

The logo for 'LIFE at Disney' is centered in a black rounded rectangle. The background of the entire page is a colorful, pixelated pattern transitioning from yellow and green on the left to red on the right. The text 'LIFE at Disney' is written in a white, sans-serif font, with 'Disney' in its signature script font.

LIFE at Disney

Bonus Episode Transcript - General Manager, Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser

Ashley and Tony (Podcasts Hosts)

Welcome to the Disney podcast, the show where you discover what it's like to be part of the story and a career with Disney as we bring the Walt Disney Company's core values, culture, and work to life. We're your host, Tony Williams and Ashley Siegel, and we are going to share some remarkable stories from the perspectives of the people and the teams behind the magic.

Ashley

We are so excited to have you back for a bonus episode of the Life of Disney podcast. I'm Ashley Siegel, and I'm thrilled to have two special guests from our Disney Parks, Experiences and Products team with us today. 2022 - 2023 Walt Disney World Ambassador Raevon Redding and Jerome Smith the General Manager for *Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser*. If you aren't familiar with *Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser*, it is a revolutionary new two-night experience where you are the hero. You and your group will embark on a first of its kind Star Wars adventure that's all your own. It's the most immersive Star Wars story ever created. One where you live a bespoke experience and journey further into a Star Wars adventure than you ever dreamed possible. I'm going to hand it over to Raevon to take you on an incredible journey talking with Jerome about his Disney career, some highs, and lows he has experienced, and all of the things you really want to know about Disney Cast Life. Let's welcome to the show, Raevon, and Jerome.

Raevon

Welcome, my name is Raevon Redding one of the Walt Disney World ambassadors. Earlier this year, Walt Disney World Resort opened up *Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser* and invited guests to step aboard a spaceship and fully immerse themselves in a galaxy far, far away. Jerome Smith is the General Manager of the *Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser* and I am so excited to have Jerome here with me today. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule. For those of you listening, Jerome is not only an incredible leader, but he is a good mentor for me and my brother, and I'm really excited to get started. So, a little bit about you. You recently acquired this role in 2021 and you and your team have worked tirelessly, and you have been, I mean, given such a huge task, especially for such an incredible brand such as Star Wars. But just before that in 2012 you started your career with food and beverage, and you've been very versatile. So, you've had fine dining experiences in downtown Chicago, to private golf courses and country clubs in Oklahoma

City. But what I think I want to touch on is your experience and what you did as General Manager at Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort. I mean, this is absolutely incredible what you and your team did. For those of you listening, I think you have to know our Hilton Head Island Resort is an incredible place for your family to experience the magic of Disney outside of Orlando and the hustle and bustle of the theme parks. And Jerome, while you were there, you all received some of the highest scores ever recorded for our resort staff experiences here at Walt Disney World Resort, which says a lot about you and your leadership experience. And also, while you were there, you received one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on any of our Disney cast members, and that is the Walt Disney Legacy Award. And I have to say, that is given to less than 1% of our cast members. Now, Jerome, let's dive right in. Could you please tell me a little bit about your role currently?

Jerome

Well, Raevon, first of all, I am privileged to be here. I'm very honored to have this platform to share stories in hopes to inspire others to know that they can achieve whatever they set their mind to. So first and foremost, I want to say that. My current role is out of this world. It is out of this world for lack of better terms. You know, this opening was epic for *Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser*. And in that, it was the hardest thing I've ever done in my career. And I've shared this with you before, times two. So, in the glory, you have to realize is the hardest thing I've ever done in my entire career, times two. But it is the most rewarding thing that I've ever been part of in my career, times ten.

Raevon

Wow.

Jerome

And these are real numbers. Raevon.

Raevon

Yeah, I believe that, yes.

Jerome

I want to, I want to make sure you and the listeners really feel that. So, it is a dream. Every single day I am dreaming when I come to work. You know, we are in here creating for our passengers because we don't call them guests on board the Halcyon Starcruiser. But we are creating experiences that they will never forget for.

Raevon

For the listeners who have never experience the Halcyon or *Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser*, could you give them just a little bit a taste of what it is from the moment they enter property?

