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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

longtime companion, movie, gay, aids, unite, called, greenway, houston, film, homophobia, year, talking, hear, shoots, president gorbachev, cry, terry gross, song, lesbian, remember



01:44

Play Ball. No, no, no, no.



01:47

I played that because the President Gorbachev is here. Oh, well,



01:51

why didn't you play the Russian national last?



01:53

Because I don't have it.



01:54

Oh, you have it.



01:55

I have it at home.



01:56

Can you hum it



02:02

02:01
but no,

02:03
look at a comment. What kind of communist Are you then? No capitalist can be a communist. You're a homosexual? Oh, yes. Well, sexuality comments right?

02:12
pinko fact,

02:14
it August.

02:16
I know how your hormones are. It just all goes together. Of course.

02:24
The history of the game. Now wait a minute.

02:28
You have played that three times tonight. Now I know that is the theme to Masterpiece Theater. So are you trying to master a piece or what?

02:37
I have no song here for Gorbachev and President Bush. Okay. Maybe I should say President Gorbachev. If I'm gonna say President Bush. I don't know. You know, they decriminalized homosexuality in the Soviet Union. It's about time shortly after well, it's called locked in this state may go to Russia know. Things are pretty scary here sometimes. Yeah. Well, just under these just decriminalize that. I mean, even open Steve was stabbed in his own in front of his own house right here. No, he

03:11
wasn't stabbed. Or wasn't no.



03:14

That was the other guy. Yes, Montrose, Missouri. That was stabbed. Okay. Anyway, can we play this for the two presidents? Sure, from the United States and from Soviet Union. And the reason I want to play this, there's a movie running on HBO this month in original film called by dawn's early light. Oh, yeah, it's a story of how a little bitty country what they think is a little big country accidentally shoots a nuclear bomb at Russia and the bomb explodes. And the Russians immediately retaliate, who I by shooting bombs back at the good guys, which is us so. And in the confusion, they find out that the original bomb was actually sent by some dissidents who are trying to start trouble. And they succeeded. So the United States shoots more bombs back at the Russians, and then the Russians shoot more miles back at us. And before long, the whole world's blown up and it's pretty scary thought. And already we don't live. We don't live with the bomb like we did in the 50s it's still there. It is. Some guy can actually go crazy and go I'll be shooting moms back and forth with each other. And I think that's real sad. I think it's sad that we watched one time companion and a couple got up and walked out as the tune star is the man it throughout the film started to make love. That didn't actually show anything. Oh, they were just hugging and we know that bombs been dropping on getting as many people for centuries. So I don't wait. Anyway, this is a song for the two presidents of the United States and the President of the Soviet Union, and perestroika for all they meet in Washington this this weekend for the submit. Okay, yeah.



05:05

What's up? Maybe? That is one of the simplest songs I've ever heard. And it moves me to tears every time I hear it. Yeah. It was a classic. The week after it came out. I remember that far back



05:24

certainly was John Lennon and imagine. But you know, we were talking about this earlier coming out of Bloomington complaining that the Greenway theatres, which we're going to be talking about for the next hour, and so, and I, I don't believe that we're doing this show for the people who have listened or who are listening and continue to listen, I think we're doing this for babies who are yet unborn, if that makes any sense. Because I think our generation has just lost the chance of ever living complete lives. And what I mean, we may reach a certain point in life where we're going to be happy and not hate ourselves as much as we do. But we're never gonna be there. Not completely, probably not, because of prejudice and racism, and all that kind of stuff. And homophobia, of course,



06:22

yeah, I'm not I'm not entirely thrilled, the way the world is right now. But I remember 30 years ago, and it's wonderful. Now compared to that,



06:35

I think we do this type of programming with the hope that young children yet born will grow up

I think we do this type of programming with the hope that young children yet born will grow up and make a better,



06:44

that's the pie way. It's wonderful now, but it can be more wonderful. And 18



06:49

year old, people will say things are getting better, but still, they're riding in on the tail end of AIDS. And the time of cure comes from that which it will eventually



07:01

either that or I think the general point now is that people will be living actually living with it, it will be controlled.



