



On Their Way Transcript:  
Episode 1-Amanda Morris

**Jade:** Hi, I am Jade Madison Scott and I am so happy that you are taking the time to listen to this podcast of mine. So, the podcast you're about to listen to, On Their Way, has been my love child for the past several months. You see, I'm the founder of WGC productions, the company that's producing this podcast, and while I was going through the process of building my company I found myself wishing that I could talk to people who were doing the same thing. People who were going out on a limb and making a business or a brand that they were passionate about, and that thought birthed this podcast. So, I hope that if you're a business owner or an artist like me that the ten creators we chose to interview for On Their Way season one will be able to share their insights with you and hopefully it can encourage you to push Out your own art or business or anything into the world! Alright, so that's my spiel. I hope you enjoy the episode and remember, this is a WGC Production.

**'On Their Way' Theme Song composed by Bajio Alvarado**  
**(It's light and energetic. It puts a little pep in your step)**

**J:** Hi, so, our guest today is Amanda Morris. She is a New York City based actor, filmmaker, playwright and Black girl learning how to take care from Spanish Town, Jamaica. She is also a graduate of Howard University where she received her BFA in Acting. During her time at Howard, she expanded on her love for film and recently acted in and produced a film, titled "["April Again"](#)"-- it is currently streaming on Amazon Prime. She believes that as an artist, especially a black artist, it is imperative that we tell our stories with integrity and love and not sit back and wait on someone else to do so for us. Whether it be films, youtube videos or blog posts, Amanda is always working on something to keep her and her community uplifted. Amanda likes to remind herself every day that "One, one cocoa full basket." an old Jamaican saying which means success does not come overnight. Hello, Amanda

**Amanda:** Hello, Jade

**J:** How are you doing on this fine Monday morning?



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**A:** Honestly, I'm doing well. I feel rejuvenized and I'm feeling cute. So...

**J:** Okay.

**A:** I'm doing good. How are you?

**J:** I'm doing pretty okay. I'm really excited to be talking to you. This is really exciting to me.

**A:** Yes.

**J:** Yeah, back at Howard I always looked up to you cause you were always just doing it Amanda.

**A:** What?

**J:** Yes

**A:** Aww. Thank you.

**J:** You're welcome. You're welcome. Thank you.

**J:** So, my first question is where do you call home? You live in New York. You're from Spanish Town. You went to school in D.C. Where are your roots?



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**A:** Home is Jamaica. Yeah, that is home. That is my nesting place. That is where I feel comfortable. But it wasn't until recently that I realized that home is also Queens, NY. Because even though I was born and raised in Jamaica, I came to New York when I was about 12 or 13, and those are very pivotal years as a young woman and I learned so much about myself when I was in Queens.

**A:** You know going to high school I found myself. You know I went through so many phases, and I found myself while I was in New York so, I realized that home can be both of them. It's just a very different variation of home.

**J:** Now you said you found yourself, so, when you found yourself who did you find that person to be? How would you describe yourself?

**A:** I would describe myself as an everblooming being because I'm always learning something else. Like even today, I'm 25 years old and I'm still learning more about myself. I'm still discovering things. I'm still blooming into something else. I feel like every day I bloom into a different flower and it's like "oh how is this flower going to grow, or possibly, wilt a little bit today?" Like, what makes her grow? What makes her wilt? What makes her who she is? So, I'm an ever-evolving being.

**(Amanda and Jade laugh)**

**J:** Okay, so you're ever-evolving. How does that impact your art if you're ever-evolving?

**A:** Well, that means that my art is always evolving, you know?

**(Amanda Laughs)**

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**A:** I'm trying to make sense. I'm trying to make sense, cause sometimes I say things in my head and things make sense in my head and I'm like "I know what I mean, but how can I make the world know what I mean", you know? But, it just means that my art is always growing. Like, before I had no clue what type of art I wanted to make even, but now I know okay, I want to tell stories about Black women, Black people. I want to tell stories about Jamaica. I want to tell stories about how unique the Black experience is and how it's not one thing, you know? And that's where I'm at right now, but who knows where I'll be next year, you know what I mean? It's just ever-evolving.

