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Interview with Joy Park-Thomas

Joy Park-Thomas

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Interviewee: Joy Park-Thomas

Interviewers: Kaitlyn Link and Hailey Oyoque

Date: 12/3/2020

Location: Zoom

Collection: Auntie Sewing Squad Oral History Archive, SBS 112

Length: 54:40

Overseen by: Dr. Chrissy Yee Lau

Bio: Joy Park-Thomas is a screenwriter and story producer in reality TV. She is a first generation Korean American born in Ohio and raised in Pennsylvania. She lives in Los Angeles, has an Ivy-League degree, and is a feminist and advocate for women.

Summary: This interview of Joy Park-Thomas is conducted by Kaitlyn Link and Hailey Oyoque. The first section of this interview is about Joy's early life and how she felt growing up as a first generation Korean American (0:30). The second section of this interview begins Joy's early inspiration of activism (2:42). Section three is Joy's reason for moving to California and her career choice (6:40). The fourth section begins the discussion of Joy's reason for joining the Auntie Sewing Squad and how she came across it (18:05). Lastly, the final section is about Joy's experience with the election, and how she views the state of the country (37:33).

Transcript of Oral History with Joy Park-Thomas

KL: This is Kaitlyn Link with Hailey Oyoque here to interview Joy Park-Thomas for the Auntie Sewing Squad Oral History Archive from the SBS 112 class. The date is December 3rd, 2020 and this interview will be conducted over zoom and overseen by Dr. Chrissy Yee Lau. So Joy, we have some questions. Let me pull up the first one, tell us about growing up as a first-generation Korean American in Ohio and what was that like for you and your family?

JPT: (0:30) Actually I was born in Ohio but I grew up in Pennsylvania, sort of in the historic Valley Forge area so visually it was very idyllic: sprawling forests, log cabins, covered bridges, and deer that would wander into the yard. But on the other, it was a very conservative Republican white neighborhood and I was the only Asian in school for a long time. I think it wasn't until Junior High I think there was one, maybe two others not necessarily in my same grade, and then in high school I think there were maybe 3 or 4 of us in a class of 360. So I always felt like an outsider, I was the outsider, and in some ways I felt not just resigned but felt a little freedom in it because it meant that I was a little less constrained to be like all the other kids and you know in junior high and high school you feel like you need to be like all the other kids and I was like, boy, if I'm going to be on the outside anyway, then I might as well eat my Korean food for lunch in the cafeteria. You know my sister used to say, "You're so brave I would only have a sandwich" but I was like, I hate sandwiches; they get soggy by the time you open it.

KL: That's so cool that you took it that way.

JPT: Yeah I mean it was both, but you know I think that's kind of stayed with me and I feel like I might as well just look into doing what I want if people aren't going to approve of it anyway then why not try something new, why not do what I like.

KL: That's really cool, that's awesome.

HO: (2:42) Okay so I'm going to do question number two. It looks like you've been involved in activism for almost all your life, what inspired you to join and advocate for these causes?

JPT: I think I always felt since junior high, I think that's when I really started looking at inequalities. You know being the outsider I was always acutely aware of disenfranchisement, marginalization, and lack of opportunity in some ways. I think that being a woman definitely involves having to fight harder for everything and I think I always was annoyed by that and felt like we all need to fight a little harder for a piece of the pie, not just for ourselves but for everyone else. I remember Martin Luther King has a quote and I'm not going to quote it correctly so we'll paraphrase, "If you don't stand up for other people's causes, how can you expect them to stand up for yours?" So I feel like whatever the disenfranchised group, we need to stand up for each other and support each other's humanity. I also felt like you can't put responsibility on other people if you're not willing to take it on yourself so if I want there to be change then I need to make that happen myself—I need to do my part. I always did some kind of fundraising even before I moved to California in 2000 but I took a job as a fundraising coach for a fundraising production company and what that was is a company that sets up like 3 Day walks or sets up like the AIDS Ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. If you're ever interested you

