

Interviewee: Angelique Guerrero

Interviewer: Alyssa Gardella

Date: April 25th, 2020

Location: Marina, California [via Zoom]

00:00:00-00:00:42

Q: Hello.

Guerrero: Hello?

Q: Hi

Guerrero: Hi

Q: Is this Angelique?

Guerrero: Yeah, this is her.

Q: Oh, okay. Hi! I'm glad you made it on the call. Thanks so much for joining me.

Guerrero: Oh, okay

Q: Or do you feel comfortable on Zoom? Are we, you comfortable and ready to go?

Guerrero: I have no idea what's going on. It's because I was supposed to go get my laptop, and we have to like go somewhere. So I have to use my iPhone, and it's kind of weird. Ya, [laughs]

Q: It's alright. No that's totally..

Guerrero: Yeah

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Q: Yeah, so we'll pretend we're on the phone work interview or something like that.

Guerrero: Well, cuz I was kinda like thinking it would be like, like FaceTime or something like that but, it's just weird I guess. I guess this has to work out for now.

Q: All right. Do you want to try to switch over, or is there, you just. Or is it just weird?

Guerrero: Switch over to like what?

Q: To like the video call

Guerrero: Are you able to do that with the iPhone?

Q: To be honest, I've heard that you can't do the video from iPhone. So maybe, probably, not.

Guerrero: Okay. Well, I mean, like, I don't mind doing it like this.

Q: Okay, yeah, no, it's totally fine with me too. All right, well I'm gonna get started. Do you have any questions before we start, or anything or

Guerrero: Honestly, No, not really. I mean, I'm ready for it.

Q: Awesome. Now, I think it's gonna be great. It's gonna be easy peasy lemon squeezy so. Okay. Alright, so- My name is Alyssa Gardella and I am interviewing Angelique Guerrero for my Oral History research project at CSUMB. And I am recording from my home in Marina, California, and today's date is April 25, 2020. Can you begin by telling me your full name and how you got your name.

Guerrero: My name is Angelique Guerrero. Uhm I got my name from my godmothers/aunt and my mom sister. She's the one that named me, or that gave me her gave me that name, Angelique

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Q: That's really pretty. I like that name. Did she have like an inspiration for that name or is it kind of one of those names that you kind of just like hear it and you like it?

Guerrero: Honestly, I, I have no idea how it happened. I mean, cuz I'm not the only Angelique in my family. Its.. I have another cousin, and her middle name is Angelique. And for some odd reasons, I guess she's obsessed with it but I've never asked why she would have you know my other cousins name the same name as me. So I, I have no idea, but I mean, yeah I agree that it is a pretty unique name, you know?

Q: Yeah, I think it's really pretty. So I see that you were born in Santa Cruz, but you grew up in Watsonville. So, can you tell me what made Santa Cruz and/or Watsonville unique to your childhood and like describe where, what it was like growing up. What was your... what was the vibe in the neighborhood.

Guerrero: Uh, the neighborhood where, uh, let's see. Okay, so let's see. Santa Cruz I guess, uhm, I have a lot of like memories there. I mean, you know, was born there, but I have really good memories of Santa Cruz because my parents that's where they met, and that's where they would have their job, they, they kind of live there for a couple of years you know that's that's where they kind of started dating and all that stuff. So I don't know how it happened after I guess I was born, they were living in a Watsonville already. You know what I mean. So uhm, from what I was told that the reason why I was born in Santa Cruz, but because at the time Watsonville at the old hospital I guess there were, uhm, what was it called. There was uh, the nurses were uh, what is that word of like before. They were on a strike.

Q: Oh, wow.

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Guerrero: Yeah, so I guess you know my mom had to rush over to Dominican at the old hospital. So yes, you have to actually wait, you know, been trying not to have me in the car and stuff, you know, and then they had to rush over to Santa Cruz.

Q: No way

Guerrero: Yeah, so I guess Santa Cruz is a little part of me. You know like, like I said, even when I was born, they would always go there and you know, and then my dad's family, his side of the family. He had brothers and sisters also living there. So, you know, and then of course me my first job was working at Santa Cruz Boardwalk,-

Q: Oh, cool.

Guerrero: Yeah

Q: That's awesome.

Guerrero: Yeah. And then, uhm, My mom's side of the family, most of them lived in Watsonville, so-

Q: Okay.

Guerrero: Yeah, so that's why Santa Cruz and Watsonville I basically like I will consider like both my hometown, because I was always in both you know?

Q: Yeah, that's cool.

Guerrero: Yeah.

Q: Yeah, different too.

Guerrero: Yeah, very much different, very much difference between you know Santa Cruz is more like hippy dippy kind of people like really, I'll do it very different very chill

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vibe, you know, and Watsonville has always been like that that that Mexican, very Mexican culture people, you know-

Q: Right.

Guerrero: It was, it's like, I mean I love Watsonville don't get me wrong, but a lot of the people there just they're very old school, you know. So, uh, yeah, it is. I don't know. Like, it's just, I guess. Yeah, I would say that very old school. You know, people have been there like living for, you know, long time. Stuff like very, how do you call it? A lot of farm workers there, you know,

Q: Okay.

Guerrero: I don't know if that makes sense. Kind of.

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: Really, but yeah. Yeah. So it's like, like I know both places mean a lot to me.

Q: Yeah, that's really cool. So, um, so what is one thing that you would love to do on your birthdays and when you were younger, like when you were a kid?

Guerrero: I was very, uh..the only, uh, I really would love to go camping as a kid.

Q: Okay.

Guerrero: I was very active and I couldn't stay still at all. Uhm, so every single time like my parents when they would like to like birthday parties for me is something they would always asked me, like, hey, like where do you want to go like have birthday parties at or whatever, I would always say the park or camping. Somewhere where I can be very active and running around and all that stuff because I was very much like that. Yeah, but

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I didn't care so much for the party part. I just wanted to be out and about, you know what I mean it outdoors, all the time.

Q: Yeah, that's cool. Did you have like a go to campground or like a go to park by you would like to-

Guerrero: Yeah. When I was a kid, and uh, where would I would love to go actually was uhm, Arroyo Seca. So-

Q: Oh, okay.

Guerrero: Uhm, yeah, that was my go to place. I mean, me and my parents, uhm, and the park that I would like in Watsonville that I like to go to leave it until this day, is Pinto Lake. It's by like Green Valley. Yeah.

Q: Very nice, very nice. That's awesome.

Guerrero: Yeah.

Q: So...Okay, so you've, you've been talking about your parents a lot and even on your data sheet you listed your mom as one of the most important people to you. So like, can you tell me as a child like maybe one is what is like something that you guys would do to bond together like what you guys would love to do together.

Guerrero: Oh God, this is a very touchy, touchy very subjective because my mom just passed away like five years ago.

Q: Oh my gosh, I am so sorry.

Guerrero: Yeah, we were very, very super close. Uh, I was always with her, you know, she was. Ever since she had me. She's always been sick and stuff like that, but she's very strong, strong, very strong willed woman but uhm, the things that we we love to do

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together was always, uh, cooking. She like...her kitchen was like her sanctuary. That's what she loves to do, always cooking, always baking or gardening. That was her thing. So that's something that we did a lot together.

Q: Aw. That's sweet.

Guerrero: Yeah.

Q: What was one of her, like, signature dishes?

