



TRANSCRIPCIÓN ORIGINAL DE STUDIO OCHENTA

MIJA ON THE MIKE - ANNA HOSSNIEH

00:08 LORY

Welcome to Mija on the Mike, where me, Mija, interviews daughters of immigrants were making moves in their industries around the world.

00:14 LORY

Today I'm excited to invite art podcast host, podcast executive, and Iranian American daughter of immigrants, Anna Hossnieh. Anna is an Iranian American live comedy video podcast producer and writer who co-hosts the very funny and always wonderful Ethnically Ambiguous podcast. So I'm so excited to chat to you because I love your show and I love that your intro is, who am I? Who are my parents and where are my pants? I think many of us can relate to that.

00:43 LORY

So let's jump in. Mija is all about immigrant story. So I want to start with your immigrant history if you can go into it a little bit.

00:52 ANNA

Yeah, so my parents were both born in Iran and in their early 20s both immigrated to the US to go to college and they both in a weird turn of events ended up in Utah, which is a very interesting state. But at the time, a lot of universities, because it was like, you know, the early to mid 70s, we were accepting a lot of Iranian foreign students basically.

01:22 ANNA

They were just all applying to go to university and I think a lot of Iranians at the time were just going to come to America, get their college degrees and then go back to Iran. And that was before the Iranian Revolution happened in 1979 when a lot of Iranians who already here decided, you know what? I'll say, unless they were deported or went back for any other reason. So yeah, my parents both came to Utah separately to go to university and they ended up meeting each other at a mutual friends wedding in the early 80s, I believe.

02:01 ANNA

And yeah, once they met, they decided to get married based on understanding. My dad had already been married once to get a green card. And then he and this woman that he married divorced and then when my mom and him met, I think they got married pretty quickly

because then my mom needed a green card. But then, you know, they stayed together because you know, worked out.

02:27 LORY

That's amazing. A true immigrant love story.

02:30 ANNA

Yeah. Based on through like a contractual agreement.

02:34 LORY

So tell me a little bit about your relationship with Iran and you know, how that culture was kind of present in your home growing up.

02:43 ANNA

I grew up in a very Iranian household. So you know, we only speak far see like the culture was very present so much so that it was almost torturous as a youth who's trying to like fit in, you know, it was always very much like it was very clear.

I was Iranian and my parents are also very Iranian. So you know, and we were always surrounded by family friends who were also in the community, like the Iranian community. So our house always smelled weird to my non-Iranian friends. And I always, you know, I always felt like, you know, I didn't fit in because I was like one of the Iranian kids within like the Iranian community.

03:23 ANNA

So like there wasn't a lot of other girls I could like hang out with. There were a few here and there, but most for the most part they were like a little older than me. I always sort of felt like, you know, I couldn't relate a lot to people because I was like, no one gets me. You know, I was very dramatic because I wasn't very good at like sort of processing these emotions. And my parents were like: "Well, you have a roof over your head, so be happy". In retrospect, am glad I was so deep in the culture and like surrounded by Iranians and always speaking far see because you know, I can speak it to this day and it's nice to be able to communicate with my parents and also like I would go to Iran every few years my whole life.

04:04 ANNA

So that was also good because then it allowed me to communicate with my family in Iran. And I could like talk to people and continue to have a relationship with family members who were not in this country because my parents were the only people from their respective families that came to America like no one else in our families in America except for my parents.

04:24 ANNA

So yeah, you know, I've spent a good amount of time in Iran and I really love it. But there I actually haven't been back since 2017. I was there when the sort of Muslim ban happened when Trump took office and that was very sort of it was such a confusing time because I was in Iran. Everyone's like sending me all this information. I'm like, what is happening? And it's been hard to sort of motivate myself to go back to Iran, especially when Trump was the president and then COVID happened. And it's just COVID was really bad over there. And so it's been a I want to go back soon because I feel like this is the longest I haven't gone back

to Iran, but I'm hoping maybe in the next few years I can find my way back eventually. Because a lot of my relatives are getting older, you know, I want to go back and see them potentially for the last few times you never know.