07:10

And actually, oh, I don't know. Let's not get too philosophical. If we do have to get that Masterpiece Theater thing out again. This is after hours on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM, we're going to be thrashing about over the next few weeks. Getting ready for game has been Pride Week. And the only reason we're going to do that is because we're here and workwear. And that's it kids,



07:40

so let's just stay with us.



07:41

I was gonna say something else, but it's like, what's the point? You know what I mean?



07:48

That's kind of says it all.



07:50

Did anybody see longtime companion? Have you been to see longtime companion if you have called us up? Because that's what we're gonna be talking about. For the next hour and 15 minutes we're gonna be discussing long time longtime companion, which is currently running at

the Greenway three theaters. I personally think it's a very good movie. I think it's a very honest movie. And it's nice to see a movie about us for a change for men or honestly being gay. And yeah, it's



08:20

not. It's not glossed over.



08:24

I think that's one of the reasons that it bothered me so much. You know, it seems sad. I



08:30

know that movie was made on a very small budget, but it sure did look big budget to me.



08:35

You know, that movie was made and broadcast on PBS. It was made for PBS. You were telling me that it says so in the end of the theme of the credit, Shawn, kind of news director pointed that out to me. I said to read the credits when I went to the film, and I did and it said it produced for such and such bias as for, like national public television or whatever they call it. There



08:55

are too many public broadcast tears. I couldn't I couldn't see.



08:59

It's an incredible movie, longtime companion at the Greenway. 30 theaters if you've seen it, give us a call. It talks about AIDS and how some people die and how some people live. And that's kind of like life, isn't it? Yeah. It's really the history of eight so the father just died in April and his father's still living and I remember as a kid, he was going to be dead every year. That was the last time we'd ever see him again. And he's still out there kicking. So give us a call if you saw a longtime companion five to six 4005 to six KPFT and we'll talk about the film which is certainly gotten our attention. This is after hours on Campion.



09:50

When asking Phillips and living with AIDS longtime companion no showing of the girl my three



09:57

theatres. Yeah, it hasn't been playing very long. but I paid



10:01

about an hour and a half.



10:04

Where else the slapping booth when you really needed. Lee Harrington gave a little speech and said that. Was that clean to him? Yeah. says that. Since it's been open, there wasn't that 1000 people. Six 6000 people have seen it, which is great.



10:24

6000 people in the city where they're between. It's only been there were 104 100,000 homosexuals. I understand that. Oh, nevermind.



10:35

Once you impressed by the amount of straight people in that crowd,



10:38

I loved it. I really did. You want to listen to this. This is from fresh air, which airs live here Monday through Friday from 3pm until for Terry Gross hosted out of Philadelphia. And she recently talked to some folks about longtime companion. Oh, yes. And guess what? Through the magic of radio. Here's Terry Gross from fresh air with her guests discussing longtime companion.



11:08

No, maybe technical problems. I see. First, you have to turn it on.



11:15

I think this is like the wrong one. Oh.



11:23

That's one song they didn't do in that gay deceivers play the other. Another great thing about

That's one song they didn't do in that gay deceptions play the other. Another great thing about Seattle. Yeah, I picked up a little brochure that was advertising something called prom two. And second year in the row, now they put this on, it's put on by the Seattle Parks and Recreation service. So we're talking about a city department putting on a prom for gay, lesbian and bisexual teenagers paid for by the city by the city. Thank you very much. It was such a success last year that they decided to repeat it. Okay.



12:14

Here's Terry Gross and her guests discussing longtime companion. Okay, okay, here we go.



12:23

By history Wait a minute, wait a minute, wait



12:27

a minute. In terms of the homophobia in Hollywood, which is often talked about, I think it's very difficult to say anything about that because the woman was overtly homophobic and in response to the script that we do get one response from one major distribution company that American players went to search for funds with a picture and this particular company said thank you for sending the script to longtime campaign and we are concentrating and eyes and individual the man who runs the studio is also very much involved in charitable organizations. And he said I am concentrating efforts to educate the American public to realizing that AIDS is not a gay disease. I am still waiting to see what this man makes about IV drug users with



13:28

no, you gotta You got money. I think from the National Endowment for the Arts because the NEA give some money to work and play host. Yes. Did you have to worry about the new humor eroticism close?



