

Queer Newark Oral History Project

Interviewee: Pucci Revlon

Interviewer: Whitney Strub

Date: May 31, 2017

Location:

*Whitney Strub:* Let's see. Okay, so I'm just going to record you narrating through these as fast as you want, and so this is photo number one, and there's quite a few, but we'll go as quickly as you'd like. So, um, so this is a New York City ballroom?

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah, that's the Elk's Lodge. In Harlem.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. And you said most of these people are now dead?

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah, deceased.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah, and was that AIDS-related? Or

*Pucci Revlon:* I have no idea.

*Whitney Strub:* No? Okay.

*Pucci Revlon:* Some, I know some, because quite a few of them got killed.

*Whitney Strub:* You mean murdered?

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh really? Wow. By partners? Or randomly? Or what kind of-

*Pucci Revlon:* Straight men. Some of them got killed by straight men.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah.

*Pucci Revlon:* Some of them had HIV. And um, as far as I know, see I don't know too much about these people.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah, okay. Photo number two.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Caprice. She still lives in New York somewhere.

*Whitney Strub:* Photo three.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Ira and Natalie. I don't know where, um. Natalie's deceased. I don't if Ira's deceased or not.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah. Photo four.

*Pucci Revlon:* I can't remember his name. And don't know whether he's alive or not.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah. Photo five.

*Pucci Revlon:* Danielle was murdered.

*Whitney Strub:* By who?

*Pucci Revlon:* No, she was, um, murdered at work. Someone stabbed her.

*Whitney Strub:* Really? Wow, that's terrible. I'm sorry. Photo six.

*Pucci Revlon:* I think he's deceased. I'm not sure. Yeah. That's the- That's in Harlem too.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah.

*Pucci Revlon:* Mm-hmm.

*Whitney Strub:* Photo seven.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Ira again. Walking.

*Whitney Strub:* Photo eight.

*Pucci Revlon:* I have no idea who that is.

*Whitney Strub:* (Laughter) All right.

*Pucci Revlon:* Just someone I took a picture of.

*Whitney Strub:* Photo nine.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Jennifer Legend.

*Whitney Strub:* Hmm. This is all- And still the same scene?

*Pucci Revlon:* Ballroom. Yeah, same ballroom.

*Whitney Strub:* Elk's Lodge?

*Pucci Revlon:* Elk's Lodge. Yep.

*Whitney Strub:* Photo ten.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Octavia and Natalie. Octavia just, she passed a few years back.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah.

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah.

*Whitney Strub:* Photo eleven.

*Pucci Revlon:* I have no idea.

*Whitney Strub:* (Laugh) He looks good. Photo twelve.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Deray. She passed almost- And I've been, I've known Deray since Deray was a little boy.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah. From New York or from Newark?

*Pucci Revlon:* From New York.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Photo thirteen.

*Pucci Revlon:* I have no idea.

*Whitney Strub:* Fourteen.

*Pucci Revlon:* Um, that's Tony McArgle in the middle, and Allen on that end, and James on this end. They were from the House of Labieja. That was in the Elk's Lodge.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay.

*Pucci Revlon:* Three of them walking together.

*Whitney Strub:* Fifteen.

*Pucci Revlon:* It was an Xtravaganza. I have no idea who this person is.

*Whitney Strub:* Sixteen.

*Pucci Revlon:* Um, Michael Princess. And that's Deray Princess. Michael was the mother of the House of Princess.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Seventeen.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Kadidra. Kadidra was killed in a car crash on her way to- coming from New York to the studio. Kadidra was a rapper.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, yeah? How do you spell that.

*Pucci Revlon:* Kadidra. I have no idea.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Eighteen.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Richard Ebony, the mother of the House of Ebony.

*Whitney Strub:* Nineteen.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Tempress on the light. And I think her name is Patty. From Washington D.C.

*Whitney Strub:* Twenty.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Danielle in the middle, Detawny, and I have no idea who they are.

