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SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Sarah Dipalma

 Sarah Dipalma 00:02

We're talking with Martine Rothblatt, the the author of the book called the apartheid of sex, what you were just talking about it's been I've surprised that some defense attorney has not come along and tried to defend the client and said, my client committed violence against this woman because of testosterone poisoning. I mean, after all, we've already had the Twinkie Defense. We've had the I was abused as a child defense. So what's to keep us from saying the testosterone poisoning offense? Well, it's

 00:28

Sarah, when you when you look at history, you see two things always go together, right wing reactionary mode movements, and what I would call bio determinism, the idea that, that our actions are determined by our biology and are not a result of freewill in some case. During the 1920s, we had a period like this, when eugenics became all the phase all the rage, many, many 1000s of people were forcibly stereotyped sterilized, because it was claimed that they were biologically inappropriate. And it coincided with a period of extreme right wing conservatism in this country. We see again, the rise of books like the bell curve, the author of the bell curve was asked to speak at the Republican introduction of its members to Congress, bio determinism and reactionary I'm thinking go together, because we've got to all do now is we've got to stand up and demand that the apartheid of sex be ended. The apartheid of sex underlies all other racism, classism, and sexism is in society, because the first fundamental division between people is based on sex. And if you stand up and admit that that is a phony distinction, that that is a false distinction. Then people will say, Wow, if I'm an individual, regardless of my genitals, and I'm an individual, regardless of anything out,

 Sarah Dipalma 01:51

I was very interested on the ABC special that they spent 30 seconds with Gloria ahead, the feminist attorney, who was furious that they were trying to put this program on the air and saying exactly what you said that this is nothing more than stereotyping. And they spent 30

seconds with her. And I think they spent 15 seconds with Gloria Steinem, and spent 50 minutes giving the stereotypes forward, which I found fascinating.

 02:14

Well, I think that's going to continue to happen until we all get our consciousness alerted to the fact that making blanket statements about people based on their genitals is, is a stereotype. It's a sexist stereotype. And what that ends up doing is, you know, you started the interview talking about our children, but we allow these type of statements to be made, despite the fact that there are millions of women who are great at calculus and millions of men who can't fathom calculus at all. What we do is we set up a situation where we box our children into a corner, based on their genitals and our kids absorb all of the sexist stereotypical remarks from the media, people with little girls with vaginas begin to say, Wow, maybe I really can't be a scientist. And little, little people with a penis begin to say, well, you know, maybe I really can't be a designer. And that's the tragedy of stereotypes is it robs us of our individuality. And if nothing else, the apartheid of sex is a manifesto dedicated to the ending of gender stereotypes.

 Sarah Dipalma 03:22

One thing I have to ask you before I go, and that's because so much of our audience is gay or lesbian. No, we've made the point on our show that in many respects, gay and lesbian people are gender pioneers. They may not think of themselves that way. If you would talk a little bit about the connection or lack of connection between sexual orientation and gender identity, and that that whole subject

 03:44

Well, the the gay and lesbian community certainly are gender pioneers. And because they are the first people to deny the patriarchy, it's corollary of thou shalt only be attracted to the opposite sex. And I point out in the book, as Monique Vidic, said that heterosexuality is just a social system. It's not a biology, it's a social system, premised on the on the creation of differences between sexes, and the use of those differences for the oppression of women by men. And I point out in the book that Simon LaVey the noted neuro geneticists have observed that all people have same sex preferences, but that the so called gay genes simply allow some of us to express those preferences despite the the rigorous rules of society. You know, Sarah, there are too many different kinds of women and too many different kinds of men. I mean, we've got you know, we've got femme butch stone, Butch, we've got tender trans Hans, we've got everything. There way too many different kinds of women and different kinds of men to bootstrap a gay or straight orientation into any kind of rationale for the apartheid of sex. All For those who refuse to participate in heterosexuality are rebels against the patriarchal receive, and gender freedom and sexual orientation are really like two brigades okay in a common battle against the oppressive patriarchal regime,

 Sarah Dipalma 05:20

Martine Rothblatt, you are, I've really enjoyed. First of all enjoyed your book immensely. Thank you very much. And I really enjoyed talking to you very much. I do want to ask you. I know

you very much. And I really enjoyed talking to you very much. I do want to ask you, I know you're going to be coming to town for the law conference. Talk a little bit about the gender Bill of Rights, because you've got that included at the end of the book.