Guerrero: Oh. God, I mean, she was a very amazing cook. Honestly, a lot of people like asked. Dude. Most of her, all of her dishes were really really good. Uhm, but uhm, uhm. [unclear audio]. I would say she, she made this Chop Suey with actually fried rice.

Q: Yum

Guerrero: She would make it from scratch from scratch, everything you know because she was, she was born in the 50s and you know, grew up in the 60s. So back in those days, you know, how, everything was like fresh, you know, like homemade, you know. Yeah so, she liked to experiment a lot with recipes or she would make up her own recipes and yeah, everything was homemade.

Q: Yum. That's awesome. I love that.

Guerrero: Yeah,

Q: That's good. And then..So how about your dad like what, what kind of guy was he like? Or-

Guerrero: My dad has always been honestly just a working dad, you know, just a good dad and you know yeah. Just.. that for me growing up. He was always, he's always

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been a good dad. Like he was always there, we would always go out fishing. I was such a tomboy growing up, you know.

Q: Right.

Guerrero: So he would take me fishing, he will work on cars when he had the time he would spend time with me. I gotta say that much, but he was always a good provider as a father. My mom was a house mom you know like housewife. So yeah, I mean pretty much just, of course, things changed after I became the lady, you know, [laughs]

Q: [laughs]

Guerrero: I, I.. he was more like, hey, we can have it can be taking you allocate more yeah you know [unclear]. Like ah, Dad, you know, because I was a tomboy, you know, like, why would it change. And my mom's just like you know it's just things change. You know, you can't be doing certain things. I was like okay I don't understand. But, okay, so yeah.

Q: I feel you.

Guerrero: Yeah. But he's he's until this day. He's like 50 something years old. He's still working. You know, I'm his only daughter so-

Q: Oh, okay.

Guerrero: Yeah, so he's still like stuck by my side, you know, regardless if I married now. He's still there. He wants to be part of- because all his brothers and sisters have passed away and his parents, you know, so I'm literally like the only, you know, family, he has.

Q: That's sweet. That's awesome.

Guerrero: Yeah.

00:11:54-00:13:31

Q: It sounds like you guys were really like close. I like that.

Guerrero: Yeah, we were we were close. It's just like a lot of things change. And after my mom passed away, we just, I don't know, it's just been so much hurt, you know, between and him. And it's like our kind of our relationship kind of distanced. You know, it's not the same. It's like my mom thoughts there.

Q: Yeah, that's, that's tough. Everybody handles things so differently. It's like, you know,

Guerrero: Yeah. And now, like his personality his attitude has changed as well. It's like, there's certain things that you know he loved to do when my mom was alive or my mom would ask him like, hey can you do this can go do that, man. He would get on it quick. And now it's just certain things where I kind of tried to get him to be motivated, you know, get him you know interested back on. He's just kind of like, ugh, he doesn't care, you know, so I'm kind of still having to kind of deal with that, you know, and they kind of frustrates me because there's nothing I can do, you know,

Q: Yeah, that's tough

Guerrero: It is.

Q: What kind of stuff like, kind of can you give me an example of one of those things maybe?

Guerrero: Of what he used to love to do? Or?

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: Uh, he would, from what I remember, he would um be gardening a lot because like I said, My mom is she was like she loved cooking so she had to have like a

garden where she can plant like herbs and stuff like that, onions, garlic, all that stuff, you know, the man is really great at actually gardening, anything that he plants.. it sprouts.

00:13:32-00:15:35

You know, cilantro all that stuff, because she used a lot of herbs in her checking so uh- Yeah, pretty much. And now he's if I get him to, like, Hey dad, to try to do like a herb, kind of like like little like is where I you know we live, I have room like he can garden but...He's more like to no. I'm just assuming that in probably it's still kind of touchy for him, or I don't know. So he kind of like I was like, nah, I want to. So, yeah.

Q: That's sad, that's a lot yeah that's that's a lot of memory there, you know.

Guerrero: Yeah. Yeah. Or like, you know, because my mom was very like OCD. So she she had to have her like, this lady will clean every single day every single day. Okay, and she loved to have like new furniture once a year just have her house like sparkly clean everything nice so- You know, he would give her as much as he could, just to keep her happy. And if there was things that she would buy us for like wall or the decour or something like that. It needs to be fake like issue would be like a very, you know, like I was seeing how me like I need to do this. Can you do that and you know what I'm saying. Is like, like I said, like she's very much like that. And now it's like, I can't even get him to hang something. Sometimes we just like oh god Dad. But..

Q: They kind of sound like a power couple. Not gonna lie.

Guerrero: Yeah. Honestly, yes. She was very.. uh...She, she was, she was the one that actually wore the pants in that relationship, but it's not like.. He didn't mind it either, you know what I mean, he does whatever she wanted or whatever, he would do it. So I mean they were really opposites of each other. But I mean, yeah, there were together for about 20 something years yeah.

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Q: Wow. So switching gears just a teeny bit. We're going to talk about some like high school life and you've been sharing with me that you were a tomboy you guys would be outside you liked to be active. Did you play any sports in high school?

Guerrero: Oh yeah, definitely. I played, uhm.. My favorite, favorite sport that I even came out on the Pajaronian, the Watsonville Pajaronian newspaper all the time. I started on...since junior high and Rolling Hills and Watsonville playing basketball like my major like my favorite, favorite part. And then, of course, I would go and try others more to just, you know, just, just be like, "hey, you know, maybe there's something else I like besides basketball." But for some odd reason like that would be the only sport I would play. So when I started, like I said, from middle school, all the way to high school just basketball, Basketball. And then, well, actually one season, I did try out for the football team, the guys football team in Watsonville.

Q: No way, right ont!

Guerrero: Yeah, I mean, it was cool. I mean, the coach that was coaching the football, the football coach. He knew like my family back in the day, I guess, because like I said Watsonvilles really small. Everybody knew everybody, you know? So you couldn't say no because that was a girl you know, of course, because it would have been like, for he was just like, try it if it wants you to just try it, you know, and I tried it, but I just, I'll just, like, nevermind. This is not for me, you know?

Guerrero: I'm not that tough. Like, I thought I am. Yeah.

Q: How come?

Guerrero: I think it was because there was, it was just getting sacked a lot, you know. And I guess like one time, like in this training, we're doing training and it's like I got sacked really hard. Where it's like I turned somehow and then my back like hurt, like, all

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I heard was like will snap. So it's, like, ever since then even until this day, I kind of have back problems from it. So if I was like, ugh, you know, good that I didn't, you know, keep it up because, you know, who would you know what if something worse were to happen or something. But yeah.

Q: That's really cool. That's awesome. Thanks for sharing that. Yeah, that's really neat.

Guerrero: Yeah. It was really cool.

Q: Yeah, um- So in high school, did you like go to like the dances, or did you go to prom?

Guerrero: Honestly, no, um, it wasn't like I don't know what it was just like my mind wasn't on that. I guess it's because most of the time my mom was always sick and in and out of hospitals. That I would stop everything and what went on in my life and go and attend to her, you know, so most of that time, like I was at home, honestly. Like, Yeah, I would go hang out with my friends, but not as much. I wouldn't go to parties or none of that stuff. Now, once in a while here in there but, normally as a senior and stuff like, you know, it's like going here go the trips here. Go, go, you know, places here whatever I I couldn't. I was just at home taking care of my mom, or I just didn't feel comfortable leaving or, you know, like I don't know. Like literally my whole life involved my mom a lot of everything. Like, I didn't even start partying until she passed away, which like I said I was like what 22, 23 when I literally started you know partying like as if I was a teenager, you know, like, you know, or I mean yeah 21 year old you know would.

