

Zofia Górnicz

Hello. Recording now.

So if you could just begin with introducing yourself, just your name, what you do, what you studied in college... anything you feel like sharing.

Jonathan Verbeck

I'm Jonathan Verbeck. I'm 23. I graduated from BU with a Bachelor's in Music Theory and Composition in 2021 and now I work in a grocery store.

Zofia Górnicz

00:00:33

So we're going to start with an easy question. If you can think back to your childhood, did you have any activities that used to do with your family growing up? Something that you really like to do with your family, or something that was like a common activity that you would do with your family.

Jonathan Verbeck

Okay yeah. Easy, easy answer. We would watch TV a bunch. We watch things together as a family, so one was the Daily Show with Jon Stewart. And other... typically comedy.

So seasonal activities, I think I remember. Like the almost yearly like pumpkin picking and fall festivities. Pumpkin carving, gingerbread houses, and yeah, those sorts of seasonal things.

But yeah, sailing once we got a little bit older with my dad, and other aquatic things I suppose.

Zofia Górnicz

If you could pick a favorite activity...?

Jonathan Verbeck

That's a good question. But yeah, probably like... probably when we first started sailing and such. That was just something, like a very powerful experience, I suppose, yeah, being out on the water. Yeah, I'll say, probably that.

Zofia Górnicz

00:02:09

Who was with you during these activities, like who in your family?

Jonathan Verbeck

So yeah, so it's just yep my dad, my mom, my brother, and I. My brother's three years older. We started sailing school, at the same time, when my dad was gifted a boat. Ironically, although my brother has, like, a career in sailing now, he stopped sailing after the first year and I kept doing it.

And yeah. You know, a lot of those things were with my dad. We got very involved with the sailing club, so the whole family would sort of get involved. The four of us.

Zofia Górnicz

So do you still do this activity, sometimes, when you go visit your family?

Jonathan Verbeck

No, no.

Zofia Górnicz

00:03:02

Would you like to be doing it?

Jonathan Verbeck

Um yeah yes. Although boats are expensive.

Yeah, it's kind of... It's like I said, my brother has a career that involves sailing now. And he lives on a sailboat, so you know, he's still... I'm able to sail with him whenever I have the opportunity to, but uh, it's not much of a really family activity anymore.

Zofia Górnicz

00:03:33

Do you have any specific times that you were sailing with your family that is particularly memorable to you?

Jonathan Verbeck

um yeah I would say.

Well, there was there was just yeah one incident where the boat the boat went over that was actually when my brother stopped sailing.

Is a little freaked out by the boat capsizing which is kind of which was kind of business as usual, I learned but that's definitely very memorable.

And so.

But yeah there's definitely just like.

Maybe hard to pinpoint an exact one because, like the summer just seems like a smear of these like sailing memories, but like yeah wrapped ups, with the sailing club everybody would.

Like tie their boats up together in the river and you know.

Just have like snacks and coping whatever on the water so.

that's as far as like the positive memories go yeah that's.

tons of things like that yeah.

Zofia Górnicz

00:04:40

If you could up think back to one of these times are just like in general, like.

yeah think about that you are back and experience as a child, how would you describe, who you were at that moment, like how how were you as a child, if you could describe yourself.

Okay, if that's a little bit hard to do, maybe try to think about if, like your parents have described you in a certain way, and like Oh, you are such a blank.

yeah you know, like if you can think of from an external point of view, how you were as a child that's a little easier.

Okay introspective but.

Jonathan Verbeck

Definitely energetic.

hyper I would even say.

Always sort of you know, I was into a lot of different things, so I found that even when I was yeah even like when sailing my mind wasn't always on the sailing it puts on other things I enjoyed.

Playing music eventually like little older it's like playing video games, but yeah so probably just like pretty hyper both like physically and mentally.

But also.

Definitely personable.

Compared to my brother I enjoyed like the more social aspects of the specifically sailing.

I liked the yeah that's where people around.

Just yeah.

funny trying to just enjoy.

kind of like yeah and probably a lot of time this isn't obviously a unique to me, but like blissfully ignorant, you know just like.

Just like having fun almost in my my own world of.

Not a no yeah not in the way of like shutting out the world, but like yeah just having fun in my own world I guess yeah.

Zofia Górnicz

00:06:43

So, you said you were hyper both like physically and like what was your interests and stuff.

Jonathan Verbeck

yeah yeah and just like yeah thinking to like I often find.

I wonder, sometimes if some of my memories and these things are clouded up because, even when I was at those things I wasn't probably so present so like thinking about other things thinking what I was going to do later thinking about.

Depending on like what age, like a project.

If this is very young, I was just thinking about Star Wars so.

yeah.

Zofia Górnicz

00:07:21

So when you have like you've had all these different interesting always thinking about did you have any like aspirations as a child, like anything that you like.

You always went back there anything you wanted to do that, you thought about maybe when you were growing up that you wanted to do during it.

Jonathan Verbeck

yeah um I think like the earliest thing I can remember, is like wanting to.

Wanting to write.

yeah wanting.

it's just it's good, even so, still good posture.

yeah probably write maybe.

Zofia Górnicz

In the recording.

Jonathan Verbeck

Sorry, no it's good really good oh my God.

But yeah like I think when I was really young, I wanted to write books, whatever that meant.

To someone like arguably too young to really write i'm definitely too young to write but um they know that eventually kind of like went over to music and sort of stuff but like yeah this idea of.

Something usually creative writing film almost completely forgot like filmmaking with very, very into like making films wanted to be a director.

And yeah now in my adult life, I still find that.

I don't often maybe I want to more, but I have yet these ideas like of making like some sort of video or something and I realized that I could just like you know act on those things, but so yeah like some form of like creating something does.

Zofia Górnicz

00:09:05

So, would you say that you you've got this like you know.

Creative like aspiration creative like ideology that you always want to create, would you say you you pick that up from someone in your family or was that just something that came naturally to you.

