

Reality Poets TV: Episode #6

Intro Song: ♪ Streets don't love nobody. Gotta find a new route to make it out man cause streets don't love nobody. Used to think it was all good but I found out the hard way. Streets don't love nobody. Used to think the streets was all I knew but streets don't love nobody. Nah. Streets don't love nobody♪

Vince: What's going on y'all? I'm Vince.

Var: I'm Var Viggz.

Vince: Welcome to the New Year, first episode. Guess we can call this season two.

Var: And we back with a new guest.

Vince: Let her introduce herself.

Felice: Hey, what's up everybody? My name's Felice Bell. I am a poet and a playwright, and I work with a storytelling nonprofit called Narrative Four, which is how I met these guys.

Vince: All right, cool. Yeah. Thanks for coming out.

My pleasure.

Vince: Being a guest. Appreciate you know all the help and partnerships we have with Narrative Four throughout the years. Um, you wanna tell 'em a little bit about Narrative Four and your position in Narrative Four?

Felice: Yeah, of course. So Narrative Four was co-founded by Lisa Consiglio and Colin McCann, who is an Irish novelist. And we work with young people to help them harness the power of their personal stories to create change in their classrooms, communities, and beyond. And we do that through something called a story exchange, where you are partnered with somebody you may or may not know. You share a personal story from your life with them. They share a story from their life with you, and then you retell your partner's story in the first person as if it's your own. And it's an exercise in building empathy, compassion, and community. So I started out as the director of marketing at Narrative Four back in 2019. And in 2022 or three, I moved into my current role as Director of the Artist Network.

Vince: Okay, cool. And, um, what's been your experience when you're working with youth? Because I know y'all also do like an exchange program where y'all bring kids from Kentucky.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: Down here and y'all like, swap.

Felice: Uh, the first time I met the Reality Poets was actually in 2019, I think right before the pandemic started. We had a field exchange program between a high school in the Bronx and a high school in Kentucky. And so the students would be in conversation with each other throughout the year. And then for one week, the Kentucky students would come here and for one week the Bronx students would go down south and get to know their classmates' communities and their actual lived experience.

And so we came to Coler for a session with the Reality Poets. I think you all performed and did a writing workshop with our students. So, yeah, I think, I don't know. Uh, in America, especially right now, there's so much division and one of the pleasures of working with young people is that they don't come with the same baggage adults come with. They're willing to just get to know each other as human beings.

Vince: Right.

Felice: And it doesn't matter that like you're from this political party or that political party, it's like once I know you and your story, like I care about you in a different way. And so I saw that every time with each class of students that we worked with.

Vince: I know the first time that we met y'all and you, like you said, the way y'all tell y'all stories is like, you gotta tell the other person's story or whatever. Like that was real different. We never did nothing like that. So that was a real different experience for us.

Felice: Yeah. And I think it's a different experience for most people 'cause there are very few spaces where people sit and just listen to one another. Like you might do that with your family. You might do it with your friends, but somebody you never met before, just like, sit and listen to them without like checking your phone or thinking about what you've gotta do next. There's not a lot of room for that in our lives. And I feel like that story exchange circle, there's something really special or sacred about it where people are just focused on that deep listening to another person's story.

Vince: Yeah and I think it, like from my experience, my first time doing it with somebody I didn't know, it was over Zoom. Karen, matter of fact.

Felice: Karen Hollands?

Vince: Yeah. Shout out, shout out to Karen.

Felice: Yeah, hey Karen.

Vince: Me and Karen became real cool after that. You know, um... Yeah and it was, like Var said, it was different. And then you come with the worry about, like the story be so deep, you don't want to mess it up.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: When it's your turn to repeat it.

Var: Yeah, you, you trying to tell it word for word like the person said it to you.

Felice: Right.

Var: And like you said, you know, you trying your best not to fuck it up.

Felice: Mm-hmm. I feel like that's a fear a lot of people have is they wanna do their partner's story justice. Right? It's like this person was kind enough to share this personal thing with you. You don't wanna mess it up when you tell it.

Vince: Yeah.

Felice: And so one of the things we encourage people to do is give themselves a little grace when it comes to that retelling. It's not-- Even your own stories, you don't tell them the same every time. So you're certainly not gonna tell this person's story you just met, the exact way they told it. But we like to say like, hold the story like a newborn baby, right? Like if you care about the telling of your partner's story, you give yourself grace. They give you grace. If you mess something up, it's okay. Right? Because we're all, we wanna get to like the emotional truth, right? The heart, the spirit of what that story is that was told.

