



On Their Way Show Notes & Transcript:

Episode 306: XPerience J (Or How To Be A Multi-Hyphenate Podcaster)

**Show Notes**

**Episode Summary:** XPerience J (Crystal Judkins) discusses how she created her two podcasts, “Kiss: The Audio Series” and Past Due Audio Series,” how her work with Black Audio Dramas Exist helps promote Black creatives, and how her production company, Shhh! Jus’ Listen Media, adds to the audio landscape.

**Guest Information:**

- [XPerience J Twitter](#)
- [Black Audio Dramas Exist Twitter](#)
- [Past Due Audio Series Twitter](#)
- [Kiss: The Audio Series Twitter](#)
- [Shhh! Jus’ Listen Media Twitter](#)

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**EPISODE TRANSCRIPT**

**‘On Their Way’ Theme Song composed by Bajio Alvarado  
(It’s light and energetic. It puts a little pep in your step)**

**Jade Madison Scott (JMS):** Hey everyone, I’m Jade and you’re listening to On Their Way, the titans of tomorrow today. This episode is a real treat because we’ll be talking to Crystal Judkins, who you might better know as XPerience J.



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**JMS:** I really admire Crystal for her dedication to quality sound design and her commitment to amplifying Black voices in the medium, because as a new Black voice in the medium, it's wonderful to be able to go to one place and find so many other Black people from all across the world making their own cool art. But let's not dilly dally like a bunch of lost ducklings let's get into it. Before the interview you'll hear a trailer for the latest season of her podcast, Past Due: An Audio Series. As always the transcripts are at our website, [wgcreproductions.com](http://wgcreproductions.com), and please remember this is a WGC Production.

**'On Their Way' Theme Song Fades Out  
'Past Due Audio Series' Trailer Fades In**

**(Alarm Clock Buzzes And Is Turned Off)**

**Kenna:** There's something about morning sex that just does something to you. Especially when it's in your own bed and your own house. That's right. I finally moved out of my Momma's house and into a cute ass apartment downtown. I can't even describe the feeling of finally being able to have my own. Having the freedom to do what ever and whoever the fuck I choose. All I could think about when I signed the lease was "thank God." I can't help but feel like things are finally falling into place, playing out the way they should. I hadn't had this feeling since I released Keena tells all.

It's been a whirlwind of a year and I am loving it. Yes, she is booked and busy. Highly favored. Blessed. I've been on radio shows.

**(Through Radio Static)**

**DJ Juvie:** Good morning, fam. This is DJ Juvie and I'm here with the beautiful and talented Keena Matthews. That's right! Ms. Keen Tells All is in the building.



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**K:** Thank you so much, Juvie. It's such a pleasure to be here.

(Radio Static Ends)

And featured on podcasts-

**Podcast Host:** Welcome back to another episode of Black Girls Thrive. Today we are joined by a woman who is truly thriving. Keena, boo, you really out here doing the damn thing. What tips do you have for Black women trying to get on your level?

**K:** Yo, if I'm gonna be a hundred percent transparent, I'm still trying to figure it all out. Um, to be honest a lot of the shit that I'm doing right now is petrifying. It's scary. It's gooky, and its...it's scary as hell. But take a chance on yourself. Even if it's scary, even if you're unsure, uncertain about the future, um do it afraid. I've been saying that with my friends, it's like a common theme lately for us. Do it afraid. Jump anyway.

**PH:** Yaaas! We love it.

**K (V.O.):** Your girl's been working hard and this is only the beginning. Season 2, coming soon.

**'Record Scratch'**

**JMS:** XPerience J (Crystal Judkins) is a multi-hyphenate creative from Alexandria, Virginia. She is the co-founder of Black Audio Dramas Exist, where she promotes creatively provocative audio dramas written, produced, and starring Black creatives. XPerience is passionately driven by her love of the arts and the innate desire to amplify Black voices through media. She has written and produced two audio dramas, "Past Due Audio Series" and "Kiss: The Audio Series," which can currently be found on most major streaming platforms. Most recently, she established Shhh! Jus' Listen Media, where she uses her love of sound to produce innovative audio experiences that will change the face of audio dramas forever. Hey, how are you? How are you doing XPerience?



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**Crystal Judkins (CJ):** I'm so good. How are you?

**JMS:** I'm doing really, really well. I'm...this is great. Full disclosure, I really appreciate BlackAudioDramasExist because I wouldn't have found as many Black audio dramas without, without you guys, so thank you for that.

**XJ:** Oh, wow. That's dope.

**(Crystal Laughs)**

**JMS:** Yeah. All right. So, I'm just going to break into this with the first question I asked quite literally, everybody on this show, which is where are you from and where are your roots?

**CJ:** Um, I am from Alexandria, Virginia. It's in the DC Metro area. It's a small part of Virginia, as compared to other parts, and, uh, It's almost city, but not quite. It's like step away from being the city, but yeah. So, when other people ask or discuss Alexandria or, you know, even this area, they see it as more so the South, although we're like technically under the Mason-Dixon line, I felt like a Northerner.

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

**JMS:** Okay. Okay. Wonderful. And could you just explain, in your own words, what exactly it is that you do?

**CJ:** Uh, everything.

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

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**CJ:** Um, people call me the Jack-of-all-trades. I am a writer, a creator since I was little I, anything that I could do to create something, put something together, um, it started with writing and music and just kind of flourished into those other sectors of those things. As early as I can remember, I was somebody who wanted to build and create things from scratch.

**JMS:** Mhmm. And how exactly did you get into the audio drama sphere?

**CJ:** Um, so a few years ago, I want to say 2017, one of my friends, actually, she started listening to Fruit by Issa Rae.

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** Um, and she sent it to me. She was like, “I don't know why I thought about you, but as soon as I heard this, I thought about you.” And I literally, like, download it. I think it was Yewolf or something at the time where you still kind of had to pay for certain podcasts. Um, I think that's what it's called. And um, so she gave me her password, so I wouldn't have to pay, and I just put it on and I was just like, “yo, what is this?” I had never, I had heard similar things, you know, they have radio dramas and things like that, but this was so different and it was, you know, starring Black people, you know?

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** So, it was just, it was just very, very different for me. And I was just like, as I listened, like I finished the whole first season and then season two was like, I think either it was out or about to come out. So, anyway, I ended up binging that, and then I was like, okay, what's next? Um, I need more like I was addicted. And so I started looking for other ones and I couldn't find it, and I was like, you know what, I'm going to make my own. And I literally kinda went from there. And at the time, um, I was going through my own issues.

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**CJ:** My mom had just gotten sick and I left one of my, I had two jobs at the time, I left my part-time job so money started to get funny, my mom was sick, so it was just like a lot going on, and so writing at that time became my therapy. So, I actually came up with the idea for Past Due Audio Series because of that.

