**TRANSCRIPT**

**Wesley Pepper:** [00:00:00] greetings everybody. This is Wesley Pepper and you're tuned into my podcast, Wesley Pepper's Art Lexica. We are into episode 35. And, um, just before we start, like, firstly, big up to Julian. Uh, for coming through last week, man, he actually saved me, man. I needed a guest. Um, because, um, this week's guest actually couldn't make it last week and he came through man.

[00:00:38] So thanks. and I totally think that his generation got like the hardest end of the stick. Um, they gotta deal with so much man, so much that my generation didn't have to, um, you know, besides all the things of a fading economy, et cetera, they also deal with COVID. So all the best with that, my brother, um, This week's episode is a followup on that, but we are taking a bit of a deeper dive into the COVID pandemic situation.

[00:01:03] I'm speaking to Nicky Damobs, who is my auntie from my mother's side. She's based in East London. And, um, she was, um, infected last year, um, twice actually to my, to my.. but we will, but we will, but we'll discuss that to see how the other difference, um, the different infections, what it was and all of that.

[00:01:23] And, um, we're really going to jump into the detail about, um, what COVID does to you, um, how it affects you, um, how you can get infected, um, and ja man. And this is a continuing narrative of, um, Trying to break the stigma of like this thing doesn't exist or this thing is just a, you know, just a disease. You can just get and get over with.

[00:01:43] It's a lot more complicated man. It's a lot more complicated. And I hope that, um, this episode is, um, I guess fulfilling because it's a bit different to my others, you know, since we talking, um, Some of the stuff's off in the medical field, you know, but I think that's incredibly relevant, incredibly, incredibly relevant.

[00:02:00] And I really want to do this. So I hope you guys enjoy this episode and I'll touch base with you at the, after the, um, interview

[00:02:08] **Spudcaster:** [00:02:08] you're listening to a Spudcaster podcast from Baobulb.org.

[00:02:14] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:02:14] Anyway, look here, man. Firstly, let me start from the beginning. Thank you very, very much for the patience and, um, and full and full and for being part of this network.

[00:02:22] So, um, just to recap, man, um, I was telling my listeners that, um, you know, I was, I was, I wanted to do these episodes, um, because in the art world is just, we are just too, um, there's just, there's just so much, uh, a conspiracy and, and, and all these alternative realities, theories, all these theories, that's just making things more.

[00:02:51] Because as South Africans, we want to be so divided. Right. We wouldn't really have, um, So many division that has already, uh, and, and, and, and now with, with, with COVID, there's this whole thing of the vaccine, and I actually want to get through that, but more towards the end. Um, so what I want to focus on in, um, in this episode is just, um, is, um, how you got infected, um, um, and the, I guess the, your state of mind and how it, uh, affected your behavior and very, um, um, um, I'm very interested to know, because I know a, a lady like you, you've got a, you've got a busy lifestyle, you know, you, you, you there's so much going on.

[00:03:33] So now all of a sudden, if you, if your, uh, if your movement is all of a sudden stop, I know that has other effects, but I want to get to that a bit later. So I'm so, so, so, so just for, um, for the listeners you were saying that you got infected by a cleaning lady at school, correct. And it's um, yeah. So can we just pick it up from there?

[00:03:55] **Nicky Damons:** [00:03:55] Okay. Yeah. I got infected by a cleaning lady at school while we were busy setting up Cleaning lady at school while we were busy setting up protocol to prevent COVID-19

[00:04:08] And then I got infected in the process,

[00:04:14] uh, you see like all this conspiracies and all these things come from, from, from my experiences. Well, I was infected neh

[00:04:30] with a lot of people. Because of putting the thing into place, now what is so mysterious about the whole virus I was in close contact with Anike and Bradley in the house, but I infected my friend that came in one day, when, when the, uh, um, when the virus started to act out. The incubation stage. I didn't know because you know, like you must wait for three days.

[00:05:13] I went to school so I was the one that was now infecting two of my other colleagues.

[00:05:36] Um, my other colleague was carrying my books

[00:05:47] and then. I went to

[00:05:49] Loretta's house during the incubation. That was the Friday night the friday night we went to her house and we had some gathering there and then I infected one of the residents that was residing in her house.

[00:06:14] So from what I know,

[00:06:16] I infected now like 4 people that I know of

[00:06:25] how, like I said, like touching things and sharing things and, uh, yeah. So this is real and this is something that we really have to handle with kid gloves.