Jonathan Verbeck

yeah i'm to say like it was picked up.

from someone in my family like you know for my mom.

or my dad.

i'm not so sure I mean to deny them like the fact that they like created me would be unfair.

So definitely like they definitely they nurtured it.

So I would like their creative people, but you know professionally you know my mom studied history and then teaching and went into teaching my dad was an advertising and then move to teaching.

which are both you know you know advertising and teaching are very creative fields but not so much like this classically creative, I guess, or like this just raw.

sort of.

yeah but definitely as parents yeah they nurtured it they raised it with what they exposed me to with how they.

encouraged it like you know music lessons on film like summer camps things like that, like they so they definitely nurtured it and encouraged it, but I i'm not sure if I could say I really you know, there was like a role model.

Who was around, very often, who was like yeah.

it's like creative.

spirit I guess yeah yeah.

Zofia Górnicz

00:10:51

When I interviewed Jeremy, we kind of connected on this similarity we had growing up thought.

His dad would like draw with him and his brother, and I was like oh my dad did that with me my sister to we would sit down at the kitchen table and like we would draw things in my case, my dad would be like we're drawing monsters, and like make up some weird creature.

In there, so can you think of anything like that maybe.

This yeah anything like that.

Something that may be got you into creativity, or maybe not got you into it, but something that like you did with your family that kind of taught you about maybe subconsciously talking about creativity is something good to have.

Jonathan Verbeck

My mom maybe yeah my mom wouldn't help me my mom would write with me.

And so before like I really could write she would like you know scribe and make things like me then right together, there was times reshare writing.

So yeah definitely like kind of kind of like that, like drawing with your dad like.

Certainly right with my mom my dad and I.

very poor dad although he's not a musician is very musical very nice really likes music so through yeah in a lot of music, I was exposed to came through him.

Playing guests, the tune on the radio, which is like in the car.

yeah, so I would say, those sorts of things stick out.

Zofia Górnicz

00:12:32

um so you mentioned a few different family members, your mom, dad, your brother.

Is there someone that you relied on the most growing up out of these people, or would you say Maybe someone else outside of your family, but your light on.

Jonathan Verbeck

yeah I probably.

If I had to choose probably my mom.

yeah my mom is the mother of two boys, so that it's like a I don't know, maybe there's not really a thing, but I feel like there is a certain type of mothership to two boys.

And so.

You know it's, not to say, obviously I didn't rely on on my dad but.

yeah probably my mom outside of the family, I would say, like the nuclear family like honestly not not particularly.

Not there were definitely other people for outside of my family who made an impact, but.

Like I wouldn't say that there was some like one person that kind of like consistently someone I really relied on outside of the family.

Zofia Górnicz

Can you recall, maybe a moment where.

You like we're able to rely on your mom like doesn't have to be you know negative, just like any moment, where you maybe went to her for for advice or anything like that, where you're able to really rely on her.

Jonathan Verbeck

yeah.

Like a specific example i'm not sure.

I think I find that I can I feel more comfortable being open with my mom.

or also that my mom does something that's good for me were often she'll she'll know before I say anything and so she'll often be the one to like I almost rely on her to initiate that openness, I guess.

Because I feel like I want, on my own.

And she's got a good instincts to know and to yeah.

Zofia Górnicz

So, would you say it was.

Like for like emotional matters like when when you were feeling maybe stressed or overwhelmed by things that you kind of relied on her like to notice that in you and to kind of talk to you.

Jonathan Verbeck

yeah absolutely yeah definitely many, many times, where.

yeah she just seemed to just say something, be the first to say something yeah.

Zofia Górnicz

So, would you say, this is the the same case now that you know when you are able to see scenery don't live with your parents right now.

yeah, but when you are like around them like would you say that your mom can like pick up on, if you are like not in a good mental state, but she couldn't like right away tell us a chance to talk to you, but.

yeah good eye for you.

Jonathan Verbeck

yeah definitely and she's she's pretty good even like over yeah over the phone over over texts yeah it's surprising sometimes she can tell just yeah like over text even but so yeah even yeah it's still something I do think now, though I am a little bit.

Why not i'm honestly not sure because.

Since I like moved out in August 2020 I haven't been.

very, very much time with my parents aside, you know, two trips back.

So it's it's hard to really say what it's like now, but um yeah I would say so that reliance.

Still, she sort of picks it up, but I think it's like a little bit.

yeah a little bit more open now without that.

Zofia Górnicz:

00:16:43

So if you can maybe think about on a trial for, just like in general.

I don't know if you've ever thought about this, but is there any like valuable life lessons that you can say that you've learned as a child that's a very broad question.

Jonathan Verbeck

yeah like maybe maybe kind of the most most valuable one most valuable lesson anything my parents could like I still I try to I still I use I.

I feel like I picked it up that I, I can also notice it's something that I can it's almost it's something that I sometimes don't see in in other people is just kind of like this attempt to not let others or.

Not so oftentimes it's described as like what other people do or just events things in the environment, not to try and let like to try to not let those change how I act what I how I think like to.

You could say it's to take the take the high road but it's not often like that it's sort of just yeah trying to not let things change who you are what what you say what you do.

yeah I guess that.

Zofia Górnicz

You say.

Open time, no, no.

Jonathan Verbeck

I guess, I was just gonna say like seeing my parents who.

Both are very involved with their unions as teachers and um.

yeah like.

I guess, seeing them kind of interact with problems with administrators parents things like that and to I guess see them kind of be emotional and frustrated about it at dinner, but then like a handle themselves.

Like whether it really comes down to it, and not yeah so definitely like.

yeah learning to seeing I guess.

Zofia Górnicz

yeah so you learn by like observing your friends.

Jonathan Verbeck

yeah yeah I mean there's definitely like taught it to whenever I had problems with with people growing up, you know that was always there they're sort of you know mantra like don't let you know don't let the way someone acts change change the way you act.

So yeah.

Zofia Górnicz

We just the part about is just like being true to yourself also.

Jonathan Verbeck:

Yeah definitely something also then encouraged by you know, like.

My parents who you know, like.

yeah encouraged me to do the things that I wanted to do.

