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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gay, people, drag queens, gay bars, stonewall, music, stonewall inn, feel, women, lesbian, history, police, pride, started, cops, stonewall riots, bar, door, westheimer, stood

## SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Speaker 8, [Introduction]

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[Introduction] 00:05

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned into After Hours a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of After Hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Here at After Hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of a job or frame of mind. That's okay. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of After Hours.

J Jimmy Carper 02:01

Hello, Houston, and welcome to After Hours queer radio with attitude heard every week, right around midnight. Every Saturday night at midnight, right here on KPFT Houston, and KEOS College Station. This is our pride show. And we don't have a whole lot of interviews and with famous people or anything, but what we've got is a bunch of old music back from Stonewall, and then the famous history of the Stonewall riots. And after that some more music, maybe an interview, a taped interview that was played on lesbian and gay voices. A couple other surprises here. Tomorrow is pride day. That's the big culmination of all of the events that have taken place. And well, they say the last 10 days, but really, the whole month of June. And it's always an exciting day. It's a day of walking down Westheimer or standing by the sidelines and cheering for pride pride in who you are right now. And for the whole month. There have been these wonderful pink triangle banners all along lower Westheimer hanging from the light poles. And it's that was kind of makes me feel good to drive down there and see that. But considering the weather. We have been very, very lucky and all these years that it has never rained on the Pride Parade. Now one year it kind of sprinkled toward the end and we had to kind of hurry up a little bit but it's never really rained. So my wish for Pride Day tomorrow is this-. That's right, Barbra Streisand Don't Rain on My Parade. And that's part of a lot of the music that was around in the era of 1969 The era of Stonewall and that's what I want to do first I want to bring some of the music of that era and then put on can kind of get you in the mood and then put on the

Atonewall tape. Let's start with-. Well, let's start with this right now. Just in the background, I think this would be a real good idea. I had to throw it in there. It's this is music from about nine years after Stonewall. And for those of you very astute, that is the theme music from the life and times of Harvey Milk. That's another reason that we celebrate Pride for people like Harvey who have gone before us. The first thing I want to play is by Blackberry. Now, Blackberry is a black poet and singer who was out of the closet. Way before most people even thought about coming out of the closet. He was proud of who he was when when people were still hiding and ashamed. And he does this great song. Great song called, It's Okay. And that's what I want to tell you tonight. It's OK. Oh, yeah, Blackberry, his stuff is really out of print. So if you go to our used record store and get a hold of it, grab it up. He's, he does a cut on an album called walls to roses, which came out long time ago, which is gay positive music. And that I wanted to play that because that's always very uplifting. For me. It's saying it's okay. It's okay, how you feel. And Mark called and requested that I give a word of encouragement to all the young gay people who were receiving persecution from family teachers and stuff. And that was, that was part of it. It's okay. And I hope most of what we do on this show gives encouragement to young and old, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Now, that was Blackberry, a great black artist, and here's another great black artist. This one is no longer with us. But he got us to the dance floors, and he was never ashamed of what he was. Never most of you know who it is already. You have Sylvester-. Sylvester celebrating gay life with Do You Want to Funk EP. Also, there was that the 60s were a time of protest music. And nobody said it better than Tom Robinson. And his way of saying your I want to be proud to be gay was by pointing out the bad things in life. And as you listen to this song, try to figure out what's changed and what's the same and how far we have to go. It's called glad to be gay-. Right Tom Robinson glad to be gay. That's kind of a small microcosm of what it was like to be gay in the era of 1969 how people viewed us I hope he listened and tried to think of how things have changed and how things are still the same. And now before we go to the history of the Stonewall Riots I want maybe a new updated Gay History rap form-.



08:51

Are you ready for a story story about a story of baguettes incredible story of good story her story story gay story history Gay History rap. say much to a village was never in history no walk in was a sleazy place it was hard to get in if they didn't know your face. reason for this was mighty clear. It was against the law to run above. Prices inside were more than doubled. paid them as we didn't want trouble, but something strange was brewing inside seconds. indicts feeling something like pride stands with the people in place for the cops and the police to meet face to face history.



