

Deep Culture Podcast – Transcript
The Deep Culture Podcast explores the psychological impact of intercultural experiences, informed by the sciences of brain, culture and mind. We look at the personal growth that can come from travel, living and working abroad, learning a foreign language, growing up in a multicultural context—and the challenges of bridging different cultural worlds.
Episode #16 - A Conversation with Bob Whiting
In this episode, Joseph sat down with Bob Whiting, the best-selling author (e.g. <i>The Chrysanthemum and the Bat</i> ; <i>You gotta have Wa</i> ; <i>Tokyo Underworld</i>) who has made a career of finding cross-cultural insight in unexpected places—like baseball and the Japanese underworld. His new memoir is <i>Tokyo Junkie: 60 Years of Bright Lights and Back Alleys . . . and Baseball</i> . It recounts his remarkable intercultural journey – his small town roots; his 60-year love affair with Tokyo; his cross-cultural writing career, and how he learned to feel at home between cultural worlds.

0:23	Speaker	<i>Hello I am Joseph Shaules, and welcome to the Deep Culture Podcast, where we explore culture and the science of mind. This is a podcast for people who move between different cultural worlds, we talk about intercultural experiences, and we dig into the science and the psychology of culture and mind.</i>
		Intro
0:46	Joseph	<p>Today we have a special treat on the Deep Culture Podcast - I had a conversation with Bob Whiting, the best-selling author who has made a career of finding cross-cultural insight in unexpected places like . . . baseball, and the Japanese mafia.</p> <p>His first book - <i>The Chrysanthemum and the Bat</i> was a bestseller – and it accomplished something remarkable - it was a cross-cultural exploration of Japanese culture through the supposedly “all-American” sport of baseball.</p> <p>Let me read from the forward: “At first glance, baseball in Japan appears to be the same as the US version—but it isn’t. The Japanese view of life, stressing group identity, cooperation, hard work, respect for age and seniority, and “face” has permeated nearly every aspect of the sport, giving it a distinct character of its own.”</p> <p>His book <i>You Gotta Have Wa</i> - earned a Pulitzer Prize nomination. It’s a must-read in Japanese studies departments. His book <i>Tokyo Underworld</i></p>

		<p>explores the darker side of Japanese society after WWII - corruption and organized crime.</p> <p>I've known Bob for many years. He had mentioned to me that he was writing his memoir – and now it's out, and it was the perfect excuse to talk so we sat down in a conference room at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Tokyo - you'll hear the sound has a bit of an echo, there are even some sirens in the background sometimes.</p> <p>The title of his memoir is - <i>Tokyo Junkie: 60 years of Bright Lights and Back Alleys . . . and Baseball</i>. I knew he had a remarkable life – he grew up in a small town – went off to see the world – arrived in Japan in 1962, started a 60-year love affair with Tokyo. He has also spent time living all over the world – his wife is a UN diplomat. I found out that he had gotten a hand-written note of congratulations on his memoir from President George W. Bush. I get the feeling, however, that despite all of this Bob still considers himself a small-town boy. So I was just thrilled to sit down with him and learn a bit about his journey . . .</p>
		Part One – Tokyo Junkie
3:31	Joseph	I started off by asking him about the title of his memoir: Tokyo junkie. Is this an addiction? So what is, what is the addiction?
3:55	Bob	Well, it occurred to me that that was a really apropos title because I do seem to be addicted to this country. I tried to leave once I swore I'd never come back and here I am.
4:04	Joseph	But I think that a lot of the listeners on this podcast will really understand how, you can get hooked on it. And I was looking the other day at Facebook and saw this note that was posted from George W. Bush to you congratulating you on your memoir. Could you, could you read this
4:27	Bob	a handwritten letter
4:29	Joseph	A letter, right?
4:30	Bob	<i>Dear Robert, I just finished Tokyo junkie. I liked the book a lot. The stories were excellent. The descriptions vivid. Thanks for the shout-out. I'm sure Bill - number 42 in parenthesis - will appreciate this as well. Uh, I'm a little surprised you did not include a little paragraph on Bobby V., Bobby Valentine, the baseball manager, after all, there was a beer named for him in Japan. And you seem to like beer. That totally floored me to get</i>

