

Paul: [00:00:00](#) Ladies and gentlemen, angry Americans around the country and around the world, happy holidays, merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah, happy Festivus. We have an incredibly special guest today joining us today. I am absolutely thrilled to have on the mic with us, the great and powerful Jason Alexander.

Jason Alexander: [00:00:20](#) Oh, wow, like Oz, you gave me the Oz introduction. That's fantastic.

Paul: [00:00:24](#) You deserve it.

Jason Alexander: [00:00:25](#) God bless. You know Oz was a total sham, you remember that of course.

Paul: [00:00:29](#) I do. But you're this mysterious and powerful voice.

Jason Alexander: [00:00:34](#) Sure.

Paul: [00:00:35](#) And behind curtains often.

Jason Alexander: [00:00:39](#) I've never had anyone describe me as either mysterious or powerful. You are really elevating me to a place that I have no business going.

Paul: [00:00:46](#) I think entirely, appropriately. So every interview we do is with an iconic, important, inspiring American and you check all those boxes in a huge way and-

Jason Alexander: [00:00:57](#) Well, you're a very kind, delusional, but kind.

Paul: [00:01:00](#) That might be, that might be. We're now 38 episodes in.

Jason Alexander: [00:01:03](#) I don't think I qualify for that in my own home.

Paul: [00:01:05](#) No, you absolutely do. Because, I do research in advance of every interview, every conversation. I prefer to call them conversations rather than interviews, and just looking at how many different things you've done is extraordinary. It really, really is. But before we go too far into that, we were talking before we got here, when you and I first met, I think it was like over a decade ago-

Jason Alexander: [00:01:25](#) Easily.

Paul: [00:01:26](#) ... in Los Angeles. We were there for an event that was benefiting IVA, the veterans group that I ran. And you were there. I think Jerry Seinfeld may have been there also.

Jason Alexander: [00:01:36](#) I'm familiar with him, it's possible.

Paul: [00:01:38](#) And basically it was a corporate event for a piece of technology that is now obsolete. That's how long I've been doing this. But it was a handheld piece of technology and the company did ... it had a stylist.

Jason Alexander: [00:01:54](#) It did.

Paul: [00:01:55](#) Right? But we met there and it was, it was a strange and beautiful event in that they brought in some celebrities and they brought in some veterans and it rained in Los Angeles and we were outside, and I got to meet you.

Jason Alexander: [00:02:05](#) And we hung out.

Paul: [00:02:06](#) We did.

Jason Alexander: [00:02:07](#) And I said, if I can be helpful, let me know. And then we sort of danced around each other ever since.

Paul: [00:02:11](#) That's right. And you've been very generous in your support for me and for IVA and for many causes-

Jason Alexander: [00:02:17](#) Oh, thanks.

Paul: [00:02:18](#) ... and I want to get into that. But it was also one of those events you must've had kind of a forest Gump life where you wake up at times, you're like, how did I get at this spot?

Jason Alexander: [00:02:27](#) Oh, yeah.

Paul: [00:02:28](#) Right

Jason Alexander: [00:02:28](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:02:29](#) And that was one of those moments where I'm in the rain in LA. It was still kind of early in my activism and I'm hanging out with you and I'm just like, "Where the fuck am I?"

Jason Alexander: [00:02:37](#) Yeah. I go through life like that. I always find myself in rooms going, they're going to turn around any minute now. And go,

"Excuse me sir, you shouldn't be here." Because I'm always the little Jewish kid from New Jersey. I don't know how I stumbled into the life that I've become a part of. And I never quite feel like I'm supposed to be there. Two weeks ago, three weeks ago, I was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

Paul: [00:03:04](#) I wanted to ask you about that, because I watched it.

Jason Alexander: [00:03:06](#) And they said we'd really love a celebrity to do the inducting. And I went, "Well, you're shit out of luck because I'm not really friendly with those people." They go, "Jerry?" I go, "Yeah, we're not really friends. And also he's not going to Jersey to do this for me." So I'm ... but that's how I [crosstalk 00:03:25].

Paul: [00:03:24](#) Brian Williams and Bon Jovi were unavailable.

Jason Alexander: [00:03:27](#) They were unavailable. Springsteen, he is an asshole he was supposed to-

Paul: [00:03:32](#) Chris Christie's not a real celebrity.

Jason Alexander: [00:03:33](#) And we went to the same high school.

Paul: [00:03:35](#) You did?

Jason Alexander: [00:03:35](#) Yeah. I didn't know him.

Paul: [00:03:36](#) At the same time?

Jason Alexander: [00:03:38](#) But no, he was behind me, years behind me.

Paul: [00:03:40](#) I have to take that off ramp and talk about that. Was there a legend of Chris Christie in your high school?

Jason Alexander: [00:03:44](#) No, I was unaware of him back then. Like I said, I think I was probably an exiting senior as he was coming in as a freshman, but I may have known his name. I grew up mostly ... I did high school in Livingston, New Jersey and Livingston was like a 60% Italian, 40% Jewish community. And for some reason it had a fair amount of retired mafia folk there. So you just didn't screw around with the Italian kids because you never knew who was a mid man. And Chris used to hang with those kids from what I understand.

Paul: [00:04:19](#) Was he like running around, pushing people and lockers or what was he doing?

Jason Alexander: [00:04:22](#) I don't know. I know he was on the football team, and we had ... when I was there, we were the ... I think we were in the number one football team in the state.

Paul: [00:04:28](#) But he's a Cowboys fan.

Jason Alexander: [00:04:30](#) Yeah, I [inaudible 00:04:31].

Paul: [00:04:30](#) ... which is so fucked up, like who can be self-respecting of him-

Jason Alexander: [00:04:34](#) I'm not saying he's wise just because he went to my school doesn't mean he-

Paul: [00:04:37](#) True, true, true, true. You don't claim him, I think any more than New Jersey does lately. That's why he's hanging out with Jerry Jones and Cowboys games.

Jason Alexander: [00:04:43](#) Exactly.

Paul: [00:04:44](#) Right?

Jason Alexander: [00:04:44](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:04:44](#) But you're at the New Jersey hall of fame being inducted.

Jason Alexander: [00:04:48](#) Sure.

Paul: [00:04:49](#) I think looking from the outside part of why you've been so successful is because you don't take for granted that you should be there. You seem to be among the most-

Jason Alexander: [00:04:56](#) And I don't take seriously. I find it very hard to take this stuff seriously. I remember when the eight times I've lost the Emmy award, but every time I was in that room I go, "Wow, somebody really messed up." It just doesn't feel, because none of this was what I fantasized about when I was a kid, when I knew I wanted to be an actor, which happened around when I was 12 or 13 years old. But my fantasy was all about trying somehow to get to New York City and work on Broadway. Well, you don't have any fantasies of celebrity and glitter and tinsel when that's your goal. And so everything else that happened it wasn't even in my imagination. So I used to watch that stuff on TV and go, "That it's just silly, that's silliness. That's not real showbiz."

Paul: [00:05:44](#) And during your induction, I guess it's an induction.

Jason Alexander: [00:05:49](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:05:50](#) You talked about some of your favorite things about New Jersey-

Jason Alexander: [00:05:52](#) New Jersey.

Paul: [00:05:53](#) ... which was so authentic. It was so real. You talked about Seaside Heights and you talked about so many things. I grew up in New York, but I would go to the Jersey Shore.

Paul: [00:06:04](#) For us with New Jersey was to go down to the wire. I remember being I think 16 or 17, and being old enough to drive and the guys were like, "Where are we going to go?" "Jersey shore." Yeah, we're going to Jersey Shore was like that, or Atlantic City-

Jason Alexander: [00:06:17](#) You always knew the guys that grew up in New Jersey because the phrase will be Down the show.

Paul: [00:06:20](#) Down the show.

Jason Alexander: [00:06:21](#) It's called Down the show.

Paul: [00:06:21](#) Down the show.

Jason Alexander: [00:06:22](#) And that was ... Oh, yeah, you're from Jersey.

Paul: [00:06:24](#) I was not that aware. Like that was like the extent of my distance of travel at that point in my life when I was 16. But you did ... to come full circle, Jason, you won a Tony?

Jason Alexander: [00:06:36](#) I did. And that was actually a bit of a mind blower because that was ... when I was a kid. That was the ultimate thing. I thought, "Oh, if I get to Broadway, like maybe I'll be 30, 40 something like, boy wouldn't be great, if by the time I'm ready to end my career. I did something that would win a Tony Award." Because I thought that was that was the thing. And I got it when I was 29, and it kind of messed me up a little bit. Because I went, "I don't know what to dream about anymore." It also ... I talk about this sometimes with student actors the fantasy was, you would get that thing which would mark somewhere you had gotten to in life, and everything would change. You would know what success is, you'd know what happiness is, you would know ... you would just be a different person. And I went to bed that night with my wife, and she said, "How do you feel?" And I quoted her a line from the musical Pippin, and she knew exactly

what I was talking about. So Pippin is basically a story about a young man who feels that he's got extraordinary gifts, and he doesn't know where to put them. And so this band of players lead him through politics and war and love and roma- ... and all these things to try on. And at the end of the war section, the leading player says to him, "How do you feel?" And he says, "I thought there'd be more plumes."

Jason Alexander: [00:07:51](#) And I got in bed with my wife that night, she said, "How do you feel?" And I said, "I thought there'd be more plumes." So it didn't change you and it wasn't everything. It was great. I would have been really unhappy had it not come my way. But it also ... I was the same guy and the world was exactly the same as it was the minute before they handed me the thing and it was a big life lesson.

Paul: [00:08:11](#) And it's not like hitting the lottery, right?

Jason Alexander: [00:08:13](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:08:13](#) Because Broadway, my wife has worked in entertainment for decades and I've kind of learned what makes people money and what doesn't. And stage is so much for the love.

Jason Alexander: [00:08:24](#) Yeah, you don't ... I mean, you can make a good living in the theater in New York, but it also necessitates most of the time that you live in New York, which wipes out the kind of money that you can make on Broadway. To live in New York City these days, you need to make an extraordinary income and there are not really extraordinary incomes in New York. You can make a decent living doing eight a week, but it's not it's by no means glamorous.

Paul: [00:08:53](#) From the outside, I really view Jason as a great American success story. A guy who came from humble roots. Yeah, who worked his ass off who had dreams got to a really impactful place and is used that platform now in a lot of powerful ways-

Jason Alexander: [00:09:10](#) As best you can.

Paul: [00:09:10](#) ... to help other people. But you've been ... it looks like you've been grinding. And I was hoping you could share what it's like looking back in your earlier days when you're in your 20s and you were struggling to crank it out and to grit through it.

