

1 INTERVIEW WITH CHAN WOO KIM

2 *Interview Date: Wednesday May 6, 2020 @ 11:45 AM*

3 *Capturing Quarantine*

4 *Columbia College Chicago*

5
6 CLAIRE BELHUMEUR: Okay so this is the 'Capturing Quarantine' oral history interview
7 project, my name is Claire Belhumeur I'm filming from East Hampton, New York. It is 11:45
8 AM Wednesday, May 6th 2020 Eastern time, it is 10:45 AM central time. Can you please state
9 your location and name?

10
11 CHAN WOO KIM: My name is Chan Woo Kim and I'm in Chicago.

12
13 CB: Okay, perfect. And, what is your year in college and projected graduation year?

14
15 CWK: So, um, I'm in sophomore year, and I will be graduating 2022.

16
17 CB: And your major in college?

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19 CWK: And I'm majoring in film directing, as in Bachelor of Fine Arts.

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21 CB: Is there any minor you're focusing on or any additional courses you're taking?

22
23 CWK: No.

24
25 CB: And where was your place of birth?

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27 CWK: I was born in South Kor-- um in South Korea.

28
29 CB: Where were you raised?

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31 CWK: I was born and raised in-- in South Korea, but I moved to, I've been everywhere, for a
32 couple years in the Philippines then I moved to here in Chicago.

33
34 CB: What years were those?

35
36 CWK: So those - So I was born in June 1999 in South Korea, and I moved to the Philippines
37 around 2002 to 2005, then I moved to Chicago in 2005, and afterward I'm here.

38
39 CB: Okay. Uh, what was your mother's year of birth and place of birth?

40

41 CWK: So my mom's name is Cho Yin Suk and she was born in Seoul, South Korea, and she was
42 born in - gosh, um like 1960 something?

43

44 CB: What is your father's year of birth and place of birth?

45

46 CWK: My father's name is Kim Young Ryul and he was born in Seoul, South Korea too and he
47 was born in 1960 something.

48

49 CB: What's your earliest memory from your childhood?

50

51 CWK: My earliest memory has got to be that I remember when I used to ride a bicycle all the
52 time around the street corner and I remember that I used to buy, every-time during lunchtime, I
53 used to eat ice cream all the time so that's what my earliest memories were.

54

55 CB: Was that in the Philippines or here in Chicago?

56

57 CWK: In the Philippines.

58

59 CB: Philippines. Describe your neighborhoods growing up.

60

61 CWK: Which neighborhoods are you talking about?

62

63 CB: So, you could talk about your neighborhood in South Korea, the Philippines and then maybe
64 get into the neighborhood in Chicago.

65

66 CWK: Well I don't have really good memories in South Korea because I was literally a baby.
67 Philippines, I do remember very few, to be honest, it's just like I was - you know, it was super
68 hot, and it was super sunny, and it was a very rough neighborhood. But, it was like only five
69 years, and then after in Chicago - and, it was an actual city in Chicago, in the South Loop of
70 Chicago. During the time it was, it was a pretty nice neighborhood to be honest with you. It was
71 very quiet and calm during the time, there was not much, I would say, building during the time.
72 So, [now] it has more buildings.

73

74 CB: Do you remember anything specifically about moving, I know you were, you said you were
75 young in Korea, but moving from the Philippines to Chicago, to the US or anything your parents
76 have talked about, about that?

77

78 CWK: Um, what do you mean talk about, specifically?

79

80 CB: So any stories your parents have mentioned, just about the transition of moving.

CWK: Oh, okay. The transition, it was pretty hard to be honest with you because there were a lot of things going on because we had to move a lot because of my dad's business. And so it was pretty rough for both of my parents because we had to go again, though I didn't have that kind of experience because it's like, when I was young there was nothing wrong. But in the US it was pretty tough for them because it was a new adjustment from what they were used to in South Korea for a really long time, like culture-wise.

CB: Right, so what's one moment from your childhood that you've taken with you up to this point in your life? Like a positive memory, or--

CWK: My positive memory has got to be the first time I got my own film camera. Like a Super 8 camera, oh my god it was a really old camera, but because my mom bought it from a really good-- from one of my good friends, and he just gave it to me. I'm like I don't know how to use it, but it was very fascinating, and that was one of my goodest memories I have.

CB: So, yeah you're super interested in film, that's what you're studying, that's what your career is now. Are there any other hobbies that you did whether in your childhood or in high school?

CWK: Oh gosh, um so pretty much I didn't have any hobbies to be honest with you. It's just like, it took me a while to [find something I loved as much as] film, just because my mom kept encouraging me to do something like, do after-school activities like physical training, therapy, or tap dance, or Tae Kwon Do, art kind of stuff to see what I liked and that was everything she tried to see what was the best and that wasn't working for me, finding something I liked. And so, I kind of, by myself, discovered that film was my passion by watching actual films.

CB: So was watching films the first moment that you realized you really wanted to be a filmmaker, and describe that.

CWK: Yes, it was. Um I specifically remember when I was in a movie theater, an AMC, and this one time I watched the very first Stephen Spielberg's Jurassic Park -- not the new one, the very old one, and that moment I was like oh my god, this is really amazing. Like how, the technology, and how you could actually build like the special effects, like the dinosaurs, and that really struck me a lot. And I wanted to-- that's when I became a filmmaker and that's something [I realized I could use to] deliver the good message to the audience.

