

Paul: [00:00:00](#) Ladies and gentlemen, angry Americans around the country and around the world, welcome to the Classic Car Club in Manhattan, for an exceptionally special guest that I am so honored to have joining us. The great and powerful Rosie Perez is here with us today.

Rosie Perez: [00:00:17](#) Hello.

Paul: [00:00:18](#) Thank you so much for being here. It's such a tremendous honor to have you here.

Rosie Perez: [00:00:22](#) Thank you for having me. I'm excited too. I'm a fan, so...

Paul: [00:00:26](#) Well, and I bet... So our dear friend David Angelo put us in touch.

Rosie Perez: [00:00:29](#) Yes.

Paul: [00:00:30](#) And he is an incredible guy that I hope to have on this show. He's a creative genius, the CEO of David and Goliath Advertising. But you two were together in Puerto Rico doing really great work and he was like, "You got to get Rosie on the show." And I said, "Man, I'd be so honored."

Paul: [00:00:49](#) So as someone who's grown up admiring your work and respecting what you do and how you do it, I just want to start by saying what an honor and a pleasure it is to have you here.

Rosie Perez: [00:00:58](#) Thank you.

Paul: [00:00:59](#) It really is a tremendous honor. And as a New Yorker.

Rosie Perez: [00:01:01](#) As a New Yorker.

Paul: [00:01:03](#) And I always ask every guest, Rosie, what is their preferred beverage of choice. So please tell us what is your preferred beverage of choice?

Rosie Perez: [00:01:11](#) Champagne.

Paul: [00:01:12](#) I love it. We never had champagne on this show before. Why champagne Rosie? Why do you love champagne?

Rosie Perez: [00:01:18](#) Because you can't beat a carbonated wine. It's just so good and it's so dry and refreshing and the tiny little tight bubbles. It's just fantastic. It's fantastic.

Paul: [00:01:37](#) Well, I hope it meets your standards. Cheers. Thank you for joining us.

Rosie Perez: [00:01:41](#) Cheers. Salute.

Paul: [00:01:43](#) Salute. I think we all need a drink after all this stuff that's going on in the world right now.

Rosie Perez: [00:01:47](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:01:48](#) But I want to start by asking you one of the biggest stories in the world that you were tweeting about, I was tweeting about, one of the reasons I was so excited to have you on the show right now, was the Tyson Fury, Deontay Wilder fight.

Rosie Perez: [00:02:01](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:02:02](#) I mean I thought it was one of the biggest heavyweight fights I can remember since I was a kid. There was so much hype, there was so much excitement, and it delivered. I mean, it was an exceptional fight, but I'm dying to hear Rosie Perez break down the fight. What did you see? What do you think?

Rosie Perez: [00:02:22](#) I think it was the biggest heavyweight fight of this year, but I think that the heavyweight division has been doing so much better with the emergence of Anthony Joshua and Deontay Wilder, Tyson Fury, Usyk, we have Dylan White coming up, we have Andy Ruiz who blew it.

Rosie Perez: [00:02:48](#) So it's an exciting time for the heavyweight division. What made last Saturday night's fight so incredibly exciting is it was the best fighting the best. It wasn't supposed to be a padded fight. There was no cherry picking. It was the best fighting the best for a rematch, because the first one ended up in a split decision draw.

Rosie Perez: [00:03:13](#) What I saw from the very beginning, I thought that Deontay Wilder could have won if he did a early knockout, but I stated if he doesn't do that, it might go to decision again. So the way it played out, shocked the hell out of me.

Rosie Perez: [00:03:30](#) I just couldn't believe it. And a person who suffers from mental illness, and I'm talking about myself, not Tyson Fury, right away [inaudible 00:03:42], when I saw the pushing and shoving, I turned to my cousin's next door, I said, "Deontay Wilder just lost the fight."

Rosie Perez: [00:03:50](#) And he goes, "No way." And I said, "Yes way." I said, "Here's the thing, most elite athletes have sports therapists, because they understand that it's a mental game. It's not just about your physicality, it's not just about your ability to knock somebody out. It's about how well you can remain calm and composed under pressure."

Rosie Perez: [00:04:19](#) Tyson Fury suffers from severe mental illness. He's been open about it, which has been a wonderful thing for people around the world. He did the hard work, he sought treatment. And what happened was, is that in my opinion, because he did all that hard work, he was ready for the pressure, and Deontay Wilder was not.

Paul: [00:04:47](#) You're right.

Rosie Perez: [00:04:48](#) And so he beat him already. And if you saw right before they were going in and they were in each other's locker rooms, Tyson Fury was jabbing him mentally, making fun of him with his wife. When I saw Deontay Wilder, too serious, too moody, too tight, leaning on his wife like that. Oh, dude, you lost.

Paul: [00:05:14](#) Yeah, you could see it.

Rosie Perez: [00:05:16](#) You could see.

Paul: [00:05:16](#) You could see it. I said to the guys watching the fight me, I looked over and I said, "He's in Deontay's head, he's really in Deontay's head." Deontay is not as an experienced of a boxer as Tyson is. Tyson's basically bred for this, like I don't know how many generations of gypsy fighters.

Rosie Perez: [00:05:30](#) Right.

Paul: [00:05:31](#) And he also for him looked fit. He came in bigger, he's already 6'9" I think, so he's gigantic. I mean, he's like a dancing bear. And then Deontay came in, now he says his legs were tired from carrying 45 pounds of that big robot outfit he came out with.

Paul: [00:05:48](#) But I think in the last fight, Tyson outboxed him, and it's been widely said that Tyson had to be lucky the entire fight, Deontay had to only be lucky once. But not in this fight or the last fight. Tyson was picking him apart, and Deontay was looking for that big blow. But once he hurt him early, then it was just a matter of time. I mean Tyson was almost playing with him at some point.

- Rosie Perez: [00:06:12](#) I didn't think he was playing with him. I thought that that was tactical. I didn't think that he was that loose. I don't think that Tyson Fury took anything for granted. Not one second of the fight. In the third round there was a back of the head punch, it was an illegal punch, Deontay is on the ground looking at Kenny Bayless like, "You're not going to call that?" I think that that's why Kenny took a point away later on, because I think he felt bad about it and he was trying to catch up.
- Paul: [00:06:38](#) Yeah. And the headlocks, he's doing the headlocks and leaning on him, which was smart for Tyson, to use his weight advantage, to use his size and muscle him up throughout, wear him down. Because you could tell in the last fight too, that Wilder got tired.
- Paul: [00:06:52](#) And I was sitting with somebody who hadn't been watching the fighter and I said, "Tyson's in better shape." And they said, "How can that fat white guy be in better shape?" I said, "He's in better shape, he can last." I said, "If it goes the distance, he's going to have the advantage."
- Paul: [00:07:04](#) And I think your point is really, really spot on, Rosie, about the mental fortitude, and I think you could really, really see it, right?
- Rosie Perez: [00:07:11](#) Yeah.
- Paul: [00:07:12](#) So what do you think happens now? What do you want to see next?
- Rosie Perez: [00:07:17](#) I heard that Deontay Wilder's already executing his rematch clause. So we probably won't see a Tyson Fury against Anthony Joshua, maybe at the end of 2020, but probably not until 2021. If Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder rematch does occur, we're in what month? What's the,
- Paul: [00:07:41](#) February. I had to think about it.
- Rosie Perez: [00:07:44](#) I think that they should wait at least six to eight months for a full recovery to hop in, because a broken ear drum is a very, very serious injury. Back of the head is very, very serious. If we didn't learn anything from Prichard Colón where he got hit in the back of head three times, the ref didn't stop it, and he became a vegetable for years.
- Rosie Perez: [00:08:07](#) And they're saying he's now just talking. I think that he really needs time to recover, and if he doesn't, the same thing's going

to happen again. And I just found out that he fired Mark Breland.