That's basically how it started. I started writing it, and I actually, like, I tell people all the time, I started writing Past Due Audio Series three years ago and I didn't put it out until 2019 because I didn't know what to do with it. I knew what I wanted to do sorta, but like, I didn't know how, and it was just like, okay. By 2019, I had worked through some of my issues that I was going through before. So, it was just like, okay, you need to do something with this, but yeah, all of that, it just kind of fell into each other. It just, it just happened, honestly.

**JMS:** Okay.

**(Crystal Laughs)**

Well, you mentioned something that was interesting in there that I want to ask you to expand upon. You said that you had it, you had it for three years and you kind of kept it with you cause you didn't know how to put it out. So how did you learn how to put it out and like put it together in that way?

**CJ:** I just kind of made it up. Like I didn't even-

**(Crystal Laughs)**

I knew that, okay, you had to record, you know what I'm saying? And I was familiar with, you know, sound effects and things like that, only because I told you I'm a creative. So, like years ago I was like recording my poems and things like that. And then putting little sound effects on it and I used to think that was the coolest thing. Um, and so I had already dabbled with it, you know, just not as professional as it is now, but, you know, I had dabbled with that before. So, I was like, oh, that's kinda like what I was doing, but they took it to the next level.

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**CJ:** So, I just got to figure out how to take it to the next level. And honestly, even with, uh, the whole season of Past Due everybody loved it, however, when I listen to it, I cringe-

**(Jade Laughs)**

Because now I know how to do it and make it sound great. You know what I'm saying? So. After a while I started to, you know, Google and like I'm self-taught and everything I do, um, so I went rogue. I winged it a lot.

**(Crystal Laughs)**

A lot.

**JMS:** Okay. Well, let's talk about like the process that you did to develop Past Due, and then we'll get to Kiss, uh, sort of, kind of chronologically we'll come to it after we sort of talk about this.

**CJ:** Okay.

**JMS:** But, um, so with Past Due, as you mentioned, like it's a show that kind of was like therapy for you. I mean, like even when listening to it, even without knowing the story behind it, I could tell it was still a really personal show if only for the fact that you, like, created it and wrote it and acted as the main character, like it was clearly very close to you.

**CJ:** Right.

**JMS:** So, can we talk about once you, like, wrote the first drafts of it what was that editing process like, since a lot of it may have been raw?

**CJ:** Um, It was kind of hectic because I didn't realize what I was getting myself into, um, to be the person who was going to not only write it, edit it, and then I had the nerve to want to be the main character-

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**(Jade Laughs)**

**CJ:** Not like a little character, but the main character. Like Crystal, what were you thinking? And I had a full-time job at the time, so I was doing a whole bunch. Um, but that process, it was hard in the fact that that was the first time that I was even, even though it was fiction, a lot of it is fiction, let me just say that, but even having to tell spurts of my reality is difficult. Um, I'm very personal, uh, and private, and so even having to share even a little bit of myself was kind of hard, but again, it was therapy. So, I think that was the hardest part. Trying to determine which parts to keep in which parts to take out. Because like I said, it was like a journal for me, so I'm just writing everything and then some of it I'm like, okay, Crystal, they really don't need to know that.

**(Jade Laughs)**

Go head. Take that part out.

**(Crystal Laughs)**

Don't delete that or keep it, but, you know, change it so that, cause I definitely had that, um, what's that movie called, uh, the Best Man syndrome. Like I was like, I don't want nobody coming after me saying nothing, you know? So I had to definitely of course change names and situations. And so many people were like, oh, did that happen to such and such? And I'm like, no, I, some people are literally two or three people put together, you know what I'm saying?

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** I didn't want it to be obvious, like, oh, that has to be your friend such and such. Like, even though people say that anyway, like, no-

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

No, I definitely put three or four people's scenarios together so that you wouldn't be able to really guess it.

**JMS:** And-



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**CJ:** Uh-

**JMS:** Oh, no, no. Go ahead.

**CJ:** Oh, no, no, no. I was just going to say, but that was the most difficult part of the editing. Uh, and of course, sometimes you don't write exactly like you speak, so I had to go through and edit it and make her sound like she would, how, the way that she was speaking. So, if I'm trying to be politically correct or, you know, uh, even with, uh, just how you say certain things. Like you might write it out, you know, and I can not think of the word, but anyway, you just-

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

You don't write the way you speak is basically what I'm trying to say. So, I would have to switch stuff up to make it sound natural other than just being written, you know, professionally.

**JMS:** Mhmm. Um, and you know, that actually is one of the things that first stood out to when I was listening to Past Due, besides the fact that, like the sound design was good and that stood out to me, but like the, one of the first things was the fact that the writing sounded like me and my friends.

**CJ:** Yeah.

**JMS:** And I really appreciate that, cause you don't hear like a lot of, like, good AAVE in a lot of audio dramas, so like, I mean, it really stood out. You did a great job.

**CJ:** Thank you.

**JMS:** Yeah, it was just so musical.

**(Crystal and Jade Laugh)**

Okay. So, so, like the writing, the editing, what was the casting process like?

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**CJ:** Oh, gosh, don't even listen to this. This is horrible. Don't do this. Okay?

**JMS (Laughing):** Okay.

**CJ:** I just...honestly, season one was a free for all, so whenever people hear it and say great things about it, I'm always really, really honored because I didn't know what I was doing, guys, like at all. I did not.

**JMS:** Who does?

**(Crystal Laughs)**

**CJ:** So, I was getting friends and I did, like, I went on Craigslist and looked up for people also.

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** And mind you, some of those people, like the first three episodes I wrote and recorded and produced all of that three years ago. So, that was kind of good but bad because once I decided that I was going to finish it, some of those people were like, “yeah, we don't do that anymore.”

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

You know? So, it was just like, “oh my gosh, I got to continue on and figure this out” and things like that. So, it was kinda tough. I just, I definitely didn't do it the right way, but I think that was just because I didn't know what I wanted to do with it. This go round, cause we are working on season two, um, I was able to hire writers and things like that and I already, we're going to have a casting call, so I will not have, we will not go through that again-

**(Jade Laughs)**

But big ups to all my friends who really, I was like, “hey, record this real quick.” Like, it was great.

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**JMS:** Alright, to kind of talk about....yeah, I guess it's now is a fine time, let's sort of get into like what season two, uh, what the process for like developing season two was like. And one thing that stood out to me when I was doing research and like you, again, you just said it is that you have...you're hiring for writers this season.

**CJ:** Mhmmm.

**JMS:** And one: I want to know like what it's like business wise to, like, go on and hire people for this project you're working on. And two: what's it like creative wise, because before, like this was your baby, like you were the writer, you had the main creative vision, you developed the voices and now you bring on other people. Like, what's it like working with other people with something like?