05:18 LORY

There's so much about the daughter of immigrant experience that is about that extended family being so far away. I wonder if there's anyone in your family that you've been able to have that kind of connection with despite that distance. I don't know if maybe you had someone who inspired you, who's back home or in that home, if you could call it home, where is home?

05:39 ANNA

I communicate with all my cousins and my cousins kids quite regularly. I mean, like thanks to social media, like we're talking all the time. Like all we do is like respond to each other's Instagram stories and be like, that's funny what's going on. What's this? We have like, you can use like WhatsApp or Telegram and we like text each other and few of the younger cousins have gone to Australia actually to go to college and stuff. So like, that's pretty cool. So like, if I wanted to, we could go to like Australia and meet up or there's like, we're definitely in communication, which is nice.

06:12 ANNA

The tough part is like, you're actively missing like a physical like relationship of like watching like my cousins, like young son who last time I saw him was probably like, seven or eight years old and I just saw a photo of him like the other day and he's like, I mean, he's got to be like 13 or 14 now. I'm like, wow, he's like a teen. It's a very surreal feeling to be like, you're growing up over like through photos and I wish I could be able to like, you know, actually physically be around them.

06:46 ANNA

But it's a strange thing and I would say like my biggest sort of, I mean, influencer person that like meant a lot to me was my uncle and well, as a couple of my uncle and my aunt, my dad's oldest brother and his wife. You know, my uncle passed away a few years ago and he was such a very sort of patriarchal figure in my household, like in my family, my Iranian family and till like after he passed away, like he always, he didn't say a lot. We kind of had a family tragedy when I was like 13 or 14 where his son passed away and like a very sort of freak accident. Ever since then, he's always been like almost like a very quiet silent type. Like he only spoke when he really had something to say and I just remember I would just spend like hours just sitting next to him and he would just like change smoke and not say anything but that was like almost like a comfort level of just being next to him physically that always like sort of gave me this piece of knowing that he was there.

07:49 ANNA

And when he did say stuff to me like it was always things that like literally like changed my whole perspective on like my family and like my dad and like my thoughts on certain things, which was always like there's very like key moments in my life and just in like a moment of like self-doubt or like her or like sort of anxiety, he would turn to me and just say something and it would just mean like the world to me because he was like opening up in this way and

telling me something about like my family that like I didn't know or didn't realize and and I was just be like, whoa.

08:25 ANNA

He's giving me like almost a gift here that like traditionally in like immigrant families like your parents don't really like open up to you know. They're not sitting there being like let's dissect our feelings like why do we feel these things or why do we do what we do like it's so much like culturally and you're on like you don't sit there and be like I'm sad or I'm depressed or I'm anxious and like why why am I like this. So it was always very hard for me to like understand certain things of like maybe like oh we're just certain mental illness come from in my life and and it was very small brief moments just throughout my life and he would just like tell me like just maybe like a sentence or two and then just go back to being like very quiet and you know not worried but those were like very important times in my life and after he passed away like I felt his wife my aunt was her presence like she's such a strong woman.

09:18 ANNA

She had gone through something so horrible to like lose one her son early on and then she lost her husband and sort of a sudden death her like strength and also like ability to be a rock for like almost everyone around her. I just I've always very very much admired her for that and thought she was just such an incredible woman like is it real like is she real she's such a like almost majestic figure because she just holds such weight like within our family and yeah there's like the two people that really stand out to me and we're going to answer your question.

09:53 LORY

That's beautiful. No you you know some people answer that question in a lot of different ways and and that was really beautiful to hear I think something that we have that is so valuable is this connection to family and if we're able to maintain it it's it's a beautiful thing. But I would like to kind of move on into this side that is more fun comedy. Tell me about the podcast. Why is it called Ethnically Ambiguous?