- Paul: [00:08:21](#) Did he?
- Rosie Perez: [00:08:22](#) Yeah, he did.
- Paul: [00:08:23](#) Wow.
- Rosie Perez: [00:08:24](#) He did. Here's the thing though. Tyson Fury started out as a street fighter. In street fighting, you have to adjust so quickly, so quickly, and he became a boxer at the same time.
- Rosie Perez: [00:08:40](#) He didn't become a power puncher initially. He didn't become a slugger initially. He became a boxer who was formerly a street fighter. Therefore what happens is, is that that means that man can take direction. So when everyone doubted that he switched teams, I was like, "I don't know," because he's smart enough to adjust. John Snow of Trinity boxing gym, he's my trainer. He always says, "We see new prospects come in all the time," and he goes, "Oh boy," he sees somebody training a couple of weeks. He goes, "He's training, I got to get them out of that." And I said, "What do you mean?" He says, "Every initial bad habit you develop on day one when you are training to become a champion, elite level boxer, if you don't break it immediately, it will stay with you for the rest of your career."
- Rosie Perez: [00:09:29](#) So I think that giving Mark Breland a little bit of credit here. Deontay Wilder had so many opportunities to correct his fighting style way before he got to Tyson, and it hasn't happened.
- Rosie Perez: [00:09:44](#) He's improved this much. But come on, you look at somebody like Linares who's been in the fight game forever. His fight against Lomachenko, he dropped Lomachenko. First drop of Lomachenko's career. He still lost the fight. Linares's next match, he destroyed the guy, because he learned. He learned quickly and he's an aging fighter, and he destroyed the young guy in the fight.
- Paul: [00:10:12](#) So Rosie, some folks have called you the queen of boxing. For folks maybe who don't know a lot about boxing, who maybe didn't know you were this into boxing, why do you love boxing Rosie?
- Rosie Perez: [00:10:28](#) I love it, because it just reminds me of all the trials and tribulations that I incurred when I was younger. Life just kept

delivering knockout blows and I felt I had no other choice, but to get up.

Rosie Perez: [00:10:48](#) That I wouldn't have a chance at life if I didn't get up, if I didn't survive those blows. And I think that that mentality is just who I am innately, but also in part that I've been watching boxing since I was four years old.

Rosie Perez: [00:11:07](#) And at four years old when you're seeing champions get pummeled and then get back up, I subconsciously was living precariously through them. You know what I mean?

Paul: [00:11:19](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Rosie Perez: [00:11:19](#) And seeing that a fighter who's lost a fight or won a fight, they both cry, and it allowed me to have strength in defeat. It allowed me to say, "Okay, you can make fun of me because I'm crying because I got knocked down. But that's all right. I'm getting back up."

Rosie Perez: [00:11:36](#) And I still might be crying, but you know what? Some of the best champions in the world will be in the ring, win, lose, or draw and be brought to tears, because that's how intense life is. And in the ring, it epitomizes life to me. Life is intense, you know what I mean? And it's all right to cry, whether you win or lose. The point is, can you come back? Can you come back? There's some fighters who get an amazing win and can't even handle that. Andy Ruiz against the Anthony Joshua. He should have been on his grind. He was like, "Oh, well he party." Why did he party? Mentally he wasn't prepared for that win.

Paul: [00:12:19](#) Yeah, he wasn't ready for the victory.

Rosie Perez: [00:12:20](#) He wasn't ready for the victory.

Paul: [00:12:22](#) He didn't know how to handle it.

Rosie Perez: [00:12:23](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:12:23](#) I had a football coach who used to say, "Act like you've been there." And you could tell that Ruiz was enjoying himself. He was always a guy who enjoyed life. And he got to that point, but he couldn't sustain it. But Rosie, this is one of the reasons I was so thrilled to have you on this show, because this show has been about the fighting spirit and about people who overcome obstacles and about inspiration.

Paul: [00:12:44](#) And every guest that I've had has been an important, iconic and awe inspiring American, and you're all those things. Your entire life, your entire career, where you started out. There's a book now about your life that really shapes how much you've gone through. You have triumphed in movies. You've been nominated for an Oscar.

Paul: [00:13:03](#) You were on The View, which is a whole other kind of fighting. But you're a fighter. And I think this is a time when Americans need fighters that they can root for, and everybody's rooting for you. And I think now what I've seen as a fan of yours, I remember being a kid and seeing you in Do the Right Thing, and then seeing you in White Men Can't Jump, and saying, "Who is that?"

Paul: [00:13:25](#) And there was a spirit in everything that you did that was about toughness and was about triumph and was like that boxing spirit. Now you're training others. Now the student has become the master and you've become a voice for so many other men and women around this country, and especially at this moment in time.

Paul: [00:13:43](#) So I want to be thoughtful in how I ask you about this, but what is your message now? The Weinstein verdict is in, everybody has his eyes on that movement and that result and there's so much left to do, but what is your thoughts and your message right now at this moment in time, which is so historic?

Rosie Perez: [00:14:04](#) That was a beautiful segue by the way. That was really good.

Paul: [00:14:08](#) Thank you.

Rosie Perez: [00:14:08](#) I didn't expect that. Wow. I'm not at liberty to discuss the case yet, because there will be an appeal. But I can tell you how I felt when the verdict came in. It was actually, to be honest, bittersweet because of the technicality of if you did this, you couldn't get this.

Rosie Perez: [00:14:36](#) It really bothered me that they couldn't go for the predatory count, because I think if that occurred, the 90 plus women that came forward, that would have been a specific win for them. That said, it was still a win for all, because they still got him.

Rosie Perez: [00:15:08](#) And everyone was telling me, "He's going to get off." Everyone. Everyone except the DA. Except the DA. She kept saying, "Let's wait, let's wait and see. Let's wait and see." And she said, "You're a fight fan?" And I went, "Yeah." And she goes, "All

right, this is 12 rounds. Let's wait and see." But still it's a victory. It's a game changer.

Rosie Perez: [00:15:45](#) I saw Gloria Allred on CBS this morning and she said, "This case is such a landmark case," I'm paraphrasing here, but she said, "It is going to put every predator who has done something already unnoticed and put fear in their heart, and every potential predator to think twice. Because you bring someone down like a mogul of Weinstein's level, anybody could be brought down."

Rosie Perez: [00:16:21](#) So it's a big thing. And I really appreciated that Cy Vance said, "I know there's controversy around him and whether it's warranted or not," I'm just talking about his post verdict comments when he said, "Rape is rape. No matter if occurred today, yesterday or 20 years ago, rape is rape." So it was a historic day for the world.