can go to Dan Pallotta's TED Talk; it was called Pallotta Teamworks it was a for-profit model because the amount of money it could generate was many magnitudes larger than an all-volunteer group and that was very revolutionary for the time and a lot of people objected to that. But when you can pay people a set wage and have an overhead and all they do is fundraise and all they do is coach people and all they do is create more opportunity for fundraisers you can raise money in the millions instead of the thousands. So is it objectionable for a portion of that money to go to overhead and into a business model as opposed to all the thousands going into the charity? Is it better to have some thousands go into the business and millions go into the charity? So it was an interesting question, but one that eventually caused the company to close. But if you go to his TED Talk it's interesting to listen to.

HO: Yeah that sounds interesting.

KL: (6:40) That made me want to ask what brought you to California? Was it job opportunities or change in scenery, or what made you want to move there?

JPT: I was in grad school at Emerson college doing a masters in writing. I know that Emerson college has a program out in Los Angeles for production and I had wanted to produce some of the screenplays I was writing and so I came out, I took the directing workshop. I decided that paying out of pocket for grad school was not fun. And no one in entertainment cares if you went to college, much less grad school. So I just stayed out here. Now I'm a story producer in reality TV.

HO: Wow, that's great.

KL: Wow. I think that is so awesome. We were also gonna ask what is the most exciting thing about being an activist, for you?

JPT: I think, being change and creating change. I think especially on social media, but just in conversations in general, people I think tend to like to complain and they don't like to take on the responsibility. I feel like, if you're gonna complain, you have to have taken on some responsibility, if you don't... then zip it!

KL: Very true!

JPT: So I feel like I'm entitled to complain a little bit now 'cause... when you do it, you see how hard it is. And you hit the wall of other people's indifference and you hit the wall of other people's loyalties. Not just to... you know, where their finances go, and, where their time and effort goes and attention. But, really against people's indifference. And I feel like I applaud other people's efforts for charities, even if it's not a charity I particularly care about or think is important. You know I know someone whose entire life is about rescuing Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs. She posts in all caps... all the time. And you know, I'm like... there are people dying! But, you know what, she's not doing nothing. And so I applaud her. She cares about something. She's donating her time and effort to making something better for somebody. And I think that's all I can really ask people to do. If we all just did that, I think the world would probably be a little bit nicer.

KL: I agree!

HO: What is the most exciting thing about being an activist?

KL: I think I just asked that one

HO: No -- What was your favorite activism cause to be a part of?

JPT: I think my favorite one was, when I had worked for that production company, Pallotta TeamWorks, they had an event called the African AIDS Trek. And as a fundraising coach I often got people asking me, "Have you done any of these fundraising walks?" The Avon Breast Cancer Three Day Walk once the most popular one because we did it in lots of cities. The fundraising model was, you, as a participant, had to sign a contract that you would raise a minimum of a certain amount of money and if you didn't raise it by the deadline, you would pay the difference out of pocket. And so it created motivation to push yourself out of your comfort zone to achieve something that you didn't think you could. So my job would be, not just coach people how to ask, but how to raise the limits on your perspective of your limitations. And it's something we always said you could use at another part of your life, in asking for a raise when you deserve it at work (or maybe if you don't deserve it). Learning how to ask for help because a lot of women are told they are not allowed to ask or they're not good enough yet. It's important to ask even when you're not comfortable. Asking for other people is always easier than asking for yourself for some reason. But I challenged myself to do the hardest event that we had. For the Avon Breast Cancer Walk you had to raise the minimum of \$2,000. That is really not hard. I don't look at 2,000 as being a big number anymore. I had to raise \$10,000 and I signed up for the event four months before the money was due. And I was living in a tiny apartment. This was my job by the way, right out of grad school, you know not making a lot of money, walking to the grocery to save money on gas. I do not have \$10,000 if I can't raise it. And it really forced me to kind of fundraise full-time, outside of my job, which is a full-time job. It forced me to feel the fear that other people felt, trying to raise \$2,000. I also looked at what I was getting out of it, which was learning how to raise the bar on what I could expect out of myself. And the carrot, the big carrot, was that the walk was in South Africa. And you had to pay for that part on your own, which was fine. I bought a ticket to South Africa and spent 3 weeks there. A week on the trek itself, which was 75 miles through the Cederberg Wilderness with 125 other people who signed up and managed to raise the money. And I spent as much time as I could doing things like... taking the tour to Robben Island, which is where Nelson Mandela was kept. The tour is given by an inmate. It really showed... It's like, the bus drove down into the rock quarry where Nelson Mandela broke rocks for like 17 years. He was told it would be 6 months but it was 17 years. And the political prisoners had been thrown in with the violent criminals because the white regime thought, "Oh one will take care of the other." And instead Nelson Mandela pulled together everyone who had a college degree and taught classes to anyone who wanted to learn. And it really was very inspiring, a very inspiring trip because it really showed and illustrated what "being the change" can be and can do and that it's not just one small action, but how you take on that responsibility influences other people to take on that responsibility and I think... Whoops, sorry that's the bathtub, sorry, it jets itself dry and it'll stop in a moment.