**CJ:** Um, scary, but also just, it was a load off. And not to go into Kiss, but I, as soon as Past Due was done, I waited maybe a month and then started working on putting Kiss out.

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** Which is not a great idea. I mean, it is for people who can do it, bless you-

**(Jade Laughs)**

But like, it was not a great idea for me because I'm the person that will pack everything on and get everything done, and then will just drop everything. Like I went through creative burnout for the all of 2020, um, because of that. Because instead of taking it, cause I told myself after Past Due I'm going to take a little break and then come back and, you know, and put out Kiss. I didn't really have the chance to do that. So, it was just a lot with that. But overall, I would say I do...like, the writers, um, I knew one of them, and then the other one was someone who, uh, was referred to me and we have, you know, monthly, right now is about monthly, uh, or yeah, monthly, monthly meetings about each episode.

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**CJ:** So, that's kind of how I stay in the loop, and then I say, “oh, I don't like this.” “Yes. I like that.” You know, those kinds of things. So, I'm able to still be involved creatively. It's not just like, “here's your season two, take it.”

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

Like, you know what I'm saying? I'm asking I'm actually involved, and I liked, I like being, um, hands-on without having to do everything, because that was the biggest part of my problem that literally I was a one man band. So, it's still gonna feel very much me once it comes out, because again, I'm the person who has the last word. So, if I need to switch anything up, uh, to make it sound more like the main character, Keena, I know what that is, you know? Um, so. Yeah.

**JMS:** Yeah. And you've also kind of, you mentioned it in your last answer and you kind of mentioned it earlier, but I just want to ask you to expand on it. What are some things that you're, um, that you learned from season one that are improving your process for season two?

**CJ:** Well, just the biggest one is the sound design. Um, I do get a lot of great feedback on my sound design for season one, but to me it sounds horrible. Um-

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

So, I, you know, I'm learning how to make things sound more professional, more polished and things like that. And learning even there were some episodes where literally, because, you know, um, I didn't have any expectations of how things were supposed to sound, like, people had noises in the background and babies crying and, you know, things honking and stuff, I'm exaggerating, but you know what I'm saying? Like, it was just like a lot of noise and stuff and I would try to get it out the best I could, but a lot of that you could just tell like, oh, “this, you know, these vocals are not great.” Um, that won't be happening moving forward-

**JMS (Laughing):** Okay.

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**CJ:** Because if you don't have a great mic, a great recording, if I cannot clean it properly, or whoever does the sound design can't do that properly, or the editing can't do it properly, it won't be included. So those things, just making sure, because it takes a lot of work and I'm very anal about how things sound even more now than back then. Um, I, I always tell people like my ear has changed. So any little thing, like I hate listening to certain things because now my ear is just so anal. Like, "uh-uh, I can hear the little frizz in that. That doesn't sound good, you know?" Um, so those types of things that, that I didn't necessarily have back in 2019, in 2021 my ear it's good so I have to hear it a certain kind of way. So, I'll definitely be doing things like that.

Um, my music choice will be better. I think I had a dope music choice anyway-

**(Jade Giggles)**

But I think it's expanded. Um, so it'll be a lot better. Um, and things like that. Like just creatively little, it won't be a season two where you're like, that is nothing like season one, but you're going to be like, oh yeah, she stepped her game up.

**JMS:** Okay.

**CJ:** Yeah.

**JMS:** Okay. And just a question about, like, your development as a sound designer, did that just come by, like listening to more stuff and thinking like, "oh, that's cool. How do I do that?" Or like, things like that?

**CJ:** Um, sorta, but like, I just, I loved hearing the sound design and projects. So, when I'm listening to audio dramas, that's what I'm listening for, you know? Um, and I just, I had to, I became a sound designer by accident. Okay? So, my first three episodes, um, like I said, I had it done by somebody back in 2017. He was in school at the time though. So, when I told him about, you know, future episodes, like, "I think I'm going to finish this. I know you guys have been waiting for years, but I want to finish this."

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**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** And he was just, he was at school and he's like, "I don't have a lot of time" and I'm like, "oh, man." Like I wanted to work with him, but then again, I'm like, I need somebody who's going to be dedicated to this project. If you can't like, you know, ensure that I'm going to have like a two week turnaround or three weeks, like telling me, you don't know when you're going to get it back to me? Like, that made me nervous. And so I was like, okay, Crystal, um, you can do this because literally, even with the first episode, I did a lot of the editing and sound effects myself-

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** Because I'm anal. I don't even want people to hear it bad, you know what I'm saying? So, I would put it together and like, okay, this is how I want it. Like give them like a, a reference. It was like a reference track, so to speak. So, I would give them the reference of how it should sound and then if you can find better sounds then you do that, but I would, I would lay everything down anyway. I just didn't know how to, you know, polish it, mix, and master and do all that stuff to make it sound good.

**JMS:** Mhmm. Yeah. Okay. And one thing that I think, um, that you can definitely see, like, from your work with, uh, Past Due is...like, in Kiss, right, cause I listened to both, and so like the working, the sound design in kiss really is, you can tell that it's elevated from the work in Past Due, even though you said they're like right back to back. So you can really see that...would sort of...like how quickly you leveled up, so to speak.

**CJ:** Well, thank you. I am anal.

**(Jade Laughs)**

So, I'm going to sit there until I get it right.

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

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**JMS:** Um, now speaking of Kiss, yes, I did provide myself my own transition, but speaking of Kiss-

**(Crystal Laughs)**

What was that like? Because like a psychosexual thriller, I mean, like that's, that's fun stuff, and again, that's not something I see a lot of in the audio drama world. So, like, how'd that come to, how'd that come to be?

**CJ:** Well, actually, so, um, back in, I want to say...I'm bad with dates, I want to say 2014, a good friend of mine, Morsan, and I co-wrote a book called Tomorrow's Seduction: Kiss of Death, and we just knew it was going to blow up. We thought we were going to be bestsellers overnight-

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** And that didn't happen.

**(Jade Laughs)**

Okay. Don't get me wrong. The book was good, you know, and we got it around to a lot of people. We just, you know, it was just presumptuous to assume. Everybody who is a self-publisher they already know that's not how that works. You know what I'm saying? Generally, it's not how it works. You don't just write a book and the next day you're famous. And I think we just, we assumed that that would happen, and that's not how it happened. But we knew we had a great story, and so we were dabbling around, like, we got, uh, we wrote a film for it. So, even now there is a script that's there for a film, but we didn't have money for a film. So, we were like, okay, so what, what are we going to do with this?

**(Jade Laughs)**

And so once I did Past Due, you know, I wanted to come up with other concepts and I wanted it to be separate from Past Due. Like, I want to flip the script.



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**CJ:** I don't, I'm not the person who's going to keep out, putting, keep putting out the same project.

