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00:01

And while everybody is trying to figure out just exactly how much they can afford to pledge tonight we have a little special treat. We're going to run a tape that that we've had around for a while and it's concerned Stonewall, which was really the the movement or the situation that that that got us all awakened and aroused and started as moving a long time ago and, and I'm really excited about playing this tape tonight because it's really important to all of us.



00:51

Today, this white, two storey building across from Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village, is a clothing store and a closed Chinese restaurant 20 years ago. This was the Stonewall Inn. I'm Michael shirker and I'm working on the first comprehensive history of the Stonewall riots. In 1969, the Stonewall was one of the most popular gay bars in New York City. And, like all other gay bars was routinely raided by the Vice Squad. The patrons of these bars, many of whom were frightened at having their identities revealed, would quietly submit to any orders coming from the police. Yet, on June 27 1969, that all changed. The patrons of this bar with the drag queens at the forefront decided to fight back against the police. What happened here on that night would spark a revolution?



01:52

My I'm Jean Harwood, and my age is 80.



01:59

I'm Bruce mero.



02:02

He wants he also would like to know what your age is. So my



02:06

age 78 Yes,



02:10

I don't I don't, I don't know if it's really true. But now people do refer to us as the two oldest gay men in America. We do have I think, have maybe a record relationship of almost 60 years together. Bruce's memory started going bad in 1984 Fortunately, we have we have our music together which we've which we've done over the years we've we've written any number of of songs, Bruce remembers the melodies very well and the lyrics of the songs.



02:56

And you would judge me



02:59

when you took my



03:04

something happened, I had never



03:09

being gay before Stonewall was was a very difficult proposition because we felt that in order to survive, we had to try to look and act as as straight as possible. The attitude the general attitude of society as far as employers were concerned and landlords, all of these people were very hostile and and to protect ourselves we had to act as rugged and manly as possible to, to get by in my



03:51

name is Randy. I was the first openly gay person will appear on radio in 1962. And on television in 1964, as a self identified homosexual in the air before Stonewall people felt a need to hide because of the precarious legal position they were in, they would lose their jobs. There was a great hostility socially speaking in the sense of people found out you were gay, they assume you were a communist or a child molester. Any of another dozen stereotypes are rampant in the public media at the time.



04:26

I'm Jerry fair, and I'm 80 years old. I started the gay lifestyle in 1948 when I was around 39 and 40. At that time, if there was even a suspicion that you were gay, that you were a lesbian. You were fired from your job. And you were in such a position of disgrace that you slunk out without saying goodbye to the people that liked you and you like, never even bothered to clean your desk, you just disappeared. You just disappeared. You went quietly because you were afraid that the wreck ruminations that would come if you even stood there protested would be worse than just Lee. My



05:22

name is Sylvia Rivera. My name before that was bravery bear until I started dressing in drag in 1961.



05:33

There are before us now war was a hoarder. There was always the gay bash and under drag wins



05:44

by heterosexual man, women and the police. We learned to live with it because it was part of the lifestyle at that time, I guess. But none of us were very happy about it.



06:01

My name is Seymour pine. In 1968, I was assigned as Deputy Inspector in charge of public morals in the first division in the police department, which covered South Manhattan from 38th Street to the battery, including the Greenwich Village area. It was a duty of public morals to enforce all laws concerning vice and gambling, including prostitution, narcotics, and laws and regulations concerning homosexuality. The part of the penal code which applied to drag queens, was section two four 0.35. Section four, being masked, or in any manner disguised by unusual or unnatural attire, or facial alteration, loiters remains or congregates. In a public attack time



07:07

we looked at the sky around, not just try to figure out when and when this masquerade, harassment would come to an end. When knowing and we would always dream that one day, it would come to an end when such and we prayed and we looked for it wanted to be human beings



07:46

My name is Rob Mahoney. I've been hanging out drinking, partying and working in the gay boys

for the last 30 years. In the era before Stonewall. All of the boys 90% of the boys were mafia controlled. They were controlled because the mafia had the right connections. There wasn't there wasn't that many gay boards. You'd have maybe one to Uptown. In the Upper East Side, they will get closed down and they'd be wanted to on the west side, they get closed down and midtown they'd be 123 maybe open. As they would get closed down. They'd move around. And they would dump

