

TRANSCRIPTION
TITLE: "JEWEL'S CATCH ONE"
TRT: 01:24:13.5
PRODUCER: Dancing Pictures LLC

TIME CODE	SPEAKER	DIALOGUE
00:00:11.3	FILM START	FILM START
00:00:16.0	CLAUDETTE "SEXY DJ"	This club is a dark, sultry machine. There's corners, there's woofers that you sit on, you know, the bass? It looks like a bench but you're sitting on a woofer, and you have that vibrating with this beautiful wooden floors and beams. And you feel the pulse-sation of sex, driving you to swing and sway and cling to man, woman, girl... it's beautiful. That's the most appealing thing about the Catch One. Besides the name "Catch One." [laughs]
00:00:50.4	TITLE CARD	TITLE CARD: "Jewel's Catch One"
00:01:06.9	GENE LA PIETRA	Her club became full of different colors.
00:01:11.7	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	There was still an abundance of, of racism.
00:01:14.7	GENE LA PIETRA	You were denied admission. Not because you weren't 21, because you were black, because you were brown, because you were a woman... You could come to Catch One and find all of those people here, having a party.
00:01:29.6	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Catch was uh created to fulfill a need.
00:01:32.8	GENE LA PIETRA	She broke down that racial barrier. At the same time, she's trying to run one of the biggest clubs in the country.
00:01:40.3	CF FITZ	(O.S.) They always refer to you as catching more than one, is that true?

00:01:45.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Yeah.
00:01:45.7	AL VON	Well, I hate to quote Wilt Chamberlin, you know, "I've had 1,000 in my lifetime." [laughs] Or did he say 10,000?
00:01:54.9	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	I don't know, but you, you've had many--
00:01:56.6	AL VON	I've had my share.
00:01:58.5	THEA AUSTIN	The bangingest music, the most free-spirited people...
00:02:01.8	THELMA HOUSTON	You came here prepared to dance. It was as if that was your job for the evening. [laughs]
00:02:07.1	SHARON STONE	There was upstairs and there was a little bit of downstairs. But it was great music, and it was packed, packed. And I think they pretended not to know me because I always had a parking space. [laughs]
00:02:29.3	CCH POUNDER	(V.O.) For four decades, Catch One was a legendary Los Angeles nightclub. It was an institution where celebrities, politicians, and everyday people of all colors, cultures, and backgrounds converged. The Catch came to be known as the unofficial "Studio 54 of the West Coast."
00:02:49.7	GENE LA PIETRA	Can you imagine back then, when she started this club with \$500 in her pocket, she started off with four strikes. Not only was she poor, not only was she a woman, she was a lesbian, and on top of that a black woman.
00:03:07.0	RUE THAIS-WILLIAMS	She sustained something that is so important and so vital. So needed. It was the first. And uh the way things look, it'll be the last.
00:03:17.0	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	I'm Jewel Thais-Williams. I wear lots and lots of hats. Some people have accused me of being Jamaican with "many, many jobs,

		<p>mon.” I’m the Founder, and I also serve as an Acupuncturist at the Village Health Foundation, which is a traditional Chinese medicine clinic, a nonprofit. Right across the driveway, I manage and operate a totally vegan restaurant. And then upstairs on the weekends, I operate a nightclub.</p>
00:04:01.7	GILBERT MCKEY	<p>Like sometime I’ll see her, she’ll, she’ll come from one building to the other, back and forth, back and forth, all day long.</p>
00:04:08.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	<p>I am an activist for um my communities. And they consist of people of color, of lesbian and gays, of uh, of poor, of hungry, of uh disadvantaged, discriminated populations uh no matter what.</p>
00:04:29.4	GENE LA PIETRA	<p>She stood up for herself, just like Dr. King did. He stood up for the community, and she stood for the community she represented. And that was black gays, and black lesbians, and anybody else that wanted to come in. She stood up for them. Can you imagine what that must’ve felt like when you got home at night, knowing that everything you’ve worked for, the police are trying to tear down. They’re treating you totally different than they’ll treat anyone else in this business.</p>
00:05:00.7	CCH POUNDER	<p>(V.O.) Jewel bought the downstairs bar in 1973. It was originally called “The Diana Club.” By 1975 she owned the entire building, and against all odds opened Catch One.</p>
00:05:13.7	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	<p>The Catch was important because uh at the time that we opened, 19-, mid-1970’s, there was still an abundance of, of racism. The Catch offered a place where anybody and everybody could come.</p>
00:05:30.1	DR. DON KILHEFNER	<p>It, it was an old, decrepit bar and through incredible hard work, some nights her bed would be the pool table which is, she slept... And she developed it into one of the major</p>

		discos in town.
00:05:44.0	RUTHIE WILLIAMS	She always could handle herself. She, she used to work at that little drug spot. See that store over there, across the street? See that grocery store?
00:05:51.9	CF FITZ	(O.S.) Yeah.
00:05:52.5	RUTHIE WILLIAMS	Uh huh. She used to work there.
00:05:53.8	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	My customers would come in, and some of them would complain because they didn't want blacks to come in to the neighborhood bar that was downstairs. And just a fleeting thought was, "one of these days, I'll own that club, and everybody and anybody will be able to come."
00:06:11.4	BONNIE POINTER	We've encountered a lot of racism in our days, you know. They're, they'd throw things at us.
00:06:17.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Got the next day's um Times, Business Opportunities; looked in there, and there the club was. I didn't know where I was gonna get the money. I gave her a \$1,000 check that was good at that time, and didn't know where I would get the other \$17,000 from. I just knew that I would get it. You know, and so instead of taking 30 days, which was what the posting for the liquor license to be transferred to; I did something a little bit shady and uh came in at a time that I knew by the end that the bartender of record would be drunk, and uh told him that I needed to straighten out the sign because it had started to, the tape had started to peel off. Well I had another sign that would give me another 30 days, so out came the old sign and up went the new one. That gave me 60 days instead of 30. And so at the end of that 60 days uh I had begged, borrowed, did whatever to, legally, to raise the funds. Patrons who I inherited when I came to the Diana Club, which were older, retired um

		<p>Caucasians that were the same ones that didn't want blacks to drink with them; and here I am the uh, the owner of, of their club. One was named Sweet, and one was named Tex, and I said, "Oh my God, what have I gotten myself into?" And I met some resistance. The bartender walked out. But uh Tex, with his Southern drawl and uh I guess kinda redneck even, uh took me under his wing immediately. And he said, "Kid, I'll show you all that you need to know about making this place happen." In a couple of weeks the, the old bartender came back, 'cause I guess he thought everybody was gonna leave and I'd have to close up or whatever. But that didn't happen, so Bob the bartender came back and he s-, asked if he could have his job back. And I said yeah, you can have it. But you're working for me, boo. He said, "I can do that now." He said, "I'm, I'm sorry."</p>
00:08:33.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	<p>And I didn't have you know, like the, the money to come in and do a whole big glossy red shiny metal thing in each time.</p>
00:08:41.3	AL VON	<p>Her budget is near-nothing, but she's still able to function.</p>
00:08:46.9	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	<p>In the process of, of having to do a lot of things myself that I learned some things of, about electricity, and plumbing; and I bought a little spray painter, and I would paint this whole place. And then there was the case of, of the disco floors. I took pride in, in polishing them with wax, and renting a buffer, and buffing out this uh 60' x 90' floor uh that was hardwood and putting the shine on it. At night, rather than going home, I would just fall out on the pool table, get up the next morning, and do the whole thing over again. You know, whether it was security, tend bar, which I had no skills in because of the California law that, that didn't allow women to tend bar unless they owned a bar prior to the 70s. I uh DJed for a few nights [laughs] without having any experience. And uh every now and then, I</p>