KL: *laughter* That's fine we can barely hear it anyway. That's really impressive and it just

goes to show that people don't know how much they can really do if they don't push themselves or push the limit.

JPT: Yeah, and in South Africa especially, we got off the plane and we were taking the transport to the hotel in Cape Town and literally on one side of the street there were nice houses behind a nice brick wall and literally across the street, literally a stone's throw away there was chain link fences, razor wire, corrugated metal townships that had no electricity, and in some places no running water. These were their neighbors. I took a tour into the townships because they felt very invisible and I was a little concerned that they might feel like, oh we're tourists gawking at them, and at least for the people who gave the tour they were like, "No we need tourists to come and see us and remind people that we exist we still have needs." When people are invisible to their own government, you can't solve those problems because you're not looking at them or acknowledging them and we see that with the Black Lives Matter movement now in America. That's a group of people who have been less than invisible for...all-time really in America and hopefully that's changing now. But I'm still concerned about women being invisible, we're sort of like the invisible back-up person who does the cooking and cleaning on top of working a full-time job, and for people who have kids or parents, doing all the caretaking. I'm still waiting for women to be acknowledged.

KL: (18:05) Yeah, that's tough. We were also going to ask, when did you first come across the Auntie Sewing Squad?

JPT: It was in April. Kristina Wong is a Facebook friend of mine, she's a friend of mine. I've been to her shows and we met through a mutual friend who's also Asian. When she started posting about, "Does anybody want to help sew masks? People need masks and our government's not giving them, so does anyone willing to help out?" And so I jumped on it because I love sewing and crafting. I have my mom's 1963 Singer sewing machine, it's avocado green, older than me because she got it as her wedding gift, and it's what I learned to sew on and I still use it. It's a beast, it's really heavy but it will never break. It only sews in a straight line, forward and backwards, but that's all I need it to do.

KL: Sorry that's my dogs if you can hear them barking.

HO: I'm not sure if that also answers the 'why' did you join the Auntie Sewing Squad?

JPT: Oh, the 'why' is because at the beginning of the pandemic I was feeling frustrated there was nothing the average person could do. It was about what you don't do, you don't go out in public, you don't meet with people, you don't go to risky circumstances, you don't get close to other people, and so it was frustrating to not have something to do and a way to be productive. And since it married two things that I like, activism and crafting, I thought it was a great opportunity and I think I did not expect how good it would make me feel, how it would help my emotional and mental health at the time. Because I think everyone was feeling the weight of the uncertainty of what the pandemic was going to do to the economy, to our lives, to our jobs, to our relationship and having that outlet and feeling like I can pour as much time and energy as I want, as fits into my life, into something that directly impacts other people's health and well-being. I'm doing something about the pandemic. I'm not doing the nothing that is just staying home. I'm