[00:06:43] Because you don't know when are you the next person.

[00:06:54] I actually

[00:06:55] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:06:55] want to come back to that. Uh, actually want to ask about that, so. So, uh, when you, uh, you know, so, so, so there were three people in the house. Um, so did she, did they, uh, I don't know was there social distancing did you use different cutlery, do they use, uh, what's the other thing, did they clean and

[00:07:18] **Nicky Damons:** [00:07:18] Now, Wesley, sorry to cut you short, Wes. but that is the protocol that should be put into place. but you know people don't tell you that while you are like in that incubation stage I was very contagious and by then keeping all that seperate cutlery social distancing was actually useless. Because I was already a danger to the, do you understand?

[00:07:30] So, they could also get infected but for some reason they had i don't know if its about their immune system

[00:07:57] They, I don't know. and that is where the conspiracies come from now

[00:08:06] You'll get infected. I don't get infected. You get infected. I don't get infected because we were, we were six people working with that very sick woman.

[00:08:28] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:08:28] Uh, okay. Okay. Okay, Nicky, actually I have to get, I've got, I've got, I've got two questions there. Uh, uh, uh, the first is, um, when you got, um, once you were, uh, diagnose, um, COVID positive, um, did it, uh, I dunno, man did it. Did it alarm you, were you, were you like, I mean, because, because, because, because this was earlier last year and it was about, uh, about the virus and how it affects people.

[00:08:58] And, um, um, and was it like a real shock to the system? Did you, did it affect you? You know, you know, I wouldn't say it's social way, but were you freaked out by it basically knowing that oh my word, like, you know, um, um, I'm, I'm, COVID positive.

[00:09:15] **Nicky Damons:** [00:09:15] Listen here, Wesley, that's a very good question do you know what I was actually more freaked out before I got infected. There I had all the symptoms. So the symptoms alarmed me so I got,

[00:09:31] I got closure and thought, no, I'm not one of those people. I'm now one of the stats

[00:09:39] Yeah so, it was fine

[00:09:45] I was alright and I was reading a lot about these things and I saw

[00:09:56] a video of a man that says that you must breathe and you must move because this virus wants you to sleep.

[00:10:06] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:10:06] Okay. Okay. That's interesting. Um, did you have a problem? Did you have a problem with them with your taste or smell?

[00:10:19] **Nicky Damons:** [00:10:19] Yes, but for me it came on day 4, my taste and smell just disappeared

[00:10:44] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:10:44] and the, and the, and the difficulty breathing?

[00:10:47]**Nicky Damons:** [00:10:47] No, no, I don't have any problems with breathing, so what my problem was headaches and body aches

[00:11:02] And I only read now recently about where the COVID goes into different places. Some people get it in their nose. Some people get it, some people get into the lungs.

[00:11:17] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:11:17] Oh. So, so I see, uh, I wanted to ask about the, about the, about the breathing. Oh, or rather I wanted to make a comment first and then, and then follow up with it. So there's a, um, there's a brother we know locally.

[00:11:34] Um, I don't know the guy personally, he's not afraid. Um, but we know each other. Um, so this brother is a bit overweight. Um, And, um, yeah. Um, he got this second strain, Oh, I think but he was infected now earlier this month? And, um, and a few days later he was, um, he was rushed to hospital and he was under this breathing, you know, this, um, this breathing apparatus.

[00:12:02] So I guess, I guess what, I'm, what I know you say that it affects people differently. Uh, what do you think, uh, according to what you know, and what you've read up, uh, what do you think is pushing, uh, or other, why do, why, why do you think that it's, that the population is, um, is having problems with the breathing and others not?

[00:12:22] Um, um, why? Um, and, and that I, I'm not, I'm not looking for a scientific answer. Um, Um, I'm looking because, because, because as you Y uh, affected, um, I think, I think your opinion, I don't know that matters, so that's why I'm, that's why I'm asking.

[00:12:39] **Nicky Damons:** [00:12:39] Oh, yeah. In my opinion, like I told you, you can't, uh, isolate a certain population per se.

[00:12:50] Like people would assume that no, it's diabetics that get it worse. Yeah. Or, uh, obesity or certain blood group counts in whatever, you know what? We can speculate as much as we want to. Like I tell you, this is something that it happens

[00:13:12] in my mind, there's no scientific reason as to how it infected you. because look at my two cousins now recently with the second strain.