		<p>would actually make a really good mix and the house would go up, saying “Yeah, Jewel! Yeah! You better play, bitch!” [laughs] But that didn’t happen too often.</p> <p>So I had the 3 faces of Jewel that I had. I had the early morning and, and early evening older white folk; and then I had the blue collar workers, and they would stop in now that they could, and have a beer; and then, later at night then the gay and lesbian kids would come out to party. At first I was really, really nervous about what if this one saw this group and that. And before it was all over, everybody was partying together. Pictures of shared birthday parties with this lesbian and a, and a 75-year-old white guy cutting the, their birthday cake together. You know, it’s, it was amazing how it just came together like that. And if I had planned it, I could not have.</p> <p>We opened the Catch. But then a week or two after I opened, the vice squad showed up. And uh someone from, from the Alcohol and Beverage Control. And they came in and they pulled me to the side, and they said, “I hear that you have um dope dealers, and prostitutes, and all kinds of unsavory people coming here.” “Yeah, you’re, you’re probably right. We have those groups, I’m sure, in here. But I don’t know who they are. And they’re not doing anything inside the club to warrant your coming in and, and uh, and harassing me about it.”</p>
00:11:32.9	<p>CARLTON YOUNGBLOOD</p>	<p>People of different lifestyles were actually uh ordinated against activities of same-sex dancing, and dressing in transgender clothes, of anything that might have to do with any hint of homosexuality or gay lifestyle.</p>
00:11:48.7	<p>GENE LA PIETRA</p>	<p>You’re supposed to do a bar check once a year. They were doing ‘em every day. Every day. And parking their cruisers out front with the lights on. Come on. Even in today’s world, you’re not gonna go to a club if there’s a police cruiser with the lights on at</p>

		the front door.
00:12:06.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	I got cited one time for, for the music being too loud. And the police report came back to me saying "Weapon Used: Stereo Equipment."
00:12:16.5	REP. MAXINE WATERS	What?!
00:12:18.5	SANDRA DOMINGUE	The Catch One, as well as many other bars, were always checked at 1:15, 1:30, or just before closing; and other bars and, you know, establishments were checked at 2 pm in the afternoon, at 10 o'clock in the morning, or something like that. And it was a form of harassment for gays and lesbians, because of the timing that they did uh compared to the time that, that they did the heterosexual establishments. It was all of those types of things that was going on at the time that was, was just blatant harassment, and unconscionable activities that was being allowed by governmental agencies.
00:13:05.6	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	I said, "When are you guys gonna stop harassing me?" "Well, nobody's harassing you." I said, "Well, maybe my vocabulary isn't large enough to select the word that describes folks coming into my place, the cops coming in to my place night after night with their rifles and things drawn, helicopters overhead, uh anything to, to, you know, try to chase me away or to close me up."
00:13:30.2	AL VON	When you went to the clubs in West Hollywood, you had to have uh a stool sample, uh everything else just to get into the door.
00:13:36.3	CLAUDETTE "SEXY DJ"	You know, they were asking for 3 pieces of ID, where Jewel had open arms for all races.
00:13:41.4	GENE LA PIETRA	I don't think young people today appreciate what it took to open this club and keep it open. They just don't. They come in and

		<p>wiggle their butts now and they're having a time, but they don't know that the police used to come in and arrest people! They would go into a bar and say, "Every other one, come on, you're going to jail." They would disrupt your careers, and your families. You weren't out, and now all of a sudden your Mom's getting a call from the cops saying, "Your son's in a gay bar." Well, they didn't use the word "gay." It was "queer." As simple as that. And "faggots." These people were not politically correct. Their whole point was to instill fear, and intimidation, and brute force against the gay community. And especially the black gay community. And there was no leadership that I can think of that was there except Jewel.</p>
00:14:35.6	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	<p>We had fought hard in those early days to, to keep this club going. And even though we knew and understood that the average time that restaurants and bars stayed open was 2 1/2 years, we were determined to outlast that.</p>
00:14:55.7	CCH POUNDER	<p>(V.O.)</p> <p>The Catch grew from a neighborhood bar to a successful nightclub by the late 70's. Its reputation started as a club where everyone was welcomed. It wasn't long before lines started forming around the block.</p>
00:15:09.5	CLAUDETTE "SEXY DJ"	<p>Ooh, everybody loves a bad boy. Come on now. This is a bad boy.</p>
00:15:13.5	BONNIE POINTER	<p>Well, there's such an eclectic group of people that come to this club, men, women, black, white, all nationalities.</p>
00:15:21.1	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	<p>When folks call and ask me um you know, what kind of club it is and if it's gays, lesbians, are whites okay, are blacks okay? And when it comes to sexuality, I tell 'em it's, it's for "gays, lesbians, bis, tris, and otherwise."</p>

00:15:37.8	CLAUDETTE "SEXY DJ"	Everyone is welcome to the biggest gay club on the West Coast, because it's the Best Coast.
00:15:54.4	THELMA HOUSTON	I wasn't feeling, "I'm a celebrity." I just came here because this is where I came to dance.
00:16:01.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Uh and we were known for our music all over the world. The DJ that I had, you know, may he rest in peace, was phenomenal. We had some good parties here for a lot of years.
00:16:13.2	DAN YAHRO	I uh was originally hired on as an Assistant to DJ Billy Long. He was such an amazing value to this club. He was so instrumental in making this club legendary and the music cutting edge. People would come from all over the country when they were on vacation to listen to him. It was amazing. The floor would just stay packed all night. They packed until 4 am. You'd have to run them out of here at 4 o'clock.
00:17:01.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	The guys used to, to talk always about going out and "catching one." And uh that meant that they were gonna go out on the prowl and try to pick somebody up. And so that's how the name "Catch One" came into being. Just about everybody met a lover, or a friend for life at some time or the other here. And um, and there was no, you know, exception for me. I've met a couple people here myself that I ended up um being with.
00:17:41.9	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	We operated from a place of shame.
00:17:44.1	EVELYN "CHAMPAGNE" KING	Right. That's right.
00:17:44.8	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	And uh you know, we heard it from, from our parents--
00:17:49.0	EVELYN "CHAMPAGNE" KING	That's right.

00:17:49.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	You know, folks that were supposed to protect and, and help us grow up and blossom into fine human beings that we still ended up becoming.
00:17:57.1	EVELYN "CHAMPAGNE" KING	That's right.
00:17:58.4	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	That song saved, I know, a lot, a lot of kids from--
00:18:02.6	EVELYN "CHAMPAGNE" KING	We, we went through a lot at that time.
00:18:03.8	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Yes. From doing whatever, you know, and--
00:18:07.1	EVELYN "CHAMPAGNE" KING	Yes.
00:18:07.6	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	--because your music kept them going.
00:18:10.3	EVELYN "CHAMPAGNE" KING	But when you listen, and the words "Mama just don't understand/how I love my man." That's their favorite line. [laughs]
00:18:18.4	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	It was here, anyway. [laughs]
00:18:19.4	EVELYN "CHAMPAGNE" KING	Yeah. I mean it was very difficult for them at that, the time. It's still difficult for them.
00:18:34.7	CARLTON YOUNGBLOOD	During the heyday of the club, I think we might've had, you know, 16, 17, or more, hundred people up in here, well exceeding uh the regulations. But God, the line was around the block.
00:18:47.0	AL VON	Eventually the celebrities came, and the money came, and the fame came. And she had her ups and downs, but uh she's weathered it all well.