10:20 ANNA

It is called ethnically ambiguous because so Shereen Lani and I my co-host we would always talk about how we were considered ethnically ambiguous. We'd say like oh like no one knows what we are everyone thinks you know we could be of Latinx origin we could be I mean Shereen has a Persian name so I want to think she was Persian but she's actually Syrian and so it's like we were always like trying to find a way to explain who we are you know. We went to college together and we were like acquaintances because we were in the same major but like we got to know each other after college when we both moved to Los Angeles and when we got here we were both kind of like oh we all we have one big thing in common which is that like that we're both ethnically ambiguous and it's not very clear what we are and we always sort of like bonded over being kids of immigrants and we just started like collaborating on like funny little like videos and writings and sketches and then we decided to do a web series on this sort of women's based YouTube channel called "snarled".

11:26 ANNA

We did a web series called Ethnically Ambiguous for six episodes after we did that it was just like a lot of work and you know when you're trying to like do stuff on YouTube and it was kind

of like it was tough so one of the producers on who worked at snarled was like you should make it into a podcast so just be easier to produce and then release and you can add more content and then you can like get it out a lot quicker and you can do more and we were like okay yeah let's do that. So we just started actually I remember I was in Iran I think 2017 when we recorded our first episode over the internet it was like this strangest thing which did a call which is so funny because it's it's like now how we do everything but this is a 2017 and we hadn't really like perfected recording a podcast. That's kind of how it came about is very much like we wanted a place where we could talk about the feelings that we had that we thought were so universal to other children of immigrants that like I guess at the time in 2017 wasn't being discussed I guess on podcast as much. Now it's it's you know podcasting has really boomed so there's a lot more people out there talking about it but the whole theme of the show that we'd always go back to is that you're not alone like these feelings are what a lot of us feel and I think just like having all these different guests on our show.

12:48 ANNA

That's like a one big thing we learn is like it's all so relatable like we all went through a very similar experience like emotionally it might not be we might not be from the exact same cultures you know but like there is some underlying themes that a lot of us children of immigrants experience.

13:07 LORY

I'd love to talk about that because of course we have a lot of things in common and it's something that we proved on me in that sense because every season was a different immigrant family and in the end a lot of the storylines are very similar. Whether it's a Colombian family or a Chinese family or an Egyptian family. So I would like to maybe if you could go I don't know I'd say your top three things that you've learned over 300 episodes you have right it's a huge show. So maybe if you can give us your top three learnings of things that themes general things that you feel like everyone really really can relate to from all of these experiences.

13:45 ANNA

The big one which I mentioned earlier is the sort of the therapyzing of emotions like it's just not really a thing I think a big part of the struggle about being an immigrant is like you find that your parents are like there's no time or room to complain like you need to just go out and do your thing and work hard to get like you need to succeed basically and it's like coming from a different country coming to America. You're all the sudden like I'm in a new land I don't speak the language, I need to either like try and get into a school go to college or I need to get a job and start working and like work my way up. And you know my mom came and just went to college my dad came and like was working at like gas stations working at oil companies just like trying to like work his way and then eventually went to university but then spent like every summer working really hard to succeed and like literally like I remember he said like I learned to speak English like watching you know TV. You learn the tradition from watching a TV show like that's how you had to come in and be like I want I'm an American now I'm going to just like you know take in as much as I can and then there's certain things that just like left an imprint.

14:57 ANNA

And those sort of like feelings and dissecting your emotions has never really been a thing. One thing I do want to say like something and we learn to do all our interviews is like this isn't always the case this is the case the majority of the time but we do have some outliers who didn't experience this whose parents were immigrants and we're just you know a little more down to give their kids sort of that space to figure out what they want to do in life but the majority want you to go into a career that's stable. Study to be like an electrical engineer you know you can get a job you know you can create stability in your life and then you know get health insurance that that's always like a very sort... of pushed you know agenda in these households we've seen. And a lot of the people we talk to are you know artists and like in this sort of more creative realm and so a lot of the mad that experience of being like: "yeah you know I wasn't the easiest including my own experience of being like yeah you know I'm not necessarily going to go be a lawyer which my dad always said I should be because I love to argue but I wanted my freedom".