Paul: [00:09:27](#) You mentioned Broadway, I was looking back on a part in Seinfeld, where you have this romance with Marissa Tomei. And

Marissa is a friend, I've been lucky enough and honored enough to know her. And she just finished a run on Broadway doing the Rose Tattoo. And she's cranking, like, that is a hard job. It's a great job, and I'm sure none of you would complain, but the physical demands, the emotional demands of doing it over and over again for a really intense period of time. What is that like, and what did you learn like going back to your Jersey roots? What did you learn about the work ethic part of the job that probably transcends your craft?

Jason Alexander: [00:10:10](#) So the cool thing is, is that my Broadway career was defined by the first two shows that I did. And the first one was a unbelievably important historic flop. It was a musical called Merrily We Roll Along. And it was historic because the team that created it was the same team that created Company, which changed the Broadway theater. So it's Stephen Sondheim, Harold Prince and George Furth. And it was their first collaboration together again since Company a musical based on the Kaufman and Hart play, well Kaufman and Hart are theater royalty. These guys are theater gods.

Jason Alexander: [00:10:57](#) And I become a part of this thing and I watched them not be able to get there. I watched them not succeed. And it was an unbelievable education because of how hard they had to work had it all gone smoothly, and been a huge success, I would have learned less than if I saw them struggle and fail. And it taught me many things. It taught me about work ethic, because they kept coming at it and coming at it. Chucking out an old idea, radically trying a new idea.

Jason Alexander: [00:11:28](#) And the fact that these guys who were more successful, they were successful beyond anyone's dreams in the theater. Every time they got up to do it, it didn't matter how good the last one was. You're only as good as the one you're working on. So that was great.

Jason Alexander: [00:11:42](#) And then the next Broadway show I did was a thing called The Rink. Also a small musical. And it had two extraordinarily big female stars Chita Rivera, and Liza Minnelli. And it was Chita's work ethic and Chita's ego in business that made me go, "Okay, when I grow up, I would like to be Chita Rivera." Because she worked every day like a dog. I mean, she had to carry that show. The show was written by Kander and Ebb to win her a Tony Award, which it did do, but it was her show. And then they cast Liza Manelli. And the story became Liza Manelli. And Chita loved her, supported her. Liza got very ill during that she went into

Betty Ford during our run, but Chita's supportive of her and love of her and care for her and care for everybody else in that show.

Jason Alexander: [00:12:42](#) There's a story I always tell about who Chita Rivera is. So there was a policy where if Liza missed a performance, the audience could get a refund. They didn't have to stay. And there was one performance that Liza was out and I guess the stage manager went to Chita Rivera and said, "Chita, it's totally up to you. But there's there's maybe 100 people in the audience. It's really an empty house." And the first thing she said was because there were six men, six of us in the show. She said, "If we don't do this performance, will the boys lose an eighth of their salary?" And they said, "Yeah, if we don't do the show. Yeah." So she called us into her dressing room and said, "Here's the situation. There's 100 people out there. If you want to do it, let's do it. I don't want you guys to lose any money. And Liza has an understudy, and we'll make it like a big rehearsal for her understudy. Be a nice opportunity for her. And we'll go out and we'll have fun and we'll be silly about it, because it's ridiculous doing a Broadway show for a hundred people.

Jason Alexander: [00:13:46](#) And we all said ... so that alone would have been enough to just go, "Oh my God, she's amazing. Her first thought is about her six little" ... but then she said to us, "And while we're having a great time, just remember guys, the hundred people that stayed, stayed, give them the show, don't do something to their expense. They want to see our show, give them our show." And I went, "Oh my God. That is what a professional thinks. That's how they act." And she became my role model.

Jason Alexander: [00:14:19](#) So the work ethic that I've tried to maintain, how I treat people that I work with, and how I think about my responsibility to the people that hired me, and the people that come to see me, is pretty much based on what I saw those guys at [Marilee 00:14:33] and Chita to do, and I grew from that.

Paul: [00:14:37](#) What an incredible gift to be around her.

Jason Alexander: [00:14:39](#) Amazing.

Paul: [00:14:40](#) And to have that kind of mentorship in the example of her leadership, right?

Jason Alexander: [00:14:44](#) Yeah. Of course.

Paul: [00:14:46](#) And it's a groundbreaking time.



Jason Alexander: [00:14:49](#) And I was 24 when we did that show. So it was really, I was right at that place where I could really absorb and learn and see, and I was learning how to be a working professional.

Paul: [00:15:00](#) Wow. So you've been kind of the ultimate example of an artist I think who goes uptown downtown, everywhere in between, from the biggest TV show maybe of all time, right?

Jason Alexander: [00:15:13](#) Sure.

Paul: [00:15:14](#) To small plays.

Jason Alexander: [00:15:15](#) Yeah, it doesn't matter.

Paul: [00:15:15](#) And giving back to your community and remembering your roots of where you came from in New Jersey and the Jersey Shore, and the food you ate and the people you knew, and the high school you went to. But Jason Alexander when you were growing up, what was your first car?

Jason Alexander: [00:15:31](#) So it wasn't my first car, it was the first car was allowed to drive around and my dad went through cars like shit through a ghost. But he had ... he loved this ... I think well, so I started driving in 1976, '77. It must have been like a 1972 Chevy Impala. And that was the car he allowed me to drive. It was like this turd brown, Chevy Impala. I have some memory of some thin like, tail white thing.

Jason Alexander: [00:16:03](#) And my dad had a funny habit. I've always loved it and I thought, oh, maybe I'll adopt that someday. But my dad would ... so to tell you everything you need to know about my dad. So he'd buy a new car. And he'd call all his friends and go, "Stand outside your house, I'm driving by I want you to see the car." And he'd drive around, and he'd show off his brand new car to all his friends. Then he'd bring it home. He take a ball peen hammer, he'd look for a spot not too obvious, but not too hidden, and put a ding in it. And he'd go, "All right curses off. Curses off." And now if he was in a parking lot in the mall, and somebody hit him, he was like, "Yeah, it was already dinged."

Paul: [00:16:38](#) Wow.

Jason Alexander: [00:16:38](#) So he did not want it to be precious beyond that first day. Wow. And so that's my relationship with cars. I really give a crap about them. They just get me from here to there. Jerry Seinfeld late no run would always make fun of me because I always had crappy cars. I've never owned a luxury car. And he said, "I'm going to

get you a Porsche. I'm going to get you a Porsche." And I said, "Please don't, you'll be throwing your money away. You want to give me the money. I'll take the cash gift. Please don't buy me a Porsche because I won't know how to drive it. I can't drive a stick, you will only buy a stick because he only drives cars that you really drive." And so they just-

- Paul: [00:17:19](#) So he didn't buy the car?
- Jason Alexander: [00:17:20](#) He did not. [crosstalk 00:17:21]
- Paul: [00:17:21](#) So whatever discussion I feel like this could be an entire Seinfeld episode. Was there a discussion between you and Jerry about whether or not it's Porsche or Porsche?
- Jason Alexander: [00:17:29](#) [crosstalk 00:17:29] I may be saying it wrong.
- Paul: [00:17:31](#) I don't know. I asked honestly.
- Jason Alexander: [00:17:33](#) No, he's gonna watch, I'll get an email going, "You idiot. I never said that."
- Paul: [00:17:36](#) I don't know, I'm asking.
- Jason Alexander: [00:17:38](#) My memories. He said Porsche, but I could be wrong. He certainly he would know.
- Paul: [00:17:43](#) He would know.
- Jason Alexander: [00:17:44](#) He has a whole shit ton of them.
- Paul: [00:17:47](#) Yes, yes. So you had this extraordinary career Jason, where you've also flexed so many. You're in my view, kind of the ultimate multi sport athlete. You've done feature movies, you've done sitcoms, you've done stage, you've done a ton of work in voiceover, right? Like incredible-
- Jason Alexander: [00:18:09](#) Yeah. Animation, voice.
- Paul: [00:18:09](#) ... animation, voice work, which is really, really extraordinary. And so there's, I think, a sense that you've been everywhere. You're part of our life, like I don't remember a life in America without your presence. And really, right?
- Jason Alexander: [00:18:26](#) God bless your heart, you're young.

Paul: [00:18:28](#) And my wife will always remember you as the guy who was the asshole in Pretty Woman.

Jason Alexander: [00:18:33](#) Yeah. A lot of women hold that image of me.

Paul: [00:18:37](#) That's difficult, right?

Jason Alexander: [00:18:39](#) It was a tricky year when that movie came out because I was-

Paul: [00:18:41](#) Was it?

Jason Alexander: [00:18:42](#) ... fairly as a national presence, you might have seen me on a commercial but you wouldn't have known my name. And Seinfeld didn't happen before that. So suddenly, I'm in this phenomena movie, and I'm the guy that tried to rape Julia Roberts. And women ... I would walk down the streets of New York and I could see what I called the Pretty Woman stare. A woman would spot me from a half a block away. And the fire in her eyes would burn into my head. And many is the time lady would come up to me and say, "I don't like you."

Paul: [00:19:14](#) Oh my!

Jason Alexander: [00:19:14](#) I had one woman come up and hit me. I had a woman spit at me. And I just went, "Yeah, listen, I swear to you, never touched her. It's all movie magic. You know where it looks like I hit her. I missed by six inches." But it was ... nobody knew me. So they just thought he really is a jerk, that man is really a bad man.

Paul: [00:19:35](#) But a testament to your acting chaps.

Jason Alexander: [00:19:37](#) It was in testament I guess the acting was also to Gary Marshall's editing. Because Gary ... and I tell the story all the time. Garry Marshall was making that movie on the fly. That movie on paper was substantially different from the movie everybody sees. And Gary made it up in his head. And so we did multiple takes of things, so many different ways that my character could have come off completely silly, lightweight, buffoon, just a guy you never take seriously, not a threat. I think we did one take of that scene with Julia where I went to put a hand on her leg and then she beats the hell out of me. He thought that might be interesting variation.

Jason Alexander: [00:20:15](#) So he created the final impression in the editing room. And then he made me a bit of an asshole. Yeah.

Paul: [00:20:20](#) Wow. But then you evolve into lovable characters, familiar characters, but you also have been an advocate. I met you because you care about causes. And you've been active in the Middle East endeavors, right?

Jason Alexander: [00:20:41](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:20:41](#) I would love to give you an opportunity-

Jason Alexander: [00:20:42](#) Solved it, by the way.

Paul: [00:20:44](#) Yeah. Where you worked with a group called one voice. And then you've been an advocate for a relatively little known as skin disease. Is that how-

Jason Alexander: [00:20:52](#) It's actually an autoimmune disease.

Paul: [00:20:54](#) Can you talk about that please? Can you please explain if you can, how you got into those pieces of activism and it's much more than that.