CB: So that was back when you were in middle school?

CWK: Back in-- when I was in elementary school.

CB: Elementary school. So describe your high school experience.

CWK: My high school experience, it was pretty rough to be honest with you. Because I know some of my friends from middle school who go to the same high school it's just like -- It was rough because as I said those people were the ones who were being bullied in middle school. I actually had that experience where middle school students, like three or four guys who just-- I was very chubby at the time, those people would just pick me up and then they had a bunch of bad things about me and printed out a bunch of posters and then posted them around every single locker room and it was really rough-- a rough childhood and rough high school too just because they did exactly the same thing with me in high school too but they got suspended, so. It was really tough because bullies can-- they picked me up and now I lost too much weight and had like, a dramatic eating disorder because of that because they gave me anxiety like-- how am I gonna like, deal with them, how am I gonna deal with it. So that is why I had a rough childhood, because of that.

CB: And what did you turn to, to find positivity during that time?

CWK: So, well, um-- I was able to find positivity from, actually my mom, who also is a friend and who is a mentor to me too. Just because during middle school, since elementary and through high school I didn't have actual real friends and it'd just been really rough, that's why I said [to her] like, I really don't want to go to school anymore, it's so hard for me right now. And she-- my mom was able to understand the situation, and she said you know what, let's do the film career kind of stuff, it makes you forget all the negative stuff. And she also encouraged me to do the film club in high school, which I was able to find my passion and so that's why I was there. That's what made me turn it into some sort of positive way for me going to school, just that looking forward to the day for film club, you know, I mean, after school. And I ended up doing, like, three documentary series of football every night, every Friday and Saturday. It was really tough, but it was worth my time to actually create my first documentary series.

CB: And you've mentioned your mom, is there anyone else who you are really influenced by in your early-life? Any other supporters, maybe in high school?

CWK: Hm, aside from my mom to be honest I didn't have much of it. But, to be honest I'd never met this person in person or whatsoever, I just saw him on Youtube and that kind of stuff, where-- His name is, it's another director named Ron Howard who just really inspired me to, and encouraged me to go out and start filming. Don't be afraid and use film and those years to help you define what is your happiness, and go out and film, shoot and forget all the negative stuff.

CB: What from his teachings do you think you've carried, do you think-- what messages have you carried with you?

CWK: Ron Howard said that specifically, when I wake up every morning I tend to get hungry all the time [for film, and working] because I have a lot of creative ideas that won't stop, they're ongoing. Now that specific quote I forgot, but that moment I was inspired-- Oh, that makes sense, every time, every morning, or whenever the specific moment is that I always have a creative idea I want to write it down, even when I don't have time for me to do something, I want to focus on it.

CB: What was your college application process like? Or your thought process before starting to get into thinking about college, in high-school.

CWK: So basically, college applications are the worst nightmare every high school student will do. Well, my college application was the worst nightmare because we have to do multiple SAT or ACT exams in order to have the minimum requirements for each college, and I was able to do that. College applications in the virtual high school-- I mean college, I thought that they'd have all the same prompts, but they didn't have the same prompts which I was so furious [about], I'm like oh god, okay this is too much and how am I gonna limit or type the words for a 500 word essay, and that kind of stuff. It was a burnout, during that time, college applications, but it was worth it because I applied to 6 or 7 colleges. But, I found out that Columbia offered me, and other-- and San Francisco, and was it like, USC? No UCLA, there you go, that offered me some scholarships, and congratulated me on going to college. But I just found out that I want to- I just found out that Chicago was the first filming industry, so I was like oh, let me try and focus on Columbia first, I want to really learn how the building of creative energy is processed before me going to LA, so.

CB: What was the initial moment you realized you definitely wanted to go to Columbia College Chicago?

CWK: Well, um, I had a lot of connections with the professors, and because we'd met-- Because I took summer classes at Columbia all the time, so that's when I thought like, oh I need to go to Columbia because I have so many professors I know that wanted me to go. So I'm like, okay, that's where I need to be at first.

CB: So what were your expectations when you graduated from high school?

CWK: My expectations from graduating high school were that-- How now, finally, I was able to finally focus on focusing on what I'm going to major in, in college, and not just doing all the math courses and english courses, like they didn't have many film courses [in high school] any way too. So at that moment it struck me-- Oh, this is the moment I'm going to be more independent and focus on my film career and film studies too.

