**Queer Newark Oral History Project** 

**Interviewee: Pucci Revlon** 

Interviewer: Whitney Strub/Craig Blunt

Date: April 12, 2017

Whitney Strub: All right. We are recording. This is Whitney Strub with the Queer

New York Oral History Project. I'm here with Craig Blunt and the two of us together will be interviewing Pucci Revlon about her life

in Newark. Is this all right?

Craig Blunt: Yes.

Whitney Strub: Okay. Great. If you wanna get the ball rolling, Craig?

Craig Blunt: Yes. Where was you born at, Pucci?

Pucci Revlon: I was born in Newark, New Jersey. Matter of fact, I was born right

there. Yeah.

Craig Blunt: Who raised you?

Pucci Revlon: My parents.

Craig Blunt: Your parents.

Pucci Revlon: I had a wonderful life. My parents were kinda strict though. I

wasn't allowed to do so much of anything outside the norm, except I can wear a dress in the house, but I wasn't allowed to hang out

late after night and stuff like that.

Craig Blunt: You were born and raised in Newark. Parents raised you, mother

and father, which is rare for our kind to have a mother and a father.

What'd you get out of all of this, out of the City of Newark?

Pucci Revlon: To work for what I want. My parents were hard working people.

Matter fact, they were hard working people. You know I was just thinking about something. I never had processed food until I was about 12. We couldn't eat at McDonalds and stuff like that growing up cuz my parents came home from work and cooked every day. We were raised in a very stable household for most parts until you

did something wrong. Then it got—yeah.

Whitney Strub: Can I ask when you were born?

Pucci Revlon: In the fifties.

Whitney Strub: Fifties? Okay. You're growing up in the sixties?

Pucci Revlon: Yeah.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Craig Blunt: Do you recall any events that was transitional or turning points?

Pucci Revlon: I don't remember. I don't remember no turning point. I went from

pants one day to a dress the next day and it just went. Everybody keep asking when did it happen? I just don't remember. I just decided to go buy a dress and wore it out the house. I didn't have no problems. Matter of fact, my father was a little bit upset because I had a purse and my purse did not match my shoes. He got a little ticked about that. I had a brown purse and black shoes. He was not ready for that. He said, "Go in there and get some shoes from your

mother." I knew I couldn't fit her shoes.

Craig Blunt: You had an accepting family of your lifestyle from the door.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah.

Craig Blunt: That's very rare.

Pucci Revlon: They didn't have no choice cuz I'm gonna be me just like I let

them be them.

Craig Blunt: Yeah.

Pucci Revlon: So they accept who I am. That's the way we were raised.

Everybody was treated the same.

Craig Blunt: Most families' kids come out to their family, they get ousted. You

was blessed. You was blessed.

Pucci Revlon: I guess my parents did love me. They loved me a lot.

Whitney Strub: Was that in elementary school when you started wearing the dress?

Pucci Revlon: No, that was like the end of high school.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, high school, around that time. The feminine part came out

way before then.

Whitney Strub: Can I ask? Did they discuss it with you explicitly?

Pucci Revlon: No.

Whitney Strub: Was it just sort of like—

Pucci Revlon: No. Just let it go. They didn't say nothing. I took up sewing class

and home ec and all that. Not a thing. Please, I was 16. I had a

sewing machine for Christmas.

Whitney Strub: What about at school?

Pucci Revlon: Huh?

Whitney Strub: What about at school either your peers or teachers? Did they?

Pucci Revlon: You didn't know my parents.

Whitney Strub: Oh.

Pucci Revlon: They couldn't say nothin'. Mm-mm. Most of the people I went to

school with grew up around me. Most of them already knew me. There was a couple of people that came in from different areas that didn't know me that'd say I was gay or a fag and I had a little twitch when I walked, but most everybody else knew me from the neighborhood. I grew up in the same neighborhood from fifth

grade through high school.

Craig Blunt: I was one of 'em.

Pucci Revlon: Huh?

Craig Blunt: I was one of 'em cuz I thought you was a woman [chuckling] back

then. All I knew was Ms. Pucci.

Pucci Revlon: I grew up in an area where they just started having big clubs inside

the City of Newark. There was a club, I can't remember the name, but I know it was on Twelfth Street and Springfield Avenue. Bobby White had the club and the front part was a straight club but

the back part was the gay club. We used to go down there on Fridays and Saturdays and hang out. I used to go over my friend's house and we'd go over there and change our clothes and get

dressed and stuff for night life.

That's when my parents let me hang out past—cuz honey, I had to be in the house by 8:30, in bed by 9:00 up until I was about 16 or 17 years old. My parents were strict. We couldn't go too far. Now in the summertime we could hang out a little longer, but during the school days, uh-uh, that didn't happen. No, they didn't like that.

Craig Blunt: How was your neighborhood?

Pucci Revlon: My regular neighborhood. I hung out with all the girls, hung out

with the boys. We played kickball. We went swimming. It was up near Avon and Twentieth Street, near the Irvington border. That's back there when it was a mixed neighborhood. We had obviously black people. We had white people. We had Spanish people. We had Mexican people. We had German people and Polish people

and Dominican people, Chinese. We had a hobby shop.

It was a very eclectic neighborhood up in that area. We even had the Polish Hall around the corner where they used to go play bingo. We had people from all over the country cuz I knew a girl that was from Connecticut that lived in the neighborhood in the building across the street and always talked about how it was back in Connecticut and how to *[inaudible 00:07:32]*.

Getting back to the gay part, there was three of us in my neighborhood that lived there. There was Tweety, Niecy, and myself. We never had no problem with the people in the neighborhood because they knew us from being young. Then like with Tweety was older, she used to give us tips on how to get hormones and where to go buy them at and stuff like that and we started taking hormones back in I was about 18. I think Niecy started, she was about 15.

We started growing boobs back then. We used to hang out at night. That's when we start hanging out late at night walking up and down the street in negligees and stuff, acting like we were pretty because that's what we did back then. Then we started going to balls about a year later. I think the first ball I went to was in New York. I think it was up in Harlem. It wasn't a crystal ball. It was something else. I know it had big pedestals in the middle of the floor.

Craig Blunt: The big columns?

