

## 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 Batty 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



Christine Ofoku:

\$2.99. You're off today?

Speaker 2:

Yeah, thank God.

Christine Ofoku:

DK. You want my son to do it?

Interviewer:

No. I want you to speak for yourself and I'll have him speak for himself.

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Christine Ofoku:

Oh, for himself. It's Christine. Christine Ofoku.

Interviewer:

And this place is named after you?

Christine Ofoku:

Yeah, it was name after me, yes.

Interviewer:

Tell me the name of the shop.

Christine Ofoku:

It's Christine Discount Store.

Speaker 4:

Bye.

Christine Ofoku:

Bye, sweetie.

[crosstalk 00:00:26].

Speaker 5:

All right, I'll see you soon.

Christine Ofoku:

Okay.

Speaker 5:

Bye-bye.

Christine Ofoku:

I'm from Nigeria.

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Interviewer:

What was it like growing up there?

Christine Ofoku:

It was beautiful. Yeah, it was nice, yeah. I just came to America to pursue my dream, so yes.

Interviewer:

And when did you come here to the United States?

Christine Ofoku:

It was like about '92? Yeah.

Interviewer:

And how old were you when you came over?

Christine Ofoku:

20.

Interviewer:

What do you think are the most important lessons you've learned in life?

Christine Ofoku:

To have a family. Yeah. Yeah.

Interviewer:

Tell me about your son.

Christine Ofoku:

He's a wonderful son. I just wish him good luck for his life, yeah.

Interviewer:

And tell me his name.

Christine Ofoku:

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DK. D-I-K-A.

Interviewer:

And how old are you, DK?

DK:

11.

Interviewer:

Tell me what you do to help out around here.

DK:

Everything. Help the customers, ring up the customers sometimes. And watch the customers.

Christine Ofoku:

Walk me around in here. Show me what you got for sale in here.

DK:

So we [inaudible 00:01:14] the rags, brushes, things, plastic plates, and trash bags. We're about to get some more dog food and cat food because we were running out. Stuff to decorate your kitchen. Hair supplies and beauty supplies. Clothes and Snicker bars. Slim Jim's. Sugar cookies and honey buns.

Christine Ofoku:

How often are you in here helping out your mom?

DK:

During the summertime and on Saturdays when we start school.

Christine Ofoku:

Talk about your mom and what you've learned from her about her home country.

DK:

I learned that if you practice, you can succeed at anything. You can make money if you try hard. And it's easy to make money.

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Christine Ofoku:

What do you think is the toughest thing about running a business?

DK:

Dealing with robberies and stuff.

Christine Ofoku:

DK, I don't have no air. [inaudible 00:01:56]