Vince: Yeah. And what it done for me is like, especially after the first time where I knew like how to do it and, and what to listen for in a person's story. And, um, like I said, first time doing it was with Karen. And me and Karen, became, you know, kind of cool after that, where she reaches out, asks me how I'm doing or if she's here at one of your events, she runs up to me. After years of seeing, like we just, you know, been knowing each other for years, but that really created, you know...

Felice: Yeah.

Vince: ... that relationship. I would say besides that time, one of my other favorite times was when we did it right here during the pandemic in the church.

Felice: Oh, I wasn't there for that, but I saw the video.

Yeah, yeah. You know, that was, that was a fun experience with the cameras and very real professional, fun experience. You know, that, that had me nervous also, like repeating somebody else's story.

Felice: Right.

Vince: And you got all these film crew around you and--

Var: And be sitting in the circle.

Felice: Yeah. And you guys also had, um, was it Sean Leonardo?

Vince: Yeah.

Felice: An artist who came and did some work with you all that time.

Vince: Yeah, yep.

Felice: And it was the first time those students were able to gather in person, right? Because of the pandemic they'd been on Zoom for so long, you know.

Vince: So how, how do you think... like what, what is some of the responses you get back from the children about their experience in the program?

Felice: You know, one of the things I hear a lot from kids, especially if they're paired with an adult, is that they feel like they've never been listened to like that, right? Because they're kids, their opinions and their stories and their experiences aren't always given the same value that we give, like adults in the room. And so to feel like an equal or a peer to like your teacher who's telling a story or somebody that you just met.

So I think one, feeling like there's a value to their story maybe they hadn't seen before. And two, understanding that there are people there who wanna listen to what you have to say, right? Uh, and then I always think there's this other piece that happens where like hearing your own story told back, you might see your experience or your story in a different way. And so like it's layered. But one of the things I think the young people get the most is like, this is a starting point, right? It doesn't stop here. So like adults might have to do this, teachers might have to do this as a professional development and say, okay, that's cool. Maybe I don't want to do it again. But I think for kids it really sparks something where they're like, oh, I have more stories to tell. Right? That was one story, but I've got another story. Or like those young people who come in and they're like, I don't have a story. It's like, look, if you are a human being, your life is made up of thousands of stories. Yeah. You always have a story, you're gonna make more stories. And so...

Vince: But yeah, I also think it's like putting myself in their shoes.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: Not really wanting to. By not knowing, you know, how it can help you. Like just being shy.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: You know? But the times doing it with youth, like I see, like how excited and especially if they did it before, like they be knowing how to do it better than us. You know? And um, I think that's great for them 'cause living down south, especially Kentucky, that's like deep.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: You know, and then coming to get this New York experience and then these New York youth going down there, getting that. I think that's great 'cause it's a whole... Meeting somebody that lived in the south when I was young from New York, like it's a whole different, whole different experience. Like I never been to Kentucky, but I know like that's south. Like deep.

Felice: Yeah. I was actually supposed to go in March 2020, right before the city shut down.

Vince: Wow.

Felice: We had a trip planned that we didn't get to take. But to your point, I remember the kids from Kentucky coming up here and the kids from the Bronx, like telling them what a bacon, egg and cheese was. And it was just something that's not something they have there. Right? Or people-- not like we have it, right? Like everybody knows what it is here. And then the kids from Kentucky would always talk about "the holler," which is like a part of where they lived. And the kids in the Bronx were like, we don't know anything about, like what's a holler? Right? And so just having this like experiential experience. Right? With somebody else's life.

Var: The difference, yeah.

Felice: You know?

Vince: Yeah. Because I, um, I actually follow one of the kids from Kentucky.

Felice: Aw.

Vince: And he's a grown man now.

Felice: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Vince: Um, I forget his name. But he's a grown man with girlfriend, everything now. And I'm like damn, I remember when he was in high school.

Felice: Yeah.

And he came up.

Felice: I follow one of the students on Facebook and she's now, I think, engaged. She's in med school, right? Like...

Vince: Wow.

Felice: Like I remember you when you were just a baby.

Vince: Uh-huh. Yeah. Um, how important is this program for the youth?

Felice: I mean... We had a story about Narrative Four in the Today Show, I think last year. And at the end of the segment, the anchor said Narrative Four should be in every school in the country. Right?

Var: Oh, great.

