**Mia Voss** 00:04

Hey, welcome to the latest episode of shit. We don't talk about the podcast that takes on topics that need more open and honest discussion, which means some of these topics are triggering. So please take care when listening. And I'll always give you a trigger warning. For instance, here's one. Every episode contains swear words, you've been warned. Make sure to check out the show notes which include an accessibility transcript of the podcast, and all of the links for our guests at ship. We don't talk about podcast.com. It's episode 71. And my guest is my good friend Tony Harvey. You will love this deep dive discussion into his 30 year experience as a black man in mainstream media. All right, here we go. Hello, my friend, how are you?

**Tony Harvey** 01:06

How you doing, Mia? Good to see you.

**Mia Voss** 01:08

It's nice to see you too. All right. So if you don't know, they need to get your background of we're going to talk about what your background is. Now listen, this is a podcast but we are eventually going to put it on YouTube and right behind. Tony is a photograph that he took it Bruce's Beach, which is an integral part of this interview and his story, but let me give you just a little bit of backstory. So we were just reminiscing how we went to the same grade school together. We grew up in Champaign, Illinois, folks home of the U of I home of Tony Harvey and me of us. And we graduated we are classes at three of Central High School. Yeah, basic high school. We are proud maroons. I know that sounds like an odd name. For life. We are marooned for life. That was our that was our weird ass mascot for our so you're coming out of Sacramento. This is obviously Sacramento is a huge part of your life because you're part of the newspaper there.

**Tony Harvey** 02:06

Yes, yes. I've been in Sacramento since 1988. I've been here for 34 years, I was attending a Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. And I moved out here and said, I'm not going back. So I ended up you know, being here for the duration. And I ended up graduated graduating at Sacramento State University. In a photo journalism journalist. I've been in the newspaper business for almost 30 years. I told you, before we went on here, you know that really all stems routed back to know my upbringing in Champaign Urbana, because I used to deliver the newspaper and I picked up a black and white camera at dawn Boys, boys and girls club. And that's pretty much how thing has taken off. But yes, I've been here I am a surplus in Northern California, but our 15 minutes east of San Francisco Bay. So that's been my life and my career.

**Mia Voss** 03:10

I love the rich history of how you got started with both of these things that have become your your world and your passion is you're also an author, as well, too. So you kind of have this, this fun mix of you know, crime reporting, writing, writing about like the the serial killer book that you wrote when we

**Tony Harvey** 03:29

The Homicidal handyman Park, which case that happened here in the middle 90's, and I picked up on as soon as I you know, move to Sacramento about the serial killer cases decent to sue a murders that was happening around here, and this particular person happened to be black. So

03:51

**Tony Harvey** 03:55

Right, it wasn't really fit to description back then in the 80s. But it's becoming more common, you know, with black serial killers a big part of the melting pot right now. But uh, what was interesting about that I was working in a newspaper to sacrament or union. I wasn't an editorial at the time I was in distribution. Call me up on get your paper dispatched out to you anything like that. But, you know, his murder trial is a is a trial had just started at a time Whoa, what the hell is going on? You know, a black suit cool. Can't be. So when I had finished up my studies at Sacramento State University, I said I want to write a book. And the first subject that I want to write about which I won't go into details about it, it was about the Black Panther. And a cop that got killed here in the 1970s. But someone was like, Hey, you should write a story about this case. Mary had a little bit of knowledge about that. And the areas where he was doing it at Oak Park, which is which was one of the first suburbs here In Sacramento, but it ended up being you know, look, go hit compare you to so that tell you what type of victims that he was looking for. So it took me eight years to write that book came out. 2012 Matter of fact, it came out when I was visiting Champaign.

**Mia Voss** 05:18

I was gonna say, that was a right, because then our reunion was the next year 2013. And that

**Tony Harvey** 05:26

October 2013.

**Mia Voss** 05:27

Yeah. And what's interesting, too, about that, when you think about y'all, you need to recognize that Tony was doing this before everybody started their true crime podcast, you know what I mean? Now, it's a thing all over the place, but you got bit by the bug, you know,

**Tony Harvey** 05:41

I've spent all the money. So do you think about that? I'm about to write another true crime novel. I've been at this for a while, which is pretty interesting.