Jason Alexander: [00:20:59](#) Sure. Scleroderma was a road I would have been happy to avoid. I have half siblings, my dad was a widower and had two children with his first wife. And then met my mother and I'm my mother's only child. So my half siblings. My brother was 20 years older than me and my sister was 12 years older than me. And my sister's mother, my dad's first wife died of scleroderma. And unfortunately my sister inherited the gene for it. So scleroderma is still a fairly little known. It's not on the tip of anybody's tongue including the medical profession.

Jason Alexander: [00:21:35](#) But scleroderma is an auto immune disease in the same world as lupus. And when you get it, what it does is it makes your body overproduce collagen, and collagen, you hear about it in cosmetic products all the time. Little bit of it as a really good thing, tightens the skin and kind of gets rid of wrinkles and whatnot.

Jason Alexander: [00:21:55](#) When you overproduce it a lot of patients that have scleroderma almost look mummified, It has stretched their skin so much that they oftentimes can't close their mouths, they can't quite close their eyes. They can't use their joints because the skin has become so taut around the joints that it has disabled the joints. So externally it's not easy to deal with. But the devastating parts are that collagen can collect in any part of your vital system or vital organ. If it gets into your heart, if it

gets into your lungs if it gets into your liver, it's a death sentence.

Jason Alexander: [00:22:35](#) For my sister, lived with it for a very long time. She was diagnosed with it somewhere in her 30s and she lived to almost 65 before she passed away about four or five years ago. And for Karen, it was in her digestive system. So she absorbed maybe a 10th of the nutrition that she needed from food and eventually it eradicated her digestive system altogether.

Jason Alexander: [00:22:59](#) There is no cure for it, even treating it with some sort of just symptom by symptom, there's some things that they can do that are helpful, but largely you suffer through it.

Jason Alexander: [00:23:18](#) When my sister got it, there were some scattered small organizations, there was a support organization, there was a research organization, and their biggest obstacle was that nobody was really aware of this disease. So my sister came to me and she said, "Would you ever be willing to try and be part of the awareness program?" And I said, "You're really asking the wrong person. It's not what I be willing, it's would you be willing because the story is going to be you. So you've got to be willing to get out there." Now, my sister didn't have a lot of the external. If you looked at her, she didn't look like a scleroderma patient. She didn't have the deformities that it can cause.

Jason Alexander: [00:24:02](#) But I said you're going to have to get out of there and talk about your life and you're going to have to talk about the disease and you're going to have to talk about what's horrible about it. And she was a pretty private person then. So that was a very bonding experience. She made the commitment to do that and we got out there and and we certainly ... Bob Saget also lost a sister to scleroderma.

Paul: [00:24:20](#) [inaudible 00:24:20].

Jason Alexander: [00:24:20](#) He's been a major advocate and he and I have crossed paths on it many times. But unfortunately, the awareness of it is much greater. And I think we've probably enabled support foundations for people and families that are working through it. And that's great, but I don't think we've managed to secure much more by way of funding and we certainly have not gotten any closer to a cure. The cure is probably a genetic one when they isolate the right gene, and now we're able to address it that way.

Paul: [00:24:52](#) This is the part where I wanted to ask you about it because I didn't know about scleroderma, until I was preparing for this and reading about your activism and learning about it. And I'm in the activists world. I'm in most of the medical stuff causes I've seen. And you personally are putting this on the map in a very powerful and personal and important way. And I think that's part of why I was excited to talk to you is because I think you've been kind of below the radar and making a difference and using your platform to make a real difference on a cause that I honestly many others people listening to this podcast right now probably never heard of that before.

Jason Alexander: [00:25:27](#) Well, it's also-

Paul: [00:25:28](#) Will further be changed by it.

Jason Alexander: [00:25:29](#) One of the reasons I think people are unaware of it is because it predominantly affects women. 80% of the people affected are female and it is disfiguring. So they stay in the shadows. They are frightened or embarrassed to come out, many of them, and so that also kind of kept it a dirty little secret and didn't get any attention for it. So yeah, I actually tip my hat to Bob Saget because I think he's been even more visible than I am. I went to Washington once, you know to do a panel on it, but Bob has been back and forth several times. But at least it has some faces now, which is great.

Paul: [00:26:11](#) Yeah. And it's made an impact I know for sure. And so how did you also get thrust into or thrust yourself into ... Because you don't have enough going on in your life, you decided to tackle Middle East peace, and be involved in what's happening in Israel and Palestine in the surrounding areas. And I thought your viewpoint was really smart and thoughtful and reasonable. But can you talk about that a bit, please Jason?

Jason Alexander: [00:26:36](#) Yeah, so the organization you're talking about is called OneVoice. It was ... This is the facts as I'm aware of them. It was created by a fella named Daniel Lubetzky and an Israeli Arab by the name of Muhammad [Duwasha 00:26:52]. And they had been business partners and Danny had a business ... well, Danny is famous for now. If you watch Shark Tank, he's been a guest shark.

Paul: [00:27:00](#) Oh, yeah.

Jason Alexander: [00:27:01](#) Danny is the founder and CEO of Kind, the Kind bar, the Kind products.

Paul: [00:27:06](#) Yeah. Fantastic skills.

Jason Alexander: [00:27:07](#) Kind has a philosophy that is a continuation of a company that Danny founded called PeaceWorks. And it's a little bit like seeds of peace where he would take people's that are in conflict. And he would take a product from one and a product from another and make a new product and say, now you're in business together. So he was building bridges, through the business ventures basically. Kind has a similar, if not exactly the same mandate. But through his work, Danny is a Mexican born Jewish guy, Muhammad was an Israeli Arab. And they did a lot of work in Israel and the Middle East. And this was back in the early 90s.

Jason Alexander: [00:27:51](#) And they had an amazing idea based on their observation of working within Palestinian and Israeli communities. They said, you know, this whole failure to find a solution here, it's not a people problem. Because most of the people they were dealing with on both sides were moderates, who all kind of knew in the back of their heads that this was going to finally end up in a two state solution of some kind.

Jason Alexander: [00:28:13](#) And if you talked to them about the 10 sort of main issues that needed to be negotiated, they all kind of went ... one of the big sticking points was, well, it's going to divide Jerusalem, how can Jerusalem be a divided city and survive. And you go, "Well, it already is."

Paul: [00:28:28](#) In that way.

Jason Alexander: [00:28:29](#) It's a functioning city and we everybody kind of knows East Jerusalem is Palestinian, West Jerusalem Israeli and the Jews have the Wailing Wall and the Muslims have the Dome of the Rock and they figured it out. It was just a practical solution.

Paul: [00:28:43](#) [inaudible 00:28:43] took neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

Jason Alexander: [00:28:44](#) Exactly.

Paul: [00:28:45](#) There's some less divides in some neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

Jason Alexander: [00:28:47](#) That's exactly right. So by talking to the citizens, they said, Boy, if it weren't up to the leaders, we could get this done. And their idea was to create a platform where you could quantify a voting system among the populations, where they would essentially negotiate their own terms of the settlement. And then once done, excuse me, they could take it to the leadership on both

sides and go, "Look, do this. We will back it will vote for it and you'll be fine."

Jason Alexander: [00:29:18](#) I was introduced to these guys at Danny DeVito in Real Promise House. They're very, very big philanthropists. And they had these guys in and they were telling their story. It was really Muhammad that got me because Muhammad was telling the story of his older son Fa-, I believe his name was [Farti 00:29:35]. And Farti, was 12 years old. And he had come to his dad and said, "Hey, Dad, remember when I told you? I was really bad at math. And I said, I was going to be the first in my class, first greatest math student in class. And I worked and worked on I did it, right, dad?" And he said, "Yes, you did it Farti. That's great." He said, "Remember I was really a bad soccer player. And I said, I'm going to be the captain of the team and I worked and I worked, and I became the captain of the soccer team?" He said, "Yes, I'm very proud of you Farti, you did." He came to him and he said, "Dad-

PART 1 OF 3 ENDS [00:30:04]

Jason Alexander: [00:30:00](#) Yes, I'm very proud of you father, he did. He came to him and he said, "Dad, I'm going to be a martyr." And it was at that point as Muhammad told this story that he turned to us in the audience and said, "I need your help because this needs to be a promise my son doesn't keep and I have to convince him that there's another way." And my kids were very young at the time and I just as a father to a father, I melted and I just went, "Look, I don't know what I can offer you guys, but whatever you think it is, be it money or anything else, let me know and I'll try and do it." And they said, "Honestly, what we need is we need you to come to the Middle East." They said "Seinfeld is huge in Israel." And it is. It is huge. Apparently, it's also a huge in Palestine. Go figure that out.

Paul: [00:30:48](#) I believe it.

Jason Alexander: [00:30:50](#) And they said, "If you would come..." Peace initiatives were like Kleenex in the Middle East. Everybody had one and they kept throwing them away. You couldn't get a press... You couldn't get journalists to come and cover anything. They said, "If you would come, it would put real attention on what we're trying to do." So I went three or four times on behalf of OneVoice to go over and meet with the Israeli members of the board and the Palestinian members of the board and attend press events. What I liked about it, what I really appreciated is it was never to give my opinion. It was never to weigh in on how this should be



resolved. It was merely I was the carrot. I would say, "Thank you for coming. I think my friends here are engaged in really important work and I have something you should hear." And then I would turn it over.

Jason Alexander: [00:31:39](#) And I thought that's how you use a celebrity. That's really what it's for. You to bring some attention to it and then not pretend to be an expert, not pontificate, get out of the way and say, "I believe in these guys. I just wanted to introduce you to them." And OneVoice really I thought was on its way to making a huge difference. The problem is when I started with them, there was a real hope in the air on both sides. The moderates would always say, "I didn't think there'd be anybody to negotiate with on the other side." But I guess there is. 10 years after I started with OneVoice because of the leadership on both sides, all that hope has faded. I think we are further from it now than we've ever been.

Paul: [00:32:31](#) There's so much power in that Jason, and I thank you for sharing. I need to take a minute to kind of digest it. And I think folks who are listening to it probably feel it resonating with what's happening at home too right? We talk a lot in this show about the power of the moderates. The independents, doesn't mean neutral, right?

Jason Alexander: [00:32:50](#) Right.

Paul: [00:32:50](#) And it doesn't mean at all apathetic. Often it means the opposite. People who really do believe in their country ahead of their party, people who care about the world more than about themselves and have the longterm vision. But we see now, I have, Israeli friends, I have Palestinian friends and recently I was with a friend, I said, "Man, what's more fucked up right now, Israeli politics or American politics." Right? I mean the corruption in Israel, the dysfunction, the extremes, right? And this has happening in so many other parts of the world, it's Hungary and it's Venezuela. And it's other parts, right? So this emergence of the radical edges dominating the conversation and inflaming the conversation and blowing up peace.