08:35

and Joe Nestle, co founder of what is now the largest collection of lesbian culture in the world. The police raided lesbian bars regularly. And they did it. They both did it in the most obvious way, which was hauling women away and paddy wagons but they was regular weekend harassment, which would consist of the police coming in regularly to get their payoffs. And in the sea colony, we had a back room with a red light. And when that red light went on, it meant the police would be arriving in around 10 minutes. And so we all had to sit down at our tables. And we would be sitting there almost like schoolchildren. And the cops would come in now depending on who was on which cop was on. If it was some that really resented the butch women who were with many times very beautiful women. We knew we're in for it because what would happen is they would start harassing one of these women and saying hi you think you're a man come outside we'll show you and the woman would be dragged away. They throw up against a wall and they'd say so you think you're a man? Let's see what you got in your pants and they would put their hand down her pants

09:52

don't want Oh, that was good. That was just to get into the stone wall. You'd walk up and you'd knock on the front door. In knocking the door open in 2001. A Mary sent me good cleaning girls, you know, when you walked in to your right was your bar wrong? No windows down at the far end of the bar was an opening in the wall going into the dance room with the jukebox in that room, and no one does in that room either. The stone wall, like all gay bars at that time with painted black, charcoal black. And what was the funny but the blaze would be so dimly lit. But as soon as the cops are gonna command to collect their percentage or whatever they were coming in for, from it being a nice, dimly lit dump. The place was lit up like Luna Park

10:55

fell. Well, two guys, and that's very often what we sent in would be two men could handle 200 people. I mean, you tell them to leave, and they leave. And you say show me your identification and they all take out their identification and file out and that's it and you say, Okay, you're not a man, you're a woman, or you're vice versa and you wait over there. I mean, this is a kind of power that you have.

11:30

And you never gave it a second thought a drag queen took a lot of oppression and we had to we we were at a point where I guess nothing would have stopped us. I guess, as they say or as Shakespeare says. We were ladies waiting just waiting for the thing to happen. And when it did

Shakespeare says, we were ladies waiting just waiting for the thing to happen. And when it did happen, we were there.



12:05

On Friday night, June 27 1969. At about 1145 eight officers from public morals First Division loaded into four unmarked police cars. From their headquarters on 21st Street and Third Avenue. They headed downtown and then west towards the Stonewall Inn here at Seventh Avenue in Christopher Street. It was the second time the bar was rated that week. The local sixth precinct had just received a new commanding officer who kicked off his tenure by initiating a series of raids on gay bars. And New York was in the midst of a mayoral campaign. Always a bad time for homosexuals. Mayor John Lindsay had good reason to agree to the police crackdown. He had just lost his party's primary and needed a popularity boost. And the Stonewall Inn was indeed an inviting target. Operated by the Gambino crime family without a liquor license. This dance bar drew a crowd of drag queens, hustlers miners, and more masculine lesbians known as Bulldogs. Many were black or Hispanic. It was a warm night in New York City and a somber day for many. Judy Garland, who had died earlier in the week was buried that morning. It was almost precisely at midnight that the moral squad pulled up to the Stonewall Inn, led by Deputy Inspector Seymour Prine. There was



13:35

never any reason to feel that anything of any unusual situation would occur that night.



13:44

He could actually feel it. You really could. I guess Judy Gall was just really helped us feel he had



13:53

faith and for some reason things were different this night. As we were bringing the prisoners out, they were resisting.



14:02

People started gathering in front of us Sheridan Square Park right across the street from Stonewall. People were upset. No, we're not going to go and people started screaming and hollering



14:22

when drag queen as we put her in the car, opened the door on the other side and jumped out at which time we had to chase that person



14:34

and



14:38

he was caught back into the car made an another attempt to get out the same door the other door and at that point we had to handcuffs the person from this point on things really began to get crazy nein nein, nein, nein next. Go around, go around, go around. Money makes the world go around it makes my god bounty swans that makes



15:19

God lincei back here here ready to ask you for your money for your money to help support. The after hours program. The after hours is a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM, and this is marathon week. This is the getting close to the end. So we are needing all the help we can get a special thanks to Lisa for letting us know that the program is up to par and keep listening. Lisa, we promised many many things. If we were here, yes, if we're here, and what the way we stay here the way the station stays here. The way the gay program stays here is by your your pledging your donations to this radio program. And we'd sure like to see that. And what is the name of the show? Again, it's the after hours program.