		that. It's great. He's even got words crossed out on the, uh, so you know what I need to think...
5:09	Joseph	You've really had an amazing journey. You started in a small town in Northern California, and you have gone through so much and witnessed so much. What was that small town like, how were you at that time?
5:26	Bob	Well, Eureka, I don't think anybody in Eureka had ever seen a subway, it was a town of 35,000 on the coast fishing and logging town right in the heart of the redwoods, you were really like isolated from civilization was the feeling that you got. If you like to go fishing in the mountains or hiking in the redwoods, it was a great place. You know, I was having problems. I graduated from high school. I graduated at a very young age. 17 and, uh, went to university and I just waited until I was 18 so that I could join the military and get out because I just had to leave.
6:05	Joseph	Se were you one of these people who just wanted to get out who wanted to go see the world or what was, what was, your motivation
6:12	Bob	I had a really, I had a very strained home life. My mother was, she grew up in New Jersey. And when she was 12 years old, her parents just left, just left them there. Her father was a racetrack junkie, her mother was a barroom floozy, a drug addict. And when she was 16, she had to go down to the local morgue and identify her mother's body. And she never got over it. She just had so much anger inside her that she just never knew how to deal with it, my father was a, mechanic, very good with his hands. He could make cameras out of nothing but he spent as much time as humanly possible away from the house. She was always yelling at him. And so I just had to get out. I mean, I felt sorry for her because she really had a miserable life, but, I just couldn't stand it. So I just, we had a big blow out one day. So I just got in a car, drove to San Francisco, joined the Air Force ... Then I had to drive back to Eureka and park the car, get on a bus and go . . .
7:19	Joseph	Well. So it was not some, dream of seeing the world. It was to get out of where you were.
7:26	Bob	Well, yeah, it was to get out once I got into the air force, they, uh, you, they give you all these tests. They put me in this electronic surveillance school for, for analyzing the data from surveillance lights. And that's what I wound up doing in Japan. I went to basic training in Lackland air force base, Texas, uh, outside San Antonio. And then they sent me to Biloxi, Mississippi, and I went to a tech school there for several months and,

		they said, where do you want to go? Sergeant called me in at the end of the, this particular semester. I said, I want to go to Berlin because that's where all the spy action was. And he said, okay, sure, no problem, son, can I get this assignment to Japan? I didn't even know where Japan was. it was somewhere near Hong Kong. And, the only thing I knew about Japan was the, movie, uh, Godzilla and a Jerry Lewis movie called Geisha Boy.
Part 2 -		
8:38	Joseph	Bob arrived in Japan the year I was born - before computers or the internet – a time when stereotypes and racial slurs were common, especially for a country that was recently “the enemy”. Talk about culture shock . . .And then you arrive in Japan in 1962, was it, you were 19. It's hard to imagine the impact that that would make on this young man from Eureka. What were your first impressions?
9:19	Bob	Well, the smell was the first big impression, you know, because they use human fertilizer on the rice paddies and this was, uh, you know, it was fairly rural area. You got a really nice view of Mount Fuji and, so then I started going down to, to Shinjuku and then to Tokyo station. And what struck me was the crowds, you know, just a sea of, uh, black hair, and Tokyo station, you know, and, and certain hours of the day it was so crowded. You know, they need platform pushers to get people in the trains during the commuting, in the rush hour, in the morning and evening, it was so polluted that you, on most days you could barely see Tokyo tower and this auto pollution and also industrial pollution. Uh, we were told, don't drink the tap water. You know, you get diseased, there were rats everywhere. It was very, you know, wasn't very sanitary place. Plus there was a lot of crime
10:26	Joseph	And this is really different from the image that most people today have of modern Japan, modern Tokyo. How did all of this strike you as this young American, I mean this was still post-war period...
10:40	Bob	I mean, on the base, there were a lot of people who didn't like Japan, a lot of people in the military, you know, they had relatives who died in the war. They still remembered that, you know, it was only 17 years since the war had ended. And they kind of looked down on the Japanese but there was a lot of, there were a lot of dumb people in the military.
10:58	Joseph	So what was different about you?