00:18:56.6	RUE THAIS-WILLIAMS	The Catch is just legendary. You know, so many movies have been shot there, so many celebrities have frequented the place...
00:19:08.9	SANDRA BERNHARD	Well I think, I think when people came to the Catch, they wanted to be dressed up, they wanted to look great, they wanted to, you know, have their hair and makeup rocking. So everybody was just like in high, you know, fashion, high street fashion. Which is where everything great comes from anyway.
00:19:25.0	BONNIE POINTER	I liked a lot of sparkly things. I always liked sparkly stuff. Even when I was little, I was, anything sparkly, I want it on, you know? I go straight to it.
00:19:33.1	EVELYN "CHAMPAGNE" KING	The fashion for me, basically it was, it was just funny. Because I didn't realize I was wearing some of the things that they were wearing. And then they said, "Yeah, you was wearing these bellbottoms, girl. You had on these, you know, the hot pants, the shorts..."
00:19:47.0	CAROL WILLIAMS	People, when they came out to party, they had on their best clothes, and leave here totally sweated out.
00:20:04.3	BONNIE POINTER	When I used to dress up in those old clothes with my sisters, that was my idea. Those were clothes we took from my father's church members that they weren't wearing, because they were saved. But I was gonna go do a little sinning. So I uh asked them for all their worldly clothes, and just like that...
00:20:18.5	THEA AUSTIN	I started hitting up the Catch in the late 80s and the fashion was big hair, tights, you know, crimped hair; the 90's you had cross colors and baggy pants start coming through. I mean it went from asymmetrical haircuts and the bobs to, you know, ponytails, the braids, to, you know, to this.
00:20:52.4	THELMA HOUSTON	The first time I heard the master recording of "Don't Leave Me This Way," which is what the record was gonna be made from, I heard

		<p>it here at Catch One. After I got the master recording of it, and the master is when, it's the acetate of the final mix, which by the way, is not usually given to the artist, but someone uh gave me a copy of it because they thought it was so good, I wanted to hear it in a real club. And uh, yeah. And my friend was able to ask her, ask Jewel. And she agreed. She said, "Yeah." And it was in the, it was the empty room, nobody was in here. And we put that on, and it was like, "Mmmmm." And all of a sudden it was like [shocked gasp]. The rest is... I got a Grammy. That's the rest. [laughs]</p>
00:22:14.3	<p>JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS (clip)</p>	<p>(Community AIDS Fundraiser)</p> <p>And we'll be saying, "Since you can't keep it unless you give it away." So come on out to give. Uh the, the overall purpose of all of this is, is to make this black community, the black gay community, a very viable one that will be recognized all over the world for sticking together, for loving one another, and their friends. Thank you very much, God bless you.</p>
00:22:41.2	<p>AUDIENCE MEMBER (clip)</p>	<p>(Community AIDS Fundraiser)</p> <p>We love you, Jewel!</p>
00:22:43.7	<p>JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS</p>	<p>I have pictures that we had taken when uh, and the guys at happier times. Halloween parties where they would dress, some of them, in full drag, but still had their mustaches and beards, and we just had fun. It was indeed a happy and gay group.</p> <p>A couple of people had got, we thought it was pneumonia. They went to the hospital. 2 weeks later, they were deceased.</p>
00:23:21.4	<p>TOM BROKAW (clip)</p>	<p>(Cancer Study Report)</p> <p>Scientists at the National Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta today released the results of a study which shows that the lifestyle of some male homosexuals has triggered an epidemic.</p>

00:23:32.3	RUE THAIS- WILLIAMS	I can remember when the AIDS Crisis really, really hit. And every time we turned around there was a funeral. Sometimes twice a week. We were just losing people constantly.
00:23:44.0	DR. MARK SICKLICK (clip)	(AIDS Discovered Report) We have no cure.
00:23:45.5	UNKNOWN SPEAKER (clip)	(V.O.) Dan Bowers... Francis Brady... Jim Butcher...
00:23:54.4	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	Phil and, and James, and George, and Lamont, and the names just go on and on. One of the hardest tragedies for me was a man that was 6' 7" that was reduced down to um probably 5' 8" or 9", if that. And he came in with a, with a leather jacket that was obviously one that he had had when he was full-sized and healthy. And it was hanging off, the shoulders were down to his elbows and he was, came into the club, presented himself. And there was about 5 or 6 people that knew him that were in, in the club. It was during Happy Hour. And they all left. You know, they couldn't, in tears just, you know. And I stood there and tried to be brave, and people were afraid to hug and this and that and I, I hugged him. But to, to see, and a, a gorgeous man too. I mean, he was beautiful, chiseled Indian, cut features, big and proud. So needless to say I was, I was not ready. But that scene kinda reproduced itself over and over to me. Those pictures, when I would look down the aisle, first it was about 1/3rd of the folks missing, then about a 1/2, and then, eventually, 3/4ths.
00:25:31.5	CARLTON YOUNGBLOOD	We came down into the club and it was almost bare. And I think that was the hardest time for the club, the hardest time for Jewel...
00:25:39.1	JEWEL THAIS-	Even the harassment with the uh different

	WILLIAMS	bureaucratic entities lessened because they were afraid to come in here too when there were people here. Afraid, you know, that it was airborne.
00:25:52.8	GENE LA PIETRA	The white power structure in West Hollywood, all white men, decided that the black community didn't count. It just didn't count. None of them serviced the black community. Wow. Not enough on her plate? Battling with the authorities, trying to keep her club viable, and now she takes on a humungous responsibility. After all, nobody knew, nobody knew what this AIDS thing was all about. But she plunged herself into it. You had people who wouldn't touch people with AIDS. They wouldn't go to your club if there was AIDS-related people in there. And yet she was holding these children.
00:26:33.7	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	One of the things that, that the uh AIDS Crisis did was that it outed a bunch of people. Outed a bunch of men that their folks, families, friends, wives, children, didn't know that they were bisexual, or didn't know that they were gay. Once it was identified as being a gay man's disease, then there was no closet that was big or deep enough for them to be able to hide behind. The Catch One became a haven for them. Guys would come here and just hang out uh day and night, not knowing what to do or who to turn to.
00:27:26.5	REP. MAXINE WATERS	Young men in the backyard of the Catch One, some were ill, uh didn't know where they were gonna sleep uh that evening, they were homeless and um Jewel uh was the person who was trying to take care of all of them, giving them a place to come. Feeding them. Uh helping to, you know, give them shelter. And so this woman uh who had taken on this huge responsibility, was a catalyst for my getting involved with HIV and AIDS and the funding uh to deal with HIV and AIDS. And I always tell the story of Catch One, and Reverend Bean, and Jewel;

		because they're the ones who started me on my way uh and inspired me uh to get involved and to do something about HIV and AIDS.
00:28:14.2	SHARON STONE	What she did and the kind of community outpouring that happened because of her generosity and goodness, and the awareness which is I think he, in anything that we do, is just to create awareness and acceptance.
00:28:30.9	CARLTON YOUNGBLOOD (clip)	(1990 Catch One AIDS Charity Fundraiser) Now I want y'all to go with me for a second on a journey and imagine what it's going to be like in the year 2000 if we keep the same attitudes over the past 10 years about the AIDS Crisis. In the year 2000, we will have so many people in infected with AIDS, and so many losses that we may just be real, real delirious, okay? But I don't think so, and we make a commitment that here at the Catch One to support Rue's House, to support other AIDS organizations, to open our doors to people and self-help groups, all these 12-step programs, and we are very, very, very, very excited about your participation and your love.
00:29:11.0	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	With all of the agencies for, for AIDS, there was none for women. And that population started to grow. And uh Rue, you know, my spouse, wanted to do something to help too. And so she uh said let's, let's do a shelter for women. And so, we did.
00:29:29.7	RUE THAIS-WILLIAMS	When we opened up Rue's House, which was the um first home for women and children with AIDS, we were keeping the families together, more or less. Um you know, there was, there was a need, and we felt like we were really doing something for the first time in the AIDS community.
00:29:47.1	SHERLOCK	It was the only place where women could take their kids and have them with them. Rue fought like hell for that.