16:08 ANNA

And something again I would like to stay it's it was it was actually quite nice to hear when you hear from someone and they're like actually like my parents were supportive because it gives you hope you're like yeah that's nice to hear that they were supportive of you and that they were like yeah go be a comedian or go be a writer or you know go just explore what you want to do in life and that's it's nice to hear to see another side outside like the almost stereotypical experience that so much of us have.

16:39 LORY

It's the juxtaposition of oh you can be an artist or you can be something that's stable and yeah. In a lot of the shows that we produce at Ochenta there's always a character that you know wants to be an actor or something and the mom is like no you can't do that sweetie you're going to want to eat someday and that's not going to help you.

16:56 LORY

I just had this conversation with someone this week about the fact that my mom growing up I told her one day that I wanted to move to Paris. I was like I'm taking French classes and one day I will move to Paris. My mom at the time like she's a single mom raising two kids a pay to pay check it's not easy life. But instead of saying: "No you can't do that". She said: "You know, dreaming is free. Soñar no cuesta nada.". So it's exactly that. She could have been like: "No you can't do that" but she just instead of like shutting me down she just said okay dreaming is free right now you can dream all you want. And actually I do live in Paris now and I did end up achieving my dream. But I think it means so much when a parent can do that and I think it's so cool now that where that generation that grew up with many different experiences of course. Now is able to even pass that on to the next generation as well like a lot of the other people I've been chatting to on this show is kind of asking themselves those questions about their kids or their, you know, the younger generation that maybe is one generation out away from this experience. I'm curious if you had any any learnings from people that are maybe on the younger side and who aren't necessarily growing up with the same societal requirements in that sense of course we still have a lot of different issues. But I feel like now this younger generation coming up they're more open and they're more like multicultural and what and they're not facing the same kind of othering that we might have grown up within the 90s and 80s and 90s I don't know if you had anyone that kind of pointed that out because I've been seeing that a lot with like the younger folks.

18:36 ANNA

Um it actually makes me think about how I don't really interact with a lot of sort of like Gen Z currently. It's something I noticed like how open the younger generations are and how it doesn't feel so yeah like the othering doesn't feel so pointed like you get othered for being a bad person. Like you have to have like really sort of terrible takes or like politics or you know just be like a manipulative sort of gas like you know. Like all these like sort of buzzwords but like you have to be like just like a bad person to get other you don't really get othered as much because you're like I mean and I'm also speaking in my very sort of coastal bubble. So I grew up in the 90s that was a tough time like you know people were still being pretty terrible if they just didn't understand you.

19:21 ANNA

But I feel like now it's like people, something I've noticed is they ask questions. It's almost like cool to be interested in people's culture and like when I tell people I'm Persian like oh I look like just people I you know that I don't know that well and I don't assume no lot about like Persian culture where we're like I love Ghormeh Sabzi and you're like well like "you know what Ghormeh Sabzi is?" and it's like oh yeah like times are different like people go and try these foods you can go to like Brooklyn and go to like hip Persian restaurant that's doing like you know bringing Persian flavors into like a modern twist and you're like yeah because people now can just go and experience that.

That was never the case when I was growing up. Even with the adults it's like all of a thing in the world opened up everyone's more interested and like the younger generation is actually engaged.

20:10 ANNA

It's a question that I've been having on the whole thinking about how you know the second third fourth generations are going to have this experience because it certainly feels like more of an open society and they're not necessarily asking themselves the same questions.

20:24 LORY

At one point I was thinking well will this show still be relevant because we won't be asking ourselves these questions you know 10 years from now. And that's a beautiful thing that might be the case that this will not be a questioning like all how hard it was and all these things. But then like the discourse is going to be a different thing there's going to be a different issue that we have to deal with but of course just seeing that it's going in a positive way is really exciting for for me as a daughter of immigrants and I think for the future generations at least.