Paul: [00:16:50](#) And your leadership was pivotal in making it happen and your courage, I think, and the courage of so many other people that fought and fought not just for themselves, but for those to come. So what, Rosie, do you hope happens now? Or what do you want to happen now? Bigger than just this trial, but in America?

Paul: [00:17:10](#) This watershed moment where the backdrop to this week, the Boy Scouts of America's declaring bankruptcy, because there was so much abuse for so long and now those cases are piling up and the powerful are starting to be, I don't know if even held accountable is appropriate enough.

Paul: [00:17:28](#) There's starting to be a shift, whether it's a massive institution like the Catholic church or the Boy Scouts of America, or a mogul like Harvey Weinstein. But for folks who are still in the grind, maybe they're in a trial, maybe they're even being abused. What's the future? What can the future look like and what do you want to tell them about this moment, but also your personal experience having gone through so much yourself and ended up in the place you're at?

Rosie Perez: [00:17:53](#) I think that, I don't know what's going to happen yet, but I think that when you look at a TV show like Mad Men and you say, "Oh my God, that was men behaving badly." And I remember I heard comments about that show where people would say, "Well, women are behaving badly too."

Rosie Perez: [00:18:16](#) And I go, "Do you know what statutory rape means? Do you know that if a CEO in a prison has consensual sex with an

inmate, it's not considered consensual, it's considered statutory rape." Why? Because that CEO was in a power position. So even if that inmate was... It was consensual, why? Why was it consensual? What was the motives behind that? Was there intimidation? Was there manipulation? What happened? You know what I mean?

Paul: [00:18:54](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Rosie Perez: [00:18:54](#) And it's the same thing that when they tried to criticize the women, "Well, they went back to work for him." He's the most powerful man in the movie industry, what else were they supposed to do? Just like the secretaries on Mad Men, what else are they supposed to do?

Rosie Perez: [00:19:10](#) So I hope that that shift, the way it shifted from Mad Men to what it is present day, it still needs to go much, much, much further. But where I would love to concentrate the shift on, is parenting and schooling, because why do young boys feel that they can act out their rage against women or against boys. Or women, there's women who sexually molest young boys.

Rosie Perez: [00:19:42](#) Why is that? Why do you feel that you can do that? And there had to be some type of abuse or neglect that occurred with that individual as a child. Maybe Harvey Weinstein got coddled too much. Maybe Harvey Weinstein didn't get coddled enough. Maybe his parents never checked him. Maybe everybody in his environment never checked him.

Rosie Perez: [00:20:10](#) But it has to start from day one, you know what I mean? I know parents now who are telling me, "You know, I sat my boy down and I told him about the Weinstein case and I told him, it's not right to do this. It's wrong. And you could go to jail." I go, "How old is your son?" "13." This is the first time you haven't had that talk with him? You know what I mean?

Paul: [00:20:29](#) Yep. Yep.

Rosie Perez: [00:20:31](#) Would they think it was cute when a boy who likes a girl doesn't know how to articulate their feelings, so they punched a girl on the arm. "Oh, that's okay. He just likes her." No, no, he doesn't know how to articulate his feelings and he's getting angry and there's an act of violence that comes into play.

Rosie Perez: [00:20:50](#) So that's what I'm hoping. I'm hoping that there's a huge shift in how we raise our kids, how we socialize our kids, and how we tell them what is acceptable, what's not acceptable, what is

right and what is wrong. And there is a clear, clear defining line, otherwise there will be a shift just like there was a shift with Mad Men. But shit's still occurred. Excuse my French.

Paul: [00:21:18](#) No, this is podcasting. You can speak as much French as you want. And thank you for that. It's very powerful. And your point, I think is so... I have two young boys, and I think constantly, and my wife and I in a whole family think constantly about how to raise our boys well and how to raise them with empathy and understanding and thoughtfulness and a sense of responsibility in the world they're operating in.

Paul: [00:21:44](#) And I met Harvey Weinstein. I was in rooms of Harvey Weinstein. I had no idea about all of this, but I told my wife from the first time I met him, "That guy's a fucking asshole. That guy's an asshole." The way he treated me, the way he treated other people, he was an asshole. And I was in professional settings, I knew who he was, he was definitely a powerful man.

Paul: [00:22:06](#) There was an aura around him of people who feared or respected his power. It's like the Bronx Tale scene. Do you want to be feared or respected, right? He had this weird mix of mostly fear, but it morphed into so many things. And I just always remember from the first moment I met him and every exchange I ever had, he was rude.

Paul: [00:22:26](#) He didn't look me in the eye and he felt like a really bad person. That's my gut. Growing up and being in the environments I've been, I could tell that. I had no idea about the rest of it, but I think your point about how we raise our children is so important and so timely. And I got to ask you, Rosie, because you're involved in so many causes that are a conscience.

Paul: [00:22:49](#) You've been an advocate on mental health. You've been an advocate for Puerto Rico, you've been an advocate for people with HIV and AIDS. We're also operating in an environment with Trump as president. So how do you view that?

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Paul: [00:23:03](#) ... president. How do you view that, and what are your thoughts on Weinstein's going to jail, but Trump is still out there every day being a misogynist and being a bully and being an asshole. What are your thoughts on him and this context in this moment in time?

Rosie Perez: [00:23:20](#) Your show's not long enough for me to comment.

- Paul: [00:23:27](#) We got as long as you need.
- Rosie Perez: [00:23:33](#) First of all, I want to say this. I don't want to be in the habit, I hope I have never been in the habit of blaming, shaming, ridiculing anyone who has voted for him. Anyone who has voted for Trump. I don't want to be in that business. My fight is not with them. It really is not. My fight is with that man and all his enablers that are around him. Cy Vance in his post-verdict press conference said that very thing. He had people that worked for him, Weinstein. He had publicists, he had producers, he had financiers who enabled that type of behavior. And that's why in large part he got away with it. You know what I mean? And nothing's going to happen to that man who's in the White House until his enablers stop. It's not going to happen.
- Rosie Perez: [00:24:40](#) It's either that or people vote him out of office. And we saw during the impeachment, his enablers are not budging, they are not budging. And it baffles my mind when they say they're good, honest Christians. And you're like, what? Are you kidding? Just like when they said with Bill Cosby, all those women can't be lying. With Weinstein, 90 plus women can't be lying. And those are the only ones that came forward. So all the women that accused this man, they're lying?
- Rosie Perez: [00:25:20](#) You know what I'm saying? And the thing is, even though he got nailed to the wall, at least he admitted it, Bill Clinton. At least he admitted it, because he is not perfect either.
- Paul: [00:25:34](#) So Rosie, when you look at the landscape of the candidates, you've been very politically outspoken. You're really involved. People are looking to you for leadership. We've got another debate. We've got Super Tuesday coming up. The New York primary may matter, right? Coming soon here. What do you think of the candidates when you look at them? I don't know if you've supported a candidate or if you plan to, but what do you think of them? And if this is a fight, somebody is going in the ring against Trump. You're an expert on evaluating fighters. Who do you think is the best fighter? Which fighter are you rooting for, and which fighter would you put in the ring against Trump?
- Rosie Perez: [00:26:12](#) I don't have a pick. I do not have a pick. And that troubles me. And I'm just going to be honest.
- Paul: [00:26:27](#) Yeah, please.

