

In Proximity
PODCAST Q&A: Paola Mardo and Crew
Season 3, Episode 41
Final Transcript

Paola Mardo: You're watching and listening to In Proximity. I'm Paola Mardo and today is our season finale. We're doing something different. We are taking you around the Proximity office and our podcast studio and answering your questions about how we make this show.

[0:16 - "In Proximity Theme" by Ludwig Göransson]

Paola Mardo: So we made it to over 40 episodes of In Proximity this season. Thanks for watching, listening, supporting us throughout the show. We gave you original interviews and conversations, Sinners specials, some Prox Gems, and some episodes from the archives. Thanks again for all the support and we see you in the comments since we made the transition to video here on YouTube. You guys have been giving us a lot of great feedback, some notes, critical feedback too, but we appreciate all of them. And you've also asked us a lot of great questions. So we figured why not gather them around. We even asked for some more questions on social media and today I'm going to answer how we make the podcast with the folks I make the podcast with.

All right If you are listening to this on Spotify or Apple Podcasts, this might be a good time to finally check us out on YouTube because we are doing more visual things and you'll get to see stuff here in our office as I show you around. And if you are chronically online or on YouTube just like I am, you may notice that we are tipping our hat so to speak to some popular shows here on YouTube. So check that out. And by the way, I know some of y'all love a handheld camera on this show. Yep, yep, yep. I see you. Hey, we were trying some different things here so thanks again for hanging with us. Thanks for hanging with us on this episode. It's going to be a lot of fun and let us know what you think in the comments.

[1:48 - "Best Coast" by Ken Nana]

Joy Woo: All right, Paola. We're starting with our first segment, 73 Questions with you!

Paola Mardo: Whoa, whoa, whoa. 73? I do not think I approved that.

Joy Woo: Okay. Actually, let's just do seven because we have a lot to get through. Is there anything our listeners need to know before we start?

Paola Mardo: Yes. Well, for this first segment, I would say you should know that the person asking me questions is the one and only Joy Woo, our fabulous production coordinator. Take it away, Joy.

Joy Woo: Thanks, Paola. Okay. So a lot of people ask how you got started in your career or broke into the industry and how you landed at Proximity Media.

Paola Mardo: Ooh, man. Well, I guess to tell you how I got here, we got to go a little bit back. I was born in Los Angeles, but grew up in Manila, Philippines and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. And when I was 15, my family and I moved to the Bay Area, East Bay, San Ramon, 925 to be exact.

And yeah, that experience was a culture shock and I think it was transformative in my life, but also in my life as a storyteller. So years later I first started working in film in the publicity side of things at a movie studio. I worked at a film festival as an intern, worked in marketing, worked at a production company. Eventually I discovered podcasts and through that I developed and produced my own show called Long Distance about stories in the Filipino diaspora. There's a podcast with a short doc companion series to it as well and I got to explore my experiences as a teenage immigrant and tell stories about my community.

And that sort of informed me throughout my career, I guess, so to speak and how I got to Proximity. It's a long story, but the short version is I was in a very small random Google group. Someone posted about a podcast producer job at Proximity Media. The company did not have any social media or website at the time, but I did read, it was Ryan Coogler, Zinzi Coogler, Sev Ohanian. We wanted to make a podcast. I was like, "What? I'm from the Bay. I know these folks." So I don't know. I just sent a cold application to them. Someone hit me up the next day, Gaby Arvizu, my now colleague here at Proximity on the nonfiction side. And I think it was maybe a day or so later I was on the phone with Pete Nicks, who was a documentary filmmaker, shout out and was then running our nonfiction team.

I had talked with Pete. I talked to Sev. Eventually I met Ryan and Zinzi and the rest is history. So yeah, that's my career/Proximity story. The short version, I guess.

Joy Woo: That's amazing. A little disclaimer before we ask the next question. We did look up pronouncers, but if we butcher your name, please, we are so sorry. But yeah. All right. Janet Ekpo from Lagos, Nigeria asked, how did you know this was the right career path for you?