Q: Right.

Guerrero: Yeah.

00:19:41-00:21:42

Q: Would, do you mind me asking like what happened with your mom or like some of the stuff that-

Guerrero: Oh, she has, like, well, my mom had a lot of issues with her, you know, and, and for so many years, but it all started with her Osteoporosis and then leading to, you know, just other issues so what happened is that she ended up going, you know, from a heart attack.

Q: Oh, wow.

Guerrero: Yeah. So, yeah, you know when I do talk about her sometimes to certain people about my mom when I try to open up and stuff like they tell me the same things I'm like you know what, I'm glad. I don't want to sound like I'm being messed up or whatever, but seeing her like...operation after operation after procedure after procedure, and how tired she was, and how much she would tell me that she was tired. I kinda say how I thank God. She would even ask for it, you know. She would be like, "God sometimes I wish you could just take me" you know. And I didn't know what she meant then. You know, I guess I was selfish, me being young, you know, like, no, like, I need you, and I as I grow older and older and I see how life could be, you know, I'm just kind of like dang, you know, I see what she's saying like, God, you know.

Q: I actually totally get that 100%.

Guerrero: Yeah yeah. Pretty much.

Q: Well, she sounded like a great woman, so that's awesome, sounds like-

Guerrero: Yeah, thank you.

Q: Um, so, um, during all of this time. So when did you start...when did you know that you were a lesbian?

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Guerrero: Oh God, uhm, since I was a child, honestly. I mean, I would never want to wear dresses. I never wanted dolls, I've always wanted cars. I always wanted marbles, pogs, all that stuff. I, I honestly feel like I've always been that way. Always, always. I don't recall ever having a crush or looking boys. Yeah, right. All right, I always remember like, like looking at girls and I would always think, "what the hell's wrong with me, you know. Is this normal?". Whatever. But I would try to be like "okay like stop thinking about it", like, you know, so it's like whatever. Putting on the back burner and you know yeah but um but yeah until I finally came out. But see, at the time when I came out. What helped me in a way was because I had other gay people in my life and one of my cousins, her co workers were gay. You know what I mean?-

Q: Right.

Guerrero: So I would hang out and I'll be like, Okay, this is what it is. This is what I hear. This is what I see, so this is obviously, you know, like everybody's cool with it, you know, and...then I asked my my mom one time "Hey mom, like, you know, like, I hung out with my cousin the other day and her friend had a girlfriend like, you know, like, you know, I guess she's gay or, you know, kind of bringing it up. And she was like "Yeah". She's like "Your Aunt Mary is gay". I was just like, I guess I had like I had an aunt who was gay too. Like, you know, it's cool like it's nothing bad, you know, so my mom was very open to it, you know. So just like, Okay, all right. But I just wanted to see her expression like her, her, her- what she would say, you know, and uhm-

Q: Right.

Guerrero: So I was like “Okay, should I come out? Should I not? I was like, no, I don't think so, let me figure out from really am this, you know, before I say anything before, whatever. So when I turned 13 I was like, okay, because there were about to do the whole Quincera thing right. They were going to start planning it and all that stuff, and I'm just like, I can't do that. You know, because. Like that's messed up. I'll be lying to them, you know.

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How am I going to do this whole like puffy dress like I can't even wear heels, like the what hell, like I need to come out, you know, like, this is not right. I don't think my mom should go up there with me and look dumb when everybody else knows I'm gay. So I was like you know what, I need I need to tell her. I remember, like, I think, you know, before she started buying everything I was like, “Mom, I need to talk to you about something.” It's she's just like, “Okay, tell me”, because she was very that type of person where you can tell her anything, you know, and she would never judge you, you know, so I was just like, Okay, I'm going to tell her I hope she doesn't say anything like I hope it doesn't go off on me. So I was like, “Mom. I think I'm gay.” And she's just like, “What!”, haha and I'm like “I think I'm gay. Like I want to be like... the way that I look at guys, it's not the same as the way I look at girls. Mom, you know, like I want to be in a relationship with the girl. I see myself being with a girl, like, I don't think I can see myself being with a guy you know like I can't, like, you know, and at the time I had a lot of like guy friends. I would, I would literally be like one of the guys you know.

Q: Right.

Guerrero: And I'm just like, “I can't” like, and she was like “Well you don't even know you're still 15” and I'm like, “Mom, I can't.” You know, she was just like, “Are you sure?”, and I'm all like “Yeah.” And she's just like “Okay...”. And she just stood quiet right and I was just like, kind of like, like, like, oh, here and be like, “Mom, like are cool?”, like, you know, but I was like, “You know what, just take your time”. You know, and I walked

away and then I call my aunt, which is her sister. And I told her what I told her, and she's like, "You know what just come over, give her time to herself to think about it". So, because prior to me telling my mom, I already told my aunt and my cousin. And they're just like, "Dude, we already knew that you were gay. Like, we're- you're not telling- yeah.

00:26:21-00:28:03

Like, we already knew like that", you know. So yeah, so I just stayed over there at my aunt's house and yeah and then finally we talked about it. She's like, "it's gonna be hard", she was like "i know-". And I was like "How can it be hard when you told me that you accept my aunts, my cousins or whatever, you know that you're okay with homosexuals. "Yeah, but it's different because you're my daughter" and I was like, "Okay", I'm like that's like "that doesn't make sense".

Q: Right.

Guerrero: So it's just like, whatever, you know, just give it time or then, um, after that, you know, she just says, like, the only thing I remember her telling me it's just like, "Oh, like I just wanted to see you walk down the aisle", you know, with the white dress. And I'm like, "Mom, girls can do that too. You know that". You know...But she just kind of stood back and just she's just quiet and that's the only thing with that we said. And then I i think it's like a year or two, like after I started dating a girl for the first time and I made it like a legit thing. She kind of got around to it. She was like "okay" you know this this is yeah this is okay. There's not a bad thing. And obviously she said she, you know, she is, and regardless, you know, like she told me "You know, it took me a while and I thank you for giving me that time. Now that I see that you're in a relationship. And that you're happy. That's all that matters to me because at the end of the day, you are my daughter, you know, and a mom is going to accept her kids regardless"

Q: Definitely.

Guerrero: Yeah, pretty much

Q: That's sweet.

Guerrero: Yeah, that's how it happened.

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Q: And then so how about like the first person you ever told. Like, do you remember the first person-?

Guerrero: Yeah, it's definitely the very first person I ever told was my cousin, Gina.

Q: Okay.

Guerrero: Which is my actual aunt's daughter. And she was the one that would she would have a lot of her friends were gay. So... and I was kind of raised around her more too. She was like a sister to me.

Q: Okay, yeah.

Guerrero: Yeah. So yeah, so when I told her, she's just like, "Yeah, dude. Like, we know it, like you're cool. Like, you know, it is what it is", you know. So yeah, but she was like happy. She was like, "Dude, like whatever you decide you want to do in life or love, just make sure that you know like that you are with someone that's going to make you happy. That's all that matters. You know what I mean, no one else's you know opinion should matter because at the end of the day, you know. You have to make yourself happy. No one else is going to fulfill that, but you.