 05:37

Yes. The gender Bill of Rights is the is a consensus document developed by a large number of gender creative people who attended the first three international conferences on Transgender Law and employment policy held in Houston, Texas, at the Southwest Hilton hotel there. And the Bill of Rights basically says that anybody can everybody has the right to a job, to health care, to a family to raise children, regardless of their genital sex, their mental sex, their chromosomal sex, of any other kinds of sex, you want to come up with another words, parental rights, marital rights, love rights, employment rights, health rights, have nothing to do with sex. I am not asking in this book for a sex, a sex, no sex society. What I think we need is a sex blind in a sex free society. Everybody has a unique sex, let's express it and not be penalized by any sort of rules in society.

 Sarah Dipalma 06:50

I would like to add for anyone who would like to get a copy of the gender Bill of Rights. If you contact us at KPFT give us a call here at 526 4000. Give us your address, and we'll be glad to mail you out a copy Martine Rothblatt. Thank you very much,

 07:05

Sarah, I would like to just quickly say thank you so much for hosting this show. Believe me, we need to begin reclaiming the airwaves. And I consider you to be one of our great pioneers in this field. And and let me just say all of us are very grateful for what you are doing. Thank you.

 Sarah Dipalma 07:20

Thank you very much.

 Jimmy Carper 07:24

And we're back.

 Sarah Dipalma 07:26

Martine Rothblatt is a really impressive person. And I want to introduce a new term. Yeah, since I've been on the year, you're now everywhere I go. People say to me, they want to know what my sexual orientation is. And I have consistently said, yes. Yeah. What does it matter that well? That's right. Well, I'm going to introduce a new term for Martine Rothblatt book, and the term is unisexual. Ah, okay. Now, what does this mean? Well, according to Martine Rothblatt, sexual

orientation in the third millennium, will evolve toward what she calls a unisexual model, because male or female sex types will fade away. If you simply labeling people as human, then you're not either one or you're simply male or female. And she says the apartheid of sex will go the way of the apartheid of race, class, nationality, and religion. unisexual partnerships will still face all the possibilities of gay or straight couples. There will be questions of sexual compatibility and of commitment. And of course, all the other problems that come along with relationships, she says, but this is the big but you will be free to explore your gender. Find your own place, choose your own labels. Hey, so the next time somebody asked me what my sexual orientation is, I'm going to tell them unisexual and watch their eyes glaze over

J Jimmy Carper 09:01

a sexual Okay, now I was I was just going to bring up the next artists we're going to play Sophie B. Hawkins was just in our magazine, where she is now labeling herself. It used to be bisexual, she's now labeling herself. omnisexual that's along the same line along the same lines because she says, The sex or the gender of my partner makes no difference. It's the personality I'm interested in. Well, that's

S Sarah Dipalma 09:27

exactly right. Martine Rothblatt makes the point in the book that you're love people not to genitals, and she talks about the idea of being unisexual and she says unisexual leaves you free to love human beings, as they are in the genitals just kind of come along them. You know, and she really puts it about in those terms that you're loving. You know that you're loving. All those other things that make up a human being in genitals or just one small part of it

J Jimmy Carper 10:00

that that's absolutely true. And it's something that I've been learning from my bisexual friends is that I think maybe for many, many years, I may have been attracted to a lot of women that I I just stepped back from because I'm gay. I can't be attracted to a woman. Yeah. And I know of many, many people who label themselves straight who feel the same way about same sex. So let's get over it.

