

Video files: DRC_Ndoluvwualu_Nadia_Daniel_French_2023_June_11_P1000001. MOV;
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Speaker 1 [00:00:18] The engine is running. [Inaudible] see in the frame over there. We're going to clap. Not even hand in hand to see. Yes, that's good.

Bambi [00:00:35] Ok, dad, let's get started. As an introduction, can you say that you agree to be filmed.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:00:47] I am here for that, I am in front of you for that.

Bambi [00:00:50] So I'm here, for.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:00:52] To be filmed.

Bambi [00:00:54] Always look at the camera.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:00:57] It's a bit of an exercise... But it's okay, it's going to be fine.

Bambi [00:01:02] Now can you say who you are and where you live, so the neighborhood, the city, etc. And the country?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:01:14] The country, the DRC?

Bambi [00:01:16] Yes, because not all visitors are from the DRC, so they have to understand where you are from.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:01:25] There you go, I am in the plot, on the plot [inaudible] the same second street, so neighborhood [inaudible]. It is in the town of Seine et Marne. City of Kinshasa. The Republic, the DRC Republic therefore.

Bambi [00:01:52] Can you tell us what your name is?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:01:57] Yes, my name is, my name is Ndoluvwualu, Daniel, Ndoluvwualu, Nadia.

Bambi [00:02:05] And when and where were you born?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:02:08] I was born in [city] No. 39 on October 9. 39.

Bambi [00:02:21] And where is your home village located?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:02:24] It's where I was born. In [city].

Bambi [00:02:27] So we must add because the visitors do not know the Congo. So what province is it in?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:02:36] Well it's in the province of Bas Congo, but Central Congo right now. And Bas-Congo at the time. So in the province of [name], at that moment.

Bambi [00:02:50] Did you grow up in Leopoldville or in the village?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:02:56] Oh both huh, I grew up in Kinshasa and then I went back to where my father was when my mother died so I went back there. And then I came back to Kinshasa again.

Bambi [00:03:10] And can you tell a bit about your parents' story.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:03:15] My parents' story? Well, the mother at first left me at an age that I don't know. So I don't know my mom, I don't even know her face. My father was a policeman in [city]. So here we say Duga, sector [name] and someone told me.

Bambi [00:03:42] And did you have brothers and sisters?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:03:45] Well by my father, I have a half brother and my mother, I also had an older sister, but who is no longer now.

Bambi [00:03:56] So you were born in the village. Did you start going to school in the village, how come [inaudible]?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:04:05] No When my mother died, my aunt, [inaudible] brought my uncle [inaudible] to me, so leaving my mother's family what, brought me to Kinshasa. I grew up in the town of Kinshasa first of all, after sixteen years now, here we are.

Bambi [00:04:26] And that's when you started school, can you tell us...

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:04:29] No, for school, I had turned back to, so I went back to my dad. It's where I started going to school.

Bambi [00:04:41] And you had been there.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:04:44] But one [inaudible] write the date. You have come here, you can already reach the date. [inaudible] That I myself have, well that's fine, maybe, I'm 84 years old.

Bambi [00:04:59] No, but at what age did you start school? Your studies?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:05:05] Well, in elementary school, if I'm not wrong, maybe I had for myself, in my head, it's not up to me to do these calculations. I was brought to school and then I was at school. I don't know the exact date, maybe I was about 6 to 7 years old.

Bambi [00:05:26] And at what age did you finish school.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:05:29] I already told you here that I did not have the challenge of studying. I stopped in the fifth year of primary school during the colonial era.

Bambi [00:05:41] And then what did you do? Have you started working?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:05:46] Well then I was, I had, they brought me to a sewing workshop at my brother-in-law's house. It's where I learned to sew for men. Oh that, really, it's a trap. It's okay.

Bambi [00:06:15] So you learned to sew and then you settled in?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:06:21] Yes, I am from Ginza.

Bambi [00:06:25] So tell you something about your...

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:06:29] The balcony of, on the balcony of. Oh well that. Like any Congolese anyway. Well, I had started working and then, as with us here, there is not enough follow-up for this kind of job, I managed as best I could. In the end, I had changed because men's sewing was not easy for men to get jackets every time. So I preferred to do the ladies sewing. And that's what I've been doing all my life, until now.