actively helping it get better in the very small, infinitesimally small way that I can. And because Kristina has grown it into such a large community, the impact is no longer infinitesimal. We're helping whole groups and communities at a time. We're donating to groups that help larger groups in a variety of ways, and you know masks that get incorporated into care packages that involve things like food and sanitary items, and other outreach. Every time I see a campaign for an elderly group it makes me smile because I'm like, "Yes, help the seniors, help the seniors!" Because that's very important to me, I'm caring for my mom. My husband and I are the caretakers for my mom who is in her eighties and immunocompromised. The impact on her is really tough and I feel like we don't hear a lot about the seniors apart from another senior nursing home was hit and you know some large percentage of them are now sick and dying you know and it's like, on top of institutionalizing those seniors, now they're in a death trap and it makes me really sad that that's the thanks that we are giving them for raising our generation through war time. I feel better knowing that we are doing something for them too.

KL: Definitely, it's tough for people who have older parents. Like for me, my Nana was in a home and we couldn't visit her. So it's really tough for people with older relatives and it's good that you can do something for them from a distance. The next question you already touched upon, it was about where you learned to sew. So you said you like crafting and did you learn at a young age or how did that start?

JPT: I think I learned before junior high. My sisters and I all learned to sew on my mom's sewing machine and back in our day we had Home Ec classes where we had to sew and cook and do, you know, weird things...that's where I learned that a sauce pan is actually a pot, I'm like why is it called a pan I don't get it? And I learned how to make a soft boiled egg. So we learned in junior high also how to sew, like, a pair of shorts or a stuffed animal. But my older sisters actually would sew their own clothes from time to time.

KL: That's impressive.

JPT: And so they would teach me as well. And it seemed pretty simple. It's like put this here, thread this like the little thing on the side, the little diagram, and hit the pedal, it goes forward, pull this lever it goes backward. That's really all that a basic machine like 1963 Singers would do, so sewing didn't seem like a particularly hard craft to learn.

HO: Okay, in what ways has this pandemic affected you?

JPT: Too many ways. I'm a freelancer, most people in the entertainment industry are freelancers. It's only people in the studios that have full-time jobs. So what that means is, normally I look for work and I am hired for a certain number of weeks anywhere from like 2 weeks to 6 months. Both are fairly unusual, it's more like 6 to 8 weeks is a usual run of a show for a story producer in post-production and then I look for another job etc. I have to negotiate a rate for each job and sometimes you can go six months without finding work and sometimes you have to turn down offers because your job isn't going to finish in time for when the next job starts. All production pretty much came to a halt when the pandemic started, and so there was no work. I was fortunate enough that a show that had finished shooting was just starting post-production when the pandemic hit so I had work lined up and I was very fortunate because then I learned right away, I

had that learning curve of how to do post-productions from home. It meant picking up hardware and software from the office, bringing it into my house, uploading and downloading footage. Normally I sit in a story pit with a bunch of other people and people walk in and out, and editors walk in and out, and I walk down the hall and sit with an editor in his or her bay, and we watch the footage and talk about it and nobody can do that anymore because we're all in our own homes. We have Zoom meetings at 10 o'clock in the morning, and it's like, "Who's working on what cut of what episode?" That's where organization becomes really important and shared documents. But every day I wonder with the next surge, is that going to close the industry back down again and that's just a question many people are asking about their businesses and their lines of work and their careers. Fortunately my husband and I are able to work remotely in post-production, so as long as production happens, post-production can happen but that can go away at any time with another surge. Which by all counts we're going to be heading into, we are heading into, because of winter now. And at the same time, in terms of caretaking, instead of me and my two sisters helping take care of our mom, I'm the only one of my sisters who can take care of my mom because one sister is a doctor so she has potential exposure through work and my other sister works at a VA in Long Beach and she just got COVID from a co-worker, along with several other co-workers. And it's really hard to hear her talk about how hard it is to breathe. She says it's like having a gigantic stone in your lungs and trying to breathe around that stone. It causes anxiety as well as the physical discomfort of not being able to draw in enough breath. She says her neck is swelling up and it gives her a headache like her head is a balloon that's being squeezed and her muscle aches and pains are 7 out of 10 and that's after she takes Advil and all of that. I found that the way that impacted me was, you know I'd always been annoyed at seeing people out in public who don't cover their noses.