S Sarah Dipalma 10:27

You know, the interesting thing is is if you say to a person, one of the things I have not liked I one of the reasons I've refused to say to label myself as bisexual is because that implies there were only two sexes. That's absolutely true. And of course I'm wearing by came in wearing button tonight's it says there are two kinds of people in the world and I'm not one of them. And that's kind of my attitude. So I've never liked saying that I was bisexual or homosexual because that was too limiting. And I always thought there was more to life and more to people than that. So I like term unisex.

J Jimmy Carper 11:03

 Jimmy Carper 11:05
I like yeah, that's more fria unit or Omni or Omni Yeah.

 Sarah Dipalma 11:06
You pick the pick the right piece of music.

 Jimmy Carper 11:09
Sure did and it's Sophie B Hawkins with we are one body Oh makes sense.

 11:33
I'm Julianne Malveaux, host of the Julianne Malveaux show join us every weekday from four to five to find out why I call myself a mad economist. Hey, you've got to be crazy to assimilate these numbers, but we talk about them right here on KPFT Houston 90.14 o'clock Monday through Friday.

 11:50
That's the Julianne Malveaux show right after fresh air rod four o'clock here on KPFT Houston. On the red

 12:12
first of all, Austin's piano queen, she is known to play keyboards and the traditional Professor Longhair. First Domino, and James Booker. Hello, everybody. This is naughty naughty host of off the clock blue show Friday nights, inviting you to join me when I interview Marcia ball live in the studios of KPFT. On Friday, April the 21st. The show will also include a variety of music, including that of one of her earlier bands. That's off the clock blue show. Friday, April 21. From at 10pm here on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston.

 Jimmy Carper 13:03
Oh, when you're listening to after hours, that continuing tradition right here on KPFT, Houston, and KEOS College Station, Bryan. And tonight you're listening to Jimmy Carper and

 Sarah Dipalma 13:17
And Sarah DiPalma.

 Jimmy Carper 13:19

J Jimmy Carper 13:19

And we're talking about transgendered issues. Yeah,

S Sarah Dipalma 13:24

then this month's issue of Esquire magazine, which has Johnny Depp on the front.

J Jimmy Carper 13:29

Ooh, does it ever? It sure does.

S Sarah Dipalma 13:33

Yeah, interesting. Tattoos. He doesn't look anything like he did in the last movie. Oh, look pretty good and cashmere sweater. This month issue of Esquire magazine has an issue about transgendered people. And it includes many activists from Houston in it, including me, I see that picture. And I want to talk about transgender in the media for a few minutes. Sure. And the reason I want to is because the interview that will be airing a little bit later features core Dean McKenzie, Gordon McKenzie teaches a class on media, in Media Communications at the University of New Mexico. Now, in her book, which is called transgender nation, she tells a story about a student in her classroom happened to have been a football player. And she announced to the class that a transgendered person was going to come to the class to speak, in this football player said, if she does come, I'll have to beat her up forever. So her initial reaction was well then get out of my class. And she started thinking about a second and said, Why would you have to beat her up? It turns out what this person was afraid of is he might be attracted to this transsexual. Ooh, and then he would have to take some kind of action about it. Well as men Any transsexuals can tell you, that's a fairly common thing. straight men especially fear the idea of being deceived. Many a transsexual has gotten beaten up, because they were out on date. And then the person later found that they had dated a transsexual. Now I'm telling that because as you open this story, to Esquire magazine, it's not a picture of me. No, it certainly is not a picture of a Phyllis Frey. No, it's a picture of a stripper from the Las Vegas from Las Vegas by the name of John Steele.

J Jimmy Carper 15:16

Oh, she was in Hawaii back in January. And as you go back sort of show

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16

Yeah. As you go back further in the article, there's a whole article about Gianna steel. And she says over and over and over again, if you didn't know I was a chick, if I didn't tell you, you would never know. Now, the point that I want to make here is that although there are many points in this Esquire article, which are very good, it's feeding into that exact same fear that that young man had in her class. Sure, it's feeding into this beer and saying to them, look out for these transsexuals, they could deceive you.

J Jimmy Carper 15:16
And what of it?