**Mia Voss** 05:56

actually, did you get pushback for writing something about a black serial killer, because of course,

**Tony Harvey** 06:05

I did not want to do it. I really did not want to do it. Because the elements of the case sex, crack cocaine, of course, murder, mental illness, sexual assaults, rapes. It was just too much for me. At one point I had this conversation with my mother, Rosa, Lee Guillory who still lives in Champaign, and she's like, Yeah, I understand all of that. But this, you know, we don't talk about these things, in our community, our black community, and she's like, this story has to tell. And that gave me a full confidence about what I was doing. And I kept writing when researching it. Interviews, like said it took it took eight years, you know, to put it together, because I'm talking about a black serial killer, something that's hardly known at that time, you know, you know, it worked out. But no, I did not want to do the story. Here, there was a couple of people that from back at that time, they knew they were going to be flushed out because I had all these court documents, and I knew these names. And I knew how to find these people. And, of course, they didn't want me to write it . And I ended up using a synonyms for that name, you know, I replaced it. Okay, good to protect your privacy and stuff like that. So they would feel that it was being invaded, they feel threatened about it, because their lives has changed since then it was faster. We like it. But yeah, I did get some pushback on it. But it didn't stop me. A lot of the information that I pulled together was public domain. You know, I'm talking about court records and things. So I feel comfortable with what I was doing. And a lot of people after the book came out, came to me and want to be part of, you know, the revision, because I'm going to put out a second edition on that book. So, yeah,

**Mia Voss** 08:05

I love that. And what's interesting, timing wise, now this is going to date this podcast a little bit as we're in the middle of this big hoopla about Netflix doing this documentary on Dahmer. And the interesting piece of that two pieces, you may you may be aware of too is one, there's a lot of pushback, because Netflix did not reach out to the victim's family. So this is kind of coming out of nowhere, they did not use at all these, the respect that you did, and the journalism and how you cover that. So I need to give you mad kudos on on that of saying, Hey, thank you for doing that. Because there really is a lot of pushback, especially because a lot of Dahmers victims, were black and brown. And we're, I mean, if you kind of look at it, too, I'm gonna dive into it for a second. This is where the police are kind of getting their ass handed to them. Because people were like, oh, yeah, it was really easy to pass over victims that were marginalized. And you thought it was really easy to just be like, Oh, it's okay. Because he really, really, it's been an interesting time for this. Yeah, they did.

**Tony Harvey** 09:10

But I'll tell you, just real quick. One of the big things that helped me out as far as you know, researching that book, and you know, later on trying to protect some of these people lives, media law, I took a few media law classes at Sacramento State University and I was really got to understand the you know, of a liable malicious reporting and things like that, and I didn't want to get caught up into that. Okay, that now you see, Netflix might be facing some law suits because, you know, if you're using their names,

**Mia Voss** 09:51

And their likeness.

**Tony Harvey** 09:54

That one thing that I really was conscious of trying to stay away from. Okay,

**Mia Voss** 10:02

well re traumatizing people. Right.

**Tony Harvey** 10:05

Shoot, I was traumatized myself, I had to detox from that. That's the story for right. But let's say that you did. A lot of people didn't want to relive what was going on. But my mom said, you know, the story that had to be told, but I think I do justice as far as trying to protect some of the people, you know, because there's still a lot of victims around sacramental know, anyone, there still may just still people missing. You know, for this case, we don't know what serial killers do. I mean, do I have six or seven murders, but they probably the killed 10 or 15 of people and seven or eight are still missing. Okay. And there's probably some things sexual assaults that wouldn't report. So yeah.

**Mia Voss** 10:48

What is it you we, as you all know, if you listen to my podcast, I always have a very extensive conversation with my guests beforehand. And then we recreate the magic when we hit the record button with one thing that you said when we are referencing actually and what we're going to dive into this for a second, because I do want you to talk about your tour and 2019 was part of your journalism piece, but we were talking about this is what we know, as far as what we know. And that that's interesting. With that piece, too. Let's veer into you being in journalism. I don't know what the percentage is, obviously, the high percentage of males and journalism, but being a black man in journalism and starting 20, almost 30 years ago.

**Tony Harvey** 11:30

Oh, that's a good question. You know, things have changed, changed a lot. I told you, I started, actually started at Sacramento City Colleges, right, got to the four year University, Sacramento State University, which is commonly recognizably known as California State University, Sacramento, well, we call a Sacramento state university. But first I started off at Sacramento Community College, which is almost kind of like downtown Sacramento. And, you know, when I was at the Sacramento Union that was our first newspaper there. And I was in distribution, circulation, basically. And I wrote something. And I took it to the entertainment editor. And he really liked it, I forget what it was, it was something about entertainment, and he was like, Hey, you, you should go to school, you might have something going on here. sacramental union was having issues a problem, you know, I'm about 27 or 28. So I'm past my college years, I'm still trying to finish up, you know, to get my college degree. So, you know, why not? Because when I was going to SIU, I was taking computer programming courses and you see on it and blown up, I should be a billionaire today.

