

Audio Transcript: Julian Seward

Radio Producer & Host, *My Bittersweet Philosophy*

My name is Julian Seward. I am from New Jersey born and raised. I grew up in South Toms River, New Jersey, Manitou Park, later part of my life and Trenton area, and the communities I identify with- It kind of is a buzzword now, but technically I am a millennial. I'm very nostalgic. So I am a 90s baby. And I do love that time period, I love that era, and I love how it's coming back. I'm also a poet. I'm also a radio producer. So I am a full fledged creative I love the the millennial creative movement. I'm also a Black male, so I do identify with being a Black male as well, and everything that encompasses all of those things coming together. I've been doing poetry since I was fourth grade. Yeah, I remember the first poem I ever did was about a girl who my first girlfriend who dumped me in fourth grade. And I remember I had on a little notepad, I remember I had my desk and it slipped out. And this girl that sitting next to me picked it up and read it. And I was like, "this sucks." I was like, "this is personal, it's unique, and it sucks." And I didn't to for a while, but I'm just always kind of been a person just write down my thoughts in a creative way. And then as I got into like high school and college, I started, like freestyling rapping a little bit, I had a group I was part of called CKS and that kind of fizzled out a little bit. But I always stayed with poetry always stay with some kind of form of creative writing that was more than just journaling, I wanted to make sure it kind of had either some rhythm to it or some some color to it.

And then once- I would say right towards the tail end of 2019, 2020, I really kind of got serious about it, I really decided to really focus in on it. And then once the events of you know, last year, 2020, happened. I had nothing to do but be with myself and figure out a way to just maintain sanity and be creative and kind of just rise above everything that was going on. And it flowed just, creatively, everything just flowed. So my show is *My Bittersweet Philosophy*. That show came about in college and in Trenton, New Jersey, there was a huge pocket of just creatives at that point in time,

this is around like 2009 to like 2013-15. And I just wanted to create that space. So I had to create a show where I could live-DJ, and talk about my love of music for half of it and then interview artists for the other half. PhillyCAM changed my life, to tell you the truth. I've never seen anything quite like it again, coming from where I came from, you know, we're between New York with between Philadelphia, but at the same time there's nothing there that quite had that access to create a space where real artists can do something from a passion perspective and really have it reach the masses. My dream for community media? I dream that it would not go away. I dream that it will gain the- I guess notoriety for lack of better term- but gain the recognition that it deserves, gain the the funds that it deserves to keep it here and for people to understand the need of having community media. Understand the need of your neighbor being able to not just have their own voice but being able to express your voice as well and, and represent you and have the ability to have your own representation out there in your community.