

Chelsea Ridley 2017

Q: But it's all part of the, the process in this. And I could try out the new microphone I got here, so it's even better.

CHELSEA RIDLEY: You're so fancy.

Q: Boom. Thank you for that [low key?] and everything like that.

CR: Yeah.

Q: And it's wonderful to have you here today, and thank you for spending some time with us and --

CR: Yay!

Q: -- you know, we'll kind of backtrack a little bit, so we can get some backstory --

CR: Yeah, that's fine.

Q: -- again. I remember, what was it, like was it 2003 maybe when I first interviewed you?

CR: Yeah, I was little, I was so tiny.

Q: Yeah.

CR: I actually saw that book the other day going through my things, when I came home I was like, chucking everything. And I was like oh, look at this, this is so cute! And there's some really old pictures in there, like --

Q: Is there?

CR: Yes. That was a long time ago. (laughter)

Q: But I look, I think, I'm like it's funny, because my daughter started skating, and she had Hank for a coach for a while as well, so I mean --

CR: Yeah.

Q: -- just backstory, backstory, backstory.

CR: I remember seeing her [all the time there?], I was there.

Q: Yeah, she's doing -- right now she's got tendonitis in the ankle, so she can't skate at all.

CR: Oh, OK. Oh that's awful.

Q: So she's been, you know, but she's 17 now, so two concussions, sprained ankle --

CR: Skating?

Q: Yeah.

CR: Ooh, those skating scars.

Q: Knees.

CR: Yeah. (laughter)

Q: Sprained her wrist, you know? And so I'm looking like man, you have more injuries than I had between, between me and my brother in our entire life.

CR: Yeah. My older sister, she, you know, she has her kids now, so my nephews, and she's always like, you have young legs. That's what she tells them. And then she'll like, "Chelsea, don't you want to get me some water, you got them young legs." I'm like, "My legs are probably way older

than, than yours. And you are 10 years older than me."

(laughter) She's like, "That's probably true."

Q: It takes a beating.

CR: Yeah, it does.

Q: How long have you been skating?

CR: Twenty years.

Q: Twenty years now. And you started at Robert Crown?

CR: At Robert Crown when I was four.

Q: And who was your first coach, do you remember?

CR: Yes. I took from, Julie Solheim had a brother, that was my first coach, her brother. And then I went from that to Sam, and then from Sam to Hank.

Q: Nice.

CR: So Hank was actually my third.

Q: Your third coach?

CR: Yeah.

Q: And then after that, kind of went --

CR: (inaudible) everywhere. (laughter) Hank, and I had Chris [Callia?], Chris Callia did a lot of good things for me. And then I was everywhere. I did a lot of things.

(laughter)

Q: So did you know at that, when you first started skating, did you know that you wanted to be a professional skater, or you just enjoyed it at the time?

CR: I wanted -- OK. So I started, and I, I saw Surya on TV, and I was like, I want to be like her. Surya was like, my aspiration. Like I'm like, I'm going to be Surya when I grow up. I want to be an Olympian. And I came up, you know, saw Surya, there was another girl, Chrissy Lipscomb, she took from Hank. Then she was practicing when I was like, learning, and I was like, I want to be like Chrissy, too! I want to be like Chrissy and Surya! And you know, I grew up, and I've actually been able to skate many shows with Chrissy, and skated in a show with Surya when I did *Ebony*, when I came here. I think we talked about *Ebony* when we did the short form thing a while ago.

Q: Yes.

CR: So I got to skate with them, and I was like, yeah, I like competing, and I want to be an Olympian, but I also like shows, and I like performing. So I think I kind of like, found my niche. Found where I belonged, and now I'm happy.

Q: Yeah.

CR: I love it.

Q: I remember seeing you in *Nutcracker* and other performances, and (inaudible).

CR: Yeah! I like it. That, that was like, and --

Q: And my daughter was with me, she said, "I want to do that."
(overlapping dialogue; inaudible). (laughter)

CR: Awesome. It is awesome how that happens. Like basically like what I did, and then it just trickles down, I love it. I love it.