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16
Well, I mean, I understand his audience is white, yuppie males. I mean, that says who reads Esquire for the most part? Yeah. But it says something about no matter how hard you try, you can't get genuine coverage in the media. I thought I found it very interesting. When there was an article in Vanity Fair about hate crimes. Donahue, had people on their show talking about it. The media made extensive coverage of it with the transgender people who had been a national magazine like Esquire for a month, not a single person media outlet, his call to talk to us. That's true, not one, when that when they first contacted. They contacted Phyllis about getting on doing this initially. And Phyllis told him no, she wouldn't do it. Because she didn't want to have a magazine version of a television talk show. Yeah, she didn't want to do it for shock value. And they promised her that they wouldn't do that they would they would play it straight. And for some to some extent they did. But it points out a problem that transgender people have with the media. And you'll hear Gordon McKenzie talk about this in the interview to transsexuals are good shock value. Sure, were good for the ratings. And the reason

J Jimmy Carper 15:16
people are over gay and lesbian they've had gay and lesbian until they can't stand it anymore. That's it's time for someone else.

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16
Well, that's right in the thing is that when you if you watch, you watch the shows, they bring a trend. Let me give you a good example, this, there's a transsexual named Tula. A Oh, yeah, beautiful. A supermodel. Yes, beautiful transsexual supermodel. Invariably, they will bring her out on one of these shows, and you'll hear some introduction. And they'll say, This is too low. And she's a British model. And they'll show the fact that she was in a James Bond movie or something or another. And then there'll be this long pause and say, and she used to be a guy. And you'll hear this gasp. It's like, oh, she deceives us she's really a guy. That fear of she's really a guy or he's whatever the case may be, is a good is one of the key reasons that there is violence against transgender people. And to the extent that they keep doing this, they're fostering the violence.

J Jimmy Carper 15:16
The violence stemming from the fact that a man has given up his privilege,

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16

partly that and partly this that I better stay away from, you know, I have to be weird because I might be deceived by these people. These transsexuals they're out to deceive people, they're not really serious about it. They're trying to get something over on folks.

J Jimmy Carper 15:16

This sounds very much like the the thinking from a couple of centuries ago of, of witches, deceiving men.

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16

It's it's not that far different. You're right, you're right. It isn't very far different. And it's, it's as long as we continue to get this kind of coverage in Esquire, it's going to be a problem. Now, if people actually read the article, article itself actually is pretty sympathetic. I didn't care for some of the descriptions that he gave some of the people that I knew in this article, but as he goes on, he begins to discover that these the people he talks about really had some courage. And he ends up by his hands up the ark was saying that he came to respect transgendered people, which is that that's, that's the first time I think I've seen that in major media is a pretty good step. It really is. It was a big step. Now, the way this interview came about is after he contacted Phyllis, he also contacted a lot of other people. cluding Gordon McKenzie. And when he came to Houston, and there were five of us five or six of us who went to lunch. And we we provided a guest what amounted to background information. I gave him three tapes of the show. In fact, it's interesting he quotes from this show, but doesn't give it the credit. No. Which is unfortunately, where he quotes from the show, hey, at least they're getting it. Well, he could have from my interview with our interview with Kate Bornstein, but didn't give me credit, which kind of upset me. But he came down and he interviewed several of us, and I think he was all surprised. There was lawyer, several businesswoman, and accountant, we were not what he expected. And as he went around the country

J Jimmy Carper 15:16

will say looking for the quote, unquote, freaks.

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16

Well, he didn't know what to expect. That was the truth of the matter. And he ended up being very surprised. But I can't have to say I wish Esquire had not let off with this picture of this beautiful Joshua's woman smoking a cigar,

J Jimmy Carper 15:16

because it leaves a very Edie Adams. Marilyn Monroe type pose. Oh, yeah.

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16

Well, you know, it leads into all those stereotypes. Yeah. But if people actually read the article, I think you'll be very happy. There is a description of a lesbian Music Festival in Michigan, that most of the lesbians I know took great offense to, because he describes this list lesbian music festival as this huge, ongoing orgasm. Which is, I am told, I believe in is not quite

J Jimmy Carper 15:16

an awkward. There may be a small section of women into that. But I think for the most part, no.