**J:** Okay, I understood that. You did make the point across. Okay, here's my question as a person who's ever-evolving and changing and learning new things about herself. At what point in your life, in this journey, did you realize that you wanted to be an artist and that this was going to be a forever thing for you.

**A:** Oh my gosh. Okay, so, I wanted to be an artist....I wanted to be a performer ever since I was a tiny little girl in Spanish Town, Jamaica. When I tell you I was Disney Channels' biggest fan. I wanted to be on Disney Channel. I wanted to be the next Raven on That's So Raven. I used to practice my "I'm Amanda and you're watching Disney Channel" every single day

**(Jade & Amanda Laugh)**

**A:** Because that's what I wanted to do, and the crazy thing is before that I wanted to be a singer. I have books where I used to, like, write songs and raps. I wanted to be a singer before I wanted to be an actor. I was going to do acting on the side. This is what my childhood brain thought: I was going to be a singer, and then I was gonna be an actor on the side, and I wanted to be a fashion designer. So ever since I was really little I knew I wanted to be an artist. I knew that was the realm I wanted to go into. And it wasn't until I got to America and I started taking acting classes and performing in musicals and stuff at the high school I went to that I realized, "oh, I can make a career out of this", and that was in grade 12 when we did August Wilson's Gem Of The Ocean.



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**A:** I played Black Mary and that role forever changed my life because I realized, it wasn't until one day, right before I went on stage I was outside waiting to go on and it hit me. Something just in me said "I really don't care if I'm rich or poor, I don't care what happens this is what I want to do forever and then I went on stage, and ever since then I'm like "Yeah, this is it. This going to be my career"

**J:** And was your family supportive of this decision?

**A:** In the beginning? No.

**(Amanda laughs)**

**A:** No, for them this was just playing. This was just "oh, you know, you're doing that thing for fun" and my mother was very confused because she brought me to America for a better life. She wanted me to be a doctor or a nurse or you know something more practical. So when she saw that I was spending so much time in rehearsals, so much time after school working on these quote-on-quote plays and you know doing all this stuff it didn't make sense to her. You know she just came from Jamaica. What she knows is survival. So she's not thinking, like, "oh doing this thing out of passion. She used to come to see my shows, she always supported me, but she just never saw how I could make this a career. I could see, well looking back now, I can see that it's fear. She was scared for me. I was her baby girl. I'm the last one out of four and she sacrificed so much for me and my siblings her entire life, our entire lives so she just wanted what was best for me and she didn't really see how that, how putting all my time or energy into acting or *theater* could be best for me. I went to community college before I went to Howard and she saw how serious I was. She saw that this wasn't a game, but it wasn't until I told her I was going to Howard to study theater, to study this acting, and I'm going to pay for it out of my own pocket. That's when she was like "woah, this girl is serious" and now she'll be sending me articles about this audition. She'll be talking to me about this actor did this or that person did that and she sees now that this real and I can see how proud she is and...woo, I'mma cry, but, um,

**J:** It's okay. Take your time.



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**A:** But, like, um, at graduation she came up to me and she was like “I am so proud of you” and that was, that was the best moment of that entire day. That’s one of the best moments of my life, just hearing her say “I’m so proud of you” because I know it was a struggle for her to see me take this path because she didn’t know what was going to happen. Shoot, I don’t know what’s going to happen, but just to know that she believes in me and when I tell her about my auditions now, she smiles and I see this proud smile on her and she’s so excited to hear about auditions or what I’m doing.

**(Amanda chuckles)**

**A:** So, it’s been a journey. A good one.

**J:** It sounds like a good one. And you’ve just started too.

**A:** Mmhmm. Yeah. Yeah.

**J:** Okay, so, as an actor, what is your process?

**A:** Mmm, that’s such an interesting question, because, I think, I think my process...I think my process depends on the character, and how close I feel to the character. Let me use the last show I did as an example, Form of a Girl Unknown. I played a twelve-year-old and obviously I’m not twelve.