10:10

Three arrested two men in drag. queens were not changing bags and the crowd started gathering and seeing the shattered boy through the door and another queer woman in



10:24

Bremen, punching kicking pigs because she wasn't two pigs running and Hainan was a thing of the past with this touch tag started kicking ass when the real fun began, when the crowd decided to get down on a handful of them all around, feeling the rage the cops



10:47

ran and was supposed to



10:52

smashed against the door then a fire started spreading across



10:56

three days later. Now, this one to the right, and more and more people have seen the light buttons and the large size texts and gizmos instead of right history. Now, nation has swung to the right and more and more people have seen the light murders and muggings and a lot more fines and discos and stuff.



J Jimmy Carper 11:28

Yeah, Gay History rap. I haven't played that a real long time and I really enjoy it. Now, the history of the Stonewall riots. I'd like to play this about twice a year because this gives the history of why we are marching in the street tomorrow kind of gives that this was the foundation of pride. This is when we turned to turn it around. Before that we lived in the closet. We were ashamed of who we were most of us. After that. We stood up on our two feet and said I'm gay and I'm proud. It took a while to get there for a lot of us. It wasn't an overnight thing. And now it just does my ol heart good to see gay youth 14 15 16 year olds saying I'm gay and I'm proud because for a lot of us it took many many tortured years. But this was the start. This is the history of the Stonewall Riots



S Speaker 8 12:47

don't tell me not to live.



J Jimmy Carper 12:50

Well, if I put in the right tape it would be nice build up and I blew it. Oh well. Hold on kids. Yep, here's the tape. Okay, let's try that one more time. The history of the Stonewall riots.



13:18

Today, this white two story building across from Sheridan Square and 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 rated by the Vice Squad. The patrons of these bars many of whom were frightened at having their identities revealed with 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?



14:18

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



s Speaker 8 14:25

I'm Bruce mero.



14:28

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



s Speaker 8 14:31

my age 78. Yes,



14:35

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 1980 For 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.



s Speaker 8 15:20

When you would judge me, when you took my hand, something happened, I had never been gay



15:35

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 name is



16:15

Randy. I was the first openly gay person to 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.



16:49

I'm Jerry fair, and I'm 80 years old. I started a gay lifestyle in 1948, when I was around 39, or 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, even to the people that liked you when 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



17:44

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



17:55

There are before us now war was a harder era. There was always the gay bash and under drag queens,



18:05

by heterosexual men, 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.



**Speaker 8 18:22**

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 the 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. B being masked, or in any manner disguised by unusual or unnatural attire, or facial alteration, loiters remains or congregates. In a public at that time, we



19:27

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



20:00

Hi my name is Rob Mahoney. I've been hanging out drinking, partying and working in the gay bars for the last 30 years. In the era before Stonewall, oh, 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 bars, you'd have maybe one two 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



20:53

on 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 a stone.



22:08

Whoa, that was good. That was just to get into the stone boy, you'd walk up and you'd knock on the front door. In knocking the door opening, there was a Mary sent me good cleaning girls, you know, when you walked in to your right was your ballroom, 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, were painted

black, charcoal black. And what was the funny part, the place would be so dimly lit. But as soon as the cops are gonna come in, 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 felt,

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Speaker 8 23:11

well, two guys, and that's very often all 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.

♂

23:45

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

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24:19

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 and 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 homeless Extra roles. 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.

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Speaker 8 25:47

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

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25:57

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

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Speaker 8 26:05

fair. And for some reason things were different this night. As we were bringing the prisoners out, they were resisting. People

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26:15

started gathering in front of this chevron square park right across the street from Stonewall. People were upset. No, we're not going to go and people started screaming and hollering

S

Speaker 8 26:33

one 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. And he was caught put back into the car he made an another attempt to get out the same door the other door and at that point we had to handcuff the person. From this point on, things really began to get crazy.

♂

27:08

My name is Robert ryburn. i My nickname is Bertie and I've been cross dressing all of my life. I remember the night of the riots. The police were escorting the queens out of the barn into the paddy wagon. And there was this one particularly outrageously beautiful queen with stacks and stacks of allegedly style Elizabeth Taylor style hair and she was asking them not to push her and they continued to push her and she turned around and she matched the cop with her high heeled. She knocked them down and then she proceeded to frisk him for her the keys to the anchor so she got them and she handed herself can pass them to another queen that was behind her. And that's when all hell broke loose.