Felice: And I was like, part of me thinks that's true. Like it might not actually be a fit for every school, right? Like, but I think empathy, compassion, listening, all of these are muscles you can build as a human. Right? So what does it mean for young people to learn how to be more compassionate? Learn how to listen more deeply to somebody who's different from them. What kind of adults do they become if they have that skill and if they start exercising that muscle young? That to me is really interesting. Right? So when you say how important is it, I think it's very important. Right? I wish some of our leaders had this training so that they could exercise those skills in their leadership roles.

Part of our staff recently just went to the Vatican and did a program with the Pope, and one of the things that he's talking about this year is that storytelling is a tool that he really wants people to use. To inspire good, to inspire change, to speak truth to power. Right? And so there's a part of me that believes that everything is storytelling, right? The commercials you watch, the politicians speech, the books you read. And so I think there's stories in American culture that we tell over and over again. Christopher Columbus discovered America, or George Washington never told a lie. That's a story, right? So what are the new narratives? What are the stories we haven't heard?

That's actually one thing that I love about you all as a community, the Reality Poets and OPEN DOORS, is that you're telling stories I haven't heard before and you have a platform to reach so many people. Like the documentary you created. Right? If you didn't make that, we wouldn't know what was happening in these walls during that time. And then that sort of... it's like a drop in the ocean that has this like ripple effect. Right? It moves people, inspires people. All of a sudden politicians are like, oh, I should know what's happening there. Let me talk to you. Right? Whether or not they follow through, they show up to say, I didn't even know this was happening. And so to me, your work also speaks to the power of story in like a real lived way. Right? Not just an exercise in a classroom.

Vince: Thank you. Thank you.

Felice: Yeah, I mean, it's true. Also your work as poets. Can I ask y'all questions now?

Var: Sure, sure.

Felice: Y'all be asking me a lot of questions.

Vince: Sure, sure.

Felice: So I know as artists you all do a lot. Visual art, poetry, music. And so I'm curious about how you came to your art form or your many art forms and how they're different from each other or the same. What makes them powerful to you? Why you continue to do them? It's like five questions in one.

Vince: I would say, um, to answer your first question, how I came about it, it just, I would say it fell in our laps. You know, we, when OPEN DOORS first started, shout out to Jennilie. She was just still trying to figure it out. Like what it was going to be, you know, then she came up with these writing workshops. At first she was bringing people that, that didn't really... you know, she was just bringing guest speakers that didn't really...

Var: Didn't work out.

Vince: Match up. Yeah.

Var: Match up to what we wanted to do.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: You know, she brought, one guy I remember she brought about, um, police reform.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: Which that is a, um, you know, important topic. Yeah. But at the time we wasn't... you know 'cause-- We wasn't into that shit.

Var: Yeah, we know how that goes. You know?

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: So she asked us what we wanted to do. We said first thing was go speak with children about gun violence being that at the time, most of us, all of us, was injured by gun violence besides Jay. But he got shot in his leg before. That's a joke that we, um, tell him.

But, yeah, and we, um, started going to schools and then I think Jennilie just came up with an idea to bring in a poet and have these writing workshops.

Var: First one was Steven, right?

Vince: Yeah.

Felice: Oh, I've heard about him. I think I might've met him one time.

Vince: Yeah, he's great.

Vince: He's great. He's great.

Var: Yeah, Steven was the first one, and then after that I think we had Joelle. They was basically like bringing out the poetry in everybody, making everybody write, and that's how we started performing through them.

Felice: Mm-hmm. Were you writing at all before them, or this was actually the start of you writing poetry was having them come in?

Vince: A long time ago.

Var: Before that, wasn't doing no writing.

Vince: But we figured out it was in this, once we realized, you know, the style of poetry that these guys had. Mm-hmm. That we didn't have to really write about Hickory Dickory Dock. You know?

Felice: Yeah.

Vince: The mouse went up the clock, type form of poetry. Mm-hmm. Um, that we really can, write about our life stories and rest in peace Tito, um, he the one that really came up with the name Reality Poets.

Felice: That's awesome.

Vince: And yeah, we went from there. Especially our poetry when we went to, um, see the kids, I think that's what really got them. Mm-hmm. 'Cause we didn't come in there telling 'em this what you should do this and just listen to me. And just hear me out. And then we added the art in that. It just came naturally. You know? Formed together naturally.

Then we all started doing like our separate, what we wanted to do separately. Mm-hmm. Like, um, I started learning how to produce music. Jay started with the Adobe. You know, making all our slideshow and movies and things. Taught his self how to do that on that platform.

Var: I've always been, I always been into art.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Var: Since I was like before this. So I just started doing it a different way, so. Like he said, everybody just started doing they own thing.