**(Amanda and Jade Laugh)**

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**A:** So, the first thing I do, the first thing in my process is just reading the play and while I'm reading the play, just for fun, just to like see what's going on, it's interesting, I hear the character's voice in my head. I see how the character moves in the world in my head. Like I feel it. I see it and I hear it and I feel it. And I'm like "oh, she's definitely doing this at this point." I feel it right there and it's almost like it's building like a skeleton for that character. And I've noticed that I tend to do that a lot, and before I used to, like, run away from that because I thought "oh, it's wrong" but then, you know, you realize that your process is your process and can't anybody tell *you* what is right *or* wrong for your process. So, I did that and then, you know, once I have those, like, thoughts in my head I go into rehearsal after scoring out the script and figuring out what certain words mean, and I go into rehearsal and it's like "oh, okay" you know I'm putting all these things together when I have the other actor with me. Things will change. Things will stay the same. For the most part, for that play, how I first saw her was how she remained. And I use that, and what else? I'm very big on alone time. Like, I need to have alone time, which was great for me in Utah, because I had my own apartment and I was by myself so I was in there a lot and I was just running lines. Memorizing. Memorizing, because she spoke a lot. And a big part of my process, too, I don't know if other people do this, but I need other people to, like, run lines with me.

**(Amanda snaps her fingers)**

**A:** So, I can, you know, get the pacing or just know how it feels to go back and forth with somebody so I'd call my boyfriend and he'd run lines with me on Facetime. I think he still know the lines more than I do at this point.

**(Amanda and Jade laugh)**

**A:** So, it's little things like that and just being alone. A big part of my process, especially before a show, is I do not like to talk. I do not talk at all. My castmates can attest to this, like, I had to let them know, like, "guys I'm not being mean. I don't hate you guys, but I'm not going to be talking to you guys" and I'm very quiet and I'm just listening to my music and do what I need to do.



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**A:** And I like to touch the script and just, like, run through the script before a performance. even if I'm not looking at the words, I'm just touching it, touching the words and stuff.

**(Amanda Laughs)**

**A:** And then when the show is over I'm like "ahhhh, everybody what's up" but before then you'll think I don't like people because I just do not want to talk. Don't talk to me. I'll just stay over here. But that's just me and I know that's not everybody else but that's how I like to do it.

**J:** So, you brought up a point. Just for our listeners, last year Amanda did play the 12-year-old Amali in Charly Evon Simpson's world debut of Form Of A Girl Unknown, over in Salt Lake City, Utah and I just wanted to ask, since you also played Beneatha Younger in Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun at the Lyric Rep earlier that year too, what was the difference working with a character that nobody had ever seen before and then working with a character as iconic as Beneatha?

**A:** Right? Oh my goodness. It's so interesting because Beneatha has always been a dream role I'll play her 12 more times if I could. Working with that character, you know, you know that, like, everybody's played her, you know what I mean? And I kind of went into it thinking "oh my gosh, people are gonna be thinking that I said this line like this person or I *should've* said my line like this person". You know thoughts like that would plague me, but when I touched her, you know I'm bringing my experiences to her and I have quite similar experiences to her so I'm bringing my Jamcian experiences and touching her up with that, you know what I mean?



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**A:** And then those thoughts didn't even mean anything because I know I'm playing her how / want to play her. How / see her. Whereas when I went into Amali I'm like "I can do anything I want to do and nobody is gonna say a thing because this is the first time she's ever been brought to life on stage." You know what I mean? You know and I had...I felt I a little bit more freedom going into Amali because I'm like "Yo, like, this is the first time and no one is gonna be able to say 'oh you should've done this, oh you should have done that' because this was me bringing life to her and I hope whoever plays her next doesn't think about what I did and say 'oh well she was played like that, maybe I should do what Amanda did.' Nooo, bring your own flavor. Bring your own spices to the mix. And it's okay.

**J:** I also have another question about your time as Beneatha Younger. So, again for our listeners, the Lyric Repertory is in Logan Utah, which according to the 2010 census has a 1.0% Black population.