16:14

She's looking at



16:15

me, that throws me off when they want to show is



16:19

well I think it's still after hours. I know that I'm beginning to feel like I'm after hours. Yes. But we do need those pledges. We've got all sorts of premiums and things here that that can just little thank you gift type things. We need those phones to be ringing at 526-573-8526 KPFT. We need to hear from anybody and everybody out there who's listening at 315 in the morning, who knows the importance of programs like this, we we even we had to interrupt what I consider a wonderful, very important part of our history just to pitch for money and, and it's a shame but we do have to do that. And we need to keep bringing those things to you. And the only way we can do that is to get that money rolling in, show us



17:07

what you're made of send us a donation.



17:13

And my nickname is Bernie and I've been cross dressing all of my life. I remember the night of the riots. The police were escorting queens out of the barn into the paddy wagon. And there was this one particularly outrageously beautiful grain with stacks and stacks of liquid style with his tail style hair. And she was asking them not to push her. And they pretended to push her and she turned around and she matched the cop with her high heeled. She'd knock them down and then she proceeded to frisk him for her the keys to the anchor so on. She got them and she ended herself and pass them to another queen that was behind her.



17:58

And that's when all hell broke loose. And then we were we had to get back into stone.



18:07

My name is Howard Smith. On the night of the Stonewall riots. I was reporter for The Village Voice locked inside with the police covering from my column. It really did appear that that crowd because we could look for little peep holes in the plywood windows. We could look out and we could see that the crowd Oh, my guess was within 510 minutes is probably several 1000 People 2000 and yelling, kill the cops. Police brutality. Let's get them we're not going to take this anymore, let's



18:49

see out is a group of persons attempting to uproot one of the parking meters which in which they did succeed. And they then use that parking meter to as a battering ram to break down the door. And they did in fact, open the door. They crashed it in. And at that point was when they began throwing Molotov cocktails into the place. It was a situation that we didn't know how we would like to be able to



19:31

go remember someone fell in a Molotov cocktail. I don't know who the person was, but I mean, I saw that and I just said to myself in Spanish, I said oh my god, the resolution is finally here. Since I started screaming freedom. We're free at last hour. It felt really good. There were a



19:52

couple of cops stationed at the side of the door with the pistols like in a combat stance aimed in the door area called a lot this was stations and other places behind like a whole nother one behind the bar. All of them with their guns ready. I don't think up to that point I ever had ever

seen cops that scared. Remember, these were pros. But everybody was frightened.



20:18

There's no question about no I was frightened



20:24

and I had been in combat situation. There was never any time that I felt more scared than I felt that and I mean, it was just, you know, there was no place to run.



20:44

When the moral squad officers barricaded themselves inside the stone wall, Deputy Inspector pine put in a 1041 call an emergency help requests which can only be placed by a high ranking officer. That call was mysteriously cancelled, and the telephone inside the Stonewall went dead. It took nearly 45 minutes for the riot police to get to the Stonewall and rescue the moral squad from the smouldering bar



21:15

once the tactical police force showed up. I think that really excited us a little bit.



21:29

My name is Martin boys. In 1969 I was a drug known as Mizmor. I remember on that night when we saw the right is all of us dragons. We think John's like The Rock heads and sang the songs or sing. We are the vil that girl. We wear our hands and girls. We wear our dungarees above our daily move. And the police went crazy hearing that and they just immediately rushed us. We gave one kick and



22:00

fled. My name is Rudy and the night of the Stonewall. I was 18. And to tell you that through that night, I was doing more running than fighting. I remember looking back from 10th street and there Waverly street. There was a police I believe on His outcrop and it's on his stomach in his tactical uniform and his helmet and everything else. With a drag queen straddling him. She was beaten the hell out of him with her shoe. Whether it was a high heel or not, I don't know. But she was beaten the hell out of her sister.