11:02	Bob	<p>The first time I went to Tokyo, I was just overwhelmed by the energy of the place. I mean, it was, and I talk about the city being addictive. It was addictive because this energy, it just sucked you in, you know, this, like just something came over you. I just said, I've gotta be here.</p> <p>There's just so much to see so much to do you know, where do you begin? There were so many bars and restaurants and nightclubs that you couldn't go to them all, there were coffee shops everywhere. Every coffee shop had a personality. There was one that's run by this French ballerina. There was another one, where the, all the waitresses wore wedding dresses, or there was another one in Kanda that just played nothing but classical music all day, five floors are these deep red carpets and velvet walls. And you can just sit buy a book and just sit there and read it all day. , plus there was, uh, I discovered the Yomiuri giants had a baseball team. They had this, a player named Sadaharu Oh was world, went onto set the break, the world home run record. It was just every day, it seemed there was an education. I learned something new.</p>
12:17	Joseph	<p>but at a certain point you had to decide whether to stay with the military or to stay in Japan, I guess that was in 65, after three years. And I think this is something that a lot of expatriates face is it, do I leave or do I stay, so what was that decision like for you?</p>
12:36	Bob	<p>I wasn't really all that hard. I got a hard time, you Uh other people that I worked with, I was actually, I was offered a job by NSA. The national security agency but, Tokyo had made such an impression that it'd become a high-tech megalopolis at the time that I was there, that they, the James Bond crew came and filmed <i>You only live twice</i> in 1966. So it was such a buzz going on. The message from everyone in Tokyo is, we're just getting started, we're on our way, watch out world and it, again, I just couldn't bring myself to leave. I wanted to see, I wanted to watch it. I couldn't understand why these other people didn't want the same thing I did, but they thought I was just as crazy as I thought they were. But...</p>
13:29	Joseph	<p>But it doesn't surprise me because especially I've been in Japan and seeing plenty of expatriates who never learned Japanese, for example, who kind of hold themselves apart. And they take advantage of, being a white foreigner if they happen to be white and get, you know, get treated nicely all the time, And they don't want to give that up. But when you left the military, you became a student. You were living in Komagome, So that must've been a real shift from being on the base, to</p>

		living in this small apartment in Komagome, much more local experience.
14:05	Bob	<p>Well, one of the companies I was teaching English at was Toda Construction Company. And there was a man named Kusaka, Mr. Kusaka who spoke some English. And he helped me find an apartment in that area. It was right across the street from the Toda Construction Company dormitory. So sometimes I would go over there and use their dormitory bath. I mean the public bathrooms just down the street, but everybody and his brother stood watching me. and also, uh, I like baseball and I would go to Korakuen stadium and sit up in the jumbo stands. You had this tremendous view of the city and the Chuo line in the distance at Suidobashi. And it was really quite nice and the Giants had a really strong team, most nights there would be a Giants baseball game on every night of the year, you know, telecast nationwide. And I was, I couldn't speak Japanese very well, but, half the words were in English, you know, home run, strike, auto (out) booru (ball), seefu (safe), and, uh, so it was something to relate to. And so that's how I started, you know, picking up Kanji.</p> <p>I was studying Japanese at Sophia university, but I would go in the morning and pick up the Nikon sports and take my dictionary to a coffee shop. And I try to translate an article. And after a while, you began to see the patterns and it made sense. And, because I really wanted to know what was going on. And they had all the pictures and all the interviews and, you know, in-depth coverage. And, uh, I learned about these players and their personalities and you know, which Turkish bath they went to after the game. And it was really an education.</p>
15:56	Joseph	Well, you have wonderful description in your memoir about sitting in these cafés and studying the sports paper in Japanese, but at the same time you were studying politics at Sophia, you weren't just hanging out. watching baseball...
16:12	Bob	Yeah. But I, I was really, really interested in baseball. politics. I just did it because I had to study something. But in the beginning, that's what gave me the motivation to want to learn more.
16:39	Joseph	Well, so you graduated from Sophia and you started working for Encyclopedia Britannica, among other things, I guess, your memoirs organized by section and the section that covers this part of your life is called the degenerate. So you're a, you're a self-described salary man. Uh, but it sounds like you were doing some hard drinking and exploring,