**Mia Voss** 12:50

**Tony Harvey** 12:58

My love was really, to writing and photography. As I said, you know, I first picked up a camera when I was in Champaign Urbana, Boys and Girls Clubs called the Boys and Girls Club today with with just the boys club down there on second & Park. On the north. Just got, you know what, I just picked up a Chicago Defender in the boys club. I don't know how I ended up in it, because we're mainly Ebony and Jet magazines all over the place, because that was the black news for us, you know, okay. And, you know, they were located their company, Johnson publishing company was right to Chicago and stuff, but sold to Chicago Defender. So I don't know how to pick the black. Got there. Like we had a black newspaper. This is not like the Gazette, what are the Courier , which are also delivered to because I told you both of those newspapers when I was about 10 or 11 at that time. I just got fascinated about the world of journalism in in a later on not knowing that it would be my career. You know, I ended up graduating from Sacramento State, I worked at a couple of newspapers, mainstream and small, you know, ended up at Sacramento observer, right?

**Mia Voss** 14:22

Which I want to say I love origin stories. So you even just talking about that one defining moment of finding that paper again, we were saying before we hit record about representation as well to about how important that was, we'll give a shout out to Rob Copeland, one of our classmates who was his family was it was a huge influence for you as well and champagne. So representation in these defining moments are very important for all of us in our careers.

**Tony Harvey** 14:49

Thank you for bringing that up, that up because and Hey, Rob I hope you are feeling this too , because as I said when I was going to Central High School at the time, Arnold Brown. And I, you know, we all three of us really good friends, because we have a class thing like that we used to go to Rob's house, which I forget what that how that neighborhood was, it was like next Devonshire. And what I noticed when I used to go with his parents, were his parents, okay, it was the first black Dean's at the University of Illinois. . And I was not used to being around, you know, just these people with this type of careers and stature in the community later on, found out about it, development in the community. And I'm like, Wow, this, this is the way it should be. You know, this is what this is how I want my life to be I want to be productive citizens like him. It didn't always around, you know, African American students, college students. And that was a really big impact on on what I want to do, because this is my sophomore year. My sophomore year I do. Tony, Harvey wanted to go to college. I'm getting out of Champaign Urbana, and I'm going to school and I'm going to do with they are doing. Okay, I may not be on the educational side, but I want to do something like this,

**Mia Voss** 16:19

the storytelling side. I mean, that's storytelling is just, it's it's in your DNA.

**Tony Harvey** 16:23

And no disrespect to what was going on. Because the community that I grew up in the black community, I grew up, we were a village, everybody knew everybody took care of everybody. Okay. But as far as the occupations that were happening at that time, it's not, you know, I worked at the original Pancake House, it's cool, you know, I had money in my pocket, bought cars, raggedy cars. But I didn't want to be stuck into that mode, where I'm going to be, you know, the head cook of this restaurant or the head janitor. I wanted have a great opportunity. And I saw that in this couple that were raising their son. Okay, because Rob ended up going to the University of Illinois did he transferred to Morehouse College in Atlanta, okay. And then I learned later that he came from a long bloodline of educators.

**Mia Voss** 17:25

So yeah, I have to interject. So Rob actually has been on the podcast, too, we will post a link to here it was right after he came out with his book. It's episode 10, called systemic racism with Rob Copeland, and actually talks about his book, as well, too. It's just it's covers everything that you're talking about to him diving into his own history, which I know is, is part of what your your current goal and your future goal

**Tony Harvey** 17:49

its just incredible, you know, that how things you know, just turned out. And I really credit the experience that I had with that family, because we used to go to different weekends and we were like "Rob "where's your family at , why do you got us over here?" " Oh they went to get conference here, you know, who's going out to the party to go to Illini Union the different spots and things like that we had to drag Arnold out there. and we just kicked it with the women.