22:41

My name is mama Jean, Amelie lesbian. And I guess you would label me as a butcher. I

remember on that night I was in the gay bar women's bar quote cookies. We were coming out of the gay bar going towards Eighth Street. And that's when we saw everything happening blasting away people getting beat our police come from every direction hittin women, as well as men within nightsticks gay men running down the street all over their face. We decided right then and there when we scan or not, we didn't think about it. We just jumped in



23:19

the here. This queen is going completely bananas, you know, jumping and hitting the windshield. And next thing you know the taxi cab was the cause of the entire dope within. Windows was shattering all over the place bars were burning around. There was a beaut it was beautiful really



23:42

was I remember when kept coming at me. hitting me with the knife sticking back on my legs. I broke loose and I went after again. I grabbed this light stick my girlfriend went behind him. She was a strong seven again. I want him to feel the same pain I felt. And I kept them saying to him, I like the pain. Do you like it? Do you like it? I kept them hit given him. I was angry. I went to the kill. At that particular minute I want I want



24:09

to do every destructive thing that I could think of at that time. To hurt anyone that had hurt us.



24:22

Is like just when you see a man protecting his own life. They weren't the Queen's that people call them. They were men fighting for their lives. I find a website



24:35

was a lot of heads for batch. But it didn't hurt their feelings. They all came back nothing could stop



24:54

at any time in the future.



25:00

When the media covered the riot extensively. The Daily News featured it on its front page. There were reports on all the local television and radio stations. By the next day graffiti calling

for gay power had appeared on buildings and sidewalks all over the West Village hastily worked up flyers distributed on street corners touted the night as the Hairpin drop heard round the world. And the next night 1000s of men and women converged on the West Village. They came here back to the stone wall to see what would happen next. While trash cans were set on fire stones were thrown and sporadic fighting broke out between police and gays, the more than 400 riot police milling around the village ensured that the previous night's violence would not be repeated. But on this night, for the first time, gay couples could be seen walking hand in hand or kissing in the streets, just by being there surrounded by reporters and photographers and onlookers. 1000s of men and women were proclaiming to themselves and the rest of the world that they were gay. And the crowds grew and came back the next night. And for one more night the following week. What happened here on those nights helped to usher in a new era, both personally and politically for gay men and lesbians.



26:32

When when Stonewall happened, Bruce and I were still in the closet. And we're where we had been for nearly 40 years. But we realized that this was this was a tremendous thing that had happened at Stonewall and it it gave us a feeling that we were not going to be remaining closeted for very much longer. And soon thereafter, we did come out of the closet. My



27:07

name is Jenny Prusa. In 1969, I was in the convent. I was in the Sisters of Charity. And when Stonewall hit the press it hit me with a bolt of lightning was as if I had an incredible release of my own outrage at having to sequester so much of my life. I made weight my way down I seem to recall in subsequent nights, being down on the you know, kind of just in the periphery looking observer, clearly an observer clearly longing to have that courage to come out and was a matter as I recall, it was only a matter of weeks before I left the convent and started a new life.



28:08

I'm Henry Baird, in 1969. I was in the US Army, a specialist three stationed at long been post near Saigon in Vietnam. I remember I was having lunch in the army mess, reading the Armed Forces news summary of the day. And there was a short paragraph describing a riot led by homosexuals in Greenwich Village against the police. And my heart was filled with joy. I thought about what I had read frequently but I had no one to discuss it with. And secretly within myself, I decided that when I came back stateside, if I should survive to come back stateside, I would come out as a gay person. And I did



28:51

for those of us in public morals. After the Stonewall incident, things were completely changed from what they had previously been. They they suddenly were not submissive anymore, they now suddenly had gained a a new type of courage. And it seemed as if they didn't care

anymore about whether they were whether their identities were made known. We were now dealing with human being my name



29:27

is Jim four. And I'm in the mid 60s along with Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin as one of the founders of the of the hippie movement. I remember the third night of the riots, there was this meeting called by Matt ashame society at St. John's Church on West on Waverly Place. We went and Randy wicker was running the meeting.



29:48

For 10 years I've been gone on television, as Randy wicker, the respectable homosexual dressed in dark suit and tie explaining to people that most homosexuals look like everybody else. Ulsan behave like everybody else. And when Stonewall began happening, you had chorus lines and queens kicking their heels up at the police bonfires burning in the corner, trash baskets and throwing bricks and stones at the police. I was horrified because this violated everything that we thought of as responsible behavior, that this was not the way respectable citizens behaved.



30:25

Evelyn Hooker was a sociologist, I believe, Randy hit introduced her and she got up and she suggested that we should have a candlelight March that we should turn the other cheek because gay people were really different. We were really nice. And we had to show how nice we were and stop all this riding because people were going to get hurt. I remember I stood up. And I said, No, we are not going back. And people felt the same thing I felt, and we marched out of that room. And that was the night that the Gay Liberation Front was born.



