:32:43.440

Think outside the box and that's the difficult part.

00:32:43.440 --> 00:32:44.000

So yeah.

Francois

00:32:44.000 --> 00:32:46.720

- So it's about being mindful of--

Danny

00:32:46.720 --> 00:32:48.080

- It's being, really being mindful.

00:32:48.080 --> 00:32:49.520

That's why I, earlier I say,

00:32:49.520 --> 00:32:51.120

when you asked me what are the significant things

00:32:51.120 --> 00:32:51.920

that helped me in life,

00:32:51.920 --> 00:32:53.760

I said it was my surrounding,

00:32:53.760 --> 00:32:55.680

me looking around, being in my environment,

00:32:55.680 --> 00:32:56.720

it was really that,

00:32:56.720 --> 00:32:58.560

looking at people next to me,

00:32:58.560 --> 00:33:00.320

how this is working, how that,

00:33:00.320 --> 00:33:02.400

you know, it's being mindful of everything around you

00:33:02.400 --> 00:33:03.120

and be like, well, okay,

00:33:03.120 --> 00:33:05.360

you know, this is, this is different,

00:33:05.360 --> 00:33:06.240

things are different here.

00:33:06.240 --> 00:33:08.960

So be mindful of the energy that you're surrounded with.

Francois

00:33:08.960 --> 00:33:09.760

- Hmm, hmm.

Danny

00:33:09.760 --> 00:33:11.280

- That's the word I'll put it.

Francois

00:33:11.280 --> 00:33:14.080

- Hmm, nicely put, I think.

00:33:14.080 --> 00:33:17.440

And so maybe as a way to wrap things up,

00:33:17.440 --> 00:33:21.920

do you have any specific goals or hopes

00:33:21.920 --> 00:33:23.680

that you're pursuing at the moment?

Danny

00:33:23.680 --> 00:33:25.280

- Personally for me,

00:33:25.280 --> 00:33:27.440

I hope to become the best version of myself.

00:33:27.440 --> 00:33:30.720

And that best version of myself is,

00:33:30.720 --> 00:33:32.480

why do we say that?

00:33:32.480 --> 00:33:35.360

It's 'cause a couple of months ago,

00:33:35.360 --> 00:33:37.520

I looked over a paper

00:33:37.520 --> 00:33:40.000

that I wrote to myself in high school.

00:33:40.000 --> 00:33:44.880

It was a 10 year, it was 20, 15 years ago,

00:33:44.880 --> 00:33:47.600

I wrote goals of who I was gonna become

00:33:47.600 --> 00:33:49.040

and what I was become.

00:33:49.040 --> 00:33:51.440

And I saw that piece of paper,

00:33:51.920 --> 00:33:53.680

just the same day in a year

00:33:53.680 --> 00:33:54.880

where I told myself I'll become this,

00:33:54.880 --> 00:33:56.640

which was today, that year, right?

00:33:56.640 --> 00:33:57.920

And I'm like, whoa.

00:33:57.920 --> 00:33:59.200

And I look at it and I'm like,

00:33:59.200 --> 00:34:01.360

I did not become none of what I wanted to say.

00:34:01.360 --> 00:34:02.560

(laughs)

Francois

00:34:02.560 --> 00:34:03.040

- Yeah.

Danny

00:34:03.040 --> 00:34:05.680

- But the amazing part is that

00:34:05.680 --> 00:34:07.840

what I went through,

00:34:07.840 --> 00:34:10.000

what brought me to where I am right now.

00:34:10.000 --> 00:34:13.680

So the idea of thinking of, wow, okay,

00:34:13.680 --> 00:34:16.640

what am I going to become now in the next years?

00:34:16.640 --> 00:34:18.160

I may say I want this goal,

00:34:18.160 --> 00:34:19.520

this is, this is what I want.

00:34:20.160 --> 00:34:23.280

But life being life would take you around,

00:34:23.280 --> 00:34:24.400

took you around.

00:34:24.400 --> 00:34:26.320

And yeah, so I came to realize

00:34:26.320 --> 00:34:29.280

the only way I can set my goal

00:34:29.280 --> 00:34:31.840

is being the best version of my present times.

00:34:31.840 --> 00:34:33.120

Yeah.

00:34:33.120 --> 00:34:35.200

The energy I spent in my presence

00:34:35.200 --> 00:34:38.080

is what's going to affect my goal tomorrow, really.

00:34:38.080 --> 00:34:41.120

Because again, I can set myself so many goals

00:34:41.120 --> 00:34:43.680

and that's coming from myself as an artist,

00:34:43.680 --> 00:34:45.280

where you set yourself so many goal

00:34:45.280 --> 00:34:47.680

and you can set yourself up for disappointment.

00:34:47.680 --> 00:34:50.480

So I think my biggest goal is just,

00:34:50.480 --> 00:34:52.800

and I wish everybody else are the best,

00:34:52.800 --> 00:34:54.880

is be the best version of yourself.

00:34:54.880 --> 00:34:58.080

The key is not to have many goals,

00:34:58.080 --> 00:35:00.080

it's more to per se is to know yourself.