00:29:58.2	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Everyone that, that came to the club knew somebody that had died. Or, in my case, at least 50% of, of the men that were around when the club first opened in 1973 died within the first 5 or 6 years of the AIDS Crisis. At first, it was just about, you know, helping raise the money for funerals, having memorials, uh contacting next of kin, having a shoulder for, for those survivors to, to cry on, uh a shoulder for those that were afraid to voice into my ear how scared they were of the possibility of dying.
00:30:54.6	CHARITY MC (clip)	(Catch One AIDS Charity) I'd like anyone who has had a friend, lover, relative, who has passed from AIDS, to yell out their name as the song is being played.
00:31:05.5	UNSEEN AUDIENCE (clip)	(Catch One AIDS Charity) Leo... Mark... Eugene... Elizabeth... Keith Bass... [unintelligible]... Dudley Jones... Robert James Deacon... Ed Hardy... Michelle Lansing... Darrell Guzman... Sylvester...
00:31:23.1	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	They were my family, for sure. I was not that close with mine at various times. And I think it was very important work. Probably the most important work that happened within our community at that time.
00:31:50.7	LAFD DISPATCHER (clip)	(July 1985) ...we're at the end of the block, and an unknown pipe bomb, no further description.
00:31:54.1	GENE LA PIETRA	She had a fire at this club. A fire. That's devastating. You know, it just like rips your heart out. You built this place.
00:32:01.5	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	In um 1985, we were arsoned. Um folks said that we weren't gonna come back and, and I said that we would. There was no roof. Everything was burned out. It had to be an inside job. I don't know if, if they um had a remote-control thing where, you know, they, they came in and they set up everything and, and hit a switch that, that,

		you know, speakers over there burned, the speakers back here, the barte-, the bars over on this side of the room, and they all went up. Everything went up. They wanted to make that, that it burned down. That's what they were trying to do. I get this area was, was, was being uh taken over by a particular uh nationality group, and came here in bunches during the middle 80's. They wanted the place, and I wouldn't sell...
00:33:02.8	LAFD DISPATCHER (clip)	(July 1985) ...we're at the end of the block, and an unknown pipe bomb, no further description.
00:33:06.4	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	The next morning after the fire, I'm sitting in my office and it's, I could see the top was burned off, so I could hear the, the firefolks; 'cause I had to call them back out because the embers started to, to flame up again. While they were here, said that they wished that it had burned down. But fortunately, like I said, the gods have always been with me, at every step of, of the way no matter how awful it might seem, the fire stopped at that wall over there, for no apparent reason, just stopped.
00:33:43.8	CF FITZ	(O.S.) But they said they had wished that it had burned down?
00:33:46.0	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	Yeah.
00:33:47.2	CF FITZ	(O.S.) The firemen?
00:33:47.8	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	Yes. And they tried to let it. The fire station is less than 3 minutes away from here, was less than 3 minutes away from here, it took 'em 20 minutes to, to finally get here. And it was up in flames then. When I did finally talk to the um Fire Chief and they did send me a report, they said that there was no need for them to investigate, 'cause after the night of the fire, they never came back to ask any

		<p>questions, or look through the rubble, or any of that kind of stuff to try to find any answers. And he told me that it was the M.O. that had been established in other fires that they had had in the same vicinity.</p> <p>I get a call from, from um the real estate agent that had sold the building to me, telling me that they had a buyer, a cash buyer that would pay me whatever I wanted for it. And my response to them was that they don't have enough money to sell, I'm not taking it. He said, "But they'll give you more than it's worth!" I said, "You didn't hear me. They do not have enough money to buy this building from me. And that's it. That's all. I'm not going anyplace."</p> <p>About um a week or so later, here comes the Building and Safety. "This is a white elephant, you'll never be able to open again." And I said, "You got it wrong, boo." I said, "I don't know when or how, but I will open again. So whoever you took money from, you better take the chips back before you spend 'em, 'cause I'm going to open. It's just gonna happen." Took me 2 years.</p>
00:35:42.5	GENE LA PIETRA	<p>Anyone else, they'd have been over there doing it for them. They would've fast-tracked that permit. Anyone else, they would fast-track everything, to help you build. Oh, do you need a loan? We can hook you up with the Community Redevelopment. But not Jewel. She had to fight them to get this club reopened. That's what a threat the white establishment thought that this beautiful, sweet woman was.</p>
00:36:09.7	CF FITZ	<p>(O.S.)</p> <p>Would it be the city that didn't want you here, or...</p>
00:36:13.7	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	<p>Neighbors, city, police, anybody, you name it. It was just not... black folks, white folks, all folks. Right. It, it was the gay issue for the black people, and then it was the, the black and gay and female thing for the broader</p>

		community.
00:36:35.7	C. JEROME WOODS	I think it probably could've taken another person over the edge. Whereas she, you know, rose out of the ashes. She fought, she struggled, she persevered. And that's something I truly admire about her.
00:36:48.0	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	I am not going anywhere until I get ready to go. And I'm not ready yet. And we will open again.
00:36:56.0	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	This sign going on and lighting up um was when the Catch opened after 2 years of being in the dark after the fire.
00:37:07.6	SANDRA BERNHARD	People that, you know, were experiencing their evolution sexually, and culturally, and this was like a safe haven to come and just, you know, really let, let their true inclinations fly.
00:37:23.7	AL VON (clip)	(Catch charity ball) On with the show, and remember above all, the more that you give, the more the homeless, the AIDS victims will eat. And I hope I don't break these f**king shoes. I don't want to buy them, Monique. They hurt. [laughs]
00:38:09.3	ANNOUNCER (clip)	(V.O.) Let's hear it once again for our proprietor, Jewel Williams. Y'all clap your hands for Jewel.
00:39:20.2	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	The most difficult times here would have been the times when I had uh taken up drinking and, and using. Which happened at a time when the Catch was at its best. I had never used drugs, or, and I wasn't a serious drinker at all, until I got to a time when the Catch was operating at its max. The celebrities were coming, the music was hot, we had lines wrapped around the building, I had employees that I needed to make it work; and it meant that, that, you know, translated to me um you know, looking back

	<p>on it, it was uh not having a place where I was needed then. So I had time, and uh time didn't work very well for me during those uh 7 years of, of what I called uh "being in the wilderness." Um not regretting any of it, because then it added another layer of understanding. What made me get sober was that I knew I was more than that. That uh I had to get back to a place where I could really be of service, where I could really help. Again, there was still a lot to be done, and there were a lot of people that depended on me to be the example.</p> <p>So one night after several months of being sober, or rather clean, and not sober, I took it up again. And that night rather I called uh Alcoholics Anonymous and said I need to uh find a meeting, right away. For the first time in my life, I felt like I belonged someplace. And the irony of it was that from that first meeting, I was, I scheduled myself up to, to tend bar for happy hour. And I came in, and I did it. But what had to happen, the transformation that happened in me was that I had to know that for, there wouldn't be any reason for me to ever take up drinking and smoking again. And if it did and, and the Catch was instrumental in me not being able to stop drinking and using, then the Catch would have to go. That's how important um my sobriety meant to me.</p> <p>What I learned from, from my experience in uh, in being out um using drugs and, and drinking, was that the high that I was chasing, what I was looking for then; outside of me I realize now that it was, that it was already there. And there has not been any high to equal where I am today, and what I feel today. And when I'm, when I'm out there helping others, I, I know now what it means to be uh a grateful alcoholic and recovering addict, because I can share that with disenfranchised folks that have drug and alcohol addictions too as part of who they are.</p>
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00:42:53.1	CCH POUNDER	(V.O.) Over the years, Catch One saw a lot of changes in music, fashion, and its clientele.
00:42:59.1	RUE THAIS-WILLIAMS	So it's been lean times, and then there's been good times. You know, so you more or less learn to roll with the flow and, and that can be rough.
00:43:09.7	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	The future is um unfolding now. Hopefully we've bottomed out as far as the attendance, and the population. We've had to change our clientele. For instance, had to lower the age limit to 18, whereas for the previous 37-8 years it had been always 21 and up. So that's one of the ways that we've been able to stay open these, these past 2 or 3 years. A lot of the men, like I said, passed away. So even on Saturday nights, which is our gay night, uh there's more women then, then men that are present for that dance. We've had to bring in outside promoters. Uh for instance on Friday nights now um even though I, I kept it closed for several years waiting for the population that we served, primarily African-American, to grow up and come about uh didn't happen. So I was approached by the promoter that has the Das Bunker uh night here.
00:44:26.7	DAS BUNKER MC	(V.O.) I am the master of my fate, I am the captive of my soul.
00:44:32.4	DAN YAHRO	Das Bunker was one of the biggest goth-industrial clubs in the world. People in Europe would plan their, their whole vacation, the line would be going around the corner all night.
00:44:45.0	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	They have power noise and, and uh gothic tracks. They've been my, my uh stellar tenant for like 9 years now.
00:44:57.2	DAN YAHRO	There have just been so many legendary promotions here that were cutting edge for