Rosie Perez: [00:26:28](#) It troubles me because I'm Puerto Rican. I listen to Latinos across America. Just because Sanders is doing well in one state, that doesn't mean he's doing well in all. And his 60 Minutes interview where he was trying to do a balancing act in regards to his praise and disdain for Fidel Castro. I was sitting there cringing. I was like, what are you doing? What are you doing? And then he did the same with Israel and Palestine. And you can say, I agree with him. Okay, you agree with him. Does the rest of America agree with him? This is a fight. This is politics and not everybody's for your fighter. How are you going to win?

Rosie Perez: [00:27:25](#) What is your game plan? What is your strategy? And for me, so far, nobody has a clear cut game plan to beat Donald Trump. And that's worrisome to me, because there are Democrats out there that are afraid of a so-called socialist agenda, specifically Latin people. We're not just talking about Cubans, we're talking about Latin people that have come here from Mexico, Central America, South America, who have lived amongst dictators or socialism. And they've come to this country to get away from that. And then you say, Trump is a socialist in a corporate sense, and he's a dictator too, and dah, dah, dah. But people are more comfortable with the evil they know than the evil that they don't know.

Rosie Perez: [00:28:22](#) They don't know what Sanders is about yet. So what's troubling, Mike Bloomberg, he may have another shot to redeem himself. He had an abysmal performance in the last debate. My husband and I were like, aw, man. And then people tell me, aren't you still angry at him? Aren't you still angry at him? What he did with stop and frisk. I go, yep. And they said, but you are rooting for him? I said, I'm rooting for anyone that could beat Trump. That's how disgusting and desperate it has become. That's where this man has brought these country. We are willing to choose the lesser of two evils in order to get this man out of office.

Paul: [00:29:14](#) Yeah. I'm glad to hear you break it down that way, Rosie. Because in the last couple of days alone, I've been talking to friends in New York and talking to friends around the country. And many of my Latin friends, especially those who've lived in places that have been socialist, I see the concern and I hear the concern. And it comes from experience, right? I think in this country too often we write off experience. There are people who've experienced socialism, who've lived under socialism, who have been in Venezuela, who've been in other places and seen what this looks like. But I really also appreciate your practicality, right? Like if you're in the corner, you want to put a

fighter in the ring who can win. And I have been very critical of Sanders from that very basic point that I don't think he can win. And I've seen it, you can't deny it, that people are not excited about Sanders. There are some people who are. The diehards are there, there are people who are always going to root for Andy Ruiz. Right? But would you pick Andy Ruiz to go back in the ring against Tyson? No, you're not going to put money on it. And I think at this point we got to figure out who we can put in the ring and put money on and who can win. And I don't know either. Bloomberg has is so fascinating to me because he's got guns, he's got fire power. And even if he's not the guy, he can decide where he gives that fire power. And I think it's entirely possible that they go to a brokered convention. And that Bloomberg's in a room with all of them and he says, look, you pick Sanders, you don't get my money.

Paul: [00:30:42](#) You pick anybody other than Sanders, you get all my money. And that's how it could go down, right? He may not be the candidate, but he may be the X factor. And that's what I see is this is a knife fight. It's a gun fight. It's a war. We could call it Game of Thrones, everything else. I keep saying that Bloomberg's like a dragon in Game of Thrones. You may not love dragons, but do you want the other guy to have them? Hell no. So I really appreciate you breaking it down that way. You were on The View for so long, mixing it up every day. We had Meghan McCain on here a couple of weeks ago. We'd love to get the other folks who have been on The View. What'd you learn about politics? I feel like you really learned how to break it down and you learned to have an ear for what people think and feel. But reflecting on that time where you were mixing it up every day, what did it teach you, Rosie?

Rosie Perez: [00:31:30](#) I'm not at liberty to talk about that show.

Paul: [00:31:33](#) Okay, my apologies.

Rosie Perez: [00:31:34](#) I will say this, certain experiences that I've had in my career have taught me something that you learn on stage and something that you learn in the fight game. Never play to the crowd. Never worry about the crowd because it'll mess you up every single time. You have to stand firm in your convictions, because if not you get eaten alive. You know what I mean? Because you see an amateur contender going up the ranks, and they're doing well and they get caught up in that praise. And then they look, their eyeball just goes like this for a millisecond, and you see the dimple coming in with a smile and boom, they get caught. You know what I'm saying? And you're like, what the

fuck? And it's the same thing with theater. You're on stage, if you're worried about if the crowd likes you or not, if they're doing a good job or not, you can feel it. You can feel it. But calm and composed always wins the fight. You got to fake that. You got to fake that shit. You got to put your best game face and take the punch without flinching even a millisecond. And just keep going. Do your job, do your job. That's what I learned from a particular job that I had that was non acting job. May I say this about Meghan McCain? And it's going to be very controversial.

Paul: [00:33:10](#) Please.

Rosie Perez: [00:33:13](#) I don't watch the show. What I have, the bits that I have watched, she's very combative, contemptuous, cunning, emotional. I don't agree with all the things that she says. I don't agree with her stance. I think she can be very mean at times. That said, I think that the hate that she's received is so ugly. It's troubling to me. And when I went on the show recently to promote Birds of Prey, and she asked me about the Harvey Weinstein trial, she got so much hate for that. She was doing her job. Nobody else wanted to ask me. And maybe that was being very respectful on the other cohosts part. But she wasn't paying attention to the crowd. She didn't care. She wanted to ask that question.

Rosie Perez: [00:34:20](#) And I think that the way she asked it, and I said this when we went off camera, when we were leaving. I said, "Thank you for being so considerate in the way you asked that question. I wish you had not, but I thank you for being so respectful." And she went, "Thank you." And she shared her opinion about it, which I don't want to share that, it's her words. But we shared it privately off camera and I saw the other people, the cast and crew and producers looking like, oh my God.

Rosie Perez: [00:34:56](#) And they didn't know what to say with me when I walked away. Because I think that they wanted me to attack her or throw her some shade or all that stuff. No, no. It's just like a prize fight. It's about class, because at the end of a prize fight, what do you say to your opponent that lost, what do you say to your opponent that won? I want to thank them for the opportunity. They're a good person. They put up the best fight possible and I wish them well. That's how you leave the ring. I felt that and I saw a very, very sensitive, overly sensitive person who believed so strongly in her beliefs.