KL: Mhmm yeah..

HO: Yeah I don't like that.

JPT: Or whole groups of people who don't wear their mask. I see that a lot in pre-teen kids that are in the 6 to 12 age group. They're like, "Oh I'm a kid, that's okay, I don't need to put on a mask." And I'm like you are a walking super-spreader event. Because once you put kids together there's no bubble. And guys who, you know I know I'm being judgmental here, seem to feel like they're too macho for a mask and who I am guessing you know that because they are big, trying to confront them to put on a mask is a losing proposition and they can get away with that because who's going to do that? I heard one woman in the Farmers Market tell me about how this guy who's very belligerent and won't wear a mask has threatened her repeatedly, he's a big guy, and the police don't want to deal with him so they don't come when she calls and that's disappointing. It's like, hey, any business is allowed to refuse service to people who don't wear shirts or shoes but a mask, that's okay now? But it made me really angry, I felt really angry that people... it's almost as if I felt like those people that I was seeing now were directly responsible for how my sister was feeling. And even though I know those specific people are not responsible for how my sister specifically feels, it is that behavior of not wearing a mask that is causing pain and distress and death for millions of people. It just felt very personal and it unfortunately made me feel like I wish everybody were feeling what I'm feeling because then nobody would not put on a mask everybody would wear masks if they could feel how personal the pain and death are for many people who were already affected. And I live in fear that that's going to be my mom.

She's essentially trapped in the house as an elderly person so her muscle tone and her stimulation is going way down hill and I think she and I both see that there is some possibility that she will not survive to the end of the pandemic simply because having an elderly person stay at home all the time is...you're physically wasting away and physically wasting away can also bring on dementia and that's a challenge that I really hope doesn't happen for my mom but it brings that death all the closer. We don't think about...that we're only thinking about the effects of COVID on the healthy and to some degree, how it impacts children who need to socialize and run around because that's very much in the news. But again, I feel like seniors...for seniors, it's all very invisible. But for me, whenever I'm not working, I'm caring for my mom. And in fact I cannot do both full time. I just decided recently to cut back on my work hours like I-I stopped agreeing to work. I turn down work because my mom needs me right now and I need to be able to cook and clean and be able to take her on socially-distanced, safe walks. And it is taking its toll on me physically and mentally. And unfortunately I really do feel like I'm at a breaking point. Yeah. I hit my breaking point. I broke. Haha I am seeing a therapist now.

KL: It's just it's really bad for everyone and hits everyone in different ways now so your point where people just aren't taking it seriously is almost offensive to people who have been affected personally and it doesn't really hit until you have a family member or yourself that it's like affecting.

JPT: Right.

KL: And it's important for everyone to be thinking of others.

HO: So I personally never thought about it like that way they described it with the seniors having to stay home and then losing everything cuz they aren't able to go outside and live their normal lives. So that really changed my perspective.

JPT: Yeah, my mom is completely dependent on me to bring her groceries.

KL: Yeah.

JPT: We used to love eating out and here my sisters would take her to different restaurants. But when you work in entertainment, that's like a 10-12 hour day. You know, 5-7 days a week. By the time I'm done with work at 8 PM or 9 PM, like that's three hours past my mom's dinner time. And so her access to food is limited. I can only take her out for a walk once a week. At best. That's not enough exercise. She sits in front of the TV watching soap operas. Watching soap operas. She is bored out of her mind. She's like, "They stopped making new episodes. There is nothing to watch."

KL: (37:33) Yeah, it's brutal. We wanted to ask if you voted in this election? If you did, did the pandemic affect the way you voted?