[00:13:28] Like, they don't have diabetes they don't have all these illnesses and whatever.

[00:13:37] They were like me.

[00:13:45] Uh, so but they got breathing problems and then my friend that was here yesterday his diabetic and he uses insulin and all that stuff. And he's, uh, uh, over age, he's 65,

[00:14:06] 65 years old, and she survived

[00:14:15] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:14:15] Uh, do you know of, of, let me just ask sort of a question on the side of this. Do you know of anybody that has passed away of COVID? How many, how many do you know?

[00:14:26] **Nicky Damons:** [00:14:26] Sjoe a lot, a lot of my colleagues, I know one of my best friends I studied with when I did my BA Honours died three weeks ago. He was a principal at a school. He was obese. he was rushed in and then he died the same with wesley, the thing is this it's close to you and you know what when you hear about cases like look at one of my other.. and Wesley, it's not like it's just a, um, I just know this person, it's people close to you

[00:15:30] so that's why I say, uh, you know, when we see these things on, if things doesn't affect you. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. You just kind of push it

[00:15:42] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:15:42] and that's why you see Aunty Nicky, that's, that's exactly why I wanted to do these series of episodes. Um, that's exactly why, one of the reasons why, um, because in my field, um, Since everything got a lockdown I'm I'm assuming

[00:16:02] here Of course. So, so, so just for the listeners, this is not a fact. Um, but like, um, there's certain pockets of people who, um, don't know, you know, of anybody that passed away who had no personal experience, and it's easy to believe in all these, uh, ridiculous conspiracies. Uh, and, and, and theories and, um, it's actually building, uh, yeah, man, it's, it's, it's creating another form of division and, and I'm, um, I'm actually, I'm actually quite concerned moving, um, moving forward that there's going to be certain pockets of people that, uh, just don't care.

[00:16:40] Like just straight up, just, don't just don't get, um, I'll give you, I'll give you an example in Maboneng, in, um, in Joburg, I mean like hardly anybody's wearing masks, you know, uh, people are walking up and down the, the, the, the, the, the, yeah. You know, it's obviously some restaurants close but people are just moving, you know, you know, there's no, there's no.

[00:17:04] You know, like nobody gets basically, so it's a living there it's, um, it's very easy to sort of buy into that. Like, you know, this guy, I go to the shop nobody's wearing it there, you know, after awhile you also like, ah, fuck it. You know? I'll just, I'll just go. So I wanted to, um, you know, I wanted Melissa, um, because, Aunty Nicky, us as artists, we've got a we've, we move around a lot.

[00:17:29] Right. We do, we do shows in different venues, different cities, countries, et cetera, you know? Um, and, um, moving, moving around, like, like it's become political now. And, um, um, I want to, I, you know, I really want to. Get like, you know, the, the get, get, get to the root cause of, or rather hear from the horse's mouth.

[00:17:51] And then sort of use that as a, um, I don't want to change people's, uh, the way they think I'm not into that, but I, I just want to give my listeners more facts, so that, I guess we can just, so some will, people can be just a bit more cautious. So, um, off of that point, uh, what, uh, what medication were you, um, were you on and how long were you, um, were you on these meds for?

[00:18:20] **Nicky Damons:** [00:18:20] First of all let me go to the first comments that you've made about this movement.

[00:18:31] People see this as a political thing and whatever

[00:18:35] obviously, politics will come in wherever whatever and however you see it. Okay. The individual. You Wesley Pepper must know you are the one that's making the decision. You are the one that's talking to me now that experience and use that me telling you from my experience while I was moving around in there, I infected four people, but I was in contact with plus minus 50 people a day. Four of those were infected from me.

[00:19:26] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:19:26] I see exactly what you said.

[00:19:27] **Nicky Damons:** [00:19:27] There's no certainty or whatever as to how you will be, uh, uh, get infected and whatever this should be a personal decision. On your movement and your conduct. This is not even supposed to be a political thing, but people, people, people are reckless people, people are getting infected, people are dying because of ignorance well.

[00:20:14] That shouldn't be the president's problem. or that shouln't be the manager's problem, that is, that is, that is the individual's problem. You know, you see the things. But you choose to ignore

[00:20:28] Because this is really the most dangerous thing that you can ever get hold of. Because with HIV, you know how we got infected with HIV, with malaria, you know how we got infected with malaria, with polio you know where it comes from. With this one we don't know. You don't know who's carrying it because they could be asymptomatic where you don't even know that you're infected. How many people are dying it's not because of lack of treatment or whatever. And you know, the scientists maintain there's no cure for this thing

[00:21:14] But because it's being treated like the flu and that's the medication that I got. And it helped. After three days, I was fine.