Paul: [00:35:45](#) But I think your point is so important right now because I've wanted this show and the community around it to be one

where we show respect. And when you come into the ring, you show respect, and you honor the game, and you honor the history and you honor the bigger picture. And you have always been a class act that raises the bar, despite what's coming at you, despite when you've been wrong, despite when people haven't treated you with the same respect. You have continued to raise the bar. And that's what we need more of right now. You're right about Meghan, the fury she gets. I've had a lot of different folks on the show and I've said it before, Chris Cuomo was on this show. He gets a certain nasty type of attack because he's on CNN, and Trump fires it at him. Rachel Maddow gets some hate. She was on this show, but it's different. Nothing that I've seen as is as nasty or intense as the hate for Meghan. And she's been very open about her pain. And some of me feels like people see that and they go for it. Especially the weaker people that want to take advantage of someone else's pain or just sadness. And she's been very open about the loss of her father and what she's been going through. So there's a meanness to it that is in this environment that I hope we can counter. And I think you have been countering that, most of all through your example. Even to hear the way you approach that is going to be refreshing for people, because I want this show to be a place where people of all political backgrounds can come together around ideas.

- Rosie Perez: [00:37:16](#) Thanks for that, but just for the record, it took work.
- Paul: [00:37:20](#) Yeah, I bet it did.
- Rosie Perez: [00:37:22](#) It took a lot of work for me to get to this place of maturity, which I don't think I'm fully mature yet. For instance, when I went against Giuliani, when he tried to cut DAS, Direct AIDS Service, the only city service at that time for AIDS patients. And I was so angry. He was supposed to show up at the walk-a-thon in New York. I thought I said hell, but they said, no, you said fuck. And I said, oh, okay. That was one of my PTSD, blanking out rage moments where I got up in front of a massive crowd of hundreds and thousands of people on a mic at a podium in central park, AIDS walk-a-thon day, all cameras there. And he was supposed to show up as a gesture of good faith after that ugly fight we had with him about cutting DAS. And he didn't show up, they said he's not coming.
- Rosie Perez: [00:38:24](#) And for him to come, it was a victory for us, for the people in the fight, for the people who were living with HIV and AIDS. And he didn't show up and so many people were hurt. It was a bad, bad message he was sending, like I don't give a shit. And I was

young, and I was fiery, and I was immature and a friend of mine just passed away from AIDS. So I was highly emotional. And I got up on the mic and I said, "And where the fuck is Giuliani?" Oh, scandal. Oh my gosh. I was asked to leave immediately. I was banned from the park, you know what I mean?

Paul: [00:39:02](#) You were banned from the park?

Rosie Perez: [00:39:03](#) They banned me from the park.

Paul: [00:39:05](#) How do you ban Rosie Perez from a park in New York?

Rosie Perez: [00:39:08](#) I don't know. They were like, you're banned. And I didn't go back to the walk-a-thon until maybe 15, 20 years later when they invited me back. And I want to be honest, I was humbled. I was humbled. I didn't blame the gay men's health crisis. That's politics. They had to do what they had to do. You know what I mean? They're like sorry Rose, we love you.

Paul: [00:39:33](#) Yeah. But you know what, I got to have your back. People get too twisted up about your word choice, as a guy who loves an F bomb, okay? And drops the word fuck as often as I need to, in part sometimes because it's effective in communicating the emotion that you have. I have no time for people worrying about whether or not you said fuck or shit, when people are dying from AIDS. When so many people are dying. When people have criticized me for my word choice around suicide, when we're losing 20 veterans a day. 20 of our friends are dying every day. And I'm not going to quibble around my word choice, right? We have to focus on the bigger picture. And I appreciate you talking about your, the evolution of how you've thought about these things. But I want to ask you, Rosie, a question I ask of all our guests that is really a theme of this show. Rosie Perez, what makes you angry?

Rosie Perez: [00:40:24](#) Injustice infuriates me. Incompetence. People who waste time, waste my time.

Rosie Perez: [00:40:43](#) But I would say injustice. That's a trigger for me. And it comes directly from the unjust childhood that I had to endure. I don't want anyone to endure what I had to endure. And I know there are folks out there that endured far, much worse than I did. And if I could do anything in my power to prevent that from happening to any child in the world, I'm going to do what I got to do. And sometimes I get exhausted by the fight. And I have to remind myself of who I was when I was a kid and all those other

kids in the home. We were exhausted just by existing. And so I sometimes take some time off and then get back in.

Rosie Perez: [00:41:42](#) But it's not easy, keeping the fight going, it is not easy.

Paul: [00:41:54](#) Yeah, it's exhausting. I've learned from so many people. And your example and your words, like learning to take a pause. When I first started out in the activism world, I was so full of fire, and I was so full of energy. And the older guys, mostly guys, [inaudible 00:42:13] put me on the side and say, "Dude, this is a long fight. You got to burn that candle at the right level and this is going to take decades." And in my mind, I didn't even know what that meant. I was in my 20s, I didn't have kids yet. I was just fucking going at it. And my friends were wounded, and I felt that sense of injustice and that sense of righteous outrage.

Paul: [00:42:34](#) But now I find myself telling the others, you got to throttle it back. Sometimes you have to pause to see the landscape more clearly, because you are hot and it blurs your vision. And taking that rest or taking that pause can be that clarifier, right? Slowing down to go faster I think is necessary, especially in the activism game, because it's so personal. That's part of why I admire you so much. You've been so forthcoming with your story. And a very dear mentor of mine who was a Medal of Honor recipient used to tell me, "Just remember, every time a Medal of Honor recipient tells their story, they're ripping it out of their inside and they're sharing it with you. And it hurts. It hurts every time." And that is a sacrifice. But leadership is about sacrifice. And you've made that sacrifice over and over again, Rosie.

Paul: [00:43:22](#) And I've seen it and so many of us have seen it. And anytime you're feeling that tiredness, give us a holler. We'll put some more wind at your back. But you have really seeded so many activists and so many people in the creative arts and so many places. You've been a great multi-sport athlete, right? You've done so many different things, and that positivity continues to come through. So I want to thank you for that. And you mentioned growing up, which you've written about at length in your book and been so honest and candid about. But I want to ask you the other question that I ask of all our guests. Rosie Perez, what was your first car?

Rosie Perez: [00:43:58](#) A Datsun B210.

Paul: [00:43:59](#) Really?

Rosie Perez: [00:44:00](#) Yeah, because I bought it off this coke head in college.

Paul: [00:44:14](#) Can you tell us the story?

Rosie Perez: [00:44:14](#) I won't say her name, but it was this very privileged girl, and family had a lot of money. And she was such a coke head and everything. And she was angry that her family wouldn't buy her nice car, that she had the Datsun B210. And her brother had a BMW. She was so angry. And I was like, "Why won't they get you a BMW?" And she says, "I don't know." And I go, "Okay, maybe it's because you're a fucking coke head." And she was like, "Rose, how dare you?" And I go, "I'm just saying, if I was your parent I wouldn't give you the money because you might crash the shit." Wouldn't you believe, a couple of weeks later she discovers, firing it up, cooking it up and inhaling it, she discovers crack. And she comes to school and she's doing the pipe.

Rosie Perez: [00:45:10](#) It's not funny, but it's funny. She's doing the pipe. Something goes whoosh, and the upholstery on inside the car goes on fire. Her hair goes on fire. Her and her friend jump out of the car. Someone, because it's on the school grounds, grabs a fire extinguisher, extinguishes the car out. But it's charred and it's burnt. And she came to me, she was such a crack head. And she came to me and she goes, "I need some money." I said, "To fix your car?" She goes, "No, to sell it. You want to buy it?" I said, "What?" And she goes, "Give me \$1,000." I said, "For this piece of shit?" And she goes, "Okay, 500." I said, "No." And she goes, "Okay, 300." I said, "I'm going to give you \$200 for that piece of shit, take it or leave it." And she took it.