Paola Mardo: Oh man. Great question, Janet. I would say I'm still here, so far so good. But no, I'm having a lot of fun. Like I said, I've always been into writing and storytelling, film, performing, and it all sort of has coalesced into what I do now and I'm still having fun. I think that's the most important part. That said, I think it is time to finally go into the office. Let's go.

Joy Woo: This one's from Malika Datta in Memphis, Tennessee. "What do you love most about what you do?"

Paola Mardo: Ooh, that's an easy one. I get to do fun stuff like this with an incredible team at Proximity and on the podcast.

Joy Woo: Nivia Charles from the Bay Area asked, "How did the podcast come to be? How long between ideation and execution?"

Paola Mardo: Ooh, all great questions. How this came to be, it was one of the first shows I pitched when I got to Proximity and ideation to execution. In our conversations they asked, "How do we get this started? What do you do?" I said, "Oh, we gotta pilot." Ryan said, "What do you need for the pilot?" I said, "Can we get you and Michael B. Jordan on an episode talking about how you guys met?" And he literally texted Michael and very soon after that we were the three of us in a recording studio and I was recording what was our pilot and what then became the first episode of this podcast. And here we are three seasons later we're still going and we're now on video, believe it or not.

Joy Woo: That's so cool! Thanks for answering all of that. Nivia also says you're a dope host, by the way.

Paola Mardo: Oh my gosh. Thank you, Nivia. Shout out to you. Appreciate you. Let me walk you in here. There's some folks I work with. You'll meet them later. This is the bullpen, by the way, where all the magic happens for Proximity.

Joy Woo: Rome Sol from Texas asks, "As someone working on their own projects, what is the best advice you've taken from the show and how did it help you?"

Paola Mardo: This is a great question. First of all, I've learned a lot of things and there's a lot of great advice on this podcast. So please watch the episodes, check them out. I've listened and watched every single one of them as I work here. That said, I would say the episode with Ryan and Charles D. King, who is the founder of Macro and a former agent at William Morris. That episode has really stuck with me. They talked about the business side of the industry, the agency side, which I didn't really know much about. So I learned a lot in producing that episode and Ryan recommended a book. This is, I guess, more of a rec, but it was the best piece of advice was to read the book. It's called *The Mailroom* and it is a deep dive into the history of the agency world in film and entertainment.

And yeah, it was salacious as Ryan said, but a fun read and I read a lot of books about the industry before that, but this one was, I think, just—you get to learn about the agency and the business side through folks who lived through it and helped build it. So it's a little dated, but it's worth a read.

Joy Woo: Shout out to Ryan. A couple folks asked about career challenges. Can you share a challenge or difficult moment in your career and what you learned from that?

Paola Mardo: Man, how much time you got? There are a lot of challenges, I guess, in the creative career so to speak. But I would say early on, I guess I really, when I look back, I was waiting for permission to do things, right? Whether it was a podcast, a movie, write something, do something, get my big break. And when I finally realized I do not need to wait for permission, I can just do it myself, that's when things started to really move for me. So yeah, that's sort of how I handled that and it's kept me going ever since.

Joy Woo: Love it. Last question is just a fun one to know. We've made a bit of coffee on this podcast. What's your usual coffee order?

Paola Mardo: We have, and this is an easy one. It is a flat white with oat milk.

Joy Woo: Cheers to that. Here you go.

Paola Mardo: Thank you so much, Joy. Cheers to you. Well, I think that's enough about me. Thank you so much for all your questions. I actually hate being interviewed, so that was kind of a lot, but I appreciate sharing with you all. And now it's time for the good part. We get to talk about how we make this show with the people I make it with. Let's go to my office.

[8:49 - "Juno Arp Stinger" by Ken Nana]

Paola Mardo: Welcome to my office. This is where I do my work. So I watch cuts. I research guests. I write my interview questions, take meetings with the team. And when we transitioned

into video, this space also became a sort of green room where I do my hair, makeup, get ready, hence the clothing rack.