Jerome

So, you know, the Halcyon Starcruiser it hovers over this little planet, and you have to take a launch pod up. And so, when our passengers take a launch pod up and they enter our atrium and see the elegance and the look of the heart of our Starcruiser, you know, they get to go around and to explore different parts of the ship and go eat some of the finest cuisine in the galaxy.

Raevon

The cuisine is delicious. I have to tell everyone it is absolutely amazing.

Jerome

Absolutely. Everyone will go to a muster at 4:00 because we have to have that safety message before we take our voyage into deep, dark space. And then everyone gets their itinerary where they partake in bridge. They get to partake in saber training and even heard a few of our passengers have snuck into the engineering room, which is that's a little different, we're working on that. And then, you know, they get to engage with our crew. And our crew is fantastic and is actually part of the story is just the engagement and the hospitality that our crew provide on a daily basis. Every two days we do these voyages and ultimately, they get to meet characters from different parts of the galaxy as well. So very, very interesting. Very, very different. And earth-breaking to say the least.

Raevon

So, for those listeners who are excited to hear about your career journey and story but are also on the fence about coming to visit because they aren't really Star Wars fans or want to get into it, but not really sure how or they feel like they they've missed their opportunity because I mean this is a legacy you know Star Wars is huge. What do you have to say to those listeners?

Jerome

I'll tell you that there were hundreds of people that worked on this project, some of the smartest, most brilliant minds in the entire world. And we talked about that before we ever opened. You know, what if you're an introvert and you kind of like just really, you know, you don't want to really lean in, what if you're not a big Star Wars fan, like you said, and we work on that. Our job is to create relationships with our passengers over the course of two days. We don't really talk about service. Service is a thing. Here's the thing. I hope you smile. I hope you enjoy it. But if I develop a relationship with you, no matter who you are, no matter where your fandom is, you will leave here in tears or with great joy. And tears are a good thing, Raevon. Let me make sure...

Raevon

Yes, good tears. Okay good tears.

Jerome

Right. Right, right. Yeah. Because our passengers leave, you know, and every week someone's in tears because they cannot believe the immersion, the disconnect from reality that they were able to experience here on board the Halcyon Starcruiser.

Raevon

And now's the time to come to the Halcyon. You all are celebrating your 275th anniversary, am I correct?

Jerome

Yeah. It's a big cruise.

Raevon

It's a big cruise, it's a really big one. So, Jerome, how did your career before this lead you to this moment leading this incredible task that Disney has taken on?

Jerome

I'll tell you, a big message that I want to get across is I am Jerome, just like everyone listening is exactly who they are, what their name is. And I've never been the smartest in the room. And it's been a journey. And so, it was all about hard work. No one will outwork me. That used to be the philosophy. Now I just work hard, right? I just work hard. But it wasn't you know, you kind of evolve as an individual throughout experiences. You cannot cheat experience, right? You can be the most brilliant mind, but you have to go through this little thing called experience. So, it is a collection of experiences that have landed me here. It is a collection of great partnerships, great learnings, bad managers, I say bad managers, because I'm going to try to stay away from bad leaders because leaders and managers are totally different. Right. And it's a collection of all of that that makes up this mixed bag that makes us all successful. And so, the journey will never be straight. The journey is bumpy. The journey has potholes. It has barriers there. And so, we have to be resilient. We have to believe in ourselves. And there's been times in my career where I didn't believe in myself because I came across a bad manager, or I fell doubt because of a situation, or I felt insecure because I made a mistake. Right. And then as long as you learn and you're resilient, you will grow from that.

Raevon

Right.

Jerome

You know, and sometimes you make mistakes twice. Sometimes.

Raevon

Sometimes, not all the time.

Jerome

Sometimes. Because situations look different. And I think, you know, through all my experience in traveling the country, growing up through food and beverage, ultimately what change the reason why I'm here is because Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. So, I wasn't happy in a job that I had at a really, really really nice place. The place was nice, but the feeling wasn't good. And so, I explored my options. And one day I put in three applications, and I got three job offers the same day.

Raevon

Wow.

