

Big 30 Website – Being and growing as artist – Long version – Transcript

MUSIC: Too Hot For Candy live improvised jam

LIZZIE: My nan was a jazz and blues-er and she did all the jazz and blues, all the razzmatazz. And then every time I went home we all used to do a show and give us a song or dance or something like that, all my cousins sitting round and my uncles and my aunts. And by the time I came into Heart n Soul, I was a very tender age I was about to turn 21. I saw Heart on the stage, I thought they were amazing and my key worker at the time, called Colin, Colin Sinclair said go up on the open mic and see what happens. And I'm like, Colin are you serious? And he said, yeah, go for it, go on see what happens. So I went for it and the song that I did was Talkin' 'Bout a Revolution by Tracy Chapman, and when I came off the stage Mark Williams was standing at the side of the stage and he shook my hand and said, hello my name's Mark, have you just seen the company Heart n Soul? And I'm like, yeah they were absolutely amazing, and they were, they were amazing. And he says to me I'd like you to audition for Heart n Soul, and I'm like, what, me? And so he says, yeah you! Who else?

DEAN: I remember, one of the headteachers was saying that he wants me to perform in front of the whole school and do some rapping. I decided to do it and my head teacher was playing his guitar. It was fantastic and everyone saw me perform and everyone liked it.

PINO: Music was my number one. It probably would have been the Beatles, jumping up and down on the settee. There's lots of them really; Billy Fury is another one, Bobby V is another, Colin Frances

music, there's loads really. I always wanted to be famous. Every time I went to bed I was always thinking, ooh, I want to be famous, I'd like to be a singer and this and that. I said to myself, no that's not going to happen, not to me. Well, what do I think about that now, I think it's come true, that dream has come true really, and I'm happy about that.

MUSIC: Cosmopolitan Piggy by Jazztronics

DEL: I'm Del the Piggie, you have a pig in the room.

TILLEY: And I'm Tilley Milburn.

DEL: I have bells on my tail and I'm made of fabric, like polyester and I've got beans in me like polystyrene balls, like you get in a bean bag. I'm quite fat and short, a good foot or foot and half in length and about a foot wide, like a girth. And I've got buttons for my eyes and I've even got a butterfly.

DEL: My owner bought me in Clinton Cards shop in Ashford in Kent, for the princely sum of £9.99, would you believe it? It's an insult isn't it? That's not even a sale price, that's my full price. Well, my owner was all excited and everything, she was running towards me and I did wonder what was going on. I saw this big person coming towards me, not a small child, this big person coming. She was excited but then she didn't have the money, she didn't even have £9.99, she had to borrow the money.

TILLEY: I had to borrow the money from my key worker at the time, and she was called Delphine. Well everyone called her Del and I think you can guess what happened, I asked her if I could name Del the piggy after her because I was close to her actually. There was just something about her, she was incredibly genuine and warm. I started creating

this voice and I don't know how it came, but when I was putting on that voice people were convinced I was foreign. And I said to them, well who you're talking to now, this is me, I'm not foreign at all, am I? I just felt it suited her. Maybe I like the fact that it's so different to me, because I was angry at myself, I didn't want to be me. Subconsciously I tried to create something that was so far removed from me and from other people that I know. It was just completely different, but it had the warmth of Del. Mark, for some reason saw something in me. I do remember that then I mentioned about Del, and he said to bring her along. And really it is like that clichéd statement, the rest is history – I haven't stopped since then. I was in Jazztronics for two or three years in the end. We did release an album called 'From Deptford to Dusseldorf'. And I wrote the lyrics to the Cheeky Funky Monkey Song and Cosmopolitan Piggy.

DEL: Yes I feature a lot on that song.

TILLEY: At first I was terrified, I had no confidence, I was convinced I would do something wrong and maybe that would be it, that would be my chance. I think I wrote Cosmopolitan Piggy on the train. I just suddenly felt like it on the bus or the train, it just suddenly flowed. I was 26 when I joined Heart n Soul. I was so convinced it was too late for me already at 26, I thought I've had it now. There's about a million reasons that I could say...You know I didn't go to music school, I didn't go to art college, drama, nothing like that, I haven't got A-levels. There's a long list of things that I could say, oh well perhaps I won't get anywhere, no one will want me. Thankfully, I've learned that it doesn't matter, if your heart's there and you really want to do it...I dunno, people seem to like Del and I so it doesn't matter, does it? (LAUGHS)

DEAN: It started in 2006, when I was working with Matthew and Charles Stuart.