**(Amanda laughs)**

**J:** So, with a play as iconic in the Black community as Raisin in the Sun. A play that deals so strongly with themes of Blackness and the experience of Black people in America, when you were playing to a majority white audience did that at all affect how you played it? Did it make you self conscious? What was the vibe, so to speak?

**A:** Yeah, there

**(Amanda Laughs)**

**A:** It's so funny there were little to no Black people. No, I was never self-conscious about that. I remember before we started the show and the run of the show, my castmates and I used to be like "Man, ain't nobody gonna come see this show"

**(Amanda and Jade Laugh)**

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**A:** "Man, it's just gonna be like us and two Black folk in the audience coming". But, it was one of everyone's favorite shows that season. We were packed out every night. People loved that show, and even before that, before knowing what our audience looked like, it didn't affect how I was gonna play her or how I felt about performing the show because I knew that whoever was in the audience needed to hear this. And a city like Logan with such a small percentage of Black people, a city like Logan where when me and my castmates were walking around people were staring and pointing at us because they've never seen this set of Black people here before. This same city, you know we got racially profiled when we went to a store, you know I mean? So, we were like "you need to see this show, and y'all are gonna learn. Y'all gonna learn a piece of history." And something we did that I loved was we went to different schools and we spoke with the students, different high schools and we spoke to the students and a lot of those students came to see the show and they loved it and they learned so much. So, definitely, it doesn't matter what race or, you know, who your audience is, don't let that affect how you tell the story because you will still be teaching people and you will be bringing things to their lives and they need it.

**J:** A slight transition, you've obviously had theater experience, but you also have film experience. For instance, you were in April Again, the award-winning film.

**(Amanda Laughs)**

**J:** And you're also going to be in the film upcoming Tyrell Hunt movie, Naomi, which is like a crime comedy, so

**A:** Oh, Naima

**J:** Oh, did I mispronounce it?

**A:** Naima.

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**J:** Thank you. Naima, you're going to be in that new movie. So, how is the experience different from theater to film. How does that work for you?

**A:** So, just to clear things up Naima has been postponed because of Covid.

**J:** Makes sense.

**A:** Yeah. It's so sad because we started filming and I think we almost had, I think we had a third of the film down.

**J:** I'm sorry.

**A:** But it's okay. You know there's always...it's okay. There's always more to do and we're always creating. But as far as film and theater, theater is, bigger. You have to be more bold and you're more exaggerated on the stage whereas film, it's very nuanced and you're working on a smaller scale and sometimes they're just focusing on the eyes or like the tippy-tippy-top of your fingers, you know what I mean? And I, I think they're both so unique and fun and I'm still learning when it comes to film cause I....did I take a film class? Oh, yeah we did have a semester of film class, Acting for the screen or something, I forget what it was called. But it wasn't as immersive as our theater classes because we had more years of our theater classes, but you said the difference, right?

**J:** Yes, the difference, or the similarities.

**A:** Or the similarities. Well, the difference for me is I'm learning how to make sure that when I'm doing film I'm not doing too much and just remembering that I can be extremely subtle and it works. Because for years I remember having to *remember* to be *bigger* on stage and now I have it in my bones to be bigger on stage and now I'm like "okay, this is completely different. Gotta be smaller.

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**A:** Got to remember that my eyes can't just be bolting all over the place and, you know doing all that stuff in film, you know what I mean? You know the eyebrows, you don't want to be doing too much with your eyebrows because that can be distracting. It's just remembering certain things. And you get it into your bones after a while. After you do so many self-tapes, child. Ooh. You feel it, you're like "okay, chill". I just tell myself to chill out.