**JMS:** Yeah.

**CJ:** Um, and so I want people to be like, wait, where did that come from? Why did you do that? You know?

**(Jade Laughs)**

So, I was like, let's make Tomorrow's Seduction: Kiss of Death into a series, but let's, let's switch it up. So, it's not exactly the book. Um, so the main character in Tomorrow, that still the same. In the book, it kind of goes through her life. Uh, She's a teenager still, or like a young adult in the, um, in the book. So, you know, you meet her friends and all of that and you know, that type of thing, but the book doesn't really go into detail about her murders, you know?

**JMS:** Yeah.

**CJ:** And so I wanted to kind of, or the backstory, like, you know what I'm saying? You might see this person or that person, but you don't know how she met him and things like that. So, I was like, what if we did alone episodes, because I wanted it again to be different than Past Due, standalone episodes where literally all of her victims have an episode. So you, you go through how she met 'em, uh, you know, their encounters and then their death In one episode. I, I just, I don't know. I just thought that was so cool. I was like, let's do that, and so she agreed. So, um, we both wrote the entire season and then, um, we cast for it and that was that.

**JMS:** Hmmm. Okay. And so I guess you kind of talked about like how you adapted to an age and such and sort of the, the, um, No, I don't think that's a question that I have. I wasn't going to phrase that correctly.

**(Crystal Laughs)**



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**JMS:** Okay. Okay. Then here's the thing, right? Okay. Okay. How about this? So when it comes to Kiss being, like, this psychosexual thriller and stuff, like how do you plan, how do you plan for, like, multiple seasons of that? Like what, what's your vision for it?

**CJ:** So, it's not going to be multiple seasons of it.

**JMS:** Oh! Okay!

**CJ:** So, I am going to have another season and I don't want to go too deep into it, but it's going to be, I've decided to do, um, the movie that we never had.

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** So, season two will be, uh, a movie. An audio movie, and you'll get the rest of it and that'll be it. So, it'll be all of the things that you wanted to know, because a lot of people, their thing was how is she getting away with this stuff? What is she doing? Like, you know-

**JMS:** That is my question. Yeah.

**CJ:** So, um, that will be answered in the audio moves.

**JMS:** Okay. And could you expand on, like, your idea of what an audio movie is? Cause, like, every now and then I can hear it better, but I want to hear, like, when you say audio movie, what do you mean?

**CJ:** I literally mean it's going to be an audio movie, like a movie without the, without the face.

**JMS (Laughing):** Okay.

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**CJ:** I call it a Faceless Film. I coined that by the way, so don't nobody steal it.

**JMS:** Gotchu.

**(Crystal Laughs)**

**CJ:** It's going to be a film, a faceless film. And that's basically what it is. So, you're going to have all of the, you know, sound effects and all of the experiences that you would in a real movie, but it's going to be, you know, an audio drama. So, basically there will not be episodes. You're going to get one long-

**(Crystal Laughs)**

**JMS:** Like, two hour-

**CJ:** Two hour situation. Yes.

**JMS:** Oh, that's going to be quite a feat. That's going to be really impressive.

**CJ:** Yeah. And it's going to take a long time, which is why I haven't started it yet.

**JMS:** Okay.

**(Crystal and Jade Laugh)**

**CJ:** I have the idea and the concept, which I've been doing for a long time, but I'm just like, it's going to take so long. I really need to be, have time to really, you know, map it out.

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**JMS:** Hmm. And, okay, and, and one thing, one more thing before we let start to get into like, your....outside of, like, Past Due or Kiss, like your general audio drama work, especially when it comes to black people and black women-

**CJ:** Mhmm.

**JMS:** Before we get to that, I just want to ask this one question. So, like, one thing that I've noticed about you, like, if I, if someone would say like, yo what's XPerience J's....like, like what's what, like, what's her, her thing? Like how Western Anderson has, like, symmetry or Quentin Tarantino has violence, but pretty, I would say like, one of your things is like incorporating artists and music into your work. It happens in Kiss with, like, gospel music and stuff and those sermons, by the way, very, very accurate. Um-

**(Crystal Laughs)**

But it happens like with gospel music and, like, soloists, and in Past Due it happens with like independent artists and like incorporating it and even like an episode two your character, she even says “music can take me to another universe”, she has like a whole monologue about how music makes her feel.

**CJ:** Mhmm.

**JMS:** So, I wanted to ask you, uh, what led you to make those sort of choices and then how you, how do you go about, like, securing talent and music, uh, to put into your work?

**CJ:** So music it's literally my life; that is aligned that I would absolutely say myself. My whole life is a musical, let me just say that. Um, and so I live in music. Like everything I see and do is methodical that way. So, music is just one of those natural progressions for me, like, I even, as we're doing this interview, if I was to produce it, like I can hear the music that would go under us, those types of things. Like, I, that's how I function. So everything I do, um...writing and music are like a tug of war, a tug of war for like my first love.

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**CJ:** They're both like, “no, it's me.” “No, it's me.” Like that kind of thing. Uh, so they kinda, I can't do a project that doesn't incorporate, uh, music. Even with my sound design, as, as I begin to do sound design for other people, you're going to, like you just said, you're going to know it's me because those songs that are incorporated in there, um, a lot of people they just don't really incorporate a lot of music into their sound design. They just think it's sound effects. For me, I literally hear where the music is supposed to go, and I'm like, “oh, that would be dope.” Especially, like, when something dramatic is happening, like on a movie.

**JMS:** Yeah.

**CJ:** That's where they play the music, you know? But a lot of, um, audio dramas, I noticed they don't do that.

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** But that's how that's, I guess that's my thing. That's how I'm able to...like “no, if we're going to make it a movie it's going to be a movie. The only thing that's going to be missing is the visuals.”

**JMS:** How do you go about, like, finding these artists? Like, do you reach out? Who are they and how do you, uh, reach out to them and, like, what's the business behind getting them, licensing their music for your show?

**CJ:** So, Past Due, don't listen to me for this, cause Past Due I did it all wrong-

**JMS (Laughing):** Okay.

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**CJ:** Well, not all wrong, but like, you know, I was just, again, I have a lot because I've always been engulfed in music and things like that all of my friends, well, the mass majority of my friends are also in entertainment or, you know, musical in some type of way. So, a lot of those people, I basically reached out to like, "I need your song for this." "I need your song for that." I even have an exit song in there included, and that and things like that.

Just make sure that you, of course get an NDA signed, make sure that you have permission, whatever you need to a work-for-hire agreement, whatever you need to do to cover yourself for those particular songs and things like that, make sure you have that.