Bambi [00:07:19] So you were independent?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:07:21] Yes, I was independent.

Speaker 1 [00:07:25] [inaudible] Try to fix the eye problem.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:07:29] Well then in that case, I [INAUDIBLE] will watch the lady, the teacher, I will watch every course the same.

Speaker 1 [00:07:37] She is going to stand next to the device.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:07:39] Ah bah. Oh, that's to help me! Thanks a lot anyway. It is good. Now I'm looking at the B. Okay, that's it.

Bambi [00:07:52] So you worked as a fashion designer for [INAUDIBLE].

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:07:57] To the personal account.

Bambi [00:07:59] So, did you get married? Did you have kids?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:08:02] Yes.

Bambi [00:08:04] Can you tell us something about it?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:08:08] My wife is here, I had this child with her. There are also little sons who are starting to get into the dance. So here we are.

Bambi [00:08:22] So can you tell us a bit about my experience during the colonial era? How did you experience that?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:08:32] Well, colonial times like I started living this life from school, because there, at the boarding school, there were priests. Everything we needed to teach us how to read and write. As I said here, I didn't really spend much time in school. Five years later, I was out of school. So I don't know how I can help you anymore.

Bambi [00:09:18] And how were relationships with white people at the time?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:09:23] For the first time, I think, it was at the boarding school with the priest and we had a director, Edouard Druvel, a Belgian. I don't know if he's still alive. Well, and a priest too. Joseph [name] who was German. But it was he who was the priest of our Catholic mission [name]. Well, I think the relationship with the white guy started from there, because here I only work with Congolese people, the master who

taught me the job was my brother-in-law. I worked with Congolese people all the time. The white one, no.

Bambi [00:10:15] So you were still in the indigenous city as it was called at the time?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:10:19] Exactly. Well, in La Cité they said we lived with Congolese people, all we did was with Congolese people. The white people had their town [Kalina] at the time, it's where they lived. Those who work with white people went there. But I didn't have a relationship with the white guy, no.

Bambi [00:10:47] And can you tell us what happened on June 4? 1959.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:10:55] Yes, yes.

Bambi [00:10:57] January 4.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:10:58] January 4. January 4. It was a Sunday. I remember having.

Bambi [00:11:03] Can you repeat the whole date [inaudible] so the date, January 4, 1959.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:11:13] Is that it? [inaudible] I can say it's not worth it. It was January 4, 1959. I already told you that here. And how we were chatting there. That was the date I was going to reach, not on this date but well before that date, I would have to wait until October 9 again to reach my 20th year. So, on January 4, I was in Kinshasa on rue [bon, ça, mollo], number 11, that's where I lived, where my big sister and her husband also lived, my brother-in-law including my brother-in-law, who was my master. Where I was learning to sew for men. The day in question, Sunday, for the first time I had heard that word. [word] Well around 3:00 p.m., if I'm not mistaken, I noticed that in our bed, there were people running around. But how do these people run fast, fast like that? And the people between us went like that in a cascade, independent, independent. I went to ask my brother-in-law, what is independent to my brother-in-law? My brother-in-law told me, that means independence. Oh! Independence to do what! Amen. Bring independence, the white man must leave the country and we ourselves are going well. In any case, I had a fright despite, I was still young, but [I think] the white guy must leave for us to stay here between us. Is it going to work? That was my question. I asked my brother, even like that, the white people in their house are they also like that? It is between them that they are heading. Oh good! So really, I was amazed. And this image, what? What was the shock I was told? Is that how it is? So we stayed there. And then, around 15:16 p.m., we started to hear gunshots. So I, out of my curiosity, left the building to go see [the fire. The press, God] at the time. What is going on? Now we haven't started looting yet. But I saw a boy who was wearing a red polo shirt, red polo shirt, khaki pants with slippers that were commonly called at the time, [in memory,] because [right where I had just attacked me,] who was putting on our shoes here. [So finally,] this boy had a bullet in the neck. So he was transported by, but by bicycle. He was taken to [Diome Megastore] who was a medical professional at the time. So they brought the injured man to his house, on Avenue Gambela, I don't know his street, just at the corner of Avenue Gabela. As night had arrived, we had to go because the brother-in-law was also a bit tough. No way out here. He didn't want the kids to go plunder or steal. So you have to stay in the plot until the elected official where the business started. And going even further, so more serious. I can stop there if there is another question. [inaudible] Sorry,.