		exploring the underside of Tokyo a bit. And you also tell the story of, uh, getting a knock on the door late at night, uh, with someone that was coming to collect a gambling debt. And this was your introduction to
17:19	Bob	The underworld,
17:20	Joseph	The underworld, can you tell that story?
17:23	Bob	<p>You know, I would usually go out after work, you know, and then Kabukicho and these other places, and I'd come back and I go to this snack across the street and they had a little baseball betting pool on, they had the game on TV. And so you could bet a thousand or 2000, you know, small amounts. And that's what I used to do every night and go in there and have one beer before I crashed. And I made this bet, a really a stupid bet and I wound up losing 30,000 yen and I didn't have it on me. So I just left. I told myself, I'll come back tomorrow. And then midnight, this knock on the door, this beefy little guy with scars over his eyes and a suede jacket and a buzz cut. Ramrod posture and this just the right glare, intimidating. I've come to collect the <i>san man</i> (thirty thousand). And so I tell him, I have to go to the bank tomorrow and get it. He says, okay, but don't make me come back here again. That's what he said. He showed me his badge and said, Sumiyoshi Gang, so I got the money and went back the next day. And I gave him, went down to the, uh, the snack across the street, the Bokiyo and gave it to him and he said, oh yeah, you sit down and let me buy you a beer. And he started asking me where I was from, you know, what I was doing in Japan.</p> <p>And then he said, okay, here's the deal? So I'm Okinawan, Japanese don't like Okinawans and you're American and Japanese don't like Americans either. So let's be friends, and we embarked on this friendship, you know, I'd see him, you know, two or three times a week. And he would take me out to these different places and, you know, the Turkish bath or a new Pachinko shop opening up or a bar or some Korean restaurant. And, uh, he introduced me to his boss, who, they took me to this big gang reception. I don't know what the reason was for but the boss gave a speech, and he was there in his white silk kimono, they got up and sang some songs and these old Japanese war songs. And then, uh, he made me get up and sing a song. I didn't know any song. So I sang the star Spangled Banner.</p>
19:50	Joseph	and

19:51	Bob	asked me to sing another one. So I sang Elvis Presley's, uh, <i>I can't help falling in love with you</i> . I know I knew the first verse. And so then I was in after that and, uh, I just, everybody knew me in this gang in Higashi Nakano and, it was quite nice. And I learned a lot about that. You know, they said the gang, the gang boss found out that I had written my thesis, my graduation thesis, at Sophia University on the Liberal Democratic Party and its factions. And I had interviewed Nakasone
20:24	Joseph	who became the prime minister
20:26	Bob	later became the prime minister. And I told these guys that I had met Nakasone and oh, that was really great. We're big fans of Nakasone, you know, we support the Liberal Democratic Party you know, whenever there's an election, we go out and corral people and make sure they vote. We make sure they vote for the LDT.
20:51	Joseph	I think it's hard for someone who hasn't lived in Japan for a long time to understand just how remarkable it is to be friend members of the Yakuza, and the fact that you were learning about this underside of Japanese politics in this way is something that's remarkable, not just for a foreigner, but would be remarkable for anybody. And it's kind of incredible really...
20:22	Bob	well you have to have an open mind and you also have to be a little stupid. And, uh, because if I had known a little more than what I did at the time, maybe I wouldn't have done it, but I was fairly open-minded.
21:40	Joseph	Well, it was really, um, there's a kind of romantic images associated with Yakuza, but also a
21:47	Joseph	pretty scary side as well. And I think it sounds like you had some scary experiences.
21:55	Bob	Well, this guy, you know, the guy who collected the 30,000, the guy who said I'm Okinawan, who said let's be friends. Uh, we, you know, I had a very nice relationship and, uh, took me around, uh, one night, this was, you know, several months into our relationship. We were in Koenji outside one of the Sumioshi clubs, in this building where they had a couple of clubs and it was midnight. And you could never catch a cab at midnight in Japan at those times in Tokyo, especially. And so, you know,