Um, for Kiss, I was actually found a few, you know, websites that had, you know, licensed music that you just pay for, you know, monthly or whatever, which came in handy because they, they, a lot of the ones that I found catered to, um, the local artists, which, I like that. Like, I don't want to necessarily have the new, the new songs in there. I get that, you know, that's cool. But I love being able to be like, oh, this person, you know, um, was featured in my podcast and things like that.

**JMS:** Yeah!

**CJ:** So, definitely if you ask, even if you ask a local or indie artists, just make sure that *they* own their music, cause that's the most important. If *they* own their music, the sky's the limit. If they don't own it, things can get kind of tricky. So, just make sure that they own it. And, um, yeah. And of course have that contract and things like that in place.

**JMS:** Okay. Well, I'm now going to pivot, uh, to work outside of, like, your actual work-work and more of like your general audio drama work.

**JMS:** So, one thing that I want to talk about in particular was your event or *the* event called Black Women Speaks-

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**CJ:** Mhmm.

**JMS:** Uh, Black Women Speak, which you can, by the way, you can follow them at Twitter, it's the same name, but, um, you did a panel and I just wanna sorta want to talk about, like, what was it like cultivating that panel? What drove you to do that? And, uh, yeah. Just like talk, talk about that.

**CJ:** So, I have these midnight hour ideas that come to me sometimes, and I don't know what to do with them. Uh, and that was actually a midnight hour idea. Actually, this is going to sound so funny, but I swear it's the truth. So, I'm also into, like, astrology and things like that.

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** Um, and I met with someone who did a reading for me, and she mentioned that I was going to do something like this in the next coming months. And I was just like, I don't know what you're talking about. Cause I don't have that, like, it was still 2020, it was closing out I think 2020, and I was just like, I was going through a creative burnout that's the easiest way I can say it. So, I didn't want to do nothing. I didn't want-

**(Crystal Laughs)**

Like, I was just like, no, I'm just, I was really that year I took my time to kind of, I would say build community, if you will. So, I was meeting a lot of people and things during that time, but, like, people were like, oh, when's season two coming out or when are you going to do this? And I'm like, I don't have time for none of that.

**(Jade Laughs)**

**CJ:** I'll just be honest. I'm not doing any of that.

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**CJ:** I just want to sit here and enjoy my time not doing anything, and she told me that and I was just like....she mentioned, and I can't remember verbatim, but she mentioned that I was going to do something that involves women, and I was just like, uh, I mean, I love black women. I love all women, but-

**JMS:** Of course.

**CJ:** That wasn't on my mind. You know, I was just like, what is she talking about? Like what?

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** Literally maybe like a few days. And she told me when it was going to happen. Right. Like generally.

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** And so I was just like, what could I possibly, so that made my wheels start spinning. Like what could I possibly do for women?

**(Jade Laughs)**

Like, um, I'm an introvert. A lot of people don't know that about me. I'm an extreme introvert and I have social anxiety. Um, I use laughter and my comedy and things like that to kind of mask it, but it's very real. So, I don't want to talk to nobody, like what?

**(Crystal Laughs)**

I'm going to get some people together to do what? You crazy!

**(Jade Laughs)**

Um, so I, I don't know, one night I was just thinking, I was like, man, you know what? I realized that there are a whole bunch of Black women in audio, but I don't know them, and why don't I know, like-

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**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** Even when people are like, oh, you do sound design. I'm like, yeah. They're like, I haven't, I've never seen that. And that's, I'm like, you're right, I don't really see that. Usually when I'm in events and things like that, uh, or, you know, podcasts festivals and things like that all the sound designers are white men that I see. So, I just was like, okay, well, um, I think that I need to do something-

**(Crystal Laughs)**

You know, to kind of get us all together in one room. I also do voiceover of course.

**JMS:** Yes.

**CJ:** Um, so I was like, okay, like, I want to invite voiceover artists, people in radio, people in podcasts, uh, audio dramas, all Black women. Um, also during the time, you know, Black Lives Matter was flourishing and things like that, and I wanted to do my part. Now I'm not a frontliner, I'm not a picket-person picket sign person. You're not gonna find me out in no streets. Bless you. I'll pray for you, but that's not me. That's not my ministry.

**JMS:** Uh-huh.

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

**CJ:** Um, but I know how to get people together. You know what I'm saying? And so I was like, this is my little part because I'm trying to thrive in a field where we're not seen? You know what I'm saying?

**JMS:** Yeah.

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**CJ:** Like, when you think about audio, the faces of it don't look like me, and so, you know that for me, that was like, okay, how do I do that? And so of course, like I said, midnight hour idea. Um, I kind of threw some stuff together, called some people who I knew could help me make some things happen. And then I was like, okay, before I knew it, like I put out on Twitter, like, you know, a basic, “anybody want to speak?” When I tell you it was, like, retweeted over 200 times, like, it was crazy how it happened. And I was just like, oh wait, wait, Too much.

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

I didn't know that I didn't know that that was going to happen. Like people were like, “wow, this is beautiful. I want to be a part of it.” And I was just like, okay, well let me scale it back because I'm not ready to do a whole yearly festival yet, you know?

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** Um, but what I will do is, a panel of about ten or so, and at first I wanted it to only to be, like, three or four, but everybody who submitted that I selected was just so dope, I was like, “okay, all y'all about to speak, come on, we gonna put all y'all on the panel.”

**(Jade Laughs)**

So, we had like 10 ladies and, um, they were all really super supportive. Um, and a lot of them were multihyphenates like myself and so they, you know, did multiple things in, you know, the audio field and things like that. And it was just so dope. Um, we had a great time. I got to sit in the background cause that's what I do.

**(Jade Laughs)**

Like I said, I don't like to be seen. And so they were able to speak and just, it was, it was so dope, and I was like, okay, this is what I want to do. I like curating events. I don't need to be the face of it, but I do want to help curate it and get it popping. So, I made sure that I put the Twitter and the Instagram together and I'm softly working on the next event. Cause everybody keeps asking me. I'm softly working on it. Um, and it'll be dedicated towards people like me, like the, uh, sound designers and music editors, things like that.



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**CJ:** Um, because that is real, like you see Black people or even Black women, voice artists, you see those people. Um, but when it comes to sound design, like, people...were like leprechauns.

**JMS:** Yeah, one-in-a-million.

**CJ:** Yeah. So, um, that's going to be our next event. Um, I'm still fishing for dates and, um, we'll see what happens, but I'm excited.

**JMS:** Best of luck with that. I look forward to, uh, to listening to it. I think that's gonna be really exciting. So, I watched the video of that panel.

**CJ:** Yeah.

**JMS:** And I was waiting for you to talk, but I now know that you were the curator, so that wasn't like your thing. However, I did want you to answer some of the questions that they asked in that panel, because I thought it'd be interesting.