*Whitney Strub:* Twenty-one.

*Pucci Revlon:* Kebra. No, that's not Kebra. She's a Labieja. It's a girl.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay.

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah. She walked to woman's face.

*Whitney Strub:* Twenty-two.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Tony Tenille. DuPree.

*Whitney Strub:* Twenty-three.

*Pucci Revlon:* Avis Pendavis. The mother of the House of Pendavis, in the peach dress.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. And remind me again, we talked about this before but you were standing- to get this angle-

*Pucci Revlon:* I was up on the balcony.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Got you. It's a great-

*Pucci Revlon:* -looking down onto the floor, yeah-

*Whitney Strub:* I love that shot. Twenty-four.

*Pucci Revlon:* I'm- I can't even see that.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah, it's a little dark. That's all right. Twenty-five. Also kind of dark.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's me in the dark. (Laughing)

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, okay. I wish that were a little less dark, but okay.

*Pucci Revlon:* Someone took that picture of me.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, that's great.

*Pucci Revlon:* I was one of the judges that night.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Twenty-six.

*Pucci Revlon:* I don't know, but she's a Legend. She was in the House of Legend.

*Whitney Strub:* Twenty-seven.

*Pucci Revlon:* David Xtravaganza, the father of the House of Xtravaganza.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay, nice. Twenty-eight.

*Pucci Revlon:* Erskine Christian, the mother of the House of Christian.

*Whitney Strub:* Twenty-nine.

*Pucci Revlon:* Terry. She's from New Jersey.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah, a member of a House?

*Pucci Revlon:* No, no. I think she was hit by a car and killed.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, god. I'm sorry.

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah. In the city of Newark. Yeah, crossing the street.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, god. That's really tragic. Thirty.

*Pucci Revlon:* I have no idea.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, really? It's such a striking-

*Pucci Revlon:* -He was probably walking model's effect. Like the ball-

*Whitney Strub:* Thirty-one.

*Pucci Revlon:* Sitting upstairs, talking to a bunch of guys. In the Elk's Lodge. That's the ladies bathroom.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay, okay. So you don't know who?

*Pucci Revlon:* No.

*Whitney Strub:* Thirty-two.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Martin Topman. Revlon. He's from Newark. We were sent to peer (?)

*Whitney Strub:* Hmm, okay. Is he still around?

*Pucci Revlon:* Yes. He's a hairdresser.

*Whitney Strub:* Is he somebody we should interview? Do you stay in touch?

*Pucci Revlon:* I don't think he'll do it.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, really? Why's that?

*Pucci Revlon:* He won't do it.

*Whitney Strub:* All right. I'll take your word. This is just the back side. May of 1990. Um, Thirty-three.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's in Bravo's Lounge in East Orange. That's me, Gracie, and Barbara and Brenda. We just hanging out at the- That's a straight bar.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, yeah?

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah.

*Whitney Strub:* In East Orange, huh?

*Pucci Revlon:* In East Orange, yeah.

*Whitney Strub:* Thirty-four.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's at the Irvington Manor. That's Kelly and Gina. We are at the ball.

*Whitney Strub:* Thirty-five.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Kelly and Tempress. We were at the pier.

*Whitney Strub:* Thirty-six.

*Pucci Revlon:* Kelly at the Elk's Lodge. Kelly was a good friend. We hung out a lot.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah. Thirty-seven.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's the House of Revlon, inside of Central Park.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. I should have asked long ago, but you took the name Revlon from the House? Is that-

*Pucci Revlon:* No, we were all part of the House.

*Whitney Strub:* That's what I mean. You were a- You were a member-

*Pucci Revlon:* -Of the House. Yes. I was the Empress.-

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Okay. Thirty-eight.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Puffy and Alnissa. Now, Alnissa- Alnissa's from Newark and Puffy's from Washington D.C. That was probably in the Elk's Lodge.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Thirty-nine.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Paris DuPree. From *Paris is Burning*.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Now I think there's a few of Paris. Forty. The same. Forty-one.