JPT: It did affect the physical way that I voted. What's great about Gavin Newsom -- Go Gavin Newsom!-- was that he proactively sent out mail-from-home ballots. Which I think is wonderful and shows that he wants and cares about people voting and having a say. Opposed to other states

that “cleaned out their voter roles” and said, “You have to vote in person, COVID is not an excuse to mail in a ballot.” I just thought, “Oh my god, you are going to kill people, you are literally asking people to choose between jeopardizing their lives and a vote.” And how disgraceful that is for a government official of any kind in a country that strives so much about freedom and democracy. So yeah, my husband and I had to do our homework on all the ballots and propositions. And we have two friends who are very politically active. Every year we ask both of them to weigh in on their opinions for ballot propositions and then we compare them and have them rebut against each other’s arguments.

KL: Oh my gosh that is so cool.

JPT: I'm like, “You know Lance, Alison actually brought up this point, how do you feel about that? Alison, Lance brought up this point, how do you feel about that?” Because one of them is an attorney for the city of West Hollywood. The other person is a physicist at a think tank. But they used to do political pundit type things in their spare time. And so to have their points of view is always very informative for us. It's like, this is a great cheat sheet, because I don't have to do all the homework. I don't have to wade through all of the language. It's very confusing. And I have an Ivy League degree, and it's very confusing for me. I guess I'm just a person that gets through all of that and feels like they can make an informed decision. But yeah we voted, we mailed it in, way in advance because of DeJoy's efforts to dismantle mail-sorting machines. I was like, “Oh my God, we have to mail our ballots in ASAP. Just in case.” And just as I thought, you know what I saw those boxes go out and I'm like, “Someone's gonna hijack those, someone's gonna destroy those. Some people are gonna find a way to take ballots out or create fake ones.” And lo and behold. I saw on the news that people are putting up fake ones, you know I'm sure people are going through and you know doing stuff with them.

KL: Crazy.

HO: What is your view on the state of America right now in regards to the pandemic and the election?

JPT: It's hard not to feel like we're going to hell in a handbasket. You know, the world leader -- Up until Trump -- I felt that in recent history, the world really looked up to the United States as a world leader. And someone-- a country whose leadership should be modeled and unfortunately the populist countries or countries that have populist world leaders at the moment, certainly love Trump and model him. And to all of humanity's detriment, the pandemic is now everywhere. And because of the lack of mask-wearing. Especially the message about mask-wearing right at the beginning. And the lack of preparedness, testing, access to masks. You know, asking people to spend ten dollars a mask, or to buy boxes of masks. The federal government was telling states, “Oh, you have to buy supplies on your own,” but then hijacking their shipments when they do get them. Is like... It is a fiasco. And so now everyone will just have to ride out the surge upon surge, as Fauci called it. What I thought was interesting, was recently when I saw Fauci walk up to the podium, to make his regular statements. He was wearing two masks. He was wearing a disposable mask under his cloth mask. I thought that was hilarious because that's what I do! Anytime I have to go to the doctor's office, I wear two masks. Which is why it always amazes me why people want to wear no mask, or under their noses. I'm like, you are risking your life

right now. And mine. I don't like that. But uh I forgot what I was saying... I'm sorry, I've been rambling.

KL: No it's okay, we were just asking your viewpoint on the state of America with the relation to the election and the pandemic.

JPT: I think it's really weird and unfortunate that the Republicans politicized mask-wearing because it encourages a lot of people who are politically conservative to work against public health and work against their own health and certainly we've had quite a few super-spreader events because of that and I think in the end it's politically going to hurt them because when a lot of those people get sick and die there's just going to be fewer conservatives alive left. I'm like, you're killing off your constituents, that's not a smart thing to do, on top of that not being a moral thing to do. That's not a politically smart thing to do. And hopefully in the next four years we will see an improvement. But it's definitely going to be much more of an uphill battle. I was really glad to hear in Biden's speech that he is not the Democratic president, he's the American president, and he is president for everyone, whether they voted for him or not. Which is I think exactly the message that Americans needed to have. To say, "Look we are one country and we are all in this together," because we are. Which will help improve the way we all need to wear masks, conservative or liberal. We all need to care for each other and hopefully to bring a certain amount of uhh whats the word?