Felice: And you actually did a series of portraits of our students that we, um, shared on Instagram way back when, but it was the kids from the Bronx and kids from Kentucky. And what tools do you use for your visual art?

Var: I use different apps on my phone.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Var: And I just mix 'em up. And I pair 'em up, you know. See, see how it look good.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Var: If I think it look good, then that's what I go with.

Felice: Nice. Have you been using AI at all? Do you have any thoughts about it? Not a fan or...?

Var: Not at all.

Felice: Oh, okay.

Vince: I think, um, I do have some thoughts about that.

Is that, can we go, is that, are we gonna talk about AI for a minute?

Vince: I've been, I've been seeing the things that this thing can do. And I think it's really about the take over. Mm. Yeah, you can tell it to do anything and it does it. Like I was listening to a podcast and they was saying it's going to mess up the music game. And because all people can say, write me a song about this, and it'll write it.

Felice: Yeah.

Vince: You know? I feel like there's somebody who has an Instagram who does that he'll like, have AI create like a R&B song and a 70s style about Drake and Kendrick, and it'll spit out that song.

Felice: Yeah.

Vince: And that's like his... I mean, yeah. I mean, there's a art to it. Right? But to your point, that used to be a musician that had to do that. Yeah. It takes the creativeness out of it.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Var: Man, maybe if I could learn it or whatever, taking my time to learn it, then yeah. But right now, it is not working for me.

Felice: Yeah. I mean I know a lot of writers have issues with it because all of those platforms actually take information from all the writing that exists. Right? So if I wrote an article 25 years ago, it's on the internet, AI can like feed that into itself and like spit that information

back out in a different form without giving me any credit. And so there's some ethical issues definitely where writing and our, our concern.

Vince: Yeah definitely. I feel like it's going to, you know...

Felice: You said it's gonna take over.

Var: So I see you got a book sitting up here.

Felice: I got a book.

Vince: Yeah, let's talk about this book.

Var: Let's talk about this.

Felice: So this is my first book of poetry. It's called Viscera. It came out in 2023 in August. It was published by Etruscan Press. And I also started writing poetry very young. But one place I give a lot of credit to is the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York on the Lower East Side, 'cause that's sort of where I found-- not sort of, that is absolutely where I found my poetry community. Right? Every Friday night I'd be there at the Slam. If I wasn't on stage, I was in the audience. But, I think at the time the fire code said that room capacity was like 140 people, and on Friday nights it would just be like more than 300 people packed into a room to hear poetry. At the time I was going there, it just felt like if I could be any place in the world, this is where I want to be. Right? Listening to these poets do these things, like people were doing things with language I'd never experienced before and I was like, Ooh, I wanna do that. How do I get to do that? You know? So it just gave me a seriousness about my craft, but also an understanding that art isn't created alone in a room. Right? It's also created in community with people that you love. Right? And that my work doesn't exist off in the ether somewhere, it's part of a continuum. Right? So like a poet that I love, like Ntozake Shange, who has a history with the Nuyorican, right? I get to stand on the same stage that she was on at some point.

My friend Bossi, who wrote a blurb for the book, referred to it as a time, A time machine. And I like that description. The first and last poem are about the pandemic. Right? So it starts and ends in that period when we were locked down and isolated from each other. And then everything in between is sort of like traveling through time. My own memories, like sort of fictional ideas of like people in conversation with each other. There's like Jay-Z and Obama, and Frida Kahlo and Nina Simone talking to each other. Yeah, but I'm very proud of it. It's like one of my... a creative highlight of my life. Right? Like when you look back at your life, you're like, oh, I did that. Like, that's how it feels.

Var: That's dope.

Felice: Thank you.

Vince: Where you come up with the title? What is the title?

Felice: Thank you for asking. So, literal translation of viscera means like your internal organs, the things that keep you alive. Right? So, intestines, heart, all that stuff. I actually first heard the word though on Project Runway. And so Tim Gunn, who used to be the mentor on Project Runway, was like looking at a designer's clothes and the designer was like trying to please the judges and it wasn't working. And he was like, you've kind of lost your way. I need you to trust your viscera. Right? Like, whatever got you here to this point, that sort of like instinct around your art, focus on that. And so I wrote it down years ago, not knowing it was gonna be the title of the book. But I went through a bunch of different titles and then I was like, that's it. I kind of feel like the book is my heart and soul in word form. Right? I think it's me not thinking about the critics or me not thinking about like all the formal education I had around poetry, but like putting what I love on the page and that being the heart and soul of it. So, yeah, trust your viscera, trust your gut. I think it's a good idea for all artists.

