

The One with the Mandala

Alice Please welcome my friend, Phil.

Group Hiyeel!

Alice He's an international crochet artist. He's crocheted these vegetable hats.

Maddy They're so cute. Awesome.

Alice I reckon you should put the pea on, Phil.

Phil Oh yeah, I'll put it on.

Alice Yeah.

Maddy It looks like, what's his name, Yoda.

Phil Yeah, I know, it really does, I know

Alice What's your favourite thing about crochet, Phil?

Phil I think it's making something and then having an end result that you kind of enjoy and wear and have fun with, I guess.

Alice What other vegetables would you crochet?

Phil I think I've made a broccoli, tomatoes ...

Alice How good!

Lily Do you start with a pattern, like on a piece of paper or something, do you just-

Phil It's all in my head, so I just have an idea and I make it straight away, don't really think about it. Just like Lego, you put it all next to each other, you already know how to make a house, you know how to make a car, so I just already know how to crochet shapes. I just make them straight away.

Lily How did you start becoming a specialist 'crocheter'?

Phil Well, I studied art, and then I just taught myself from YouTube how to crochet, and I kinda just took it and ran with it, and I decided I wanted to make hats, and I wanted to make hats that look like food, so that's how it started, and I've never stopped.

Alice Why did you choose crochet, Phil?

- Phil** Because crochet's kind of an easy way to make shapes, as opposed to knitting where everything's kind of flat.
- Alice** Look at Billy's hat.
- Phil** Oh my God. You look like a little Yoda.
- Maddy** You look like you're Gandalf or something.
- Lucy** How old were you when you started crochet?
- Phil** Like 19, 20. It wasn't that long ago.
- Billy** Thank you for coming.
- Phil** That's all right, thank you.
- Group** Thank you. We like you.
- Alice** Give Phil a big round of applause.
- Phil** Thank you guys. Thank you for the spontaneous interview. Have fun.
- Lucy** Hi Anne! I've brought some beautiful vegetables from the market.
- Anne** Oh, great! I've been working on the idea we talked about.
- Lucy** Oh yeah, do you like the idea?
- Anne** I thought it was fantastic, and it got me thinking, and I really thought about this fantastic artist called Arcimboldo, and I thought, "I'm gonna tell you about him." So you might've seen some of these pictures I was just gonna show you. This one's called Summer and see how he's used all these vegetables in his portrait?
- Lucy** Yeah.
- Anne** So I thought why don't we use vegetables and make a portrait of Alice. She has got a real sort of spirituality about her and vibrance, so I thought why don't we do a mandala on her apron, 'cause I've drawn up these apron ideas-
- Lucy** Can you tell me what a mandala is?
- Anne** Oh, sure, sure. A mandala is a thing from an old ancient Tibetan language, and it means circle. So that's why I've drawn a circle down the bottom. And in the circle, you have a centre, and that's where the inner peace is. The Buddhists think it's a thing they can meditate to. And I thought for Alice, because she's so vibrant, if we made it with all reds and yellows and really happy, strong colours, it would be fantastic. Do you think that's pretty good?

- Lucy** Yeah.
I might need some more beetroot.
- Anne** Okay, coming up.
How's that looking?
- Lucy** It's looking good. Hopefully Alice will like it.
- Anne** So we're going to use the mint, and we're going to just make the mint as all the apron, and that'll really make it smell good.
- Lucy** That's actually looking really good.
- Anne** Yeah, it's looking fantastic. Okay, what do you reckon?
- Lucy** Is this gonna be her earring?
- Anne** I reckon that's fantastic for her earring. Do you? What do you think?
- Lucy** Wow, Anne, it looks wonderful. I can't wait to show Alice.
- Anne** Oh, great.
- Lucy** Hi, Alice. I have something to show you.
- Alice** Hi, Lucy. I can't wait to see it.
Wow, that's amazing.
- Lucy** It is amazing. Thank you so much for liking it.