Music lessons do certain after school activities.

yeah I want to point I my dad I wanted to try out for a little League and my dad like help me train and then I was like I don't want to try out for a little you didn't know it was just like that it kind of faded away so it was.

yeah definitely a lot of encouragement to like.

appreciate myself.

Zofia Górnicz

00:20:01

So, would you say when when you wanted to do like extracurriculars it was you were the one that took the initiative like you decided, I want to do this, and when your parents kind of support you.

Jonathan Verbeck

Absolutely.

176

00:20:12.780 --> 00:20:22.980

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah like I think that's the good example is like my wanting to try out for little League and so like my dad take me to the ballpark to like you know hit balls catch balls.

177

00:20:24.270 --> 00:20:26.850

Jonathan Verbeck: But then when I kind of got cold feet.

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00:20:28.560 --> 00:20:36.990

Jonathan Verbeck: Like there wasn't you know there wasn't a push there wasn't like well you know we spent all this time, training, we spent all this time working on it.

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00:20:38.280 --> 00:20:51.510

Jonathan Verbeck: Maybe Maybe I should have been pushed into it honestly I don't know but um I think it's it's better I could you know I could audition for the play or I could do stage crew or.

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00:20:53.040 --> 00:20:55.560

Jonathan Verbeck: You know it's whatever like.

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00:20:57.780 --> 00:20:58.050

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah.

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00:20:58.620 --> 00:21:10.890

Zofia Górnicz: But were there any times, where your parents may be pushed you to do anything that you maybe didn't particularly want to do that much or maybe and just like your academics like did they want you to study more or anything like that.

Jonathan Verbeck

00:21:11.100 --> 00:21:12.120

Definitely.

184

00:21:13.800 --> 00:21:19.260

Jonathan Verbeck: In like early in your high school like late middle school in high school.

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00:21:20.970 --> 00:21:29.910

Jonathan Verbeck: My parents, though, like one of the problems like that we had then was just like they didn't want me playing as many video games, as I honestly once.

186

00:21:30.810 --> 00:21:35.400

Jonathan Verbeck: And I remember that there were some talks, there were some conversations some.

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00:21:36.240 --> 00:21:45.240

Jonathan Verbeck: One particularly I think was like my mom sort of said, like don't you remember you know used to like do all these to write and practice a lot and.

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00:21:45.540 --> 00:21:58.980

Jonathan Verbeck: You know, go out on the weekends, you know play hockey in the dead end whatever and then she was like and you don't do any of that stuff anymore, so I would say that that was really the only time that.

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00:22:00.360 --> 00:22:09.000

Jonathan Verbeck: I like they were kind of encouraging me against my will hindsight, for me, does not have any.

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00:22:10.200 --> 00:22:11.970

Jonathan Verbeck: Like crutches against them and.

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00:22:12.240 --> 00:22:14.820

Jonathan Verbeck: would probably agree and it appreciates.

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00:22:15.240 --> 00:22:17.130

Jonathan Verbeck: That but um yeah.

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00:22:18.870 --> 00:22:30.330

Zofia Górnicz: Earlier, you said that maybe your dad should have pushed you to doing like little League and stuff So do you think that you will you may be wish that they had taken a different approach, with certain things.

194

00:22:31.200 --> 00:22:32.790

Zofia Górnicz: Or is that, just like that, like one girl.

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00:22:33.540 --> 00:22:33.930

Zofia Górnicz: yeah.

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00:22:34.020 --> 00:22:34.920

Jonathan Verbeck: Well, I don't think.

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00:22:35.130 --> 00:22:37.470

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah I don't think that I won.

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00:22:38.850 --> 00:22:47.460

Jonathan Verbeck: I don't think that I wanted them to take a whole different approach, I kind of only say that because I regret not like actually playing baseball.

199

00:22:48.780 --> 00:23:03.330

Jonathan Verbeck: You know now that i'm an adult but, like the differences, the difference is minimal, I think I was like pretty young, I think that was before middle school, maybe, maybe that was in.

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00:23:04.530 --> 00:23:07.620

Jonathan Verbeck: I might have been before middle school or just very early middle school so.

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00:23:10.920 --> 00:23:20.340

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah I guess I say it only because I wonder if I just kind of got nervous about playing with other kids and that's why I didn't want to do it and if.

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00:23:20.730 --> 00:23:32.040

Jonathan Verbeck: Maybe I had been pushed to like just join and get over like the anxiety of playing with other other kids in like you know League, then it would have been great but.

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00:23:33.060 --> 00:23:34.260

Jonathan Verbeck: I guess yeah like I said.

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00:23:35.340 --> 00:23:40.740

Jonathan Verbeck: Well, my child's have spoke plenty of other things that were yeah and encouraged and such so.

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00:23:42.480 --> 00:23:46.260

Jonathan Verbeck: I guess the answer is no, I wouldn't want Am I mistaken completely different approach.

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00:23:48.270 --> 00:23:53.670

Zofia Górnicz: Do you maybe wish that like maybe they could have noticed that you were just like a little nervous about it.

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00:23:54.930 --> 00:23:58.950

Zofia Górnicz: And maybe they could have pushed you to do it because they knew you wanted to do it.

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00:23:59.310 --> 00:24:00.360

Jonathan Verbeck: it's yeah.

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00:24:00.480 --> 00:24:05.340

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah absolutely it's hard to remember, because i'm sure they probably did and.

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00:24:05.520 --> 00:24:13.290

Jonathan Verbeck: i'm sure they probably did push me like like oh Come on, you know you just like nervous you don't want to do it, but I probably resisted of it.

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00:24:13.980 --> 00:24:15.540

Jonathan Verbeck: That much and.

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00:24:15.960 --> 00:24:25.680

Jonathan Verbeck: You know, and I guess it's not like yeah it's not like the cave to everything that I did or didn't want to do we're just like but.

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00:24:27.000 --> 00:24:27.960

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah it mean.