Bambi [00:15:24] You can continue to tell us what's next.

Speaker 1 [00:15:27] You went out or you stayed, what did you do on Monday.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:15:31] Until Monday. Well, Monday like people should go to work but everyone was already frozen. He can't go to work because people were calling for independence right away, immediate. Well, that's where the mess started. The State and the Congolese people. Every night there were guns that crackled. There are arrests. I think, a month later, I too was a victim. I was arrested because there, the Belgians had a decision to relegate everything, everything, everything they considered to be bandits to their native village. I don't know if it was bad luck, but I had fallen into this trap. I had already been arrested and I went to my father who was a policeman in the village. So now, I'm stopping a bit there.

Bambi [00:16:40] How come they didn't stop you?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:16:44] But, if there was a former Belgian, we were going to ask him why did we stop? So to get rid of what, really young people, we arrested those who did not have parents here and those who did better, who did not work. So they were relegated to their village where their parents were. There were also those who had parents here, but who fell into this trap. We did not legitimately control like today, I don't know if, not like in Europe, they are there, maliciously everyone to go to the village, to leave the [guy] alone here.

Bambi [00:17:29] So you had to go back to the village?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:17:33] Well, we have to because it is, we have there [a military base] there, right? We were accompanied by soldiers, we leave you first to drop you off in your territory and the territory takes you to your sector. Well, I was the one who lived in the area. I stayed there. And those who were from another village were sent to the villages. That's how it used to be here.

Bambi [00:18:06] And how long did you stay there?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:18:10] Good. It wasn't really that long. And I came back here.

Bambi [00:18:19] And at the moment, were you already married?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:18:22] No, no. Well you see that, I already told you that on January 4, I [the island] asked Yaga, 16 if I'm not wrong, right? Eighteen months maybe? January 4, 59, rue [Le Camp,] Independance. I think it's 18 months, right? One year plus six months. We had independence, so the power came back to us. So I felt free. I came back to my capital because Bas-Congo became a province at the time, so it was the province of Leopoldville, including Léopoldville. So all of us were Leopoldville residents. Well, I was back here, there. Now I was not afraid of your parents, but I was free. So I went back to the capital.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:19:36] So you say January 4, 1959. It was the first time you heard the word [for eight months].

Bambi [00:19:45] And since then, have you been interested in independence? What does independence mean to you?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:19:51] Nobody, if you are a prisoner, we will release you, you will be really delighted, right? Nobody can say no to the independence of their country, right? So I got interested in that afterwards.

Bambi [00:20:09] And how did you have this experience? So, there were riots, there were actually the first elections, there was the arrival of dependency. How did you experience all this, can you tell us a little bit about this story.?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:20:29] In any case, until then, you will excuse me a bit, because when all this was happening, no one had the idea of shopping all this, huh, to tell about a day almost like today. No, but that's how it happened. If, as I had already started working, so we were in the mood for living my youth, we are not looking to shop everything you ask me here, I don't think so.

Speaker 1 [00:21:04] For example, could you tell us, during the first elections that took place, the first elections that took place in Léopoldville.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:21:13] Look, I want to apologize, I want to apologize. The first elections of, after independence or well before? Ah, before that, that was just what we deviated a bit. [Me, I am in] the Belgians organized the elections here to elect the mayor of each municipality. So me, the reason why I have the date 39, I was born in 40, right? But for these elections, no for the people here we were looking for everyone, right? So those elections weren't in 59, 58 if I'm not wrong? There, we had mayors, the head of town. At home we had Pierre Calot, [in the brain camp.] I believe [that love. Uh] The gentleman, well, we can't name everyone here but elections were just like that. The Belgian who organized the first elections was to give the Congolese mayors all that. That was also really good.

Bambi [00:22:40] So it was in 1957?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:22:44] It's, so it's just that in my head, I don't have enough room for that, but it must be in 57, 58, something like that.

Bambi [00:22:54] And so you can vote in these elections. You are. Were you too young at the time?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:23:01] In 57, I wasn't 18, right? There you go. So that's where I had been, so [lived well, but I didn't quite dare] put my birth date back to one year.

