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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>: Yeah, right.

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<i>José Andrés</i>: What's the next thing in the life of Alice Waters?

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<i>José Andrés</i>: What are you going to be concentrating over the next 34 years of your life?

<i>Alice Waters</i>: [[laughs]]

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<i>José Andrés</i>: Where, no, with her it is not about where she wants to go. With her, it is where we are all going with her.

<i>Alice Waters</i>: [[laughs]]

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<i>José Andrés</i>: Where are we going with you?

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: We're going back to school. We're going back to school in a beautiful way.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: Now, I brought this poster because -- I thought [[laughter]] so it's eating, reading, writing, and arithmetic. That's it.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: Now, I think--and I've had this as my focus all along--I think since the first moment that the idea of an edible education sort of came to me in Berkeley, I wanted it to be in every school in the country.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: And I thought about it in the way, you know, P.E. came into the curriculum of the school. I thought E.E -- P.E. and E.E. -- could just be together like that.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: And I thought about how Kennedy had cheerleaded that idea back in the '60s.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: And how beautiful it was that he got every school in this country to build the facilities to have physical education become part of the curriculum that every kid had to take and they got graded on it.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: Now isn't that an amazing thing? He didn't spend money doing it. But he made the case for why it was an imperative.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: Why we needed to build the tracks, hire the teachers, and engage every child in physical exercise. Because he was worried about -- about the country and the physical fitness of everyone.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: And that's what I'm kind of hoping, is that we can make this compelling enough that the President of the United States will say that we need to have Edible Education from kindergarten through high school.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: That we need to nourish every child at school because it's more expensive to take care of them when they become sick. And that this is not only an obligation, but it's a moral obligation. To feed children in school food that's good for them.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: And, at the same time, I sort of think of it as kind of a stimulus plan.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: You know, because if you put a criteria in for the buying of the food and you buy it from the sustainable farmers, you're giving the money to them.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: And the parents don't have to worry about what they're giving their children for lunch, because the school is providing the lunch for the kids.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: And it's a kind of jobs plan too, don't you think? That you have to hire people to help to cook and to teach the kids.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: So, it's -- I just think it's an idea that's right as rain, that's what I think.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: It's something that just is a nonpolitical idea.

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<i>José Andrés</i>: Yeah, right. We -- I was not lying when I was telling you that we are all already going ahead with this

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<i>José Andrés</i>: because she's going to be knocking on the door of every one of us to join her on this -- we can call it "crusade", but "mission", in life.

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<i>José Andrés</i>: Should we ask them -- let them ask some questions?

<i>Alice Waters</i>: [[crosstalk]] Yes, I just -- I just had one -- Yes, we should ask them to ask us questions, but one last thing

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: is that I have been knocking on the door of our governor in California.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: And we have plotted and planned that we are going to do a sort of a -- form a task force for Edible Education in California

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: and we're gonna do 10 schools around the state in strategic places and find philanthropists who will help to fund it and farmers who will help to build it, along with teachers,

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: and we're going to build these models that people will be able to walk into.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: And the mayor of Sacramento, Kevin Johnson, you know he's an impatient basketball player, used to be, in the NBA, and he really knows how to move quickly.

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: And he says, "We want the first school in Sacramento and we want to do the high school where the kids run the whole high school together."

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<i>Alice Waters</i>: And so, even if it doesn't really happen with the governor's blessing, although I'm pretty certain that he'll give it to us, we're doing it in Sacramento.

<i>José Andrés</i>: [[crosstalk]] Well, if he doesn't make it happen, probably he will not be reelected, knowing you.

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[[laughter]]

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<i>José Andrés</i>: So.

<i>Alice Waters</i>: So.

<i>José Andrés</i>: Questions? We have 5, 10 minutes for 2, 3, 4. Madam?



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