MUSIC: The Fish Police theme by The Fish Police

DEAN: We got into a room together and we were looking for some ideas for songs and I kept talking about cartoons all the time. And there was one thing that kept in my head called the Fish Police and I kept saying, hey we're the Fish Police. And that turned out to be a song.

I remember, I was playing the guitar and a lot of people joined in, a lot of people joined in. My first gig with the Fish Police was the Squidz Club back in November of 2006. We were performing two songs; Black Scissors and The Fish Police theme. All the audience were cheering and making lots of noise and when we were playing the first song, Black Scissors, the audience were screaming, Black Scissors! Black Scissors! It makes me feel excited and very happy.

MARK: You're never afraid to go into quite dark places of sadness

PINO: No I don't, I'm not afraid

MARK: and that's quite brave.

MUSIC: Time for a Change by Pino Frumiento

PINO: Time for a Change, it's about a relationship that you'd like to have and you can't have. That was written for someone that I like and I can't have.

MARK: You've never shied away from exposing how you feel and that makes it quite emotionally powerful.

PINO: Well we are lonely people really, in a way. People with disabilities are a bit lonely really, in a way.

MARK: And you're not pretending that everything is happy all the time. It's sad as well.

PINO: Well you've got to smile, you've got to smile or you'll get ill, innit?

MARK: Life is a mix

PINO: It's a mix of bits

MARK: And to be able to represent the sad and the darker time is really quite a gift, because people can identify with it.

PINO: And people should really understand about people with disabilities too.

LIZZIE: Beverley Knight's turned round and said, hello my name's Beverley Knight. People call me a soul diva, that's what people call me, but not in Lizzie Emeh's case. Lizzie Emeh she's the queen of soul.

MUSIC: See Me by Lizzie Emeh

LIZZIE: We're jamming away and we're jamming away and I said to the horn sections and I wonder if you could do it? Mark says to me, what do you want them to do? Demonstrate what you want them to do. And so I've come out with (SINGS) BA-DA-DA-DAAAAAA.

I don't know whose bright idea it was to get a live horn section on stage with me. They just do something to me. When I'm onstage, they make me come alive.

LIZZIE: When I done the Paralympics, I actually got to meet Beverley Knight. And I'm backstage, I'm ready to go on and what am I doing? I'm crying, I'm shaking, I'm saying, Mark I can't do this. It was just so nerve wracking, just so, Oh god. And when I went out and done it with Beverley Knight, it was like a walk in the park. When I'm that high and that adrenaline and that excitement is inside of me that's when you get the best work.

KALI: We're a three-piece band.

MUSIC: Mexican Wave by Too Hot For Candy

ARTHUR: We are three musicians, we all sing, we all write songs together. Me and Kali both play keys and Isaac plays the drums. The music is pretty funky, quite dancy, electronic, it's quite high energy, a bit rocky - a few things in there.

KALI: We've just been touring all over London and recently went off to Mulheim recently, but that was last year, it was brilliant. And we're hoping to do some more of that. And I think we've all grown as well, we've all grown as people and as a band we've proper grown and matured and I think we're doing really well.

WILLIAM: What was the first thing that we done together that gave us the idea for a band?

RICHARD: You guys worked really well together. We just thought we'd get everyone in a room and see what happened.

MUSIC: Club Smash by Electric Fire

WILLIAM: Sometimes we sit down and try to throw ideas at papers and try to come up with something. Or sometimes Alicia comes up with her own songs or her own lyrics and we use them. It's about Electric Fire taking it to the highest and the audience doing dance moves because in the verse it says, touch the ground, turn around, stomp your feet to the beat. It's making the audience move and it's Electric Fire taking it the highest.

DEAN: I was working on a project called the Dean Rodney Singers, it was part of the Olympiad. And the idea that I had for the project was from this dream I had.

MUSIC: The Dean Rodney Singers by The Fish Police

DEAN: I saw lots of musicians and people performing on stage. They have seventy two musicians from seven countries. I asked them a question, I said, what's the name of your band? They said, DRS and I said, what does that mean? And they said, oh we don't know. And I said to them, how about the Dean Rodney Singers? And the band members said, oh wow that's a good idea, but who is Dean? And I said, that's me.

I heard that the project was going to happen in 2012 and I got so excited, that means I was allowed to go to different countries that represent the project. We went to six different countries; South Africa, Croatia, China, Japan, Germany, Brazil and we meet the band

members for the first time. And then the second time we gave them iPads. There were musicians and dancers. They were making music and started to make their own videos. It turned out to be an installation at the Southbank Centre. When I went to the installation, it's like I was stepping into a different dimension. It's like you're going to an installation where no one has gone before.