Okay. So for this next segment, I'm going to answer questions about how we actually make the show, the nitty-gritty production stuff and I'll be answering it alongside the folks who can get into the nitty-gritty with me, the crew. That said, we are in season three and we've had different crew members come in and out of the show over the various seasons. We've had audio and video producers, editors, interns, designers, all sorts of folks who've come in and helped make this show happen. Just wanted to shout out all those great, amazing, talented folks. Y'all know who you are. Their names are in the credits. Check them out if you haven't already. And now let's talk season three. You already met Joy, our production coordinator. Now get ready to meet the rest of the crew and have some chicken. Yes. If you know you know, think of this like chicken shop speed dating, but in an HR friendly sort of way.

We are in an office. Let's go.

[9:55 - "Sure" by Ken Nana]

Paola Mardo: Hi.

Celine Mendiola: Hi.

Paola Mardo: Welcome Celine Mendiola. Associate Producer of In Proximity.

Celine Mendiola: Thank you.

Paola Mardo: Excited to have this chicken with you today.

Celine Mendiola: I'm so excited for this.

Paola Mardo: Associate producer. You helped produce the show, but what does that actually mean?

Celine Mendiola: So helping produce the show, let me run down three things. So I keep the deadlines. I have this massive spreadsheet and I'm like every episode from beginning to end, where are we? That's one of my roles. The second one, I record the sound, so I'm also sound recordist. And so I help recording to Pro Tools, clean audio, all that jazz. And I help you with the creative preparation for the guests. What have they talked about? What can you ask them instead that's not already out there?

Paola Mardo: Man, you help keep the show going. You've been an incredible just part of the team really since season one, because we got to shout you out. You've been here since you were an intern.

Celine Mendiola: That's right!

Paola Mardo: And this is the best job you've ever had, right?

Celine Mendiola: Yeah, absolutely.

Paola Mardo: So what is your question today?

Celine Mendiola: Yes.

Paola Mardo: What have you brought me?

Celine Mendiola: Well, let me tell you, he is a local, and forgive me if I mispronounce his name. Elijuhel Persons from Los Angeles, California, asks, "What does your preparation process look like for interviews and how does it feel directly working with so many legends, yourself included?"

Paola Mardo: Oh my God. Elijuhel, you are too kind. I will take that. Thank you. Well, the prep involves working with you, working with an intern. Yes, enjoy the chicken. You're allowed to do that.

Celine Mendiola: Thank you.

Paola Mardo: For a listener, she just took a big bite of a chicken tender. Yeah. I mean, it's kind of what you were saying earlier. We really try to find our proximity angle on a conversation with a guest, right? If it's a filmmaker, if it's a musician. We always ask, have they been on other podcasts? Have they done other interviews? If so, what have they shared and what nugget can we sort of like maybe have them dig deeper on? Also, what are we interested in?

Celine Mendiola: Yeah.

Paola Mardo: I mean, one thing, I mean, I have to call this out. This season we had Pink Pantheress on the show.

Celine Mendiola: That's right.

Paola Mardo: And she is actually someone that you had pitched when you were an intern on season one. And she was always on our list. We have this massive sort of dream guest list and the stars sort of aligned finally this season and Joy really helped make that happen. Shout out.

Celine Mendiola: Shout out.

Paola Mardo: It's a lot of research. It's a lot of conversations with the team.

Celine Mendiola: I will add that it's not just a Google search online. It's not just movie trailers or show trailers. It's also social media. So sometimes I'll scroll through Instagram reels and Pink Panthers doing a TikTok dance appears and I'm like, "Wow, she's Gen Z like me. What if she's on the show?"

Paola Mardo: Hi.

Alexandria Santana: Hey.

Paola Mardo: Alexandria Santana.

Alexandria Santana: Yes.

Paola Mardo: Social media coordinator for not just In Proximity, but Proximity Media. What do you actually do on the show?

Alexandria Santana: So I create the short-form content for the show and I also am usually the one in the corner taking BTS, trying to get the best angles. And then I also do artwork for the show, like thumbnails and covers and the logo for the show.

Paola Mardo: Yeah. I mean, I think we had to mention you've been with me since the beginning really of this process. I think you were still in college at the time, but we were looking for a social media coordinator. We were lucky to be referred to you and yeah, it's been really cool. You literally helped design the look and feel of our branding, really, like this beautiful artwork In Proximity that people can see. Maybe you should also tell the good people of the Internet that there was no social media—

Alexandria Santana: There was none.