**CJ:** Okay.

**JMS:** So, I'mma run through some of those.

**CJ:** Okay.

**JMS:** One question that stood out to me was when, uh, Yhane Smith of Harlem Queen made mention of the fact that when she first started, that she knew nobody, and then that's also kind of what I feel, uh, cause I also just started, and like you said, like, Black people were there, but we're not like the face of the thing, so I'm searching out.

**CJ:** Mhmm.

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**JMS:** Um, so I just want to know, like, how did you go about building community inside this audio drama world?

**CJ:** I literally just started following, like, that's how I came up with BlackAudiDramasExists. It started out me stalking-

**(Crystal Laughs)**

Other Black creators who were doing what I was doing and I didn't know that they were doing it. So, I started out with Google and things like that. BlackAudioDramas. And if something would pop up, I would click it and go follow them. And actually, Aisha Casey of Deadbeats-

**JMS:** Oh, I like Deadbeats so much.

**CJ:** Yes she-

**(Crystal Laughs)**

So she connected because she, she started listening to my audio drama and she loved it and I loved Deadbeats and so we kind of connected and I told her what I wanted to do, and she was like, "I'm in." So we kind of built BlackAudioDramasExsist from there and we were like, "okay, we have to get all of us in one room. I don't know how to do it, whatever, but it's-" Literally, I think it was like right in the midst of the pandemic, like when this started to happen, and so we're like "Zoom. Let's, we're going to get a Zoom call." And literally it was maybe 20 or maybe more of us on one phone call, and it was like the most beautiful thing cause I had never seen it, like, you know. Of course I started, we started adding all the shows and eventually I was like, okay, well what can we do, we have to do something."

So again, we started the Instagram and the Twitter page, and then I was like, we need to do a database to kind of, um, you know, hold all of this stuff together, but I didn't know what to use. And it was actually Faith McQuinn of, uh-

**JMS:** Observer Pix. Yeah.

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**CJ:** Yes, of Observer Pix and she reached out and was like, “hey, there's this thing where you guys can put all of the, you know, things together” And so she gave me that link, and so I literally hand by hand one by one go in on there, and I started to fill in all of the Black audio dramas I could find. Starring. Edited. Produced by, um, voiced by. Anything that has anything to do with us I put it in there.

**JMS:** Yeah. I also appreciate how BlackAudioDrama, uh, BlackAudioDramasExist gets so much of diaspora. Like it's not just Black Americans or, like, Black people in the Western world, like, it really is across the entire breadth of us, so that's-

**CJ:** Yes. Absolutely.

**JMS:** Pretty cool. Another question that was in that panel that I wanted to ask you, so this one was asked and it was, what do you think the biggest obstacle is to Black audio drama creators currently?

**CJ:** The biggest obstacle would be and I guess I can say it like this, uh, visibility. I feel like there's, there's two parts to that because one, um, people don't know that we exist so that, that was the main reason why I named it BlackAudioDramasExist. I didn't even know it existed. You know what I'm saying? So, if I didn't even know it existed and I'm a Black creator, um, you know, we're not being seen now. Now we're getting a little traction now, you know what I'm saying? But overall, like people don't know we exist and so, um, when there are Top 10 lists with best audio dramas, and none of us is included it's like you can't be listening to all...you can't be listening to this.

**JMS:** Yeah.

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**CJ:** Because if you listen to any of our, you know dramas, you would see that, come on, it's some that's up there that's much better than the ones that are listed. And no shade to, you know, my white counterparts, but you know what I'm saying?

**JMS:** I know what you saying.

**CJ & JMS:** Yeah.

**CJ:** It's, it's just like come on you, you can't, you have to be a little more well well-rounded than that or you might see one in the list and you're like, "oh, thanks." But there's no way that only one of us is as good as the other ones. So visibility would be in the main, the main thing, and then on top of that, um, there are so many people who don't even know about audio dramas at all.

**JMS:** Yeah.

**(Crystal Laughs)**

**CJ:** At all! Like, forget...so imagine when they find out we're not going to be the first ones at the top of the list they find. So that, that, you know, that, that drops us down even more. So, um, I think if we had a, more like a major platform that would just really push us, that would be great. That would be beautiful, but you know, I'm not going to hold my breath with that. So, that's why I'm trying to do my part and to just getting the word out. Cause we can't wait around hoping somebody is going, gonna save us from the castle.

**JMS:** Hmm. All right. Um, oh, within that, you're mentioning visibility. I want to know, like, how do you go about marketing your own shows to, like, reach as many people as possible?

**CJ:** I'm not great at that.

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**(Crystal Laughs)**

**CJ:** I guess I see a lot of other people promoting their shows more than I do promote my own shows. I'm more of a "I'm promoting myself," and then when I promote myself, you're going to see what I do, and I don't know if that's good or bad. I haven't figured it out yet. Um, but that's just, that's just what I do. So, I will promote the heck out of XPerience J with anything I do cause a lot of people were like, "man, I didn't even know you did that." And I'm like, "yep, do that too."

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

So, I just, that's how I go about promoting my shows cause I don't, I am the type of person. I don't want to push me down your throat, um, I want it to be to where you come looking for me. So, I'm not going to be every single day go listen to Past Due, go listen to Past Due, you know, Past Due exists at this point, you know what I'm saying?

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** Um, I just do my other things. I enjoy poetry and, um, I enjoy hip hop and all those types of things. I'm a songwriter. I, you know, so, I just got into Tik Tok and being funny and things like that, so, um, which has gotten a lot of feedback that I didn't think it was going to get by the way.

**(Jade Laughs)**

Um, so I was just like, oh, okay. I can do that. Um, so I just, I want to promote myself because at the end of the day, I want XPerience J to be a brand, and then once you know, XPerience J you're going to go looking for all the things that I do.

**JMS:** Alright. Alright. Oh, one more thing that I kind of got from like the last couple of questions, from a couple of questions ago, you were talking about, like, how you weren't, how you weren't ready to do, like create an annual Black, uh, Black podcast festival *yet*. And that *yet* had me intrigued. Is that something that you're interested in?

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**CJ:** Absolutely.

**(Crystal Laughs)**

Absolutely. It's it's coming. It's going to happen. BlackAudioDramasExist, we're going to have one also BlackWomenSpeak I want to do, you know, a yearly thing with that too, because I just think that's so dope. Um, but again, I can't be a one man band forever, you know?

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** I need people to round the troops and help and things like that, and you know, but definitely it is in the works. I've written, you know, things out, okay, this is how it's gonna look and things like that. It's just about having the time and the help, because I know that I can't do it alone.

**JMS:** Mhmm, and....Okay. Okay.

**(Crystal Laughs)**

I look forward to that and that's going to be, that's going to be real exciting and I will buy tickets to go to that. Um-

**CJ:** Thank you.

**JMS:** Totally, totally. So, another thing that I wanted to ask about was you started audio dramas relatively recently, as you mentioned, relatively, and you started BlackAudioDramasExsit even more recently, but I do want to ask, like, have you noticed any changes since you started it and where the state of Black audio dramas is now? Have you noticed any shifts?