[00:21:28] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:21:28] So what medication was that, aunty nicky?

[00:21:44] **Nicky Damons:** [00:21:44] Flu treatment, flutex

[00:21:55] I know my body.

[00:22:07] So I don't drink any drugs prescribed drugs that's not good for my body

[00:22:14] But all I know, because when you read through through a medication leaflet also you have to complete a antibiotic course, And that is where people also, uh, fail to do. When they feel better, they leave the medications and then

[00:22:32] who's the one that's going to be blamed? The doctor. but now when you go back to doctor again and he

[00:22:43] gives you a antibiotic your body is building up a resistance.

[00:22:54] You should have completed the course. But no, what do you do? You don't adhere to protocol.

[00:23:06] You an artist. you know what you are doing there. i can't go and just take your brushes and do whatever I want to do. so the same, when a doctor tells you to complete a antibiotic course you must complete it. now we here the scientists say don't move because if you move the virus moves but you want to move for what?

[00:23:38] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:23:38] Yeah, I liked, I liked the way you actually nailed it.

[00:23:46] **Nicky Damons:** [00:23:46] Because you stupid, man!

[00:23:51] It's stupidness when you want to move, but you see how people are dying.

[00:24:12] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:24:12] Yeah, actually, actually, actually, Aunty Nicky, on that point. So, um, when you, um, when you were done taking the antibiotics, um, um, when did you start feeling better, and when you started feeling better, um, I've read that, um, some patients still have a lot of those symptoms. Do you have any of those, uh, symptoms, shortness of breath, uh, fatigue, et cetera.

[00:24:36] **Nicky Damons:** [00:24:36] The only thing after my third day, I felt better neh, but the only thing is like, it's mos your lack of smell. Yeah. And, um, that's just, but after four days it came back. You see, I'm one of those lucky ones. Like I said, I was also one of those stupid people. When I say I went to the beach and I had a long walk.

[00:25:08] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:25:08] Yeah. I wanted to, I wanted to ask about that after. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. That's when you got reinfected neh?

[00:25:16] **Nicky Damons:** [00:25:16] And then I went to the beach. No, I didn't get reinfected. I went to the beach and then you know what happened? I got sicker. Not because of the virus, but because of the flu, I went to the beach and had a long.. I think we went for a 5 kilometre walk

[00:25:39] and after I was sick, but the thing is, we don't realize what this virus actually do to your body, because you will feel good, you also feel healthy. You will feel you can conquer the world but you must nurture your body to go back to normal. You can't just do that.

[00:26:02] That's what I did but that was also lack of knowledge. Or ignorance I don't know what to call it. Was I stupid? or what? But that is what I did. And then I was sick for 21 days.

[00:26:20] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:26:20] Uh, how was, how was, how was, how was that second infection versus the first were you worse off?

[00:26:27] **Nicky Damons:** [00:26:27] I was, I was there. My body was aching, like, but the thing is like, I don't get shortness of breath. And stuff like that, you know we get infected differently. But my body was aching and all that stuff.

[00:26:51] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:26:51] That's that seems, that sounds, that sounds very scary, man. This, what you telling me is that sounds really, really, really scary. Um, and it's, it's actually good. I think, um, I like, because like you talking, I'm, I'm sort of picturing it is an audios and whatnot and, and, and it's, um, it's sounding really bad.

[00:27:17] **Spudcaster:** [00:27:17] This is Wesley Pepper's Art Lexica brought to you by Spudcaster for Baobulb.org.

[00:27:26] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:27:26] Um, because, because now you got, um, you know, you had, you had the flu or I'd say you got infected again afterwards, you know, um, you know, you got, um, you got better. Um, and now we like in the new year. Okay. So, um, not that I'm saying that everything got left in 2020, but you know, uh, uh, it's uh, it's uh, you know, a new year, fresh start, like what what. Um, Now, uh, recently, uh, Jackson Mthembu passed away, you know, and to my, to my, my, uh, from my understanding, he's probably the highest ranking, uh, government official that is, um, that has passed away because of COVID.