PART 2 OF 3 ENDS [00:46:04]

Rosie Perez: [00:46:03](#) ... piece of shit. Take it or leave it. And she took it.

Paul: [00:46:03](#) Wow.

Rosie Perez: [00:46:04](#) So that was my first car. Pink slip and all.

Paul: [00:46:08](#) Do you know what year it was? You remember what color it was?

Rosie Perez: [00:46:12](#) I don't remember what year it was, but it was this ugly orangy color. It was so ugly. And my college friend, Joe Lopez helped me rip out all the burnt upholstery in it. And the two front seats were kind of half burnt, but I had no money to get the seats replaced.

Paul: [00:46:31](#) And was this in California? Is that where you were going to school?

Rosie Perez: [00:46:34](#) It was in California, because I was going to college for biochemistry out there. I drove that thing around and I had to learn. I didn't know how to drive yet. I was a New Yorker, so I had to learn how to drive backed-up traffic on LaBrea. People were honking. I'm having an anxiety attack, crying going, "Oh my God," because it was a stick shift. And Joe Lopez is in the passenger seat, he goes, "You're crying, change the gears! What's happening?"

Paul: [00:47:02](#) And this is before the legendary moment where you meet Spike Lee in a club-

Rosie Perez: [00:47:06](#) Before.

Paul: [00:47:06](#) And he finds you and discovers you, right?

Rosie Perez: [00:47:09](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:47:09](#) This is before that?

Rosie Perez: [00:47:10](#) That was before that.

Paul: [00:47:11](#) The night you went to the club and Spike Lee met you and you met him, did you drive that car to the club?

Rosie Perez: [00:47:16](#) No, I had a different car.

Paul: [00:47:20](#) That might be the best car story we've had, Rosie. And we've had some good ones. The guys in the crew are nodding their heads and waving. Mercy's throwing her hands up in the air, because that is maybe the greatest car story we've ever had. There's so many reasons why you're a badass, Rosie. And this run you're on now with new projects, Birds of Prey. And I watched the Netflix show last night, the last thing he wanted, right?

Rosie Perez: [00:47:45](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:47:45](#) Which I thought was so smart and quick and, again, you're playing these roles that are different kinds of bad asses, different kinds of heroes. And I see that through line. This film has got Anne Hathaway and it's got Ben Affleck and it's got Willem Defoe, who I just think is a legend but in this very interesting part. And it gets into the Contras and Nicaragua and

the 80s and Reagan, which was a time you were alive for and around for. Can you set the context for that film and also, doing that kind of a film at the same time you're doing Birds of Prey, very different lines of kind of heroism but also important in how they cross over, right? You got Birds of Prey, which is going to be so widely seen. And then this Netflix film that I think is important in helping people understand that moment in time politically, right? In the 80s with Reagan running for reelection. Can you talk about those two works and what that has brought out of you?

Rosie Perez: [00:48:49](#) Well, the last thing we wanted is an adaptation of Joan Didion's book about the Iran-Contra scam, the Sandinistas, the Contras where there were illegal arms sales and the Reagan Administration was behind it. And it was uncovered. If people look up Reagan, Iran-Contra scam, Oliver North, they will come to really understand that story. And I think that the reason why history continues to repeat itself is because people don't know the history.

Paul: [00:49:27](#) Right.

Rosie Perez: [00:49:28](#) Right? So I really love doing the last thing he wanted. I played a photo journalist who, the backstory with her is that she's Latin, she's way more qualified than most of the people in the office and understands why she got passed over. So she has a different calmness than Anne Hathaway's character.

Paul: [00:49:54](#) Right.

Rosie Perez: [00:49:56](#) It's like, this is how it goes baby. Why you exhausting yourself? Take advantage of what you perceive as an injustice or defeat. So bringing that quiet confidence was a challenge and a thrill for me to play. Sometimes it gets a little convoluted, I will be honest, the movie. But if you're a political junkie, you're going to really appreciate it.

Paul: [00:50:22](#) I ate it up and I thought it was great. And the character you play is a combat photographer, right? At a time when, I don't know how common it was for women to be combat photographers and for Latin women to be combat photographers. I don't know. But it felt like an important film and about important time and a time that is a lesson in shaping this context. Even the run-up with Reagan, right? Seeing what republicanism was like then versus what it is now.

Rosie Perez: [00:50:50](#) Yeah.

Paul: [00:50:50](#) And I think the cast is awesome. I really thought the cast was fantastic and it has emotion to it that's really exciting and an ending that I didn't expect, I'll tell you. But you are a heroine and a hero in that role, which it feels like your experience is coming full circle now and you're in these parts that are badass and experienced and seasoned and teaching. Every character is kind of a teachable moment now.

Rosie Perez: [00:51:16](#) Right. Well, I think the badassness in [Ama's 00:51:22] character, the character I play in The Last Thing He Wanted, is that she doesn't get tripped up by her emotions, that she keeps going. The scene where she's alone in the news office by herself typing away, she's going to get the story out. I think that's a powerful moment and a powerful statement. When no one's watching, what are you going to do? You know what I'm saying?

Paul: [00:51:48](#) Yeah.

Rosie Perez: [00:51:48](#) When no one's watching, when all the lights are off and everyone's gone, what are you going to do?

Paul: [00:51:53](#) Yeah. When I was taught integrity in the army they used to always say integrity is doing the right thing when nobody's looking.

Rosie Perez: [00:51:59](#) I love that.

Paul: [00:52:00](#) Yeah.

Rosie Perez: [00:52:01](#) I love that. But I thought the cast was stellar as well. Willem Defoe, scene stealer, Edi Gathegi, the French consulate operative.

Paul: [00:52:17](#) He's fantastic.

Rosie Perez: [00:52:18](#) Oh my gosh. Anne, emotional performance. The person that played her daughter. I could go on and on.

Paul: [00:52:24](#) The kid is great, yeah.

Rosie Perez: [00:52:24](#) Yeah. Yeah. On and on. It was just really great. And in Birds of Prey, there's a job that nobody wanted me for. They thought I was too old and couldn't keep up with the physicality of the other women. And I walked into Warner Brothers, next day they said, "You got it." Because I just said to myself, "The part's already mine. It's already mine." It's like that belief system that

Ali had, the belief system that Mayweather had. You have to believe, Tyson Fury has it. Lennox Lewis had it.

Paul: [00:53:07](#) Right.

Rosie Perez: [00:53:08](#) I could go on and on. No matter how afraid you are at the task at hand, taking on the test at hand, you still have to have an element of belief that you're still going to be able to do it and when. You know what I mean?

Paul: [00:53:26](#) Yeah.

Rosie Perez: [00:53:27](#) That's managing the fear, because the fear's not going to go away. That's the mistake people make.

Paul: [00:53:32](#) Right.