Q: So yeah.

CR: Being that person, and I was once that, I was once your daughter, you know? It's cool.

Q: Yeah. So as you were progressing in ice skating, and [I know?], you skated all the time.

CR: All the time.

Q: I think every time I -- I think you lived at Robert Crown -
-

CR: I did. (laughter)

Q: -- at one point (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

CR: It was my life.

Q: So I saw you growing up and I'm like well, there she is.

CR: Yeah. All, all the time.

Q: She must have a cot in the back room or something like that.

CR: Basically, I never left.

Q: You know, I think she sleeps with those skates on.

CR: Yeah! It, like I, at Crown now, because you know, people moved around, it's like, there's different people in the management now, there's different people in the office. And you know, everybody's like you know what Chelsea? You

should be like, Miss Robert Crown. I was like yeah, I've been here forever. Like I never left. (laughter) I just live here.

Q: They should name it after you.

CR: Yeah, I'm like, it should just be like, Robert Crown/Chelsea. (laughter) This is me! And I'm, you know, I'm still there like, even though, you know, I'm doing the Disney thing now.

Q: Right, right.

CR: Because on Disney, you have options with all the break work. So when you're on break from your tour, you have an option to go to a different tour, and just work with them until your tour starts again.

Q: Right.

CR: And I'm like no, I want to go home. I want to go teach my kids, I want to see my family. So even though I'm on tour with Disney, I'm still at Crown, I'm giving lessons, I'm still there. You know, summer camp is going on, I'm like, "You guys can do it!" (laughter) You know? It's just, it's home.

Q: Good. So you are teaching still?

CR: Yeah.

Q: Yeah. How many kids do you have?

CR: Around, I think I have eight?

Q: OK.

CR: And I have, I float in. I have one student, Devon, and she actually quit when I went on tour. Because I've been her only coach forever, and she's like, "It's just not the same, I just don't want to do it, I'm done, I can't." And I came back and I'm like "Oh yeah, well you know Devon, I'm at the rink." She's like "OK, I'm going to come skating." And everybody's like, how did you get Devon to come back? I'm like, (inaudible).

Q: The skills.

CR: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) I'm like you guys should get on [05:00] my level. (laughter)

Q: How many ice rinks do you work with when you're skating? Is it just Robert Crown?

CR: Crown, and then I have South in Crestwood, Southwest Ice Arena. Actually when we were working on *Ebony*, that's where we rehearsed. And now I work there. (laughter)

Q: Got you, OK.

CR: So those are my two. So it's always kind of like family ties, or like --

Q: Right, right.

CR: -- something really deep for a place that I go. Like I've just been there forever, so I'm like OK, well it feels like home, so I'll just go there. (laughter)

Q: In all the skating, do you have to have like, a certain type of certifications in order --

CR: Yeah.

Q: So what kind of certifications do you have?

CR: I have ISI gold, silver medals, I passed all the way up through ISI Nine, I was working on like, going to do 10, then I was just like (inaudible). I did U.S., FSA, and I've tested out of both, so I have senior levels on both. Regional competitor, I've done that, regionals. What else I've done? Tons of show stuff. I actually, before I went, like this is like my most recent accomplishment, before I left for Disney, what actually got me hired on Disney, because most people, they go and they send in an audition tape. I went and I did a showcase in Idaho, and it was a professional, it was pro skaters. So it was all the professional skaters that are just doing shows, and want to perform. And I didn't know they had like a hiring process there. It was like one of my coworkers at work was like, "Hey Chelsea, you know, you skate and you perform, and you're like, really good, you should go do this." And I was like "Yeah, you know what? You're right, I should go do it." And I went and performed "Purple Rain" there, and they were like oh, so are you coming to the audition tomorrow? And I was like, "Huh?" (laughter) I was like,

"I thought I just was coming to skate a thing and I'm done, I'm going to go home now." They're like, "No, it's an audition, you can like hand in your resume and stuff." And I was like, "I didn't know nothing about that. I'm going home." (laughter) And I'm done. And I have to be at work on Tuesday. And they were like well, you know, it's OK. And I actually won an award there, the star of the future award. So I was the first person, like first year, because a lot of people, they have done it years prior.