**J:** And so, you want to do more films in the future. Are there specific types of films you'd like to do.

**A:** Oh my gosh, yes. I want to do ALL. THE. FILMS. Put me...no, seriously. I really...I would love to do an action-packed film where I had to like, bulk up a little bit. And something-

**(Amanda Laughs)**

**A:** Okay, I know this is gonna sound crazy, but I wanna do one of those popcorn movies where it's just explosions and stuff. And where I'm jumping over stuff and I'm doing my own stunts, well most of them cause girl you know can't-

**(Jade Laughs)**

**A:** I don't wanna get too hurt.

**(Amanda Laughs)**

**A:** Listen. But, you know, like, I wanna be doing stunts and shooting at stuff and running really fast and jumping off a building and people saying "oh my God" and I'm like "I made it", you know? I wanna do stuff like that, and shoot, I wanna be Storm in X-men. Come on now. I wanna do a lot of Jamaican films. I have, like, all these ideas that I've written down about the films that I want to produce cause I want to produce a lot and I want to produce these different stories about Jamaica and the culture.

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**A:** Because from doing my one-person show I saw that people are really intrigued in that aspect of life and you don't really hear that many Jamcian stories and when you do they're told by these really bad accents and they're very stereotypical. So, I wanna bring people back into my childhood and how I grew up as a little girl in Jamaica who was heavily influenced by American Pop Culture.

**J:** Do you have any interest in returning to Jamaica and participating in the arts scene there for extended periods of time or will be you be between New York and Jamaica or will you be primarily in New York?

**A:** Mmmm. Good. Good. Good. I'm not sure about an extended period of time because the theater world in Jamaica, you know I'm not even familiar with it. I watch the plays, but I don't know how things work out there, which is something I would like to find out But I would love to do a show in Jamaica. That would be so dope. I would love to produce work in Jamaica. And one of my biggest dreams, after I'm financially stable enough to do something like this, I would love to, and I will, open a theater company or a theater afterschool program for the youth in Spanish town Jamaica, cause growing up I never had anything like that and if there was something like I didn't know about it. So, I would just love to bring resources and a resource like that there for the Jamcian youth that are there and they want that outlet, because I know there are so many young boys and girls and just people there who want that outlet. Who want to study acting. Who want to dive into that world. Who probably don't know they want to but they just want to go somewhere so safe and fun after school and be creative because Jamcian people are so creative. They are, oh my gosh, they are so creative and they are so dramatic and they were just meant for theater. They were just meant to entertain, so if I could bring some dope resources out there, friends that I know to probably teach a masterclass or something. Shoot, bring you out there. Teach 'em how to do production. Like-

**(Amanda laughs)**

**J:** Sign me up.

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**A:** That would be a dream. That would be a dream come true.

**J:** That sounds really lovely. Giving back is such an important part of being an artist, especially since you want to create work that helps improve communities. It's right up your alley.

**A:** Thank you, Jade.

**J:** Of course. Now, I have a question so you have a thriving YouTube channel, of course, you have a strong social media presence, so how do you preserve your private self since you put so much of yourself out there? How do you preserve the "you" that's just for you if that's something you even want to do?

**A:** Mhmmm. So, fun fact I do preserve a lot just for me. And people don't know that because I use my Instagram and my blogs and you know YouTube and stuff like that. I vlog a lot and I tell a lot of stories, but there's a really great thing called editing. And I keep a lot to myself. I'm a very private person which most people don't know, but I'm a very sharing person because those experiences help other people but I'm very particular about what I share and even if I do share something that is private I tell certain bits. Just enough to help somebody but not enough to overexpose myself, you know what I mean? So, a lot of people may think, "oh my God, she tells us everything. We know everything about her" No you don't. You know just enough. And I don't mind doing that because it helped so many people. Personally, when I'm on social media I like following blogs or people who share because I want to learn from people. That's the reason why I use it. So, if I can help people learn something or even to learn a little more about me and, you know, what I've noticed is when people feel comfortable around you or they know just enough about you they're more inclined to support you. So, I share just enough and I be talking about my man.

**(Amanda Laughs)**

**A:** And I share just enough to help the other person out.



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**J:** Since you brought it up Tyrell I have a question. How is it working with, how is it working with your partner? Because-

**(Amanda laughs)**

**J:** For our listeners, he was the writer, director and editor for April Again, go watch it on Amazon Prime, but Amanda also produced and starred in the film. So, what was that relationship like working with someone you love in a professional context?