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16

I do think it's interesting, though, that trans that a good number of the transgender people in this article are from Houston. Yeah. And not one media outlet has contacted us, even after we sent out press releases, telling them that it was going to be out there. No one has contacted us. How

J Jimmy Carper 15:16

bizarre is it? Because it's it's Houston and not the east coast or west coast? You think or

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16

Yeah, because they've gotten a lot of coverage on the East Coast. Both in fact, the East Coast and the West Coast. Both have gotten a lot of media, but not here. Um, I don't know if they're just so used to hearing us. You know, because we are so public in Houston. Maybe we're sort of like gay lesbian communities, like, maybe that's part of it. But I do find it kind of intriguing, and I don't know what to make of it. On the other hand, given the way that they describe some of my friends in the articles, I'm glad they didn't describe me. I don't know how I don't I don't think I want to know how they would describe me in it. But it as you listen to the Gordon McKenzie interview a little later, I would ask everybody to think about what I was on my description of this in the media. Because this, to a large extent, the gay lesbian community has made his progress, because the straight media finally got it. I'm not quite sure what it's going to take to get the straight media to get us. But this is his first step bryozoan that would start somewhere far as I know, this is the first major article by straight meat magazine anywhere in the country. And really our depiction overall was pretty good. I mean, he didn't make us out to be freaks.

J Jimmy Carper 15:16

Well, that picture of you and Phyllis and Wendy, and there was a couple other women. There were several other people. Yeah, that's really nice picture. Well, they

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16

spent some money because after they interviewed us, they came they contacted several weeks later. And we did this photo shoot it beloved him, which is right down the street here. And they catered lunch. And I mean, they spent some money and we didn't mind. I mean, it was actually it was a lot of fun to do. I'd never been involved in anything like that before. And they they treated us professionally. And I thought it was a great time. I'll be very curious to see. And next time, I'm gonna get to talk to Gordon McKenzie in June. And I'm going to be very curious to see what she thinks of this. This article, given some of the things that she says in the interview in the way that she thinks the media portray transsexuals. I'll be really curious to see what she thinks of it. But overall, I was I'm glad that we've had this opportunity. And I hope we get more opportunities. Since this interviews took took place, several lows have turned down television talk shows that oh, one of the things that I learned from talking to Lyndon Cynthia Phillips who run Bolton and park in San Antonio, is when they call you make sure they give you a return ticket because Linden said they fill up spinning shows and they've been set up they get up there and come to find out the show was about I don't know something just horrible. And then they can't they can't say hey up and sit up and leave because they don't have the return plane ticket. You're kidding me? Oh, no, that's happened on a couple of times.

J Jimmy Carper 15:16

And they can't get the return plane ticket after

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16

they do the show. So they they their advice to us was make sure we get the return ticket I've been contacted by three shows none of them wanting to do it. None of them wanted to give the return ticket and we haven't done them.

J Jimmy Carper 15:16

I don't blame you. Because that sounds like that sounds like they're trying to set you up.

S Sarah Dipalma 15:16

Well, this one was the one show the call there was I don't even the Richard Bay show. I don't know search me. But the reason I refuse to do the show is I had seen one of his commercials and commercials was well if you hate drag queens call such and such a number, brother and I thought he was gonna freeze for I'm going to do this guy show. Yeah, I mean, we're talking to Blizzard honey, because he ain't gonna happen. So it's kind of interesting. The way the media does try to set you up. And we're learning we're getting a little smarter about it got

J Jimmy Carper 15:16

to got to,

S

Sarah Dipalma 15:16

I didn't want to have to call my parents and say, you know, they got me sitting sitting next to hookers from hell. And you're like, Yeah, you have to learn to be pretty defensive. So anyway, I thought well, we've met if you've not seen the article in Esquire, as far as I know, it's still on the newsstands read it. I gotta tell you this one little story about this. Which month this is this The this is current April issue April Johnny Depp on with Johnny Depp on the cover they shirtless they Phyllis Frey was out in a they were out at a country western bar. And Phyllis fry here in Houston. In here in Houston. Yeah, and Phyllis Frey makes the comment. Dressing up is is like a continental dressing up like a cowboy is a form of drag. Oh, yeah. It is fetishistic is any cross dressing. We call them transvestites. And I think I think that's wonderful. I do West, trans transvestites, though. Do you want to go to some music or to go to the interview or I don't know what you have said.