*Pucci Revlon:* (Sigh) That's Candy Labieja. We were probably out drinking somewhere.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah.

*Pucci Revlon:* Mm-hmm.

*Whitney Strub:* You sighed kind of wistfully there. Why is that?

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah. She passed not too long ago.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, really? I'm sorry. Forty-two. I think this is the same picture we just saw. In Central Park. Same. Pete's here. Forty-four.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Candy walking on, on Lucra's (?) body inside the Elk's Lodge.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. It's pretty racy. Is that- Was there a lot of that?

*Pucci Revlon:* Always.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah? Okay. I didn't realize things got quite so-

*Pucci Revlon:* -Body is a category-

*Whitney Strub:* Ah.

*Pucci Revlon:* When a male has a body like a female that's what they wear. You have to show the body. They wants to see body.

*Whitney Strub:* All right. (Laugh) Forty-five.

*Pucci Revlon:* And that's what he was walking: Male body.

*Whitney Strub:* With the coat check. Forty-six.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's- I think that's inside of Zanzibar. Downtown Newark.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, really?

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, wow. How do you tell? Just the graffiti on the wall? Or the-

*Pucci Revlon:* -No, because that's what was going on when we was there- (Phone call)

*Whitney Strub:* Okay, so you said this is Zanzibar and you can just tell because the crowd.

*Pucci Revlon:* The color. The atmosphere. I know where we were. We were on the pier. That same night, me and Kelly. But- That young man was in Newark. That's Juwann.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay.

*Pucci Revlon:* Mm-hmm. And we met at Zanzibar.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Now back to Central Park. Forty-eight.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Kim Pendavis. He's walking the model's effect. That's in the Elk's Lodge.



*Whitney Strub:* Okay. I thought so. Forty-nine.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Body Raquel Xtravaganza.

*Whitney Strub:* Fifty.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's the same young man that was from before, walking body.

*Whitney Strub:* Fifty-one.

*Pucci Revlon:* I have no idea.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Fifty-two.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's inside of Better Days.

*Whitney Strub:* Where's that?

*Pucci Revlon:* That was a club on 48th street in Manhattan.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Fifty-three.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Jerry. I think his name is Jerry. He was inside of- That had to be inside of Elk's Lodge.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Fifty-four.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's- Oh, that's the Irvington Manor.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, okay.

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah. That's probably the Jordanne (?) Ball.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah, okay. Fifty-five. (pause) Yeah, it's a little- I can't-

*Pucci Revlon:* I don't remember.

*Whitney Strub:* No. Fifty-six.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's in the Elk's Lodge. That's- That's Puffy. She walked model's body.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Fifty-seven.

*Pucci Revlon:* Same person.

*Whitney Strub:* Fifty-eight.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Evie. That's at the pier.

*Whitney Strub:* Fifty-nine.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's the trophy that they gave out for Grand Prize.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, wow.

*Pucci Revlon:* I think it's nine feet tall.

*Whitney Strub:* How do you even carry it?

*Pucci Revlon:* You had to break it down.

*Whitney Strub:* Wow.

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah.

*Whitney Strub:* And this is back at Irvington?

*Pucci Revlon:* No, that's in the Elk's Lodge in New York.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's at- That's at Paris- One of Paris DuPree's Balls. Matter of fact, I think David Xtravaganza won that trophy.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah. Wow. Sixty.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's the Elk's Lodge. Paris was performing.

*Whitney Strub:* Wow. Yeah. Just in the very corner.

*Pucci Revlon:* Mm-hmm.

*Whitney Strub:* Sixty-one.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's at the beginning of Paris' performance. She was doing Whitney Houston's *Close One More Door*.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Sixty-two.

*Pucci Revlon:* Erskine again.