Yes, I do make music. I write a lot of songs and I make music without vocals too. This is the EP that I made, it says Dean TV love, the story so far.

MUSIC: Dean TV Love by Dean Rodney

DEAN: I made it on a music software called Ableton Live, on my computer, in my bedroom. Dean TV Love is a new catchphrase that I made. And I remember, I went to the Albany to see Lizzie perform, doing her second EP launch and I met this lady and I was dancing with her on Friday the 13th of May 2016. When I was dancing with her, there was something that was going on in my head and it was called Dean TV Love. And then the first Dean TV Love song was recorded and written on Saturday 14th May.

DEAN: Learning to interact with people, that's the changes, because sometime I talk about cartoons and movies that I made up in my head and sometimes I have dreams. I see things in different ways, like seeing different people who remind me of one of the characters that I invented. Lots of people like the stuff I talk about but some people start to get confused and wonder what I'm talking about, like when I'm at school, some of the teachers keep telling me not to talk about them but I continue to do it anyway. I remember when I was young; I used to be shy meeting people different people but all that has changed now.

Because if I was performing with the Fish Police, I could say anything, like you can tell a joke. And all the audience will listen., and some of them might laugh.

LIZZIE: When I ended up on London Tonight I raced back home and everyone was sitting round the TV watching the London Tonight news; me mum, me sister in law, me brother was upstairs and I was down in the front room. I didn't tell me mum about me going on London Tonight. Everyone else knew in my family all except for me mum. So me mum, she's watching the London Tonight news and how they introduced me was: next up we've got this young lady who's got a learning disability, this week she's going to make history, she's going to be the first person with a learning disability to have an album released on to iTunes. My mum was like, Liz, Liz, you've done it, you've done it. And I was like yeah, mum, I did that.

TILLEY: The first time we performed at the Royal Festival Hall, I think it was the Clore Ballroom; we were with that band. It was quite a big thing for me and my owner to be able to perform our own songs, together, on a platform that big; hundreds of people in the audience. We'd never known anything like it. The important thing was that that was the start, Jazztronics and that was what got us on to that stage, but we had no idea where we would be going next. We couldn't imagine the sort of things that we would be doing now.

PINO: I also got an MBE by the Queen by creating Heart n Soul. I got a letter from Gordon Brown and thought to myself, me? No, no way! Come and collect your MBE and I thought, all right, fair enough. I wore a suit on that day, yep. It was nervous really, a bit nervous. All the army people were there. It was only me and Mark there collecting our MBE. Well, I came with my family and he came with his family. Prince

Charles gave it to me and I was happy that I got an MBE really, I'm very proud of that.

I thought we never reach this far, you know. I thought we would have lasted only a couple of years really. It's incredible that lots of people turned up and come and watch us, and said that we were good at things. It's nice to hear from that.

DEAN: My ambition? Hmm...Trying to learn different ways of making music and different ways of pronouncing words and lyrics.

PINO: I want to make an album. Yeah, well at the moment we've got 18 in the album so we need another two to put in. So, who knows what could happen.

ARTHUR: Five years in Too Hot For Candy? I'd like to have done some festival or club gigs, in a mainstream setting. Somewhere that people just turn up and they want to see music and have a good time and we're there. I think in five years we should have an album out, that's an easy thing to aim for. We're getting our EP together at the moment, that's the current work.

ISAAC: Doing more gigs, inviting them to join the band, coming to our gigs and to just enjoy yourself and have a good time.

KALI: I would also like us to do a gig in front of the muppets, that would be fun, or to get them to join in with us in a song.

TILLEY: Well there's so many ambitions. Del and I would love to carry on with Heart n Soul for as long as, I want to be here till I drop.

MUSIC: Cheryl Lyte's Jam

DEL: For a start, I don't know if you know about pigs, but we only live between 15 and 20 years on average and I'm nearly 13. My first hope is that I can at least be here for my owner, how ever long my owner is here. But I want to keep that legacy going as well. I hope that even when my owner isn't here, there is some way that Del the Piggy and Tilley, all of that carries on. My ambition is to go to that island where the pigs are swimming. There is a place where pigs are just swimming all the time, in the sea. There must be some people there as well, or maybe it is just pigs, I don't know. I want to go there and see what the pigs think of what we do.