		<p>what you had to do then was hold up four fingers. I mean, I'll pay four times the meter rate and they'll pick you up. And the cabs would come by and the main drag, you know, at about 10 miles an hour, and to see who was willing to pay that. And this, uh, guy didn't want to pay four times.</p> <p>He just held up his hand like that and the cab driver didn't stop. So he kicked the side of the cab, where there by the gas tank, he just gave it a karate kick and put a big dent in it, and the cab driver slammed on the brakes and got out of the car and said <i>kono yaro</i> (you idiot). And this guy just jumped on him and beat the holy living daylights out of him. I mean, on top of him, elbow to the face, blood spurting, I had to pull him off. Cause I thought, you know, he's going to kill the guy and we'd wind up arrested in jail , so we, we went back to Higashi Nakano, went back to the snack, Bokido, you know, and sat down and he was cooling off, orders a beer, drinks it.</p> <p>And he said, I said, I'm sorry. And he says, <i>Ore wa ningen kuzu da . . .</i> I'm just human trash. And he pulls up the switchblade in his pocket and he just slices his cheek, not real deeply, but he did it as a way of punishing himself for losing his temper. And I found out that most people in the Yakuza have a real, you know, hair trigger tempers. He was like that. And so I thought after that, I think I'm getting a bit too close to these guys.</p>
24:12	Joseph	you described this by saying that you had to pull out of a self-destructive tailspin into the dark heart of its seductions.
24:20	Bob	I guess the turning point came when I'd written this program, this language course for kids that was very successful. And so, they offered me, the expat package, you know, the really expensive Western style apartments. I was living in a little dump then, and a big raise. And they said, you're on track to be vice president. And I almost said yes, but this voice inside before I had a chance to say yes, the voice inside me came out and, no, I don't think so. I knew I had to get out because I was just killing myself with the lifestyle I was leading And besides I'd never, I didn't know anything about the United States. I didn't know if I had what it took to make it in the United States. I didn't know my own country. So I moved to New York.
25:12	Joseph	Well, You had a couple of great turns of phrase. You said? I had embarked on a voyage of self-discovery, but somewhere along the line, I switched to autopilot.