Pucci Revlon: The big columns. It was nice back then. Then it was just mainly

Fem-Queens. They had a couple of Butch-Queen categories.

Craig Blunt: Not many.

Pucci Revlon: Not many. I think it was only about maybe four. I think it was

Conti Butch-Queen or the Mod Boy and Face and the Executive

Look and probably something else.

Craig Blunt: School Boy or something like that.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. Then the grand price was Fem-Queen. That's when grand

prize started like I think it was \$300.00. Then it went to \$500.00. Then they started doing this \$1,000.00 grand prize. The first \$1,000.00 grand prize was held in Irvington Manor. I remember that because I sold tickets for that for the girl that was doing it at

the time and that was big back then. Before Donna—

Craig Blunt: Ms. Donna, Mm-hmm.

Pucci Revlon: Yes. That was the name. I couldn't remember that name. Yes. It

was Irvington Manor. Used to be there was a David Burs there before that. That's when Irvington Manor was on Springfield Avenue before you hit that side street. Yeah. Mm-hmm. I remember a lotta things back then. Paris and Bobby White.

Whitney Strub: Can you talk more about Bobby White?

Pucci Revlon: Bobby White was—I'm gonna give you a little history on Bobby

White. I met one of Bobby White's oldest friends. I can't remember where Bobby White was from, but where Bobby White was from. I met Bobby White's father, Mr. White. Very nice. Very charming. Distinguished looking man. At this time he had to be somewhere around 90, but that man looked good. He had silver white fox hair.

His hair was pure white. Light skinned guy.

Him and one of Bobby White's friends used to sit down and tell us stories about Bobby White cuz at one point in time Bobby White was a band leader. They was supposed to be walking down one street because they only had parades on a little side street in this little country town. Bobby White being Bobby White, Bobby White veered off the side street and took the whole parade down the main street and from that on they had the parade down the main street from that day on.

Bobby White had the band follow her the way they was supposed to go because the band always lead the parade. Mm-hmm. Bobby White was a bit of a slut too. They were all chasing behind Bobby White. Half the young guys was chasing behind Bobby White.

Bobby White also had a husband.

Craig Blunt: Gorgeous.

Pucci Revlon: Mm-hmm. Yeah. Then Paris and Bobby White became friends

somewhere in the fifties or something. They used to tell me how they used to have to—when they'd go out in drag, how they used to have to run from the police and hop the fences and hide in the yards and stuff cuz the police catch them out in drag they'd get beat

up and thrown in jail.

Craig Blunt: They say Bobby White and Paris; they really made Newark what it

is for the gay people.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, they brought a lot of the—they did they own little ball things

here that were just central in Jersey and stuff like that. Once they started the little clubs, cuz they had like several different clubs. They had one over here on West Market. The one on Twelfth Street. The one on Elizabeth Avenue. One on Williams Street, that's where the Doll House. I worked for them at the Doll House

at the time.

Craig Blunt: Yeah, on top of Ms. J's.

Pucci Revlon: On top of Ms. J's, yeah.

Craig Blunt: After while they closed down.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, they closed. Yeah. I worked for them down there. We used

to do shows.

Craig Blunt: Drag shows.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. No, we did drag shows. We did plays too. We did knock off.

We did a knock off of *The Wiz* on roller skates. Yeah.

Whitney Strub: In the Doll House?

Pucci Revlon: In the Doll House. In the club. We had everybody sit around and

we used the center of the floor. We roller skated around. Bobby White played Dorothy. I played the mother. We had the little minions running around, these little flying little monkey things. We did the whole *Wiz* on roller skates inside the Doll House. We did a show, a little play, *Is My Family Turning Gay?* That was a whole little two hour little production in the back of it. We did the follies like from the—the follies back in the 1930s I think where

the show girls came out with the big hats and stuff.

Whitney Strub: Ziegfeld?

Pucci Revlon:

Ziegfeld Follies. We did a knock off of the Ziegfeld Follies. I started with [Inaudible 00:14:31] Follies. Then Bobby White and them followed with another follies. We went back and forth off each other with different shows and stuff. We did a lot of lip syncing.

I got a lot of pointers from Bobby. Paris did a lot of the background work and promoting shows and stuff like that. Bobby also worked as a florist and Paris was a hair dresser during the day, but they had the clubs on the weekends. It was good times back then. Wasn't so much of the gay bashing thing until the Wild Bunch came. That was in the late 70s.

Craig Blunt: Yeah.

Whitney Strub: The Wild Bunch?

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, they was a anti-gay bunch of guys in the South and Weekly

sections of Newark.

Craig Blunt: South Ward, yes.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. If they caught you outside gay, whether you're male or

female, if a woman was outside with too much makeup on, she was

considered gay.

Craig Blunt: Oh yeah or dressed too manly.

Pucci Revlon: Like dressed manly, yeah. No, no, she can be dressed like a

woman. If she had on a lotta makeup they would beat her down. I remember they attacked a girl I know named Irene and she wasn't gay but she just hang around a lotta gay people. She wore a thick coat of makeup cuz I remember this time this girl Barbara was telling us about they was going after Irene because Irene had on a green sequin dress and she had on green eye shadow and it was on a thick coating. They thought she was gay and they was gonna beat her up just because she had on the dress and the eye makeup to

match and this was in the middle of summer.

Craig Blunt: Very strange back then.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, but that was the only problem until they was gonna come to

Essex County College. We came prepared. We came to school that day prepared. I used to carry an axe in my bag. I hope that don't get

me in trouble.

Whitney Strub: No, no.

Pucci Revlon: I had a book bag with a axe in it.

Craig Blunt: A hatchet.

Pucci Revlon: With a hatchet, yeah. I went up to Sears cuz Sears used to be in

Irvington Center and got me a hatchet. I had a hatchet in my bag. I carried a hatchet in my book bag cuz I remember they sent out a little thing and said they were coming down to Essex County College to attack all the gay people. We had security on our side at the time cuz we were close to the security because they were

having a problem with us using the ladies bathroom.

They designated two bathrooms in Essex County for the gender kids. We had one bathroom on the first floor that was a ladies room. That's where all the transgender boys went. Then there was a male bathroom where all the transgender girls went. That was in Essex County College back in '78 or '79 back then, back in Essex County College. They were very friendly to the gay people that were there in the school. Whenever we had a problem, we talked to

security.