Rosie Perez: [00:53:33](#) And the fear is there to help you. You can make it an asset or you can make it not an asset. So my heart was pounding when I went into that office at Warner Brothers. It was pounding, but I was so pissed off. How dare you. You don't know what my regimen is in regards to keeping my body up to par. And then the thing is, is that sometimes life just slaps you back when you think you got a victory.

Rosie Perez: [00:54:04](#) First day of training, tore my meniscus disk, yes, in my right knee and then bruised, which means the tissue just got damaged in the left. First day of training. And I said to myself, "I guess that's it." And my production team, 87Eleven who's Deadpool, old John Wick, I mean everything, Atomic Blonde.

Paul: [00:54:30](#) Oh, yeah. All those intense action films, yeah.

Rosie Perez: [00:54:33](#) They were so calm and they go, "No, no, no. Here, go to see [inaudible 00:08:36], let me get an MRI. Tell us what the MRI says and let's proceed there. Let's just all just calm down and take a deep breath." And I went, "Okay." Went to see the [inaudible 00:08:46]. I went, "Oh my God, I'm done for." And then I'd tell them and they're like, "Oh, we'll work with that." And I go, "No, he said it's a severe tear." They go, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's okay. You know what PRP is?" And I go, "Yeah." And they go, "Get some shots." I go, "Really?" And they're like, "You'll be fine. You'll be fine." I said, "But how am I going to do the fighting scenes?" "You're not. You're going to watch us and we're going to build you up. We're going to do physio with you, physical therapy for the first three weeks, and then we'll take it from there."

Paul: [00:55:18](#) They should do a film about you in the film. This whole backstory, like the bionic Rosie Perez-

Rosie Perez: [00:55:25](#) I'm sorry.

Paul: [00:55:25](#) That's all right. Rocking through this. I mean, this is just, it's so interesting to hear you take us through this, the fighting spirit and the tenacity and the ferocity and the resilience. This is one reason I was so happy to have you join us on the show, Rosie. And we've talked a lot about how this show is also about turning your righteous anger into positive impact.

Rosie Perez: [00:55:49](#) Right.

Paul: [00:55:49](#) Channeling that energy into something that can make a difference. So the last question I ask of all our guests that I want to ask you, Rosie Perez, what makes you happy?

Rosie Perez: [00:56:01](#) Oh, what makes me happy is my home life hands down. My husband, my cats, my dogs, God bless their souls, my family, my small group of friends that come on over. The gift that I'm in a position in my life where I can entertain. I used to dream about that. Dark chocolate-

Paul: [00:56:33](#) Dark chocolate.

Rosie Perez: [00:56:33](#) Dark chocolate makes me a ecstatic. If I'm in a bad mood and you offer me dark chocolate, bang. It's turned right around. I think that security makes me happy. Knowing not only that I have love, but I can give love. That I can love in a healthy way makes me really happy. So that all epitomizes home life because... I know this sounds really strange and I hope your listeners don't think it's pompous because I'm not a pompous person at all.

Rosie Perez: [00:57:11](#) But when I was a child, I knew I was going to do something important in the world. I didn't know what it was. I thought it was going to be the female Jacques Cousteau, the famous Marine biologist, which was stupid because I'm Puerto Rican and I don't like to get my hair wet. But at the time, I was fine with it.

Paul: [00:57:30](#) That was your dream.

Rosie Perez: [00:57:30](#) That was my dream. But I realized later in life that it could have been anything. It could have been Marine biology, but the reason why Marine biology meant something to me is because I

was contributing to the world to make it a better place. That I wanted to clean up the oceans. I wanted to clean up the lakes. I wanted to clean up and have healthy drinking water for poor people. So it was that mindset that I always had as a kid. Always had, but I didn't know where it was going. Okay?

Rosie Perez: [00:58:12](#) And that said what I wanted life to give back to me was security. That's all I wanted. I didn't want fame. I wanted money. You know what I'm saying? But I would be okay if I wasn't a multimillionaire. You know what I mean? What I wanted, what I dreamed of was having a house of my own and I didn't have to worry about the bills. That was my motivation in life and that I had a happy home life inside that foundation. That's all that mattered to me and it's the one thing that matters to me still. If that's not in place, I am not a nice person to be around. I am such an asshole, you have absolutely no idea how big of an asshole I could be. I'm just being honest.

Paul: [00:59:16](#) You're always being honest. That's why the world loves you, Rosie. I've read a lot about how you grew up in the dancing industry, right? You still dance, and that brings you happiness.

Rosie Perez: [00:59:28](#) It brings me happiness.

Paul: [00:59:29](#) Yeah.

Rosie Perez: [00:59:29](#) Inside my home.

Paul: [00:59:30](#) Yeah.

Rosie Perez: [00:59:31](#) Well, I don't know if you know these two guys DJ Stretch Armstrong and Bobbito Garcia.

Paul: [00:59:36](#) Sure, yeah. I grew up in New York. Of course, yeah.

Rosie Perez: [00:59:37](#) Okay. They're the only clubs that I'll go to nowadays. I'll only go to their club. You know what I mean? Because there's no pressure.

Paul: [00:59:46](#) Yeah.

Rosie Perez: [00:59:47](#) I mean, I used to go to Tony Touch, but it's just too much pressure because it's too many youngsters-

Paul: [00:59:52](#) Now you can have a club in your own house. You've got that, you can entertain, right?

Rosie Perez: [00:59:57](#) Now, I do have my own club. You've got to see it.

Paul: [00:59:58](#) Yeah. We've tried to do dance party every day in my house with my kids because it's just the purity and the happiness of the motion and the music. And my little guy has got the gift of music. I look over and he picks up a little guitar and he's playing and he just hears and feels the music. But just the purity of the music and the emotion is such a contagious happiness. And to see how far you've come and to see the adversity you've gone through and to see how you've triumphed and you've motivated so many other people. And now you got the world listening. You've got the world inspired, you've got the world dancing and that's because of your leadership. And I want to I want to thank you for it.

Paul: [01:00:42](#) And the final part of our show, Rosie, is the giving of the gifts. So, that is another expression of our gratitude. Your team may not have prepared you for this, but I'll help with this. It's a big bag for folks listening. I can even hold your mic if you want. It's got three phases. So first is the gear. So this merge here-

Rosie Perez: [01:01:00](#) This?

Paul: [01:01:00](#) Yep. We got all different colors, super comfortable, different sizes.

Rosie Perez: [01:01:04](#) Oh, yay!

Paul: [01:01:06](#) You can rock that if you go out to the clubs or wherever else made in America by the veterans of Oscar Mike-

Rosie Perez: [01:01:12](#) Oh, wow. And this one...

Paul: [01:01:14](#) And different colors, different sizes for you.

Rosie Perez: [01:01:18](#) Oh my God, I love these.

Paul: [01:01:20](#) I'm glad. I'm glad. And then we've got red too.

Rosie Perez: [01:01:25](#) I got the red.

Paul: [01:01:25](#) You got the red.

Rosie Perez: [01:01:26](#) I like the red.

Paul: [01:01:26](#) You got all the colors, you can rock them.

Rosie Perez: [01:01:28](#) Thank you. Thank you.

