



Edward Said: The Last Interview (2003)

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Quotation from Roland Barthes
quoted by Edward Said
in his book *Beginnings*

“The only sort of interview that one could, if forced to, defend would be where the author is asked to articulate what he cannot write”.

For 10 years, Edward Said, critic and political activist, lived with incurable leukemia.

In the summer of 2002, almost one year before he died, one of his former students, D. D. Guttenplan, proposed a filmed conversation that would not be bound by either occasion or journalistic convention.

Charles Glass, a mutual friend, agreed to ask the questions.

The Last Interview

- Filmed over 3 days in the summer of 2002
- **Interviewer: Charles Glass** (1951) an American author, journalist, and broadcaster specializing in the Middle East
- Glass was taken hostage in 1987 for 62 days in Lebanon (described in his book: **Tribes and Flags**)
- Clip is around 3.5 hours
- We will skip the first 1 hour which covers his childhood, teens and education
- We will show the discussion on Orientalism and eventually questions about his political activities
- Full interview found on YouTube and VIMEO

Timeline (Jerusalem 1953 – USA 2003)

- 1935-1951 between Jerusalem and Cairo
- 1952 goes to the USA to complete High School
- 1957 gets BA from Princeton
- 1960 gets MA from Harvard
- 1964 gets PhD from Harvard
- 1963-2003 member of faculty of Columbia University (Comparative Literature)
- Various years: visiting professor in Harvard, Stanford, Yale, etc.
- Illness starts in 2003

Relevant Dates

- 1978: Publication of ORIENTALISM
- From 1977 until 1991: independent member of the Palestinian National Council (PNC)
- 1991: Madrid Conference
- 1993: Oslo Conference
- 1993: quits PNC
- 1993: diagnosed with incurable leukemia

Key Works

- 1966: Joseph Conrad and the Fiction of Autobiography
- 1975: Beginnings: Intention and Method
- 1978: Orientalism
- 1979: The Question of Palestine
- 1981: Covering Islam: How the Media and the Experts Determine How We See the Rest of the World
- 1983: The World, the Text, and the Critic
- 1986: After the Last Sky: Palestinian Lives
- 1988: Nationalism, Colonialism, and Literature: Yeats and Decolonization
- 1990: Nationalism, Colonialism, and Literature
- 1991: Musical Elaborations

Key Works (Continued)

- 1993: Culture and Imperialism
- 1993: Edward Said: A Critical Reader
- 1994: The Politics of Dispossession: The Struggle for Palestinian Self-Determination, 1969-1994
- 1994: Representations of the Intellectual: The 1993 Reith lectures
- 1994: The Pen and the Sword: Conversations with David Barsamian
- 1995: Peace and Its Discontents: Essays on Palestine in the Middle East Peace Process
- 1999: Out of Place: A Memoir
- 2000: The Edward Said Reader
- 2000: The End of the Peace Process: Oslo and After

Key Works (some published posthumously)

- 2000: Reflections on Exile and Other Essays
- 2001: Power, Politics and Culture (Interviews)
- 2002: Parallels and Paradoxes: Explorations in Music and Society
- 2003: Freud and the Non-European
- 2004: From Oslo to Iraq and the Road Map
- 2004: Humanism and Democratic Criticism. Columbia University
- 2004: Interviews (Edited by Singh and Johnson)
- 2005: Edward Said: Continuing the Conversation (Edited by Bhabha and Mitchel)
- 2006: Paradoxical Citizenship: Edward Said (Edited by Nagy-Zekmi)
- 2006: On Late Style: Music and Literature Against the Grain

Edward Said and Music

- Said was an accomplished pianist.
- He was the music critic for The Nation magazine
- He wrote 4 books about music:
 - 1) Musical Elaborations (1991)
 - 2) Parallels and Paradoxes: Explorations in Music and Society (2002, with Daniel Barenboim)
 - 3) On Late Style: Music and Literature Against the Grain (2006),
 - 4) Music at the Limits (2007)

The West Eastern Diwan Orchestra

- In 1999, Said and Daniel Barenboim founded the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra
- Composed of young Israeli, Palestinian, and Arab musicians.
- They established The **Barenboim–Said Foundation** in Seville, to develop education-through-music projects.
- Besides managing the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, the Foundation assists with the administration of the Academy of Orchestral Studies, the Musical Education in Palestine Project, and the Early Childhood Musical Education Project, in Seville.