Jason Alexander: [00:33:29](#) Absolutely.

Paul: [00:33:30](#) Right, whether it's NATO or an infrastructure deal back home. I mean everything is getting blown up. So you have become, I think it sounds like increasingly vocal about the situation in America and critical. And I think that's important because you are a bridge builder, like your role, especially because of

Seinfeld, you're trusted. And I think it's a time when some folks will say, to athletes, "Shut up and dribble." Or, "Shut up and play." Or to actors, "Shut up and be on my screen." But I think now more than ever there's an important role for voices like yours to play in bringing if only the carrot right and bringing moderation and also bringing perspective because you've been around the world, you've seen the opportunities and the cost of how to do things the right way to do things and the wrong way to do things and the right way to treat people and the wrong way to treat people. So to bring that back to the US and globally, the question I ask of all guests, Jason Alexander, "What makes you angry?"

Jason Alexander: [00:34:27](#)

Well, we're on it. I thankfully, through years of therapy are no longer, I don't get ruffled by the little indignities or injustices in life. It's big things. So for me, what is consuming me right now and that I don't understand is the moral vacuum that we suddenly seem to be living in. I don't, So for the audience, I am, anybody would probably categorize me as a Democratic Progressive thinker. But having said that, I will be the first one to go to bat and say, "If we ever truly lost the conservative voice in this country, I would fear for our country."

Jason Alexander: [00:35:23](#)

I think the greatest strength that America has is the diversity of not only cultures and races, but of experiences and thinking from left and right. And what it enables us to do that as sort of a more homogenous society can't do, is we come at challenges and issues and problems from so many different angles that when we make solutions, they tend to be profound solutions. They tend to be solutions that stick. And that really move as the United States has been an example for the world, moves the world forward in a leadership way. And I think it's because of this internal struggle of our ideas. So to lose those conservative values and those conservative voices to me is a tragic loss. And I'm angry because we're losing the conservative values. Excuse me, I'm getting all choked up.

Jason Alexander: [00:36:22](#)

And both sides have their flaws. I'll be the first one to laugh my ass off at conservatives, I'm sorry, at Liberals and Progressives and Democrats, we are as dysfunctional and fucked up as anybody else, but we know where our moral core is right now. Our moral core is not in question. I don't understand where the conservative side is right now. I don't understand Lindsey Graham right now. I don't understand Mitch McConnell right now. I don't understand a party that stood for fiscal conservatism, that stood for, for lack of a better word, Judeo-Christian ethics to the max.

- Jason Alexander: [00:37:07](#) That was the law and order party. That was the party of a sort of almost, nun-like discipline and adherence to ethics.
- Paul: [00:37:20](#) Right.
- Jason Alexander: [00:37:21](#) That rightfully and willfully stood up and went, "We're going to impeach president Clinton because he lied about a sex act." Which was not a crime, but his lying about it was a crime. And as much as I go, "Come on, that's what you're going to impeach the guy for. He didn't want to admit that he did something morally wrong in his marriage and you backed him into a corner. And because he didn't want to admit it. That's his high crime and misdemeanor for which you're going to impeach him." But if I'm going to be intellectually and morally honest, I go, "You lied under oath." And if they want to push that, then you have to be held accountable for it.
- Jason Alexander: [00:38:02](#) Well, how do you look at what's going on in this administration where the stakes are so much higher if he, let's say, "If." If he is guilty and if his administration is guilty of the things that they are being charged for, they are trashing our constitution, trashing our democracy, trashing our standing in the world, trashing science, which means you're trashing our future and trashing certainly half if not three quarters of the people that make up this country. And this party is going to stand up and look the other way and justify it. I don't understand that. I don't understand why they don't on mass turn to each other and go, "Okay look, let's just do this. Trump's out Romney standup guy. He believes in everything we believe in. He wouldn't necessarily change one policy that Trump stands for or any of the values that we're going for. Let's get someone that America can look up to." I look at Mitt Romney, I go, "I got president Romney, I got no problems."
- Jason Alexander: [00:39:07](#) I don't agree with half of what he believes in but I believe in him. I think he's a decent guy. I think he will do things with intelligence and with morality and with a soul. I don't understand how they continue to back this freak show.
- Paul: [00:39:25](#) Thank you for that. No I think there's really a lot of powerful insight in the way you're breaking it down and I was so excited. Look, I wanted to hear you talk about Pretty Woman and Seinfeld, but I really want to hear you talk about Trump. I do and I think a lot... Because I know you from afar and I really appreciate your insight and your intelligence and your sophistication. But you understand a very deep level, this country, like the fabric of this country. I mean, there is a reason

why Seinfeld is popular everywhere. If Seinfeld was our representation to the world instead of Donald Trump, we'd be in a whole lot better place right now. But in my view, when I see the Lindsey Grahams and the others of the world, I do understand it. It's actually not hard for me to understand.

Paul: [00:40:11](#) I think they're either scared, they're going to benefit, or they're ignorant, right? So many of them are complicit. So many of them are just making a calculation. They're afraid he might win. Right and that's the same way fascist dictators and authoritarians rise around the world. You either think, you say to yourself, "A lot of people are going to get screwed, but I'm going to be okay." And if everybody's getting screwed, I got to protect my own ass. And that's what I see in many of them right now, whether it's politically, ethically, financially, there's still a lot of calculations going on right now, right? They don't want to be on the wrong side of this guy. And they're placing their bets, right? And every day they're there watching the odds in Vegas. And right now it looks like he probably will get reelected. He may get reelected, who knows. But that's what I see. But I think your focus on the death of Conservatism in this country is one of the most under reported stories I think. I view...

Jason Alexander: [00:41:09](#) Tragic.

Paul: [00:41:10](#) You know, John McCain, the ghost of John McCain is lost right now, right? And guys like Romney and others who could have inherited it are gone now, right? George Bush Senior is gone now and there's this vacuum and chaos where bad actors and scoundrels are kind of overtaking the narrative and they've got their hands on the steering wheel.

Jason Alexander: [00:41:30](#) Absolutely.

Paul: [00:41:31](#) And are destroying our Impala and our beautiful car.

Jason Alexander: [00:41:35](#) They are.

Paul: [00:41:35](#) In so many different ways.

Jason Alexander: [00:41:37](#) And here's the thing that really kills me, so my real foray into political activism was a little bit of an accident when Obama was running the first time. I must have said something very supportive of him. And I got a call from the campaign and said, "Would you be one of our celebrity..." What do they call it? Not an advocate, but a...

Paul: [00:42:00](#) A Surrogate?

Jason Alexander: [00:42:01](#) A surrogate, that's right. And I said, "Well, what does the surrogate do?" And they say, "Honestly, you just go around to where our campaign offices are and you're a treat for our supporters and our workers. You just go and you thank them and you cheerlead." And I go, "Great. I'd love to do that. That's terrific. I'd love to do that." So I go out and I'm going from state to state and city to city doing exactly that. And one of the events was at a restaurant in West Palm Beach, Florida. And it was supposed to be just exactly that. It was all his campaign workers came to that restaurant, but it was a public venue.

Jason Alexander: [00:42:34](#) It wasn't the campaign office and some tea partiers must've found out that that was happening. And they came and they hit this event and they disrupted the event. And the Obama people started to hustle me away. I said, "If you do that, you know there's some news cameras here, it's just going to look like you're turning tail." I said, "I have no problem talking to them. And they go, "Well, we don't want you doing policy or the..." I said, "No, I won't do that. I think I can talk to them." So I go over and there was one woman in particular who was particularly aggressive. She didn't like this whole thing that I was using my status as a celebrity to advocate politically. And I said, "Well, I understand that, but I am just a citizen and we all have... We all vote..."

Paul: [00:43:23](#) You're not the Secretary of Labor.

Jason Alexander: [00:43:24](#) Right, yeah. And she's really emotional. And I said, "You know, ma'am, I have to say, the irony here is I think if we just talk to each other, we would agree on more things than we disagree on." And she goes, "No we don't. No, we don't." Adamant. And I said, "I really think we would." And I said, "I'll tell you what, I don't know if you're a betting woman, I'll make you a bet." And I took some money out of my wallet and I said, "Here's the deal. You name the issue, you get to pick the issue, you express your point of view, I'll express mine. And then you get to be the judge. You will decide if we agree more than we disagree. If you decide we disagree more, this money is yours. You do whatever you want with it. If you decide we agree, I don't care what you take out of your wallet, but take something out and go give it to the Obama people."

Jason Alexander: [00:44:12](#) So she of course jumps on this. There's no way she's going to lose this right? I go, "Okay, what's your topic?" She goes, "I'm an Evangelical Christian. I don't believe in abortion for any reason I

want it illegal and I want it gone tomorrow. And I know you don't agree." So I think for a second I go, "Okay, let me re say what you've just said, a slightly different way. "You would like to live in a country where no woman, no couple, no family ever feels they need to have an abortion and given the choice would really very rarely if ever opt to have an abortion. Is that fair?" And she thought for a second she said, "Yeah." I said, "Well, I want the same thing. And by the way, everyone I know who's pro-choice wants the same thing. I don't know anybody who's pro choice who's pro abortion. We don't sit around going, yay, another abortion, right?"

Jason Alexander: [00:45:11](#) I will tell you, it's always a tragedy. And I'll even tell you there's always a death. I'll give it to you. I don't know if it's... We want to call it a fully formed human being, but something that's alive died. That's a tragedy. Our side sometimes feels that having that birth could add to that tragedy, but neither here nor there. We want abortion to be practically a ghost. I don't think we get there by making it illegal. That's your solution. It was illegal. We had a lot of dead babies. We had a lot of dead women. I think we get there through family counseling and health care and education and empowering of women.

Jason Alexander: [00:45:52](#) I think there's all kinds of things we could do that would get us as close as possible to zero abortions. I don't think making it illegal is one of them. And she looked at me and she thought she took out 20 bucks and she gave it to the Obama people. That is a scenario that I have repeated time after time in different conversations with avowed Conservatives in red States and purple States, and I find that the end results of what we want are not that different from each other. Where we really divide is on how we think we might get there. So my thesis becomes, if that's true, that kind of the end result is something we share a desire for. Why don't we vote for people that can advocate for what we want, but have the same conversation you and I just had and negotiate for something that serves you and serves me.

Jason Alexander: [00:46:47](#) Why are we voting for people that are pushing you and me further and further apart and why are you willing to give your money to people who are making a fortune to push you and me further and further apart. So my appearance on Twitter, I try very hard, unlike some of my friends that we talked about to not antagonize the other side. I try not to use names. I don't name call.