13:38

This movie was made, and practically finished its post production by the time they came in.



13:48

So was it not a concern?



13:51

It really wasn't I think they were probably editing the film. This whole thing sort of blew up in me I don't know what happens is The executive producer said The movie opens in Washington

me, I don't know what happens is. The executive producer said the movie opens in Washington this weekend. And then I guess all the congressmen will get to see it. And I would be very, very interested to see I'm hoping it will continue to push more buttons. Obviously endangered and the public attention that can be thrown on this amendment, the better. Joseph Papp stood up and said that I've been feeling on long which is that controversy over the exhibit in the house amendment boils down to one thing and one thing only and that's gay and lesbian bashing. It is homophobia. It's nothing else. And I hope to live used to be



14:53

the story of longtime companion starts with all the characters in the movie reading the New York Times and finding out about out this form of cancer that seems to be afflicting gay men? Is anyone who first found out about AIDS through the New York Times? Or did you read about it first in the gay press?



15:09

I think I find about it first from Craig. Who had read it in the New York Times, the first article to appear, I think, may have been in a medical journal like the Lancet. But the wire services picked it up in July of 81. And there was on page a 20 of the times, you know, it went through, went through Manhattan seismically like have like a, like a tremor effect I haven't really read. Well, if somebody says to you, now listen, you know, everything I've been doing for the last 10 years of your life will looks like it could kill you. You hope that that's not true. And it seems so unbelievable. That really there could be a viral agent that was passing through the gay community. So much of it was mysterious, and hard to process mentally. I was panicked. I remember that day. And I called Norman as well as several other friends and said, Look at this, this is really wild. And they might think I slowly put it out of my mind, I looked for ways to deny it and pretend that it hadn't appeared



16:25

first actually hit you personally. I mean, have a personal impact on your life.



16:32

I had a friend, not a close friend. get sick, within the first year, probably late fall and 81 and maybe the beginning of 82. Well on stage director, and he went into a steep and quick decline. Then summer of 82. Wildlife very first lovers died of AIDS.



17:03

What were some of the issues you both had to think through in the writing and in the direction? In terms of putting the story of AIDS impact on a circle of girlfriends on screen? Did you? Did you think of this as something for the mainstream audience or the things that you felt you wanted to? Tone down or introduce? We don't know.



17:27

I think I think I understand your question. The primary thing I think, for both crowd myself and for the actors, was that we wanted to tell the truth. And we're more concerned with that than necessarily what audience it would reach. It forced us to focus on the things that we thought were important and to let go of the things that we didn't feel were important to work for me. The the movie was about people who, by circumstance had a particular sexual preference. And the main focus of the movie was on the relationships between these people not fit, not their sexuality. And I didn't want to cloud the issue by showing a lot of sort of graphic sexual scenes that didn't really contribute to the tone of the movie. But it was very important to me to show the intimacy between the characters and, and to develop relationships and how those relationships grew or fell apart or or restricted because of what happened in the course of the movie. It also seemed important to me not to turn the movie into a melodrama. It seemed to me that the fact of aids the fact that people dying, losing friends losing lotteries carried enormous amount of weight with it. And I wanted to be careful not to indulge or make prophetic the the movie critic, there's just so many things we could have gone into. And a lot of ground has been covered, perhaps not as thoroughly as it needs to be. But the very very infrequent feature film that has focused on gay characters has almost to a one in about fringe characters. And they have focused largely on back room bar, six bags, late night, little bar, kind of behavior, all of which of course goes on and I've certainly seen my share of all of that, but it seemed that the only thing that movies was willing to show was that element of gay life. And I know just as many straight people who've been to hellfire in clubs like that, and I've been with us places myself and seeing those things, and no movies ever seem to be made about heterosexual relationships from that angle, so I didn't see any need to contribute to the pervasive national notion that gay people stay up all night have sex with hundreds of people and wear dresses or leather or hairdressers or in some way, exotic, extravagant. Overly anything overly witty, overly sad, overly lonely. You know, there are times means gay people in this country, and most of them, get up in the morning and go to a regular job. Gay people are not all one thing. Any women, brown haired people are all one thing. But I do know that a friend of mine who has AIDS went to the doctor the other day to see his doctor and he's sitting in the waiting room. And the other people in the waiting room were seven other middle class gay men in suits, their gray suits with their attache cases. And that's a word that I had never seen on film. And it's the world that I see day in and day out. And it was very, very important to me, to let the world at large know that being gay is not in and of itself. Extraordinary. That what has been extraordinary about these last 10 years are the gay people have banded together and created some kind of a community to protect and fight for themselves, and that they have nothing to be ashamed of. So yes, we we talked about this a lot and it was terribly, terribly important that we bring it home.