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00:24:29.550 --> 00:24:37.080

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah only I guess only now it's kind of like oh that's something I would have liked to experience but um I kind of can't remember how I really felt at the time.

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00:24:37.980 --> 00:24:38.250

yeah.

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00:24:39.630 --> 00:24:45.060

Zofia Górnicz: So when you have this this like time where you're playing too many video games and stuff.

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00:24:45.270 --> 00:24:54.720

Zofia Górnicz: yeah um did you have any other like maybe like rebellious phases like I don't know like to a billion like would you say you had like one of those phases.

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00:24:55.020 --> 00:24:58.170

Jonathan Verbeck: um yeah I was definitely like kind of with the video game.

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00:24:59.220 --> 00:25:02.160

Jonathan Verbeck: And i'm like playing online.

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00:25:03.540 --> 00:25:06.180

Jonathan Verbeck: Playing online with people and.

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00:25:07.260 --> 00:25:09.000

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah just like being up really late.

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00:25:10.320 --> 00:25:13.800

Jonathan Verbeck: Staying up all night something like every now and then.

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00:25:15.840 --> 00:25:32.400

Jonathan Verbeck: So, but, honestly yeah like as far as rebellion goes it wasn't it wasn't very it wasn't very rebellious I didn't like I didn't try drinking until I was already in college I didn't smoke anything.

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00:25:34.410 --> 00:25:43.170

Jonathan Verbeck: about the craziest late nights I had were just like yeah mountain dew fueled benders in movies, with friends.

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00:25:45.960 --> 00:25:58.020

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah so I guess yeah it was rebellious in the sense of like just kind of wanted I just was like in this life of like yeah don't care about school, just like playing like video games and people online.

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00:25:59.100 --> 00:26:03.360

Jonathan Verbeck: and staying up late but pretty team versus for rebellious phase.

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00:26:05.010 --> 00:26:18.360

Zofia Górnicz: Fair ticket there wasn't really anything that may be, you are like rebelling against other than like you're your own responsibilities you weren't like rebelling against your parents really it was more about guns, I could do me oh.

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00:26:18.810 --> 00:26:25.290

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah pretty much I mean i'm like my brother, I think, so my.

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00:26:27.870 --> 00:26:40.620

Jonathan Verbeck: my brother definitely had a more of a rebellious phase where he was rebellious against my parents, but it was mostly against the school and kind of just like my parents like they're sort of like well, you have to do it.

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00:26:43.560 --> 00:26:46.770

Jonathan Verbeck: And because often like often it was.

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00:26:48.270 --> 00:26:53.940

Jonathan Verbeck: my brother has dyspraxia which is not quite dyslexia, but it's it's.

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00:26:54.870 --> 00:27:09.720

Jonathan Verbeck: It is like a learning disability, so he was not accommodated very well at all in our public school system so it's something that my parents, you know did fight with the school system, but at the end of the day, would lead to like sort of rebellious.

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00:27:10.770 --> 00:27:13.050

Jonathan Verbeck: rebellious acts from my brother.

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00:27:14.700 --> 00:27:22.560

Jonathan Verbeck: And so I don't know how much of that is like you know second child advantage of like kind of having.

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00:27:23.880 --> 00:27:30.150

Jonathan Verbeck: Not just a better parents, but yeah more more like seasoned parents parents with experience.

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00:27:32.220 --> 00:27:35.340

Jonathan Verbeck: or just me me growing up in and seeing that.

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00:27:37.980 --> 00:27:43.170

Jonathan Verbeck: But yeah so definitely I was like yeah let's read my brother is like the smelliest one yeah.

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00:27:45.180 --> 00:27:47.130

Zofia Górnica: yeah I can definitely relate to that.

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00:27:47.250 --> 00:27:48.300

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah yeah.

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00:27:48.420 --> 00:27:52.800

Zofia Górnicz: And yeah and I think it's some it is probably partially like second child.

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00:27:52.890 --> 00:27:55.080

Zofia Górnicz: Young youngest child syndrome.

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00:27:55.110 --> 00:27:57.180

Zofia Górnicz: But yeah get it a little easier.

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00:27:59.400 --> 00:28:04.230

Zofia Górnicz: So, would you say like How would you maybe describe your relationship with your brother, maybe during.

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00:28:05.070 --> 00:28:15.960

Zofia Górnicz: Times of rebellion for me personally, like when my sister was kind of having these moments, with a rebellion like our relationship kind of also got a little tense.

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00:28:16.590 --> 00:28:23.130

Zofia Górnicz: because she was like Oh, like you, don't get me like you have it easy because you're the favorite because you're younger like she like.

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00:28:24.420 --> 00:28:24.750

Zofia Górnicz: Good.

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00:28:30.360 --> 00:28:35.100

Jonathan Verbeck: I like how you have the room that the sensor really makes you work for it.

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00:28:37.320 --> 00:28:39.540

Zofia Górnicz: I really missed out on.

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00:28:41.910 --> 00:28:59.010

Zofia Górnicz: My train of thought so yeah um my my my relationship with my sister like it got kind of tense during these times, and like we're very close for a lot of like the time that we were both in high school and we only really started liking each other again.

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00:29:00.090 --> 00:29:01.320

Zofia Górnicz: When it's we're both in college.

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00:29:01.440 --> 00:29:03.960

Zofia Górnicz: So, would you say your experiences similar or.

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00:29:05.130 --> 00:29:06.720

Jonathan Verbeck: I don't think so honestly.

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00:29:08.010 --> 00:29:09.480

Jonathan Verbeck: I say pretty close to my.

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00:29:09.480 --> 00:29:17.190

Jonathan Verbeck: brother um I didn't really get involved with like the like arguments between my brother and my parents.

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00:29:18.420 --> 00:29:23.430

Jonathan Verbeck: and honestly like I kind of felt like I always played this role of like I was.

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00:29:24.840 --> 00:29:29.130

Jonathan Verbeck: I my brother didn't feel like I was on my parents side so.