Q: Yeah. Very true. It sounds like you have a lot of really great support system around that. It's really nice.

Guerrero: Yeah, yeah, I did. I'm very, very appreciative with, you know, with my family, you know. You know, they're always there. But, I mean, they never questioned, they

never said anything, but I think it's because like everybody was telling me, like, "Dude, we already know your gay". So when I came out, it was just like a "yay, finally!". You know? [laughs]

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Q: Right. Yeah, like they're probably just stoked that you felt comfortable enough to just like let your.. You know..yourself. Yeah.

Guerrero: Exactly.

Q: Do you remember who your first girl crush ever was? Like the first girl that you ever, like were captivated by?

Guerrero: Aw, Yeah, yeah. It was actually, um, *clears throat*, it was in sixth grade. Middle School. Yeah. My first crush, yeah. I do. Yeah, pretty much whatever I knew she was straight. And she was like a very preppy cheerleader type. And I'm just like, dude, no she's a lot like that. You know what I mean *laugh*. But yeah, I just have to kind of like ignore it. You know?

Q: Right. Um, have you ever experienced any sort of like bullying by your sexual orientation or anybody that has not been accepting of your orientation?

Guerrero: Honestly, like I said, like from my from kindergarten, all the way to eighth grade, I was very very sporty, I was like a jock. I was kind of like, you know, tomboy so.. Never was I ever told like bad words to or anything. As a matter of fact, like in middle school. From what I remember. Because I would hang out with everybody. I was very like a social butterfly. I don't care what you were, who you were, whatever. As long as you're cool with me, I was cool with you, and I would actually have to defend a lot of the other girls from getting bullied.

Q: Okay.

Guerrero: Because I'm tall, you know, calling them, you know, like a like a tall, built girl.

Q: Right.

00:31:29-00:33:36

Guerrero: You know, so yeah. Um, no I don't. Yeah, I don't, I don't know why, like it's a good thing I mean. I was never bullied.

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: Yeah, but like I said, it's because I'm very tall and I was still not i'm not...I don't believe that the girls would have said anything to me or I don't know, maybe they were talking behind me, but no one had the guts to come in to like tell me stuff to my face. And like I said, and I was always around the guys. Most of the time, you know, so yeah.

Q: That's interesting. Did any of those guys that you hung around with, like, did any of them. Try to ever like try to flirt with you or ask you out? Or anything like that?

Guerrero: No, because I would always like, how do I say, like...Even until now because I work with nothing but guys, literally, and it's like, from high school till now I will never see it. I don't pay attention to that. Nobody has ever tried to be like, "Hey, what up at you, like, I want to get to know you". No, no. There was talk to me like they would talk to the rest of the guys like literally they they look at me like I guess one of the guys, I've never had an issue with that, no. So.

Q: So...What is one stereotype about lesbians that annoys you?

Guerrero: Oh, God.. um...oh, that um.. [laughs]... it's kind of..the cliché... the one that bothers me is the one about our nails. Um, I guess its supposed to that, if you have very very short nails, it means that you're a lesbian.

Q: Interesting..

Guerrero: Yeah, pretty much. Yeah, I don't know. Yeah.

00:33:37-00:34:46

Q: That's interesting. I've never heard that. So if you have short nails, you're a lesbian?

Guerrero: Yeah. Yeah, pretty much.

Q: Oh okay, I see. Okay.

Guerrero: [laughs] Exactly.

Q: Okay.

Guerrero: Yeah, that was pretty messed up, though. It's just like, okay? Yeah.

Q: People are so weird, they come up with the weirdest stuff I swear.

Guerrero: Dude, I'm telling you, it's just like when I hear these things, you know, because some of the guys you know that I work with, they'll have sources where I'm just like, "Oh God. Dude, are you trying to be perverts?" And they're like "No I'm just trying to like, you know". And I'm like "Nah, dude". I'm just like, [unclear audio], Let's not even go there, bro. I don't want to talk about it". [laughs]

Q: Right. Oh gosh. That's so funny. Guys are so weird.

Guerrero: Yeah, they are.

Q: Um, so tell me a little bit about like your college life like- Where did you go to college? Did you stay in Watsonville or Santa Cruz for that?

Guerrero: I went to college here, in Hartnell.

Q: Okay, okay.

00:34:47-00:36:37

Guerrero: Yeah. Yeah, I only read for like two years. I going for network and securities which is computer software. It was alright.

Q: Right on.

Guerrero: You know, it was kind of... it was hard. Not gonna lie.

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: It was alright. Yeah, you know. But I mean, yeah, like I said, I didn't do too much partying and at the time I mean I was just going to school basically, and that's it. I was a full time student

Q: What, um, how did you decide on that networking-?

Guerrero: Networking and Securities? Oh like, major.. Honestly like I- that's that's what I wanted to pursue right like I had this dream where I'm like, Okay, I'm gonna go move to Silicon Valley. I'm going to get a job at Apple and I'm gonna do this, I'm going to do that right yeah, cause I was so passionate at the time. But I just, I don't know, it's just something like in me just shifted like I was just kind of like, you know what, maybe this is not really what I want to do, like, I don't. And I, I don't... and I was kind of like "would want to do though?" And I honestly like, I don't know how to explain it, because I just lost interest, just like that, after the whole work that I did everything that I did, the

schooling and everything is just, it's shifted. Yeah, and just decided, like, hey, maybe, maybe I should put this on hold for a little bit, you know? And maybe I should get like a job working at the DMV like something like that, you know, or something. But then I was like, dude, I love cars too. Right, you know, maybe I should work on cars. So the job that I have now it's like a little bit of both.

Q: Cool

00:36:38-00:38:05

Guerrero: And I love it. Yeah.

Q: Right on. Yeah. What do you, what do you remind me again. You like find car parts right or something like that?

Guerrero: No what I do, basically, um, I, I work for Pickable, and it's a dismantling place. Yeah, but I basically have to worry about people, that want to sell their vehicle or will be selling it. So that's a DMV process comes in where I have to fill out the paperwork and all and all that stuff. So,

Q: Got it.

Guerrero: or when when let's just say our yard doesn't have them any, you know, cars, you know that people can pull parts off. I have to basically fill the inventory for for our yard.

Q: Oh, I see

Guerrero: Yeah, or or checking the cars that are coming by that other local tow vendors or I mean tow yards want to sell to us, you know, I have to make sure that when they're bringing that DMV paperwork in that is correct that I have to then verify and all that stuff. So you know, and then, like I said, I also like to, like, I like you know being around, you

know, like. Being around but checking out cars, you know, kind of stuff like that. Like I have the best of both worlds, you know.

Q: Right. What's your dream car?

Guerrero: What's up,

Q: What's your dream?

Guerrero: I'm sorry. I can't hear.

00:38:06-00:39:53

Q: Sorry.

Guerrero: My dream car is a Dodge Challenger I want like a 19 like maybe 75 Dodge Challenger or the new one, you know. But yeah, it's like I love muscle cars.

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: You know, or Mustang. Yeah.

Q: That's cool. So, all right on. Thank you. That's good right there. Oh, okay. So here's a question for you. Um, how do you think that your- Because it sounds like you've been like very consistent in who you are, like, have you ever felt a shift in your identity from being a teenager to a young adult? Like in any major sort of way?

