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National Portrait Gallery

Portrait Presentation: A Conversation with Alice Waters

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WEBVTT

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<i>José Andrés</i>: Until that point, I had an amazing meal - I began understanding - about the legacy of Alice Waters [[?]] - but when I got that, I was like "Man, this is too much! This is what my mum does - at home, when I grow up!" [[laughter]]

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Well, we order three more plates of those clementines, of those dates.

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Taste always has been unbelievably important to you - and you kind of learned that searching for the taste is how you got into - knowing your farmers - the local—

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: It's really about that. It's really about that.

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And that's what makes it so possible to make this kind of delicious revolution happen—

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because when you give kids food like this - and these are divine, I wish I had brought a thousand so you can all have them - but these are Kishu tangerines - we'll just start throwing them out there.

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These are from a little farm in Ojai, California - and they're a beautiful little citrus that comes at this time of the year - and they're so easy to peel—

<i>José Andrés</i>: I have to do it!

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: They're so easy to peel - and they're kind of - and they're just, are seedless - and they're kind of sweet/tart—

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And so - when kids - [[audience laughter]] - you just go right ahead - when kids, um—

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<i>José Andrés</i>: OK, let's be serious now.

<i>Alice Waters</i>: But I'm really, really serious, um—

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<i>José Andrés</i>: It's unbelievable!

<i>Alice Waters</i>: When kids have this - they can eat a whole bowl like this - it's just like, irresistible.

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And when I'm in most schools - and, um, you smell the cafeteria - you just think, I don't want to go in there - I just don't want to go in there. It's like—

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steamed broccoli - without any seasoning - and all I can think of is: where's the garlic? - why are they doing this? - why can't we just have, you know—

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little, tiny tomatoes just with the - off the vine - why do we have to have food that's cooked, even? - I mean, it's so delicious like that. And that's how the kids are out in the garden—

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you know they may be doing a maths class and measuring the beds - but they're eating all the raspberries. They know every one that's ripe and they race out there, and they go and eat those first.

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They don't think this is school - they have a pleasure in doing this. And—

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considering the number of kids who drop out of high school - wouldn't it be an amazing thing - to set up a business of running the cafeteria with the students - they run the whole thing themselves - they do the business of it.

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[[to Andrés:]] You got to help us do one of these in Washington—

<i>José Andrés</i>: I knew it—

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: I mean, can you imagine—

<i>José Andrés</i>: I'm on my way.

<i>Alice Waters</i>: —that they—

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: This has all been designed - by me - because I've prepared the classroom in a way—

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—so that people get what I want them to do - in the end - and I—

<i>José Andrés</i>: You got me at "Hello", Alice - you ask, and you get!

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<i>José Andrés</i>: So—

<i>Alice Waters</i>: —But I do want him to do this—

<i>José Andrés</i>: So, Alice. You only thinking small—



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