Head of security at the time and the sergeant that was there, there was a young lady. I can't remember her name. They were all in to protecting the school, but we was gonna protect ourselves along with the school. All the gay people got together and unto be known some people had guns on them. I'm not gonna mention no names. I had my hatchet and some people had hammers and some people had knives. They wasn't kitchen knives. They was like daggers and stuff like that. We was waiting for the little Wild Bunch to come to Essex County College.

Craig Blunt: Turn 'em out.

Pucci Revlon: We was gonna turn 'em out. Yeah, they was coming to get us but

we was gonna get them at the time.

Whitney Strub: Were you a student or working there?

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, I was a student.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Most of us were students. They knew that there was a lotta gay

people in Essex County College back then. This was, like I said,

somewhere between '77 and 1980 there was a lotta gay kids in the school and they knew it. They were coming down there to attack us. They sent word.

I think they attacked a boy named Billy and the word came from Billy. They beat him up but they didn't beat him up enough to put him in the hospital, just to let him know to send the message that they're coming to Essex County College for us. We came prepared that day.

Craig Blunt: Did they every show up?

Pucci Revlon: No they ain't show up. They knew better. Please. We were all

sitting on that second floor rotunda waitin' for them. Please. Then with all the cameras that they had in the security office, they was waitin' for 'em too. Yeah, they were waiting for 'em. They never

showed up at that school.

Craig Blunt: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Mm-mm. That would been a disaster happening. I don't think we

woulda been able to get to 'em because the police were so strategically placed. When you came in the first floor level down there, there was officers off to the side into the—what was that? Was that the Latin Student Union at the time? I think the Latin Student Union was down there and there were security officers there waiting for them if they walked in the building. Plus the security office itself was on the second floor. Once you came up the stairs, there was the *[inaudible 00:20:29]* office. There was

security people around there waiting. Yeah, the school was well protected by the Essex County College Police. We were ready for

'em in the process.

Whitney Strub: Do you mind if I ask three sort of historian questions then I'll turn

it back to you, Craig?

Pucci Revlon: Go ahead.

Whitney Strub: First, when you were at Essex County College, did you know a guy

named Raymond Proctor who worked there? He was a gay man and I'm not sure if was connected to—he taught there in the urban

institute.

Pucci Revlon: I don't know. I know Gerald.

Whitney Strub: Yeah.

Pucci Revlon: Probably did. Joe Green.

Craig Blunt: Gerald Holloway too.

Pucci Revlon: Gerald Holloway, yeah.

Whitney Strub: Who taught there?

Pucci Revlon: No. Gerald Holloway went to school there, graduated, and then he

started his work there. He still works there.

Craig Blunt: Yeah.

Whitney Strub: Okay. Sorry, just two more quick follow ups. When you were

talking about Bobby White, you were talking about Paris as well.

Is that Paris like the city?

Pucci Revlon: No.

Whitney Strub: PERRIS?

Pucci Revlon: Spelled like Paris the city.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Paris and Bobby White were best friends.

Whitney Strub: Did you have a last name for Paris?

Pucci Revlon: Paris Smith. Smith, yep. It was Smith.

Whitney Strub: Do you know any more about just Paris's biography?

Pucci Revlon: Paris was half black and half Italian from Jersey City. Paris was

the oldest—okay let me see, Paris, Shorty, Shawn, De-de, Samantha, Denise, the other brother, of probably nine or ten

children.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Paris also told me about how Paris left home because he didn't

wanna influence the other children in his family of coming gay. When Paris returned, the mother told Paris you were too late because Paris also had Denise, Shawn, and Samantha were also

transgender boys.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: In the sister Denise I think was a lesbian.

Whitney Strub: Paris and Bobby, they were both trans or they were both gay men

or I just wanna be sure I'm understanding correctly?

Pucci Revlon: They were gay men that looked like women.

Whitney Strub: Okay. They wouldn't have necessarily made those distinctions.

Pucci Revlon: Huh?

Whitney Strub: They wouldn't.

Pucci Revlon: No, no, no, because there's always Mr. Bobby White. It was never

Ms., but he just looked like a woman. He was just Mr. Bobby

White. So did Paris. It was always Mr. Paris.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: But they looked like women. No matter what they did. Bobby

White wear a plaid shirt and a pair of jeans in a minute and go off

to work.

Craig Blunt: With that long hair.

Pucci Revlon: With a long ponytail.

Whitney Strub: Do you have any pictures of them?

Pucci Revlon: No. I was just telling Bernie the same thing. I wish I had pictures

of those back in the day.

Whitney Strub: Can we keep audio recording while we pause?

Pucci Revlon: Okay.

Whitney Strub: I just wanted to ask too, sorry, just a couple more detail type

questions. You said they had a bunch of different clubs. Was that simultaneously [cross talk 00:23:58] move from place to place?

Pucci Revlon: No, no. Once one club closed down, they moved to another spot.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Okay. The biggest one was the Doll House. That was on Williams

Street.

Whitney Strub: Do you know when that began roughly?

Pucci Revlon: Okay. That had to be between '79 and '80.

Whitney Strub: Okay. Do you have a ballpark sense of when their first club

would've been, like when they first began this enterprise?

Pucci Revlon: Seventy-six.

Whitney Strub: Okay. That would've been the Twelfth and Springfield?

Pucci Revlon: Twelfth and Springfield Avenue, yeah.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: I can't remember the name of that bar, but I know you had to go

through the straight part of the bar into the back where the gay club

was.

Whitney Strub: Could you remember it maybe?

Craig Blunt: I'm trying to think of it. I can't think of the name of it.

Pucci Revlon: They used to do shows back there.

Craig Blunt: The shows in the back part. We had to walk through the straight

people with they nose up in the air, whatever to get to the back

part.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah.

Craig Blunt: I can't think of the name of the club.

Pucci Revlon: I can't neither. It's no longer there. The building no longer there.

Craig Blunt: They tore it down.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. I can't remember what it was, but it was a nice place. It was

like a hole in the wall, but it gave you something to do on Friday

nights and Thursdays.

Craig Blunt: Remember the one on Elizabeth Avenue? Double Doll House.