**CJ:** Absolutely. Um, I will say when we first started BlackAudioDramasExsist, I mean, people were paying attention to certain shows, like shout out to Yhane Smith. Harlem Queen is a crossover show.

**JMS:** Mhmm.

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**CJ:** Um, and so that was the one audio drama that I knew of that was by a Black person that *everybody* kind of knew in the audio world, you know. If you mentioned it, 9 times out of 10, if they listen to audio dramas, they know about Harlem Queen. And so, especially during Juneteenth, and matter of fact this just popped up on my, uh, what is it called when they show you a year ago today or whatever-

**JMS:** Oh, your memories?

**CJ:** Memories, yeah. And even on IG. We had, at that time, I want to say 10, 10 black audio dramas in the top, um, 100 of Apple Podcasts. Um, which had never happened before, um, at one time. We also had, uh, several of us featured in the, uh, I forgot what they call it, but basically new Fall...something, they gave it a category on Apple Podcasts' main pages.

**JMS:** Uh-huh.

**CJ:** So a lot of those things were not happening until like we became a thing and started reaching out saying, "hey, y'all need to promote us and y'all need to do this and that, you know?" Um, so during that time, like, I would say the majority of...not that people weren't listening before, but the majority of my lessons came around once BlackAudioDramasExist, uh, became a thing.

One day I had this many and the next day I was almost at, you know, I want to say maybe I had like 2 or 3000, by the time we had produced, you know, published and all that other stuff, and came out with BlackAudioDramasExist, I was already at 10,000.

**JMS:** Oh, gosh.

**CJ:** Yeah. It, it jumped. I'm not even gonna...it jumped.

**(Jade Laughs)**

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**JMS:** Oh, that's really, that's really impressive. That's so cool. Alright, uh, here's, here's another question that I, that I had as well, cause you kind of, you've kind of been mentioning it throughout the podcast is that during 2020 you underwent a period of creative burnout, and I wanted to ask now that it's 2021, you're working on season two, you're you're doing other stuff, so I wanted to ask like how you manage your time and yourself, so that....to avoid that creative burnout again?

**CJ:** Um, I'm not.

**(Crystal Laughs)**

**JMS:** Okay. Got you.

**CJ:** I'm not fully out of the creative burnout, honestly, which is why it was helpful to have those things in place like writers, because honestly, I was like, ain't nobody getting no season two. Won't be no season 2.

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

**JMS:** You got what you got.

**CJ:** Got what you got. Enjoy it. She goin' be alright. Keena, will be alright. Um-

**(Jade Laughs)**

And then people were like “you have to, you have to,” and I just felt the pressure that made me even stall even more because I was like, “people really want it and I'm going to tick a lot of people off if I don't.” And so I was just like, okay, fine, but I will compromise, but I need to figure this out because I can't be the one man band again, going, you know, the second time around. So I was able to hire some writers who, you know, literally all I'm going to have to do is go and edit, and that is great compared to everything else I would have had to do.

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**CJ:** I will say I, I say no to things now.

**JMS:** Oh, that's really good.

**CJ:** Yeah. I say no, and with no hesitation, like I, I found my boundaries in 2020.

**(Crystal Laughs)**

And I stuck to them. I was a person...and I'm not a person who doesn't....well, I guess, um, who doesn't know her boundaries or, you know, but I, when I like you, I will kind of bend them so to speak. Yeah, I noticed that about myself cause like, you know, people who don't exert their boundaries, they're kind of, um, usually people consider them like a pushover, you know what I'm saying?

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** And I never equated that with that other part, and I actually learned this in therapy. She's like, you know, you don't have to be a pushover to, to be, you know, not sticking to your boundaries because you equate one with the other, like somebody who's timid or whatever, you just let people do whatever. She's like, that's, that's not, that's not what that means, you know?\

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** Um, but you need to stick to, if you, if the answer is no, and it doesn't have to be, “well, maybe a little later”, if your answer is no, no is a complete sentence.

**JMS:** Yeah.

**CJ:** Um, and so just learning that because I realized, like I said before, when I like people, I will be like, “okay, well give me an hour to get myself together.”

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**CJ:** But now it's just like, “yeah. I don't think I'm going to be able to do that.” Just being okay with that and saying no to certain things, everything is, is not necessarily for you or you're not going to miss out on anything by saying no to somebody.

**JMS:** I think that is a very, I think that's a very important lesson that a lot of people, including myself, could always learn, always relearn.

**(Crystal and Jade Laugh)**

Okay. Um, well kind of winding down, but I did want to get into this question cause I'm curious. So, in your bio, it states that, uh, you recently established, Shhh! Jus' Listen Media, and I want to know, like, what spurred that decision and what exactly is Shhh! Jus' Listen media.

**CJ:** So, basically it's going to be the home of all things audio dramas, all...like basically no visuals, all audio. And so I established it, but I haven't put anything out per say under that title yet, other than I did do a collaboration, um, with Faith, um, called Highway Child back in October, it was for the, uh, The 11th Hour Audio. So, basically you do horror and scary kind of things or whatever. Som that was the first time I introduced, um, Shhh! Jus' Listen, uh, at all. So, you know.

But I haven't put out, like, our premiere or staple project yet, which I'm also in the process of writing. It will actually be, like, I was saying before an audio movie. So, it will be, it will be an audio movie, that I will introduce it to the world that way to kind of show the things that are that we're doing, and will do.

Like, I see people with, you know, production companies and like channels or whatever, but that's, that's how I want this company to be. I want it to be all things, audio where you can literally, at five o'clock this comes on at seven o'clock this comes on-

**JMS:** Like a station.

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**CJ:** Like a real station. So that is what I'm working towards. Um, and eventually, of course it will be, you know, my projects for now, but eventually once I get the funding and things that I really need, I want to open it up to other Black creatives to come put their, their audio dramas and their audio, whatever on the channel, you know?

**JMS:** Bet.

**CJ:** Yeah.

**JMS:** Power to you with that. That sounds really dope.

**CJ:** Thank you.

**JMS:** Okay, so we're at the end the interview more or less, but before we get to like our last, last question, I do want to ask, are there any podcasts or audio dramas you're listening to right now that are, like, really....that you just really love and enjoy?

**CJ:** COVID 39 has, is a dope podcast. That was, I guess, out of the whole time, like over the pandemic, that was the one that really kept my attention the most. Um, and....to where, like I was like, they released their last 10 episodes and I was just like, "oh my God, I need more."