Paola Mardo:—before we got to Proximity, before I got here and I pitched the idea to our founders. It used to be you and me kind of running and gunning on the fly and sort of post Sinners.

Thankfully, we have a whole social team now that's come on board. Shout out also to our Chief Marketing and Operations Officer, Terra Potts, who really leads the charge now on all things marketing and social. But yeah, it's been kind of fun and interesting to kind of be with you on this journey since the beginning and see it grow because you also work with other folks, right? There's Kennedy on the Proximity team, Leisure and Roxanne at an agency called Proper that work with you as well. What's a fun memory from maybe the early days of our scrappy audio-only kind of version of the podcast?

Alexandria Santana: I have to say one of my favorite episodes that we did was actually the first in-person one we did with Ryan and Jordan Peele. That was like the first time I met Ryan and then just so happened—

Paola Mardo: This was for season two.

Alexandria Santana: This is for season two. Yeah.

Paola Mardo: Yeah. And you're right. We went to the Monkeypaw offices. We had your camera and we weren't doing a video podcast. It was still audio, but we wanted to film some content for social. I remember you had your tripod and our little indie kind of podcast video set.

Alexandria Santana: Very indie.

Paola Mardo: It was great. It was great. It was fun.

[LAUGHTER]

Alexandria Santana: I took too big of a bite. I remember us, we were like sitting on the floor just like watching them talk and I think that was the first time I really realized just like how special these conversations are just because I mean being in a room like that with those two minds is

so inspiring and just like, where else are you going to get that? I want people to feel how I feel in these rooms with these conversations happening.

Paola Mardo: Thank you Alexandria.

Alexandria Santana: Of course.

Paola Mardo: I think we were supposed to be more awkward.

Paola Mardo: Hi.

Ben Caloza: Hello.

Paola Mardo: Ben Caloza.

Ben Caloza: That's me.

Paola Mardo: Former intern at Proximity Media. Now editor—

Ben Caloza: Thank you very much.

Paola Mardo:—on the show and production assistant.

Ben Caloza: Thank you.

Paola Mardo: What's it like to be PA and editor versus intern?

Ben Caloza: That's a great question. I feel like being an intern here was an amazing experience. I feel like everyone in Proximity was just the most welcoming family of people that I've ever met or worked with. And now being no longer an intern, but just sort of like primarily working on this show, we get to make this really cool thing that's hopefully inspiring folks out there who are filmmakers like myself.

Paola Mardo: All right. And what's your listener question?

Ben Caloza: This one is from Elijah Cody from Bowie, Maryland and Tallahassee, Florida. The question is, "If I were to shadow an episode, what could I expect from pre-production to post?"

Paola Mardo: You've been on set with us so many times now.

Ben Caloza: Yeah.

Paola Mardo: What's it like to actually be in the production sort of part of the process?

Ben Caloza: It's really a lot like a traditional film set. We operate pretty professionally here.

Paola Mardo: Thank you for noticing.

Ben Caloza: Of course.

Paola Mardo: Any fun memories or unforgettable moments from those shoots?

Ben Caloza: The experience of meeting all the guests, whoever it is, whether it's, like, somebody like a hero like Ryan Coogler, of course, or like Shirley Kurata, who worked on Everything Everywhere All At Once, which is my favorite movie of all time. Or if it's someone that I maybe am not as familiar with, like Luke Matheny who's this amazing director, meeting every single guest and hearing their story and, like, kind of taking in what they have to say while on set, those are the parts that I'll definitely remember the most.

Paola Mardo: And also when we have like these special episodes sometimes offsite, sometimes like for the Sinners specials, we did them elsewhere outside of the studio for Courtney Storer, the culinary producer of The Bear. We went to her kitchen studio that was amazing.

Ben Caloza: Love that episode.

Paola Mardo: And then the specials here that we did, we made coffee with Maggie Gyllenhaal and Ryan Coogler and Michael B. Jordan. I mean, those days are different than the usual just regular interview days.