21:49

playwright and screenwriter Craig Lucas and director lemon Renee are my guests. Their new film longtime companion is about the impact of aids on a circle of gay friends. Now after the short break, this is fresh air



22:01

and fresh air airs every Monday through Friday, right here on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston, you might

remember Terry interviewing divine and I understand she gave Nancy waiting in a row for her dough. So hey, I never know what you're gonna hear on fresh air fresh air every Monday through Friday from 3pm until four right here on 90.1 FM KPFT. In Houston, there is a pride



22:29

written in red brown Joe wants to cry tonight is in the air, fear, death and dying, even despair. But hopefully determined we will survive by keeping the flames of our faith to unite as in the air, singing praises. A cry to unite as an air a time to celebrate, to love to can forever united we Mustang are divided. Surely. Listen to the cry, rise up stand tall. A cry to unite is in the air. Singing praises the cry to unite is in the bonding of souls and hearts everywhere. Our dream to unite must come true. The courage to face the world as the cry to unite as the singing praises of pride.



23:43

Supervisor Harry Britt spoke to us on the steps of Houston city hall in 1988. And a broadcast heard live on KPFT the celebration of life rally. Here's Harry Britt, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.



23:59

I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Mills challenge to me, and not something in my life. And this day prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us. I am here tonight. Because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us light and has nurtured us and taught us our values to stand up and claim the history of the state for freedom and justice and human respect for the forces of narrow mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate the politics of the state of Texas.



24:54

Something we absolutely forgot what are some beautiful red roses In the studio this morning,



25:01

I was just floored when those two came in their beauty doll and Yvonne came by with a full roses and brought a dozen red roses with one. white one. Thank you so much because we stand out. That is so beautiful.



25:21

Yeah, that pretty. And we've been so wrapped up in everything that we forgot.



25:27

We have them right here in the control room. We charge them all pretty. Yeah.



25:32

And roses are some of my favorite things to smell on the lookout. He was very, very thoughtful. So thank you so much for bringing those flowers



25:40

Vidal and Eva. Thank you.



25:43

This is that a James?



25:45

This is at a James. James seven year it Yeah, you see Ben called in and requested. Uh huh. For Matt. And you want to play this? Well, you see because I don't happen to have the song. But, Mama, no, no, no, it's number five.



26:05

Damn your damn your eyes.



26:08

Girl. Are you sure? Yeah. Okay, yeah.



26:12

Give it a listen.



26:13

There you go man.



26:21

For he has written both of your names with a heart around he were looking at the sky burning red with the sunset. Quickly a car drives up alongside of you, you stop for red light. Suddenly the car is surrounded, they circle your blanket coming in closer bottles are thrown out of car windows, the sound of glass breaking baseball bats against middle hand grabs your hair glass at your feet in your face in your eyes, a fist across your face again again.



26:54

Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry. Which is why as a lesbian and gay public awareness project wanted you to hear and think about this message. For more information write us at Post Office Box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.



27:15

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised.



27:26

KPFT Houston