[00:28:05] And, uh, you know, there's sort of people starting to pay attention because as soon as, you know, people who's, you know, So, um, I guess like what I'm trying to suss out like in the Eastern Cape, in the, in the, in the, um, East London area, I know that the infection rates has gone down. Right. But do you, um, is there a sense of, uh, of people starting to relax their shoulders or people still, or what do you think of, were you saying that people are taking the disease serious?

[00:28:37] The pandemic seriously?

[00:28:40] **Nicky Damons:** [00:28:40] I must tell you. Uh, the, the second wave and after the, uh, lockdown three or reinforcement of lockdown it's really subsided and people really started to do, um, to adhere to the protocol or whatever, because

[00:29:04] you see, so now I think, I think we all. The, like you said, big people like, what's his name? Jackson Mthembu

[00:29:22] People that we love just go and whatever. So people, uh, I think we have that with the messages, so yeah. And you can see it. Groups, also the community groups they are really trying their utmost to keep people at bay and whatever. And the closing up of the beaches and all the places was really a good move.

[00:29:50] Listen here, East London is not out of the red yet hey. PE is out.

[00:30:08] Yeah. It goes up a little bit, but not as much.

[00:30:11] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:30:11] Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Interesting. Interesting. So like the, um, the last round of questions on this is, um, Is regards to these conspiracy theories. So I've had, um, you know, I've been, I've been talking to over the, over the, over the holiday period.

[00:30:32] Um, I asked everybody, uh, uh, You know that we were in contact with and what are they going to take the vaccine? And the overwhelming majority of the a hundred percent was like, no, uh, like, hell no, hell no. Um, and I said earlier on like, um, through my, uh, you know, through the art networks, uh, there's also a lot of skepticism there and, um, it's actually picking up C uh, so I'm seeing more and more posts.

[00:31:01] I'm talking social media, um, Of people saying nah. And, um, you know, I'm pan Africanist. So the Pan-Africanist, uh, um, there's also the, um, the sceptic.. The theory of, you know, us, as an African people have a bad history with, you see with, uh, vaccines coming from the West. And, um, to my knowledge, now that we buy this vaccine from the BRICS countries.

[00:31:26] So it's either from, uh, Russia or India, Well, China, I'm not, I still, the governments information around which and where is still very sketchy. But I know it's coming from the BRICS countries and, um, um, there's been this, um, uh, so, so I wanna, I wanna explain this and, and sort of get your, your opinion. Um, One of the, one of the theories come from a Pan-Africanist perspective is that, um, is that, uh, we have many talented scientists, uh, many, many, and, uh, you know, why aren't we using any of our scientists to do the create a vaccine, but we would rather, you know, pay a large amount of tarriffs and taxes and whatnot, getting it from abroad.

[00:32:15] So if you look at that theory, Nah. And the theory of African people not, you know, we've got a really bad history when it comes to buying vaccines from the West. What's your, do you have an opinion on that?

[00:32:30] or, you know, what's your, what's your, what your take on that?

[00:32:34] **Nicky Damons:** [00:32:34] Wesley, like I told you, I believe I'm an educator, you an artist and then you get scientists. Uh, I would not have opinions or theories on things that I don't know of, so even there, I won't even tell you about all these things that's happening in the scientific world

[00:33:04] You see, that is where people also mess up things is when they want to is when they want to go and tell you better how to do your thing there when you busy doing your stuff and whatever. It doesn't work that way. If you must look at people, look at this, no medication in my view, there's no drug that you can take without any side effects.

[00:33:48] Just show me one of those.

[00:33:58] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:33:58] Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

[00:33:59] **Nicky Damons:** [00:33:59] Show me one of those drugs that doesn't have side effects, and if you, if you. If you are a researcher or cleva or just went to college at least then you will know about research,

[00:34:20] There's no 100% research in anything. Yeah.

[00:34:37] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:34:37] Yeah, I see your point. I see your point. Interesting, interesting. Interesting. That's that's that's, that's that's really listening. Um, um, I'd like to, I'd like to just add on that then.

[00:34:48] **Nicky Damons:** [00:34:48] So, um, with all that stuff and now few of them shows, uh, a side effect. But they don't count the numerous ones that survive because of those vaccinations. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. And now people will tell you once again, it's choice, if you want to be more cleverer than the scientists, let it be then. But I will definitely take it

[00:35:34] Because I've seen how people are dying from it.