Ben Caloza: Yeah.

Paola Mardo: So Elijah also asked about the post-production side of things and as an editor. Can you talk about what to kind of expect from that process?

Ben Caloza: Of course. We have a super streamlined process in post production. Our workflow is very like A to B to C, which is a good thing because it's sort of having that structure and that framework for how you work in post-production is super helpful. We have all of our footage and all our assets organized and super well organized folders.

Paola Mardo: Shout out Patrick leading DIT as well, which leads to the very organized footage.

Ben Caloza: Oh yeah, absolutely.

Paola Mardo: You guys do the first pass at the cut. And then we also, once you guys get the first cut, we work together on it, maybe a round or two and then we share internally at proximity and get feedback. We do podcast screenings here. You've been at some of those, right? Where we actually like screen the episode. The interns, coordinators, anyone who's available.

Ben Caloza: Everyone gets in the room. Yes.

Paola Mardo: Sometimes Sev will jump in, sometimes Terra and it's just fun.

Paola Mardo: Hi.

[SILENCE]

So Ken Nana, the elusive sound designer, mix engineer, editor, extraordinaire of our show. You've been with us since season one of this podcast. Man, it's been such a pleasure to work with you. Are you enjoying yourself?

[SILENCE]

Yeah. Cool. Yeah, so I got to shout you out. I got to give you your flowers. You have helped truly create the sound of the show using the theme song and music provided by Ludwig Göransson, Proximity co-founder and film composer and his amazing team as well. Shout out Ngawang Samphel and Noah Gorelick. Yeah. I got to also say people don't know this, but when we cut to the Prox Recs segment of our show, there's a bit of a theme song for Prox Recs that was created by you really. I remember you took like a bit that Ryan had said, him saying Prox Recs and then kind of remixed it with your own music.

[19:50 - "Prox Recs Theme" with Ludwig Göransson and Ken Nana]

You're also a musician and music producer yourself, so thank you so much for lending your incredible talents to this show.

[SILENCE]

Okay. Ken, you're not here with us today. Just today though, just today. You are often in your studio making amazing music and mixing the podcast. So you did send in your question, the listener question that you have. So we're going to roll that clip right now.

Ken Nana: This question is from Jassmin Brown from Richmond, Virginia. "How did the microphone selection process go about? Audio is important in podcasting. Is it a continuous update or just about finding the right equipment?"

Paola Mardo: Well, thank you, Jassmin, for this question. I will say audio has been important for us since day one, since we're a podcast and we kind of just went with standard podcast equipment that was best for us and was within our budget, obviously. So we do use Shure SM7B microphones in the studio. In earlier iterations of the podcast, we recorded at different recording studios and had different kinds of mics used, but right now, Shure SM7B is an oldie, but a goodie and it works for us. And then when we have the more, I guess, technical productions where there's a coffee machine involved, espresso machine, or we have to go outside, we do use lav mics and kind of adjust as we need to as we go. So anything you want to add to that, Ken?

[SILENCE]

Just speak into that lav mic you've got right now. Yes, please. Thank you. You want some chicken?

[SILENCE]

Okay. Yeah, not into it. Okay. Okay. Great to work with. Great. I will say for those who are listening to this, it may not make any sense. Ken is not here. I'm literally looking at a headshot of him. He's not with us today only, but he sends his question and he's been a pleasure to work with. Thanks, Ken.

[SILENCE]

Paola Mardo: Hi.

Patrick Epino: Hey.

Paola Mardo: Patrick Epino.

Patrick Epino: Yes, I am.

Paola Mardo: Co-director, director of photography, and lead editor of this podcast. What do you do on the show?

Patrick Epino: I do quite a bit, but I love it. I enjoy working with you on it. As co-director, I help you with a lot of the creative decisions and ideas behind the podcast. As DP, I decide and help on the look. And also as lead editor, I, of course, edit some videos, but I also make sure the other editors get what they need.

