

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



Olivier Gainyo:

If you stick around, you will see how we make pizza. My name is Olivier Gainyo and here I'm making pizza. I'm a pizza guy. I'm originally from Cameroon and a United States citizen today. Since I got here, I start working with Jewish people and I live with them since then.

Speaker 2:

Was that part of your faith community before you came to the US?

Olivier Gainyo:

No, no, no. I'm a Christian Catholic. I'm a Catholic Christian.

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Speaker 3:

Over the years, I think we've had over 1,100 employees go through the store. I've had a lot of relatives work here. I've had a lot of people of different faiths, different color, different languages. And it all works.

Speaker 4:

Tuna melt.

Speaker 3:

When I was 20 years old and I approached the landlord of this building to open up a pizza store, a kosher pizza store. And I dropped out of college and opened up the pizza store. We opened the store some day... I don't remember the exact date in March that we opened in 1984.

And I was downtown getting my final license. I didn't even wait to get back here to see the doors open. I called and said, "Open the doors. I got the license." And by the time I got here, the store was full of customers.