**Mia Voss** 18:23

You and I left Champaign around that that same year too. But what I love and you said is that, that you wanted to find what your goal was, and it wasn't necessarily an education, but then going into media. And again, you know, this is in the late 80s. And here, you are going out to California. And then you were saying how you started to write the entertainment piece? And again, I'm assuming a lot

**Tony Harvey** 18:46

And there's not a lot of black males in this position yeah, the newsroom was really not really that diverse. Okay. It was basically, non black people just put it like that dominated, you know, the culture of journalists in mainstream newspapers. Okay. Later on, I started working with Sacramento observer, which is African American newspaper has been around 60 years, next month in November. So, but that was pretty challenging itself, because I worked at the Sacramento Bee for a couple of years. You know, a lot of these reporters were there. They had been there for 25 30 40 years, and especially in the sports department, and I'm like, you know, I'm trying to get to the NBA. I'll never get that guy's not getting out at seat. And then you know, some racial elements that was going on too there. So but we pretty much understood. And just while we're talking about this, now, things has changed. Okay. Now, things that matter, to the black community matters to everyone. Okay. All right. Did you know you got this online digital revolution that's going on...

**Mia Voss** 20:03

transparency,

**Tony Harvey** 20:04

yes, transparency. People don't have to buy the newspaper or be forced to read whatever is there., you could go anywhere now and get your news. And that's basically what's been happening with the black community with all these other media outlets, and platforms. Okay, so now, what newspapers are learning is that you got to come to us, we don't have to go to them , okay, and for these new stories, certain stories, positive stories about what's going on in a community and what affects us and what we want to get resolved, you know, stuff like that, you have to come to us and get those stories, okay, you're not going to put me on the front page of the of the, say, the Sacramento Bee, have my story, headline above fold, saying that I shot or killed somebody, those days are basically gone. okay,

**Mia Voss** 20:58

Or are being called out,

**Tony Harvey** 21:00

you're being a scientist, or come up with a cure for COVID, or something like that. And a black woman did, you know, was part of the process of coming up with a serum, you know, for us to get those vaccinations shots... Those are the stories right now. So with the revolution going on, right there, this is where we are right now to say for everybody's community to the Asian community, the Latino community, okay the Jewish community.

**Mia Voss** 21:28

Anything but but the, what is the traditional, as I say, top of the food chain, white male representation. Anybody knows because that's kind of my, my standard line. And I think what's interesting, too, is that it had to I know that it affected it did and it still does somewhat how things are reported and the lens with which it was seen. Right. And so that that is something and I, I love that people are calling it out to have, you know, what would be trauma porn, as I like to say, only having like these super traumatic stories, and nothing positive. And probably one example that I saw recently, and I really appreciated that they, they called it out was a story about how using meditation and yoga specifically in the education system for, you know, kids who had gotten into trouble. And it was, I mean, it had a positive spin to it, right. But what they did was they used a black child in the photo. And I loved it that that folks called it out because it was saying, you know, kids in in detention, and you know, the several that a lot of different people call it out to say, it's that visual of that, like you said above the fold the storyline of how it's, it's put out there and that was my curiosity. And in talking to you too, as a black man in media for this long and seeing the change. And then also balancing that reporting. Social justice, sensationalist sensationalism. Yeah.

**Tony Harvey** 22:59

Radio does it. Of course, print does it, as we were talking about it to and television is a BIG violator of it to sorry, this is whatever can get ratings, viewership. You know, but like I said, those, those days have changed. Okay, now they want to see what's really going on.

**Mia Voss** 23:18

They have to come to you.

**Tony Harvey** 23:19

Social justice issues, that's happened right here, politics, as you can see, you know, with the big thing about voting and all these things, all these things that matter to us. Now, there have been a lot of outlets that have dedicated, they have created a platform dedicated, just for the purpose of the black voice. Okay, I know the Bee here in Sacramento, they carved out a little section where they just have these reporters working on this section, okay, of the black community. Okay, and maybe another one working on the pledge committee. You know, it just changed the whole dynamics that I'll go back to the digital revolution, online revolution changed the game, okay, because I don't have to pick up your paper with my morning coffee, just read anything that you have forced right there. I can go here and I go there. Basically, when my phone is on, pick up these types of articles and type of information and news.

**Mia Voss** 24:26

And it's definitely about truth telling, obviously, and talk a bit about your experience of balancing between reporting and social justice because one thing you mentioned before we went on air was this the the, the percentage in the police department and the fire department in Sacramento and if you're okay with kind of putting that out that business out on the highway of, you know, how, how you how you stay safe, how you, you know, manage your energy, of, of social justice of reporting, and then also getting that out there.

**Tony Harvey** 25:02

Let me start at the top here, though, you know what we've talked about the newspaper. People got to understand that thing that happened in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1921. That was fueled by newspapers. Okay, against the black community. Let me get that out of the way first. Okay, let's roll up into 2022, October 2022. Because I could talk about the Tulsa Oklahoma thing. But

**Mia Voss** 25:24

that's a whole other show. I mean, we stay tuned for another show on that.