Jerome

And one of them I needed to really think about. And I said, I want to I want to Disney Hilton Head Island Resort. This this feels like something. And so that feeling, I said, I just want to talk to somebody first. And I talked to the leadership team in depth, and they allowed me to ask a lot of questions. And in those questions, I found out that this is the place that I wanted to be. This is a place that no matter what I want to do in my life, I can do it under the Walt Disney World umbrella. And so, I joined Disney Hilton Head Island Resort in 2012 as a Food and Beverage GEM and we found tremendous success there. That doesn't mean it was easy. That was some of the hardest work that I've ever done until opening the Starcruiser, of course. But the reason why that particular location was so good to me and the reason why I'm sitting in front of you today is because you're on an island within an island. So, if you're short on labor, we can't deploy you housekeeping today, you have to figure it out. And on that island, there is the house, the household pricing is \$500,000, that's the average. So that's not where our cast members were coming from to come to work. And then the island has a bridge. There's only one way on one way off and because the island is so popular, traffic is heavy. And over the island, there's this little place called Bluffton, South Carolina, where they're starting to develop around the water as well. And so, lots of jobs are being created so people don't have to come all the way to the island and deal with traffic that don't live in that area, which makes it very difficult. And so, there's a lot of barriers there that make you have to reach into the community and develop partnerships in order to create a culture where people want to come to work at your resort. So not only was that one challenge in all the success that we had, remember the mixed bag? Right. The epic moment was the pandemic. So, in the pandemic, you know, our company set us up for success. But our company wasn't there when people were you know, they were there for me. Don't get me wrong.

Raevon

Yes, you're right.

Jerome

I was there, I was calling, I was on the phone. And they were sending resources, but it was difficult for our cast members to want to return to work or the fear and all the things that we all went through during that period. And that's where I found the depths of my

leadership. So, it's not a networking thing. I network and I've met with all these great leaders, and I picked up on it, and I'm going to be a great leader. There are times where moments like the pandemic make you reach to places that you didn't know existed within you. And that's where we were able to inspire a great cast base to survive and thrive throughout the pandemic. Now, I know we're still kind of in it right now, right? But we came out in the 2021 and then all of a sudden, I ran right into the Starcruiser.

Raevon

And now Jerome, you mentioned that you were a GEM. And for our listeners that don't know what that is, Disney loves acronyms. We love a good acronym. So, GEM stands for Guest Experience Manager, which our leaders within our parks and our leaders are GEMS. And I want to give a huge shout out to all of the incredible leaders who are out there who are listening. Thank you for doing what you do because it's not easy. Now, Jerome, something that I say to myself every single day, how I start my days is a quote. And the quote goes, "when choosing behaviors for success, I promise to be responsible for my choices, to keep learning as I go and to teach others what I know." And I remember one of the first conversations you and I had you taught me something, and that was what is your why? And ever since that day, I took responsibility and I made sure, you know, I jotted down what my why was and really tried to dig deep and find it. And I gained experiences and learned from things. And then I continue to teach people about finding their why. Could you share your why and why it's so important to have a why?

Jerome

Oh, Raevon, Raevon. So, you know, the why, it's not something that I just created myself. You know, everybody listening has this instinct inside and we all believe that we're meant for more. And, you know, the world is full of distractions. And sometimes it's personal things that happen, sometimes it's health, sometimes it is an injury, sometimes, right, there's a laundry list of all the reasons why we're distracted, but instinctively everyone, they believe it. But everybody doesn't act on it. And so, I've been struggling with that instinct that I had my whole life. And it was actually Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort. There was a moment there when I reflected and I said, I think I got it because I was networking, and I was doing all the things that everybody does. I want to set up time with you. And I heard something, and I started listening to podcasts. I started listening to watch an inspirational leadership, I start studying leaders on YouTube, all of these different things. And someone said, every day you do all these things for everybody else, or you do all these things to satisfy your wants. How much do you invest in you every day? And I was like, wait, let me listen to that again. And I said, oh, okay, okay. So, I'm jotting down notes because my instincts are turning into actions, and you have to write these actions into existence. So, when I put it on paper, I was like, oh, my goodness, all right. I need to invest in me on a daily basis. I didn't know what I was going to do on a daily basis. So, I started with 20 minutes a day. I'm going to invest in me. And in that 20 minutes a day turned into a one-hour day. It's 24 hours. We all get this. It doesn't matter how rich, how poor, it doesn't matter where you were raised your nationality, your religion, we, we all get 24 hours a day, right? And what you do with it will dictate your future. And so, I said,