00:35:00.080 --> 00:35:02.480

Know yourself, know what you want,

00:35:02.480 --> 00:35:04.640

know where you want to go,

00:35:04.640 --> 00:35:06.880

be confident in it and then just walk.

00:35:06.880 --> 00:35:08.880

You know, that's it.

00:35:08.880 --> 00:35:09.920

'Cause I know a lot of people,

00:35:09.920 --> 00:35:13.040

people that just have so many goals

00:35:13.040 --> 00:35:14.320

and they don't know themselves.

00:35:14.320 --> 00:35:15.840

Or I know people who know themselves,

00:35:15.840 --> 00:35:16.880

but they don't have any goals.

00:35:16.880 --> 00:35:19.440

So it's like, at the end of the day,

00:35:19.440 --> 00:35:20.640

yeah, you need to balance,

00:35:20.640 --> 00:35:22.640

you know, find yourself a balance of, you know,

00:35:22.640 --> 00:35:24.480

if you know yourself, know what you want,

00:35:24.480 --> 00:35:25.920

the goals will come, you know?

00:35:25.920 --> 00:35:27.280

Like they say, if you have the vision,

00:35:27.280 --> 00:35:28.960

the mission will come, you know?

Francois

00:35:28.960 --> 00:35:30.720

- If you have the mission, the vision will come.

Danny

00:35:30.720 --> 00:35:32.640

- If you have the vision, the mission will come.

00:35:32.640 --> 00:35:34.560

Yeah, but if you have the mission,

00:35:34.560 --> 00:35:35.680

you'll be missing the vision.

00:35:35.680 --> 00:35:40.880

So, you know, so it's here, go in there.

00:35:40.880 --> 00:35:43.200

So at the end of the day, you meet your other half.

00:35:43.200 --> 00:35:44.880

What we are the other?

Francois

00:35:45.440 --> 00:35:47.920

- Clearly you have a vision

00:35:47.920 --> 00:35:50.640

and I think you would have the vision

00:35:50.640 --> 00:35:51.760

no matter where you are.

00:35:51.760 --> 00:35:54.960

And the vision also comes from, you know,

00:35:54.960 --> 00:35:56.880

this pursuit of trying to know yourself.

Danny

00:35:56.880 --> 00:35:58.000

- Yeah, yeah.

00:35:58.000 --> 00:35:59.680

If you're talking about Hong Kong,

00:35:59.680 --> 00:36:00.800

when you have a vision here,

00:36:00.800 --> 00:36:06.800

it's obviously your creativity is wild, right?

00:36:06.800 --> 00:36:08.560

How, now the question is,

00:36:08.560 --> 00:36:10.720

how am I going to make that vision happen?

00:36:10.720 --> 00:36:13.040

And that's where you make those steps now.

00:36:13.040 --> 00:36:14.320

And you really goes through

00:36:14.320 --> 00:36:15.760

becoming the best version of yourself

00:36:15.760 --> 00:36:17.280

of making that happen.

00:36:17.280 --> 00:36:19.360

Honestly, with you being in Hong Kong,

00:36:19.360 --> 00:36:21.760

being culturally different and all that,

00:36:21.760 --> 00:36:23.440

I would not say, a lot of people say

00:36:23.440 --> 00:36:27.040

it can be a hindrance, but not really to me.

00:36:27.040 --> 00:36:29.680

It's maybe a big face, but that's just normal.

00:36:29.680 --> 00:36:30.880

You go to any other country,

00:36:30.880 --> 00:36:33.760

it's the same to another person, right?

00:36:33.760 --> 00:36:35.360

So everybody's different.

00:36:35.360 --> 00:36:38.320

It's cultured differently, is grown differently,

00:36:38.320 --> 00:36:41.040

has a childhood differently.

00:36:41.040 --> 00:36:43.680

So the way you will enjoy the sea

00:36:43.680 --> 00:36:46.560

or you will leave where you are,

00:36:46.560 --> 00:36:47.760

the same way I live in Hong Kong

00:36:47.760 --> 00:36:50.160

is by changing my perspective of things.

00:36:50.160 --> 00:36:52.800

So if I see in Hong Kong, for example,

00:36:52.800 --> 00:36:54.800

I've had so many encounter where,

00:36:54.800 --> 00:36:58.000

I met a lot of local people who are very curious

00:36:58.000 --> 00:37:00.880

or very bad manners or things like this,

00:37:00.880 --> 00:37:03.120

but I had to just change the way I perspective

00:37:03.120 --> 00:37:04.320

of how I think.

00:37:04.320 --> 00:37:08.640

And that is what helped me moving forward in the city.

00:37:08.640 --> 00:37:11.120

Because culturally I'm different,

00:37:11.120 --> 00:37:12.640

the way I grew up is different.

00:37:12.640 --> 00:37:14.800

The people I'm going to be surrounded by are different.

00:37:14.800 --> 00:37:19.520

So I have to act and react accordingly

00:37:19.520 --> 00:37:21.120

to where I am.