20:50 LORY

So I do want to ask now that you're even I think even what you're saying it seems like you're you would maybe agree with this statement like is it cool to be ethnically ambiguous now?.

21:01 ANNA

I think so. Maybe when I was young I didn't have this opinion because I was just so terrified and wanted to fit in but like now I think it's cool I think it's... I feel like also maybe I'm just drawn to other ethnically ambiguous people because I feel like they can relate to my experience. But yeah like I remember like a few years into the podcast of like a year or two

like, we were in our studios and Alfred Molina was in our studios doing another podcast and he like walked by our show poster and was like “Ethnically Ambiguous? I've always been described as ethnically ambiguous”. And that led to him being a guest on our show and so that was like really cool to have someone like this. Has been how I've been described my whole life and give it sort of this authenticity of like yeah this is a very real thing.

21:44 ANNA

And I'm glad we chose something that was in a way like relatable to a lot of people who maybe didn't have the words for it or just didn't like realize how relatable it was until like hear our podcast and be like: “Yeah, this is. This is it”.

21:59 LORY

So I always ask all of my guests to share maybe a beloved childhood memory something that kind of describes your experience as a daughter of immigrants in a unique way. So maybe if you can flash back to a moment when you were growing up that kind of encapsulates that experience.

22:22 ANNA

I think something that I've always really I think back on and I've always I was very glad I experienced is I grew up in the Bay Area of California. And so our parents put us in Persian like speaking and writing classes and they were taught by just like a woman in the community like she just she had like different students come in and you know we would go once a week and learn to whatever right and far see, And she had such like a massive group of students that once year around Persian New Year she would hold like this giant like show. That we all got to be a part of like we all got to play different roles in the show. And then like a bunch of the parents and like the community would come out and would be like a giant concert hall and it was like so fun. I remember that being like so much fun. And like being able to be a part of this community with all these other students that like I didn't necessarily go to school with they were just like kids I knew from like Persian class you know.

23:21 ANNA

So I always think of that as a very positive experience you know?. It was like the home like I feel like when I was young like the time where I was like so happy and proud to be a Persian. Because you were in your community you're insulated and then you didn't have to worry about like anyone who didn't get it being like: “what is this?”. Because like everyone got it and everyone was invested and it was really fun.

23:41 LORY

As an adult, do you have that same connection with your community? Now that you're kind of I don't know if you're like still involved in in the community like that. Do you seek it out?

23:52 ANNA

I mean I have like Persian friends in LA that I yeah yeah. I mean, I would say I'm engaged I'm still very much like it's ingrained in me you know like I have to celebrate I don't know how not to you know. My parents were only like five hours away so we've very much still close so I almost feel like I wouldn't even know how not to be Persian. I find myself doing and saying you know like I know like I'm turning into my dad and I feel it. There's certain things that I find

myself hurt by and I'm immediately like interact like I start acting like my dad and I'm like yeah I'm just an old Persian man.

24:28 LORY

Incredible a lot of people find it hard like when they move away from their family you're no longer having to be kind of forced to do the traditions like you are when you're a kid and you know that kind of pulling you into this thing if you don't really know it. Yeah it's difficult so that's incredible that you've kept that connection.

24:45 LORY

I know you're you're also involved in a lot of diversity and like inclusion efforts at your work. I would love to hear about some of the projects you're most proud of because you're proud of your culture, you're proud of your identity, you're doing it in this like individual podcast that you feature your your own voice so much. And we're going to have Shereen you know the show, actually I'm going to interview her later. But I know you do so much more so what are some projects that you're you're particularly proud of that you've kind of brought on.