KL:Unity?

JPT: Not just Unity, but Humanity, empathy, empathy is what I was looking for. To bring back a certain amount of empathy for each other as human beings. As Americans. As people who are all in this together. Because that's the only way we are going to get through it, and our recovery is going to depend on that. Both as a country and as a world trying to recover from a pandemic.

KL: Definitely, you have some really good points. We had one last question. I -- we saw on your bio that you were feminists and just want to ask what experiences you've been through and what influenced you to become a feminist?

JPT: For me, feminism just means that women are equal. You know given that a lot of people still feel that there is an advantage to be had, in not giving women equality, you know, paying them more, because back in the day, before I was born, men were the breadwinners and women did unpaid work in the home. And so men were paid basically what we would consider a double salary. Right? But men are still paid that and women are doing twice the work. They're doing the paid work at a job, and the unpaid work at home. And that needs to change and that can only change if there are more women in government. I mean, I was really sad when people didn't vote for Clinton. I'm like, "Oh my god, people can't stand the thought of a woman in power. And now we have "Grandpa" and he's okay. *laughter* Because really, I will take just about any Democrat over any Republican. But we do need more women everywhere in order to gain any equality in any aspect of life, work or outside of work. And I really believe that if women had equality under the law and were--it was mandated to pay women equally, that would increase--that would positively impact the economy in so many ways. Women have to... women get less money, women work more hours, make less money, split their money between childcare, right,

because women's income primarily goes to childcare, and then themselves. Um that just takes money out of the economy, then she just has no money for anything beyond basics. She has to stretch her money just to have basics for herself and her family. But you increase the pay and now there is more money being circulated. But as long as we have men in power who feel that if women were paid more, they would be paid less, they would have less status, less opportunity for themselves, that's not gonna happen. So I really, just like I feel like with activism, you have to be the change you want to see in the world, I feel the same way about feminism. Support the women in your circle even if you don't agree with them. Because all women don't have one point of view, we are just as diverse as any other group. So we need to support each other in our diverse points of view. When you can pull other women up behind you even if they don't look like you, or have the same opinions as you, promote each other because the more women are in any kind of position of power, even if somebody that you helped pull up rises past you, good.

KL: Yeah that's great!

JPT: More women, you know, everywhere. Because it's just it's not good for women and their families or the economy or humanity to hamstring half the time. If you think, "Oh we've had X number of brilliant men, well we could have had double that if we had women. You can double the productivity, double the brilliance of anything, of any group, of any boundary we are pushing, if we allow the other half of humanity to have the opportunity to join in. And that's why I'm a feminist.

KL: That is so cool, very well said!

JPT: Its also why I write feminist science-fiction, thats my big hobby. It's what I would do for a living if I didn't have to pay a mortgage. And I do it in my spare time, because what we see in our spare time, the stories that we come across on HBO, or Netflix, or in a book or magazine, are like a blueprint of how humanity is and how we should react with each other. And you know women used to... there used to be a lot of women in computer science until "War Games" in the 80s only showed boys, doing computer science. There was a huge surge of boys in computer science. And the girls dropped out, but it used to be a lot of girls in computer science, up to that point. So what we see in media changes our policy, changes our beliefs, and what we can achieve. And we need more women to believe we could achieve and we need more guys to accept that women's rights are human rights. And women need a turn too.

KL: Yes, definitely. That's awesome. I think that will conclude our interview. Everything you said was fantastic and interesting and thank you again for coming and sharing your story and your perspectives and yeah that'll conclude the interview.

HO: Thank You.

JPT: Thanks so much guys I really appreciate it, I wish you all the best of luck with your project. I am honored to be part of it, so thank you for including me. And thank you for your patience with the rescheduling.

KL: Totally fine. Thank you so much.

JPT: Great, have a good day!

KL: You too, Bye!

HO: Bye, Thank you!
Laughter