Bambi [00:23:21] And can you, why has your date of birth been moved back, can you explain.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:23:28] But I already explained it, for elections. I can repeat.

Speaker 1 [00:23:31] What is your date of birth, you who were born in 40, huh? We made sure you could have been born in 39. Why did we change that? And who did it?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:23:42] That's, no, that was my brother, if in order to have there, in the common room, we organized ourselves to elect the Mayor. So every platoon of politicians. There were already politicians at that time no. So we were only looking for the voter.

Speaker 1 [00:24:13] So what you want to say is what, exactly, is that a politician can change your date or there is [inaudible] So this craze was almost everywhere.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:24:26] I don't know if there were photos. If it was filmed, we were going to show you that. Everyone was happy to go and do that so that the Belgians would leave. Yeah, so this change, what can't happen, that's not a problem. A lot of people did that as well.

Bambi [00:24:47] So if I understand correctly, there were a lot of young people who said that they were older than they were to be able to vote in the selections, to drive out the Belgians.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:24:59] How is it older?

Speaker 1 [00:25:01] So that is to say that.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:25:02] Younger, or else.

Speaker 1 [00:25:04] There were young people, people who were not old enough to vote yes, but who still want to vote.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:25:10] Voted.

Speaker 1 [00:25:11] They could change their age to be able to vote.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:25:15] Is that it?

Speaker 1 [00:25:16] So can you repeat that, that there were young people who changed the date to be able to vote?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:25:22] First of all, I am talking about my case, yes, because the other young person, I did not see him, so I am talking about my case. [It's the oldest.] A lot, yes.

Speaker 1 [00:25:32] In your case, you can say that I, for example, was not old enough to vote, but my date has been changed.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:25:38] Well yes, to reach eighteen, it was only a year that separated us from this date.

Bambi [00:25:44] Can you repeat the whole sentence?

Speaker 1 [00:25:47] Exactly, you can repeat the whole sentence that, repeat, that is, you were not old enough to vote, but you had to add a year.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:26:01] Yes, to add.

Speaker 1 [00:26:03] You have to say the whole sentence.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:26:03] Yeah, in colonial times, that's what I did. That's what we were told to do. So we moved our date back to eighteen, the voting day.

Bambi [00:26:24] So can we talk about slavery? What can you tell us about slavery, because you are in Central Congo, did we talk about it when you were young, what can you tell us about it?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:26:44] Well, slavery. Personally, I had not lived, but word of mouth, it was coming into my ears. Slavery, even the Africans themselves did that too. Yes so there is an either say, not or say, but at the time there was a market here called [for.] Well there are people who came from Angola, who came here from carnivals, who came from everywhere to come and sell here and buy here. Well, all that in our stories, which we told, stories for example, my mother told me the story of a dad who had two wives and she had a daughter, so because the first woman gave only boys and the second woman gave him a young lady. So the gentleman promised this woman what, to buy her everything you need here in Kinshasa, when you go back to give [Ernest] his daughter back, to honor his daughter, to honor his daughter. So that's the story that Mom was telling me but in this story you feel that the gentleman in question had a lot of money. He mixed people up here so a trailer. Men who did not pay and who stayed on the way from Angola to here, how many kilometers ago? That was also a kind of slavery. That, so I don't know, it's even going on, even today there are people who make people work here and on paydays, he treats them like an idiot.

Bambi [00:28:55] Can you give examples? So can you give examples?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:29:02] Ah well, I gave a little bit. How many times do I have to complete then.

Speaker 1 [00:29:06] So when you talk, there are people who make people work and in the end, he pins them up or treats them like jerks as you say. Give you examples of that.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:29:17] How, name these people.

Speaker 1 [00:29:19] Don't mention names, but give vague examples.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:29:21] Wave wave. But as I told you, we can repeat what I just said here three, four, five times. There are many who are doing it and even until today. Slavery, I think, would not end like that automatically. It's all over the place. With our uncles too, that's it there, so at your house over there.

Bambi [00:29:46] And over there, are Africans who are slaves?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:29:50] Oh, well since I've never been there, I can't. Our brothers who are there, even in the movie you are sending us here, we see the nigger over there who is not tortured but who are reused. I don't know why At home, there too, so slavery is there and here too it continues. Maybe we're waiting back there for the last will of the Lord.