**Tony Harvey** 25:32

 Sacramento is about 2.5 - 3 million people who live here, no, basically a five county region. There's people from every corner over here, we realize that told us about 60 or 70 different languages, okay. But on the government, the local government side, the police department and the fire department are 70 to 75%. Why? Okay, so you have these people in public safety, who's, you know, taking care of these entities out here ... not all of them look like us. cultures of faces and the legacy of people from every corner of this earth, you know, this planet that lives here. Okay.

**Mia Voss** 26:28

And I will say, I will say this, conversely, what the problem with that too, is that, again, if you don't know about lived experience, and I'm not saying that the large percentage, okay, I'm saying, all right, I'm gonna say, probably, of these people in law enforcement don't know about lived experience so that if they're filtering it through their lens of what they have seen on the media, what they have been taught, and whatever their family background is, so they're showing up again, of being in an area that doesn't look like them at all, but they're in the place of authority. That's fucked up

**Tony Harvey** 27:02

They have the authority Yeah, and, you know, the last police chief,

**Mia Voss** 27:07

that's potential for fuckery, I will say

**Tony Harvey** 27:09

yeah, we have a Caucasian, female police chief, she's the first the police department, who started in 1850. And before that, we had the first black police chief. And we used to have this conversation all the time, I remember him was telling me he's like, Well, you know, he, he was a really good police chief. The people live in these low income areas, you know, disadvantaged neighborhoods and stuff like that. They of course, they're going to see the cops different than the person who live after the server in the world. Well to do area, okay. And those cops are going to handles handle same type of attitudes to, okay, so you got these forces, these energies, just as you know, butting up against each other, and you're trying to figure out how to bid the best way to police. These communities doesn't really change all that much. Because, you know, attitudes are just that just attitude. Most of these cops have majority of cops, they don't live in these neighborhoods. Okay, that they don't get out and start shooting the basketball. Some of them do. Not, not all, but just rarely, okay, start shooting basketball, playing with his kids and then you know, is going to get home. Okay? Those things just don't happen. Okay. But I know when I first got here, the climate was really hot, because, gangs. Okay, so not only was going on within our community, this was going on with, with with the cop, because trust me, they want to get home to to their kids, too. Okay, so now they gotta look out, see, you know, if you got any dope, you got andy guns, are you going to shoot me with this? Are you going to stab me and stuff like that? And they're all high alert at all times. Okay, but they're not going to happen in the suburbs, it's only going to happen to certain neighborhoods. So you got all these energy just caught up against each other, and it's just really can cause it can be a chaotic, chaotic scene.

**Mia Voss** 29:21

And then you're reporting on it.

**Tony Harvey** 29:26

and then Stephon Clark which was big here, march 18. And that was a big thing. A lot of protests and demonstrations. Were going on then, you know, you had all these other things going across the nation, okay. And then we're dealing you know, these protesters are dealing with these cops, okay, which mainly are men and women. Who are you know, like I said, non black that they're dealing with, okay, it's sometimes you know, they don't care. These cops talk shit right back. Off You can do whatever you want to do this is going to be, you know, this is going to all boil, that's going to end pretty soon you're gonna go back and do you know, just talking shit with the people copying this stuff. So yeah, yeah, I've been there and I have to keep a type of relationship with law enforcement and that's every day I get a media about a lot of cases, you know, mainly, homeless, homelessness, because everybody's have a lot of problems, but we have and since COVID I mean, it's probably that went up like 300%.

**Mia Voss** 30:38

And I always say this about COVID. I mean, the, you know, one of the biggest things ever it is it showed it didn't, it obviously created new problems, but it literally it showed so many cracks in an existing system. That exacerbated anybody that was already in a, you know, in a in a in a state where they were, they were you know, at risk, you know, and that's it really shows that. So the interesting thing for you too, is that obviously you're, you've covered every beat. So sports is a huge part too. And I'm gonna put a bunch of links in the show notes at shit, we don't talk about podcast.com. Look at that, because that's where all these links including to your book, articles you've written again, but but want to follow up, because I want to talk about the photo behind you about how important this was for you. And then of course, you started your, your journey. And then we'll we'll wrap up to because you started your journey of traveling around to some places in the south where your family has fun. So talk about Bruce Beach, and then