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00:29:31.020 --> 00:29:41.940

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah it was still it was it was so good i'd say the most like rebellious part like time in his life is like he had it yeah he had a jeep and like you know.

258

00:29:43.380 --> 00:29:45.690

Jonathan Verbeck: He could drive yeah and so.

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00:29:46.770 --> 00:29:49.410

Jonathan Verbeck: I yeah he, like we hung out still.

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00:29:51.060 --> 00:30:01.020

Jonathan Verbeck: And it was definitely like we weren't as close because you know when we were growing up, we are obviously in the House together all the time, but then, as we got older is like we.

261

00:30:01.740 --> 00:30:09.570

Jonathan Verbeck: We go out and do our own things it's friends, our own age, but um I wouldn't say that it really affected her relationship much.

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00:30:11.130 --> 00:30:11.310

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah.

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00:30:11.670 --> 00:30:12.630

Zofia Górnicz: he's three years older.

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00:30:12.900 --> 00:30:16.740

Zofia Górnicz: yeah so would you say that your relationship was more kind of like.

265

00:30:17.970 --> 00:30:32.190

Zofia Górnicz: Like a like a friendly like a friendship type, because I know a lot of people who have a wider age gap might see like an older sibling kind of as like a third parent did you have that experience or was it more just like.

266

00:30:32.520 --> 00:30:35.340

Jonathan Verbeck: It was yeah definitely not hearing i'm.

267

00:30:35.400 --> 00:30:36.030

feeling.

268

00:30:37.650 --> 00:30:41.310

Jonathan Verbeck: When I was in like my brother never babysat mean.

269

00:30:42.330 --> 00:30:47.160

Jonathan Verbeck: I guess like when I when we when I first got to middle school we get home earlier than my parents.

270

00:30:48.180 --> 00:31:02.850

Jonathan Verbeck: I guess my brother kind of babysat, but it was more like he was they were okay with leaving us alone, and he was just like you know he's the older one so um but definitely like when I think about those times it wasn't like.

271

00:31:04.140 --> 00:31:19.440

Jonathan Verbeck: It wasn't like he felt like he was an authority authoritative figure like a third parent it definitely was like fun in fact yeah like we definitely got up to some some shenanigans in those in those times and we were.

272

00:31:20.490 --> 00:31:22.650

Jonathan Verbeck: home after school so.

273

00:31:25.830 --> 00:31:29.940

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah it was always like yeah much bread and like a friendlier like brotherly.

274

00:31:30.360 --> 00:31:30.810

yeah.

275

00:31:32.190 --> 00:31:32.460

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah.

276

00:31:33.060 --> 00:31:35.880

Zofia Górnicz: we're just say it's the same now when you get to see each other.

277

00:31:36.390 --> 00:31:37.350

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah.

278

00:31:37.470 --> 00:31:39.570

Jonathan Verbeck: it's a little bit more like mellow now.

279

00:31:39.690 --> 00:31:43.050

Jonathan Verbeck: For sure, but now it's it's very similar.

280

00:31:44.550 --> 00:31:50.340

Jonathan Verbeck: I saw him because you're like to like three weeks ago, four weeks ago, maybe.

281

00:31:52.170 --> 00:31:54.840

Jonathan Verbeck: And yeah we rode our bikes like we rode bikes through the city.

282

00:31:55.950 --> 00:32:06.450

Jonathan Verbeck: which was great because it was like kind of like the thing we used to do and yeah it was still this very much like just like just messing around pretty much so, so the same.

283

00:32:07.530 --> 00:32:12.000

Zofia Górnicz: thing thanks um so was there ever.

284

00:32:12.180 --> 00:32:12.870

Zofia Górnicz: Like a moment.

285

00:32:13.710 --> 00:32:20.490

Zofia Górnicz: Where you maybe like went to a friend's house and your experience kind of like a culture shock when you met their family.

286

00:32:22.710 --> 00:32:23.340

Jonathan Verbeck: um.

287

00:32:24.600 --> 00:32:47.280

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah it wasn't much of like it wasn't honestly much of a of a culture shock because I mean it wasn't in a bad way but yeah I made friends in fifth grade with one of my still like one of my closest friends harsh, he was born in India his parents are you know for from from India.

288

00:32:48.420 --> 00:32:58.230

Jonathan Verbeck: Although he didn't come from India his dad worked for verizon and moved all around cities in England, he was in you know it's all over the place, but he came to our small town.

289

00:32:59.340 --> 00:33:09.960

Jonathan Verbeck: Is that really had no intention of planting there, so they budgeted they didn't they didn't get long island's very expensive, as you know, you know.

290

00:33:10.440 --> 00:33:25.680

Jonathan Verbeck: So they got kind of an apartment in like the sort of you know, it was like the cheap apartments in in in sayville and so when I went to his house, for the first time.

291

00:33:26.910 --> 00:33:35.910

Jonathan Verbeck: i'd never really been like in these apartments and you know I mean they're they're they're obviously they're fine but yeah they.

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00:33:37.800 --> 00:33:46.830

Jonathan Verbeck: You know, it was like a stairway that went up from this front door and, like the stairs which is old and there was no air conditioning so in the summer, it was brutally hot.

293

00:33:48.060 --> 00:33:54.090

Jonathan Verbeck: His mother didn't speak much English and i'd never really had, I never had a friend at that time, who.

294

00:33:55.200 --> 00:34:00.180

Jonathan Verbeck: Who didn't like whose parents didn't really speak English his dad did speak obviously spoke.

295

00:34:01.200 --> 00:34:03.060

Jonathan Verbeck: Like English to work for verizon.

296

00:34:04.110 --> 00:34:15.870

Jonathan Verbeck: So as as mother cooked all the time and so i'm not sure like I there was a culture shock definitely is is smelling Indian food, especially in a in a hot apartment.

297

00:34:17.940 --> 00:34:18.810

Jonathan Verbeck: that's like.

298

00:34:20.250 --> 00:34:24.030

Jonathan Verbeck: That was definitely like the probably the biggest like culture shock of.