*Whitney Strub:* Oops. Sixty-three and sixty-four here.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Kelly. She was walking on something. Model's effect, but it had something to do with leather. Cause she had on, like, three outfits under that dress.

*Whitney Strub:* Sixty-five.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's probably Tenille. DuPree. She's the only one who could wear stuff like that.

*Whitney Strub:* Sixty-six.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Kelly at Marty's house. We were at Marty's house.

*Whitney Strub:* In?

*Pucci Revlon:* Newark.

*Whitney Strub:* Newark. Okay. Sixty-seven.

*Pucci Revlon:* Pier. That's the same. That's a repeat.

*Whitney Strub:* Sixty-eight.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Paris. In these- I think these are Jennie Livingston's photographers.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, okay. That makes sense. Huh, that's interesting. So this is, like, literally behind the scenes of the movie, huh?

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah.

*Whitney Strub:* Sixty-nine.

*Pucci Revlon:* I can't tell who that is.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah, yeah. It's hard to see. Seventy.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's, um- Ooh. She was in the- She's in the movie. She's in *Paris is Burning*. But she got killed. Yeah, cause- What's them had to go- Angie had to go identify the body. I can't remember the name.

*Whitney Strub:* Seventy-one.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Marty and Ali at the pier.

*Whitney Strub:* Seventy-two. Back to Central Park. Seventy-three.

*Pucci Revlon:* Ali at the pier.

*Whitney Strub:* Does that say “Adonis Forever”? Is that what the graffiti-

*Pucci Revlon:* I don’t know what that says.

*Whitney Strub:* It looks like it might.

*Pucci Revlon:* It might, yeah.

*Whitney Strub:* Seventy-four.

*Pucci Revlon:* Evie again.

*Whitney Strub:* Seventy-five.

*Pucci Revlon:* Big trophy.

*Whitney Strub:* Seventy-six.

*Pucci Revlon:* Me and Ali.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. That’s a good shot. Seventy-seven.

*Pucci Revlon:* Back to Paris and Jennie Livingston’s people.

*Whitney Strub:* Seventy-eight.

*Pucci Revlon:* Paris again.

*Whitney Strub:* So is that Jennie Livingston herself with the camera? Or no?

*Pucci Revlon:* No. Those were guys that were taking the picture.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, okay.

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah.

*Whitney Strub:* Seventy-nine.

*Pucci Revlon:* That’s Body Raquel. Probably at another Ball.

*Whitney Strub:* Eighty.

*Pucci Revlon:* Paris again. At a different angle.

*Whitney Strub:* Eighty-one.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Angie, mother of the House of Xtravaganza. And Andre Christian.

*Whitney Strub:* And where is this?

*Pucci Revlon:* Um, I think that's at the Boy's and Girl's Club of Harlem.

*Whitney Strub:* Eighty-two.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's on the subway on the way to New York one evening. That's Jerry Joyner. He's from Newark.

*Whitney Strub:* Is he still around?

*Pucci Revlon:* He's deceased.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, I'm sorry. Eighty-three.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's me. On the train.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, it's too bad the photo is a little glitchy. Do you remember when this would have been?

*Pucci Revlon:* Ooh. Short hair. Had to be when I was in school.

*Whitney Strub:* So is that-

*Pucci Revlon:* College. Probably on the way out on a weekend to a club.

*Whitney Strub:* So is that the mid-to-late Seventies?

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah, the mid-Seven- The late- The mid-to-late Seventies. Around that period of time.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. Eighty-four.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's at Great Adventures. That's Roger Milan and me.

*Whitney Strub:* Eighty-five.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Terrell from Newark. We were at Riis Beach.

*Whitney Strub:* Eighty-six.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Tiffany. We were at Riis Beach. We were in a car. She drove up with me.

*Whitney Strub:* Eighty-seven.

*Pucci Revlon:* Juju and his sister. They're from Newark. Right off of Central Avenue.

