

“So, I grew up in South Queens and you know South Queens is always a special place to me but growing up there it felt that I lived in a bubble. And coming out to this part of Brooklyn, 3 hours away from my home by public transit meant that I had to travel outside of that space. It was my very very first taste of traveling outside of South Queens and outside of the culture of which I grew up with. And on that journey we passed through so many neighborhoods, so many, so many different places and really get a good feel of New York City. ‘Cause you have to pass through Brooklyn, you have to pass through Queens, you have to pass through Manhattan to get here. And you learn about so many different cultures on the way, you see so many different people on the way, you feel the stress of New York City on the way. But eventually, you make it, right?

“And I think, you know, that’s why it’s a very very special place to me. And as a teenager, when you have no money and you barely have any freedom, that 3 hour journey meant everything to me. It was the price I had to pay for my freedom. The price I had to pay to really learn about the world in situations where I wasn’t even allowed to get out if not for work and school. You know, this is how I got to work and how I got my independence. So, that’s why this place is special to me.”