200 CB: When you first stepped foot on the campus, what were you most excited about, being there?
201

202 CWK: Aside from the chaos going on, the most exciting for me was that, how are the professors
203 going to be different from high school and how-- You know what I mean, like in high school it's
204 professors do some homework, and it's almost every day but in college it's like you can choose
205 your own schedule. At the same time, how the professor teaches film stuff, like film lessons. I'm
206 like oh my god this is-- I never thought in my life that I was actually going to learn it, like this is
207 what I was really looking forward to instead of just me watching Youtube tutorial kind of stuff.
208 That moment I had instant connection with professors, like oh that's something, I can use my
209 creative ideas to actually make a film or a script.
210

211 CB: So what were your first moments connecting to the community on campus, the film
212 community or in dorms or classes?
213

214 CWK: Um, my first moment was that I actually had-- So there was a film club at Columbia and
215 it was like a horror film club thing, and by the way I'm not a big fan of horrors, but I was
216 definitely interested to check it out. That was the first moment I wanted to check it out, what
217 clubs they offered, but my reaction in the moment was that-- when stepping foot in and joining
218 the club was that, oh my god I never thought that students and professors would provide more
219 film materials than the high school film club does. So it was like more materials, more
220 connection, and I was just enjoying just like-- A couple days of the editing club thing. It was so
221 fascinating to see how Columbia offers all the different clubs they have.
222

223 CB: And the professor and student connection and community, how do you feel that has
224 personally helped you grow as a filmmaker since arriving at Columbia?
225

226 CWK: [inaudible, talking to self]

227 So professor and student, um- I would say mostly professors that encouraged me, because
228 I always have various comfort zones, you know what I mean? And perhaps safety zones, So but,
229 my professors always encourage me to step out of my comfort zone and create more films
230 [saying] don't be afraid, just try and see how it works. Because back in high school I would say
231 it was very strict in terms of like I gotta do this, I gotta do this, based on watching tutorials and
232 what the teacher in high school said, very organized kind of stuff. But, in college, it's totally
233 different, it's opposite directions like, try it out, let's film more, and just encouraged me to be
234 more. They treat me almost like a professional film person, or a filmmaker like how the film
235 industry would treat you. Like explore more, do you know what I mean? So, they don't see me
236 as a student.
237

238 CB: And what would you say you value the most about Columbia or our campus? Being on the
239 Columbia campus?

240 CWK: What do you mean value the most?

241

242 CB: What is your favorite thing about Columbia, maybe the favorite-- your favorite resource,
243 something that Columbia has given you that you really appreciate?

244

245 CWK: To be honest, Columbia offers me the student disability service, they offer me-- That's a
246 really huge thing for me, because I'm usually a disability-- I was born deaf, and hard of hearing,
247 so it was a very huge impact on my life that in high school they didn't have that kind of stuff,
248 they just had only the ASL sign language and so I always had a hard time catching up with
249 professors and tended to have after-school all the time. But, at Columbia, did offer more kind of
250 that stuff and I was so-- I would say it was a happy moment where they tried to help me
251 accomplish my education, and help me to achieve my education, and for example, like the closed
252 captioner right now-- I'm able to hear and understand what people are saying to me, and more
253 clearly so that's the thing I really appreciated a lot.

254

255 CB: And how do you feel overall that your college experience might have differed if you didn't
256 have access to these services?

257

258 CWK: Well, I'd be super sad, and I'd have to force myself to pay, I mean pay for these services,
259 the closed captioning kind of stuff. But, something is that I would have to apply for ADA
260 accommodation by myself and it's a harder process. So there would be hard moments a lot. So it
261 would be hard and it's the same thing [as high school], I would have to meet with professors one
262 on virtually and make sure I'm getting that.

263

264 CB: And going back to life on campus, what you love about living in downtown Chicago? On
265 campus?

266

267 CWK: Um, well, pretty much you could visit the museums for free, like the Art Institute. You
268 could actually go and see the lake, and there's a lot of creative museums like art where you could
269 take a photograph with statues, it's very interesting. And plus, I really like how Columbia has the
270 Student Center where you can have all the resources: the internet, the printing, or all the sources
271 the resources those have been really helpful for me throughout the year at school.

272

273 CB: How often did you find yourself using the student center, or those resources?

274

275 CWK: A lot. Like after school, or before school, because sometimes dorms it's just like, that's
276 the kind of environment I'm comfortable with, like I'm used to it. This is my home, it feels like.
277 But, in the Student Center, it helped me feel like I'm actually in an office like, oh I need to work
278 on this, I've got to work on this. So, it did help me a lot in terms of concentration.

279

280 CB: And, you mentioned your dorm. How was your experience living on campus? Do you enjoy
281 it? What are some of the drawbacks or positives of that?

282
283 CWK: Well, first of all it's cheaper in dorms than apartments and so-- And the second thing
284 about dorms is that you can go to class like it's closer and walking distance, it's much easier than
285 actually taking the train back and forth, back and forth. So that's what I thought about it, so yeah.
286 So yeah, it's kind of boring but otherwise the roommate kind of stuff-- there's too much going
287 on. So that's the good thing about dorms, and you're able to make connections with other
288 Columbia students who are majoring in the same major, or meet another major too.

289
290 CB: What has been the biggest take away, or an aha moment for you at Columbia so far?

291
292 CWK: The biggest take away moment? Um, just pretty much learning experience to be honest
293 with you, like how the professors keep pushing me to be an actual professional filmmaker.

294
295 CB: When did you first become aware or hear talk of coronavirus, Covid-19?

296
297 CWK: Well, I actually specifically remember that I was in my dorm, because in the dorm I
298 usually have Google Home just read out the news all the time for me, and [the news] would talk
299 about Coronavirus, where in China around 400 people were infected. Then I'm thinking to
300 myself, in the dorm, in the morning, while I was eating breakfast, there's no way it could spread
301 out more, because it happened before. Like SARS, Influenza virus kind of stuff, I'm like we're
302 kind of going to be able to recover from everything because it happens [coming] from China all
303 the time. So I'm like okay, so that's my main sources like Google Home, or Twitter, going on
304 social media, yeah.