Paul: [00:47:12](#) I noticed that.

Jason Alexander: [00:47:13](#) And I don't belittle people. What I really do is I reiterate some information that's available and go, "Are you seeing this?" And I'm basically doing that more for the people on my side so they have real talking points that they can use. And for anybody who might be unresolved about all this to go, "Oh, that's something to think about." It's not to say to the other side, "You're an idiot." Because I know that our conversation, if I was really talking to the other side, it's a much more nuanced conversation than re-tweeting a Ron Perlman.

Paul: [00:47:48](#) We love you Ron.

Jason Alexander: [00:47:49](#) We do. You are the bravest Jew in America buddy.

Paul: [00:47:54](#) We were, we were talking earlier about how Ron had joined us on this show. If you're listening, you haven't heard it. Go back and listen to our wild conversation with Ron Perlman from Sons of Anarchy and Hellboy and everything else driving through Los Angeles, talking about Trump's Dick. But he got banned on Twitter recently.

Jason Alexander: [00:48:10](#) He did.

Paul: [00:48:11](#) He did. But I think pulling it back, what you do and what Ron does, you're elevating issues, right? And there's, you touch on something important Jason. You talk about, you're really talking about leadership.

Jason Alexander: [00:48:22](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:48:23](#) And leadership creating the time and the space to be thoughtful about real goals that we share, right? Which could be as simple as peace.

Jason Alexander: [00:48:31](#) Right. Absolutely.

Paul: [00:48:32](#) But in this environment right now that our leaders perpetuate, it is a quick hit. They want to see you fighting in the waffle house or the diner in West Palm Beach, right? They want to see you shitting on each other on Twitter. It's got to happen in 30 seconds. It's not a thoughtful conversation like you and I are having here. This is why I like this format of media so much because you can have time to really expand on your thinking and people can better understand how you feel, how you think and consider a different vantage point. But I think it allows for leadership to emerge. And you are a very important leader in this country if only because you're adding that positive tone,

you're adding more light than heat. And that's what we need in this environment right now. And sometimes it has to come with a joke, right? Sometimes it has to come up with food and breaking bread. Right? But when you were, I want to ask you, you guys did the show in New York for so many years and you lived...

Jason Alexander: [00:49:24](#) Wrong by the way, wrong.

Paul: [00:49:26](#) Sorry, I'm sorry, correct me.

Jason Alexander: [00:49:27](#) We did the show in LA.

Paul: [00:49:28](#) Oh sorry. Okay. About New York.

Jason Alexander: [00:49:31](#) It was a great illusion.

Paul: [00:49:32](#) How did I not know that?

Jason Alexander: [00:49:33](#) I know everybody... There are more people that think we shot that thing in New York.

Paul: [00:49:37](#) Everybody kind of roams around looking for the sites right?

Jason Alexander: [00:49:39](#) I know.

Paul: [00:49:40](#) But you did a show about New York?

Jason Alexander: [00:49:41](#) Yes, absolutely.

Paul: [00:49:42](#) Where you live in New York. So was Trump ever on the show?

Jason Alexander: [00:49:46](#) No.

Paul: [00:49:46](#) Was he ever around the show?

Jason Alexander: [00:49:48](#) Never.

Paul: [00:49:48](#) Did you ever meet him?

Jason Alexander: [00:49:49](#) No.

Paul: [00:49:50](#) In all your times, like in that time period where he was in New York, dating Marla Maples and all that kind of stuff, your paths never crossed?



Jason Alexander: [00:49:57](#) I never crossed paths. I didn't even spot him across the room. I don't think we've been in the same room together.

Paul: [00:50:01](#) Wow, that's fascinating to me. And I'm curious if he's met Jerry or any of the other guys? He must've at some point at some event or a thing, right?

Jason Alexander: [00:50:09](#) I would imagine he's at least been in a room with Jerry.

Paul: [00:50:11](#) But did you ever think, knowing him, because you grew up in this media environment, did you ever think he could actually become President?

Jason Alexander: [00:50:17](#) No. I mean I didn't. I was not aware of... If you had asked me in my twenties and early thirties about Donald Trump, I'd go, "Well I guess he's a New York success story. His name is on all these buildings. I guess he's a successful guy. A little rough around the edges. I don't know much about him, but you know, seems to be one of those guys, one of these multimillionaires that did his real estate thing and was successful. It wasn't until really the last 10 years that the stories of what that success is actually built on that have started to come out and to see the kind of character that he's become.

Jason Alexander: [00:51:00](#) The other thing is that, what a lot of people forget is the darling of the Conservative tea party-esque side of our politics was an avowed Democrat. These are not positions that he holds near and dear to his heart. He was actually quoted somewhere of saying, "If I was ever going to get into politics, I would run..." This is him, not me. "I would run as a Republican because they're so much stupider." That was what he said. And so the reason that you can't hold him to any of these positions is he doesn't believe what he's doing. I don't think he cares. Again, I'm trying not to antagonize. I've never met anybody like him. I don't understand him.

Jason Alexander: [00:51:52](#) The worst thing I could say about anybody is they wouldn't sacrifice themselves for their kids. I think that is true of almost any parent I've ever met. That you put a medical condition on my kids, they need the operation, they need my heart. I'm dead that day because my heart is going into my kids.

Paul: [00:52:14](#) 100%.

Jason Alexander: [00:52:14](#) I don't know that he would make that sacrifice. I don't think there is that level of concern in him for any other human being. I would much rather be wrong about that. I would really love to

be wrong. But the person I've seen based on the actions that I've seen, I can't imagine him being selfless to that degree.

Paul: [00:52:40](#) That's powerful.

Jason Alexander: [00:52:41](#) Again, I hope I'm wrong.

Paul: [00:52:43](#) Yeah, but I think it is powerful. So we just had on this show Mayor Pete Buttigieg. He's the second candidate that we've had in the show. I hope we have them all. I of course invite Trump to join us as well if he wants to dial in from Malta or wherever he might be in the next couple of months. But we did have Mayor Pete on, we've had Tulsi Gabbard on, we hope to have others. What's your analysis of the field as someone who is influential and has a very powerful voice, what's your analysis of the field and what would your counsel be as someone who does know this country and know the media and know entertainment and the intersection of all of them, what's your analysis of the landscape?

Jason Alexander: [00:53:25](#) So what's really interesting to me about what's going on is it's the best and worst of what we're about right now. In as much as the Republican Party is a Party in search for its soul. So are the Democrats. The reason the tea party and Trump and this whole, the Trump base has happened is because the Democrats got stupid and turned a blind eye on a whole bunch of people and a whole bunch of realities. And those people felt marginalized and alienated and forgotten. And people don't curl up and die when that happens, they get angry and they fight back. And what we're getting now is that fight.

Jason Alexander: [00:54:12](#) So our party is looking for its new center. It's looking for what is the 21st century, their true 21st century direction of the Democratic Party. Is it a sort of democratic socialism as expressed by Bernie and by Elizabeth Warren and even to some degree by Julián Castro and Cory Booker? Or is it more a, which by the way would be turning the Titanic 180 degrees in about nine seconds. That is a very fast turn for a very large ship. And then there is the more moderate part of our party that's going, "If you turn it that fast, you'll break the ship in half and it'll sink." So in order to take conservatives or independents or undecided moderates and move them to one side of the line or the other, we need to do so incrementally. And that's being represented by Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg and Michael Bennet and you know a couple of other people who are out there, Bloomberg I'm sure to some degree.

- Jason Alexander: [00:55:19](#) And it's a worthwhile discussion and exploration to have. What it doesn't do is inspire voters.
- Paul: [00:55:27](#) Right.
- Jason Alexander: [00:55:28](#) While they're having that discussion and that argument, the voters are going, "What the fuck are you guys going to do? Make up your goddamn minds. Tell us where you want to go and we'll decide if we're with you." It is not a comfortable situation for the average Progressive or Democrat. But I for one believe it's a healthy process. My other fear is that no matter which side of that equation prevails, I'm not sure that it is being represented by anybody that America as a whole would look to and say, "I believe in that person 100%."
- Jason Alexander: [00:56:11](#) If I look at Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, I see a limited picture of what I think a President needs. I think they're incredibly bright. So smart and experienced and they are coming from the most honest, I think they're two of the most honest politicians in this race about their heart and soul connected to what they're espousing. But I don't know what Bernie Sanders does in foreign policy. I don't know what Bernie Sanders does in law and order. I only know what Bernie Sanders espouses as a sociopolitical movement. Same thing with Elizabeth Warren. So I don't see a whole complete presidential picture there, which concerns me because I think these moderate independent voters are looking for that image. You don't see it in Trump. So can you see it in the person that's going to go up against him?
- Jason Alexander: [00:57:10](#) I think potentially they could see it in Biden, but what's happening to Biden right now, and I don't think it's that it's a mental problem. I think there's a stress problem right now. I think he is, his heart is so burdened by what's being said about him and his family and the fact that he's gone through a tremendously hard time in the last four to five years. I think he's becoming inarticulate and emotional in ways that he wouldn't have been five years ago. And so he doesn't feel like he's got the strongest grip.
- Paul: [00:57:47](#) Yeah. It also looks like it's kind of overwhelming him.
- Jason Alexander: [00:57:49](#) It does.
- Paul: [00:57:50](#) Like he's an old quarterback, I don't know, like maybe an Eli Manning type when Lamar Jackson is the new quarterback in the NFL right? I mean the game is moving faster. It's changing all

around you and you're holding the ball in the pocket too long and you're fumbling and you're kind of shutting down. And Clinton has talked a lot, very powerfully, about how many, especially of the older white male voters that Trump was able to capture. It felt like the world was changing too fast. It was spinning too fast and they just wanted to grab the handle and say, "Slow it down, stop the change. I'm not ready for it."

Jason Alexander: [00:58:21](#) Absolutely.

Paul: [00:58:22](#) And he's kind of in that place where the media environment is wrapping him up and he looks like he's kind of on the ropes all the time because he didn't know what the hell Snapchat was and it just hit him from the side, right?

Jason Alexander: [00:58:35](#) He also looks hurt to me.

Paul: [00:58:39](#) He does. He looks surprised. Like when when Kamala Harris came at him. He, and that's a bit of arrogance maybe, maybe it's a bit of entitlement, right? This idea that like you're really doing this, but it's also in my view, a bit of his appeal to maybe what you're talking about, which is, can we be strategic about this? Can we not have a family fight out in the open? Can we not shoot each other on the stage? [inaudible 00:59:04] And that's what I see and I've been challenging them all on. I challenged Mayor Pete on this, can there be a Game of Thrones moment like who's going to be Jon Snow? Can you actually get the tribes together or, and what I see is probably more likely, is they're not going to put their kids first and they're going to take it all the way to the primary. Bernie's going to go down fighting. Tulsi is going to do her own thing. There'll be other holdouts and most of the voters will be sitting there saying, "Get your shit together and pick a quarterback." Pick a quarterback and let's hit the field and let's go.