25:12 ANNA

Yeah, so in 2020 I created a program called Next Up for iHearth. And it's sort of a diversity inclusion program. There was a lot of sort of like podcasting boot camps for like women and you know minorities that I would see at other networks and I always thought like like iHeart can do that like it's a massive network like why don't we do something like that? And then so I talked to a bunch of people and did a lot of research and created this like sort of boot camp like program for podcasting called Next Up. Which is basically like six months where we have people of color or minorities or you know people from marginalized groups in this program where we give them an opportunity to develop and produce their own shows. About whatever they would like to talk about or whatever they think is important to tell their own stories basically.

26:09 ANNA

In six months basically we pay for everything we give them all the equipment we give them mentors. We basically help them develop produce record edit and have like a full. So by the end of the program, the six months they have three recorded fully edited, mixed, mastered episodes and then a pitch deck and the idea. Was that like we don't own any of the the big part of the show or the program was like I don't want to take anyone's IP where not here just like IP farm from like people of color. It's that's, we've watched industries do that for years that's not okay. So the big part of my sort of thing was like we're going to do this it's their IP we don't touch it if we don't take their show they get to walk away do whatever they want with it. They get to keep their equipment, they get to go be a podcaster, go to another network, go do something else, whatever, producing independently, it's not our business we can't take anything from these people we can only give.

27:05 ANNA

And our first round was a success. That actually iHeart came and got a sponsor, Toyota came and sponsored all eight of the shows to be released on iHearth. Which was great shows like Partition which was about the India-Pakistan partition of 1947. We have a show that's still airing called: "BFF Black Fat Fam" hosted by Dr. Jonathan Higgins. "When you're invisible" hosted by Maria Diaz which is about being you know a child of people who work

behind the scenes, basically make sure the world runs so it's like housekeepers, you know, the cooks, the people who like run the, like, shipping, packaging services at universities like all these different people who don't get looked at twice but are the backbone of our country.

27:52 ANNA

If nothing else happens in my life and this is it at least I got to like you know use my space and position at iHeart to create this program and give other people the opportunity to put their shows and stories out there. Which you know we really have to hustle to do with Ethnically Ambiguous.

So I'm glad I can just provide that opportunity for them. I like to think like I got my foot in the door and I should like my my foot is still in the door and I'm like: "Get in, get in, get in, get in, get in, get in". You know, like: "Hurry, hurry, hurry, hurry, they let me in so let's all". I'm just trying to get everyone in while I'm still here.

28:32 LORY

It's great. Oh my gosh thank you for that work that you're doing that's incredible. I can't wait to hear them. So we are coming to the end of the interview I want to ask you some speed round questions. So, what language do you swear in when you accidentally touch a hot plate?

28:47 ANNA

In English.

28:48 LORY

Favorite food?

28:49 ANNA

Oh, probably fesenjan which is like a Persian dish. That not a lot of people love but I think it's legendary

28:56 LORY

What it is it made of it's?

28:58 ANNA

Like a stew but it's like a thick stew and it has chicken in it but it has almond like nut flavor it's like a lot of flavors at once.

29:08 LORY

What's the song you've had in your head this week?

29:11 ANNA

This is random. But Reba's "The night..."

19:16 LORY

The intro music?

19:18 ANNA

No, I do love that song though but “The night the lights went out in Georgia”. It's just really it's a jam by Reba. It's random I've been on a Reba kick recently because I just saw her in concerts I've been watching and listening to a lot of her music.

29:32 LORY

Incredible. What's your last Google Search that you're comfortable sharing?

29:37 ANNA

My last Google search? That's a very good question. Let me look at my history. I was looking at apparently they're like releasing all the scripts to succession in a book form... I don't know. I was just I was reading about that because I was like they're gonna release them all. But I guess they are, yeah I mean, obviously you can't get the fourth season until eight errors but I I was curious like when that's happening, how that's happening and if it actually is like coming from the writers. And it is which is cool.

30:07 LORY

Amazing. what is your biggest dream?