[00:35:45] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:35:45] Yeah.

[00:35:46] **Nicky Damons:** [00:35:46] And if I don't have the vaccine I won't be allowed to travel and I want to be able to leave South Africa.

[00:36:20] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:36:20] Yeah. Yeah.

[00:36:27] Okay. Uh, I want to ask you one more question on the, on the conspiracy thing, and then we can kind of wrap up. Um, is the thing of Mogoeng Mogoeng preaching from the pulpit saying that if you get the vaccine, you're gonna go to hell, basically, you know, there are all these other things that he's talking about. What do you, um, these men are talking from a, from a position of serious power.

[00:37:02] A lot of people are listening to them and, um, um, and they, and they say all these things backed by zero facts. You know, there's no scientific, uh, thing, but, um, and people are buying into that. Um, so what's your take on that?

[00:37:18] **Nicky Damons:** [00:37:18] Once again Wesley, it's also about. You see there in the Bible? I like the bible. I read the Bible. And I study it.

[00:37:28] So you will know, even in the bible it states there those false prophets will come and, you know, once again, people are so vulnerable and listening to those people that, that they have all their theories and stuff and I don't know when will they learn.

[00:38:04] For me, it doesn't make sense. It's a person that really can't think for themselves that will fall for that and believe in what he's saying.

[00:38:20] How can a vaccine do this stuff? I mean really. That's weird. I don't know. I don't know. I feel so sorry for the people.

[00:38:37] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:38:37] We do we do. We do. Um, I'm actually bringing up the thing. Okay. Uh, now consistently because it's really, um, it really shook me. Mmm. Mmm, Mmm, Mmm, Mmm. And, um, but like in a bad way. And, um, I was looking at, um, because I know there's other ministers that is doing the same thing. It's not just him, he's just the most highest profile one.

[00:39:04] And, um, I'm uh, you know, these theaters that they, that they shooting off, they, they backing it up with their own theories. And bottom line is that, is, that is, that is people buying into it. And, um, we have, uh, you know, we're living in a world now. Uh, you can, if I must use America as an example, you know, uh, there's people that says they'll be in a complete isolated bubble, you know, there's a population of just under 300 million.

[00:39:30] Um, but they innovate in their own bubble and they believe what they want to believe. And that's the reality. And if you look back on the 6th of January and they even stormed the Capitol because they believe whatever they want to believe. That's why, that's why I see this as a really key, uh, turning point in the country's history that, um, I mean, there's a, there's already, these guys this Afriforum people

[00:39:52] that's also believing all these are managed. Uh, farm murder story is not saying that farmers are not being the people that feel, but those numbers are seriously exaggerated. And using that as a, uh, a as a lobby to, to, to, to lobby their own agendas. And that's dangerous, that's extremely dangerous. And now we are having and how we have this over here.

[00:40:14] And this is coming from, uh, from, uh, from a religious perspective and religion tjo it's um, it's um, it's, uh, it's a, it's a, it's a really scary, uh, scenario. And, um, yeah, I, I, from, from, from, from my point, I just wanted to talk about it. Um, and just get official perspective and, and, and, and make up your mind, because I don't want to change people's minds, but I'd like to

[00:40:43] help them change their perspectives at least. And, um, so yeah, I mean, that's just, that's just really really scary, so, so, um, yeah, man geewizz that's why, that's why I actually keep bringing it up. So yeah. I mean, do you have a, do you have an opinion on that?

[00:40:57] **Nicky Damons:** [00:40:57] Yeah, no, Wesley, I really agree with you I agree with you 100% I'm also a religious person. I am. But like I said, that, that, that, you know what, um, people must stop taking everything on face value and saying what this man is saying right it sounds right or whatever,

[00:41:31] if you will stand firm on your beliefs and, you know, and you can distinguish between then, um, Then I don't think we'll have any problem, and

[00:41:46] if you look at your leaders too, what type of qualifications do they have, nah How can they make sweeping statements like that without any proof or whatever. I mean, you can't just say something without evidence and now I don't know why are some of us so gullible and just believe in what people are saying. It has been proven how many people got hurt because of our ignorance

[00:42:23] and following people that doesnt have the expertise,

[00:42:28] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:42:28] yeah. Yeah. You can just look at history in any parts of the world, actually at any time over the past two 3000 years, this is not new. That's why, uh, that's, that's also a reason why I want to talk more about this. Um, because you know, as a, as a matters, I like to, um, I love that this mantra that, you know, art is a verb, it's not a noun, it's a, it's, it's a doing thing.