305
306 CB: When you first heard about it, did you bother to keep researching it? Was it something that
307 was on your mind for the rest of the day?

308
309 CWK: No. So in the beginning I was so curious, like okay, there isn't a huge awareness about it.
310 I'm like okay cool this is general news, sometimes you can tell when it's like, you know over
311 drama, controversy, that kind of stuff. But after that it became serious, serious, until Columbia
312 sent the email about the campus going to be shut down and moving to remote. I'm like oh god,
313 this is not actually happening, this is so serious, I'm like nope, nope, nope. So, I got more into
314 researching with the news and social media.

315
316 CB: When you first started hearing rumors or Columbia talking about the campus closure, what
317 concerns started arising for you personally or any of your classmates' concerns?

318

319 CWK: Um, first of all, how am I going to start to continue my education, that kind of stuff. It's
320 just like I have screenwriting class, and other classes that are more of a hands on experience.
321 Also Oral History where we need to meet in person and then have an interview, and like, how am
322 I going to do this kind of stuff? Overwhelmed was the first initial thought, like okay this is going
323 to be chaos, and plus, my dorm kind of stuff. I have a lease, that I have to move to a new
324 apartment in Chicago, which is signed right now, and I had to figure out how I'm going to do
325 storage, how am I going to do the move out process, like I had too many questions about it.
326 That's why I reached out to my mom, like how am I going to do this, and help me out. So she
327 said, pretty much-- she calmed me down to be honest, like okay just do it and we'll help you out
328 with the process.

329
330 CB: You mentioned your lease starting, is that coming up in the summer and how are you and
331 your mom having that discussion about how you're going to get over to Chicago and figure out
332 how you're going to move?

333
334 CWK: So I know that Columbia announced around, on Wednesday specifically on Wednesday? I
335 don't know which day, but around March, announced in an email that said we had to move out of
336 the dorm by Sunday, and I was freaking out. I'm like reaching out to my friends and asking how
337 can I have my storage, is there any cheaper option, and did some research. So my lease [start
338 date] is in April, like the second week of April, so I'm like what am I going to do now? So, I did
339 reach out and ask my mom, like is it okay if I bought storage, and I explained everything. It was
340 a stressful moment because I didn't like that Columbia announced it super last minute. But, I was
341 able to move all my stuff into storage [it was at least] a two day process because I have a lot of
342 stuff. So yeah, pretty much then after that when it reached April and I moved all my stuff out of
343 storage and put it into the apartment-- the thing is that we had to clean everything to make sure
344 there's no coronavirus infection going on, so I had to clean every single thing, and some stuff I
345 had to throw away.

346
347 CB: You mentioned moving all of your stuff out of the dorms back in April. How was the
348 transition driving back home, moving back home and getting into the new living situation?

349
350 CWK: Um, right-- So my parents live in the suburbs, and it was kind of like an hour drive. So, it
351 was not bad, it was just so weird, like a strange feeling, like it'd turned into a ghost town. Like
352 there's no people, there's a few cars, like a typical in the morning or before rush hour [traffic],
353 where it takes two hours, two hours and a half to go home, or arrive to my dorm. But it felt so
354 weird that I just like-- Specifically I remember in my car I just kept thinking like what the hells
355 going on, what the hells going on, and I'm like trying to figure out what am I going to do? I got a
356 couple text messages, from my friends, asking how my moving process and how-- I remember
357 specifically from my friend said about, he's a senior and he said-- he's crying because their
358 graduation got postponed for him, and we just had a conversation during the car ride, and he said

like how am I going to do this, how am I going to deal with this, blah blah blah, and so I just gave him a positive, mental like-- I'm sure that Columbia will provide another way or postpone it, there's no way they'll be cancelling that.

CB: How do you feel that you can relate to your friends that are having different experiences right now. Maybe graduating, or how do you feel like your experience is differing from theirs?

CWK: Since I'm in sophomore year, I would just say, focusing on how am I going to do working remotely and online classes, that kind of stuff. But, for my friends who are seniors, I definitely understand because this is the biggest moment like, oh I'm finally graduating, and I know some of my friends, their parents are coming to Chicago and seeing their sons or daughters graduating, and it's the biggest moment of their lifetime. Because there's not a chance to get it again, that history in your life, but I felt really horrible but it's understandable at the same time.

CB: And, going back to moving, how much time had passed between when Columbia first mentioned that we were never coming back to campus and we would have to get our things and leave and when you actually started to move your things out, what else was going through your mind during that time period.

CWK: As I said, that it's pretty much kept my mental thinking, it's almost like what-- I'm trying to figure out the story now like to find actual answers, like pretty much what just happened, what the hell is Coronavirus, and I kept researching that and about how Columbia would provide school tuition, and also how Columbia was going to provide what do you call it-- next semester, and also how this Coronavirus would impact financial aid and lifestyle, pretty much.

CB: You mentioned feelings going into next semester. Uh, describe that a little more, what is going through your mind?