**Tony Harvey** 31:41

oh, California right now they have California task force to study and develop reparations. It became law in September 2020. So I've been covering that. I started covering it before it became law. Okay. And you know, they're studying, you know, the harms and the effects and what it has done to Black Californians and things like that. And in the midst of that the Bruce beach situation emerged. Bruce Beach was this black couple back in 1912 bought his property on the beach in Manhattan Beach, which is a right outside of Los Angeles, right on the beach. Okay, and it really became popular, but they were having all type of problem problems with the people from Manhattan Beach, there was a lot of racism that was going on. It was becoming so popular that the black couple, the Bruce's, were going to expand on it. They were going to you know, add some other things on it. And then we're going to hire black people. You know, that was the whole thing. Okay, just like Tulsa, Oklahoma Greenwood. And somehow the city councilman Manhattan, back in the early 1920s. They use eminent domain to take their property from them. Okay, they had spent $1,200 To get this property now, you know, 1912 $1,200, that's a lot. Okay, for a black couple too in Southern California. So they eventually use eminent domain to take over the property. It was a struggle, and they said, We're going to turn it into a park. But they didn't do that. They didn't do that for about 30 years. And eventually what they ended up doing after they took the property.

**Mia Voss** 33:30

And that was the city or the state?

**Tony Harvey** 33:32

the city of Manhattan Beach. They ended up building a lifeguard station to train lifeguards and stuff and that facility is still there. So the family is like, Hey, you illegally took the property from us. We want it back. These were the heirs of the Bruces. And along the line when they started reparations, to task force. They drew up a bill. Senator Stephen Bradford was black. He's from LA Gardena, that area. Democrat. He drew up a bill and the governor Newsom, Gavin Newsom signed it and they got to get their property back. They got their property back. But the reason why you bring that up that photo back there, I took that photo on September, excuse me, September 25 2022, just a couple of weeks ago, I had to get there. That was my first time visiting there. And I needed to walk the grounds on that because I thought that was a pretty interesting case because it can't be a catalyst to reparations that's going on here in the state of California, which they hope that will be a blueprint for the rest of the rest of the country. Okay. And we talk about Tulsa, Oklahoma, Black Wall Street, but these things were happening all across the country. Okay, I told you about the situation that I'll cover right now I'm about to write expose a on it for the California state Library Foundation about Santa Monica which is 12 miles from Manhattan Beach, Bruce beach. Okay, there was a black community living there and they had businesses house and things like that. Okay. And they use eminent domain to move them out of there, they actually burned down their home and business to get this black community out to do. Now, if you go to Santa Monica today, I mean, Santa Monica is the place to be. Okay. That's where rich folks live right there on the beach. No, it was the last Black Beach community there up until 1958. Okay, and the catalyst to that was interstate 10. Okay, Eisenhower passed the Federal Highway Act in 1957. Okay, they'll go through all these created this highway federal system, you know, like I57 back home in Illinois. Here where I live it is I80. you know, interstate highways. Okay, but what they did, they were going through these black communities to do these things, they weren't through these rich, you know, white suburbs, okay, and destroying homes and businesses to place these things. So they went through these low income periods, disadvantaged areas to put these Highways there. I 10 starts, right there was Santa Monica is it it goes up north. So they're going through all these black communities, starting with Santa Monica to put that there not only that, too, just to make this real quick. Okay. Because they burned these houses down and I'll tell you what type of houses they were which resemble the Deep South. They built the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. Okay, if you have been watching TV in our time through the years, that's where they have the Academy Awards The Oscars for many many many years. Okay, no one knowing through all that time that that was a black community that lived right there at that location downtown Santa Monica. Okay, they're about to refurbished that building right now and turn it into something else but it's not an auditorium anymore but a black community lived in okay that's a that's Tulsa total Oklahoma's Black Wall Street story right there. And what I'm learning I'm doing all these investigations is that Tulsa wasn't the one only one doing this across the country and our highway system like here Sacramento it did same thing In Oak Park (where this this serial killer was killing people back in the 1980s) they did it the same way it was a poor impoverished area. You know, this builds the construction of a highway go through those neighborhoods, this black and white?