okay, let me invest in me. I have to and invest in investing in myself. I came across this guy named Simon Sinek and Simon talked about this “Why?” and I was, I was like, okay. And some of the stories were good. And throughout his TEDx talk, there was something he said. I said, wait a minute, let me go back because I'm just surface level. We call it level one listening. I was level one listening. I said, let me go back. So, I went back, and I loved what he said because I said, wait a minute. If I can change who I am, I'll change my outcomes. And I said, wait a minute. What is this why? So, I start to unpack the why anybody can look it up. It's on the Internet. And I found my why, it took me my investment in myself every day and it took me weeks. Because Simon talked about it being one sentence. You don't have to overcomplicated. And what this thing is, is something that your instincts have been telling you your entire life, what people have been telling you. Oh, you're so great. Oh, my goodness. One day when you grow up, you know, you were a little kid. And people have been telling you this thing. And I was able to unpack that, and it literally changed my entire life. So, my why in a sentence is to empower others through relatable stories to help them go from good to great. So, we don't have enough time today Raevon to unpack that whole thing. But to empower others made it about other people. And not me. And so that's my one word as impact, right? But my one sentence to empower others through relatable stories, which means we have to have a relationship. You can't have a relatable story if you don't have a relationship. Right. And so, then that's where I would give you 30 minutes just on relationships to help them go from good to great. And so, when I found my why and people were like, oh my goodness, please tell me, give me leadership tips. I'd love to give you leadership tips, but if you begin with investing in yourself and unpack your own why, it will change the trajectory of your life. And here's why. Jerome, you've been so successful, and Hilton Head was good, and the numbers were great and now the Starcruiser. Wow. But what I did is I invested in others. I found out I clearly have a purpose every day that I wake up. And I invest in others. And so those around me are successful, it is not Jerome it's those around me and helping others find their why and their purpose and to believe there's a lot of powers that I believe in. Like the power of belief. When people believe in themselves, they can do it.

Raevon

They sure can. I don't know if you heard it while you were while you were speaking, but there are people snapping on the other side of this microphone. I heard the snaps and so I'm right there with you. And for the purposes of not messing up the audio, I didn't snap, but I felt that. And I did the finger wave and all. So, I have to ask, was there someone who inspired you or mentored you? And I mentioned when we started that you were so much more than a great leader. You are a mentor to me and my brother, who advocates for you, who sponsors you? Who's that person that you lean on?

Jerome

You know, in the beginning and still to this day, my father has been a tremendous mentor to me. And I'm glad we don't have cameras here because I'd be. You see my emotion, but my father has been instrumental. And then again, I talked about a mixed bag. It is everybody. It's everybody but I didn't see that, you know, so I wouldn't dare start calling

any other names. But even since I've been here over a year in Orlando with the Starcruiser, there is a laundry list of people in our company that have reached out to me or that I have partnered with that have been there for me. And I wouldn't even made it this year because it is very different from coming from Hilton Head to Orlando is very different coming from Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort to the Starcruiser. Those are huge jumps and without all of the great cast members that we have and leaders in our company, there's just no way I'd be sitting in front of you right now without them mentoring and giving me guidance and helping me catch up. Right. They talk about drinking from a fire hydrant. Yeah, I know what they mean.

Raevon

For those who are listening and who are inspired by what you said, who did the finger snaps and the waves. What advice would you give them as they begin to look for their why? How does one get started into looking into that?

Jerome

Yeah, I think it's just to focus on self internally. With their why and some of the things that I said earlier, you know, trust your instincts but remain a student at all times. You know, sometimes our instincts tell is like I am good know, I am really good at what I do and I'm going to prove, you know, and you and you get, and you want to prove that you're good and we forget to be a student. Right? So, there's this and you only find your level by making mistakes. So, you have to okay, I'm a be a student, but I have to have confidence. But I have to network. But I have to find invest in myself every day. But I have to write it down and figure out what I have to see it on paper. I have to have a plan, you know, and just it's I think is really that, I don't want to say it's that simple? Because I've gone through it, right? But it's not that simple. Some people would say is easy, but not simple. I think you just have to believe in yourself. You know, even kids in middle school. I remember my daughter going through this. Kids in middle school are like dream killers sometimes.

Raevon

They're brutally honest.