**(Jade Laughs0**

Like, it's really really, It's really, really good. Um, Of course Harlem Queen. I had to listen to it over because the first go around, I don't think I appreciated it enough-

**(Crystal Laughs)**

And so I went back and I listened to it again and shout out to Yhane, I was blessed to do the sound design for her second podcast. Um, The Courtship Of Mona Mae.

**JMS:** Oh really?



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**CJ:** Yes.

**JMS:** Oh, that's so cool.

**CJ:** And I'm actually working on her third season of Harlem Queen and the first season, I mean, the first episode is out now.

**JMS:** Yeah. It just dropped today.

**CJ:** Yes. So, I was blessed to be able to be a part of that. Um, but yeah, I, and I'm going to go listen to it. Like, I didn't do the sound design on it because that's how much of a fan I am. So, I'm really going to go and listen to it again. Um, Who else? I don't know how recently it was, but I started listening to Handmaid's Tale, the audio version?

**JMS:** Like Handmaids' Tale the Margret-

**CJ:** Yes.

**JMS:** Oh, I did not know they had an audio version. Is it like a fiction, like a different story within the universe or-

**CJ:** It's like a fiction podcast version of it just, you know-

**JMS:** Oh snap!

**CJ:** I know! I didn't know. I just found out the other day and I started listening, like I never watched the whole, all of the seasons.

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**JMS:** I definitely lied then cause I said that was going to be the second last question but that brought up something new.

**CJ:** Okay.

**(Crystal Laughs)**

**JMS:** So, so, like the concept of, like, a handmade, uh, The Handmaid's Tale audio drama is, like, kind of blowing my mind right now. Cause like it was a book now it's a TV show now it's an audio drama.

**CJ:** Right.

**JMS:** And with you starting like your own station, with Shhh! Jus' Listen media, I'm kind of asking you are you interested at all in, like, multimedia creation like that? Like you make it an audio drama, you're going to sell the TV rights or like be a co-producer on the television show. Maybe write a book about it in the universe. Like, is that something, yeah, you'd be interested in.

**CJ:** Absolutely. I'm not against film at all, you know, and other and TV, like I told you, like, I know, um, Kiss was a book first, you know what I'm saying? And then we were going to do a film we just didn't have the funding, but you know, I am speaking it into the universe that I'm going to have all the funding that I need to do all the things I want to do, and so absolutely film and television will be a part of that also, just not under, you know, the Shhh! Just Listen brand. but overall we will do it.

**JMS:** Okay.

**CJ:** I want to keep that pure. You know what I'm saying? I want it to be audio. Of course you can have other sectors like the same name and then say, put a little visual behind it or whatever.



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**CJ:** And this is the reason why, because I know sometimes when you get into other sectors of media, audio gets lost in the sauce because of that.

**JMS:** Yeah, it's still seems like a second option instead of the first, yeah.

**CJ:** I want it to be the other way around when it comes to my media company. We do audio here, but, oh, you want to, you want to film or whatever, okay. We'll do that too.

**JMS:** Cool. Alright, so this is going to be the last question right here. So Crystal, you are doing really cool stuff. I think your idea about Shhh! Jus' Listen media, I think that's really cool, and I will look forward to, like, seeing what that becomes. Past Due season two is going to come out soon and that's going to be fantastic, I know it. Kiss is going to have an audio movie or a faceless film, as you say, it's going to be, like, really cool stuff. You're doing really cool stuff. So. I want to know, like, with all of these things that you're doing I want to know how you'll know when you've made it?

**CJ:** It's funny. I think I was just talking about this not too long ago. About how do you know when you've made it, um, when I've made it I will, I will say, cause I'm harder on myself than anybody else. So, anybody's criticism and everything, like, that's nothing compared to the criticism I give myself, which is not a great thing, but it, it gives you, I guess, a lot tougher skin when it comes to dealing with people cause it's like that you said that, oh, that's nothing. I do that to myself all the time.

**JMS:** You should here what's going on in my head.

**CJ:** Right.

**(Crystal and Jade Laugh)**

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**CJ:** So that's nothing. But when I, I think when I make it is when, um, I'm uh, when I'm no longer afraid to just do it. I have a lot of fear when it comes to certain things, and of course my motto has been for last year and this year do it afraid, just do it afraid. And a lot of the stuff that I'm doing, I know everyone's like, "oh, that's so cool." I am scared out of my mind to do some of this stuff that I'm doing because it's...it's going to be much bigger than me. And I know that and trying to conceptualize that is not an easy thing for an overthinker, but I'm going to keep overthinking it and trying to conceptualize and you can't.

**(Jade Laughs)**

Some things are just, it's above me now. It's bigger than me.

**JMS:** Yeah.

**CJ:** Um, and so. I, and I, as I see it playing out before me every day, I'm literally in awe, like, even down to this interview, like, wow, you want to talk to me? Okay.

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

Um, you know, so things like that, but I think when I actually make it is when I'm not just telling myself, I'm not like, cause right now, like I said, I'm doing it afraid, but once I'm actually no longer afraid at all to just move when it's time to move, that's when I'll know I made it cause there's, there will be no reason. I will have no reason to be afraid, you know?

**JMS:** Mhmm.

**CJ:** Um, so yeah, I'll think I've made it once I'm no longer afraid to just do dope shit, excuse my language-

**(Jade Laughs)**

That's when I'm just no longer afraid. All right.

**JMS:** Yeah. Okay. Well then thank you for sharing your answer. Could you tell us, could you tell the people where they can find you?



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**CJ:** I am on, let's see Facebook under my government name, Crystal Judkins.

**(Jade Laughs)**

I'm also on there under, uh, XPerience J. There is a Past Due: Audio Series Facebook and a Kiss: The Audio Series Facebook also. On-

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

On Instagram, you can follow me at XPerience J. I have a Past Due Audio Series, uh, Kiss: The Audio Series and, uh, BlackAudioDramasExsit, I told you it was too many-

**(Jade and Crystal Laugh)**

And, and the Black Women Speak Page. Uh, so if you put all of that in IG or Google or somewhere, it will come up. Cause I don't want to waste all of that time, but yes, also on Twitter, um, all of those names, you can find us all over.

**'On Their Way' Theme Song Fades In**

**JMS:** Thank you for listening to episode 7 of On Their Way season 3. On Their Way was created, hosted, and edited by me, Jade Madison Scott. The theme was composed by **Bajio Alvarado**, and the logo was created by Amaka Korie. If you'd like to help us continue to make podcasts like On Their Way or our other show, Retribution, you can support us on Patreon for as little as one dollar a month. In addition to helping us pay for crew and overhead, you'd also gain early access to episodes and exclusive content. You can find the link on our website, [wgcreproductions.com](http://wgcreproductions.com). You can also show us some love by following us @withgoodco on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook and telling your friends about us. Next week we'll be talking to podcast creator, David Orion Pena. As always I appreciate you for listening, and please take care of yourself and each other.