**A:** Oh, wow, so it's so much fun. It's so interesting. We complement each other and when we first connected in 2017 it was to work with each other. He was interviewing me for Gritty Vibes, which is his website, and that's how we first connected and then we became friends. And in our friendship, we created a short film called Manda Was Here and then as the relationship grew, as our friendship grew, then you know he asked me to be his girlfriend, but the creating never stopped. So, with the same respect and the same love that we had as friends is the same love and respect we have when we're creating as a couple. And he always jokes about this like "Oooooo, you gonna hate me" cause when he's directing me and I'm acting our processes are different. So, he has to just trust that I know what I'm about to do and that's something he said he just recently learned. Like, okay, for him he likes to go over things a million times and I'll go over things but then I'm like "okay, I got it. I got it" and then I show up and I kill it. But he's still worried like "but, I mean we can still go over it like two more times" and he's like "ahhhhhh" and I'm like "it's okay, babe. I got it." So, it's something that he said he had to learn like, okay, I trust you I know that you're gonna come through and you're gonna kill it. You're gonna do what you're supposed to do" and I'm like "yeah, like, you know I does this". But it's fun. It's fun to know that my best friend supports me so much. He has helped me with my brand, you know? When I was sending out my first newsletter he helped me format that. When I do my self-tapes the voice behind all my self-tapes is his. Like he lets me use his set-up, his cameras, different things like that and I help him as well.



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**A:** We just support each other. We hold each other up. And it's fun and it's exciting and it's comforting. It so comforting to know that I don't have to worry about my partner wondering if this career path I chose is stupid which I know a lot of people who are performing artist think about that, like" ugh, I'm dating this person but they think what I'm doing is dumb" you know?

**(Amanda claps her hands)**

**A:** So, it's just very comforting to know that he supports everything I do and I support everything he does.

**J:** That's really beautiful. That's so cute.

**A:** Thanks, Jade.

**J:** Alright, so here's another question, so, who were your role models?

**A:** Ooooo, so you know I'm gonna say Angela Bassett

**J:** Always. A Queen.

**A:** Because that is my mother. Sorry, Mummy, you're my mother too but, like, Angela Bassett's like my other mother.

**(Amanda Laughs)**

**A:** I love me some Angela Bassett. Well, she's more of an inspiration, but yeah definitely a role model. I look up to people, are you just necessarily asking what people I look up to?

**J:** First, you mentioned that she's an inspiration not a role model. Could you explain what the difference is?

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**A:** I'm trying to figure out what the difference is myself, but-

**(Amanda and Jade Laugh)**

**A:** Because when I think of role models I guess I think of...well, no I guess she counts as a role model cause I look to her as a model of a role I would like to take on. So, I guess that makes sense. Viola Davis. Yes. Wow, her name is Ms. Louise Bennett. She was a Jamaican folklorist, poet, performer, author, everything. Rest in peace. And she was all about using our Jamaican dialect, using Patois, to communicate and she loved teaching people that Patois is a beautiful language cause, I don't know if too many people know, but in Jamaica, English is our national language but we speak Patois, but we don't speak it on the news. The newscasters aren't speaking Patois and in a lot of communities they associate speaking Patois with speaking poorly or, you know, being of a lower class, so they say "speak English". They be like "oh, stop chat bad. Speak English". But she made it clear and she was so big about showcasing our language and that is something I wanna do so she is a huge role model for me because she believed in our culture and our culture was beautiful and that it could stand on its own and that is something that I believe in and that is something that I want to show the world. So she's a huge role model for me.

**J:** Well, you've already started showing the culture of Jamaica in some of your works. For instance, as a playwright you wrote, pardon the pronunciation, "Likkle Bowy, Big Mon"-

**A:** "Likkle Bowy, Big Mon"

**J:** Yep, that was off.

**(Amanda and Jade Laugh)**

**J:** Thank you. Thank you. But, um,-

**(Amanda and Jade Laugh Again)**



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**J:** And “Coconuts” which both showcased Jamcain culture and Coconuts, particularly, showcases your experience immigrating from Jamaica to New York and then your transition into American culture and what that looks like.