Guerrero: No, not really. I don't know.

Q: No, you sound really like definitely very like, like loyal to who you are . I like that. That's awesome.

Guerrero: Yeah yeah. Um, yeah, I don't really feel like I would have to change. You know what I mean, like, I don't know, I just been very comfortable with myself. I'm just kind of like this is who I am, if people don't like it, oh well, that's their problem, not mine,

you know, I don't think I should ever change myself or anything or anyone you know
yeah

Q: Yeah. That's really cool. That's awesome. And that's hard to do, too. So you're
lucky.

Guerrero: Yeah, yeah. You know, especially with people that you meet, friends that you
have, like, you know, you become with or relationships and stuff and sometimes, you
know, people want to change you. And you know, just in now that I feel like I don't know,
like I said, I've never been that type to like want to feel the need to impress people

00:39:54-00:41:16

Q: Right.

Guerrero: Or change how I look or how I speak or whatever, you know, I'm kind of like
laid back, you know, and if people are trying to change me or whatever, if it's not for the
better then you're wasting my time. You know, straight up, you're wasting my time and
maybe this is not the friendship that I need, or maybe they're not the relationship I need
and you know I always I've always been that way.

Q: That's awesome. That's really cool. Um, let's see. So is there anything else you want
to share with me about like your like your high school life childhood life.

Guerrero: Honestly, I have no, I don't know I'm not really much of like sharing, unless
you have a question. Know what I mean, kind of hard because I can tend to talk and talk
and talk and I'm just like, Okay. Like, I don't understand, like, *laughs* you know,

Q: No, you're doing really good like. I'm learning a lot about you, which is the name of
the game here. So that's awesome.

Guerrero: Cool.

Q: So okay, so I

Q: Looking at your data sheet, it seems like your wife is definitely like your queen. So I'm going to ask you some questions about her and how you guys met and stuff.

Guerrero: [laughs]

Q: Can you remember the day that you met her?

00:41:17-00:43:38

Guerrero: Yeah. Yes I can. It was at a nail salon. Basically means like she slid into my DM's. I responded.-

Q: [interrupts, mumbles]

Guerrero: Excuse me?

Q: Go ahead, sorry.

Guerrero: Okay. So yeah, she slid into my DM's and you know I responded, you know, I knew where she- Because of the people that I used to hang around like a group of people were the same people she used to hang around with, but I kind of stopped hanging around with that group of people, right? For like, eh I would say a couple of months. But so those people that I used to hang around used to post pictures of course on social media. Right, so I will see this girl keep popping up in all the in some of the pictures and stuff so I was like okay, cool, you know, like. I don't know who she is. But obviously she, to hang around with so and so, you know, that's cool. Whatever. And I don't know what made her DM me first. And when she did, I answered to her, and it was just I guess just talking, you know, like back and forth and whatever. And then one night, you know, because I was going "Oh so you know so and so", like all cool, whatever. So then I was like, hey, like do mind like having this conversation over the phone, but that's because I wanted to hear her voice you know and and she's like, Oh,

yeah, sure blah blah blah, we exchanged phone numbers, whatever, she called me and then, like say like we're talking like, oh God it's like probably like six and afternoon all week till like three in the morning, one in the morning.

Q: Wow!

Guerrero: Yeah over the phone and just talking, you know, asking questions about each other and all that stuff and then like we decided then like after we were talking or whatever we decided, like, hey, like we should meet up, I'm like I'm down whatever you don't care. Wherever you know? So yeah, then she hits me up, like I would say two days after and then she's I am going to be at this nail salon. Do you want to come?. And I was like, Yeah, sure, whatever. Just, just give it some time, let me let me let me, you know, let me change, let me get dressed up, whatever. You know.

00:43:39-00:44:50

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: So then, yeah, um, I met up with her and she's doing her nails, she was just kind of shy when I first saw her, like, you didn't want to look at me. You know..

[Guerrero and Interviewer laugh]

Guerrero: After that we were kind of like "So what do we do now?" You know. I was like "You know what, let's just go to Monterey. Are you down to go to Monterey?" And she was like "Oh yeah, I have to go get something from some place, I forgot what it's called". She was like "I need to get a gift for my sister". And I was like "Oh, okay cool". So we went. To get her sister's gift, birthday gift. But then after that we were kind of again. Awkward silence. Like, would we do

Guerrero: That was like, hey, let's go have sushi. You know, so it's just like you like sushi? She was like, yeah, like I like sushi, and I'm like, "Okay, cool". So we went the Del Monte mall.

Q: Okay, yeah.

Guerrero: Okay, so there's me and we're just walking around and just, you know, talking, and then after that, like, I don't know we were just spending more time every single day after that, like everyday talking to each other, texting each other and non stop and yeah. One thing led to another and now it's been like going on five years almost.

00:44:51-00:46:51

Q: Wow.

Guerrero: We got we got engaged, we got married last year legally marry that it has been. Yeah, we're still together. Yeah.

Q: That's really sweet. That's cool. Sounds like you guys are like just two peas in a pod from the jump right, right?

Guerrero: Yeah, pretty much. And we're actually way like I don't know, total opposite that's, that's the script that I'm kinda like... I'm so happy you know. Because it's it's like she's, she's a, she, she. I don't know, like, how can I explain it like she's just way different than me. She sees things way different than me, you know. And and I love that, like, I don't know the way that she puts everything into perspective, the way that she just she talks about certain things that I thought they were like, Oh no, I would never be interested in doing things like that and just being with her and in in doing things that, that, that, like I said, I never thought I would ever do. And now that I get to do them with turn enjoy it. It's like, I'm, I'm happy, I'm straight up happy.

Q: Oh what's, what's one of the things she's convinced you to do that. you thought you would never do?

Guerrero: [laughs] Painting, like I've never had the patience for painting, you know, hey yeah I because like I said, I've always been active very active kind of person I have to be doing something, you know, I can't just sit there, you know. Yeah, I'm traveling, you know, because I never was used to traveling at a young age, you know, going here going there. So I've never done that or even go to the like. Theme parks. She loves the theme parks and, you know, and that was never my thing, because I don't like rides, I'm scared of heights, you know.

Q: [laughs]

00:46:51-00:48:34

Guerrero: Yeah. Um, but yeah, I mean, those are the thing says it's just like, Okay, this is not bad. You know, like this is actually pretty awesome, you know,

Q: Yeah

Guerrero: I'm..Just, you know, yeah, or the to going on ike a boat rides are like fun. Yeah, which which I'm scared. You know, yeah. Well, yeah.

Q: Um, and I know she is involved in this. This research as well. Right?

Guerrero: Yeah, I mean she she kind of brought. I don't know how she went by there. It's just like, "Hey", but she likes to do a lot of stuff to like you know she talks about, oh, we should do this for the community and all the cells. And I'm just like, dude, I'm in town like whatever, you know, so she kind of she kind of gets us involved and being said she tells me last minute, I'm just like, what, what am I going to do, like, where are you going to take me? You know? So I'm just like, okay? Like, she's like "Yeah, we're gonna volunteer. We're going to do this whole like interview thing". And I'm just like, "What are you talking about?" She's like "you know the LGBT like", and I'm like...and she's like

“aren’t you proud? People should know, babe, you’re story.” You know, there's the reason for me. And I’m like “what?”. Like she gets so excited when she like when she when she wants to volunteer and do things, you know, and she's explaining them to me. So and she knows that that that gets me because I see that smile on her face and she really wants to do this. So I don't have the heart to be like “no, babe, I don’t want to do it”, you know. And I’m like “why would you do this to me babe?” You know?

