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Title: Tonko Doi Interview  
Narrator: Tonko Doi  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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- AT: 01:10:41 Um, so I just, I have a few more questions before um asking a little bit more about your current involvement in the community. Um, I guess, um, because I'm in this project we're focusing on, on resettlement, which of course has a legacy in internment. Um, I'm wondering what, if any role would you say that the incarceration history has played in your life? How do you think that that um, experience and family history has maybe shaped your own life?
- TD: 01:11:34 Well, in moving to Chicago from Cincinnati where I really didn't have much of an identity or sense of myself as, because I was young and also there wasn't a strong racial or ethnic feeling there. Um, since moving to Chicago and associating more with JA people, I developed more of a sense of who I am. Um, going to Japan often, I developed respect. And you know, interestingly um, couple of things, I think visuals play a big role in your emotions. It was kind of a simple movie, but, uh, I think it was called Snow, "Snow Falling on Cedars," one of the first, um, films that was shown in the theater. And when I saw those people, and I know you know the story, you know what happens, you know, we've read about it. But when I saw those people actually walking across a bridge, I started to weep. It came up unexpectedly. I didn't, that emotion, seeing them giving up and going. So peacefully, peacefully across that bridge. I just started to weep. Um, another thing, um, like that dog, "My Dog Teny" you know, uh, what people gave up, uh, you know, and it's, it brings out emotion. So, stories, films, um, you know, they, you could read about it, but it doesn't have the same impact.
- TD: 01:13:26 Just like the orange story. Jason's, you know, but you know, the other day I was watching this program called Terror. Have you seen that?
- AT: 01:13:35 I have not yet seen it.

TD: 01:13:37 Okay.

AT: 01:13:37 I know all about it.

TD: 01:13:38 It's kind of, I wasn't, I didn't know what to expect. It's kind of like a, you know, what do you call that kind of film where ghosts and horror film. Yeah. But, um, you know, when he, uh, the, uh, what do you call that? Oh, when he showed the barracks and uh, the dress of the people, it was so real to me how they're living and, you know, um, the whole thing started bringing up an emotion. Maybe something that I had put away, you know, that I saw when I was two to four years old. Maybe, you know, if it made you feel something even though, um, he did it very well. I mean the casting, the um, what do you call that? Uh, the scenery. Everything. Yeah.

AT: 01:14:40 Was, um, this, um, particularly or, sorry, was this, um, this particular family history, was that something that you um pass down to your children and maybe grandchildren that you talked about openly?

TD: 01:14:58 I did. I do. I do. SJ through the JACL of course and going to Kansha, which I think is a wonderful program. I mean, you know, and you participated. So you know what it is, because at the last, um, culmination, uh, all of them spent, and most of them are biracial. Right? Is that what you call that biracial? Um, that they said they never had a sense of who they were in a community were they white were they Japanese, but mostly, probably more white, uh, or other, and, uh, how they felt part of the community that embraced them and they understood where their grant, great-grandparents or grandparents, you know, their lives were like, so, yeah.

AT: 01:15:53 And why, why do you think that's important?

TD: 01:15:58 Ah, I think history is always important, right? Where, where you, your, where you came from. Like I gave, and you know, interestingly, my daughter-in-law is uh, Black, and, uh, she, I asked her, would you prefer to be called Black or African-American? She says, hm, I don't think I'm from Africa. I don't know so much about Africa, but Black. So I say Black. Well, for Christmas I gave her the National Geographic, um, uh, DNA test and she was so excited to find out her history. Um, and she found out that her mother, uh, I guess I focus more on her mother, uh, was from Eastern Africa and that, and it said the women, uh, went to Western Africa and pinpointed certain areas in Africa where her family may have originated. It was very, she, she, uh, appreciated knowing that so much because

she's Black, but where is, does she, where did her ancestors come from? So, I gave it to SJ as well, and I gave it to Mitchell, my son, because I don't know, maybe you know better than me that the DNA test, if, if you, a man takes it, if it's from both sides can get history. But if I did it, I only get it from the maternal side. Okay. So I did the right thing. I gave it to him.

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