25:20	Bob	Yes, that's right. And I, it just dawned on me one night, you know, what are you doing? And I could just see myself on living this life for the next several years and winding up as a 40 year old, uh, nowhere man with a decent income.
25:41	Joseph	<i>(Music interlude) Narration: It can be hard to go back to your home country after many years abroad – it 'shard to find your footing. Bob had been living a pretty wild life in Tokyo – how would he adjust to being back in the US?</i>
Part 3 -		
26:05	Joseph	Well, I was fascinated by the change that you went through when you went to New York. First of all, it must've been a big shock to go from Tokyo to New York, but then you had some friends there and you were talking about your experiences and you said that they really liked to hear about baseball. They were interested in you what you were talking about baseball
26:30	Bob	Well, I talk about the liberal democratic party and you know, the labor unions and that took everybody to sleep by the way. But then I talked about Sadaharu Oh, this great home run hitter for the Yomiuri giants who would practice every night with a song sword. He would swing at strips of paper suspended from the ceiling and sliced them in two, which was very difficult to do because the, the sword is fairly heavy. And the force of the wind from the swing would knock the paper out of the way. So you had to snap your wrist at just the right time and he could do this. And he got really strong wrists. And I would tell them about the, uh, how they, the Japanese had adopted the martial arts philosophy of endless training and development of spirit. And that's when the people around me, kept pushing me to write a book.
27:24	Joseph	Someone bet you \$500 that you couldn't
27:26	Bob	Well, I was intimidated by the idea of writing a book because I'd never really written anything. And, I was kind of scared, you know, I, I wouldn't know how to do it or it wouldn't be very good. So there's one guy Dwight that I'd worked with, one day he just said, well, I guess you don't have what it takes. And I said, oh, I bet you 500 bucks I'll have a book. And it just pissed me off. I'll bet you, I can do it. I bet you 500 bucks. I do it. I have a book in a year and I finished it in a year. Surprise myself.
28:01	Joseph	Could you have written that if you had stayed in Tokyo and maybe not, I mean, being in New York, being back in the US, having this outsider's

		perspective, once again, to explain, was this a way for you to kind of digest and make sense of all that you had lived?
28:20	Bob	Yes, that's very perceptive. The differences became really apparent in New York, I mean, Jesus, I tried myself, you know, pouring beer for somebody and, you know, bowing on the phone and people are looking at me, what the hell is wrong with this guy and, So it just helps put everything into focus, moving where, uh, I don't think I was thinking about it that much, you know, this last years in Tokyo, but going back to New York, you know, it really became, uh, came into sharp focus. Then I, once I got the contract, I was turned down by 12 publishers in a row.
29:03	Joseph	Well I mean, first of all, to write a book about Japanese baseball at that time, uh, was something no one else was doing. And I mean, because everyone knows your work now it seems the most normal thing in the world, but at the time it's hard to even think of what it must've seemed like for people to first come across this book about Japanese baseball and cultural differences.
29:30	Bob	Well, the, uh, Japan, was just starting to get noticed, you know, as an economic power, you know, so I could sell it as a way of looking at the Japanese character, personality, a way, an easy way of understanding Japan without having to wait to economic, political treatises.
29:58	Joseph	Your life was so different when you came back to Tokyo the second time after you had found your place, I mean, one of the difficult things about living in a foreign country is how do you find a way to belong there? And you found a way to belong in Japan, even as you were belonging in the United States and in a way that reflected your interests and in a way, which used your talents.
30:29	Bob	And that's where I found my happiness because it was stuff that I was writing was worthwhile. And just to doing this pursuit of excellence, which is this perfectionism that Japan has, uh, it makes life worthwhile. It, you can, because as a writer you can never write something that's completely perfect. Unless your name is Ernest Hemingway,
30:54	Joseph	Right.
30:55	Bob	but, uh, it's that constant pursuit that gives meaning to your daily life