Paul: [00:59:34](#) Because I also argue, Jason, that every dollar they're spending against each other is a dollar they won't have for the fight against Trump.

Jason Alexander: [00:59:40](#) Absolutely.

Paul: [00:59:40](#) It's finite resources and you've only got so much ammunition and every piece of ammunition you waste on friendly fire is one you don't have for the enemy. And so I really do, I see that vacuum, right? And I think we all see it.

Jason Alexander: [00:59:52](#) Yeah absolutely.

Paul: [00:59:52](#) And I feel like the American people are almost trying to fill it. But when that's all said and done, you looked at both sides. You kind of set this stage of the progressive side or the moderate side, which I think is right, and what many of us see.

PART 2 OF 3 ENDS [01:00:04]

Paul: [01:00:00](#) The stage of the progressive side, or the moderate side, which I think is right and what many of us see. Which side are you rooting for?

Jason Alexander: [01:00:07](#) Well, I will tell you that the two-

Paul: [01:00:10](#) Or, what do you think is the best path?

Jason Alexander: [01:00:13](#) Now, this may be an indication of my age. So, I'm a 60-year-old guy and when the right comes at me and goes, "Ah, you're a lefty, elite, liberal, progressive asshole." And, I go, "You'd be surprised about some of my positions," right? You'd be really surprised. And, they don't know my voting record. I have voted for Republicans, I have voted for what would be considered conservative issues when I thought that that was the best idea, or the best person at the time. My experience tells me that the kind of radical change that the most progressive part of the party is pushing for is idealistically a very, very strong guiding light, but I think that the tempo at which they would like to execute it is fraught with dangers. Because, you have to, I'm tired of policies that leave half the country behind.

Jason Alexander: [01:01:17](#) So, to me, this idea of nudging the ship ten degrees at a time rather than cranking the wheel and turning it 180 degrees feels more responsible, and it feels more practical, and it feels more accomplishable to me. So, I tend to get more excited by two candidates that you hear nothing about, which are Amy Klobuchar and Michael Bennet. And, I get excited by, although I'm not sure it's his time, but I really do get excited by Pete Buttigieg. I wish he had more experience. I wish South Bend was this extraordinary success story that he could go, "Look," but he hasn't made the case for what he articulates so masterfully. But then, look at what the accomplishments are and they aren't as masterful as the articulation.

Paul: [01:02:16](#) Right.

Jason Alexander: [01:02:16](#) So, I feel like he is.

Paul: [01:02:17](#) Which, is Democrats in a nutshell, right?

Jason Alexander: [01:02:19](#) Absolutely.

Paul: [01:02:20](#) That's been a generation [crosstalk 01:02:21].

Jason Alexander: [01:02:21](#) They talk a great talk.

Paul: [01:02:21](#) Big promises and suck at the execution, right?

Jason Alexander: [01:02:24](#) Absolutely.

Paul: [01:02:24](#) I always use the VA as an example, right?

Jason Alexander: [01:02:26](#) Yes.

Paul: [01:02:26](#) Obama came in just like every president and said, "I'm going to clean up the VA." He left and the VA is a fucking mess.

Jason Alexander: [01:02:30](#) Yeah, absolutely.

Paul: [01:02:31](#) And, execution in government and in politics is where good ideas go to die, right?

Jason Alexander: [01:02:36](#) Absolutely.

Paul: [01:02:37](#) Obama was aspirational, but he also had a hell of a ground game.

Jason Alexander: [01:02:40](#) Yep.

Paul: [01:02:40](#) Right? And, he was able to build a coalition and he was able to score points in places that mattered like talk-radio, or in the entertainment world and cobble that together. So, it feels like all of them are trying to piece it together, but just not completing the puzzle.

Jason Alexander: [01:02:54](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:02:55](#) Right? And so, Jason, will you endorse a candidate? Will you pick one at the end of all of this?

Jason Alexander: [01:03:01](#) I might when the field gets closer and there's really something to talk about. The truth is, I would vote for this bottle of water over Donald Trump. So, whoever the candidate is, and I mean this sincerely, if it's Liz Warren, Andrew Yang, Bloomberg, or this bottle of water, I'm going that direction, because the opposite is untenable for me. I really worry that four more years of Trump

unchecked by the impeachment process, unchecked by the revelation of all his criminal exploit, and unchecked by wanting to get a second term unleashed. I can't imagine the tragedies. I just can't imagine it and I don't want to imagine it.

Paul: [01:03:50](#) Would you ever run for office?

Jason Alexander: [01:03:52](#) I don't think so. [crosstalk 01:03:54].

Paul: [01:03:54](#) But, you're not ruling it out.

Jason Alexander: [01:03:55](#) Oh, I don't rule out anything. But, I can't imagine for a number of reasons. One is-

Paul: [01:04:00](#) Could you go home and run for governor of New Jersey?

Jason Alexander: [01:04:03](#) No. Here's the reason why. There are many reasons why. I really do believe that politics, there are a lot of people that act for a living, but a very small percentage of them have actually trained and have skills to bring to the table. They do it, but they don't know what they're doing. And, they can still be successful until you give them something that they can't handle and then they go, "I don't really know what I'm doing." I feel the same way about politics. There are skills that I think are important if you're going to be a governing, if you're going to add to leadership. They are business experience, they are law and Congressional knowledge, they are military service, they are having done this kind of governing at a smaller level. There's all, economics, there's all things that I know Zip-A-

Jason Alexander: [01:04:57](#) No. Here's the reason why. There are many reasons why. I really do believe that politics, there are a lot of people that act for a living, but a very small percentage of them have actually trained and have skills to bring to the table. They do it, but they don't know what they're doing. And, they can still be successful until you give them something that they can't handle and then they go, "I don't really know what I'm doing." I feel the same way about politics. There are skills that I think are important if you're going to be a governing, if you're going to add to leadership. They are business experience, they are law and Congressional knowledge, they are military service, they are having done this kind of governing at a smaller level. There's all, economics, there's all things that I know Zip-A-Dee-Do-Dah about. My skill is as a communicator. I can talk to people and I, generally, have been able to talk to people in a way that brings them closer together. That's a great skill.

Paul: [01:05:12](#) But, I want to challenge you on it.

Jason Alexander: [01:05:13](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:05:13](#) That might be the skill we need most right now, right? In this environment.

Jason Alexander: [01:05:18](#) It might, but it means that policy would really be dependent on everybody else telling me what should happen.

Paul: [01:05:23](#) Well, or advising you, right?

Jason Alexander: [01:05:26](#) [crosstalk 01:05:26], yeah.

Paul: [01:05:26](#) That's where I think, and I challenge you on this, because I think we need more people in government and I think, too often, people say government is, I've been close enough to see that most of them don't have all that shit and most of them are not that good. We've been seeing that in the impeachment hearings that, now, welcome to how shitty members of Congress actually are, right?

Jason Alexander: [01:05:45](#) Right.

Paul: [01:05:45](#) Many of them are not impressive. Many of them don't have lots of skillsets. Many of them don't have all the experience that everyone thinks. And then, you've got Trump who had none of that and, granted, it has created problems. He doesn't know how to run certain things and operate certain protocols, but I think there's a moment in time where we need patriots and you're doing so much already that I think if Democrats were smart they would, literally, look across the spectrum and say, "Who could we run? Let's run Springsteen and let's run Jason Alexander," right? And, look across and run him in Kentucky and run him in California, right? That's what Trump has created is this combination of celebrity, and politician, and activism in this new thing, right? Now, AOC is a celebrity.

Jason Alexander: [01:06:31](#) You bet. And, she knows how to work it.

Paul: [01:06:32](#) And, Rachel Maddow, and Sean Hannity, we could bring it around. There's this emergence and almost a celebration in this country that I think Trump was ahead of recognizing.

Jason Alexander: [01:06:43](#) Sure.



Paul: [01:06:43](#) So, I will tell you not as a New Jersey resident, but as a neighbor, I hope you do run and I think if a president was smart they'd find a way to have you involved, because the mastery of communication and the way you do it is, maybe, what he sucks the most at and what we need the most right now.

Jason Alexander: [01:06:58](#) Yeah. I would have crazy issues if I were to ever run. Literally, this is two of them right off the bat.

Paul: [01:07:05](#) Yeah, okay.

Jason Alexander: [01:07:05](#) One of them you don't know about, but the other one you're not taking into consideration.

Paul: [01:07:09](#) Okay.

Jason Alexander: [01:07:09](#) The one you, maybe, wouldn't have thought of is Jason Alexander is not my real name.

Paul: [01:07:14](#) I know that.

Jason Alexander: [01:07:15](#) It's a stage name.

Paul: [01:07:16](#) Yeah.

Jason Alexander: [01:07:16](#) So, do I run as Jason Alexander, this bullshit name I made up for show business, or do I run as Jay Scott Greenspan? And, if I do I have to spend a lot of time telling that story.

Paul: [01:07:27](#) But, ask Barry Obama.

Jason Alexander: [01:07:28](#) Sure. But, I have [crosstalk 01:07:32].

Paul: [01:07:31](#) But, that's a tactical problem. [crosstalk 01:07:34].

Jason Alexander: [01:07:33](#) And, the other problem is, and, truthfully, this happens every day. People don't know me, they know George. And, if you tell them George Costanza is running for office you've got to get past that joke, you've got to get past that impression.

Paul: [01:07:49](#) Well, with all do respect, Al Franken got past it, Donald Trump got past it.

Jason Alexander: [01:07:54](#) Yes, he did, he did.

Paul: [01:07:54](#) Lots of other people have gotten past it.

Jason Alexander: [01:07:58](#) But, Al, it tortured him [crosstalk 01:07:58].

Paul: [01:07:57](#) He wasn't as defined by one character in the same way you are, yeah. That's right, that's right.

Jason Alexander: [01:08:00](#) But, it was, everything he's ever said as a comedian they used to kill him.

Paul: [01:08:04](#) But, this is what I'm excited about is seeing people, especially in a format like this. People are now hearing the real you, not George Costanza, right?

Jason Alexander: [01:08:12](#) Right.

Paul: [01:08:12](#) You're probably sick of hearing, "What would George Costanza vote for, what would he think?" That's not you.

Jason Alexander: [01:08:17](#) Sure.

Paul: [01:08:18](#) And, you are much more than that. I'm excited to see you, especially, and other people that I've been honored to know and see who have so much life experience be pulled in by this moment.