**Mia Voss** 37:49

I live in Denver I 70 right through it and guess guess what neighborhood that went right straight through and it's such a great point to and I love that with your media eye and your curiosity, which is great, too, that you just dive so deeply into it

**Tony Harvey** 38:05

The Santa Monica Story, I'm about to blow that up. It's a historical district right now. Okay. And I will tell you real quick about this shotgun house. Okay, these Black People lived in shotgun houses if you know anything about the Deep South, you know, you open up the door and you can look through the back door straight through a bullet right through it. Okay. And these became like little shacks over time. So it wasn't easy on the eyes. Let's just say that so city felt like we're going to burn these houses down, get these black people up out of here and relocatethem . Okay, now that term shotgun house that I've learned come from an African term called Shogun. Okay, meaning "houses" . They build a desert art piece right there. They call this Belmar. You can look it up the Belmar Triangle neighborhood. that's where theses Black folks lived at. They built a art piece. There is a four piece art piece of a shotgun house. A window a port, the house. And boy, I forget this four parts of it. We call it the resurrection of a Four Stanzas , okay? It depicts a shotgun house. Okay, I didn't understand it. So I've been there twice. Those three days that I went there because the first time I saw it, I didn't extend I have to go back here. The second time. I studied a little bit more than understand what they were talking about. The red is painted red. That means fire. Okay, the whole thing's Did they have a couple photos inscribed into it. I think I was telling you about it. It has some to do about those black families and hope Because these people were a part of the Great Migration West, not north or east, west, okay, looking for opportunities, then they came from the Deep South. Gone., this is a Tulsa Oklahoma story and a lot of people do not know it. But I'm trying to do my best. I got about two or three stories that I'm going to put out with it. The main one is will be with the California State Library Foundation, because, you know, I do a lot of freelancing on my own as far as these type of researches and yes, you know, I've been all over the country. I've been in slave plantation, I went to the lynching Museum, Montgomery, Alabama, the national memorial for peace and justice, Montgomery Alabama and the legacy museum there. Selma. Selma, Alabama. Bridge. Yes, yeah. Pettis Bridge. That was just, you know, by coincidence, when I was going to Montgomery, I didn't know what was on my GPS. And I had to stop there on the way back there. I've been segregated beaches in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Mia Voss** 41:03

Okay, you didn't realize were that when you were a kid,

**Tony Harvey** 41:06

It used to be segregated, and I swim. And it was just only a few years removed from segregation, that I was able to swim there when I was younger, you know, I used to come back from Illinois, and visit my family, you know, in the south and stuff. So all these things kind of like, culminate, you know, the things that's happened in my life in my career. And I'm just going back over it right now. And I'm just trying to share those black experience right now. That's just me as a black journalist. Okay. And I want to share with everybody, okay, I've been here I've learned I've learned about executive order 9066 here in Sacramento . Okay, the government to 120,000 people of Japanese descent during World War Two, and move them off the mainland and put them in these incarceration camps. Okay, a lot of these people were still around. They're in the 80s. In their 70s. I interviewed and I've learned about the Mexican Revolution here. Okay. I've learned about the Jewish Holocaust camp, you know, people living right here in Sacramento, okay. That's just me being a black journalist, okay. A reporter, a black journalist, so I want to learn about these things. Okay. And, of course, you know, what the thing that happened to me nobody, people, Japanese descent, their trying to help black people in California get their reparations the way they did, because they were compensated stuff. So a lot of the stuff just culminating about what I do with my career, you know, it's a lot of it. I could talk about it for days on the days in, but that's just why then all this stuff moved back from where we grew up.

**Mia Voss** 42:41

**Tony Harvey** 42:51

I love what I do. I Do.

**Mia Voss** 42:56

That's what I started to say, this is why I wanted to talk to you because we obviously follow each other on social media. And so I'm constantly in awe of and viewing what your continuous journey is to, because like you said, these are things you didn't even know now you're coming back from your own. You're different, right? Your different lens of okay, we what was normalized for us now with a curious eye of like, hey, what was that about? It's kind of the whole crux of like, what's that about ?

**Tony Harvey** 43:26

Oh, I told you, I'm the great, great grandson of the great migration going north. No, my people came in from Mississippi, mainly, Mississippi, parts of Louisiana, going north and they ended up in one set including my mother ended up in Champaign, okay, that's where I was born. All right, I learned that some of the people who are illiterate black people were illiterate coming up from the deep South, they were headed to Chicago, and they say, Well, you can't read but look for that seat. Look for that seat. Okay, so they look for the seat and Champaign comes up. They don't know how to read championing. They don't know where to Chicago, they end up in Champaign. That was part of the Great Migration I'm learning about

**Mia Voss** 44:11

so interesting. Yes, I love that I just that the accidental serendipity of that. I had not heard about that

**Tony Harvey** 44:20

I like sharing experience, but I'm trying to learn about myself and my people. Okay, we were brought here in chains. . Okay, and when I'm learning about stuff, like, you know, the Manhattan Beach, the Bruce Beach, Santa Monica, Tulsa, and other you know, communities across the country. We have been trying to be productive citizens but sometimes when we get there you take it away. and then you take it away and you burn it down.