Paul: [01:01:28](#) Now next we've got, this is another tradition of this show and I'm going to pull them out. Now Easter is coming, but this started... We're almost on our first anniversary and this is kind of a raw shack test of our guests, but we have three colors of peeps.

Rosie Perez: [01:01:47](#) Okay.

Paul: [01:01:47](#) Blue, pink and yellow. Rosie Perez, which color would you choose and why?

Rosie Perez: [01:01:59](#) I would choose the yellow.

Paul: [01:02:01](#) Why do you like the yellow, Rosie?

Rosie Perez: [01:02:03](#) Because it would be the one that less freaks me out.

Paul: [01:02:08](#) I love it. I love it. I love the honesty. I love always the honesty. That's the great New Yorker. I got to ask you too, because I didn't get to ask you this. Would you ever run for office?

Rosie Perez: [01:02:18](#) No.

Paul: [01:02:19](#) No?

Rosie Perez: [01:02:19](#) No.

Paul: [01:02:20](#) There's a real opening for a mayor right now. Would you?

Rosie Perez: [01:02:23](#) No.

Paul: [01:02:23](#) No.

Rosie Perez: [01:02:24](#) No.

Paul: [01:02:24](#) I think there are a lot of people, there's talk, Andrew Yang might run. There's talk other people might run.

Rosie Perez: [01:02:29](#) No, I'll say because one, I love acting. I love what I do. I love going to the fights. You know what I mean? I love my home life and I wouldn't want to give that up. And when you become a public servant on that level, you have to be completely selfless. There's no room for self-centeredness unless you're on the debate stage. And then you got to go for the Gusto. But outside of that, no, it takes too much. It becomes your entire life. Public

service is very, very important to me. And plus, I still struggle with my temper. I still am in psychiatric therapy. God bless America two times for that. And there are times even when I've been on CNN where I've lost my cool. When I look at myself and I just laugh, I go, "Oh my God, you look so Brooklyn." Where me eyes are rolling, my head is swerving and I just get so angry.

- Paul: [01:03:36](#) But I got to tell you, you know what, it means you keep it real. And it's so important because I've been in those chairs, I've been on the shows and so many people aren't their true selves. Right?
- Rosie Perez: [01:03:43](#) Right.
- Paul: [01:03:43](#) Then you see them afterward. But you're your true self and you're not afraid to say what you think. And well, if you won't run for office in New York, I hope whoever the mayor is and whoever the next president is, taps you to be involved because you're such a powerful voice. But until then, let me hold this for you.
- Rosie Perez: [01:03:59](#) Okay.
- Paul: [01:04:00](#) We've got to get through a couple more debates. So the final gift for you is this one here. I'll hand that to you and then I'll take the bag. So I'll help you with your mic. But this is another tradition in the show. So we always pick something-
- Rosie Perez: [01:04:14](#) Champagne?
- Paul: [01:04:15](#) It's not champagne, but we always find an American whiskey.
- Rosie Perez: [01:04:22](#) My husband is going to love this.
- Paul: [01:04:24](#) Yeah. Well, there's a reason why I picked it too. So it's Widow Jane, aged 10 years. But if you look on the back, it's distilled in Brooklyn.
- Rosie Perez: [01:04:34](#) Oh, right on!
- Paul: [01:04:36](#) So like the great Rosie Perez, it's distilled in Brooklyn and keeps getting better every year. It has a truth and an honesty. So I thought... I go to a liquor store every time and it's like... It's a New York liquor store. So I come walking in and I'm like, "There's so many things." I try to find something that speaks to me. And this spoke to me for you, Rosie.

Rosie Perez: [01:04:54](#) Oh man, thank you so much.

Paul: [01:04:55](#) So I hope you and your husband will enjoy it at the next debate or for the next fight, whatever big fight that is.

Rosie Perez: [01:05:01](#) The debate's tonight.

Paul: [01:05:01](#) Yeah.

Rosie Perez: [01:05:02](#) Right? Isn't it?

Paul: [01:05:02](#) Yeah, yeah.

Rosie Perez: [01:05:04](#) It's tonight.

Paul: [01:05:05](#) Yeah, we're taping this on... What day is it? Tuesday. It'll drop on Thursday. And I mean, if there was a debate on and a heavyweight fight at the same time, which one would you watch, Rosie?

Rosie Perez: [01:05:15](#) Heavyweight.

Paul: [01:05:16](#) Definitely?

Rosie Perez: [01:05:17](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:05:17](#) Yeah?

Rosie Perez: [01:05:19](#) I would record the debate and then watch it afterwards.

Paul: [01:05:23](#) It's true. It's true.

Rosie Perez: [01:05:24](#) It's true. I like watching it at the time.

Paul: [01:05:26](#) And I love... The cool part about the fights is it's one of the few things that we all can share in the moment, right?

Rosie Perez: [01:05:32](#) In the moment.

Paul: [01:05:33](#) There's only a couple of things like disasters, like hurricanes, some of these debates and maybe some select concerts and big moments and then really big sporting events. It's kind of one of the only things we still share. And without waiting till later, we share it in that moment. I didn't want to have to find out what happened in the fight afterward, right?

Rosie Perez: [01:05:54](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:05:54](#) To be in that moment with a group of people, there's a purity about being in a room with a bunch of people, some who you know, some you who you may not know and you're all watching and experiencing that same thing.

Rosie Perez: [01:06:04](#) Yeah.

Paul: [01:06:05](#) But I'm hoping that the heavyweight fight that is America and the future will have a better result for all of us than it did for Deontay Wilder. But I just want to thank you again, Rosie, for your inspiration, for your leadership, for your tenacity. You're a role model.

Rosie Perez: [01:06:21](#) Thank you.

Paul: [01:06:22](#) And you represent the best of what this city's about and the best of what this country's about. And especially for those of us that have children or young people who are just going through a struggle. You are a tremendous role model and a great leader. And we're very-

Rosie Perez: [01:06:36](#) Thank you. And I just have to say, I just want to press upon people to always help someone out because somebody helped me out and without even asking me to pay it forward. But I was so inspired by how much they gave to try to make my life better. I've had so many mentors in the activist game and they taught me so much, even when I cursed out Giuliani, they pulled me aside and said, "Listen."

Paul: [01:07:15](#) You do that now. You're going to be at the front runner status in the Democratic Party.

Rosie Perez: [01:07:18](#) Exactly. Exactly. But just keep in mind, that's why it pays to help people out and be kind to one another, because that helps move that wheel of justice ever so much forward. Just keep doing it because it's like, I don't see myself as a leader yet. I still see myself as somebody still learning how to fight the good fight. But thank you for having me.

Paul: [01:07:44](#) You are a legend in the fight and your legend will continue to grow and we are very, very grateful. Rosie Perez, thank you so much for joining me on Angry Americans.

Rosie Perez: [01:07:54](#) Thank you. Thank you so much.

Paul: [01:07:54](#) Ladies and gentlemen, the great and powerful Rosie Perez live from the Classic Car Club in Manhattan. Watch for Rosie next to

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a ring near you and on the Twitter sphere and everywhere else,
she's a prize fighter that represents all the best of what
America's all about. Thank you folks.

PART 3 OF 3 ENDS [01:08:10]