Pucci Revlon: Huh?

Craig Blunt: Double Dolls on Elizabeth Avenue upstairs?

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, upstairs. Over the car lot. It was a car company. It was a car

place where they sold cars.

Whitney Strub: Okay. Then sorry, just one more follow up cuz I gotta ask. You

mentioned a show that you put on at the Doll House in the 70s Is

*My Family Turning Gay?* What was that?

Pucci Revlon: [Laughs] Okay. That was a show. I was the wife and I had a

husband. We were a straight couple and my husband was having an affair with the next door neighbor's son. I had a daughter who was straight and I had a son that had a gay friend. At the end of the play, well the whole play went on. We just did little skits. We had a little wine on the side and did a little different things and what not. At the end of the play, the last line of the play was, "Was my whole family turning gay?" Cuz my husband done went with the neighbor's son and my son done went with somebody and some

other guy.

Whitney Strub: Was that written locally? Who wrote it?

Pucci Revlon: Bobby White.

Whitney Strub: Okay. Wow, I'd love to find a copy of that.

Pucci Revlon: Listen, most of it was ad libbed, the whole play. We just had little

directions and took it from there and ran with it.

Whitney Strub: Yeah. Okay. Gotcha. Craig, all yours. I didn't mean to take over.

Craig Blunt: No problem. Are you religious or what religion are you?

Pucci Revlon: I'm a Baptist.

Craig Blunt: Baptist. What church do you belong to?

Pucci Revlon: The one on Springfield Avenue.

Craig Blunt: Metropolitan?

Pucci Revlon: [Laughs] Yes, the Metropolitan.

Craig Blunt: Okay. Are we gonna pause for a second?

*Pucci Revlon:* No, we still on full.

Whitney Strub: Audio recording. We can pause this.

Pucci Revlon: Okay.

Benny Roman: That's paused. [the video camera]

Craig Blunt: All right. Yeah.

Pucci Revlon: What else?

Benny Roman: You don't want me to record this, right?

Craig Blunt: It's up to you.

Pucci Revlon: That's up to you.

Benny Roman: Okay. You said pause for a minute.

Craig Blunt: No, I wanted to go to the bathroom.

*Benny Roman:* Go to the bathroom.

Pucci Revlon: Go ahead.

Whitney Strub: I'll just leave the audio recording. It's easier that way [cross talk

00:27:46]. While Craig's in the bathroom I can keep asking you

questions for the audio recording.

Pucci Revlon: Right.

Benny Roman: Yeah.

Whitney Strub: One other thing I was gonna follow up on was about hormones.

You said when you were a teenager you began taking hormones. I wonder if you can talk about how do you figure out how that

worked and where did you go? What kind of medical—

Pucci Revlon: Tweety.

Whitney Strub: Yeah.

Pucci Revlon: No, I didn't go to no medical doctor. Tweety.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Tweety told me about hormones. Yeah.

Whitney Strub: Tweety was an older trans girl?

Pucci Revlon: Yes.

Whitney Strub: Okay. Where was she getting the hormones?

Pucci Revlon: Please, there's a black market for everything in New York City

back then.

Whitney Strub: Okay. Not in Newark though?

Pucci Revlon: No, not in Newark. No. We couldn't get 'em in Newark. We had to

go to New York and get 'em.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: We used to go to 110th Street at one time. That's where we used to

go get the injections. They would sell 'em in little brown bags. They would sell you the syringes. You get the Vitamin B12 and you get the estrogen and the—it was another shot. It was estrogen and something you mixed together. You gave yourself a shot once

a week or once every two weeks.

Whitney Strub: What did it cost?

Pucci Revlon: Back then it was like \$30.00 I think.

Craig Blunt: Compared to today, yeah.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. Then we started taking the little pills. I took the pills way

before I took the shots. Matter of fact, I used to—when I worked for this company downtown, we used to take kids—I used to organize something with Project Youth, which is still in effect for today for children in urban communities where they'll take 'em up

to [Inaudible 00:29:38], New Jersey where they use to go camping. Me and my friend Niecy went there and we had a two week overnight camping thing. We took pills the whole time.

[Extraneous Conversation 00:29:51 - 00:31:33]

Pucci Revlon: You heard that, right? Miss Downing.

Craig Blunt: Mm-hmm. [Chuckles]

Pucci Revlon: I can't smoke in front of you.

Craig Blunt: Emphysema.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. Okay, what else you wanna know?

Benny Roman: I'm almost done. Hold on. Let me just turn it on.

Whitney Strub: There's so much I wanna know.

Pucci Revlon: Okay. Go ahead.

Whitney Strub: Eight million follow ups for everything you've said.

Pucci Revlon: Okay.

[Extraneous Conversation 00:32:12 - 00:32:58]

Pucci Revlon: Still trying to get them poll workers. We need bilingual people to

work on the polls and being I'm the only bilingual person in Broad Street, I need somebody else there because I can't do everything.

Craig Blunt: You talk two languages?

Pucci Revlon: Huh?

Craig Blunt: What other language you speak?

Pucci Revlon: I speak Spanish. I understand a little Portuguese and some Polish.

It's where I was raised. That's what was in my neighborhood

growing up. Lotta Spanish, lotta Polish.

Craig Blunt: That's a question next I wanna ask you. What's the earliest memory

of Newark? You answered it.

Pucci Revlon: No, my earliest memories of Newark is Seventeenth Avenue and

Belmont Avenue. That's where my mama lived. I remember that because she died in 1965, I think. I had to be around eight. No, I was younger than that. Had to be around seven or something like that. That's when my grandmother died. There was a precinct still

there, the Seventeenth Avenue Precinct, I remember that.

She used to have a doll in the corner of the living room, a tall white doll about three feet tall with a red and white polka dot dress. My father couldn't stand that doll cuz every time I go over there that's all I wanted to play with. My mama was my protector. When they had her funeral and finally figured out what the box they had her in, we thought it was a giant suitcase. We didn't know it was a coffin and she wasn't comin' home. Nobody explained it to us. Then we just freaked out. That was bad.

Craig Blunt: That she wasn't coming back.

Pucci Revlon: Huh?

Craig Blunt: That she wasn't coming back.