**Mia Voss** 44:50

Right? And then cover it up with a with a little story. You know, they don't they don't like that. There's there's a lot of "genteelness" .

**Tony Harvey** 44:58

A lot of it . I have an issue here going up here. It's like 38 miles out of Sacramento where they found gold back in the 1848 and 49. John Marshall, white dude, he was a carpenter up there. cut down trees and stuff and he found gold. Okay, well, that story hasn't been completed. Okay? Because they brought slaves over here to work those mines. Okay. And they ended up being free and they they mined for gold and then they started buying a property, blah, blah, blah. Okay, but what I've learned about that, okay. James Marshall, he didn't just discover gold. Okay, that was Native American people who were living enough differences. 1000 years, you want to continue? What would they was living, eating, huntin and doing all that stuff on their own land? You know, trying to obtain resources? Okay, gold may not have been a value to them as it was to these other people, but it was there? Yes.

**Mia Voss** 45:59

I know, you have another appointment, too. And that, oh, my gosh, I mean, what and I, here's what I'm going to finish with and then we'll do some calls to action. Your rabid Curiosity continues to serve us all. So I appreciate that. That's why always pay attention to everything that you're doing. Because when you and your rabbit holes are everywhere, like that, you just said even with the the gold and continue to dig my friend,

**Tony Harvey** 46:24

hey, you know, growing up in Champaign Urbana, you said it too. We didn't talk about it either. Okay, there was really, us growing up, we were younger, there were no colors.. Okay. And that's really, you know, what we're dealing with here in America. So, here we are. I'm not trying to tell off our age but years later, we're still trying to learn about each other. And but we already understood each other. Okay, because I had friends, you know, black, white Asian, puerto ricans, because there and we didn't care about all we didn't care about, you know, it was just, you know, us growing up respect to each other and trying to get along at the same regard. This is growing up in the heart of America, these things always stay with me, okay? I built my life around it. And that these are things just value to me. I really appreciate growing up in that little area to get to this point where I can share these type of stories and these experiences with you.

**Mia Voss** 47:31

And I so appreciate that. And I do I also feel such a fondness for that. we had to go away to appreciate it and most of us, we come back to it, and then come back and say, Hey, I think my idea of what your experience was, may have been different. And that's the that's the difference in coming back and being curious about someone else's experience and saying, Hey, that may not understand what you're actually going through or help me understand what's going on in your world. And I think staying curious is the main, the main piece to it too. So I so appreciate you,

**Tony Harvey** 48:03

Don't you think living in New York, kind of well rounded you out.

**Mia Voss** 48:06

Oh, it humbled me to go, hey, hey, little girl. I grew up in a pretty sheltered environment and being somewhere where I was a minority. Which is such an odd word to use now, because white people are kind of the minority, which I'm all about. I'm all about celebrating that as well like going like, Hey, you are not You're not the top of the food chain. It really did help me but staying curious and continuing to ask questions about things and do do research is the the biggest piece. where's the best way or way we can follow your antics?

**Tony Harvey** 48:41

Oh, you know, you can follow me, basically on Twitter at Tony Ray Harvey. You know, you can find me on Facebook. I actually have my nieces as my photo and the picture of Memorial stadium from the University, the Fighting Illini,be me. If you don't know me by face, of course, I'm on Instagram. And I have a YouTube channel. Antonio, Tony Ray Harvey, and I post a lot of stuff that happens around here and across the state. I just really just picked up on that because excellent tool for my journalism work that I

**Mia Voss** 49:21

listen to. YouTube is the second biggest search engine so folks, pay attention that we'll have everything in the show notes though. So Tony, it's been delightful. Thank you for sharing.

**Tony Harvey** 49:31

I'm sorry. It's just talking about my covering professional sports. But we'll get around to that some other time to the Sacramento Kings, Golden State Warriors.

**Mia Voss** 49:41

A huge part of your life do we we had too much to say on these other pieces. So we'll bring you back my friend. Thank you so much. Thanks for tuning in everyone

**Tony Harvey** 49:48

you know I wanted to do this this honor to sit down and have these type of conversations.

**Mia Voss** 49:53

My honor, my honor, my friend. Thank you man. Hey, thanks for tuning in. You can check out the show notes and guests links at ShitWeDontTalkAboutPodcast.com If you liked this episode, please subscribe and give it a like or leave a review, especially if it's a good one. See you next time. Bye