299

00:34:25.320 --> 00:34:25.800

Jonathan Verbeck: But uh.

300

00:34:28.080 --> 00:34:38.430

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah so it was really a playing like playing at his apartment with the neighbors summer from Pakistan, you know um so yeah definitely I kind of I guess got exposed to.

301

00:34:40.260 --> 00:34:40.710

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah like.

302

00:34:41.790 --> 00:34:49.080

Jonathan Verbeck: People who were white and so yeah so it wasn't a culture shock in like an overwhelming way but definitely.

303

00:34:50.580 --> 00:34:51.210

Jonathan Verbeck: Try to do.

304

00:34:52.680 --> 00:34:54.300

Jonathan Verbeck: see things that were different.

305

00:34:55.470 --> 00:35:11.100

Zofia Górnicz: So sorry if that wasn't completely clear when I say culture shock of this is interesting anyway to shock I kind of meant like i'm like the way that their family is in comparison to yours, that you were kind of like like shocked at their family culture, if that makes more sense.

306

00:35:11.130 --> 00:35:11.460

Jonathan Verbeck: I guess.

307

00:35:11.790 --> 00:35:12.720

Zofia Górnicz: If you can.

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00:35:13.170 --> 00:35:19.800

Zofia Górnicz: If you want to think of the same friends like would you say that they had very different family dynamics and your family.

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00:35:20.640 --> 00:35:24.000

Zofia Górnicz: Like you're kind of like surprised like just i'll give an example.

310

00:35:24.000 --> 00:35:33.330

Zofia Górnicz: Yes, when I grew up with like immigrant Polish family, so we take off our shoes, when we come inside.

311

00:35:34.470 --> 00:35:47.850

Zofia Górnicz: there's kind of a level of like respect to your parents and your grandparents, so you don't like ever call your parent by like their first name you don't even call like you don't say the word "you" to them in Polish.

312

00:35:47.940 --> 00:35:54.600

Zofia Górnicz: And like even in English, like my parents would get annoyed if I said "you" in English because they would like translated.

313

00:35:54.810 --> 00:35:56.160

Zofia Górnicz: yeah the informal.

314

00:35:56.460 --> 00:36:16.860

Zofia Górnicz: So it's like stuff like that that you there's like a level of like your elders are more respected, and when I met some of my like friends families who are like many generations like on long island Italian American and they walk in to the House like shoes are on in like bedroom.

315

00:36:18.000 --> 00:36:18.810

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah like yeah.

316

00:36:18.960 --> 00:36:24.900

Zofia Górnicz: If they talk to their parents like “yo Steve” and then like the dad will respond like “Hey bitch”

317

00:36:26.100 --> 00:36:28.260

Zofia Górnicz: You know, not every like American families like this up.

318

00:36:29.460 --> 00:36:42.000

Zofia Górnicz: You know kid, but this is like a very casual relationship with with the parents and the kids and like swearing to each other, and it was like totally fine I was just like their family, culture and when I like experienced that was like oh my God like what the hell.

319

00:36:42.720 --> 00:36:44.640

Zofia Górnicz: Like I was like i'm gonna take my shoes off anyway.

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00:36:45.480 --> 00:36:49.500

Zofia Górnicz: You know, like stuff like that, like if there was anything like that.

321

00:36:50.400 --> 00:36:51.360

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah like.

322

00:36:52.890 --> 00:37:11.010

Jonathan Verbeck: I had so with harsh honestly like family culture wise wasn't you know very much you know, we were able to like he slept over at his at his house, you know we did like the things that you know all like you know all the boys are age we're doing.

323

00:37:12.390 --> 00:37:15.180

Jonathan Verbeck: But I would say my oldest friends jake.

324

00:37:16.560 --> 00:37:25.350

Jonathan Verbeck: He lives in a House down the block and his dad's his grandpa and his dad side live there and so.

325

00:37:27.450 --> 00:37:45.150

Jonathan Verbeck: Like yeah and hit, I guess, like yeah his family had like has alcoholism that runs through it so basically had a grandfather that lived in the House and it's like yeah kind of kind of like to put it like very like bluntly was like kind of a just a drunk mean old man.

326

00:37:46.710 --> 00:38:03.390

Jonathan Verbeck: and very stressful like you know his his dad worked for the mta so he had a very stressful job smoke the I guess the biggest culture shock with him was the fact that his parents smoked inside.

327

00:38:04.770 --> 00:38:21.360

Jonathan Verbeck: And so, like yeah going into his house and like just there being a very like very thick cigarettes now in the House on yeah just something neither my parents have ever smoked cigarettes, so that was pretty shocking.

328

00:38:23.040 --> 00:38:34.770

Jonathan Verbeck: Like you know his dad was a little like his dad was never his dad was definitely not like abusive at all, but he he yelled a little bit more yellow of a lot.

329

00:38:35.700 --> 00:38:49.110

Jonathan Verbeck: So, like that was pretty shocking so where where Jay was used to his dad kind of coming home and yelling about a chore not being done, it was like almost like it was like jarring and a little scary other friends.

330

00:38:51.360 --> 00:39:00.300

Jonathan Verbeck: Who just had like a more like open relationship with their parents that were just I didn't have very many taboos, as my parents, but.

331

00:39:01.470 --> 00:39:10.230

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah when my friends loop, just like was his family was Catholic so that was a very Catholic so that was like sometimes shocking.

332

00:39:11.850 --> 00:39:23.490

Jonathan Verbeck: But sometimes also then just the openness that he had with his with his parents, some of the like jokes he made a bit like the age that we were at was a bit shocking sometimes yeah.

333

00:39:25.920 --> 00:39:27.270

Jonathan Verbeck: that's more accurate.

334

00:39:27.480 --> 00:39:29.940

Zofia Górnicz: yeah no it The other thing you said was was.

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00:39:29.970 --> 00:39:31.650

Zofia Górnicz: Like interesting to hear too.

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00:39:31.740 --> 00:39:32.490

Zofia Górnicz: yeah not.