Jerome

They are brutally honest. My daughter is like, I'm going to be a lawyer when I grow, and they laugh, I'm going to be a lawyer. My daughter is like, I don't want to be a lawyer now, dad, because they said I can't, right? So sometimes we seek advice from others and then we let that advice guide us. And then we go to the next person because we're networking. And then they give us advice and then they guide us. And then we're on this path of advice from others. So, we really have to find moments. You know, it's the age of really a lot of scrolling right now. Right. Just a lot of distractions. And we have to find a moment to sit in peace and invest in yourself. You asked me what my advice would be in the midst of finding your why, in peace and quiet and writing it down and all of those things. There's a sacrifice that everyone has to make. And so along my journey, I looked at Jerome when I found peace, I started to look at myself and I started to look at my inner thoughts I started

looking at what I'm eating. I started to look at what I'm listening to. I started to look at who I had in my circle. No matter what layer of the circle. And so, when you started to take inventory, when I talk about inventory, you have to take inventory of your whole self. This is where you find the depths of, I want to be this, I want to be that, I want to be a leader. I want to be a CEO. I want to be, you can do you actually, whoever believes they can be a CEO, as difficult as that is. And you should be careful when aspiring for that because it is just, I can't imagine. I can't even imagine. Right. But whoever wants to achieve something, if they write it down into existence and believe in it, they have to set action behind it. They will achieve that. But you going to have to take self-inventory and make changes in your personal life. And these are changes that other people don't even know about this we as individuals is only us. And so, I had to challenge myself and we talked about this I think is something else we were on, and we talked about the sailboat theory. But you have to like, I went from I'm not going to eat this anymore. And that was hard for me. Right. And but what it did is it taught me discipline so in the midst in the midst of making personal changes, you gain a discipline. And in that discipline, you change your sail of your life. Now, that little bitty discipline that you got, like, that's not a big deal. It was hard for you. But then what if you change two or three? You continue to change your sail. Now, others may not see that. Oh, great. Jerome changed his diet. Oh, great Jerome doesn't listen to that music anymore, whatever that means. Now, the whole music thing is that in my mind, I wake up in the middle of the night with thoughts of work and all that stuff. And sometimes I hear songs and I'm like, I don't even want that song in my head. That's a whole other story. But I'm changing your sail. If you change it. One click, two click, three clicks with three things that you've changed about yourself is really small. But a thousand miles from now, a thousand miles deep into the dark blue sea, you will be in a different location than you normally would have been in had you not made those little changes. And so, it's these small changes that add up to be these big moments in your life, like the Starcruiser for myself which is just a true blessing for me to even sit here and talk about it.

Raevon

It is truly a blessing in an incredible thing. So, I'm honored that you took time out of your busy day to chat with us. Now, this will be the last serious question that I have to ask. And then we get into some fun ones. But I have to know, Jerome, you have been extremely successful, and you're loved and you're incredible. What keeps you up at nighttime? You said, you know, you get those random thoughts that pop into your head and those random songs. But what keeps you up?

Jerome

You know, my first advice is that everybody should sleep well because sleep is really important. So, I don't want to, don't take my, don't listen to Jerome and think. It all keeps me up, Raevon. My, you know, I have a 16-year-old daughter, I love her dearly and I want the best for her and she's a teenager. So, we know with teenagers how teenager minds are at this age. Right. And she's terrific. And straight-A student and basketball player and all that but you know it is scary because she started driving that keeps me up. I have a

beautiful wife who I love dearly. She is my best friend. I have two other best friends. They're still my best friends, but my wife's best friend, we'll explain that later. And you know, and I want to do everything in my power to make her happy. And so, every decision, knowing that I'm the man of the household. So sometimes that wakes me up just making sure that I'm guiding my family. And then obviously, you know, you can't do it all. You can't be a jack of all trades. And so, I am a master of my family. And I tried to be a master of my craft in the sport of hospitality. And so, at work, if our scores are really doing good, I, I still wake up some time because I'm like, how can we find that 1% better? You know, I'm always looking for the 1% better and then I had a mentor at one point in my journey that said you need to put a pen and pair by your bed and write it down because you'll go back to sleep and forget about it. And that start happening. So sometimes I get some ideas when I'm running on autopilot and people call it sleep. And then, you know, obviously when there's challenges and there's always challenges. Some of those things wake you up out of your sleep, but that's really not healthy. So, I'm still working on myself in that regard.