Pucci Revlon: She wasn't coming back. Yeah. My mama was my protector but

then she was mean to me. I remember we went to the chicken market. There used to be a chicken market right there on Warren and Lock Street. We used to go down these little steps. There was a chicken market cuz we lived around the—that's my earliest moments cuz we lived around Summit Street somewhere around

the corner there. We used to walk to the chicken market.

I was telling my father and my uncle this here some years back. We went into the chicken market and they had all these chicken and the stink and turkeys and stuff up in there and my grandmother bought one of them chickens. She gave me the bag, but I thought the chicken was still alive and the bag twisted. We had paper bags back then. The bag flicked and I dropped the bag screaming and hollering in the street. I think I could've been about three or four then. She kept telling me to pick up that bag. I was screaming, "No, no, no," crying. She just stood up there and laughed at me like it was a joke. I was scared that chicken was live and gonna come out that bag. [Laughs] That's probably one of my earliest memories is with my mama. That's what we called my

grandmother, my father's mother, back then.

Craig Blunt: Rest in peace. How did other people in your life become aware of

it?

Pucci Revlon: Become aware of what?

Craig Blunt: I skipped a question, sorry about that. [Laughter] How did first

became aware of that aspect of yourself? How'd you first learn

about the existence of LGB?

Pucci Revlon: With Tweety came other friends like Roz, Arlene, Laverne. They

lived in the neighborhood but not in our particular area. Some of them lived up on Seventeenth Street, Sixteenth Street. We had a friend back then named Cookie Talene. We had a whole lotta

friends back then. We used to throw house parties.

I couldn't throw house parties cuz my parents were too strict. They weren't having no people in they house. They used to throw house party and basement parties. We used to go to different parties and stuff and hang out and drink and just hang together and have a good time back then. I learned it from different people. You tell

two friends and they tell two friends.

Craig Blunt: Word of mouth.

Pucci Revlon: So on and so on. That's how we learned about each other.

Craig Blunt: My experience with you was Central Avenue, Miss Tiffany and all

them.

Pucci Revlon: Tiffany, Vaughn. Up the street here.

Craig Blunt: Mm-hmm.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. Yep.

Craig Blunt: A lot of them have passed on.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. Tiffany, Juju, Kelly Cold's gone. Remember Eddie? Puerto

Rican little Eddie?

Craig Blunt: Yeah.

Pucci Revlon: Lives in California still. Facebook friend.

Craig Blunt: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Mm-hmm.

Craig Blunt: Eddie and who else was it? The rest of 'em passed on, right?

Pucci Revlon: Larry's still alive on Tenth Street. They used to call them the

"Screaming Mimis."

Craig Blunt: Mm-hmm.

Pucci Revlon: Mm-hmm. Yep.

Craig Blunt: Miss Tiffany would walk up and down Central Avenue.

Pucci Revlon: Central Avenue. Yeah. I turned Tiffany into a blonde.

Craig Blunt: You did that?

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, when Tiffany went blonde. Oh yes, no, no, no you doing it

wrong cuz it was like golden. I said, "Come on over here. Let me show you what to do." I put that Clairol blue bleach in her hair, wrapped that sucker in aluminum foil. "Girl, go on to the store. Don't take off that foil." Came back, that hair was platinum. Sent her out in the sunlight. The sun baked the color right out of it,

made it real white looking.

Craig Blunt: That was your doing.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, that was my doing. [Laughter] Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Whitney Strub: Can I ask you a question about names? Is Pucci the name you use

when you were young or how did you—

Pucci Revlon: Pucci's the name my grandmother gave me. I never changed it.

Whitney Strub: Even when you were a boy as a child, Pucci.

Pucci Revlon: Pucci was my name.

Whitney Strub: Okay. You didn't have to change that.

Pucci Revlon: Mm-mm.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Pucci was the name my grandmother gave. My mama I just talked

about, she's the one that called me Pucci. I've been that ever since.

Craig Blunt: Then you became Miss Pucci.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, I became Miss Pucci when everybody started—

Craig Blunt: Was it the ballroom scene or before the ballroom scene?

Pucci Revlon: Before the ballroom scene. Tweety and Niecy, all them still say

Miss Pucci. They all said it. When I was watching kids, I didn't

want the kids to give me a title because I wanted to know what they talkin' about. We had to be friends in order to be able to tell they parents what's going on. That's how I did that.

Whitney Strub: What about language? When you were growing up, the term

transgender didn't even exist. How would you describe yourself then back in the day? What kinda words did you use and what

kinda words did other people use to describe?

Pucci Revlon: Back in the day they'd use the word fag.

Craig Blunt: And drag queen.

Pucci Revlon: Drag queen came later. That's the name of the ballroom thing.

They used the word fag and sissy.

Whitney Strub: Did you have words for yourself? How would you and other trans

women describe yourselves back then?

Pucci Revlon: Miss. We were ladies back then. That's all I remember is Miss.

Even when they fought, it was always Miss. They never called each other outta their name. They never used that derogatory word. We got that from the straight people. We didn't get much of that because we were fixtures in the neighborhood. It was always—they used to say gay boys too a lot back then. The little gay boys down the street or something like that. In the neighborhoods, we

didn't get a lot of that growing up here.

Like I said, it was a very co—Newark is very cohesive people. They were accepting of everything cuz I used to walk up and down Springfield Avenue. I lived on Avon Avenue. I used to hang out with the—it depends on what I was doing. I used to play tag with the boys up on Seventeenth Street or play tag with the boys in my neighborhood or we'll play kickball in the area or football in the area. I just didn't do none of them rough sports.

I'm not gonna deny, I just made a mistake. I did not play football. I couldn't play football to save my life. I don't do sports now. I didn't do them back then. I barely took gym. When it was days for gym my father would come to school, be pissed cuz I'd be there with a pair of shoes on in a heartbeat. I was not changing in the locker room with a bunch of boys at all.

In high school I didn't do gym at all. They gave me all healths. I did health from ninth grade to twelfth grade. I didn't do gym cuz I wasn't changing my clothes. I don't care. There was a bunch of

boys in the room, my clothes was not comin' off in the room with a bunch of boys under no circumstances. I never told them why I wouldn't take gym, but that was the reason cuz there was a bunch of boys in the room and I wasn't changing into no shorts in front of no boys. At all.