[00:42:50] Art is not just something you put on a wall and walk away, you know, you know, I think art is affecting people's decision making process, actually almost on a daily basis because people are always reading artists creative expression through music, through books, through design to find art, et cetera. So, um, I definitely want to play a role, uh, coming on that.

[00:43:13] And I've got a solo exhibition coming up later on in the year, uh, where I actually want to take some of these themes, um, and sort of rework them into a, you know, dimensional image. Um, so, so, so I find these things really, really, really important, man. And, and, and, and, and, and, and then these device very, very, very important.

[00:43:33] So, um, I think you sort of in closing then um, because I think we covered, we covered pretty much all the, um, all the points I wanted to cover. Um, um, in closing, given that we in the last few weeks of the first month of the year, um, are you optimistic or

[00:43:55] are you because, uh, schools are really opening on the 15th. Of, uh, of February, um, schools have been, the curriculum has been, um, I know some still school catch up and so on. So deurmekaar and just so messed up. Um, I guess like, how are you, what's your feeling towards this year? Are you, um, yeah. It's yeah. What, how do you, how do you think the rest of uh, 2021 is gonna roll out?

[00:44:28] 2021

[00:44:28] **Nicky Damons:** [00:44:28] will be more or less like 2020 unless we have more certainty about the virus. Um, I like your platform. And I like what you are doing.

[00:44:43] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:44:43] Thank you, man.

[00:44:43] **Nicky Damons:** [00:44:43] And I like what you are doing by educating people and bringing real people to talk to. not with distorted ideas. Well, what I would like to bring across to people on this platform is to stick with what you know. We are not scientists.

[00:45:21] Let the artists do best what they do best by expressing themselves in their art. And if you don't understand what are they doing? Ask them so you can get clarity on what they are doing. Education is the foundation. and if we don't have the proper education then you will always be mislead by anything that you hear outside.

[00:45:58] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:45:58] Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. I agree

[00:46:01] **Nicky Damons:** [00:46:01] And if we dont know how to direct our thoughts and our minds into the proper direction then were are doomed to fail. and then we will be deurmekaar for the rest of our lives

[00:46:16] Yeah, so I will salute you on what you are doing right now and I love what you was doing.

[00:46:30] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:46:30] Thank you very much, Aunty Nicky. I think that's actually perfect to close, uh, today's episode off with, uh, so enjoy the rest of your afternoon. Um, I know it's very hot that side, so you can switch the fan on and. Okay.

[00:46:48] **Nicky Damons:** [00:46:48] Okay, thank you very much Wesley and everything of the best for you nah

[00:47:03] **Wesley Pepper:** [00:47:03] I hope you guys enjoyed that interview. I thought it was incredibly insightful. Um, also a lot information got shared and also got really scary, um, to know that a family member of mine went through all of that, then like she still overcame it. So big up Aunty Nicky. And I know she's a very strong lady. Um, mentally and physically actually.

[00:47:30] Um, and she's been through such a hell of a lot through life still to go through this at her age. Wow. I think she's incredibly, incredibly powerful, strong. So big up, Aunty Nick, for coming through man, and for, and for sharing all that information with me and, um, I hope all the listeners found it insightful. I certainly did.

[00:47:46] Um, and, uh, yeah, to catch us on all the streaming platforms, Spotify, iTunes, uh, Google podcasts, even my website, wesleypepper.com, you know, we everywhere we everywhere and remember to send us your comments, uh, uh, feedback and stuff like that. It's, it's, it's really necessary, I think.

[00:48:05] And, um, Yeah. I mean, it is. Um, let me know what you, what you thought about this week's episode and, um, and did, um, is my attempt to sway your perspectives around COVID working, you know, um, are you still pro anti-vax? I'd really love to know. So please let me know in the comments, in the comment section and look out for next week.

[00:48:24] Next week, we're talking to an old friend, Rene and we sort of a follow up, um, it will be the last episode of these COVID related, uh, episodes that I'll be doing. And, uh, we'll be touching on the. Yeah, finding out what her, whatever viewpoints is and so forth. So stay tuned for that coming up next week and I'll catch you in a week's time.

[00:48:43] Bye bye.

[00:48:48] **Spudcaster:** [00:48:48] Podcast your life with baobulb.org