

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/>



Ayoluwa Nzinga (00:06):

Our most popular smoothie is the Green Gangster. It's peach, pineapple, mango, apple juice, ginger, wheatgrass, spirulina, oh, and spinach. So it's really good for you, but it also just takes like a really good fruit smoothie. Liquid Gold is another one of my favorites. That's pineapple, ginger, banana, it's got turmeric, coconut milk. So again, really good for you, but it just tastes like a really good smoothie
Ayoluwa Nzinga.

Aaron Henkin (00:33):

And everybody calls you-

Ayoluwa Nzinga (00:39):

Ayo.

Speaker 3 (00:39):

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Ayo.

Ayoluwa Nzinga (00:43):

2431 St. Paul Street, Grind House Juice Bar and Cafe. Our philosophy is, heal the hood. So we are 100% vegan, but we really cater our vegan options to people who wouldn't necessarily pick up something healthy or vegan to eat.

Aaron Henkin (01:03):

What do you got going on, on the grill over there?

Ayoluwa Nzinga (01:05):

Those are vegan chicken drumsticks or chickun drumsticks. We call them hot things. We do have a lot of what we call mock meats. We have a "Go Fish" wrap, which is everyone's favorite. It's a vegan fish filet seasoned with seaweed to give it that fish flavor. Whatever job I had, I always ended up being manager because I was just focused and determined, willing to put in all the work. And then finally, it got to a point where I was like, "I need to do this for myself. I can't make everyone else's dream and make them all this money. I need to do it for myself."

Ayoluwa Nzinga (01:46):

I was always scared to kind of step out because I'm a cancer. I like security. I always wanted to know like, "Okay, every two weeks, I'm going to have this much money. My paycheck is going to be this." And then I think having my daughter finally got me to being like, "Okay, I need to do this for her because I want her to be able to see entrepreneurship and have something to leave for her. I think she probably will take it to a whole nother level though.

Khalilah (02:18):

My name is Khalilah and I am nine years old. Ayoluwa Nzinga, she is my mother. Sometimes it gets very busy. I might be in the middle of washing the produce and I have to go wash my hands and take the orders. And then I have to go back, wash my hands, and finish the produce until I have to go back here and take the orders. And it just goes back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. Yeah.

Aaron Henkin (02:49):

How would you describe your mom? Her personality, what kind of person she is?

Khalilah (02:53):

She's very sweet. She's very determined to get things done. Yes.

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Aaron Henkin (03:00):

What do you think is the most important lesson you've learned about life from your mom?

Khalilah (03:07):

My most important lesson is never give up.

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