Craig Blunt: Point blank period, huh?

Pucci Revlon: Point blank period.

Whitney Strub: What about the word transsexual? Was that a word you would

have used or a word you would have not have liked? What was

your relationship to that word?

Pucci Revlon: Back then, that hospital over there used to do sex change.

Whitney Strub: University Hospital?

Pucci Revlon: It was called Martland back then.

Craig Blunt: Martland Medical Center.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, Martland Medical Center. That one with Rutgers on it. They

used to do sex change. That's where transsexuals came from. That word came from over there. They had a little program over there and a couple of people we knew went through that transition over

there.

Whitney Strub: That wasn't a word that you related to then?

Pucci Revlon: No.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Most of the words like transgender, transsexual, a lot of that came

when the ballroom started cuz that's what they used to put into categories. They put Fem-Queens and Butch-Queens. Then sometimes they'd put Transgender and stuff like that. That came outta—a lotta those words that they use frequently now came from

there or medical personnel. We didn't use those words.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: It was either Miss or Mr. It depends on how you wanted to see it.

Like I knew a lotta gay girls, but knew some gay girls. These were

women that were—

Craig Blunt: Terminology back then was bull dikes.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, they were [growls] baby, honey, you talk about Hercules

and Ulysses. Then they had the ones that really looked like guys. We had some strong looking butches back then. Butches is mainly what they called them. They were masculine to the T. They can actually walk into a football locker room until they take off they top, they thought was a dude up in there. That's just the way they were back then. Now they got regular women, women-women together like that. They didn't have that back then like that. We rarely saw that. They were one masculine and one feminine. Most of the time the masculine were really masculine. Then they had

masculine jobs.

Craig Blunt: Construction.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah.

Craig Blunt: Working on the railroad.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. That construction work and stuff like that. They did real

work. Mm-hmm.

Craig Blunt: The butch over there, a real good paying job, taking care of the

home, taking care of the wife. Like a real couple.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. Then they wanted the complete opposite for them.

Craig Blunt: Some strange reason.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, for us. I just wouldn't take care of no man. I'm sorry. If I get

up and go to work, your ass gettin' up, go to work. That's why I can't keep a man cuz I'm sorry. I'm the only bitch in this

and keep a man caz i in sorry. I in the only blen in this

motherfucker's gonna lay around. My name is on the lease. Oh no, if I'm gonna be a man up in here, he gonna be out here workin'

along as well. Uh-uh honey.

My name is on the lease. You got to bring in the bacon. Uh-uh, no. I thought that was very tacky back then. I knew a couple of people that did it. I probably did it to a low scale cuz I've come to think of

it. I did it to help out. Uh-uh. Full support? Oh no. that wasn't

happening.

Craig Blunt: You're different from the other ones that came up. What's the one

on Seventh Street and Sussex Avenue? They live in the

townhouses, the brown stones. Remember on Seventh Street off Sussex Avenue? She's brown skinned, real pretty, nice body.

Pucci Revlon: I don't remember that.

Craig Blunt: Remember Seventh Street?

Pucci Revlon: You thinking about the two boys?

Craig Blunt: No, the Fem-Queens back then. We was young, young. It was like

three or four of 'em hang together. Remember the gas station, Exxon, then that little Seventh Street. The next block over it was

a---

Pucci Revlon: I don't know. I don't remember. I don't remember who that was. I

think I have a vague idea but I can't remember their name or the

faces about what went on back then.

Craig Blunt: You never hung with them.

Pucci Revlon: No.

Craig Blunt: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Mm-mm. I hung with Tiffany and them. Wherever Tiffany and

them went, that's where I went. What was the one that lived on—

Val.

Craig Blunt: Miss Val.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, wherever Val and them went, I hung with them on that side

and Mark. We used to live on Second and Central Avenue and stuff like that. We use to go around them, but we never stayed that way. Tiffany didn't even live in Newark. Tiffany lived in East

Orange.

Craig Blunt: Didn't Tiffany live on Central Avenue?

Pucci Revlon: No. Tiffany lived in East Orange.

Craig Blunt: I always thought Tiffany was on Central Avenue cuz she's—

Pucci Revlon: Used to live on Central a long time, but most of the time back then

Tiffany lived in East Orange. I think Tiffany's mother and them still live in East Orange. Tiffany just hanged down here with us and stayed down here with us most of the time. We lived in this

area. We just hung out in this area here. I used to get up and go to

work every day.

Craig Blunt: That little playground area with the swings.

Pucci Revlon: The wind park.

Craig Blunt: The wind park.

Pucci Revlon: We used to hang at the wind park and sit there and drink at night.

Uh-huh. Get up and roll a couple of joints, go get you a quart of Old English or a 40. Sit there and smoke your weed and drink your whole 40. Then walk up and down the street wobbling like we ain't

got no sense.

Craig Blunt: That was like another iconic park.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, that was a little wind park right there on Tenth Street around

Central Avenue we used to hang out in. Yeah.

Craig Blunt: Until they tore it down.

Pucci Revlon: They tore that down and put a car lot there like they selling cars. I

think they got busted or raided for something.

Craig Blunt: Yeah something illegal.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Craig Blunt: There's a lotta history in Newark. Lotta history.

Pucci Revlon: Yep.

Craig Blunt: For the gay kids in different areas.

Pucci Revlon: I remember there's something else that used to happen we used to

do. Me, Tiffany, Juju, Jerry—

Craig Blunt: Jerry Joint.

Pucci Revlon: We'd get dressed up and we used to head out on Mother's Day and

hit every bar and get free drinks.

[Extraneous Conversation 00:50:54 - 00:51:21]

Craig Blunt: [Laughs]

Pucci Revlon: What? You know I speak Spanish.

Craig Blunt: I'd have never known.

Pucci Revlon: What?

Craig Blunt: That you spoke Spanish. I didn't.

Pucci Revlon: You didn't know I speak Spanish?

Craig Blunt: No.

Pucci Revlon: Everybody know I speak Spanish.

Craig Blunt: I didn't know until now and you told me earlier.

Pucci Revlon: I've been speaking Spanish since I was like ten years old.

Everybody know I speak Spanish.

Craig Blunt: I didn't know that.