Paola Mardo: And I guess we should say we are partners on the podcast. We collaborate on this, but also partners in real life and we've worked together on several things before. Most recently, Veterano, a short film I produced alongside you who also wrote and directed the project, proof of concept. Hey, check it out. We also worked on my podcast Long Distance. I hosted and created the show and then you also shot and directed all the short docs we did for that. And so those lived on YouTube. So when I was asked to make this podcast into a video podcast on YouTube and also host it, I knew that I had to call you to work with me on this and really help me make the thing. And we've been working on it since I think basically the summer of last year when we were ideating and brainstorming, piloting, all of that. And I hope it's been fun.

Patrick Epino: Yeah, are you kidding me?

Paola Mardo: Cheers. Okay. So listener question. Who do you have?

Patrick Epino: Myoshi McMillan from both New York and New Jersey. He says, "What is the Cliff's Notes version of setup for production for an interview?"

Paola Mardo: Ooh, it's a lot. Well, I think we covered some of that through this segment of the show. I guess the Cliff's Notes version is there's an audio component and we have our mic set up and sound and we run everything through Pro Tools and a laptop and then there's the camera side of things and lighting.

Patrick Epino: Yeah, I can go through a mental checklist just really quickly. It's like, okay, A cam, FX3.

Paola Mardo: That's the wide shot.

Patrick Epino: Yeah. B cam FX30, that's the guest shot. Then we have our little DJI Pocket 3, which is the roaming moving shot, which I heard it's really popular.

Paola Mardo: It is a fan favorite indeed. We are a podcast within Proximity Media, but we're kind of a scrappy operation and so we were really making the show on a limited budget because we wanted to make it as efficiently as possible, right? And we're producing this independently.

So we literally just worked with the equipment we have and in terms of the visual look of the show, we wanted sort of a retro cozy feel.

Patrick Epino: I love that the set feels like the living room. It feels warm.

Paola Mardo: It's chill. It's a lot of your stuff.

Patrick Epino: It is a lot of my stuff.

Paola Mardo: Thank you.

Patrick Epino: Thank you for taking it off my hands for a while so we have more space around the house.

Paola Mardo: Exactly. Okay. How about that chicken?

Patrick Epino: How about it?

Paola Mardo: That's a wrap on our chicken shop speed date session. Hope you guys learned a lot and enjoyed. And thank you again to the crew for eating chicken along with me and answering those questions.

[KNOCK AT DOOR]

Yep.

Celine Mendiola: We're ready for you in the studio, Paola.

Paola Mardo: Thank you. Hear that? It's time to go to the studio for another podcast recording and the last part of the tour. You get to go see where the podcast is made. Let's do it.

[25:46 - "Zippo Lighter" by Ken Nana]

Paola Mardo: Why, hello there. Now it's time for you guys to see where the podcast magic is made. Welcome to the studio In Proximity. Here we go. So this is our sound station where Celine monitors sound and records it. She's got her laptop, all the cables and all the things. We got mics over there and she's also got time. This is how we make sure we stay on time here at In Proximity.

Okay. And so this is where all the camera and lighting action happens. As you see, camera A, the wide cam, camera B, the guest cam. We got Patrick setting things up. Hey, Patrick. And we got Ben on camera B operating and yeah, this is what I see every podcast episode, this little fun section over here.

This is my host chair, as you guys have seen. This is usually where I sit for most of the regular interviews. Got the mic, got the pillow, always got to have the pillow. And actually I did want to show you guys a couple things here. My little side table. We have all my questions. I usually print out my questions, cut it up, highlight it, and kind of put it in this notebook. It's nice to highlight and kind of write through them. And this is one whole season's worth of interview questions, just so you know. We also have this guest book. We had every guest sign after the

interviews. They left us some really nice notes, some drawings. I mean, just a lot of great stuff. Thanks to you all. There's so much creativity in here, honestly. Like, come on.