CWK: For next semester it's just like how am I going to afford it, because you know-- What if both my parents, and including me, temporarily stop working our jobs. Me, right now, I'm doing a student internship, like a paid internship, a couple shows and film productions like Warner Brothers and other film industry like pretty much-- Right now I just got notification that I will be unemployed for a moment, it's not that they're going to fire me and that kind of stuff, but it was just a struggle pretty much-- the community and everyone was turned into a low class, just right away because there's no income, pretty much.

CB: And so you mentioned your parents, describe your current living situation and how you all are kind of coexisting at home, as you adjust from moving from campus.

398 CWK: Well my living situation right now is just like, right now I usually go to the grocery store
399 and buy some food, but now I'm doing online with Amazon and they carry stuff that you
400 couldn't have, and there's someone to buy food from the grocery store for you, and, pretty much
401 the living situation is just by myself, and trying not to go out, and having conversations with my
402 mom all the time, [more] than before. I was saying to my mom, it feels like a war, like is there
403 going to be an end of the world like where in the movies it feels surreal like how you can
404 actually feel-- Like I've tried to pinch myself, like am I dreaming or not? Because there's no way
405 that a virus has turned humans into zombies-- it's like the fiction stories, so I'm like there's no
406 knowing how this is going to happen, you know what I mean? So, even with my parents it's been
407 really nice, it's like my parents used to cook me homemade, old memories, food that they
408 haven't made for almost years, so it was really nice.

409

410 CB: And if it has, how has your relationship with your parents changed?

411

412 CWK: Super close, closer than before, my parents like we-- I tend to be super busy with work,
413 and school, and I'm like I don't have time to talk. I usually have a phone call with them every
414 other week, like are you okay and how are you doing. So now, Coronavirus has changed me a lot
415 just like, I really pretty much have a conversation with my parents every single day, asking like
416 how are you doing, are you okay, even my dad, so.

417

418 CB: Has this new experience of being at home and having had time to reflect and have more
419 discussions with your parents or others you keep in contact with, do you think that will affect
420 your viewpoint as a filmmaker? Later in the future?

421

422 CWK: I know a lot of filmmakers where they-- I know some people, or screenwriters have
423 started writing a film about the virus already. And I'm like-- and a lot of like the Netflix shows
424 show a lot of viruses and the contagious stuff, and have been written about outbreak, like virus,
425 virus, virus. It feels like, what is my point of view is that it changed me-- because I know I
426 experienced this, and it's something I could use and make a film that's about the virus, as a
427 fiction film, by the way. So, it's something that I could use as a filmmaker [something to learn
428 from, in the future] understanding the limited resources we can use, because we take for granted
429 a lot of things. Like oh, we need the lighting, we need gears, we need expensive equipment, that
430 kind of stuff. But now we don't have film equipment so we have limited resources and people
431 are really figuring out how they can do this and be a film major during quarantine time, and the
432 Coronavirus pandemic.

433

434 CB: So going back to the subject of film, and your online schooling, Columbia gave students that
435 three-week break before resuming classes. How do you think that affected you as a student?

436

437 CWK: Um, the three-week break-- It felt confusing to be honest, first of all. I mean I totally get it
438 for Spring Break, sure. Spring Break that's something where I could utilize my time to work on
439 school and work at the same time, but, three weeks feels like, almost like winter break or holiday
440 break, this stuff it's just long. But, it's helped me to calm down in this situation because I got
441 like, chaos, like what the hells going on? So I'm trying to figure out everything and get it settled
442 and use the time to just-- I got a lot of news during the time, but I'm trying to stay focused and
443 just remind myself to distract myself by doing schoolwork and working remotely. But, suddenly--
444 - I specifically remember, it was during our Spring Break around Friday, where my boss told me
445 that someone's been tested positive and so we shouldn't come to the office, and we'll figure out
446 the working remotely. But a couple productions are still open and doing online kind of stuff, but
447 most productions are shut down or are postponed.

448
449 CB: And when you got that notification from your boss that someone had tested positive, how
450 did you react? Were you uh, scared for yourself, or what was going through your mind during
451 that time?

452
453 CWK: Um, in my mind was that-- I specifically remembered when I opened my work account
454 email saying that, it was from my boss, saying urgent please read this, and respond about the
455 COVID 19 situation, and I opened and I was so scared that either my boss is saying that-- You
456 know and I was so scared like is my boss going to fire me, or give me unemployment, and how
457 am I going to do it and deal with that stuff? And then I'm like okay, just calm down, and I
458 opened the email, and I read it, and I really sat like around thirty minutes, blank, I'm like oh my
459 god, how am I going to deal with it and I'm like this stuff is like-- It almost felt like I was fired.
460 But, it wasn't, but it was a temporary like how am I going to deal with it, and how am I going to
461 do with income, that kind of stuff, and financial aid. But otherwise, yeah it felt like the moment.
462 But, some productions are open so I'm happy for that.

463
464 CB: So describe your job a little bit. And how you feel overall this transition to working
465 remotely has worked for it.

466
467 CWK: Um, do you want me to talk about on campus or off campus?

468
469 CB: Uh, off-campus you can start with and if you want to touch on on campus as well.