Whitney Strub: You just picked that up in the community?

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, in the community.

Whitney Strub: Yeah.

Pucci Revlon: In Irvington when I was up there, lotta Spanish people. I hang

around a lotta Spanish people. I used to go to they houses. The parents didn't speak English so I started picking up Spanish then.

As the years go on, I picked up a whole bunch more.

Whitney Strub: Can I ask you about what you did for work? You were speaking

about watching children, raising children. Can you talk about that?

Pucci Revlon: I used to watch children. That was a hobby. I was a nurse.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: I did that just to help out.

[Extraneous Conversation 00:52:22 - 00:52:51]

Pucci Revlon: Now let's go back to it.

Whitney Strub: Okay. Professionally you were a nurse.

Pucci Revlon: Yes.

Whitney Strub: That's what you went to Essex County for?

Pucci Revlon: No. Yeah, but I stopped going to Essex County. I got that from—

the nursing came from, was it National Institute? It used to be a school down on Raymond Boulevard and Broad, but it's no longer there. It was part of the Wiffy program, which is like speedy but during the school year. This was the part that was for people that

were over 18. They trained you.

Matter of fact they paid you to go through training. They used to have something called CITA that did the same thing in city hall. They trained you to go to school. They paid you to go to school to get the training to go out and have a job. I got that through there. We didn't get our paychecks from the school. We had to go down to by the old Hanes building to that place that had the pianos in it up on the 14th floor to pick up our paychecks. As long as you

stayed in school, you got a check.

Whitney Strub: Okay. CITA, that's the C E T A?

Pucci Revlon: No, I think it was C I T A back then. That was in city hall. I tried

to get into that program, but I had a conflict with the lady because first of all she asked me how did I shave my face that close was one of her first questions. Then she tried to send me to some job. She tried to send me to instead of putting me in the LPN program she wanted to put me into some tool and dye program where they made tools and stuff like that. My score was off the chart. Like my brain wasn't geared for nursing. It was geared for manual labor. I

ended up taking her ass to court.

Whitney Strub: Was she being sexist or racist or both?

Pucci Revlon: She was being anti-gay.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, she was being anti-gay. She wasn't being racist or nothing.

She was just being anti-gay. This was a light skinned black

woman.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, she was being—

Whitney Strub: She wouldn't recognize you as a woman.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. Oh yeah. Nursing was a woman's thing back then. This was

back in the 70s. It was a woman's thing. It was not a man's thing. Yeah, back then it was all women. Oh yes, I need to go do tool and

dye. I wasn't allowed to do nursing.

Whitney Strub: You went to court?

Pucci Revlon: Huh?

Whitney Strub: You took her to court?

Pucci Revlon: I took her to court. We never made it to the court because

somehow she got fired or something from city hall. It was Gibson

back then. [Phone ringing] Home health aide, hold on.

[Extraneous Conversation 00:56:05 - 00:58:15]

Pucci Revlon: Yes, I've got pancreatic cancer. All then I was using the doctor

separately. I use all the doctors in the hospital now cuz they all can see everything on the same computer. When they pull up my chart number, all my doctor visits, all my medical records all come up together. I'm trying to keep this doctor, but she's a damn asshole. She's very arrogant. I spoke to this woman when I first went there. I said, "Please, please listen to me. Hear me when I talk to you. Do not ignore me." That bitch done turned around and done the same thing. Don't hear a word I say, twist it around, everything else. Don't hear me. Okay, let's get back to this here. What time is it?

Whitney Strub: We were just talking.

Benny Roman: We were just talking about that. It's 4:11.

Whitney Strub: It's 4:11. We know you've got something going on. We wanna be

respectful of your time.

Benny Roman: Right.

Pucci Revlon: That's at 5:30. What time you gots to go?

Craig Blunt: I got time.

Whitney Strub: I've gotta be back to Rutgers.

Benny Roman: I have to be back.

Pucci Revlon: What time you gotta be back to Rutgers?

Whitney Strub: I've gotta be back there by—well, I've got a class I'm supposed to

visit at 5:00.

Benny Roman: We gotta try to wrap this up.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, let's try to wrap this up.

Craig Blunt: Yeah.

Benny Roman: I have eight minutes on this camera without going into another,

just that'll be fine.

Pucci Revlon: Okay.

Whitney Strub: Okay, maybe aim for eight more minutes.

Pucci Revlon: Now let's talk about the gay community.

Whitney Strub: I've got a million follow up questions.

Pucci Revlon: Okay, well come on.

Whitney Strub: Maybe I can follow up.

Pucci Revlon: Follow up. Yeah, go ahead. That'd be better.

Whitney Strub: Okay.

Pucci Revlon: Especially get him outta here so I can smoke a cigarette.

[Laughter]

Whitney Strub: For this round, can I—I'll just ask this and then Craig you can take

over. I wanted to go back to the police because you had mentioned Bobby and Paris fleeing the police in the 50s and 60s. What about

your experiences with the police in Newark?

Pucci Revlon: I didn't have that problem. This was back in the 70s. Matter of fact,

most of the time, even now, like I know a lot of police officers now. A lot of people I went to school with became Newark police officers. I never had that problem with the police. I try to avoid

them at all costs, but even back then, even in the neighborhood they would drive by, wave.

I knew Irvington po—I did have a problem with one Irvington police officer when I was about 17. He just wanted me to be an adult. He tried to make me be 18 where he could push me around and arrest me. My father came to the precinct with my uncle Dave who's also a Newark cop. Yeah, they were too thrilled.

Craig Blunt:

Back then we had a curfew in Irvington. All the kids had to be in the house by 10:00 or something back then.

Inwe1

No, that wasn't back then. We didn't have no curfew back then. We hung out. Back then, when I was growing up, first like I was telling you during the school year I couldn't hang out. In the summer and on the weekends when we were able to hang out and play, we used to hang out until 2:00 in the morning. That's when the light turned back. We would sit on the streets, play ball and stuff like that. We could do those things. Even though I had strict parents, we were able to do things like that. They didn't have a curfew back then.

Craig Blunt:

In Irvington?

Pucci Revlon:

In Irvington, no. That started years later. That's around the beginning of the gangs. Before the bloods and the crips there were alternate different gangs like Latin Kings and different things like that. Those started the curfew things back then. We didn't have that problem back then.