And I did want to also mention the desk behind me. Yeah, a lot of just great stuff again from home, some stuff from Patrick, some stuff from me. We got books, we got VHS tapes. A lot of people ask, "Is this a real Sinners VHS tape?" I'm going to keep that mystery alive. I'll leave it to you to find out. Over here, yeah, just a lot of great film, industry sort of books. Some of my favorites, Shooting to Kill, Creativity, Inc. and They Can Kill You But They Can't Eat You. Words to live by. And yeah, we also got our Webby because we had to have our Webby for our Wakanda Forever/Black Panther 2—Wakanda Forever: The Official Black Panther Podcast that we did with Ta-Nehisi Coates. So yeah, a lot of great Easter eggs back here.

So this is the back wall of our set. I'm sure you guys recognize a lot of this stuff and yes...

[KNOCK]

...it is real wood. Not that anyone's asked, but I just figured I should put that on record. Yeah, just again, more stuff, more physical media, books, things like that. Eagle eyes, if you guys can see some of my favorite movies are up there, at least one I've mentioned, Y Tu Mamá También. We also got West Side Story and of course we got to have Proximity up here. We got Fruitvale, we got Creed, we got Creed 3, we got Black Panther. I mean, we also got to have Sinners as always and right along here, just more fun stuff, shirt from my grandmother and more special things. So yeah, just a lot of fun coziness to the set.

Oh wow. Different point of view sitting on this side. Very cozy though. So I just want to also point out our coffee table, the centerpiece of our set. What we always have to have our In Proximity mugs, whatever people choose to drink in them is their choice. I usually have water or coffee or something like that. And yeah, just some fun things. Again, more Easter eggs. Got to have a Proximity hat. Always got to have the In Proximity reel. This is what we have our guests hold at the end when we take fun social photos and just more nods to other projects and filmmakers and artists. Got to have a Black Panther comic by Ta-Nehisi Coates, of course. Got to have the Spike Lee because no explanation needed and got to have an art book. This is I think more for me, but had to have a Keith Haring on here.

So this is sort of the back area behind the guest, right? You'll often see this TV with VHS situation here behind each guest. And yeah, again, more tapes. Thank you, Patrick. And I just want to say the story about this TV, this is my television and I worked at a production company called Annapurna Pictures a while back and I won this somehow. I don't know how, but I did, but it has served me well. I've watched a bunch of VHS tapes on here and now it's part of our set. We like physical media and watching film in all its physical forms, tapes, DVDs, all that fun stuff. Film, of course, if you haven't already noticed. So that's the behind the scenes, literally.

Okay. Well, that's it for this special behind the scenes episode of In Proximity, our season finale for season three. Thank you again so much for watching, for listening, for supporting us. This season, you're basically and really in the guest seat actually right now, and you are our guest all season. So thanks so much for being here and follow us on social media if you aren't already following. We're @proximitymedia on all the platforms. I'm @paolamardo and I also write a newsletter about crafting a creative career. It's called Subtitles and you can find it on Substack and now we got to produce a new episode apparently. Told you this is where the podcast magic is made. Am I right? Am I right? Yes. So yeah, thanks so much. Hey Joy, are we ready?

Joy Woo: The guest is in the green room.

Paola Mardo: Nice. Patrick, you good?

Patrick Epino: We're ready, when you are.

Paola Mardo: Amazing. I think we're good to go.

Patrick Epino: Roll sound.

Celine Mendiola: Speeding.

Patrick Epino: Roll camera.

Ben Caloza: Rolling camera B.

Patrick Epino: Rolling camera A.

Paola Mardo: Oh wait, you're still here. Sorry. It's a closed set. You have to go. Thanks for being In Proximity. Bye.

[32:15 - In Proximity Theme Music by Ludwig Göransson]

[VOICEOVER]

Paola Mardo: In Proximity is a production of Proximity Media.

The show is hosted, directed and produced by Paola Mardo.

Executive producers are Ryan Coogler, Zinzi Coogler, and Sev Ohanian.

Theme song and additional music is by Ludwig Göransson.

Patrick Epino is our co-director and director of photography.

Ken Nana is our sound designer and mix engineer.

Our editors are Patrick Epino, Ken Nana, and Ben Caloza

The production team includes Celine Mendiola, Joy Woo, and Alexandria Santana.

Follow us on social media @proximitymedia.

For transcripts and more information, head to proximitymedia.com.

[VOICEOVER ENDS]