

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Speaker 1 ([00:00](#)):

Say your name.

Gregory ([00:01](#)):

Gregory, also known as Footh.

Speaker 1 ([00:03](#)):

How'd you get that nickname?

Gregory ([00:05](#)):

Well you know I was always tall and my foot was big so it just gave me the name Footh.

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios

Speaker 1 ([00:10](#)):

How tall are you?

Gregory ([00:11](#)):

I'm six seven.

Speaker 1 ([00:12](#)):

You're five feet tall.

Stacy ([00:13](#)):

Yeah.

Speaker 1 ([00:14](#)):

And your partner is six foot seven.

Stacy ([00:16](#)):

Six seven yeah, what a combination ain't it?

Speaker 4 ([00:21](#)):

I need to tie your hair. Okay?

Gregory ([00:23](#)):

I'm going to get your wheel rocking and we can go.

Speaker 4 ([00:25](#)):

Oh yeah.

Gregory ([00:27](#)):

This is a tire machine. First thing you do is let the air out of your tires, okay? What you do is separate the tire from the rim. Put the tire on top of this machine. Push that down. Lock it in. Take your bar stick it in turn it around. The machine do the rest of the work. Put your tire right here. Lock it in like that. Bam, bam. There we go. Put your tire back on now.

Stacy ([00:58](#)):

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios

She came for one tire she's going out with two good tires.

Gregory ([01:07](#)):

I wouldn't want to work with no one other than him. And that's honestly from the heart.

Stacy ([01:13](#)):

We work good together. I taught him half the things, I know he thinks I taught him everything I know. But I ain't going to teach him everything I know, then he might get my position. You know?

Speaker 1 ([01:24](#)):

Do you have an interview question for Foots? Something that you've always been curious about?

Stacy ([01:29](#)):

How do it feel for him to look down at me every day knowing I ain't going to never be looking right in your eye? That's what I want to ask him.

Gregory ([01:43](#)):

I don't know you got to ask God, you have to question God for making you so damn short. I'm serious.

Speaker 1 ([01:51](#)):

Let me ask you. If you have a, a good question for Stacy.

Gregory ([01:55](#)):

How the weather feel down there?

Stacy ([01:57](#)):

Man let me tell you, but living is so sweet when you show up man. Because people just love short, handsome peoples, man. You just can't reach a whole lot of stuff. You know what I mean, man?
[crosstalk 00:02:12].

Mr. Z ([02:12](#)):

You can't fit in a lot of lower spaces, either. [crosstalk 00:02:15] You know what I mean?

Now what you're looking for with bubbles, if you see some bubbles you know we've got a hole in that tire somewhere. Okay?

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios

Speaker 1 ([02:27](#)):

Tell me what this thing is that you put...

Mr. Z ([02:28](#)):

A tub, nothing but water full of water. I don't see no bubbles. So guess what? The tire is good to go buddy.

Speaker 1 ([02:42](#)):

I've only talked to you a little bit here and there, but I can tell that you oftentimes have a lot of emotional weight on your shoulders. Like you go through happy times and sad times. Don't you?

Mr. Z ([02:52](#)):

I go through a lot of sad times, depressed. You know I'm diagnosed with depression, you know what I mean? I take medication for that. So, you know just got to keep a lot of things on my mind you know? Right now I'm fighting this disease you know, right now I'm on a program that's working for me, but I'm still fighting.

You know them demons, talking about heroine. That's right, how long? I mean, you know what I'm saying about in my twenties, you know 25, something like that. You know fighting it for 25 years. It's a disease, man, I fight with every day cause everywhere you look on every corner you know, you see people that sell it, you got friends that got it. You understand? It's just been a roller coaster with me. Rollercoaster. It's been tough. It's been tough. You know? Cause that has led me to being locked up a lot, 21 years. You know? I'm 50 years old now. I mean, I've got 21 years of my life in prison.

Speaker 1 ([03:49](#)):

You spent almost half your life in prison.

Mr. Z ([03:50](#)):

Half my life in prison. That's right. That's right.

Speaker 1 ([03:55](#)):

How long have you been clean on a program?

Mr. Z ([03:59](#)):

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios

Two years. Right now I'm hitting and missing. When I say hitting and missing, I get high. Depends how I feel. And then sometimes I don't. You know? I'm up and down, up and down. You know? I want to stay clean. You understand what I'm saying? And I'm going to stop getting high number one. Okay? And be a good dad to my kids and be good to me.

Stacy ([04:37](#)):

We are [inaudible 00:04:38] and in this man. This man from, where you from?

Mr. Z ([04:44](#)):

Pakistan.

Stacy ([04:44](#)):

This man is all the way from Pakistan and he knows how to make some Pakistan guinea, guinea, guinea for your tummy, tummy, tummy. Got to be sure to eat with your nose, got to be delicious.

Speaker 1 ([04:56](#)):

Tell me what your favorite thing to order from Mr. Z.

Stacy ([04:58](#)):

Shrimp cheese steak. Shrimp cheese steak.