Bambi [00:30:31] So in that sense, independence didn't really make a difference.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:30:36] Excuse me? Oh! Well, well, good time. Independence, yes, we don't talk about politics. See, you asked me about such-and-such. But politics here is no, because if we start talking like that, we will start to develop, and that's what happens everywhere. So.

Speaker 1 [00:31:00] Compared to the fact, to a form of slavery to a form of use of people, is there a difference since there is independence or not, it is not politics.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:31:15] Well, here for example, hey, there is a lady who works, who needs a, I don't know what they call, those who look after children. What do we call the girls who look after our children, nannies or what? Like that, that's the way it is. Well, when you hire this girl, this girl goes to work in her house from Monday to Saturday. That means you can use it even at night to work, at night huh? That's the way it is no, because she sleeps there. For example, if you call her at 10:00 p.m., she has to obey because it's home time. That too is a kind of slavery, so it goes on everywhere.

Bambi [00:32:09] And how do you think you could put an end to that?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:32:14] Oh good? I am a believer, um, it seems to me that maybe the last word will come from Jehovah. Because of that, everyone got mean? At home there, [inaudible] in France, piercing your knife on the account of four children and two adults is serious, right? So the end of this situation, I think, it is the master of time who will bring us peace in this story.

Bambi [00:32:56] How can everyone contribute to this? Put an end to this exploitation?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:33:02] Each one. Everyone believes. [...].

Speaker 1 [00:33:07] How can individuals take action to end these forms of slavery?

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:33:17] Maybe it's education, but I don't know. We have to start a different kind of education to get us where, I don't know if you understand me. Did I say that right?

Speaker 1 [00:33:33] The other time you told me about the contract.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:33:37] Oh good? Now, you see, that's our language? It's okay. Just the contracts we see. Portuguese language. So now, I have never been there, but there are people who left there because at home and there it is not so far. See, so if you leave or then well, it's like pining all the way to the border I think. A case of 33 kilometers huh. So it's almost Congo, people were fleeing there, at the time when the Portuguese were raging. So people were fleeing there and coming here to Congo. There were a lot of Angolans here for this reason, because the Portuguese hired people by force. We tell you, you're leaving now, we're taking you to the contract. So contract, in Portuguese I understand. For the contract, we make you sign a contract that you don't know how to read there, that we tell you. Well, we'll take you there, we'll take you Cabo Verde, everywhere he goes. There are Brazilians out there who are supposed to know even their origins among Brazilians. They were brought there to, like, work in orange. When they get there on board, they leave them there or the man is also interested in that, they stay there, see. That's how they brought people in, it was by force. So, the Angolans on the other side of our, were fleeing from these systems, fleeing, they had found their salvation, including Congo-Kinshasa. Because there were also no schools, the Angolans were not taught to read and write hey, 100% because there is, the Portuguese themselves were illiterate. There you go. So when the Angolans arrived here, those who run this country and thanks to the Belgian Congo, there were a lot of authorities there who are or who had studied here and who were born here. So that's it? That's as I told you, it was for the other side. Yeah, it was for the other one. Oh good? It seems to me that when I look at you, I look at

everyone. Ha ha ha! Yeah, that's it. Yeah. So I explained that to him, that's good, you did well to call me back. Thanks. Excuse me.

Bambi [00:36:39] Ok, thanks a lot dad. It was very good.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:36:45] We have reached the end.

Speaker 1 [00:36:47] Unless you still have something to say.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:36:49] Ah I told him, because I have a lot despite [the change.] But I had to come and meet you. They came a long way. As I promised you I would attend to so ill here, but I had to. So I have to say a big thank you first of all, huh? Since birth, I have never had the opportunity to be honored as you are today. Maybe it's the last time too. I'm in front of cameras and a jerk like me. I am in front of cameras and I don't know myself, how can I express this joy? Huh? So.

Bambi [00:37:44] We're going to send you the images, just like that.

Daniel Ndoluvwualu [00:37:48] What are they going to send me?

Speaker 1 [00:37:50] We're going. Yes. We're going to see it. No, I am not there. Ah. It is good. Go get busy. Thanks. Like that.