Q: Right.

CR: I was like, first person that was like, the first year to come and win an award. And I was like, "OK, that's cool, I'm going home, bye!" And the next day, Judy (inaudible) from Disney emailed me, she's like, "You want to come be Tiana in Disney?" I was like, "Yeah! (laughter) That's cool!" So, yeah. I got a few things under my belt.

Q: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible). It's funny how things happen too when we're like, you know what? I'm doing (inaudible) this is my passion, my goal.

CR: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

Q: And all this other stuff is like whatever, but cool, if it comes up, and if it doesn't --

CR: Right.

Q: -- I'm just going to keep going with the flow. And I think that attitude just makes, it shows how confident you are as a person. And I think that's very important where people are like going out, "I have to get this accolade, and otherwise I'm not anybody."

CR: Yeah.

Q: And you're like, I already know I'm somebody.

CR: Right.

Q: And the accolades are great --

CR: Right.

Q: -- but it's my integrity that's important.

CR: That's right.

Q: And you, I see that, and you embody that. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

CR: Well thank you! I try. And that's what I always tell my students, because I feel like, well skating, but life too, it's so hard. And it's so stressful, because there's always this pressure on you to be great, or to be better, or to get this, or win this, or you know, get this job, because this is going to help you, get this degree. Like it's, life is so hard, and there's so much pressure. And with my students, I always try to instill in them, did you do good for you? Are you happy with what you did? If

you're happy with what you did, then it doesn't matter what anybody else thinks.

Q: Right.

CR: And I feel like that's something that people should have in life. Like, these things don't define you. What you do that makes you happy about what you did, that's what counts, that's what that is. So, that's just how I live! I'm like, I like what I did, and I feel good about it, so (laughter) it's fine.

Q: And that's all that counts, really, in the end.

CR: Yeah.

Q: I mean I embody the same things, I'm going to do me.

CR: Yeah, right. Oh --

Q: And I can care less what other people think of me --

CR: Exactly.

Q: -- just keep moving. And people come around.

CR: Yeah. It worked out.

Q: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) basically like OK, that's (inaudible). You tell them whatever, he's going to listen to you.

CR: Yeah! (laughter) You just do your thing, you know what I mean? And that's fine. And that's kind of how I made that transition from competition to shows. Because I've always been a very like, different type of skater. I'm just like,

I just like to do what I like to do when I like to do it. And that's just me. And I feel like with competition, it was very like, they put you in a box. And for some people that works, with some people that's how they function, that's how they thrive. For me, I like freedom, and I like to just do what I want. And I feel like there was always so many rules, and you have to do this, and you have to be like this to succeed. And I was like, and I want pants to skate. I want to wear pants, and compete in pants. If I want to -- not saying you can't, like you can, but I'm like, oh, you know, you should look like this, or you should skate like that. And you should -- yeah, and like it. So, (laughter) I was like, when I perform, when I do shows, I can have my own vision, and I can put that out onto the ice. I don't know if you saw recently, but I posted a video, on Disney, [10:00] we have like our end of the year exhibition, we call it the end show. And we basically do whatever we want. And everybody's like well, you know, you should skate to this, to like, present this for next year, because you can like, skate to a number or a song from another show, to show people what you would do if you had that part. And I was like no, I'm going to do Michael Jackson. (laughter) Nah, I'm good. So I did a

Michael Jackson thing, and everybody's like, oh that's so different. I'm like, that's me. (laughter)

Q: There you go. (inaudible).

CR: This is how I work. And that's just, that's just what I do. (laughter)

Q: Like [go on the mantra?], like girls rule.