470
471 CWK: Okay, sure. Off campus right now I'm doing a film internship, it's a paid internship, for,
472 actually for Warner Brothers, for NBC and a short film for Disney Plus, and some Apple Plus
473 TV shows too. So pretty much I just work as a sometimes-- it depends on what my boss wants
474 me to do, PA or assistant director, I always change job positions because I have-- this is more
475 like shadowing a person where you learn by experience from an industry person. But, it was fun

476 for me to actually be on set all the time. Pretty much, it was great for me being on set, meeting
477 the actors, meeting the crew.

478
479 CB: So, now that you are working remotely and you don't have that on-set experience, how do
480 you feel like you are learning in different ways from the paid internships and all the companies
481 and film production companies?

482
483 CWK: Well it did change obviously not being on set, and most of the productions are [trying to
484 resume] remotely like Zoom online, and sometimes we use this software called Plan.io where--
485 Most companies are in post production right now, so where we always suggest what we want to
486 add, and that's where the audio gets touched up. But, there was one time where the editors, the
487 audio engineers, said that he needed the actor to re record for the dialogue for the scene, and so it
488 was funny how the actor got in the car and used their device to record himself in the car. It was
489 funny, and it turned out really good and showed up in the TV show.

490
491 CB: So seeing how the film industry is adapting during this time, does that give you any ideas as
492 to how this will affect them moving forward?

493
494 CWK: Well, pretty much, there's no theater now, everything's postponed, and we're getting
495 worried wondering how we're going to continue. Because, imagine, there will be no new TV
496 show or new movie show. This is-- we might have to wait that long, who knows when the
497 Coronavirus pandemic is going to be over, but since-- I really like how Warner Brothers, and
498 Apple TV Plus, and kind of other film industries set up for their crew a fund where they can
499 continue and manage like-- getting a paycheck.

500
501 CB: So what do you think might be some permanent changes or maybe things that the big
502 production companies have learned from this time that they'll continue to use? Whether that's
503 more video auditions or anything like that.

504
505 CWK: Well there's a lot of things that we have learned from using, and utilizing limited
506 resources, it's that-- because we have to heavily rely on internet, or technologies. I know one of
507 my coworkers who is a casting director and he has to do screening of all the auditions by doing
508 self-tapes on audition, like, in-- there's a casting website, and he said it was harder for him not
509 actually feeling it from in person when you compare it to the virtual, two totally different
510 experiences, is what he told me. But otherwise other filmmakers told me-- Or, coworkers told
511 me, that they have really nice-- it's a really nice break for them, to be honest. Because for them
512 it's like-- For now, because you have to keep going, you start filming, keep going, keep going,
513 keep going. But, for them, it's helped them to start doing more creative processes for them, like
514 think about-- You know what I mean? Come up with new ideas, or shot lists, it makes them want
515 to go out and start filming, and start new creative projects, so there's the pros and cons about it.

516 CB: So, now that we've moved online classes, what are some of the positives and negatives and
517 how did these compare to the concerns you initially had?

518
519 CWK: Well, online classes, there's pros and cons about it. A pro is that you can still continue
520 your education, and you can work on more, and have time to do things rather than just knocking
521 it out. But, there's the cons about it, that's not having the interaction in person, and not being
522 able to do hands on work or projects. So it's more like, writing more essays, watching videos,
523 and that kind of stuff. So-- But we have to adapt.

524
525 CB: And on the subject of adapting, how are you changing some of your goals that you had for
526 maybe this upcoming school year for yourself and your career and your schooling -- how are you
527 learning to adapt those during this time?

528
529 CWK: Pretty much as I said, just more like, relying on technology remotely. But otherwise it's
530 pretty much like the same, just more social distancing kind of stuff. But for sure what I've
531 learned during the coronavirus pandemic is wash your hands no matter what because I'm the
532 person who just washed before the meal, nothing else. Because I tend to bite my nails a lot with
533 my teeth so I've learned a lot about health concerns, about that.

534
535 CB: And so, how are you and your professors communicating during this time as you mentioned
536 we're all social distancing and now it has to be over Zoom or email.

537
538 CWK: Pretty much emails and Canvas.

539
540 CB: And is that going well, do you feel like there is a lack of connection or has it been okay?

541
542 CWK: Just been okay, just pretty much just making sure we're keeping on track, and just making
543 sure we are on the same path and communicating alright.

544
545 CB: Do you feel like the virus and learning remotely has had any significant impact on your
546 productivity or your grades?

547
548 CWK: Technically, it's just like more professors changing the assignment materials and more
549 understanding that we don't have to submit on time, and just more like keeping you on track to
550 be honest, but more flexibility.

551
552 CB: Do you feel like this flexibility, because it is so different from being in class and having that
553 in-person instruction, has it been positive for you or more negative? To have the loose deadlines.

554

555 CWK: It's more positive, like in terms of um-- we have group discussions, it's something that I
556 have more time to actually look at resources before actually writing it down rather than having it
557 in person, in class. Or a discussion forum you have to do right away, you had to read it in thirty
558 minutes and it was rushed and like it wasn't really good, the discussion forum. But it definitely is
559 good, it buys some time for shopping for resources and to write them down on the discussion
560 forum.

561
562 CB: So the virus for many has brought on feelings of depression and anxiety, so do you yourself
563 find yourself affected by these feelings and how do deal with it and cope with it?