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: Yeah. And that's how we're here. [laughs]

Q: Very cool, I like that.

00:48:34-00:50:23

Guerrero: Yeah, but I mean I don’t mind it, you know.

Q: Right..Well, it sounds like, cause I was talking to my classmate and it sounds like you guys have kind of different

Q: Life stories like I learned that your wife was a Seventh Day Adventist, is that correct?

Guerrero: Yeah yeah honestly, it's a trip. Honestly, because like I said my. My, my mom and my dad are not very religious.

Q: Right

Guerrero: Okay, they were not. My mom, she’s old- She's a Native American. So it's more, we’re more calm spiritual, we all- a lot more different. So when I met her, and I got to know her. She's just like, “Hey, I gotta tell you something” [laughs]. And I’m just like.. What. And that’s when she was telling me about her parents religion of how they see these different things like she would explain to me. And I'm just like, oh man, like

Q: [laughs]

Guerrero: You know, like, what did I get myself into. Yeah, she's just like, "Yeah, like but I'm not part of it, and I don't I don't I don't see the same you know like what they believe in. I just, you know, I- My parents are just not okay". And I'm just like honestly like I don't care by your parents. I care about you. I care about you know, you and me, you know, being together and being happy and making a life together. You know if they want to be a part of it. That's cool. If they don't, that's on them, you know. As long as you know that I will love you and support you, and you're okay with that, that's all we need. But at the end of day it's it's on them if they if they don't want to be a part of seeing us and being involved and doing things with us, then what can you do? You know?

00:50:24-00:52:15

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: So yeah, she was, she was giving me the heads up, but I was more like ehh I'm not really interested, you know, but I know that you know cuz she went through a lot, honestly. She went through a lot. Yeah.

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: Yeah, well I was

Q: Yeah. Sorry, go ahead.

Guerrero: I'm so sorry. No, you go ahead. I'm fine.

Q: Um, I think that's really interesting that you guys have such different like, well was her family accepting of her orientation?

Guerrero: From what she told me, and she explained to me. No, no there there their, her family was very against homosexuality

Q: Oh..

Guerrero: Her sister, her older sister is, um, she's okay with it. I mean, she's never said anything bad, she's never she's, she's very supportive. She came out on our wedding. You know, so. Yeah, I think that's the only person that really has supported her. Yeah. But as far as her parents like I said at the beginning, like they're just really against it. But now they're kind of kind of just a little bit coming around, you know, yeah, the mom is a lot more. I don't know, like. When I first met her, she was kind of like the mom was like, oh yeah, I don't know about this, but as she's getting to know me and I'm opening you know to her, you know. Of course, yeah, a lot of questions how I was raised, where I came from my mom and everything and you know, I opened up to her and she's just like, Okay, you know, she kind of was not worried anymore, you know, or some reason because of what Rebecca has gone through in the past of the previous ex girlfriend.

00:52:15-00:53:40

Guerrero: So, yeah.

Q: When was the first time you ever met her mom?

Guerrero: I would say like probably. April like around. Oh, say like may 2016 yeah it was like a month later. Yeah. Yeah.

Q: Were you nervous?

Guerrero: Honestly, no. I wasn't nervous.

Q: That's good,

Guerrero: Because, uh, I don't know, like I didn't have a need to be nervous. I think it was because I was just kind of like I'm confident like in who I am and how, how, how, like I am as a person and I don't know it's just like- Yeah, it was just chill, honestly.

Q: Yeah, Yeah. That's cool.

Q: Have you ever been like a support-? Because I think that's really awesome and I, like, I personally have, I mean a lot of people in my life that are very close to me. They're not as fortunate to like be as confident in who they are, and um. Have you ever, like taken somebody under your wing and like helps them kind of be comfortable with their sexuality? Or been-

Guerrero: Um,

Q: I don't know.

00:53:41-00:55:49

Guerrero: No, not really. Because all the people that are used to hang around with or- Well, yeah, no. They were already like that. They were very confident. I never had anybody that was like, Oh, not so sure how do I come out, or no, no, not really.

Q: Interesting. That's cool

Guerrero: I mean, I'm always there for people when it comes to like when they need to talk for some odd reason. So the last reason a lot of people to call me or they come to me and it's just like, you know, I'm a good listener, I guess. I can you know what i mean i don't know i don't.. Yeah, I've never dealt with someone like asking me, how to come out or.. No.. never done that.

Q: If, if somebody were to like ask you, like if somebody were asking for advice. On how to be more confident and how to like come out about their sexual identity, what would you tell them?

Guerrero: I'm so sorry. What was the question again?

Q: It's okay. If somebody asked you for advice on how to feel more comfortable with themselves or how to come out about their like sexuality. What would you advise them to do?

Guerrero: I would advise them if it feels right, and you truly know that you want to be happy, you want to be, You want to, you want to be yourself and

Guerrero: Just do it. I mean, Yeah. Yeah, I mean, that's pretty much all I would say, you know, if you're ready, if you know who you are in- You've accepted yourself and love yourself then do it. You don't be scared.

Q: Yeah, totally. Sometimes all it takes is like that just, like, that like muster of courage, just to go for it and say screw it. Whatever happens, whatever happens, you know, like.

00:52:50-00:58:33

Guerrero: Yeah and it's so sad though because a lot of people nowadays is that it's just like, well, they cares about like how really society looks at that you know, they have to please other people. Like people are starting to forget how to how to make themselves happy like how please and like, it's so sad.

Q: Yeah, definitely.

Guerrero: You know.

Q: Yeah. Um, So. So who-Tell me about the day that you got engaged. Did you propose- Who proposed to who? Between you and your wife, and tell me about that whole day.

Guerrero: [sighs] It was actually in the middle of the night. It was weird.

Q: Really?

Guerrero: Yeah.. [laughs]..I don't know.

Guerrero: On the day of that I was going to propose to her, I think she was going to work. I kind of had something surprised for her, fun, but she had to work that day. So I was like "okay", I'm not going to be able to ask her. But I was like, so like I was just so excited. Like, I wanted to tell her you know like I just wanted to say, hey, whatever. But what I did was basically like I was like, okay, so she comes home from work, whatever, and she falls asleep and [clears throat]. I don't know. I couldn't sleep because I was just so excited. I'm like, dude, I'm going to ask her, but I gotta ask her, like I can't take this anymore. So I just, I remember I bought the ring. Of course, I had the ring with me and stuff. And then I basically put it on her finger while she was asleep. And, and I just woke her up and I was just like, you know what, like I've been thinking about this for a while now, like, you make me happy you're literally like the love of my life. When you know and I can't seem like I can't seem to, you know, like I don't see myself with anybody else. You know, I'm like, and... I know it's a little bit too soon or whatever. But, you know, like, I just want to know, like, will you marry me? maybe not now, you know, I understand, maybe we're rushing it, you know, but it's like you know, I just I can't seem to spend the rest of my life without you, I need you in my life, you know, you're like my better half, you know. And uh, she's just like, "Ya". I mean she woke up, she was like, wait what, you know, but and like just just, you know, some kind of like she's like she's halfway asleep and not only that she's just kind of like shocked, you know,

00:58:33-00:59:30

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: Yeah, but you're just like, yeah, you serious? I was like, yeah, I'm serious. She was like Are you seriou- like really really serious? Yeah, I'm thinking to myself like, dude is she going to tell me no?