31:01	Joseph	Well, and you were writing from a perspective that other people hadn't found. And you were saying, okay, this very American game of baseball actually is a window to look deeply into another culture and not only another culture, but very deep parts of Japanese culture, which are hard for outsiders to understand. And you tell stories through baseball that kind of illustrate these deeper parts of culture, which are very difficult to explain and express. And I think in the field of intercultural education, for example, one of the challenges is how do you talk about difference without trivializing, without stereotyping? How do you talk about deeper difference without losing the fact that we also share a common humanity? Uh, yet somehow you managed to find this reconciliation between things that we all share as human beings and these very deep differences between different societies and you did it through baseball. That's amazing.
32:156	Bob	Yeah. It was an American sport that the Japanese, uh, adopted in, in 1872. It was introduced by an American professor right after the Meiji Reformation. And, the Japanese, liked baseball because it was their first group sport. All they had before were martial arts. So it gave them a chance to exercise their group dynamics on an athletic field. There was a school called the first higher school of Tokyo that, was where the movers and shakers of Japan's a prep school for students 18 to 22, who were going on to Imperial university. And these are the people who wind up running Japan. And half of the students were from samurai families. And they formed a baseball team But these people turned baseball into a martial art based on this samurai ethos of total dedication. And, and since baseball is something that all Americans understand, something all Japanese understand it's a perfect window. And there was just luck, dumb luck.
33:30	Joseph	Well, it was luck, but it was, it was insight and it was hard work and it led to so many other things. Of course, you profiled American players in Japan and all of the, many of the cultural differences and struggles that they sometimes went through or Bobby Valentine, the manager who came to manage in Japan, the ups and downs that he had, but also baseball as a window into cultural change the way that Hideo Nomo affected American baseball, or how American perceptions of Japan changed because of someone like Ichiro Suzuki. So there's so much richness in that you have been mining from that. It is really remarkable.
34:30	Joseph	Bob has written about more than baseball – his book “Tokyo Underworld” explored a side of post-war Japan through the eyes of an American gangster, Nick Zappetti who was part of a corrupt underworld

		of black markets, organized crime, dirty politics. It was a book that only Bob could write
		Part 4 – Tokyo Underworld
34:53	Joseph	I've been taking a lot of your time, but we have to mention, Tokyo underworld. This was the story of the, kind of the dark side of the American occupation.
35:03	Bob	Then I met Nick Zappetti, and it just, his story was so colorful. It just blew everything else out of the water. He had such a colorful way of saying things and he would say anything. He got deported for black marketeering. He got out of the army and worked for the, as a civil servant, and he was running beer in the black market, he was working with the Sumiyoshi gang and he got arrested and deported and he came back on a fake passport. I did about 20 hours of interviews. And, but I didn't know a lot about, the history of the gangs, the post-war history, and I educated myself on post-war history of those events. And it got really complicated and when I was finished, it was quite an education
35:52	Joseph	You know, your work is on the one hand, quite optimistic. It really sheds light on differences that people might think are too big to overcome. And there's a real optimism to the insights that you bring, but also this dark side of saying actually, there's this other stuff, going on here. So where do you come out in the end on this optimism versus this interest you've got in kind of turning the rock over?
36:24	Bob	I would say I guess I'm cautiously optimistic, you know, I, I've seen too much, uh, you know, the unpleasant side of human nature so I don't know. The driving force of humanity is to survive. So I imagine we'll all survive
36:45	Joseph	Well, last question then. What advice would you have given to your 19 year old self arriving in Tokyo?
36:53	Bob	So if I was, I would say to a 19 year old, you know, find some way to make a trip around the world and spend some time in all these different countries and take a good look about and then come back. Don't worry about being a foreigner, just accept the fact that you're a foreigner. Don't worry about fitting in, learn the customs learn the language, be polite, but I hear people complain about, you know, well, they never accepted well, that's okay. They don't have to, live your own life. You

		know, you make your own little world, you've got your, you know, family and friends and professional associates. That's all you need.
37:31	Joseph	Well, then you have certainly found a place for yourself and a rich life. It's inspirational to see all that you have done.
37:39	Bob	Thanks
37:40	Joseph	It is, it is really great. And I really recommend, your memoir, <i>Tokyo Junkie: 60 Years of Bright Lights and Back Alleys . . . Baseball</i> . Robert Whiting, I want to thank you so much for taking this time to talk to me and best of luck with your future projects
37:58	Bob	Thank you very much, Joseph. It's an honor to be on this program.
38:06	Joseph	A special thanks to Bob Whiting today – let's meet up again soon at the Foreign Correspondents Club . . . and as always, thank you to the Podcast team – Yvonne van der Pol, Robinson Fritz, Ishita Ray, Zeina Matar, Daniel Glinz – and everyone at JII...
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