Raeon

So yeah, it's great. Is there a magical moment in your career or here at the Starcruiser or Hilton Head that you will never forget?

Jerome

Oh yeah. You touched on it earlier. Yeah, you touched on it earlier. This one particular year I worked for; it was this is when I believe hard work. Hard work is the way, right? Just no one will out work me. And I actually worked Raeon, this is supposed to be a secret, but now that we out there, I worked five out of 12 months, every day of the month in an attempt to create this culture and drive scores to an unparalleled level. And in that I put my head in the sand. This is what I tell, I share this with some of our cast members. If you put your head in the sand and you focus on your work, you look back, pull your head out of the sand, and look back and you've built a highway. And so, in that we were planning this event and, but I had my hands in everything and I'm like. Why don't I, what are we setting up for? And they totally tricked me. I just dropped my daughter off to school and came in. The event was at 8:30 in the morning. I just took her to school and got to work and was moving some tables and chairs and the room was full and my family walked in, and I went numb because, I could not, I couldn't grasp what was happening as they walked through the door and I saw my mom and my aunt and my cousins and my daughter, I'm like, I just dropped her off and it didn't. I had no clue. And it was the legacy award and less than 1% and all the things that you said earlier. And I'll just never forget that because, you know, people aspire for that. And I never thought about it. And I think that's why it happened to me. I never thought about it. I just came and walked in my purpose every single day. And so, at that point, I had found my why and all those things. All right. So, these things started to add up when I made my personal the personal changes in my life and kept my head down and was focused on those around me and making them better. How did I receive such an honor? I'll never forget that moment. Ever, ever, ever.

Raevon

It's incredible. I have the incredible honor of representing all 70,000 cast members here at Walt Disney World Resort, Vero Beach, Hilton Head Island and Shoreside Cruise Line. And it is legacy season as we speak right now. And we've gotten to surprise some awesome cast members and bring their family in and be a part of that moment. And so, I can only imagine what that was like for you at that time. All right. How do you recharge? How do you decompress when you leave, and you take a moment to you take a moment to be the master of your family? What are you doing to recharge and spend some time with them?

Jerome

Well, I used to recharge with golf and then I found out that wasn't a recharge because I'm not good at it.

Raevon

Like golf, golf, or mini golf.

Jerome

No golf, golf. So, I love golf, but not being good at it is frustrating because I kind of put that on the back burner. Maybe I'll pick that up when one day when I retire, just spending time. It's literally I recharge by spending time with my family. And so, I talked to my best friend every morning on the way to work, and I go home. I spend time with my family every evening. We have a balance of serious conversation, learning moments, fun, laughter. We're very competitive. We have a competitive household. So, we'll pull out a cornhole board or something randomly through the middle of the week. It is all family support. And my daughter, through her, her high school years, and basketball. So, she, you know, she does travel basketball and supported my wife in her dreams and talking and dreaming together. So, another recharge for me is my wife and I wake up several times a week early, early, early, early, early.

Raevon

Like 4am early? Yeah, I knew that time.

Jerome

And we dream together now. Sometimes we are not consistent, but when we do, that's an investment into my marriage. And you wouldn't believe doing that once or twice a week. Over a month, how far we travel in and all the things that we set in action. You know, and how much we accomplish. And so just again, that's an investment. We have to make investments. You know, people want to make investments in the stock market. We want to make investments in their career. Right. We have to make investments. This all starts at home. You have to make an investment in yourself, your loved ones. You have to start there before we go. And we want to network with everybody, and we want to know how to climb the corporate ladder. It is really about self and being grounded. So, you know, I

can't tell you that ten years ago, 12 years ago, 15 years ago, the Jerome was grounded. Right? Because I want to do everything I want over here. I'm going to see this friend. I'm going over here. And then on the weekends, I'm I am very, very grounded. And I hope that somebody listen, you know, and you and I have talked about this as well. My hope you can't change everyone's life, but we can try and every day I wake up and I try. Every day I wake up in that and I try, and I hope someone listening, it only takes one. That's how we change the world. So, everybody listening is not going to, right. But somebody listening. If they can just take some of this, I know that they'll find a brighter future. That's my hope for today.