		their time uh solely, mostly based on the music of the time.
00:45:06.6	CAROL WILLIAMS	(V.O.) Jewel's Catch One really is a landmark. I used to work for her for a couple, 2 or 3 years in the early 80s. And there are so many people that had heard about her abroad, they'd take a taxi at the airport, and come to the club and they have their suitcases they hadn't even checked into their hotel, 'cause they heard about it. It was, it's a universal name, Jewel's Catch One. Everybody wanted to go to it.
00:45:34.0	BOBBY MARTIN	I was the DJ here for a number of years, and um I used to sleep in the club when I was 17. And then I came over here, that's the job when they hired me downstairs. And the 80's and the 90's are very good to me. Now I made a lot of money. Lots of money, because of her, you know. And I got to play for celebrities, you know, like Madonna, and um Harrison Ford, and um Sigourney Weaver; Herb Ritz, the photographer. I owe her uh a lot for jumpstarting my career.
00:46:13.3	DAS BUNKER MC	(V.O.) Beyond this place of wrath and tears, looms but the horror of the shape. And yet the minutes of the years survives, and shall find you unafraid.
00:46:33.0	CLAUDETTE "SEXY DJ" (clip)	(V.O.) ("Music" Release Party) When they came here, I mean, they were like everybody else. Nobody bothered them. They were like regular people.
00:46:40.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	The early 1990s brought in people like Madonna, and Sharon Stone, and it became an "in," underground place.
00:46:50.0	CLAUDETTE "SEXY DJ"	Because paparazzi was not coming to Crenshaw and Pico! [laughs]

00:47:23.2	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	One of the reasons why people like P!nk and Christina Aguilera were up here on the stage dancing was because they could come here and no one, you know, bumrushed them for autographs or whatever.
00:47:36.8	SHARON STONE	During that whole decade where I just couldn't go anywhere, I had long hair at the time. I used to put on a little pixie wig, and boy shorts, and combat boots, and I would go in there and dance, and everyone would leave me alone. Either they didn't recognize me or they pretended not to recognize me, but I would go in there and dance. And I could dance all night with my friends, and really have a good time. And it was wonderful.
00:48:05.1	DAN YAHRO	There were so many that used to come here. And they would just, we wouldn't even know who they were.
00:48:09.8	BOBBY MARTIN	She showed up out of the blue. I didn't know it was Madonna, but it's, this was early in her career, and she was going through my records. I didn't like that, so I grabbed her by the hair, and I pulled her back like "What are you doing?" And that's how I met her.
00:48:26.4	CLAUDETTE "SEXY DJ" (clip)	(Int.) The boys taught her to vogue. (V.O.) (Catch Vogue Ball montage) And she witnessed them voguing. I mean, they would do like a Soul Train line, but it was a voguing line. It was fabulous. (Int.) And she would stand around, and jump in, and join in, and have a wonderful time. She's had a couple of parties here, actually. Came in one time and painted the club, and brought us some sofas, and said, "I'm having a party." And she had a party here. We still got the sofas. [laughs] Thank you,

		girl.
00:49:05.4	MADONNA (clip)	("Music" Release Party) It's a phat club and it's a phat neighborhood!
00:49:07.4	INTERIEWER (clip)	("Music" Release Party) You love it?
00:49:07.9	MADONNA (clip)	("Music" Release Party) I'm loving it.
00:49:08.7	INTERIEWER (clip)	("Music" Release Party) And you've been here before haven't you, yes?
00:49:10.0	MADONNA (clip)	("Music" Release Party) Oh yeah. Many times.
00:49:12.8	UNKNOWN PAPARAZZI (clip)	("Music" Release Party) Hey, please! Madonna! Guy! Madonna!
00:49:20.0	CLAUDETTE "SEXY DJ"	It was um breathtaking to see this major #1 superstar here dancing with us. Us, yay [laughs] which makes all of us equal. But she has more money. [laughs] We love you Madonna. You know that, girl.
00:49:46.7	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	Eventually it was really kind of a flip-flop when Madonna started coming here, there was more whites here on, on uh Saturday nights for a period of time than there were people of color. Not because the people of color were asked not to come, they just kind of got overwhelmed with the population that were following Madonna's group here.
00:50:10.9	CLAUDETTE "SEXY DJ"	So all the white kids started coming to the Catch One.
00:50:13.5	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	So I got accused of being a racist. [laughs] The reason why it was mostly white people here was because you blacks stayed away. That was the reason. I challenged them to, you know, uh refute that. It was not without uh some, some very

		painful experiences for me.
00:50:31.9	RUE THAIS-WILLIAMS	It's just been a struggle all long, you know, all the way. The, you're just looking at determination in its truest form.
00:50:43.6	JAN PERRY (clip)	(Community Service Award) Jewel established the Village Health Foundation in 2001, and what she's assembled here is nothing short of amazing. The four businesses operated under the Village Health Foundation are the Village Health Clinic, the Vegan Village Internet Café, the Village Manor, and the Catch One Nightclub. The special part is that no one is turned away.
00:51:13.4	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	It was one of those things that, that I had wanted to do since I was a kid. I wanted to learn about uh supplements and about herbs and that. And so at the age of 56 I said, you know, "Why not?"
00:51:28.4	DR. DON KILHEFNER	Jewel decides to go back to graduate school and earns a Master's Degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine.
00:51:36.1	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	But that patience and the perseverance pay off by, by starting uh an acupuncture school after not having not having been to school at all for 20, 30 years. I had had my eyes on what was a plumbing shop next door to the Catch for 20 years. He said, "Are you still interested in buying the place, Jewel?" I said, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, I want it, I want it, I want it."
00:52:02.0	DR. DON KILHEFNER	One of the first things she did with that license is open something called the Village Health Foundation and Clinic.
00:52:08.2	RECEPTIONIST	Good morning, Village Health.
00:52:09.8	REP. MAXINE WATERS	It is said that she could've gone to Beverly Hills, or some other place where people could afford to pay a lot more money.