J

Jimmy Carper 15:16

I do need to tell people that they are listening to KPFT Houston 90.1 FM and KEOS College Station Bryan on 89.1 FM. And you are listening to after hours a continuing tradition right here on KPFT. Houston. Yeah, let's go to a piece of music sounds good. And then and then go to Gordy. Okay. All right. This is a newer group, this is gonna get gonna be kind of peppy. It's called. The name of the group is kitchens of distinction. And it's on their brand new album, and they have a song called Cowboys and Aliens and it's kind of about not fitting in and that type of thing. Sounds interesting sounds it's a real good one. I think you'll like it.

S

Sarah Dipalma 27:38

Before we go to this interview with Gordon McKenzie, I want to tell a little story about her. We happen to have been at a conference about a year ago. And there was a surgeon there by the name of Dr. Sring. And Dr. Sring, unlike many of the surgeons that I've met, doesn't always doesn't always have the best judgment when it comes to people is interpersonal skills. Oh, yes. Dr. Trang showed a slide in the slide happened to have showed two vaginas side by side. And he said, Guess which one of these is the real woman. And which one is the transsexual and thinking he was funny said, actually they're both real women, you have no idea how long it took me to get my nurse to pose for this picture. And before I could so much is blink Gordon McKenzie was out of her chair and ripping this man's heart out. I think he's still trying to find out what part what part what part of his body is love. Gordon is a person who will really tell you what she thinks. And there's one of the things that I told you this on the tape. But according McKinsey is, is in large part the reason I decided not to have surgery. And so it's I am very proud to get a chance to present this. And this is Gordon McKenzie. First of all I have to say is going through this book you have I think you've managed to challenge everything I ever believed about gender. And my as my co host posts will tell you I've talked about this book because it is essentially talked me out of going for surgery. Very much so so I really been looking forward to this interview. First of all, I like I'm interested in how you came up with the title transgender nation, trying to

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29:35

think of a title and I kept writing down transgender and we were playing with things we didn't

know exactly what we were going to do for a title because their original title was like, really long when a social political analysis of gender bipolarism in America and I thought, We can't do that to book we can settle a book with anything like that. So we started playing around with the name transgender and we still already adding other things to transgender. And at one point, my partner and I were just sitting there, and I said transgender nation, and when it hit, we just both kind of looked at each other. And I thought thing that it would do is announced the presence of transgender people, and that it's something that you have to contend with. And that it would be something that would be empowering. So I decided to just go ahead with that, and announced the presence on the North American landscape in particular, although certainly globally, as well. And I mean, it's been announced by a lot of people, but I thought, let's just go ahead and put the title out there. So

S

Sarah Dipalma 30:39

as I read through this book, there, there's so much material to go through, I'm gonna have a hard time he didn't just do a 30 minute interview, I want to start off talking about the idea of gender in society. Now, we've talked about this on the show, but you have a somewhat different perspective about this. Because you're coming at it from much more feminist point of view, talk about where you think gender is.

