

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/>



William ([00:07](#)):

My name is William, Chef William. Shrimp and grits is pretty good. Curry chicken, jerk chicken, mac & cheese, jammed greens. We do carrot cake, chocolate cake with chocolate icing, bread pudding, butternut squash pie. We do it all.

Rache Simpson ([00:19](#)):

My name's Rache Simpson. Right now, I'm working on a breakfast platter. French toast, two eggs over easy, with turkey bacon and a side of fish.

Aaron Henkin ([00:29](#)):

Let me just have you say a few words about Terence, what kind of a guy he is, what kind of a boss he is.

Rache Simpson ([00:34](#)):

Terence Dickson. He looks out for everybody, honestly.

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. This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org).

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William ([00:40](#)):

He's a real good dude.

Rache Simpson ([00:41](#)):

Like, he feeds the homeless the second Sundays every month here.

William ([00:46](#)):

He's always giving people opportunities to really get theirselves together.

Rache Simpson ([00:49](#)):

Honestly, there's nobody else I'd rather work for again. Mr. Dixon.

Aaron Henkin ([00:53](#)):

Uh oh, your ears burning?

William ([00:55](#)):

Yeah! [crosstalk 00:00:57].

Terence Dickson ([00:59](#)):

You know what? My name isn't Terence Dickson. Let me introduce myself. My name is Mr. Terra Cafe. My name is the fish guy. My name is the healthy guy. My name is the African guy. My name is the crazy Jamaican guy. My name is the poetry guy. So I'm thankful for all of those labels.

Terence Dickson ([01:23](#)):

Terra Cafe on the corner of 25th of St. Paul has become a Haven for people of thought, people that have a voice, people that love awesome food, and people that love. It's something about when you walk in the door, the first thing it says on the door, it says welcome family. All right, because now you're part of the Terra Cafe family.

Terence Dickson ([01:49](#)):

Came down from New York and started to dabble in real estate, drove by this address about maybe 19 years ago. Boarded up restaurant, said the Earl of Sandwich on it, which was some icon of Baltimore city that I didn't know. A new city that I kind of fell in love with because of the architecture and the structure. And I bought the spot.

Terence Dickson ([02:11](#)):

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And in 19 years of me being here on this block, I've had the honor of... Helped facilitating maybe 30, 40, small black businesses. I've got five storefronts on the side, got apartments here, and seen real growth in community and people too. Which is priceless.

Terence Dickson ([02:29](#)):

Originally, I was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina. My grandfather was a hog farmer. My other grandfather was a mechanic and a painter and had his own shop and they were in the south. So, those are real rough times. I remember white only water faucets and colored water faucets. I remember not being able to actually eat inside a Woolworths, a simple chili cheese dog and a cherry Coke.

Terence Dickson ([02:53](#)):

So, wow. Sometimes I don't seem as though that I'm that old. That I'm 53, and I'm able to have a dialogue of conversation. So, sometimes, it even gets me.

Terence Dickson ([03:13](#)):

When I had my son, it's right about when we moved to Baltimore, it hit me that I was my father now. That it wasn't about me anymore, that I was accountable to something bigger than me. You know what I mean? That I didn't get the first piece of chicken no more. I got the last.

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