Jason Alexander: [01:08:30](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:08:31](#) And that, I think, is inspiring and really important. And, I think will inspire a whole new generation of actors and politicians to think about things differently. You mentioned the bottle of water. I have to ask you, because it is Angry Americans. We're at Matador, so a big shout-out to Matador. Thank you for hosting us here today. They had something going on at the Car Club. We're in this, it's a music room. It's a recording studio, basically, and over your shoulder there are record covers of Pearl Jam, Snoop Dog, Madonna, Lou Reed. There's some cool shit, but we did not start the show by asking you what your adult beverage of choice is.

Jason Alexander: [01:09:09](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:09:10](#) And so, what is your adult beverage of choice?

Jason Alexander: [01:09:12](#) I don't have, I'm not an adult.

Paul: [01:09:14](#) You are definitely an adult.

Jason Alexander: [01:09:14](#) I am a real teetotaler and it's not a religious thing, it's just, I think what it was, honestly, is my mom was in the healthcare world. She was a nurse and a nurse educator. And, when I was about 14-years-old, around the time if you were going to start drinking that would be the time when your buddies start getting a hold of some beers and stuff. So, I've had asthma from the time I was teenager and there was a girl in New Jersey, and if you were a good New Jersey boy you may remember this name. Her name was Karen Ann Quinlan. And, Karen Ann Quinlan was a young, teenage girl, asthmatic, who, one night, went out and got drunk and went into a coma from which she never recovered and died. And, my mother went, "I hope you read that story." And, I think, in the back of my head, I had some image that if I put alcohol to my lips I would be the next Karen Ann Quinlan.

Jason Alexander: [01:10:09](#) So, my drinking record, in college I learned to enjoy a beer with certain food. I had Mexican food and somebody said, "This is called Corona, this is called Dos Equis. You should taste this." And, I went, "Wow, these things go great together." But, I have never been drunk, I have never been high and that may point to the control freak in me. I don't love the taste of most things that people consider really good like good, dry wines, fine wines. I go, "[inaudible 01:10:39] alcohol." I like the fruitier stuff, which is loaded with sugar and my girlish figure does not need more calories. So, I just never quite went down that road. So, if you see me at a party, and you look at the glass in my hand, and it's got some color in it it's probably a cranberry and soda. It's just nothing else. I am not anti-drinking. I will have an occasional glass of something, but if I have alcohol once every month to a month-and-a-half it's probably a big deal.

Paul: [01:11:05](#) I'm so glad I asked that. That must have been difficult in entertainment for 30 years.

Jason Alexander: [01:11:10](#) Not at all.

Paul: [01:11:10](#) Really?

Jason Alexander: [01:11:11](#) Yeah, not at all.

Paul: [01:11:11](#) That's, again, I guess it's a testament to your focus.

Jason Alexander: [01:11:13](#) I'll tell you where it was tricky. So, I'm about to go do my fourth tour of Australia. I love touring. I do some form of comedy, some form of stand-up in Australia. And, I love the Australians and they're the friendliest, nicest people in the world, and they

are gigantic Seinfeld fans. Half of my fan mail, to this day, comes from Australia.

Paul: [01:11:33](#) Really?

Jason Alexander: [01:11:34](#) So, you get down there and they recognize you and they go, "Hey, mate. Oh, I love you. You're a champion, mate. I'm going to buy you a pint, going to buy you a pint." And, I would say, "Oh, that's really sweet of you, but I really don't drink." And, to them it was like saying I don't want to drink with you and they're like, "Huh, all right. All right, fine." And then, I would backpedal and go [inaudible 01:11:56]. So, I've learned to say, only in Australia, I learned to say, "Oh, thanks. You know, I used to have a problem." "Oh, gotcha. Got ya mate, no problem. All right, Diet Coke for you it is." So, now, in Australia I'm a reformed alcoholic, but everywhere else I just don't drink.

Paul: [01:12:14](#) Every question I ask you I'm so glad I asked you no matter where it goes, but I want to ask you the last question that I ask of every guest on this show. You bring so much positivity and, again, in the limited time we've been together in-person, but from afar, and in all your work and, especially, today, this show will drop in-advance of Christmas and Hanukkah, which are overlapping this year, I believe, right, and Festivus, so I have to ask you for your thoughts on Festivus, or any Festivus wishes. But, before I do, it's a time of happiness. Jason Alexander, what makes you happy?

Jason Alexander: [01:12:53](#) Oh, I'm going to be so sappy right now, really sappy. So, my life is so stupidly blessed. It's disproportionate, honestly, honestly. But, we've had health issues in my family, we've had career issues, we've had all kinds of things we've had to work through and people who knew me well would go, "How are you doing, how are you doing?" And, the honest answer is the following and it remains true to this day. Around midnight every night I get into a bed. I have a bed and I have a really cool house. And, I have a woman that I have been married to for almost 40 years lying next to me and she's healthy and she loves me. And, my two boys are in that same house and they're in beds, and they are healthy, and they are secure, and they have the hope that tomorrow might be as good, or better than today. And, I go, "That was a great fucking day." I don't need anything else. You give me that every day of my life I don't need another job, I don't need another person coming up and going, "I love your work," I don't need any other accolades, challenges, you don't have to give me another red cent. If I can go to bed every night and go, "I feel pretty good. I'm in a good place with someone

who loves me next to me and my family, and the people I care about are healthy, and happy, and safe tonight, that was a great day.

Paul: [01:14:28](#) I think that's perfect holiday message.

Jason Alexander: [01:14:31](#) Yeah, it is.

Paul: [01:14:31](#) No matter what your holiday is.

Jason Alexander: [01:14:33](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:14:34](#) Let me take a last question on you. Any thoughts on parenting with all this perspective? You're somebody who does care deeply about family and I've tried to make that a pillar of this show, especially raising kids in this environment. It's a chaotic environment and we have to look to mentors as parents, as children, as Americans, and I think you have been that for me from afar, and I think folks listening to this will now understand better why. But, any lessons learned on parenting that will share?

Jason Alexander: [01:15:07](#) Many. I could tell you two great books if raising kids. They were great. There's two books written by the same two women. One is called How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk and the follow-up, and I wish I could remember these ladies' names, I just don't. They also wrote a book called Siblings Without Rivalry. And, they were very much bibles for my wife and I as we were raising the boys. But, the thing that I would say is whatever you have to teach truth speaks for itself. Truth doesn't come at the end of a spanking, it doesn't come by inflicting pain on somebody. That's not how you get them to understand who you are, or what you believe in. And, it doesn't, necessarily, teach the lesson that something that they've engaged in could hurt them by hurting them.

Jason Alexander: [01:16:06](#) So, I believe in communication with our kids even when they are noncommunicative. And, I also believe, for the most part, that, yes, we are there to guide and to teach, but I can tell you, having raised my two boys, they came into the world fully loaded. They were exactly who they are. I look back at them as infants and I go, "Oh, absolutely. That's who they are." So, my job is to nurture, to guide, to protect, and to love them unconditionally. They are going to teach me as much as I'm going to teach them. And, I think the greatest day my son and I had was when he was six-years-old, my older son, Gabe, my wife made the terrible mistake of leaving us alone for a

weekend. Me with a six-year-old. And, he got it and he pushed my buttons all day long. He was the biggest little bitch he could possibly be. And, around dinnertime I snapped. I'm like, "Goddammit, Gabe. You this, and you're that, and you're duh, duh, duh, duh." And, I really yelled. I was really angry. And, I got him ready for bed that night, I'm tucking him in and it was a big thing, because I had never really gone off like that.

Jason Alexander: [01:17:33](#) And, I got him into bed and I said, "I owe you an apology." And, his eyes went big and he went, "What," because he knew he had been a little monster all day. I said, "I owe you an apology. You are a young person. You're supposed to make mistakes, that's how you learn things. You try things out, you try things on. You push at me, you challenge me, that's your job. My job is not to treat you the way I did for doing it. My job is to be clear and supportive, but not to treat you the way I did and I screwed up today, and I am really sorry, and I really love you. And, I love you even when you're doing that stuff that you did." And, he got it, he really got it. That to have your dad, or your mom say, "I make mistakes. I don't understand everything about this and I'm just guessing. I'm taking my best guess."

Jason Alexander: [01:18:35](#) And, I said to them when they were little, "When you're in your twenties we'll sit down and talk about how I did," and now we do. 27 and 24, and they go, "Yeah, you did good with that. You might've messed up on this." And, I go, "Yeah, I probably did."

Paul: [01:18:50](#) I'm so grateful you shared that, because I had an episode with my son in the last week, he's four.

Jason Alexander: [01:18:56](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:18:57](#) And, a four-year-old can push your buttons in ways that are absolutely unique.

Jason Alexander: [01:19:02](#) They're geniuses.

Paul: [01:19:03](#) And, he hits me in the nuts so many times and punches me in the face accidentally so many times, and I wake up so often I feel like I'm having some kind of, maybe I was a boxer in a past life. I just wake up to head blows that come from a foot, or a hand. But, I did, I raised my temper and I lost my voice with him and, interestingly, Jason, I sat down with him that night and I said, "Buddy, I'm sorry I lost my cool. I shouldn't do that. I apologize and I want you to know that you have to own things." And, I've always tried to treat him with respect, both my boys no matter how old they are. And, he had this moment where he

turned to me and he looked at me and he said, "It's okay, Dad," and he goes, "Love Dada." And, he had that moment where he looks at you and he doesn't look like a four-year-old and I felt like I was looking at the 27-year-old version of him.

Jason Alexander: [01:19:53](#) It's really true.

Paul: [01:19:54](#) And, those moments are-

Jason Alexander: [01:19:55](#) Yeah, and they get it and they appreciate it.

Paul: [01:19:56](#) Yeah.

Jason Alexander: [01:19:57](#) I'm trying to remember the way to express it, but there was a parenting system that we studied when my kids were little and it worked great with my older one and it did not work at all with my younger one, but that was fine. But, it was a system in which you ask your child to make as many self-determining decisions every day as they possibly can. And, even when they're an infant on the changing table you're supposed to hold up two outfits and go, "This one's blue and this one's yellow. Is there one you would like?" And, they don't know what they're doing, but they'll focus their eyes for a second on the blue one and you go, "I see you're looking at the blue one. I think that's what you would like," so that they feel like they have some say in their own world. And, this system says that you get the terrible twos because they have made no decisions for themselves up to two and now you're asking them to start making some decisions, because they need to grow up a little bit and they freak out.

Paul: [01:20:59](#) Yeah. It gives them a sense of ownership over their own world.

Jason Alexander: [01:21:02](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:21:03](#) And, my son was lucky enough to go to a Montessori school and they taught me that about the choices, right? Make a choice. Which shirt do you want to wear, buddy? Which shoes do you want to wear? Would you like to walk out of the room, or would you like me to carry you? Right? But, empowering them, I think, is an important lesson for life and you have given us so many lessons for life.