Vince: Okay, cool. Tell them where they can get it from, Uh, you can get Viscera at Amazon, or if you don't wanna support Amazon, you can get Viscera at bookshop.org, which is, um, a place where independent bookstores from around the country send their stuff.

Felice: Uh, you can get it on the Etruscan Press website. Or you can ask your local bookstore to order it. Y'all have a new book coming out.

Vince: Soon, soon.

Felice: Can you tell me a little bit about what that is? What the process of putting it together is? If there's a title?

Var: We have another poetry book coming out.

Vince: Wheeling and Healing 2: Holding the mic in the middle of the storm.

Felice: Oh, nice. And when is it coming out?

Vince: It will be out March. We having our book launch March 20th, at RIVAA Gallery on Roosevelt Island. You know, all are welcome. If you are on our mailing list, you would definitely get an invite. This is going to be our second book. Holding the mic in the center of the storm, sending around, you know, like basically what we went through through the pandemic. Um, we also, you know, sent out submissions to our community. So we got a few people in there from our community in the book. Um, and if I'm not mistaken, you submitted one.

Felice: I don't know. I don't know.

Vince: I, I-- If I'm not mistaken, I remember you saying you submitted one. If I'm not mistaken. But I hope you did. I hope you in there.

Felice: Me too.

Vince: Yeah, we just going, you know, have the book launch, um, bring it to the community, Roosevelt Island first 'cause that's really who, you know, besides our partner organizations, making sure we was all right including Narrative Four.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: The community really came together for us. So, you know, we felt like it was only right to, you know, bring it to the community first. But we plan to take it around the city. Call it a book tour.

Felice: Nice, maybe we can do something together for the book tour.

Vince: Oh yeah, definitely.

Felice: We would love to support.

Vince: Yeah, definitely. We'd definitely love it if y'all, had time, um, come out that afternoon, you know, to the book launch. You know, it's going be, it's gonna be nice. We going to have, you know, our mentor Steven Willis there, you know, moderating this show. And yeah. We going, we gonna have fun. You know, it's been a long time coming. Especially for Alex, you know that deal with the headache of, you know, getting printed and dealing with this, you know. He can tell you more about it off camera. That's probably why he asked you who your publisher was.

Felice: You need a publisher? Maybe. All right, we'll talk.

Vince: Um, yeah, like I said, we're gonna have fun on the release. Just keep, keep looking on our Instagram, website for more information. And we plan on doing, doing a few things around poetry. We started having these poetry workshops. Well, poetry, slam poets. Um, slam events at the library on the island.

Felice: Nice.

Vince: Few we had came out real good.

Var: Open mic, you mean?

Vince: Yeah.

Felice: Yeah.

Vince and **Var:** Open mics.

Felice: That's awesome. All right, so I have another question for y'all. Um, as long as I've known of the Reality Poets, one of the things that strikes me is that you've never been about art for art's sake. It's always art for a purpose, right? To change yourself, your community,

change laws at a government level, Nursing Home Lives Matter. Right? And so I'm curious where that comes from, right? Because not, not all artists are driven by that, but it seems to be a part of your passion and purpose.

Vince: Yeah, I would say from past experiences, our experiences that we're going through now. Yeah and I feel like somebody gotta do it. You know? Especially push for change, especially, you know, to show the youth, you know, the consequences when it comes from, you know, being in the streets. Um, and I think it's more of a, like, I would say, therapy.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: By, by getting our words out, getting them on paper, sharing it, sharing our story, like you said earlier. You know, like, it's, it's very important to share your story, to help others. Like you never know who you'll help by just sharing your story. You know? It's a good feeling.

Var: You know, trying to help somebody knowing that you, you might possibly help save somebody's life or help them go through a certain situation or end up in a situation like you. You know? So we all, like V said, we all got different stories, different perspectives with things or whatever. So that's how we just go from there.

Felice: Love that. I think artists have saved my life constantly. Right? Whether it's a poem or a song, or a book. So yeah, thank y'all for the work that you do.

Vince: Yeah and, and going back to it, I think that, you know, it's so much, especially in the music nowadays and the rap. Music nowadays is, you know, it's a big influence of people getting rich off of violence. Um, like especially this generation now, you know, they rapping about what they're doing. Really getting rich. And I think that the way we do it is just trying to get it to the biggest, the most people. Touch the most people possible. Especially the youth, you know, 'cause like right now they influenced by the music. You know? And, and it's cool to them that these people is really living this lifestyle.