00:52:15.6	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	In order to be in the community that I wanted to serve, it had to be affordable. And affordable to me meant non-profit.
00:52:23.5	MARIE ELENA RONDON	This is one where no, she doesn't do it for money. If they do, we need the money, hello; but uh she doesn't do it for that.
00:52:30.7	DR. DON KILHEFNER	It's an incredible place. You're looking at a waiting room and it looks like a, a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, with all the colors of the rainbow being present there.
00:52:41.7	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	We never turn away anybody due to lack of funds. Uh yesterday I got a bag of lemons, and somebody gave \$1.20. Also, people do donate. The rest of it, thanks to the folks that come to the Catch, and uh from savings, et cetera, from the days we were rolling in it. But our reputation for actually uh healing people, not just masking over um their, their health problems, but actually healing them has uh kind've gotten out to a variety of different people.
00:53:22.5	CLARENCE WILLIAMS	I sat down and she looked at me, and she said, "Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Mr. Williams. We can't find cancer in your body." So I skipped out and I ran to Jewel to tell her, "Guess what? They can't find the cancer!" So this has been my thing. I, I, I stick with Jewel, I come in for my acupuncture and I support the Village Foundation any way I can. I wanna do more, I want my friends to do more, I want the world to do more. Because this healing happened right here in this community, on this street, Crenshaw and Pico. Village Health Center. It is incredible. I'm living testimony right here, right here. It doesn't get any better than this.
00:53:57.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	And then there's Queen. She came into see us in a wheelchair. And she had had a massive stroke that had left her paralyzed on one side.

00:54:11.2	QUEEN KUCHACHACONDI A	I've gone from being paralyzed, couldn't even scratch my own body; to a wheelchair, to a walker, and now these 2 canes. I pray that I'm gonna be off these canes very soon. So I love Dr. Jewel, she's a gift, and I thank God for being here to receive her gift of healing.
00:54:28.6	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	Right now my primary interest is in uh helping our community be a healthier community. It's been 10 years and probably at least 6,000 people that we've seen over those years. Very rewarding spiritually and emotionally for me.
00:54:59.6	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	I'm just gonna get the haircut.
00:55:02.8	CF FITZ	(O.S.) How short?
00:55:04.2	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	Uh like short-short.
00:55:07.3	CF FITZ	(O.S.) Really. How come?
00:55:09.0	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	Um it's uh time for another change. And they've become like maybe prisoner-type. [laughs] They've served me, like I said, in a spiritual, psychological, um and social way too. They brought out the uh more of the feminine side of me.
00:55:29.6	RUE THAIS- WILLIAMS	Is this the first time you've looked in the mirror? You look good. It does look good. Is that big bag full of hair?
00:55:37.7	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	Yeah.
00:55:38.1	RUE THAIS- WILLIAMS	Oh my gosh.

00:55:39.0	HAIRDRESSER	Yo, you look far more comfortable. It's like almost like a right of passage.
00:55:42.8	CF FITZ	(O.S.) What's next? New adventure? Uh anything, just last words.
00:55:45.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Uh new adventure? Uh with Rue standing here? Nothing. [laugh] But she knows better than that. As do I.
00:56:00.1	RUE THAIS-WILLIAMS	Well there's always something--
00:56:02.0	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Yeah, we just talked about, about that.
00:56:03.7	RUE THAIS-WILLIAMS	There's always something. Trust me. There's always something.
00:56:09.7	CF FITZ	(O.S.) I interviewed Jewel before you, and she told me you were going on vacation?
00:56:15.1	RUE THAIS-WILLIAMS	Oh, did she really? [laughs] I'm an RVer. I like to hit the road. Me and my road dogg, we hit the road. Getting Jewel to come is like pulling teeth. You know, it's uh "We're going to go here this year." "Well I'd really like to get back to taking a couple of vacations a year." I said, "I know, Jewel, the only problem with that hon is that you have to stop work, during that time, you know, and actually leave the premises and go."
00:56:46.6	CF FITZ	(O.S.) She talked about your old promise of uh retiring and writing your memoirs. Is that gonna happen?
00:56:53.4	RUE THAIS-WILLIAMS	Uh did I, did I say retiring? I told her [laughs], see, that's what she wants, the retirement part to come in. And the answer is no, that's not gonna happen. I said "sabbatical."
00:57:07.7	JENIFER LEWIS	(Catch 40th Performance)

	(clip)	(Singing) They say to love somebody else, you've got to learn to love yourself. And so I proudly show this face like it's an Oscar on the shelf. To hell with all false modesty, if it's perfection you must see... LOOK... at me...
00:57:30.5	CCH POUNDER	(V.O.) In May 2013, Catch One made history celebrating its 40th Anniversary. This landmark institution witnessed changing times, and laws, and music, but was always at a central place for a new generation to come together.
00:57:46.6	AL VON (clip)	I don't truly understand how she survived for 40 years. (Al Von Vogue clip) (V.O.) I'm not shaving off my mustache to, to end this 40 year celebration, cous. It's just not gonna happen.
00:57:59.8	[unknown]	Happy 40th to the Catch One, the oldest black, lesbian-owned event space in the county.
00:58:08.6	CARLTON YOUNGBLOOD	You know, we just had a, a real tough time for a minute. But the fact that Jewel is still here, the fact that um when I came on the street tonight the um, you know, it looked good. There was a car, we had trouble getting in the parking lot. And thank goodness I told them who I was, and I still have, have status here. So um Jewel, once again, this is gonna be fine. Uh we look for the Catch to be here for a long time.
00:58:33.4	GENE LA PIETRA	The fact that it's still here and outlasted how many presidents? 5, 6 Presidents, is remarkable. Remarkable.
00:58:41.5	CLAUDETTE "SEXY DJ"	(V.O.) This was a place where you could "Catch" a mate. [laughs] You know, it's the Catch One.

00:58:50.9	DAN YAHRO	Big investors, bunch of people dump in money, then what's hot for a couple years, and then it dries up and the next thing. This thing has been hot for 40 years.
00:59:14.3	JEFFREY KING	Yes, I grew up here in this club in the 80's. And uh so now at 52 I get to come back, and I get to work with younger people who are coming along, who are struggling with uh their sexuality and their identity and, and all of those issues that I faced and didn't really have a place to go, except to come here to the club and, and if I was lucky I could meet up with some older people who would help me out.
00:59:34.1	CAROL WILLIAMS	There was uh guys that came up to me and was telling me that when you were managing the club uh which was '81-'83 or so, I met my lover and we're still together, and it's like 33 years.
00:59:52.2	JENIFER LEWIS (clip)	(Catch 40th Performance) (Singing) I gotta get straight out the door, I can't take the s**t no more, somebody help, I'm breathing fire through my nose! Hot flash... hot flash... I'm having a... hot flash... hot... hot flash. Menopause.
01:00:16.5	CCH POUNDER	(V.O.) Jewel Thais-Williams, an honored elder and superhero to the Los Angeles Community. Jewel not only built a club, but a community center that welcomed those who often felt invisible to mainstream society.
01:00:31.5	KAREN OCAMB	So it was a community center, it was a political meeting space, especially during the AIDS Crisis. Uh but most importantly I think it was a home.
01:00:42.5	DR. DON KILHEFNER	On the bulletin boards at the Catch you'll see things like announcements for AA Meetings. There might be uh, uh Children, Adult Children of Alcoholics group meeting there,

		or a lesbian support group, and so forth. So it serves really as more than just a club. It really serves as a little village for our brothers and sisters South of Wilshire Boulevard.
01:01:04.1	LECIL WILLIS	I started doing a lot of research on the Catch, on the gay black community in Los Angeles, and just I discovered quite a lot about her accomplishments and, you know, just about every great South LA organization; Unity Church, Minority AIDS Project, she gave them space to really begin their organizations.
01:01:25.5	C. JEROME WOODS	So I think she's always been an activist, and, and sort of that one person uh that stands alone sometimes when all else is against her. I've looked at how the press has treated her, I've looked at how the cops have treated her; and sometimes folk within the community, because they don't understand that to be a leader, you have to be strong, you have to be steadfast, and sometimes you have needs as well.
01:01:48.8	RICKIE BYARS-BECKWITH	And when she closed up the Vegan Village, we all were disappointed because we, we loved it. But it was something that she really needed to do. She had the courage to do it, and then she came back renewed, restored. And that's an example of a healthy individual. That's a model for those of us who are younger. You know, it helps us when it's time to make decisions to see somebody make some great decisions.
01:02:10.9	DR. MICHAEL BERNARD BECKWITH	Yeah. She has a vision. So she's--
01:02:13.2	RICKIE BYARS-BECKWITH	She founded this place.
01:02:14.0	DR. MICHAEL BERNARD BECKWITH	--she's literally pulled by a vision. In, in a, in a, in a time when people are bereft of vision, she carries one.