Jason Alexander: [01:21:21](#) Oh, thank you, bud.

Paul: [01:21:21](#) This conversation has been-

Jason Alexander: [01:21:23](#) Thank you for doing this. Listen, I have always, from the day we met I admired the hell out of you. You were, to me, you looked like what a leader is supposed to look like. First of all, you embodied it. Second of all, the mission that you were working on was extraordinary and the way you talked about it and espoused it was extraordinary. And, the fact that you have stayed engaged in this work and are still leading in this field is extraordinary. And, you're a young guy, as you said, four under four. And, I hope they all become gigantically successful adults.

Paul: [01:21:56](#) Well, I am so grateful for that and for you. And, I have giving of the gifts.

Jason Alexander: [01:22:02](#) Oh.

Paul: [01:22:02](#) You may not know this, but this is-

Jason Alexander: [01:22:04](#) It's in a Righteous Media bag [crosstalk 01:22:06].

Paul: [01:22:05](#) It's in a Righteous Media bag and since it is Festivus and everything else I'm going to go in order. So, this is an order. There's no feats of strength, or the other things that are a part-

Jason Alexander: [01:22:16](#) Thank god, I would be [crosstalk 01:22:17] at this point.

Paul: [01:22:17](#) Do you remember them by heart, all the parts of Festivus?

Jason Alexander: [01:22:21](#) I remember the feats of strength, the airing of grievances, the Festivus pole.

Paul: [01:22:24](#) The Festivus pole.

Jason Alexander: [01:22:25](#) Do you know how that came about?

Paul: [01:22:27](#) I've read about it, but I don't know if it's the truth.

Jason Alexander: [01:22:29](#) That was a true, one of our writers, and I'm not going to remember his name, because I'm old, one of our writers, that was this thing his father made up. And, it was a family tradition and he must've been in the writer's room talking about this crazy thing, and Larry and Jerry must've gone, "That is a Frank Costanza right there." And, it just became the Festivus miracle episode.

Paul: [01:22:51](#) And now, it's-



Jason Alexander: [01:22:52](#) But, it was all those things. It was the feats of strength, the airing of grievances, the Festivus pole, because he didn't want a Christmas tree.

Paul: [01:22:57](#) Right? And now, people legitimately celebrate this.

Jason Alexander: [01:23:01](#) It's all over the world.

Paul: [01:23:02](#) All over the world.

Jason Alexander: [01:23:03](#) And, Ben & Jerry's made a flavor, Festivus for the Rest of Us.

Paul: [01:23:05](#) And, this episode will drop in time for Festivus.

Jason Alexander: [01:23:08](#) God bless.

Paul: [01:23:11](#) And, here is a part of the giving of the gifts. So, the first is we've got some American-made schwag for you that you can rock in New Jersey, or California, wherever you are, made by our friends at Oscar Mike.

Jason Alexander: [01:23:22](#) That's fantastic.

Paul: [01:23:22](#) And then, this is one you, I think, will appreciate.

Jason Alexander: [01:23:23](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:23:23](#) So, every episode, because we started at Easter we started doing a question of Peeps.

Jason Alexander: [01:23:29](#) The marshmallow Peeps, ladies and gentlemen.

Paul: [01:23:32](#) So, there are three colors.

Jason Alexander: [01:23:32](#) I can't even wrap my hand around all this.

Paul: [01:23:33](#) Pink, blue, and yellow.

Jason Alexander: [01:23:35](#) As only there should be.

Paul: [01:23:36](#) Jason Alexander, which color of Peeps would you choose and why?

Jason Alexander: [01:23:39](#) I'm a yellow Peep guy.

Paul: [01:23:40](#) Why?

Jason Alexander: [01:23:40](#) By the way, always have been.

Paul: [01:23:41](#) Why?

Jason Alexander: [01:23:42](#) I don't know. Because, it looks the most like food. There is no pink, or blue food. There are yellow foods.

Paul: [01:23:48](#) Someone else said that.

Jason Alexander: [01:23:49](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:23:49](#) I think it might've been Colicchio, or someone. We asked them about that and they said there's nothing in nature that is blue.

Jason Alexander: [01:23:56](#) Nothing we eat.

Paul: [01:23:56](#) Nothing that I can, yeah. That's why the fast-food restaurants [crosstalk 01:23:58].

Jason Alexander: [01:23:58](#) And, Carlin used to do the thing about what about blueberries? And, you go, "No, they're purple. Fuck you."

Paul: [01:24:01](#) Right, right, right.

Jason Alexander: [01:24:01](#) Right.

Paul: [01:24:02](#) Yeah, but yellow is the most popular choice.

Jason Alexander: [01:24:05](#) Yeah, yeah. Yellow Peeps, of course.

Paul: [01:24:07](#) Yes, okay. Good, that was also Pete Buttigieg's choice.

Jason Alexander: [01:24:10](#) See?

Paul: [01:24:10](#) He had a very Pete Buttigieg answer. If folks haven't heard that episode, go back and listen to it. And, stay around for the end, because the Pete Buttigieg Peeps answer is always, the Peeps question is always worth sticking around for.

Jason Alexander: [01:24:19](#) Sure.

Paul: [01:24:19](#) And then, lastly, you don't drink, but each time I go into the same liquor store and it feels like a Seinfeld episode every time I walk in. They're like, "What does this big dude want now? He's going to buy another bottle of whiskey," and I stand there and I look at. Maybe, we can video tape it, but I look to the shelf in a

uniquely robust New York liquor store and I say, "What will appeal to this guest and what speaks to me?" And, I knew you were from New Jersey, I didn't know that you didn't drink, but it was a Hudson-

- Jason Alexander: [01:24:43](#) Don't get me wrong. I drink, I just don't drink often, or to excess.
- Paul: [01:24:45](#) Yes, thank you. I appreciate that. So, the Hudson New York Corn Whiskey.
- Jason Alexander: [01:24:50](#) Yes.
- Paul: [01:24:51](#) And, I also picked it, quite frankly, because it's a powerful, sturdy bottle.
- Jason Alexander: [01:24:55](#) Jesus Christ.
- Paul: [01:24:56](#) And, you are a powerful, sturdy man. And, it looks like moonshine and it's-
- Jason Alexander: [01:25:03](#) By the way, 46% alcohol-per-volume.
- Paul: [01:25:06](#) Yeah, it packs a punch and has lots of surprises, which you do as well. So, I thought, please, enjoy that at Festivus.
- Jason Alexander: [01:25:12](#) Thank you, brother.
- Paul: [01:25:13](#) And, there was one other piece. Did you shoot, you shot a Nickelback video.
- Jason Alexander: [01:25:19](#) I did.
- Paul: [01:25:20](#) Did you shoot the Nickelback video before, or after they were, single-handedly, the only ones that have been successful in having Twitter remove a Trump tweet?
- Jason Alexander: [01:25:29](#) I, right.
- Paul: [01:25:31](#) Right?
- Jason Alexander: [01:25:31](#) Yeah, it was long before that.
- Paul: [01:25:32](#) Long before, right?

Jason Alexander: [01:25:33](#) I had no idea the level of vitriol that Nickelback somehow inspires in some people. I got more hate mail for that innocuous, little video than anything I've ever done in my career.

Paul: [01:25:46](#) It was great. That's such a lovely video. It's such a beautiful video.

Jason Alexander: [01:25:49](#) It was a sweet song.

Paul: [01:25:49](#) You play a barista and he played an evil barista.

Jason Alexander: [01:25:52](#) Yeah. And, I had Brooke Burns staring [crosstalk 01:25:54], come on.

Paul: [01:25:55](#) A beautiful model comes rolling in.

Jason Alexander: [01:25:56](#) Oh, my god. Yeah, I had no idea. I was not particularly aware of Nickelback one way, or the other. They asked me, and I heard the song, and thought it was beautiful.

Paul: [01:26:03](#) Nickelback is like the Tulsi Gabbard of bands.

Jason Alexander: [01:26:06](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:26:07](#) Inspires tremendous allegiance among the people who love them and vitriol, and hate, and confusion about others.

Jason Alexander: [01:26:13](#) Yes, sir.

Paul: [01:26:14](#) Tulsi Gabbard at her best is, for some people, a super hero, like a Marvel character. And, at her worst she's a Bond villain.

Jason Alexander: [01:26:19](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:26:20](#) Right? And, Nickelback-

Jason Alexander: [01:26:20](#) It's the silver streak, I'm pretty sure.

Paul: [01:26:21](#) Is that what it is?

Jason Alexander: [01:26:22](#) Yeah. It has that Cruella de Vil thing and that's why she gets the bad wrap on that.

Paul: [01:26:27](#) Did you ever go on-stage with Nickelback?

Jason Alexander: [01:26:28](#) No, I've never been on-stage with them. They were not part of the video. I never saw them.

Paul: [01:26:32](#) But, they were the only ones who ever got a Trump tweet removed.

Jason Alexander: [01:26:35](#) Yeah, right? [crosstalk 01:26:36].

Paul: [01:26:35](#) By tackling him on the IP and they got him.

Jason Alexander: [01:26:38](#) That's right, by god.

Paul: [01:26:39](#) So, I have to bring that up.

Jason Alexander: [01:26:40](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:26:40](#) But, this conversation has been a tremendous gift to all of our listeners.

Jason Alexander: [01:26:44](#) Thank you, my friend.

Paul: [01:26:44](#) I know they appreciate. You're a great patriot, Jason.

Jason Alexander: [01:26:46](#) Oh, bless you.

Paul: [01:26:47](#) In the truest sense.

Jason Alexander: [01:26:48](#) Thank you.

Paul: [01:26:48](#) And, I'm so grateful for all that you've done for this country and for the world.

Jason Alexander: [01:26:52](#) Right back at you.

Paul: [01:26:52](#) You have been an ambassador for our country and somewhere to know that your work and your words are circulating around the world to counter so much of the other negative shit that's coming out of this country, I think, is a solace to us. But, this conversation and all your work is a tremendous gift. Folks should follow you on Twitter and in everything else you're doing, but we wish you the very best of happy holidays.

Jason Alexander: [01:27:13](#) Right back at you and I'll end with the great words of my father, Frank Costanza, serenity now.

This transcript was exported on Dec 18, 2019 - view latest version [here](#).

Paul: [01:27:20](#) Serenity now, indeed. The amazing Jason Alexander has been with us. Thank you for tuning in.

Jason Alexander: [01:27:24](#) I'm packing up my bag.

Paul: [01:27:25](#) He's packing up his bag. Live from New York at Matador.

PART 3 OF 3 ENDS [01:27:29]