CR: Yeah! Like --

Q: I'm loving it, you know? I see it all across the board, and I've seen just different (inaudible) the makeup, the (inaudible).

CR: Yeah.

Q: And how, was it Dominique Dawes? Oh God, who's the [flying squirrel?]? Why can't I remember her name?

CR: The one we just (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)?

Q: Yeah, just (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

CR: Because I know we had (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

Q: Gabby, Gabby, it was Gabby.

CR: Yeah. Well we had one just recently too.

Q: Right. So, the year Gabby broke out, and I look at media, certainly, but (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

CR: Simone Biles, that's the other one.

Q: Yeah, Simone Biles. Yeah, but Gabby, I was watching that one, because that year, she was in there, if you look, I looked at all the advertising, I was really paying

attention to ooh, Gabby's in there, I was paying attention to it. And it was kind of like a multiethnic group.

CR: Yeah.

Q: But America was trying to make this particular gymnast the star. And I guess she had already peaked. And she was not getting it through the whole Olympics. But Gabby came up to the forefront, leading everybody. But I was watching, interesting how the media was playing her back, so every time, even with lighting, everybody else is forward, Gabby's slightly back in the dark.

CR: Yeah.

Q: So you couldn't really see much of her. And reluctantly, they sort of bring her out to the front. But they were still trying to make a documentary on the star girl that they wanted. And I was like, this is so interesting how the media will want to make this story happen, and it wasn't working.

CR: Media, the media? (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

Q: And in the meantime, they're trying to push her out.

CR: Yeah.

Q: And so then after that they flipped, they said we'll just put all the pressure on Gabby now that she has to carry the weight of all people that look like her.

CR: Yeah, it's so hard.

Q: I'm like, this is the, this is what we have to deal with all the time. It's either, you're going to be invisible, or you've got to be so perfect --

CR: Right.

Q: -- that you are a representation of all black women in the United States, and maybe the world.

CR: Right. It's rough.

Q: And seeing [your head?] -- and I know you get some of that.

CR: Yeah. Yeah.

Q: And how you handled that I think is very important.

(inaudible) if you could talk a little bit about that.

CR: I, like I said before, I always do things that are right for Chelsea. And then if people want to follow that, great. If people don't like that, then you know, I'm doing what's good for me. And that's why, like I said, I always try to teach my students that. And I always try to instill in them that people make mistakes, and people are flawed, and that's what makes us beautiful. That's what makes us great. Like, and I'll tell my kids, I'm like, I make learning, because you know, skating, you fall a lot. And I'm like good, you fell? Great, that's teaching you. you're learning here. If you don't fall, you're not learning. And take that with you in life. So with everything, it's like I feel like, yeah media puts so much

pressure on you to be perfect, but you're not going to be perfect. And that's what makes you perfect. So I just kind of like, yeah, I do this, and I fall sometimes, and it's OK. And I'm happy with me. I'm happy with how I am. And I think you're going to like that too, because I'm confident in who I am. And I think every little, every little black girl should take that. Every black kid should take that, be you, be happy with you, and if you fall it's fine. It's not like the end of the world, you're going to get up, and you're going to be strong, and it's going to be OK. And the people are still going to be there. Don't let that pressure determine who you are.

Q: (inaudible). So how long have you been with Disney now?

CR: A year. This'll be my second year coming up.

Q: OK. And you played --

CR: Tiana.

Q: OK.

CR: I love it. (laughter) I love it.

Q: Were you able to put it in -- well, did you have to make up your own routine, or was that something that was coached to you? Like, here's what you (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)?

