

Transcript of *Jackie Richardson: Weaver of Dreams*

Part of *Illuminating Matriarchs*

AUDIO DESCRIPTION:

This is a two minute extended audio description introduction to the seven minute film *Weaver of Dreams*. This documentary is shot in a small classroom at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Canada. The walls are light grey with a white chair, rail and white window and door trim. White blinds are pulled down over the windows and there is a white board on the wall. An obsidian black Yamaha concert piano is in the centre of the space. The colours in the film are slightly muted. The film features music and discussion with Jackie Richardson. Jackie is a black woman who is 77. She has short, curly silver hair that's long on the top and tussled. She wears glasses with thick, dark amber square frames. She's not wearing her glasses and clips when she sings. She has dangly, shiny, beige and amber rectangular earrings. She wears a long sleeved black shirt and black pants and a short sleeve cardigan that is grey and light brown with a black patchy pattern throughout. Interviewing her is Raoul, who is a 49 year old Person of Colour of South Asian and Irish heritage. He has short, straight, dark hair, combed back and wears a black turtleneck under a grey suit with a silver pocket square in the right breast pocket. The pianist is Jesse, who is a white man in his forties with short, dark brown hair. He wears a dark blue suit jacket, black pants and a white collared shirt, the top button undone. On his right hand is a silver ring with a large diamond shaped turquoise blue stone. On the left hand is a large chunky gold ring. Both are worn on the middle finger. When Jackie is being interviewed, she is the only one on camera. And when she sings, she is standing beside the piano.

Room 310 RCM Toronto, November 2023

[Jazz Piano track plays]

[Laughter]

Raoul: Ohhh, what did we sing?

AD: Jackie laughs, entering with Raul

[More laughter]

AD: She lays sheet music on the piano

Jackie: Alrighty

Raoul: So now I don't have to sing "Weaver of Dreams", right? You got that one down?

Jackie: Yes

Raoul: And then I can do the—

Jackie: So, so, so if we do, "Weaver of Dreams" rubato

Raoul: Rubato, yeah

Jackie: And then you put, you place the rhythm where you want it, and you go through once through with, for that. And then the third time around,

we - I'm singing my lyrics, you're singing your lyrics

Raoul: Oh, together?

Jackie: Yeah!

Raoul: Cool, ok

[Pianist opens and Jackie begins to sing]

Jackie: You are weaver of dreams

AD: Her eyes close

[Jazz interjections on piano]

AD: She smiles

Jackie: you with your lips, warm and tender

[Singing continues in the background]

(Speaking) The words have become most important to me. And um. So to me, ah, what's most important is in the acting. Acting to me is a funny word because if you're caught acting it's not good

[Singing cuts out]

(Speaking) So there will never ever be another

Together: you there make so right

Jackie: there may, so it comes

Together: Right out/in

Jackie: I choose my songs very carefully about what it says about how it feels, all of that stuff. But first of all what it says, I'm out there as a communicator. I want the audience to get to know me. I want to get to know the audience.

[Piano]

Jessie (Pianist): So, question, which set of changes do you want to see in that point in the tune?

Jackie: Ahhhh

[Laughing]

Jackie: I wanted to be a Motown girl for the rest of my life. I love me some Motown and that just where that sat, where that soul music was, like yeah, that was, that was everything. And then my dad was a jazz enthusiast, so that was always happening in the house. And he was going to the Town Tavern and all that stuff- then the Colonial and had his own seat at the Town Tavern. "Now don't sit in Big Daddy's seat". That's what people would say, mm-mm

[Raoul laughing]

AD: Jessie's fingers on the keys

[Piano playing the intro]

AD: Jackie beside the piano

(Singing) You're a weaver of dreams

You with your strange fascination

You are a weaver of dreams

You with that come hither smile

(Speaking) I think in looking back at some of my choices that underneath most of my music is the gospel or the blues.

Raoul: Yeah, yeah

Jackie: And, but, um, people will label me and I don't even study it. I'm not going to argue with you. If that's what you hear and how you see me, then that's your thing. I pick the songs that I like the melodies, I like what it's saying, and I think that I can bring something of myself to it.

[Piano playing]

(Singing) Poor little babe in arms

I'm feeling helpless before your charms

You are the weaver of my dreams

You with your lips warm and tender

AD: Raoul Smiles

And it's just like magic it seems

[Music ends]

(Speaking) When you're in the arts, and you start with one thing and then you add another piece, another piece and then another piece, you don't drop any of them.

(Singing with Piano) Raoul: There will be other lips

That I may kiss

[Jackie laughing]

(Speaking) Jackie: you serious.

(Singing) Raoul: But they won't thrill me like yours used to do

[Music stops]

(Speaking) I look for a communicator So? So if you're committed to what you're saying and you gave it thought and you're going to share it with me, I'm all ears, you know, and I don't care. I give myself permission to not play it safe. I give myself permission to not even study the wrong notes or this or that or the other. I give myself permission because I want to be true to myself in the moment. And if that's what comes out and it comes from me and I know the conviction that I had, that's it.

(Singing) You with that come hi-ther smile

Jackie: Just to hear you speak

Raoul: There will be others, not just me

[Music ends]

(Speaking) Jackie: Then I say, and I have this on my card: Don't let nobody take your joy. Cos' it's not theirs to take. It's yours. If this art... you... brings you joy, then you stick with it. And you just follow that through and see where it takes you. You might go 20 years with that and then all of a sudden, with all your experiences, there's something else that's an offshoot that you never even thought would happen, but just follow your, that sixth sense.

[Piano playing]

Both Singing: A-no-ther you

AD: Jackie and Raoul share a glance across the piano. Jackie smiles widely

[Piano stops]

(Speaking) Jackie: Oh man, that's fun!

[Everybody laughing]

[Weaver of Dreams Piano plays]

Commissioned by Common Boots Theatre

CBcommons is made possible through support from TD Ready Commitment. Common Boots Theatre receives operating funding from Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council.