Q: Aww

Guerrero: But no, she was excited she's just like, Yeah I'll marry you, and I was just like, oh my god. You know, yeah, then we pretty much- That's how I did. I wish I would have

done it differently, but it's just like, it's just I was so like excited. I just- I needed to tell her.

Q: Yeah, I get that totally. I feel like I'm the same way. I can't keep stuff from people like that like you get excited...

Guerrero: Yeah, I'm really bad.

Q: Yeah [laughs]

Q: [internet cuts out a little bit] How long were you guys together before you guys got engaged?

00:59:31-01:01:19

Guerrero: I would say like, a couple of months honestly.

Q: Okay.

Guerrero: It was something that happened really, really fast. But I don't know it's like a feeling like when you know you know like I don't want to sound cliché, you know, but with her, like, I don't know, like. Okay, I can't, I can't explain the way that you know like why rushed it, you know, but I'm glad honestly. I'm very lucky.

Q: Yeah. Well, I mean, it's been what it's been- How many? almost five years or a little over five years now?

Guerrero: Yeah, yeah, almost five years. Yeah, and-

Q: When did you guys finally get married?

Guerrero: Last year. September. September 1. So..

Q: That's a nice time of the year to get married. I like that.

Guerrero: Yeah.

Q: Yeah. What was your wedding like? Like tell me.. Did you guys have a big wedding or a small wedding?

Guerrero: It was a small wedding and it was a Marina. It was just basically our close friends and family you know people that have been there and supportive since day one. Yeah. Something small because we we don't we don't. We didn't feel like we needed to make a you know big ass wedding, you know, for people that are like not a part of our, you know, life or, you know, like they're not part of like they don't want to do you know what I'm saying, like. We were not really so much around them that much. So we're just kind of like, Hey, let's do something small and, you know, so I was like yeah like I'm down for it. Like, I don't need anything extravagant, you know, cool. So yeah, it was really cool. I it was amazing wedding to me. You know, all our family, friends were there.

01:01:20-01:02:24

Q: Yeah. That's sweet.

Guerrero: Yeah.

Q: Where in Marina did you guys get married?

Guerrero: I was this one little place, I forgot. It's like by Ford Ord.

Q: Okay.

Guerrero: Yeah.

[frequency/ beeping]

Q: Hello?

Guerrero: Yeah. Hello?

Q: Oh, sorry. I just heard a bunch of beeping and I was confused for a sec.

Guerrero: Yeah, same here. I was just like, is it my phone?

Q: I don't know. Okay, so what did you guys- I am curious. Did you guys both wear wedding dresses. I know you don't like dresses so I'm assuming not.

Guerrero: No. I wore the suit, and she wore the dress.

Q: Um- And just a final little question about you and your relationship. I'm just curious. Do you guys ever show PDA when you guys are out in public.

01:02:25-01:04:17

Guerrero: Yeah, I'm we do, we, we hug each other. We hold hands, we kiss. we don't do anything like major like making out and stuff. No, I mean, yeah, we, we do do it. Like I said, we don't really care what people think, or what they say, or whatever, you know. Pretty much, yeah.

Q: Yeah, that's cool. I made that question. And I was like, I bet you she doesn't care and so-Did you help your wife become kind of more comfortable with, not caring what other people think.

Guerrero: Yeah, pretty much. Yeah.

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: Yeah, she's I mean she's very outspoken. Let me tell you she's like I said she's the total opposite okay of me. So I mean, but she's always had that attitude where she's kind of like, I don't care.

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: But she- how can I say like she's always had that attitude, but at the same time. Sometimes she like she could care. You know what I mean?

Q: Right

Guerrero: Like what certain people say, or whatever. And I kind of have to like reminder like Hey babe, it doesn't matter. They're not the one paying our bills like who cares you know just worry about you or worry about each other. And what I mean. So, so yeah, I try to push her to that, you know, like, don't take things to heart, sometimes or don't let them get to you or whatever the case is going on, you know, at work or you know her friends or whatever, it's like hey you know what? Don't- just there's so much more beautiful things are going on the world to places we can go, you know, than be tripping off people that you know they're not worth it. So yeah.

01:04:18-01:06:10

Q: Right. Um.. what was I going to say, I'm sorry, Oh! So, for this project, I did have to write a research paper and I wrote it around like Proposition 8 back when they like we legalized gay marriage in California and I'm wondering if you remember when they did that, like, I know you know I'm from San Diego, and they had this huge like celebration and like a certain area, you know, like the gay neighborhood, like it was a big party all weekend, and what have it. But do you remember-?

Guerrero: Yeah, I do remember it, but I was kind of like, Okay, I don't care. You know, I just- At that time I wouldn't like to me like I know like it was a big deal. You know, because now, finally, we can legally, you know, get married and stuff. But I don't know, like, to me, and like I said like, I don't know, like when all that stuff is going on. I didn't really care for it honestly I just just like, you know what, I don't need a paper like to, you know, like, at that time, I wasn't thinking about it like that, like, you know, like how important getting married was, I would say you know, maybe cuz I, at that time, I wasn't thinking about that I would ever get married myself, you know? [laughs] So, yeah, I

mean, but now, now that I just recently got married. I'm kind of like, I'm glad that it happened. You know?

Q: Totally. That's awesome.

Guerrero: Yeah, but, I don't know, I'm not. I have never been really much into like politics. I think it's a total waste time like and you know. Pretty much, yeah.

Q: I feel you. So did you did you happen to vote that year for that particular proposition? Or did you kind of leave it in the end zone?

01:06:11-01:08:10

Guerrero: Honestly, like I said, I've never been like- At the time when all that was happening. I've never been that type of person to vote in anything. Yeah, yeah, it's just it wasn't my thing like I wasn't thinking about it, like, or I just maybe. I don't know, like I said, it just, it was never my thing to vote in anything. I was just kind of go with the flow. Kind of type of person you know?

Q: Right.

Guerrero: Um,

Q: So, when I did this research because I'm the same way I've never really been into politics. So like digging into the logistics was very interesting for me but I read that a huge concern for legalizing gay marriage was about children having same sex parents. And I'm wondering if you know anybody any gay couples that have children or do you and your wife Rebecca plan on having children together?

Guerrero: Oh no, I don't know any

Guerrero: Oh yeah wait. Yeah, that's true. I do know. One couple I do know. personally, okay, that they do. I don't really hang out with them. I don't talk to them, but I know- they're very well known in the gay community and they do have a daughter.

Q: Alright.

Guerrero: But as other people, not really, um, I, I, me and my wife. Are planning on having kids, maybe in two or three years, I don't know, depending how the world turns out by then. [laughs]

Q: Right, no kidding.

Guerrero: Cuz like, sometimes, like, I do you want to have kids, but then sometimes I tell her, like, no, because you know- Everything that's been going on. Like do I want to bring my kid, you know, into this type of world being around people, and stuff like that. And we were thinking about adoption.

01:08:11-01:09:39

Q: Nice.

Guerrero: Doing that..so yeah. Which I wouldn't mind.