Raevon

You ready to have a little bit of fun?

Jerome

Let's have some fun.

Raevon

I have to ask you.

Jerome

Uh-Oh!

Raevon

They walk in right now and they say Jerome, you just won the lottery, the Megaball. You don't have to come to work tomorrow or ever. What are you doing?

Jerome

Raevon why would you ask me?

Raevon

What are you going to do next?

Jerome

Well, I'll tell you. First of all, I'm coming to work tomorrow.

Raevon

Okay.

Jerome

I am. And a lot of people say you like. Yeah, right. No, I'm coming to work because when I tell you that I'm whole right now, this is the first time that I dream in different colors. I see in different colors. I am so connected to making impact that there was no way that I wouldn't show up tomorrow morning. Let me just put that out there.

Raevon

All right? So, he's coming to work tomorrow.

Jerome

I'm going to work tomorrow. That's my last day. Yeah, okay. And I'll come in and speak, you know, whatever. Yeah, that's my last day. I am bringing my entire family, and we are flying to a remote island. And we are going to discuss how we're going to create generational wealth of our family and how we're going to give back because money is just, you know, right now, my why and all that stuff that we've been talking about today. I used to be ambitious, and now I'm trying to make an impact. There's a difference. It's like the sailboat difference. You end up if you try to be ambitious, sometimes people will step on people to get to where they want to go. And so, it's about creating generational wealth for my family. And it's about making an impact through money. Right. Yeah. And how we can create things to help those that are in need because that's my whole purpose. I want to help those that are in need. So, I know you wanted to be light with that, but, then when you put me on the spot.

Raevon

No, that is good, that is exactly what I wanted. I kind of knew that answer to. You know, I tell you all, we really do talk all the time. This is an incredible individual. I need to know if there's one food you had to eat for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Jerome

Oh, I'm embarrassed. I'm embarrassed. Don't judge me. All right, you ready?

Raevon

Oh, man.

Jerome

All right.

Raevon

Is it a Greek salad?

Jerome

No way.

Raevon

Okay.

Jerome

No way. In fact, it's far from a Greek salad. I'm embarrassed myself. I'm like a little kid when it comes to this.

Raevon

Dino-nuggets.

Jerome

I know. No, no. I want the corner piece of cake. And I want it. This is how I got an issue with this, trust me.

Raevon

Okay. All right, all right.

Jerome

On the corner piece, I want it wherever the little kid's birthday cake had the flower or the balloon with the most icing. Every day of my life. That's what I want to eat for the rest of my life.

Raevon

For the rest of your life. Okay, then I have to ask this. You're talking about icing. So, when it comes to a cupcake, supposedly there are two ways to eat a cupcake. The correct way and the incorrect way. The first way is just biting into the cupcake after peeling off the wrapping. The second way is twisting the bottom half and putting it on top, and the other half making, like, a cupcake sandwich.

Jerome

Correct.

Raevon

Which way do you eat your cupcake?

Jerome

So, it's the third way.

Raevon

Oh.

Jerome

I'm the icing guy that wants to corner. Right. So, you got to take the bottom of the cupcake off. You eat that first because you want to, you kind of want to just, you always want to save the best for last.

Raevon

You want to save the best for last.

Jerome

And then, you just have that thin layer with all that icing. And you can just go to town. Everybody, now my advice is that everybody tries it.

Raevon

Everybody. I'll be very honest, I've never tried that before, so I will definitely try it. Jerome, this has been incredible. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you to all of our listeners. We really do appreciate you joining us for this cast conversation. Jerome, thank you once again. We greatly appreciate it. This is Raevon. Until next time, I always say this, continue to autograph your work with excellence.

Ashley

Thank you, Raevon, and Jerome for that look into an amazing Disney career all leading up to Jerome receiving the Walt Disney Legacy Award and providing some incredible advice for our listeners. I know you have definitely inspired our listeners and me to learn more about the opportunities available at the Walt Disney World Resort. Remember to subscribe to our show on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you listen to podcasts. If you'd like to learn more about the topics mentioned in today's episode, take a look at our show notes on the Life of Disney blog. Thanks again for listening to Life at Disney and make sure to join us next season.

Ashley

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