**A:** Yeah.

**J:** But I have a question. So, when you write plays are there any other topics that you want to write about or is it mainly the Jamaican immigrant experience that you want to write about as a playwright?

**A:** Mmmm, that's a good one. Right now it's mostly the Jamaican immigrant experience or just life in Jamaica itself. I have so many ideas in my notes right now, but, like I can't even get to my phone. But of all the things I wanna write about 9 ½ out of 10 times, it's always about the Jamaican experience because that's where I am right now. It took me a very long time to realize that that experience was worthy of the stage or the screen which is why it's pretty much all I want to do right now when I'm creating my own work. As far as doing other people's work, I'll do any and everything. But when I'm doing my own work I just want to bring those stories to life because I don't see anybody else doing it, especially on a main stage, you know? Well, there are some people doing it like Storm Salta, but not too many people doing it. So when it comes to writing my own stuff that's pretty much what I wanna focus on.

**(Amanda knocks on wood)**

**J:** But, you did bring up in that comment you made that you said that “recently became aware that that was something worthy of being brought to the main stage and the big screen.” Did something in particular happen to make you realize that?

**A:** Yeah, when I was in college...oh, I went through so many transitions in college, thank God for enlightenment, thank God for growth. You...You're studying theatre and learning Greek and Shakespeare and everything else and then I was, like, that wasn't coming to college.

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Episode 1-Amanda Morris

**A:** I said, I'm going to Howard. I want to learn more about Black plays and Black playwrights and stuff like that, and that I did. But there was always a disconnection, you know? Cause I'm thinking to myself "why do I always have to hide my accent? Why can't there be something where I can be Jamaican and show this accent if it's so beautiful?" You know? So, it wasn't until maybe my junior year, I think, when I started creating my own work that I realized "oh, my culture is dope. My culture is fun and putting that on stage would be so good and I can do that, like, I'm allowed to do that." So, I started watching more plays, more Jamaican plays and more Jamaican films and even just Jamaican skits or just watching Jamaican people, because Jamaican people on their own are so inspiring. So, just doing that and I realized "oh yeah, I can do this" and after I saw the reaction to Coconuts I was like "yeah, I'm gonna do this". So, that's pretty much what happened. It all happened in college. Good ol' Howard University.

**J:** HU

**A:** You know.

**J:** Okay, is Coconuts still up on Youtube?

**A:** It is! It is!

**J:** Okay, then go and watch if you have the time listeners, It's a great time. It's a great time.

**(Amanda Laughs)**

**J:** So, Coconuts is a one woman show. You were an ensemble member in Mama Mia back in the summer of 2019. You've been a lead in both film and play. Which one do you prefer? Do you like the solo show? Being an ensemble member? Being a lead? Which one works best for you? Which one do you like the most?

**A:** Oooo, I love being a lead.



On Their Way Transcript:  
Episode 1-Amanda Morris

J: Oh, okay!

A: Yeah, because, I'm not even gonna hold you. I love being a lead. Coconuts made me realize I love being in a solo show. I used to love watching solo shows, but I didn't realize how much I liked doing it. It's fun, because you just never leave and...wow, it sounds like I just like attention, huh?

**(Jade and Amanda Laugh)**

A: I love that, I love being a leader. I always say I want to be a leading woman, you know? And that's where I see myself that's where I see myself heading. That's how I promote myself, because I can. Because that's what I want, and there's nothing cocky about it, it's just what I want to do. Now, are there some stories that will call for me to be a supporting member? Of course, even as a lead you're still supporting, but I see myself as a leading woman and that's the road I want to go down.

J: Is there a dream role that you want?

A: Ahh, okay so the first thing that always comes to mind when people say this is "I wanna play Angela Bassett in her biopic"

J: Okay. Okay.