01:02:21.5	DR. DON KILHEFNER	Uh this is a woman who hardly sleeps. Almost every day of her life is being of service to somebody somewhere.
01:02:29.6	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	Well, all funds, all benefits will of course go to the Village Health Foundation uh Clinic, and we've got a couple of new programs... I have to close her ears because she doesn't want to hear me talking about anything new.
01:02:43.1	REP. MAXINE WATERS	She was before her time. And uh she helped to bring this community along, and helped to bring elected officials along. She's a leader, and she's a national leader, and a national model; and someone who has understood her talent and her possibilities. And so I think I talk today about her having inspired me, but I suspect uh if we could find everybody uh that she's inspired uh they would be lined up for blocks and blocks and blocks across this city. Because uh that's how many people she's touched.
01:03:18.0	KAREN OCAMB	And it was really incredible during the LA Riots. For instance, um you know the neighbors were the ones who came out and protected uh the Catch from looters. So, you know, she was so important un in trying to create community, that when she needed help community helped her too.
01:03:41.5	CAROL WILLIAMS	My sister became a Mom, a Grandmother, a Auntie, uh a Sister, um Brother, uh whatever to a whole lot of people because she makes herself available. She makes herself available to really listen, and sometimes I'm wondering like what is she listening to them for?
01:04:09.0	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS (Clip)	(Jan. 2012) To have lived for 73 years, I've seen a few changes happening. I am extremely proud of this day, when I can say that I am legally married to the person that I love. 23 years we've been together. The fight is not over. We're probably someplace in the middle. I wanna be here to

		see it end, so let's keep it rolling. Thank you.
01:04:39.4	SPEAKER IN BACK (Clip)	(Jan. 2012) Alright!
01:04:51.3	CAROL WILLIAMS	When I spoke with Jewel about selling the, the business and the club, and the, the Clinic and everything um there was, there was a sadness, really. Because this is where I've been coming for 42 years, and she's had her house here. It's like a divorce kind of thing.
01:05:18.2	CF FITZ	Are you ready to sell Catch One?
01:05:22.9	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	Yes. And, and I hesitate because um of, you know, the, the difficulties that I've had in, in trying to sell it, you know, so far. Um when the word first went out, you know, everybody came running. You know, "I've got, you know, \$14,000 in the bank, and you know, I'll give you another \$2-250 a month," you know, whatever, whatever. But finding qualified buyers has been um the toughest thing. And then, uh then there are those that think that, that you know, they're, they're dealing with an old, stupid black lady that doesn't know anything about business at all. Um but this old, stupid black lady was manning a, a corner grocery store when she was 9 years old, and would be the only one that was there.
01:06:18.5	JEWEL THAIS- WILLIAMS	The first compliment that I ever got from my Moms, and I was 30-something years old then and, and she had heard about it, so she and my Dad come up with one of my sisters from San Diego. And she walked around and she looked, and she came up and checked it out. She said, "All of this is yours?" And I said, "Yeah." She said, "Wow, this is really something."
01:06:42.3	CF FITZ	In closing Catch, what continues on? You're selling all the property, all this is gonna go away.

01:06:49.4	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Right. We're selling uh the whole corner uh because that makes the most sense to most folks. And chances are; uh and this is what kinda bothers me the, the most; is that it will probably be levelled.
01:07:08.3	GENE LA PIETRA	I know that every penny she gets for this place is earmarked already. She already has figured out how she's gonna do this at the Clinic, and how she's gonna help these people over here, this lady has no intentions of leaving this earth with one penny in her pocket.
01:07:21.5	SHERLOCK	This is closing because we didn't get her back enough. And, and I'm sorry about that. I'm not only sorry about it, I hurt about it. I really do. I can't say no more about this.
01:07:47.9	GENE LA PIETRA	So maybe Jewel and I are both dinosaurs. Maybe it's time for us both to take a hike, because the new kids are on the block. And they don't have to deal with the crazy stuff that we all dealt with. They don't have to deal with that, because a large number of the Police Department and Fire Department, they're gay now. The power structure, lotta gays. Gay everywhere. Black gays, brown gays, red gays, white gays, every color you wanna come up with. It's a different time.
01:08:29.7	GENE LA PIETRA	Nobody ran this lady outta town. This lady won. And her victory was a victory for every gay person, every person in this town. Because it showed that racism will never win if good people are willing to stand up to bad people. And Jewel was that good person.
01:08:52.6	SANDRA DOMINGUE	When they tried to burn her out, when they tried to buy her out, but uh Jewel is my hero, let me tell you. Jewel is my hero.
01:09:02.9	SANDRA BERNHARD	Well, Jewel's much more an icon and a hero than, than any celebrity. Because any time people dedicate their life to, to giving and healing and are hands on doing it. These are the people that should be celebrated and supported. That's, those where the checks

		should be written.
01:09:19.6	CLAUDETTE "SEXY DJ"	Jewel, you are truly what your name says. Stay precious.
01:09:27.7	CF FITZ	Our last interview at Catch One.
01:09:29.4	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Yes, it is.
01:09:30.2	CF FITZ	Jewel's Catch One.
01:09:30.9	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Yes.
01:09:31.4	CF FITZ	How's it feel?
01:09:33.6	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Woo, it's um a lot of emotion of uh both types. The happy and, and the sad end. I'm really, really jazzed about getting on with, with uh my next purpose, my next mission, a continuation of the Village Health Foundation and um being able to help improve that, as, with as many people as possible the uh health and welfare of our community.
01:10:13.7	GENE LA PIETRA	And when you walked through the club, you can't help but feel the spirits of all the people that have been here, all the people who have passed with AIDS that she held close to her, when others were pushing them away, when boyfriends would break up with their boyfriend because he had AIDS.
01:10:31.7	DAN YAHRO	That had to be a really tough decision for her to make. It really did. Uh it's tough for me to kind of accept that something that's been a part of my life for 20 years is, is gone.
01:10:50.0	CCH POUNDER	(V.O.) On July 18th, 2015, Jewel Thais-Williams held her Last Dance party at Catch One. It was a red carpet star-studded event that was also bittersweet. Folks came from all over the world to dance and reminisce. Some wanted to step into history one last time and say goodbye to an institution. Others simply

		wanted to thank the creator of it all for the memories.
01:11:15.4	LIBBY	And I just love her, and I just wanna pay homage, because she helped me come out.
01:11:20.9	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	This is my firstborn right here. Firstborn.
01:11:23.2	CYNDI "SHORTY" COLEMAN	I'm the one, yeah. I'm the one.
01:11:26.1	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	She and I literally lived here.
01:11:27.6	CYNDI "SHORTY" COLEMAN	Yeah, yeah.
01:11:28.7	CF FITZ	(O.S.) At the club?
01:11:29.6	CYNDI "SHORTY" COLEMAN	Yes, ma'am!
01:11:30.6	CHLOE LAFOND	Oh my gosh. I was born, this incarnation of me was born right here on this premises.
01:11:36.6	GUY LEWIS	And I followed her.
01:11:38.4	CRISTO	In the late 80's, early 90's, it was our safe haven. And um I got stepped on by Madonna here.
01:11:43.4	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	And the buzzword was uh "We're gonna go out and Catch it." So when we moved upstairs, then it was his idea, and my okay that we name the "Catch One" just that. And then I added, because I knew how these guys, you know, one is never enough, okay? So I put on my first business cards, I had "Catch One" and then in parenthesis I had "(or more)." "Cause that was the name of the game.
01:12:09.5	KEITH TAYLOR-WHITE	I wish it wasn't closing because I love this place, I had the best time here ever.
01:12:13.6	TODD STERLING	I was told to go to Catch One, and I walked in and there were all these like John Goodman