30:09 ANNA

Oh man, my biggest dream... I mean, to keep telling stories. Like I'm telling I guess. It would be nice to do it on like an even bigger platform be able to. I would love to take people's shows and help them sell their like IP and making like you know get bigger like sell a TV show, make a movie. Like get people to further get their stories out there that would be great.

30:37 LORY

Yeah, all right. Last question is: What is your advice to any other daughter of immigrant, mijas, who are scared to take a leap and start telling their story? What is the thing that you would give them as advice?

30:50 ANNA

Just, compartmentalize the fear and anxiety. That's a lot of what I do. I have a lot of anxiety and I just compartmentalize it. And I jump in head first just almost blind confidence that I don't necessarily have but I just do it. Because I think so much of like it is being like no no like staying your place don't step out because that's like what my family taught me my whole life is like just be a good persian woman. And it's like I to fight that and I just go and I do it. And I don't try and overthink it. Because I think if I think too much about it that's when my anxiety kicks in and I start to be like: “oh no why did I say that or oh why did I do that”. And just don't think about that aspect of it. Just do it. Tell your story, release the podcast, whatever write the script and then turn away from it and don't let yourself overanalyze what you've just done.

31:49 LORY

Because I think so much of us get scared and you get like imposter syndrome and you start to be like I shouldn't be the one to do this. Don't think about it. Just go and say I am the person who should tell this story and then don't think any further about it and let yourself go. Release yourself from that sort of stress and anxiety and fear. And then just keep doing it over and over again. Because that's just hat I do every week I just let it go once it's done it's

done it's out of my control and I have to just move forward. And that's what I do every week the same way I know how to survive because if I don't then it'll eat away at me and I'll stop. You know trying to create and I don't yeah I don't want to do that.

32:28 LORY

Amazing. That's great advice. Thank you so much. It's so exciting also to hear the incredible work you're doing to bring other stories into the years of many thousands millions. So one last thing is, where can we find your show? Give us a shout out to your socials, please.

32:46 ANNA

Our show is called Ethnically Ambiguous .It's on all podcast platforms hosted by me and my co-host Shereen Lani, who you will hear eventually on the show. Yeah, you can find it anywhere. My Twitter is at @annahosnieh I promote all the shows I work on on that um Twitter page, so you'll see I'm just constantly posting about the shows that I'm working on. You can follow me on Instagram at @sellinghosnieh. I like to say that's where I sort of like sell myself to you because again I'm just like promoting the work we're doing. And then I actually have a Substack which I write on about different sorts of feelings I have about any sort of pop culture. Just like you know I talk a lot about my family and and sort of growing up as a child of immigrants, a lot about plastic surgery and like sort of the idea of what it means for like looks and Persian communities and that sort of obsession. But uh yeah that's sellinghosnieh.substack.com if you want to go read my writing. It's all free I don't charge for any of it. Just a place to a creative outlet to write because I feel like I get so bogged down with like producing that I... I need a place to get my feelings out.

33:55 LORY

That's amazing.

33:58 LORY

Thanks for listening. This is Mija on the Mike, a season of reflection on our shared experiences as daughters of immigrants. Over the next couple of weeks, I'll be sharing stories like these and inviting guests to share theirs.

34:14 LORY

Follow us on Instagram at @mijapodcast. That's M-I-J-A podcast and leave us a note if you like this story.

34:22 LORY

Tune in every Wednesday for a new episode. This is a production of Studio Ocenta, a Latina-owned multi-lingual podcast studio dedicated to raising voices across cultures. For more from Studio Ocenta, follow us at @ochentapodcasts on Instagram. That's O-C-H-E-N-T-A podcast with an S on Instagram.

34:29 LORY

P.S. Don't forget this season is also about you. If you have a story you'd like to share or if you'd like to be a guest on the show, I invite you to reach out on Instagram at @mijapodcast and leave us a message with a short story or memory of yours that warms your heart. We'll read it out loud on the show. Hasta pronto. Ciao!