

## The Mic Drop - Season Two, Episode Three: Sally

**Britney** [00:00:00] Hello, everyone. I'm Arthur Britney. Welcome to this new episode of The Mic Drop! I have a really special guest here with me, is a friend of mine and I really love her. Her name is Sally Hilton. She's from Guatemala, which is the country that is next to my born country, El Salvador. And she's a really special woman because she is an indigenous Maya artist. So I have here a beautiful person with me and I'm not sure. Sally, you want to say something to your audience. Welcome. Thank you for being here.

**Sally** [00:00:46] Thank you for having me, and I appreciate this interview, thank you

**Britney** [00:00:57] Cool, Cool Sally, so I've been reading you sent me your portfolio with a little bit of stuff that you've been doing here in the U.K., so but before I start to talk about your job here in the U.K., your work as an artist here, can you introduce yourself? Can you tell us about a little bit who you are?

**Sally** [00:01:24] Hey, hello, my name is Sally Hilton. I come from Guatemala, Central America, and I am a indigenous woman. And I create my my group, they dance with weights and. The ladies refugees, so I was working in charities last two years, and when I arrived in this country, I. I dance with with balloons in the charity, and now I am I dance and in different areas, for example, in organisations or charities and foundations. And, mmmhm...

**Britney** [00:02:24] That's great, that's great. I just want to know if that's OK with you a little bit more about your roots, your origins. Can you talk about being an indigenous maya woman, and what that means for you?

**Sally** [00:02:42] I am a indegenan Maya from Guatemala. I represent my country because in my country is discriminates a womans Maya, so I like to introduce myself , my dancing in this country about the indigenous maya exiting in my country, so I represent a woman maya.

**Britney** [00:03:18] That's beautiful. That's really beautiful because I understand that I came also from a country where the identity is a struggle because people like things from outside, you know, people like American stuffs, American series of things for Mexico or other places. But they don't like the culture of our country. That that's true. Yeah. And I... sorry go ahead

**Sally** [00:03:51] And the nineteen ninety, the ninety five percent is discriminate the woman's indigenous.

**Sally** [00:03:59] So I'd like introduce myself in this country about the history of the maya woman because it's important for my country.

**Britney** [00:04:10] Good and important for you. I love that, you know, I remember on Christmas we talk about that in my country, we don't have, like, indigenous stuff because there was a massive murder in nineteen thirty two of indigenous people in my country. So we don't have that kind of stuff in my country. And when you have that all your life around you.

**Sally** [00:04:37] yes

**Britney** [00:04:41] So, can you tell us a little bit more about when you were younger, you always liked that identity, that indigenous stuff around you?

**Sally** [00:04:51] My culture is an

**Sally** [00:04:57] Maya man and my country exist twenty, twenty nine language and ninety six, and the rest is culture. Different culture this is the number, the name of "solola", is kaqchikel, it is very important for my country, the woman so I like it. So I spoke a little bit and "mam", because in my and in my country, when you speak your language originally about "mam", is that people discriminate when I spoke my maya language. So I don't speak too much because my grandfather no, not help me about this language because it's when people spoke this language... For another person, it's funny, though, sometimes the indigenous shy about your language originally

**Britney** [00:06:18] It's really, really sad. You know, like you can't speak your own language because people made fun of you. I mean, that level of discrimination is horrible. And what is the language, the original language that you speak?

**Sally** [00:06:33] Mam, mam, .

**Britney** [00:06:35] Oh. mam

**Britney** [00:06:37] Oh, that's interesting, yeah, that's something. It hurts sometimes to hear that.

**Britney** [00:06:46] In some places, the culture is really viliated because you see that on the U.K., you see that here, that people love to know about different cultures here. But in your own country, people don't respect your own culture.

**Britney** [00:07:01] So that's a little bit sad and moving more to what you do here in the U.K., what you can tell us about that, what you do here in the U.K..

**Sally** [00:07:12] Ok the first I am a student at college because is important for me, I can't understand much when I arrived here I can't understand nothing, I knew my country is different. So the importance of here is study English.

**Sally** [00:07:33] But I am an artist in this country, when when I arrived here, I looking for fundation or trying it for help me about the. Before I dance free, becuse I like.