*Whitney Strub:* And when was- I don't know. I can't quite figure out-

*Pucci Revlon:* -That's Riis Beach-

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, but when? Was this the Eighties? Or earlier? I can't quite tell from the pictures.

*Pucci Revlon:* Around- Around '83.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. And was it, at that point, a pretty gay hangout in general?

*Pucci Revlon:* Yeah.

*Whitney Strub:* Eighty-eight.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's probably the same day or around the same time period. (pause)  
That's a repeat of Gerald.

*Whitney Strub:* Eighty-nine.

*Pucci Revlon:* Gerald. His name is Gerald. Not Jeremy. Gerald.

*Whitney Strub:* Ninety.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Deray walking face.

*Whitney Strub:* That's a beautiful dress, too. Ninety-one.

*Pucci Revlon:* I can't remember his name. He's a DuPree though.

*Whitney Strub:* Ninety-two.

*Pucci Revlon:* Puffy again.

*Whitney Strub:* Ninety-three.

*Pucci Revlon:* Paris again.

*Whitney Strub:* Ninety-four.

*Pucci Revlon:* Tempress and Kelly again. On the pier.

*Whitney Strub:* Ninety-five. Back to-

*Pucci Revlon:* -Paris.-

*Whitney Strub:* Ninety-six.

*Pucci Revlon:* Tracy and Douglas. Tracy's a model, Douglas a designer.

*Whitney Strub:* Oh, that's Douglas. Is that Sez?

*Pucci Revlon:* Yes.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. We've interviewed him. He's on the website. When would this have been?

*Pucci Revlon:* (pause) Ooh. (pause) I know that's the Irvington Manor because of the color of the paint and that had to somewhere around the Eighties. Early Eighties.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah, okay. Ninety-seven.

*Pucci Revlon:* Richa- I don't know.

*Whitney Strub:* Ninety-eight.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Tempress on the pier again.

*Whitney Strub:* I think there's only four more to go. Ninety-nine.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Evie on the pier again.

*Whitney Strub:* One hundred.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's- I can't remember her name but she's from Washington D.C.

*Whitney Strub:* One hundred one.

*Pucci Revlon:* That's Erskine.

*Whitney Strub:* One hundred two.

*Pucci Revlon:* Paris again.

*Whitney Strub:* Paris again. One hundred three.

*Pucci Revlon:* More Paris.

*Whitney Strub:* And that's it.

*Pucci Revlon:* Okay.

*Whitney Strub:* Anything that you don't want to go online from here?

*Pucci Revlon:* I really don't care.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. So, yeah, what I think we're gonna do, if it's cool with you, is have, like, the Pucci Revlon Photo Archive and have these posted, maybe with a little bit of description.

*Pucci Revlon:* Okay.

*Whitney Strub:* But I'll show you anything that goes up and if you- You know. Anything you don't like we can change.

*Pucci Revlon:* Okay.

*Whitney Strub:* Well, cool. I think that's it. Okay, last- last thing just for details here to wrap up. Now what we usually do is when we're done recording we get it all transcribed and then give you a copy of the transcript to vet. If you want. We don't have to, but, you know, our policy is, like, you can look at it if you want before we put it up. So, if you want I get all three sessions printed and I can send them to you.

*Pucci Revlon:* Okay.

*Whitney Strub:* And then you can take a look, and you'll have them for your records. I mean, I can drop them off or I can mail them, whatever you prefer.

*Pucci Revlon:* You can drop them off.

*Whitney Strub:* Okay. I will do that. I think we've got the first one transcribed and then the second one in this round will get transcribed pretty quickly. I'll just drop them all off together if that's all right.

*Pucci Revlon:* Mm-hmm.



*Whitney Strub:* And then last, last thing and then I swear I'm out of your hair. When we put it up online, we just have a little bio that goes- I wanted to see what you wanted your bio to read.

*Pucci Revlon:* I have to think about it.

*Whitney Strub:* Yeah, okay. That's cool. I can- There'll be plenty of time once we get the transcripts. So I will stop recording.