CR: So it was interesting. So the Tianas prior to me were all ice dancers, ice dancers don't jump. When Judy saw me she

was like OK, she emailed me, and she was like, you know, do you want to be Tiana? I said OK. And then she sent me some videos of like, what Tiana was doing. And I was like, Judy, I don't ice dance, I jump. (laughter) This is not what I do! And she's like yeah, that's fine, I want you to do what you do. I'm like, "Oh OK, well that's different, that's fine." And I was like OK, cool. So actually yes, all the numbers kind of have like a set like, I don't know, frame as you could say. But they can change based off of the skater. So yeah, it did have a set kind of pattern, but when I came in, they did have the choreographer come in and change it for me. So my Tiana version is different than all the other Tiana versions, [15:00] because they made it for me! (laughter) So I had a little bit of input in what I wanted to do, and since I'm a choreographer myself, they're like, you know, what do you think about this move? What do you think about this going here? And I'm like, OK. So we kind of got to collab on it.

Q: Good. Good.

CR: So it was cool.

Q: Get your own stamp on there.

CR: My own little thing. And I tell them, I was like OK, now look, we're making this here right now, this, this is what

I'm supposed to do, but I cannot guarantee you (laughter)
this is what it's going to be.

Q: I might just do a jump here, and (inaudible) the last
minute.

CR: I feel like, and that's what makes the shows very like,
authentic. Because we're all performers. And yeah, we
have our set thing, we do our set thing, but like, our
attitudes are different, we react with the crowd, depending
on how the crowd is, you know? With me, I'm very like, I
have a lot of facial expression. (laughter) And depending
on how live the crowd is, is how crazy my face is going to
be that show! And it's definitely like it, the
performance, it just takes over. Because I'll get done and
I'll see a video and I'll be like, what was happening?
(laughter) What am I doing? (laughter) But that's just. I
love it. You just, it hypes you up, you know? So, it's
great.

Q: (inaudible).

CR: It's perfect for me right now, I think.

Q: So you said your [offseason?], but when you go back, where
-- for the next year, or next season, are you traveling to?

CR: Well, we, our last tour was domestic, so we basically stay
in the States. We finish off all the states we didn't
really go to. So we'll come here in September, we play

Rosemont. Then after we finish all this, we have a little break, and in the summer, we go to South Africa. I signed a two-year deal, so after that year, for my second year, we go to France and Portugal.

Q: Very good.

CR: It's rumored after that we go to Asia, so hopefully we do Asia. (laughter)

Q: So do you anticipate, so your position with Disney is contractual?

CR: Yes.

Q: All right. So, then it's like renewable every year, or every -- well you have a two-year deal.

CR: Every two years, yes.

Q: So yours is a two-year deal, and you could like, negotiate your salaries and all that stuff and say hey, I want my M&Ms with my letter C on them (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

CR: Yeah! (laughter) This is what I like, you know?

Q: I need water from the Appalachian Mountains --

CR: I wish!

Q: -- you know? Purified through silk filters and (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

CR: Right? But you do get to like, kind of ask if you want to go on a different tour, depending on where they go.

Q: OK.

CR: I like my friends, and I like who I'm on tour with. So I'm like, I'll stay with this tour. But yeah, you can basically decide what you want to do. And I'm like, you know, I really want to go to Asia. Like I'm really about this Asia thing. So hopefully in the cards soon.

Q: Cool. And you're going to be playing Tiana throughout?

CR: Mm-hmm.

Q: It's the same production?

CR: Yes.

Q: Do you foresee any other productions you might be interested in?

CR: I don't know. I'm kind of one of those people that, like I said, me just being a creative person, I just kind of take life as it comes. I feel like God gives you tools, and you use those tools. But you should always put yourself, you should use those tools so you are in the best predicament, or best situation, for whatever comes. So I'm kind of like, I'm going to put myself in a situation where I feel happy with what's happening in my life, and I feel good about myself, and whatever comes up, comes up. And that's just kind of how I deal with it. I feel like early on in life, I used to be very like, goal-oriented. I used to be like, and that's like what I said before, the pressures of

the media, the pressures of society, the pressures of your sport. Where it's like, you have to get this milestone, you have to go here. You need to go, you need to compete here at regionals, you need to do nationals, you need to do the Olympics, this is what makes you great. And I'm kind of like, I just like doing what I do, and whatever happens after that happens. So I just kind of leave it open and see what comes to. And that's kind of the approach I took, and now I'm doing Disney. Because I was like, I'm just going to go to Idaho and just like, I like doing this, so ta-da. And now with Disney, and then we'll see. I'm thinking if I had to say like, put a idea to my thoughts of what I'm going to do, I would say my next thing would be movies. I want to get into acting.

