

## Gerald Reyes Interview Los Angeles

Ben: Ok Gerald, to start off... you'll talk to me the entire time.

Gerald: Ok.

Ben: But, will you say and spell your name?

Gerald: Umm... Gerald Reyes. G-E-R-A-L-D R-E-Y-E-S

Ben: Perfect: And tell me which of these... you've got three kids here right?

Gerald: I've got three, yeah. Neela, Nacif, and Argen (?). And the other one is my nephew... Jorgito.

Ben: Sweet. Tell me how old your kids are.

Gerald: Ah... the twins are 6 and the boy is 5.

Ben: Very good.

Gerald: And they actually have the same birthday. April 8 '05 and April 8 '06

Ben: Sweet. And tell me why you bring them here to have Garifuna lessons every week.

Gerald: Umm... it's their culture. They need to know where they come from.

Ben: Why?

Gerald: Why?

Ben: Yeah.

Gerald: I feel it's important, you know. It's ummm...

Kid: We come from everywhere

Gerald: We come from everywhere?

Kid: India, Hond...

Gerald: I'm not really sure how to articulate it. It's just something like I don't speak my... I don't speak Garifuna, you know. I know a little bit... umm... and I didn't learn as a kid, but that is something that I want them to have. I want them to be able to speak their language. So that's the main reason, you know. And we go to Honduras every year or every other

year, so they have a lot of cousins that, you know that are from there that speak English, Spanish and Garifuna and so I want them to be able to, you know, communicate with their family in their language.

Ben: Very cool. Very cool. How does it make you feel... I mean, this is an opportunity that you either didn't have, or you didn't take advantage of to learn the language.

Gerald: I didn't have the opportunity. Ummm... I mean it's... I blame my parents to be honest. You know, it's the parent's responsibility to... to pass on their culture, to teach their kids, to raise them. And I didn't have that, so that's something that I want to give them.

Ben: That's cool. And how does that make you feel to know that... that's a gift that you as a parent are giving to them?

Gerald: Oh, it's a good feeling man, You know, like to see them playing the drums, to see them singing in Garifuna, you know to see them enjoying it. It's ummm... you can't really describe it. As a parent, you know, when you see your kids happy it's... it makes you happy, it makes you feel good as well.

Ben: And this makes your kids happy?

Gerald: Oh yeah, definitely.

Ben: Why?

Gerald: Why does it make them happy?

Ben: Yeah.

Gerald: You'd have to ask them (laughs). Sivvy, why does it make you happy?

Sivvy: Because I like to do everything!

Gerald: You do? Yeah? What about you Silviana?

Silviana: Weeelllll (laughs). I like to see them, watch them do a movie.

Gerald: You like to see them do the movie? What about the drums?

Kids: (laughs)

Gerald: Neela?

Neela: I like sining the songs and the do the drums.

Gerald: You like singing the songs?

Neela: Uh-huh

Gerald: What about you son?

Son: I like going to Disneyland on your birthday.

Gerald: On your birthday? We're not talking about your birthday, we're talking about coming here.

Son: Then I like playing the drums, I like singing, I like learning... I like lots of stuff.

Gerald: Lots of stuff?

Son: I like everything in the world.

Gerald: Yeah? Ok

Ben: I want to know, like, what your hope is for your kids as far as the Garifuna culture.

Gerald: Ummm... just that they... they... they know their culture and that they pass it on to their kids.

Ben: Will you say that... I hope that they... just so... I'm going to cut it.

Gerald: I wouldn't say... actually I probably wouldn't say hope. To me, it's like I know that they're going to know their culture. It's something that it's gonna happen. And that, I would hope that they would want to pass it on to their kids, but they're gonna know their culture and that decision to pass it on or not is, you know, obviously, that's going to be up to them.

Ben: That's great. Thanks.