Craig Blunt:

Okay.

Pucci Revlon:

The Wild Bunch, all that stuff, that's when all that became effective. As I got older, like I said, I was walking Irvington from Newark to Irvington Center in a negligee. Back then, once you passed Ellis Avenue, that was all a white neighborhood. They didn't bother us walking up and down the street in our little pinot sets. We was having our little green mud masks and walking up and down the street. They didn't bother us. We would walk all the way up past Irvington Center, turn around, and walk back down. Back then we walked a lot. We hung out.

Whitney Strub:

Why do you think that is? Why do you think they didn't harass you more?

Pucci Revlon:

Cuz they knew who we were. They knew who we were. Like I said, we were fixtures in the neighborhood. We grew up there.

They knew exactly who we were. They didn't bother us back then. We didn't have that.

Now Bobby White and them used to talk about problems cuz I guess back then it was probably frowned on because you shouldn't have been out there being a man dressed like a woman. That's why they chased them around. Back then, most women didn't even wear pants. That was probably frowned on back then. I think that came through with "I Love Lucy" where she wore pants on TV was probably the breakthrough on that. Mm-hmm. Okay, what's next? You said you had eight more questions?

Whitney Strub: I've got a million more questions.

Pucci Revlon: Okay. Go ahead.

Whitney Strub: I'll never get through everything.

Pucci Revlon: Well, go ahead.

Whitney Strub: The thing that jumps out to me as most important is the Doll

House. I'd love to hear more about it, just details, who was there,

what was it like, what did it look like and feel like?

Pucci Revlon: Okay. It was painted dark inside. It was a club atmosphere. It had

multiple colored lights around. Since Sparky Jay's had a liquor license, they was able to have liquor license upstairs because it

was—Sparky Jay was the owner of—was it Mr. Jay?

Craig Blunt: Yeah, they bought it afterwards.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. He had the club downstairs and they would have a liquor

license. They had a bar upstairs. We sold hot dogs and hamburgers and stuff like that. It was a night club. We had a big old dance floor in the front. We used to have a lounging area where you go sit back and talk and drink, eat a snack and stuff like that. We had the showroom in the back where we did the shows like, "Are my family turning gay?" We used to do a lot of pantomiming acts and

lip sync acts off of the stars at the time.

Craig Blunt: Diana Ross and them.

Pucci Revlon: Diana Ross, Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Original Sparkles.

Majestic was the club that used to be over here.

Craig Blunt: On West Market.

Pucci Revlon: West Market. Majestic. That just came to me, Majestic was the

club that was up here on West Market that Bobby White and them

had that Irma took over. Mm-hmm. It was beautiful. It was

upstairs. It was a night club. You paid to get in.

Craig Blunt: Three dollars.

Pucci Revlon: Three dollars, yeah. Some weekends it got packed.

Craig Blunt: You couldn't get in there.

Pucci Revlon: Couldn't get in. It was just not the gay people coming. We had the

straight people coming to party in that sucker cuz honey, all we had to do was say there was something going on. I used to work the front door. I would collect your \$3.00, give you a red ticket. You give the ticket to the boy at the door. He put the ticket in a

bag. My money had to match the ticket in the bag.

Sometimes my money would be behind the bar because I would be sitting there with like \$300.00 and the bartender was Bobby

White's husband. I had a money bag. I used to put all the money in there and just have the minimum up in there because I didn't have no glass partition. In case they came to rob the place, the money was back there. I would just give them the whole damn tray and let it go. Sometimes I'd empty that tray three times a night cuz they would come and go. Once you go, you had to pay to come back in. they'd probably go around the corner to Mike's Goal or Branford

Place, Sensations.

Craig Blunt: Murphy's or whatever.

Pucci Revlon: Murphy's or the Music Room or the Troxie [?] Club or Miller's

Café. There was a bunch of bars in the area where the gay and the

straight people hung out.

Whitney Strub: All of these places were gay friendly?

Pucci Revlon: Yeah, all of them, especially on Branford Place. Most of the clubs

on Branford Place and Washington and Branford were good. It was very gay friendly. You can go in there any time of the day and have a ball. Mm-hmm. It was wonderful. Murphy's was a gay bar

that was on Edison Place.

Craig Blunt: And SRO.

Pucci Revlon: SRO.

Craig Blunt: SRO was on Palsy and Branford, that little house. It's a hot dog

place now.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. Sensations was in the middle of the block. Mm-hmm.

Whitney Strub: How racially mixed was it? Was it mostly black, black and white,

Latino?

Craig Blunt: Mostly black.

Pucci Revlon: Black. Mostly black.

Craig Blunt: We had a few whites.

Pucci Revlon: A few whites and Latinos. There was a club in North Newark I

used to go to. You remember that club that was on Fifth Street?

Whitney Strub: The Other World?

Pucci Revlon: The Other World. Yes, that's most of the white people went.

Whitney Strub: Yeah.

Pucci Revlon: Yeah. I used to go over there too. I used to hang out with—I was

eclectic. I had white friends and-

Craig Blunt: Another one down there was across from First Choice, the gay

club. It's First Choice the white club across the street. I can't think of the name of that club. Then that closed then they moved to

Servile. Then they closed and went to Servile.

Pucci Revlon: The other one, Francis. I was hanging out with this girl named

Francis. She was one of the transgender girls back then. White girl. Very pretty and young. She had the surgery I think done over here

but I think they did something wrong over here because I

remember she had to have it corrected in New York. She used to hang over there. She introduced me to a bunch of butch queens I used to hang out with over there. Matter of fact, even back then one of the guys I used to hang out with was gay and he was a—they were training him to be a manager of Kentucky Fried Chicken

when it was first built over here on Park Avenue.

Craig Blunt: Gino's.

Pucci Revlon: Yep and Gino's. Uh-huh.

Craig Blunt: Gino's.

Pucci Revlon: Yep. Okay, what else?

Whitney Strub: Are we outta time?

Benny Roman: Mm-hmm.

Whitney Strub: Okay. We'll call it a wrap.

Craig Blunt: Nice meeting you.

Whitney Strub: Absolutely a pleasure. Honestly I would—

[End of Audio]