Q: Nice.

CR: So, we'll see.

Q: I could see you doing that. (laughter) You've got the personality for it, you're outgoing, you're adaptable, I mean you could probably switch characters like that.

CR: Yeah, basically. (laughter)

Q: Probably keep everybody on their toes, (inaudible) where's she at now?

CR: Yeah, yeah.

Q: No, no, keep rolling camera, we don't know what she's going to do. (laughter)

CR: Yes! Everybody on tour was like, you should just have your own reality TV show, because you would just like --

Q: I could see you doing that. I could see you doing that.

CR: -- you would just -- you're your own person. They was like, (inaudible) just Chelsea, there's no other person like her. (laughter)

Q: It's like [Skin?] with Chelsea, it'd be like (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

CR: -- do this! Basically, I'm just like, I don't know, I just, I just do my own thing.

Q: Hey, you never know.

CR: Beat of my own drum.

Q: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) like that, people might pick up and say hey, you know, this might not be a bad idea.

CR: Yeah.

Q: We have dancers, we have, you know, acrobatics, all this other stuff. We don't have [Disney on Ice?] yet.

CR: We don't. You never know. I'm just saying. Putting out there. [20:00]

Q: I'll be a backer. (laughter)

CR: Hey! (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

Q: I'll be a silent partner, like I'm her manager.

CR: Yeah, do it! Yeah.

Q: I'll be your, I'm your personal driver.

CR: (laughter) Sure!

Q: I don't need a big role. I'm just like hey, I'm in the presence of good --

CR: Sure!

Q: -- of greatness here.

CR: Oh, thank you!

Q: So I just want to see how this works. (laughter)

CR: Thanks! Yeah. Yeah. Who knows?

Q: Fantastic. We'll have to (inaudible).

CR: I love it, yeah, I mean you never know.

Q: You know, you'll get to call security on me, you'll say, "Stalker!"

CR: (laughter) I love it. No. I'm going to be all about it. I don't, you never know, we'll see.

Q: How's your mom doing?

CR: She's good, she's doing good, her and my dad, they're good.

Q: Yeah. Good, good. Yeah, I've met your dad I think one time.

CR: Yeah.

Q: But your mom usually [lived?] at the rink with you --

CR: Yeah she did.

Q: -- that's where I talked to her most. So, and it was really good talking to her, especially when my daughter was just getting into skating, and she was just telling me about the pitfalls --

CR: Yeah.

Q: -- of learning to skate, and the environment with the competition, with not just the skaters, but the parents of the skaters --

CR: Yup.

Q: -- who can be at times, very brutal.

CR: Mm-hmm.

Q: And I think my daughter saw some of that, and learned from it, you know, it's like that something you can't really coach her through. She has to live through it --

CR: Right.

Q: -- and figure it out. And she had the same things, like you know, issues happen on the ice --

CR: Right, you've got to find your way.

Q: -- whether it's microaggressions, whatever it is. Did you ever like, call any of that out or anything like that? Or you just kind of like, took it as strength building?

CR: I'm not the type of person, I'm not a confrontational person. I'm the type of person where I'm like, my work shows, you know? My work speaks for itself. I'm the type

of person, I'm one of those kill them with kindness type people, because I'm like, I know you have this issue, and you're the only reason -- like you have this issue because you just want to have this issue, and there's no reason to have this issue, but I want to keep being nice to you anyway so you continue to have this issue. (laughter) So, I have come across some of that in my field, and where it's just people, and they're just like, there's haters. Or there's people that just, you know, there's jealousy, there's envy. But it's like, I'm going to just continue to do what I do. And you can be mad, or you can come on my side and be happy with me. (laughter) So, I don't know, I just kind of take it as -- I guess you could say take it as strength building and just yeah, there's going to be people like that, and they're going to be funky, but you don't have to sit there and dwell in it. You can continue to go do what you're doing. Because they're going to be like that regardless. (laughter)

Q: Yeah.