	BROWN	lesbians in here, like playing pool. And I was like, “Whoa, what the f**k is going on?!” And then I went over to the bar, and I like get my drink, and this chick goes, “Yeah, your night’s tomorrow.” And I was like, “Oh, yeah. I’m on girl night.”
01:12:34.4	TERENCE TOY	I just love that it was the first club in LA that featured house music.
01:12:39.1	WILL ENTYSE	We just wanna express our gratitude, especially coming from the younger generations of up-and-coming people who, you know, who, who don’t know that this woman paved the way for us to be able to do everything that we have been doing within this community. It’s very important for them to know, and give homage to, you what I’m saying, who’s responsible for that, and I’ll just have to do that.
01:12:54.7	MARLON BEHN	I wanna say goodbye to my Mom and my playground.
01:12:57.8	JAMES DISNUKE	I’ve been coming to the Catch the day when they opened, ‘till tonight’s the last night. Lot of people don’t know I’m Jewel’s secret husband. We have 17 kids--
01:13:06.9	MARLON BEHN	And when everyone thought she couldn’t do it, uh she did something equivalent to Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, and everybody in her community should be proud.
01:13:17.8	BERNADETTE HURD	My brother Sylvester performed here. So we’re coming down to bring him back and, you know, be here for the Last Dance here at the Catch, with Jewel.
01:13:29.7	JAYE JOHNSON	Well, I can remember coming in the club when I was underage, and uh I’m sure there’s a lot of stories like that. But you know what? I got my hand spanked by Jewel--
01:13:37.8	TODD STERLING BROWN	And I was like this is the closest to Studio 54 I’m ever going to get.

01:13:43.0	LAMONT MASTERS	I've been hired here and I've been fired here about 4 or 5 times.
01:13:48.1	AL VON	I have danced in this club in this drag, and I've danced in this club in jockstraps [laughs] with cowboy boots.
01:14:06/7	BONNIE POINTER (clip)	(Jewel's Last Dance VIP Party) Are you having fun? (Singing) I've cried too many endless nights, just holding my pillow tight. Then you came into my lonely days, with your tender love and sweet ways. Now I don't where you come from, baby; don't know where you've been now baby. Heaven must've sent you into my arms. Now in the morning when I awake, there's a smile upon my face, you touched my heart with gladness, wiped away all my sadness. (V.O.) Oh so long I've needed love right near me, a soft voice to cheer me. Heaven must have sent you, baby, into my life. Ooh, it's heaven in your arms, the sweetness of your charms makes me love you more each day, in your arms I wanna stay. Wanna thank you for the joy you've brought me, thank you for the things you taught me...
01:15:33.9	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	It's been a relative sadness that comes with closing. Uh it's not sadness. It's uh the, what I think I'll be missing about uh the camaraderie, um the having um lived next to where you work. So this means that I gotta take traffic now. [laughs]
01:16:02.2	CF FITZ	(O.S.) Where do you live?
01:16:03.4	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	I live downstairs, I have an apartment directly underneath the Catch.
01:16:07.0	CF FITZ	(O.S.)

		Underneath the dance floor?
01:16:08.2	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Underneath the dance floor.
01:16:09.6	CF FITZ	(O.S.) Wow, so when it's rocking until 2, 4, 6...
01:16:13.5	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	That's when I go, the, the bass, you know...
01:16:15.0	CF FITZ	(O.S.) How do you sleep?
01:16:16.1	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	I-, it's all about the bass, though. 'Bout the bass, 'bout the bass, 'bout the bass. I, I wake up when it, when it goes off.
01:17:04.2	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Thank you, thank you, thank you for giving me the privilege and honor to serve you for so long. And uh consequently I've been able to serve myself. But I couldn't have done it without you. There's no way. I mean, I, I don't like playing to an empty room either, no more than any of you performers would like to. So, you brought 'em in, you kept 'em in, uh you came, uh some of you came when, when it was just you and I that, that made up that evening. And you stayed around. And I love you for it. I know several of you uh came in here with suicidal tendencies that when you came in and saw your own people, people that looked like you, that acted like you, then it gave you reason to live. And I love you with all my heart. And thank you, thank you for giving me a life.
01:18:05.4	CF FITZ	(O.S.) Awesome. Anything else?
01:18:06.9	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	No, I'm about to cry myself. I got all emotional. Thank you.
01:18:15.4	SHARON STONE	Jewel, you have quite a legacy behind you. And that is powerful. All these people that you helped, and all these people that you've loved, what are you gonna ask them to do in

		goodness next? Let's have all those people pay it forward to do some other good thing. What are you gonna do next, Jewel?
01:18:38.3	CCH POUNDER	(V.O.) On Sept. 8th, 2015, Jewel gave up her last set of keys to the Catch One. And in typical Jewel Thais-Williams fashion, she is building again for her community. Thank you, Jewel for building the Catch, and giving so many a place to dance, to be themselves, and to call home for 42 years.
01:21:03.5	END TITLES	END TITLES
01:21:21.0	BOBBY MARTIN	I used to sleep here.
01:21:23.7	CF FITZ	(O.S.) Wait a minute, hold on. Come on, come on.
01:21:29.7	CF FITZ	How'd it feel up there?
01:21:31.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Well, you know, for one that, that was sensitive to heights at one time, I thought--
01:21:35.6	CF FITZ	Oh no, you are?
01:21:37.3	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	No, I, I've gotten over it, obviously.
01:21:38.8	CF FITZ	Oh my gosh.
01:21:48.8	CF FITZ	(O.S.) A quick powder? I'm sorry.
01:21:52.4	THEA AUSTIN	Make-up! Pwoof! I'd like to see you run just straight to me, just pwoof!
01:22:00.0	CAROL WILLIAMS	And my Mother had 'em cut off, lil', lil' talons that she had, lil' talons on, you know, on, on each, each of her y-, if you see 'em, they might be still there... I don't know, don't say anything. [laughs]
01:22:11.3	RUE THAIS-WILLIAMS	That old goat just goes up the mountain, and a few rocks or a landslide'll happen and the legs go down, and it'll miss a step or two. And you look and there's that old goat still

		going up the hill. I said, “You’re never gonna give up, are you?”
01:22:26.1	THEA AUSTIN	“That ain’t your hair?!” It is, I bought it. It is my hair. [laughs]
01:22:33.7	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	...part that says I sing along. But since I can’t, what I can do is the Hambone.
01:23:00.1	BONNIE POINTER	I think I had some little shoes that lit up. Some high heels that when you walked they’d light up around the soles and stuff. I didn’t have the goldfish in ‘em like Huggy Bear but... [laughs]
01:23:12.4	THEA AUSTIN	Let’s see how I can personalize it for my Jewel. (Singing) Jewel, she gives a little, you know she’s gotta take just a little. Give a little, take a little, she’s talking about the color of love. And you can come near her, I promise she won’t bite you. She’ll make you wanna get into her, and fall in love. She’s the color of love. She’s talking about it, being about it. She’s the color of love.
01:24:00.8	JEWEL THAIS-WILLIAMS	Yeah, that’s beautiful.
01:24:03.5	CF FITZ	(O.S.) That’s it.
01:24:13.5	CREDITS END	CREDITS END