



Interviewed: Vivian Rakoff

Oral History Clip Title: Receiving the Order of Canada

Theme: Canadian Identity

Interviewer: Naomi Raichyk

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(Vivian)

I think it's the luckiest thing I ever did in my life. I landed up in this benign country where I was, I think, well-received...purely for technical purposes. And last year they gave me an Order of Canada. I feel at home in this country. I've been welcomed. And I was allowed to play as well as work.

(Interviewer)

So do you feel Canadian? Can you tell me when you—

(Vivian)

Well, it's an issue that I've—One of the wonderful things about Canada is that identity is undefined. As I said many years ago to Peter Gzowski, "Isn't it a wonderful country where a guy like me—a non-sports-loving—[laughs] my rebellion against South Africa—Jewish guy, essentially English-speaking, from South Africa—can feel totally identified as a citizen?" Because we have it porous.

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**OJASALP.ORG**