CR: So, I -- yeah, I've come in contact with a lot of it, as you say, over the years. But it never really bothered me, because I was always just so in tune with what I was doing. And I'll have people that were like that back then, and they're like, trying to be friendly now, and they're like

yeah, you know, I used to think you were like this, you know, I really used to feel this way towards you, but you're actually really cool, and I'm like, I've been cool, you're the one who's been missing out! (laughter) And it doesn't really, it doesn't really bother me. But I deal with my students. I do see that with them. Like I teach a, I don't know if you've been to Crown lately, but --

Q: Not lately.

CR: -- it has become very diverse. There are so many different races of kids skating now, which is different from when I grew up, because it was like, it was a few, I think there was like three of us. But now it's a lot. And I teach a lot of the little black girls at the rink, and you know, they'll come up to me and they're like, you know, such and such is treating me this way, or I feel like this person feels like they're better, or you know, I'm not progressing as fast as this kid. And I'm like, you are you, are you happy with what you're doing? Do you like you? Then go with people that like you. Because you're happy the way you are. Don't go by those that don't like, like you, or have whatever issue. Go with the ones that like you, that want to be your friend. Go with the ones that are celebrating you instead of bringing you down. And you know, it happens. But I think when you have those people

around you that like me, that went through it, and that are able, that went through it and came out the other side well, you know, that's what you need. And I think that helps people. So like with my mom, when she was like, I did it, I seen it, and this is how I handled it, you know? That's always helpful to have those people in your life.

Q: Right, right. I'm so proud of you --

CR: Thank you!

Q: -- and [all the things?] you've done. I love your energy. We need more of that, I'm glad you're teaching that to a younger generation of budding skaters, and well, you've become a role model. [You know?]? (laughter)

CR: Yeah. I try! I try.

Q: And I think you're doing exactly what, you know, we as a community try and do. You know, we raise you --

CR: Yeah.

Q: -- and then you have to give back. And --

CR: And (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

Q: -- you really [exempliment?], you know, you're showing that. And you know, (inaudible). Yeah. (laughter)

CR: Oh! Well thank you! I mean you guys, you know, saw that in my little old self, and you know, and [you're amped?], of course, like this is, like I said, this is home. And I feel like growing, me growing up, like we were talking

about before, [25:00] there was a lot of that, where people were very catty, and people were very like, judge-y, and people, you know, want to bring you down. And I want to bring that to my rink where I'm like, there is no more of this. Everybody's friends, everybody loves each other. We are a team. We all skate here, we are Robert Crown Skating School, we are a team. Everybody works together, everybody get along. And like, and you see it sometimes with you know, like the coaches or people like mm, and I'm like, no, I'm friends with all of you guys in here, all y'all are going to talk to me. All these kids, everybody talk to each other, we are all friends. And I feel like that's my little version of giving back, because that's what I wanted when I grew up. I wanted it to be an everyone included. So I'm going to be like, I'm going to make that atmosphere. I mean it starts with one person. One person does it, then everybody catches on. Because you know, people will gravitate towards happiness --

Q: Right.

CR: -- and positivity. So I think that that's my little two cents on what I try to do in my world. (laughter)

Q: Well you're doing it.

CR: Thank you.

Q: I really appreciate it. Can you end by just saying your full name, and if you'd like, your age?

CR: Yeah, Chelsea Ridley, and I'm 24 now.

Q: I feel old. (laughter) Thank you very much for this.

CR: Thank you.

Q: I'm going to say, this is what, it's July 22nd, 2017 at Shorefront. Thank you very much for your time.

CR: Thank you.

Q: I'll stop this now, if you're going to say anything off color. (laughter)

END OF AUDIO FILE