564
565 CWK: Well, pretty much, there were some times of depression sometimes because of this you
566 cannot-- you aren't able to meet friends, but otherwise I'm keeping more positive that some
567 things that are good are gonna be happening. Like not like good things in a bad way, good things
568 in good ways-- where there will be a vaccination that'll happen. Just more-- I would say
569 coronavirus made mother nature better to be honest? Just always like no there's no such negative
570 way just keep positive, keep a positive attitude rather than just depression and mental
571 breakdowns. But if I ever have depression I tend to like, go out, and take a break, sleep, or look
572 out the window or watch Youtube, or do something I like, like a favorite assignment and that
573 kind of stuff, so just keep a positive attitude.

574
575 CB: So you've mentioned keeping in contact with your friends during this time. Is there anyone
576 specifically that you talk to about your concerns? And how else are you staying connected with
577 others?

578
579 CWK: Well, um-- Sometimes some of my friends aren't responding back because I know they're
580 trying to deal with Coronavirus, but some of them did respond, like, how are you doing is there--
581 And sometimes we do a virtual Zoom where we watch Netflix together like a party, that kind of
582 stuff, or the games, so yeah it's pretty much just having each other's back whenever we need
583 downtime. And actually, one of my friends, who actually lives in the same building, and
584 somehow he knocked on the door, social distance, and before I go out I just wear my gloves and
585 mask just in case if someone was there-- he dropped me off a box of tissue, and I'm like, what
586 the hell would I need with a lot of packs of tissue, and he just said it's a present, it's a welcome
587 gift, so I'm like, thanks! So, it's something I really appreciated, friends who just give each other
588 respect, but, and also, but-- I always intend to give my concerns and love to my parents. My
589 parents have a lot of knowledge, in terms, because of how to stay positive and that kind of stuff,
590 and my mom always has a very positive attitude, like, you don't have to think about negatives,
591 negatives affect your mental health badly, so you don't have to talk about it.

592
593 CB: And you mentioned some of your friends having to deal with the virus directly. Has the
594 virus had any significant impact on you or anyone in your family?

595 CWK: So basically, um-- So there's no one that's gotten affected or tested positive or anything
 596 for Coronavirus, thank god. But, I'm worried about some of my family, concerned that-- Like
 597 my uncle, who lives in LA, and in LA there's a lot of Coronavirus [outbreak] going on, and I
 598 have to worry about it. And one of my nephews is in Florida, and I have no idea why the hell the
 599 beaches will be open again, and I talked to my nephew, he's in college in Florida and he's
 600 majoring in animation, so I asked him like, are you at home, he said [sarcastically] he's dead. So
 601 I was just like, super worried about it. Another uncle, who is a registered nurse, and he's in a
 602 hospital in New York, and I'm like freaking out-- I'm like oh my god, are you okay? He barely
 603 sleeps two hours, and he sent me a photo where he wore the mask all day and got the mark, the
 604 scar on his face. He said-- before, the news announced the hospitals ran out of masks and they
 605 had to sterilize and reuse the masks again, and I'm like, oh my god, really the government didn't
 606 provide you more masks and that kind of stuff? Supply and demand and yeah I'm like-- there's a
 607 lot of downtime [moments of sadness] for him to be honest, about mental health, because he has
 608 to deal with all of the patients, has to help them, so it's a lot of depression and anxiety and that
 609 kind of stuff so he tends to talk to me a lot because I'm a more like-- a sharing person, because
 610 I'm really good at sharing other people's thoughts so, sometimes he calls me like in the middle
 611 of the night, or, 3am in the morning because that's when his shift ends. Usually his shift ends at
 612 7pm, like 9am to 7pm, but some shifts get delayed and he just calls me right away, [asking] like,
 613 how was your day, just keeping him mentally positive.

614
 615 CB: So you mentioned watching the news during this time, seeing that the government isn't
 616 providing masks, you mentioned hearing on the news for the first time that the coronavirus had
 617 begun, what is your news source of choice during this time?

618
 619 CWK: As I said, Twitter, social media, or Washington Post, or CNN news, or online, what do
 620 you call that-- news sources or Today Show, those are my main resources that I look on for
 621 news. But I try not to look too much at news.

622
 623 CB: So, reflecting back on what's been going on so far, specifically with Columbia, what should
 624 Columbia have done differently in your opinion?

625
 626 CWK: Oh, I mean, Columbia did an amazing job to be honest. But I wish what Columbia would
 627 have done differently is that-- providing more time to actually notify us, like just the dorm move
 628 out kind of stuff because of Coronavirus, and I wish that Columbia offered us, like, the storage
 629 rooms for free for students, not just paying our own money for that. Also that-- there's a lot of
 630 things Columbia needs to change, also, understanding how they have to change the tuition, and
 631 pay [us] back and, or change and adjust the tuition fee for next semester too so it's more
 632 affordable. It's not just like, we don't want to go there or pay that much money, it's just how
 633 Coronavirus impacts our financial aid so, that's the big thing. Thank god Columbia changed

634 about-- instead of cancelling the graduation for my friend, they just postponed it. So, yeah, that's
635 the three things I wish that Columbia changed.