337

00:39:32.730 --> 00:39:34.110

Zofia Górnicz: The question that I should have been.

338

00:39:34.350 --> 00:39:35.670

Jonathan Verbeck: More clear about know that's the.

339

00:39:37.980 --> 00:39:45.180

Zofia Górnicz: yeah the word culture shock like on its own is what you like thought it was in the context of questions.

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00:39:45.990 --> 00:39:59.580

Zofia Górnicz: um So if you kind of think based on these experiences with your family with your friends families if you can imagine, like if you were to raise a child, whether or not that is in your future plans or not.

341

00:40:00.630 --> 00:40:06.060

Zofia Górnica: What what lessons were like ideologies that you learned in your childhood, would you pass on to them.

342

00:40:07.770 --> 00:40:25.590

Jonathan Verbeck: um yeah I think first and foremost it's it's like the golden rule, which is, I guess, I kind of left out earlier, you know treat others the way you want to be treated and I think that also it kind of is the same it's a more broad version of the like of the don't let others change.

343

00:40:25.830 --> 00:40:26.580

Jonathan Verbeck: Who, you are.

344

00:40:28.560 --> 00:40:33.840

Jonathan Verbeck: And so that would kind of be first and foremost, I think.

345

00:40:36.150 --> 00:40:49.560

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah and I would also yeah just encourage exploration into like hobbies and things without pushing like encouragement I think yeah if I had a child to.

346

00:40:50.040 --> 00:41:01.200

Jonathan Verbeck: play it a lot of video games and it got to like an obsessive point, maybe like absolutely like me, I would do the same, almost than sort of encourage away from it.

347

00:41:02.760 --> 00:41:06.120

Jonathan Verbeck: encourage it, like in modern to be more in moderation.

348

00:41:08.940 --> 00:41:09.330

Jonathan Verbeck: But.

349

00:41:10.440 --> 00:41:13.860

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah I think I think that would sort of be the main things.

350

00:41:22.320 --> 00:41:23.820

Zofia Górnicz: I feel like this is definitely.

351

00:41:25.230 --> 00:41:27.300

Zofia Górnicz: affecting the flow of the interview.

352

00:41:29.490 --> 00:41:30.270

Jonathan Verbeck: it's not so bad.

353

00:41:31.470 --> 00:41:35.610

Zofia Górnicz: I mean that was a good moment for it to turn off your, you said you had this.

354

00:41:36.120 --> 00:41:36.720

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah yeah.

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00:41:38.490 --> 00:41:46.320

Zofia Górnicz: um so now we're going to have kind of a fun question so if you can travel back in time.

356

00:41:47.610 --> 00:42:05.970

Zofia Górnicz: and see your childhood self you have no like kind of been introspective as your childhood itself so now, you can as an outsider kind of go back and talk to yourself as a child, what would you say what would you talk about doesn't have to be like advice and fear.

357

00:42:06.270 --> 00:42:06.780

yeah.

358

00:42:08.610 --> 00:42:09.210

Jonathan Verbeck: um.

359

00:42:12.420 --> 00:42:14.460

Jonathan Verbeck: Well yeah okay um.

360

00:42:15.990 --> 00:42:23.430

Jonathan Verbeck: advice is like the easiest thing to say, I think um and it would probably be like on that, like.

361

00:42:24.450 --> 00:42:32.640

Jonathan Verbeck: Just like that video game topic of just like to put into perspective of like how much time that is um.

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00:42:33.720 --> 00:42:37.440

Jonathan Verbeck: But I would think that a.

363

00:42:38.640 --> 00:42:42.150

Jonathan Verbeck: I would, I would want to so.

364

00:42:43.200 --> 00:42:58.080

Jonathan Verbeck: I feel like when I when I learned when I learned music obviously everybody who learns music learns like technically first you know you learn how to play an instrument, you know things like that and I didn't really.

365

00:42:59.340 --> 00:43:02.970

Jonathan Verbeck: feel like I practice as much as I like absolutely should have.

366

00:43:04.710 --> 00:43:10.380

Jonathan Verbeck: Was it because it felt like felt like work and that prevented me from you know.

367

00:43:12.090 --> 00:43:12.660

Jonathan Verbeck: Really.

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00:43:13.980 --> 00:43:23.760

Jonathan Verbeck: Like yeah from really just enjoy like from really practicing, but I think if I would want to this is like I guess more advice which wasn't particularly.

369

00:43:24.690 --> 00:43:38.400

Jonathan Verbeck: What you asked for, but um I would want to try and like you know get myself to hopefully understand a little bit earlier, the sort of ways I started to understand, music and in college or just to to understand like.

370

00:43:39.450 --> 00:43:51.120

Jonathan Verbeck: That it's okay for something to not be perfect it's just about yeah like the flow of doing something just enjoying what you're doing and that.

371

00:43:52.950 --> 00:43:55.710

Jonathan Verbeck: And yeah I don't know I.

372

00:43:56.790 --> 00:44:01.320

Jonathan Verbeck: would probably want to talk to myself about things that I found funny.

373

00:44:02.340 --> 00:44:03.090

Jonathan Verbeck: hey we want to.

374

00:44:04.350 --> 00:44:07.410

Jonathan Verbeck: i'd want to know, I found funny I think.

375

00:44:08.430 --> 00:44:10.230

Jonathan Verbeck: There would probably be some things that.

376

00:44:12.540 --> 00:44:24.900

Jonathan Verbeck: Like I found I don't know I would I would go back in time and steal comedy material for myself, because I was too young to understand it and develop.

377

00:44:25.920 --> 00:44:25.980

Jonathan Verbeck: It.

378

00:44:27.990 --> 00:44:33.750

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah I think I would just want my I would want to know my younger selves opinion on the things that I like.

379

00:44:35.490 --> 00:44:48.420

Jonathan Verbeck: And if I could then use that to help me now to sort of like here the enthusiasm, I have about bike things particularly music and such and whereas when I was younger I didn't have the.