00:37:21.120 --> 00:37:24.400

But also the beautiful part about Hong Kong is,

00:37:24.400 --> 00:37:26.480

yes, there's so many local people,

00:37:26.480 --> 00:37:29.200

but also there's so many also different people

00:37:29.200 --> 00:37:30.400

from different countries in Hong Kong.

00:37:30.400 --> 00:37:33.040

So it's the only place in the world

00:37:33.040 --> 00:37:36.160

where I can meet you from France.

00:37:36.160 --> 00:37:37.760

I can meet you, I can meet everybody

00:37:37.760 --> 00:37:38.560

from different country.

00:37:38.560 --> 00:37:42.160

Back in Togo, I would not imagine city that would be like,

00:37:42.160 --> 00:37:43.840

"Hey, are you from India?"

00:37:43.840 --> 00:37:44.720

You're from Colombia?

00:37:44.720 --> 00:37:45.280

You're from this?"

00:37:45.280 --> 00:37:46.480

You would not imagine that.

00:37:46.480 --> 00:37:49.520

So yeah, this is the beauty about being in Hong Kong.

00:37:49.520 --> 00:37:52.240

You still get to meet different people

00:37:52.240 --> 00:37:54.080

and different people that you can connect with.

00:37:54.080 --> 00:37:55.040

And if you don't,

00:37:55.040 --> 00:37:58.240

if you surround yourself with local people,

00:37:58.240 --> 00:38:02.080

I think your behavior and the way you act would be different,

00:38:02.080 --> 00:38:04.000

but you still connect.

00:38:04.000 --> 00:38:05.680

It doesn't really matter.

00:38:05.680 --> 00:38:07.280

That's what I think.

00:38:07.280 --> 00:38:10.800

The city, I would say the city is spoiled

00:38:11.440 --> 00:38:13.520

with good things, with too many good things.

00:38:13.520 --> 00:38:16.240

And that's how I put Hong Kong.

00:38:16.240 --> 00:38:17.920

I feel like as a different person

00:38:17.920 --> 00:38:19.200

coming from different places

00:38:19.200 --> 00:38:20.720

and also being part of this city,

00:38:20.720 --> 00:38:22.720

the city is spoiled and it has spoiled me too.

00:38:22.720 --> 00:38:24.640

It can spoil you.

Francois
s00:38:24.640 --> 00:38:26.400

-I agree.

00:38:26.400 --> 00:38:30.800

And I think you've done an amazing job

00:38:30.800 --> 00:38:32.160

at wrapping things up,

00:38:32.160 --> 00:38:33.520

like being very coherent

00:38:33.520 --> 00:38:34.800

with what you started to explain

00:38:34.800 --> 00:38:36.160

at the beginning of our conversation.

00:38:36.160 --> 00:38:38.720

And then now relating it to the place where you live,

00:38:38.720 --> 00:38:39.840

it makes a lot of sense.

Danny

00:38:39.840 --> 00:38:41.280

-And yeah, I mean, you know what I mean?

00:38:41.280 --> 00:38:44.640

Like I said, you are who you are where you are.

00:38:44.640 --> 00:38:46.320

So your surroundings makes you who you are.

00:38:46.320 --> 00:38:48.320

So if you ask anybody,

00:38:48.320 --> 00:38:51.040

"Does Hong Kong ever had an impact on you?"

00:38:51.040 --> 00:38:53.200

Nobody can ever say no to that question.

00:38:53.200 --> 00:38:56.080

It's impossible because Hong Kong will impact you

00:38:56.080 --> 00:38:57.680

whether you like it or not.

00:38:57.680 --> 00:38:58.800

That's what I always say.

00:38:58.800 --> 00:39:01.360

If you come here, just be careful.

00:39:01.360 --> 00:39:03.200

Watch where you're moving and you'll be good.

00:39:03.200 --> 00:39:06.080

Watch where you're moving, look who you're with.

00:39:06.080 --> 00:39:08.240

And actually that applies to anywhere else

00:39:08.240 --> 00:39:09.200

you are in the world.

00:39:09.200 --> 00:39:12.160

Whether you're a white person,

00:39:12.160 --> 00:39:14.000

a local person that's trying to go to Africa,

00:39:14.000 --> 00:39:15.520

that's the same advice I would give to you.

00:39:15.520 --> 00:39:17.520

I'm trying to go to France,

00:39:17.520 --> 00:39:19.200

the same advice anybody would give to me.

00:39:19.200 --> 00:39:20.720

You know, so that's it.

00:39:20.720 --> 00:39:24.000

And this is an advice coming from a person

00:39:24.000 --> 00:39:25.520

who's very open to cultures,

00:39:25.520 --> 00:39:27.680

very open to anything.

00:39:27.680 --> 00:39:29.520

And I learned that along the way,

00:39:29.520 --> 00:39:32.400

how being mixed with so many diversity,

00:39:32.400 --> 00:39:33.280

how can you blend it?

00:39:33.280 --> 00:39:48.000

(upbeat music)