**Sally** [00:07:55] I like dance, so sometimes the, the charity called me for dancing the place, but free

**Sally** [00:08:07] No, no paid. up here when I understand now, when I create my company. My little company.

**Sally** [00:08:18] Because now I understand so.

**Sally** [00:08:21] Now, for this moment, I don't working, but I worked with in my house with Faithing. Crochet and I designed in my , my dresses tailoring, tailoring ok tailoring

**Britney** [00:08:46] Oh, yeah, I saw that and actually told you last time. Laughter You know, this is funny because I spend Christmas with Sally and in one moment we were

dancing and she brought some of her outfits and she say, I designed this outfit. And I was like, oh, my God, that's lovely. And actually, I tried one and actually it fits me. But yeah. So you like to do your own outfits. That's really cool and interesting and. As you can, as we can see, you are a complete artist. You like to dance, you like to perform, you like to act, you like to model. But at the same time, you create your own outfits. So that's really cool. I've been reading also your and your biography here, and it says you've been Feature on Homel Manchester 2020 and for Push Festival 2019 in Manchester. Can you tell us about that experience being on festivals as an artist? What was the reception of people or what people told you about your indigenous work?

**Sally** [00:10:03] And I participated in Push Festival 2019 and in charity, but this charity help me about money, my performance he helped me, because when I arrived here I'm very, very shy. So I never dance with theatrical festivals or but because in my country I, I have a bad experience. So I have a to much depression in myself and I cared about the people. So when one chatity helped me for introduced myself.

**Sally** [00:10:48] About my story, and she told me, don't be scared about you because you are. You have a too much

**Sally** [00:11:04] You are rich in your country about your culture, so you introduce yourself. Don't be shy, as I told, OK, I introduce myself. So when my first time when I stay in the backstage I think yeah, and I am very, very, very happy because I like it in my country, I dance every year in festivals so then my first time here, I'm so happy and I like the people like.

**Sally** [00:11:44] You know, I like.

**Britney** [00:11:48] Awn, that's beautiful, the way, like you said you were scared on your country to being yourself, and now you are open to be proud of your culture, be proud of your traditions and.

**Britney** [00:12:05] What you done exactly on that exhibition, what kind of dance you done or what kind of performance.

**Sally** [00:12:12] In twenty twenty twenty I participated in Manchester Exhibition 20 20 with two hundred people. So the.

**Sally** [00:12:26] The first time at.

**Sally** [00:12:29] People are like two hundred people.

**Sally** [00:12:33] My art is the number five hundred I can't remember a.

**Sally** [00:12:42] I exhibition in Manchester home in 2020, about my. My I introduced the culture.

**Britney** [00:12:54] You know, it's it's it's a lot of stuff's a have you done anything a Lockdown. You've been in any festival last year or online or you've done something online.

**Sally** [00:13:08] At the moment, not only last January the exhibition now I am all right and I participate in calendar twenty, twenty, twenty one for Victor.

**Sally** [00:13:31] So. And two charities help me for forcalendar twenty twenty for picture about inspirational,.

**Britney** [00:13:45] I felt that the calendar is actually really gorgeous.

**Britney** [00:13:49] You are with a long, long dress full of colours a bail. It's just amazing. I love that picture and it's gorgeous. And you like a lot to model.

**Sally** [00:14:03] Yeah, I like

**Britney** [00:14:05] oh that's good, that's cool thinking about the future. Sally.

**Sally** [00:14:13] What are your dreams, so what you what you want to be in the future?

**Sally** [00:14:18] I like I like to go to dance in different cities in this country for example, Brighton, London I have before in London and Liverpool as well

**Sally** [00:14:32] Yeah, I like more.

**Britney** [00:14:37] So you want do like kind of tour or you want to be on with different shows.

**Sally** [00:14:43] I think, I need to about the same tours.

**Britney** [00:14:49] So you want to have like a tour show across the country?

**Sally** [00:14:52] Yeah, I like for example that's in the, in the

**Sally** [00:14:58] in the street

**Britney** [00:15:01] you, oh, you, like, more to dance on the street or on a theatre.

**Sally** [00:15:06] Depends, because I need to I need to speak English, good English if I explore to show my art in theaters

**Sally** [00:15:20] So I need more.

**Sally** [00:15:24] Would you like to tell me a little bit more about what the dance means for you, about what feelings brings to you?