380

00:44:49.830 --> 00:45:00.120

Jonathan Verbeck: ability or the mindset to really unleash the you know, ideas and things that I wanted, but I definitely had the enthusiasm.

381

00:45:00.390 --> 00:45:10.860

Jonathan Verbeck: For it so when I hear that, like to recycle the term from before like that eat like blissfully ignorant enthusiasm again yeah.

382

00:45:11.520 --> 00:45:14.040

Zofia Górnicz: Just the last thought enthusiasm about now.

383

00:45:14.430 --> 00:45:32.370

Jonathan Verbeck: Absolutely yeah um and I guess I kind of him, like an interesting state in my life, where i'm realizing that like there's that sort of enthusiasm, it certainly it certainly can and will come back, but i'm that like blissfully ignorant aspect of it that really made it like so pure.

384

00:45:32.850 --> 00:45:33.090

and

385

00:45:35.400 --> 00:45:38.850

Jonathan Verbeck: that's something that really can't come back, naturally, you know.

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00:45:40.950 --> 00:45:41.430

Jonathan Verbeck: and

387

00:45:42.570 --> 00:45:43.620

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah so.

388

00:45:44.760 --> 00:45:53.160

Jonathan Verbeck: Probably that's one of the helpful things about working with children is that you're constantly exposed to that enthusiasm.

389

00:45:54.390 --> 00:45:58.740

Jonathan Verbeck: And you can kind of like photosynthesizing I guess.

390

00:45:59.340 --> 00:46:00.690

Zofia Górnicz: Have you worked with children.

391

00:46:00.990 --> 00:46:05.940

Jonathan Verbeck: I did in yeah when I was in College on long island.

392

00:46:06.330 --> 00:46:14.790

Jonathan Verbeck: I taught lessons private and to restore certainly something I would want to do again, but it has just been I stopped doing it.

393

00:46:15.390 --> 00:46:16.590

Jonathan Verbeck: To be you and then.

394

00:46:16.830 --> 00:46:18.300

Jonathan Verbeck: You know, like with coven.

395

00:46:19.440 --> 00:46:22.680

Jonathan Verbeck: So it's been just a very long time yeah.

396

00:46:23.790 --> 00:46:28.350

Zofia Górnicz: Well i'm sure you can borrow that from kids who aren't you.

397

00:46:29.040 --> 00:46:30.600

Zofia Górnicz: yeah exactly yeah so.

398

00:46:31.170 --> 00:46:34.800

Jonathan Verbeck: let's kind of realizing I was kind of realizing that, as I was saying, like oh that's.

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00:46:35.880 --> 00:46:47.520

Jonathan Verbeck: Absolutely like one of the joys my parents find in teaching and, like all hear my parents talk about like the book they've read or or or something that you know.

400

00:46:48.780 --> 00:46:53.970

Jonathan Verbeck: And yeah there's like enthusiasm in their in their voice about it.

401

00:46:55.140 --> 00:46:59.010

Jonathan Verbeck: And that's probably yeah just being around these like yeah.

402

00:47:00.180 --> 00:47:03.810

Jonathan Verbeck: elementary school age kids it's probably yeah very like healing.

403

00:47:10.980 --> 00:47:13.320

Zofia Górnica: Good that's a good place to end it looks Nice.

404

00:47:15.240 --> 00:47:17.940

Zofia Górnicz: For about an hour so.

405

00:47:19.440 --> 00:47:20.040

Zofia Górnicz: Thank you.

406

00:47:20.280 --> 00:47:21.750

Zofia Górnicz: yeah very nice.

407

00:47:22.410 --> 00:47:29.880

Zofia Górnicz: Is there anything that you maybe feel like you want to add some final thoughts anything you thought of that you have a chance to say.

408

00:47:30.510 --> 00:47:44.610

Jonathan Verbeck: I just think i'm i'm i'm very aware that I had a very good relationship with my parents all through childhood that my parents raised me with you know.

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00:47:46.110 --> 00:47:55.470

Jonathan Verbeck: Good values and that oftentimes if I find i'm having an issue i'll often think back on those sorts of teachings.

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00:47:56.550 --> 00:47:58.770

Jonathan Verbeck: Some that I yeah I realized that.

411

00:48:00.810 --> 00:48:05.730

Jonathan Verbeck: You both my parents are very politically reasonable.

412

00:48:06.840 --> 00:48:07.140

Jonathan Verbeck: But.

413

00:48:08.490 --> 00:48:22.230

Jonathan Verbeck: And so I guess, I appreciate it through meeting people who don't have the same relationship with their parents and also sort of learning that it feels like that's not then that that's the norm to sort of not have that.

414

00:48:23.670 --> 00:48:24.030

Jonathan Verbeck: Like.

415

00:48:25.170 --> 00:48:39.660

Jonathan Verbeck: I guess i've learned yet to really just appreciate it and to kind of oh yeah only like only now have I realized more like yeah how how good, I had a lot of things and.

416

00:48:40.740 --> 00:48:46.620

Jonathan Verbeck: So yeah just be thankful, and to think about the way they talked about their parents.

417

00:48:48.210 --> 00:48:54.360

Jonathan Verbeck: Do yeah understand that they are, they are like breaking the cycle, I guess, and.

418

00:48:56.580 --> 00:48:57.270

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah that.

419

00:48:59.610 --> 00:49:08.310

Jonathan Verbeck: it's that is good ones like I guess one more cycle one cycle broken and such so yeah.

420

00:49:08.430 --> 00:49:09.480

Zofia Górnicz: i'm feeling i'm glad.

421

00:49:11.070 --> 00:49:11.610

Jonathan Verbeck: yeah.

422

00:49:14.940 --> 00:49:16.920

Jonathan Verbeck: Thanks for including me.

423

00:49:17.190 --> 00:49:19.560

Zofia Górnicz: i'm glad, thank you for agreeing I really appreciate it.

424

00:49:19.620 --> 00:49:20.490

Jonathan Verbeck: Of course.

425

00:49:20.790 --> 00:49:22.020

Zofia Górnicz: yeah recording.