636

637 CB: So with those three things in mind, if you could say anything to the school's president, what
638 would you say?

639

640 CWK: Well first of all, I would ask him, what was your [thought] behind the process, like how
641 were you able to deal with that kind of stuff and those issues? It felt like for him, as a
642 government, he had to make his own decisions, it was a very tough decision. But I would
643 definitely be proud of the student representatives, like I [would want to share] my experience,
644 and share with him how'd he be able to make everyone happy and that kind of stuff. [I wish there
645 was just] more communication, how students [feel], rather than just President Kim keeping to his
646 own life, do you know what I mean? So, just more insight from students and professors too.

647

648 CB: What aspects of life did you take for granted before the virus?

649

650 CWK: Oh, god, well being around friends, like interaction is a huge major thing in my life, is
651 just interacting with students, and classmates, and friends, and professors. It's a huge, huge thing.
652 But, this is something that we've learned, that there's no one to always be present, or be there for
653 you, you know what I mean? But it's something that we've learned that we need a moment with
654 time and with ourselves to reset ourselves back. But otherwise, yeah, pretty much just social
655 connection.

656

657 CB: What was the most significant change in your life, would you say, due to the virus?

658

659 CWK: Just online classes, virtual classes compared to in person classes.

660

661 CB: And how do you feel that you're going to take what you're learning doing these online
662 classes, and losing that sense of connection, going forward once we're out of sheltering in place?

663

664 CWK: So, um, well-- What do you mean by out of sheltering in place, do you mean like online
665 classes?

666

667 CB: Yeah, just any life lessons you have learned during this time, having to work remotely and
668 losing that connection, anything you might take with you?

669

670 CWK: Well, something that as a filmmaker I was able to learn is limited resources, something
671 that I can do, or I can't. Because in like, as a-- In my paid internship, in my student internship at
672 Warner Brothers, it is something that, like, these things are being provided to you. We always
673 take it for granted, all the time, as I said we need all the equipment, like, we need this, this, this,

674 and this, but it's something that we've learned to limit our resources, is it something-- do we
 675 actually need it or not. Even buying online from grocery stores, where I always tend to say do I
 676 really need to buy this, and if it's impacting my month's spending too. Because before, oh, I
 677 have income, I don't really have to worry about it, just keep it. But, this has changed a lot and
 678 impacted my lifestyle, that making sure like do I really need it or not, so pretty much that.

679

680 CB: And how do you feel about the future?

681

682 CWK: How do I feel about the future? Well, there's going to be good things happening where
 683 there'll be more vaccinations, more getting better, where there's a sense of-- people will see
 684 different perspectives where they'll tend to save mother earth, mother nature, they'll think about
 685 that too. But otherwise, yeah, there'll be good things happening in the future, and I'm just
 686 keeping positive really.

687

688 CB: And is there anything else we didn't touch on in the interview that you wanted to mention or
 689 talk about?

690

691 CWK: Pretty much, I just wish that the US could provide more masks because they should--
 692 because, you know, the CDC guidelines said no, we don't need a mask, and other, like, Asian
 693 countries they say that every single person should wear a mask, and I'm like, really? That's why
 694 the population of that, it curved for them, almost like zero percent, but in the US it keeps rising
 695 and rising. Like they should have done better, and planned it out, because I know from the TED
 696 talk shows, from Bill Gates, we need to prepare for the next outbreak, we need to invest this
 697 money rather than-- using three trillion dollars for fund reliefs kind of stuff, because we know
 698 that America is really in debt right now. Just, pretty much, I just wish the government had more
 699 of a plan, you know what I mean? Just like right away, we just need to-- Since they've learned it,
 700 that, oh just follow the plan and procedure, because [back then] they weren't aware of it.
 701 Because, like, they've never experienced that with the whole country like compared to SARS or
 702 Ebola.

703

704 CB: And, kind of going off of that, is there anything you have realized about our world or society
 705 that you think you wouldn't have noticed just seeing everything on social media and seeing
 706 different opinions?

707

708 CWK: Well, I realized that I feel super bad for those people who are low income, and they have
 709 a lack of resources, and there's one of my friends-- actually a classmate, in a different class, and
 710 he said he has to use his phone to join [Zoom]. He didn't have a webcam, he didn't have an iPad
 711 or computer, and he just pretty much does it like working, school, and offline, computer kind of
 712 stuff. But I felt so bad, like how dramatically it impacted his lifestyle, like finding enough
 713 housing for his parents because they have low income. So, pretty much, a lot of things going on

714 too from social media like COVID-19, COVID-19, COVID-19. Like for me just keeping away,
715 and if there's a vaccination, I hope there's a vaccination-- it's something we need to hope for, so.

716

717 CB: And going forward, what you think is the one big take away that you're going to get from
718 this time? In 10 or 20 years.

719

720 CWK: A takeaway from 20 or 30 years is that-- Well, I would say to my future generations, or
721 son or daughters, that this should've never happened before. They should always prepare
722 medicine, the plan, or vaccinations-- what they should do, again, is researching to prevent that
723 happening, rather than just wait, wait, until that happens and then everyone's just rushing, it'll be
724 the worst nightmare. It's like, almost like-- another term is procrastinating, people are like doing
725 it for last minute. So I hope they will learn from this experience, and keep working on their
726 plans. Their future plans.

727

728 CB: Okay, thank you so much. That has been Capturing Quarantine.

729

730 Claire Belhumeur: Thank you.

731

732 Chan Woo Kim: Thank you!