But you also see what's happening to them nowadays, they're getting arrested and, and spending time on, on their music or what they said in their music. You know? Getting convicted from there. By us pushing, you know, it's definitely artistic ways to express yourself in the same way, but without, you know, giving that negative message.

Felice: Yeah. I also think, like, I'm a child of the nineties, so when I was really into hip hop, it was like Native Tongues and Run-D.M.C. Right? Like just, I'm old school at this point, right? Like I went to, I went to a hip hop 50 show last summer and I was like, oh, I'm almost as old as hip hop. Right? And I was like, alright, that's just the reality. But what I can appreciate about back then was that it felt like there was a range. Right? It's like we always had rappers who talked about violence, but there are also rappers that talked about their grandma or going to school or just like--

Var: There was a big difference.

Felice: Right. Just like this, it was a fuller picture of our humanity as a people. Right? Versus now it is driven by commerce and like the people who seem to get the most attention, right, aren't necessarily the ones who are talking about anything that is of service. Right? Or good to the community. And still like other rappers exist. Right? Like who are not on those charts. And so again, I think like we need more stories. Right? We need stories that aren't that. And so...

Vince: Yeah like, like back then if rappers was talking about violence...

Felice: It wasn't a good thing.

Vince: It was, it was... But if you listen to 'em. It's not like today.

Felice: Right.

Vince: It was basically saying, don't do what I did. What I'm doing. Or don't, you know. It was, it was a message in it. Mm. Mm-hmm. You know? Um, then you had rappers like Tupac, you know, Brenda's Got a Baby, you know? He was talking to the young females. You know? So I think yeah, that's the difference between then and now. Because I am an eighties baby. I was young in the nineties, but I had older siblings put me on to music. Like it's, it's sad right now, especially what's going on when you can be, you know, like a top rapper and then you just lose it all. You know, all the millions and, and everything. And it's like people was counting on you. You got your family, you know, counting on you and just lose it all. It's just sad.

Var: You end up dead or in jail.

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: Yeah. I'm a person that be on YouTube and be watching a lot of blogs. Watching blogs on like drill rap. Like from certain towns. And I was just recently looking at one like in Philadelphia and how the drill rap really raised the violence 'cause they was really talking about people two blocks from where they hang out at. And having beef with. And one rapper I was looking at and following, then to come to find out he dead. He was recently killed. But he was, you know, made a name for himself as Mr. Disrespectful talking about the dead, rapping about the dead. He said it, you know, once I realized I can make money by dissing the dead, rapping about the dead, you know, and what they call, they ops.

Var: It was all the way disrespectful. And they be going, they be going to they graves and all that. Smuggling and taking pictures and all that.

Felice: That's rough.

Var: That's totally disrespectful.

Felice: Yeah. Yeah.

Var: So they, they looking for a reason to get killed.

Felice: Yeah. It's also like something about the views, right? Like I'll do anything for the likes, for follows. Right?

Var: That too.

Felice: Including disrespect a grave. Right? Which feels like there's lines.

Var: That's the thing with nowadays, social media got the world fucked up. It's all about views. Views and likes, you know. Whoever get the most views and likes. You know?

Felice: What's crazy is like, there was, I remember my friend telling me about some study, like about like Instagram stories and how people retain almost nothing from what they see. So like they see it, they get the like, but like then it's gone. Right? Versus like, you might have a poem I remember forever. Right? And so, I think it comes back to value. Right? Whose stories we value, where we place our value, what we teach children to value.

Vince: Yeah and I think that's why it's important for, programs like Narrative Four, OPEN DOORS. You know, we try to change the narrative. At least a little bit.

Felice: Yeah.

Vince: We save one person up from the streets, you know, we did our job. Yeah. You know, like my mother used to tell me all the time, you can't save everybody. But you know, you can save somebody. You know?

Felice: Mm-hmm.

Vince: Did some good.

Felice: I love that.

Var: Hopefully.

Vince: We want to thank you for coming out.

Felice: Thank you for having me. It was great hanging out with y'all.

Var: Appreciate you.

Vince: Y'all, Viscera, you know, go get that.

Var: Come back, come back anytime.

Felice: Thank you.

Vince: Yeah, definitely.

Felice: I'll see y'all on tour.

Vince: Yeah, definitely.

Felice: Congratulations on your new book.

Vince: Alright. Thank you.

Var: Thank you.

Vince: Thanks. All right yo, we out.

Var: Peace.