A: I want to do that, because she had such an interesting life and then her career is so profound it's like "man, if I play Angela Bassett in her biopic I'mma get to play everybody else. Cause she done did play everybody else." But is there any other dream role. I don't think I have one. I just know my dream role consists of me leading something fiercely.

J: Fiercely.

A: Mhmmm.



On Their Way Transcript:  
Episode 1-Amanda Morris

**J:** Mhmmm. Okay, of course you're an actor, you're a creator, and nowadays it seems like a lot of other people are too. It just seems that we're surrounded by other beautiful people who are creating things but that can be kind of difficult, for people who are just looking and they can't necessarily see all of us. So, what distinguishes you in such a saturated entertainment environment?

**A:** Oooh, that's a good one. Oh, that's a really good one. I would say, I think my work ethic and my drive separates me, because anybody can be a creator but, pardon me, and I know a lot of people are creating, but they don't have that drive, you know? Like they'll do something or they'll say they'll do something and it doesn't happen. Whereas, when I say I'll do something it happens. And when I'm working towards something I go through with it, you know? So, I think that separates me. With me you'll see results and you'll see quality results. Yeah, and I'm a great marketer. I can market anything. So, I think that helps. And my stories, I mean come on. You kidding me? Fricken, Jamaican girl from Spanish Town in New York, I mean there's a lot of us, but telling these particular stories and I'm so passionate about this man, like I don't even compare myself to anybody else, because I'm so passionate about what I'm doing and I only see what I'm doing and I just, I just love it. I just know what I'm doing is...it's gonna change the world one day, I feel it Jade. I really do. Yeah.

**J:** Yeah.

**A:** Okay, that's my soap box and I'm off.

**J:** Okay, it's been really lovely, but here's the last question. So, you're on your way up. You're on your way to being successful. How will you know when you've made it?

**A:** Interesting, because I feel like I've already made it.

**J:** Oh. Explain. Do Tell.



On Their Way Transcript:

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**A:** Ah-ha, right, because it's so interesting. And I will also say I also think there are many different levels of making it, quote-on-quote. I think I made it because everything I said I wanted to do I did it, and so much more and I know that there's so much more for me to do. So, how I like to think of it is I made it because I made that little girl from Spanish Town, Jamaica, I made her dreams come true already. And who knew that I could do this? I mean, I knew that I could do this, but *who knew that I could do it*, you know? And I believed in myself and that's why I think I made it, but I also know that there's so many more levels that I want to hit. I never want to peak, because I think that'll get boring. I wanna keep leveling up, so I'm always gonna keep making it, but I already made it. Shoot, graduating from Howard, I made it. You kidding me? So, I think I already made it, because I made all of my dreams come true so far.

**J:** Alright, well thank you Amanda. This has been really wonderful.

**A:** Thank you for having me!

**J:** You were great. It was just really insightful to hear your process and your journey as a Jamaican immigrant, it's just wonderful.

**A:** Thank you so much. I hope this helps somebody. Like, I just always wanna help somebody, so I hope somebody hears this. Feels this and is inspired and they know they can do anything they wanna do. That's what I tell people "you can do anything you wanna do whatever you wanna do, just don't hurt people along the way."

**'On Their Way' Theme Song composed by Bajio Alvarado**



On Their Way Transcript:  
Episode 1-Amanda Morris

J: You can follow Amanda and her journey to success on her Instagram and Twitter @nala soul, on her YouTube channel which is named Amanda Morris and on her website, amandamorrisactor.com, where you can subscribe to her newsletter. And that is a wrap on episode one of On Their Way: A WGC Production. On Their Way was created, hosted, and edited by me, Jade Madison Scott. The theme was composed by Bajio Alvarado, and the logo was created by Amaka Korie. If you liked this episode please leave us a review, follow us on Twitter and Instagram @withgoodco, or tell your friends to tune in next time. If you really liked our episode please consider buying our merchandise at our website wgcproductions.com. That's how we keep all this up and running. You can also find our episode transcripts and show notes at wgcproductions.com. Alrighty, I'll talk to y'all same time next week and until then remember to take care of yourselves.