Q: That's cool. That's awesome. So what would you say to somebody that thinks that children would turn gay if they were raised by the same sex parents

Guerrero: Um..Oh god, um, ignorant people. [laughs] I mean.. There's, there's, there's. Honestly, nothing, nothing. Nice. Yeah, I would say.

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: Yeah, but I mean I wouldn't disagree, but then again, like I said, it's very hard for those people that think so strongly about it. It's like, yeah, like the big things like that and there's nothing that I can personally say that will change people's lives, especially

when people are like that. Now, all I can do is say may God forgive them. I mean, honestly.

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: Which is just, yeah, I'm not very, very that type of person that I should be like yeah confrontational or, you know, like I just kind of like ignore them. I don't know, because I do believe I'm a firm believer of karma.

Q: Right on.

Guerrero: I seen it, you know, so yeah.

Q: Yeah.

01:09:40-01:11:17

Guerrero: But I'm still not that type of person like that if people that need help, and they've done me wrong for some odd reason I still help them.

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: You know what I mean, I, I've always had that problem in me. I don't know why, but I don't know, like I guess they had to deal with my mom because my mom was very much like that. She was just like *can't understand** it's just kind of like

Guerrero: People are the way they are, you know.

Q: It's hard.

Guerrero: You can't change them, just make sure that you don't change in the process. You don't become you know a horrible person always try to help people because you remember one one day you might need help yourself, you know...Yeah.

Q: Yeah. So true. So can you tell me about somebody in your life that that like what you were just describing to me how they have wronged you. Maybe and you help them anyway. Is there somebody that comes to mind when you think about that.

Guerrero: Some of my family members. [laughs] You know, not every family is perfect, you know, and some of my family members. I have some, some of them that you know like to take advantage or, you know, and and I'm just like I said, you know, I have been taken advantage of when there have been some of them that walk all over me. Because like I said I'm not a very confrontational person and I don't you know, I've come to realize at a young age, you can't argue with stupid. You know what I mean?

Q: Right

01:11:18- 01:12:44

Guerrero: [laughs] So in order for me because I'm not that type of person you know like to want to argue and argue and argue and things not get anywhere. You know what I mean. So-

Q: Right.

Guerrero: Yeah, but I just mean, you know, even though I know that some of the things that you know that they said we're very hurtful. I- Don't know like I just, I still help them because I feel sorry for them.

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: You know. And it gets instead of me having this anger towards people i i just end up thinking you know there's a side- you know a side to- there always two sides to story. You know, I don't know what that person's going through. Maybe that person is the way they are for something that made them or someone or something , so you know

what though, like it's their actions. But I'm like I said like, you know, that's, I don't know if that's all them like so I just ignore it and I help them. I guess I don't know they need a ride or hey can you spot me or hey you know like just like little small favors. I'm still there.

Q: Right. Well, that's, that's very nice. And that's rare your you sound like a rare type of person tell you that

Guerrero: [laughs] Yeah but at the same time too just because they done me wrong and I help them. I still keep my distance.

Q: Right.

01:12:45-01:14:30

Guerrero: You know i i don't i don't call them I don't text them all the time like hey how you doing, you know, I will do that. But to come around and nah it's like, no, like, I'm very, very, like, like I said, I like, I like to be most of the time alone. I'm a very introverted person.

Q: Okay, interesting.

Guerrero: I mean, I like how much social butterfly, I would say, you know, like talking to people and all that stuff. But at the same time. Like, I don't like to be around a lot of people. I don't know if that makes sense.

Q: Yeah, no. Totally. I get that. Definitely. Yeah. Um, I. Another thing I, did want to ask you. So I saw again on your sheet that you said that you think that there's too much like partying and the LGBT community. Can you maybe talk about that a little bit?

Guerrero: Yeah, I mean, here we used to have, I think, like, three years ago, three, four years ago, we used to have a social gathering right. There we call social Wednesdays.

Q: Okay.

Guerrero: And it was for the LGBT community, but instead of doing things like where I don't know. I don't like it was just more like partying and drinking.

Q: Right.

Guerrero: You know what I mean, but that's that's that's what I got introduced to when I finally was able to party. In other words come out, you know, I wasn't there wasn't like... A lot of like community to things that we could have been involved in. As in doing, you know, for the community. It was more like a social Wednesday, you know, this get turned up or whatever.

01:14:31-01:16:04

Q: Yeah.

Guerrero: You know, so I think that that's an issue. Um, what I guess now I'm really happy with now that they're hosting here in Salinas, gay pride, which now they do like a family kind of thing where you can be able to take the kids and do stuff taking or something like that. And it wasn't like that before. This is nothing but like I said, you know, partying drinking dancing and I'm like dude, really, that's, that's, that's not all the LGBT stands for.

Q: Right. Mhm.

Guerrero: So yeah.

Q: That's cool, I didn't know about Salinas. That's awesome.

Guerrero: Yeah yeah

Q: Um, so..Is there any other changes that you would like to see in the gay community, maybe in this area in particular? That I would want to change or?Or that- you would like to see change?

Guerrero: I think what we should be able, yeah. Like you know hold more meetings you know and do more things for the community. I don't know. Go make time, I don't know, to go and...You know, feed the homeless, you know, go out there walking around the streets. I don't know. It's also to help the food bank like you know do it together all the, you know, like not just like once a year or every three months, like, you know, like I would change that. Be more involved, you know,

Q: Yeah.

01:16:05-01:18:11

Guerrero: Because you know a lot of people have their bad stereotypes about us that all we care about is drinking and partying and, you know, and, and it's like, no, we're more than that, you know, so yeah, that's one thing I would want, you know, not that I care what people think, but at the same time, it's like, that's what I want the next generation to know, that it's not just that. You know what I mean?

Q: Right. Yeah, definitely. Yeah, that's actually a really great

Guerrero: Idea, I don't think I can think of a whole lot of stuff in Monterey County that guys kind of like- Or even involve other counties too, you know, and all get together and you know do rallies, I don't know, like would be consistent with it, you know.

Q: Right.

Guerrero: But I did, I did hear a couple months ago that there is like a group, I think. LGBT group. But then again, you know, like from what my wife was telling me that they

only do things like events like here in there like every couple of months and on. I'm just like, yeah, that's where the real problem is.

Q: Right.

Guerrero: We need to change that, you know,,

Q: Um, well, you gave a lot of great feedback during this interview. Is there anything else that you would like to tell people that are listening to your story?

Guerrero: No, honestly. I can't think of anything right now. But um- Yeah, like I said, you know, just being happy and you know and do you and just remember, you know. You only live once, and if you don't, if you can be happy or you can't love yourself or learn to love yourself, then you're not going to be able to love anybody. You know what I'm saying. So, but we- I Don't- Always know that you come first, you know, nobody else. Yeah.

01:18:12-01:18:59

Q: Totally. Well, that's awesome. And who knows, I mean, I know you don't do a lot of activism, but it sounds like you have some really great ideas, so who knows, maybe one day you and Rebecca could team up and start doing that stuff in the community. That would be really cool.

Guerrero: Yeah I would be open for that is just, Yeah, I'm pretty sure she'll think of something, you know that she's going to involve us in next. You know. *laughs*

Q: There you go. Well, thank you again. I really appreciate it, and thank you so much, I can't say thank you enough. Honestly, this was a great interview, and you sound awesome.

Guerrero: Thank you [laughs]