o

31:03

My sense is I've always had great contempt for bipolar gender society, that there was something wrong, but when I was a kid, I just couldn't put my finger on it. But I always felt, you know, this is sick, there's something twisted, we're locking people into to little roles and things. And I thought that there was a lot of gender that wasn't being expressed. And so I started to think about the whole gender thing. And I started thinking about the gender messages that we get, because I think gender is our most pervasive form of propaganda, and the most basic means of social control the that used on it. And so I started reading things I remember in in high school, reading about the bird dash, and thinking, there's some freedom there, there's got to be something different. I used to write little stories when I was a kid. And I had these characters that I wrote about called the first shorty. And I drew them and these were the ideal people, they'd somehow transcended everything, and I painted them silver, and they had this great hair and all this other sort of little fantasy thing I did through junior high in high school. And years later, I reflected back and I thought, that Burchard is really taken from bird ash and something must have happened unconsciously. And I saw it as a state that was really superior to the state that we live in. I get into a lot of debate about transgenderism and feminism. And that's one thing that I basically devoted myself to in the last year is trying to talk about how important transgenderism is in feminist debate. And feminism. And feminist dialogue is really split on the issue. It's a highly volatile, highly contentious subject, felt 5050, you're gonna have 50% of individuals, feminists saying doesn't belong, doesn't belong people to take an essentialist notion, the other 50% much more open to the whole idea of a gender continuum. And I'm hoping that it's getting more towards the idea of a gender continuum instead of a closed system where we're locked in based on our genitalia. And so I'm in ongoing debates right now, some of them get a little bit hostile, a little bit a little bit contentious, but it's been my sense to try to talk about it's much wider, it's much bigger, it's much more complex than we ever envision that and that we can't go around, really reinforcing a bipolar system and trying to oppress people because of gender. Because to me, feminism, basically, is the practice of realizing oppression, realizing the factors that contribute to oppression, how gender, race,

ethnicity, class, and sexual preference are all tied in how it becomes a complex of oppression, and trying to eradicate that type of oppression. And I see it also expanding in terms of eco feminism, that it's not only people that are oppressed, but we're also oppressing the entire natural environment by having a sense of humanism, horrible humanism, that puts the human species at the center of the entire world. And a lot of that comes from the whole sense of like, the notion of the man, God, Egyptians had a wonderful wonderful sense of duality, you had male and female, I'm sorry, not as duality there was a balance in ancient Egypt, they didn't have the strict dualism that we have. And there was also a sense of a relationship with animals, you have all the great animal headed God, by the time you get to Greece and Rome, you get the patriarchy very firmly established and very firmly entrenched. And then it becomes really important to keep those differences maintained. And I think as Martine was even saying in our talk today, and I wholeheartedly endorse, that you cannot have separate but equal if you're going to maintain the differences, there's going to be a real problem for some feminists really see a point in maintaining differences, while other feminists are really fighting to, to open things up. up and I'm on that side.

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Sarah Dipalma 35:02

Let's talk a little bit about gender we are transgender now we're at a conference in which a third of the people here today are probably dressing in Polish for the first time, a cross dressing I guess I should explain to the audience. You have some people here like Phyllis and myself, who are basically consider ourselves to be non operative transsexuals by choice. And then there are the people who are who who are here who have either had the surgery, or plan to do the surgery. Now, all of us grew up in the same society and reach three different three different places. And you talk about that and your book quite a bit.



35:38

Well, and I think that, that we all come to a different awareness of gender. My book is somewhat cautionary in terms of I don't trust the medical establishment. In my years of being in the gender community. I'm not trying to enforce a mandate against operations. But I'm also saying, you really need to check things out. Because I've seen absolute horror stories. I've seen people with botched surgery so bad that they've been close to death, and they haven't had the cash to plunk down at some of the clinics that are doing the surgery, and have ended up in the emergency room of other hospitals on life support equipment, and because even though their insurance was going to pay it, the clinics weren't going to take care of them. And I had some serious questions about the ethics of the entire medical establishment and real concern to about the propaganda, the gender propaganda that they push, the whole notion that one is born into a wrong body makes me deserve beyond preserve because it presupposes the sense of a right body, and what the hell is a right body and who the hell are so called objective observers of gender to mandate moral values on individuals and a lot of their values are laden with homophobia, misogyny, and transphobia. And the sense of the Great White medical doctor is going to find this wonderful cure and fix everything when basically I wish the effort would be concentrated on Curt, curing a society that is deeply divided. And that I think is suffering from a severe disease instead of labeling individuals as having to be just as the DSM does.