31:08

Today, I live in New senior citizen apartment building. What steps different now is that I can be free. I have a daughter who's a senior citizen and my son is 58. They know about my home and sexuality. My three grandchildren in the 30s know about their grandmother. I have a great granddaughter who at the age of 10 learned that grandma Jerry was a lesbian. And she thought that was most interesting. Yet, I still don't have the personal courage to not care if these yentas in the building, know that Jerry's a lesbian?



32:00

Well, I retired from the police department in 1976 20 years have passed. I'm going to be seven in a few months. I still don't know the answers, I would still like to know the answer. I would like to know whether I was wrong or whether I was right. In in ever thinking that there was a difference. And ever thinking that maybe you shouldn't trust a homosexual because something is missing in his personality, the archives



32:32

of lesbian culture, which surrounds us now and was created four years after Stonewall owes, at least from my part, its creation to that night in the courage that found its voice in the streets. That night, in some very deep way. We finally found our place in history. Not as a dirty joke. Not as a doctor's case study. Not as a freak, but as a pupil.



33:24

Remembering Stonewall was engineered by spider blue, it was produced by David Isay with a grant from the Pacific National Program fund. I'm Michael shirker. Ah



33:40

ha I'm a 38 year old I can keep my long hair I can pluck my eyebrows and I can work wherever the hell I want. And I'm not going to change running if I change that I feel that I that I'm losing what 1969 brought into my life and that was



34:08

to be totally free and the



34:20

the same as I was before



34:37

no Well, this is the portion of the program known as MC said. All things and this is for us all.



35:23

Well, we're back. Are we back, we're back, we're back.



35:27

Hear me back. I'm back,



35:29

we want to, we want to remind you before we go home this evening, this this morning, actually, that you can help us you can help this programming, you can be a part of it, by making your pledge and following through and sending us your, your donation donation, you can make, you can be a part of this programming, your support is, is vital. It's not only vital, it's essential. It's not only essential, it's it's valuable, just whatever you can do, we would certainly appreciate and once again, I want to remind you that then what is it essential, it's it's, it's it's vital that you send us your donations and, and keep us on the air this programming. If you like what you heard tonight, pick up the phone and call us. If you didn't like what you heard tonight, pick up the phone and call us.



36:26

And just in case I forgotten that number is 52657385 to six KPFT. And I would like to take a moment out to tell you a little something, the phone rang. And we'd like to thank Roy for his contributions. And we'll see what we can do about his special request. And he also wanted to say that he thought we were doing a terrific job. Thank you,



36:50

Roy. That's Roy and Lisa. Tonight we'll dedicate the next show to Roy and Lisa.



36:56

Sounds good to me. Well, let's not forget Kevin he called earlier to Yes, he called an answer for me I couldn't believe it. Who knows I'm here right



37:03

we we appreciate your input and and request your input. If you have something to say you'd like to show you didn't like to show we want to hear about it. So we also want you to call make your pledge your donation and follow through. This is after hours of continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM ah, and we're going to ask you one more time before we close up for the evening. For the morning for its it's still going to call and make your pledge a call and tell them to do listen to the after hours program and you want to make a pledge or just call and make a pledge. Five to six What is it 57385738 Or five to six KPFT



37:54

and if they just want to think about it for a couple of minutes and listen to this close out the show and all that there's really not a problem if they decide later on that they want to make a little contribution and put it in our name. All they have to do is tell the people when they answer the phone and it's for the after hours show.



38:11

30.11

Great. I've had a great time here and I bet you I have had a ball if you happen to see two mature lesbians out and comfortable shoes tonight having breakfast this morning. That's probably Judy and I for the show.

38:22

Wait, smile do anything.

38:25

So you all have a pleasant tomorrow. What are we doing next week? I think that's k show, isn't it? Okay, it's gonna be on the show. And I think she's got an interview with who was it? She said she our interview with

38:41

who? Marian pin Dino. One of my favorites. Yes. A funny lady show. That's what it was. She said hopefully Bruce will be feeling better and be up here and or at least be around someplace and oh, he looks forward to that. I know. That's right. Well, he's been asleep for four hours. He can't complain. Well, I can't

38:57

wait for breakfast. Let's do it. Okay.