**Sally** [00:15:35] And. The.

**Sally** [00:15:40] When I am a different woman, I don't like I tell my my gender because is.

**Sally** [00:15:49] Only for me, but I like the people call me a woman maya. But in my country, I have a bad experience, so. When I, this is why I come to here for protection myself

**Sally** [00:16:12] So

**Sally** [00:16:14] When arrived here I'm very, very, very bad about my, my face, because I have a shot at my face.

**Sally** [00:16:21] So I am very shy about the camera so.

**Sally** [00:16:30] Mirror, mirror and people so

**Sally** [00:16:35] One area right here, one person, tell me, don't, don't be shy about you, your face, about your parts, don't, don't feel people scared about your face. And I have a person for it every time, Tell me, it's a ok on. Tell me when I have too much people help me, so I exploration my.

**Sally** [00:17:10] My my life in this country, so it's important for me.

**Britney** [00:17:20] That's lovely that's lovely; I'm talking about the performances you properly do the performance you do on the stage or in the country. Can you tell us details about that? Is that any particular day? So you create the choreography of how you deliver that.

**Sally** [00:17:43] Sometimes I create, but sometimes not because I need to respect the culture, the woman, the dance, because it's important that my country about don't change it. So sometimes I pray sometimes no.

**Sally** [00:18:04] But. a little bit no.

**Britney** [00:18:10] I think that's really important to understand, because there are some dance that dance that they meant to be for worship a goddess or something like that, so. Change that kind, that choreography is like an insult. Is that true?

**Sally** [00:18:27] Yeah, I think yes.

**Britney** [00:18:30] So you follow the same the same the same dances to respect that. OK, that's interesting. And what's your favourite dance of all them?

**Sally** [00:18:44] My favourite dancing.

**Sally** [00:18:49] Solola, is the name city in my country, is important, so this is the

**Sally** [00:19:00] The thread traditional Solola

**Sally** [00:19:03] So I like this how do you say "tocado".

**Britney** [00:19:11] Hat

**Sally** [00:19:10] Yeah, it's important so I like it, because this is the first woman, an indigenous woman, important in my country.

**Sally** [00:19:19] So I think you're.

**Britney** [00:19:23] So what does that mean, he's got any particular meaning?

**Sally** [00:19:35] zoloteca.

**Britney** [00:19:35] But whats the meaning

**Sally** [00:19:38] the meaning for the dance .

**Britney** [00:19:40] Yeah, the meaning of the dance.

**Sally** [00:19:43] And.

**Sally** [00:19:45] It's about inclusion, people no where, where people from so I like because this, this and this culture is open and I think people come together on Europe. So, don't discriminate where you from, where you life or know what your gender. no problem

**Britney** [00:20:13] That's beautiful. It is a dance about inclusion to not discriminate, and I think it's beautiful that message from media cultures that they are always really in contact with nature. Yeah. So I like that. So. To coming to an end of this interview, Sally, would you want if it's possible, you can say a few words in your native language so people can hear your native language sounds little message.

**Sally** [00:21:00] \*Speaking in mam\*

**Sally** [00:21:02] \*Speaking in mam\*

**Sally** [00:21:05] \*Speaking in mam\*

**Britney** [00:21:13] And what does that means?

**Sally** [00:21:16] Thank you, thank you for for for this opportunity, and this video call, is important for my culture

**Sally** [00:21:32] What do you mean "que pueda transmitir" in this country?

**Britney** [00:21:40] So we can share in this country,.

**Sally** [00:21:43] We can share in this country. so, Thank you. Thank you so much.

**Britney** [00:21:48] OK. Thank you so much, Sally. And it's really a lovely interview. And if you wanna see a little bit more of Sally, you can visit our website. on Heart Of Glass. We are gonna have a a page with a little bit of the pictures of Sally, a little bit of her job and. You can fall in love with this maya culture, so thank you so much to everyone.

**Britney** [00:22:18] Thank you so much to you, Sally, and we will see you in the next episode. Goodbye.