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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

night, stonewall, quilt, lesbian, gay, remember, long, transgender, feel, police, beat, writing, homosexual, started, houston, leather, women, stationed, thought, big

SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper



00:01

Thats when all hell broke loose. And then we were, we had to get back into the stone. 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 pupils in the plywood windows, we could look out and we could see that the crowd Oh, my guess was within 510 minutes it was probably several 1000 People 2000 Easy, and they were yelling, kill the cops. Police brutality. Let's get them we're not going to take this anymore. Let



00:51

me out is a group of persons attempting to uproot one of the parking meters which the 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 were going to be able



01:32

to 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 revolution is finally here and I started screaming freedom. Were free at last did our it felt really good. There were



01:53

a couple of cops stationed on either side of the door with their pistols like in a combat stance aimed in the door area a couple others 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



02:14

were pros. But everybody was frightened.



02:18

There's no question about



02:21

No, I was spraying



02:24

and I had been in any combat situation. And there was never any time that I felt more scared than I felt that moment.



02:35

And it was just you know there was no place to run.



02:44

When the moral squad officers barricaded themselves inside the stone wall, Deputy Inspector pine put in a 1041 call an emergency help request 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 smoldering bar



03:14

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



03:27

My name is Martin boys. And in 1969 I was a drug known as misma. I remember on that night when we saw the right is all of us directors we linked arms like The Rock heads and sang the song used to say we are the village girls. We wear our hands and girls. We wear our dungarees are above our Nellies and the police going crazy hearing that and they just immediately rushed because he gave one kick and fled.



03:59

My name is Rudy and the night of the Stonewall. I was 18. And to tell you the truth. That night I was doing more running and fighting. I remember looking back from 10th street and there in Waverly street. There was a police I believe on his outcrop and his honest 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 shoot. Whether it was a high heeled or not, I don't know. But she was beaten the hell out of it was hysterical.



04:38

My name is mama Jean. I'm a lesbian. And I guess you would label me as a butch. I remember on that night I was in the gay bar a women's bar for cookies. We were coming out of the gay bar going towards Eighth Street. And that's when we saw everything happened blasting away people getting beat. Please come from every direction hittin women, as well as men within nightsticks gay men running down the street with all over their face. We decided right then and there whether we scan or not, we didn't think about it. We just jumped in.



05:16

But here, the screen has gone completely bananas, you know, jumping on hitting the windshield. And next thing you know, taxi cab was speeding. Cars were being turned over things. Windows was shattering all over the place wires were burning around. It was a beaut, it was beautiful. It really was.



05:37

I remember one crap coming at me, hitting me with the nightstick in the back of my legs. I broke loose I went after again. I grabbed this nightstick. My girlfriend would behind him. She was a strong seven. I wanted to feel the same pain I felt. And I kept on saying to him highlight 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 went I wanted



06:04

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



06:16

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. Ah and I fight alongside of them any day medical there was



06:29

a lot of heads are nice. But it didn't hurt their feelings they all came back from when you could tell that nothing could stop us or anytime in the future.



06:59

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 around 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. Wild 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 ensure 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.



08:24

When twin 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 name



08:58

is Julia 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 It was as if I had an incredible release of my own outrage at having to sequester so much of my life. I made white 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.



09:58

I'm Henry Baird in 1969 I was in the US Army, a specialist three stationed had long been posed 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 for



10:40

those of us in public morals. After the Stonewall incident, things were completely changed from what they had previously banned. They they suddenly we're 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 not dealing with human beings. My name



11:15

is jim for and then in the mid 60s, along with Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, I was one of the founders of the of the hippie movement. I remember the third night of the riots, there was this meeting called by Madison society at St. John's Church on West Athan Waverly Place. We went and Randy wicker was running the meeting. For 10



11:36

years, I've been going on television, as Randy wicker a respectable homosexual, dressed in dark suit and tie explaining to people that most homosexuals look like everybody else and behave like everybody else. And when Stonewall began happening, you had chorus lines and queens kicking their heels up at the police and 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.



12:12

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 in Stop all this riding because people are 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 Park was born.



12:54

Today, I live in a senior citizen apartment building. What's 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 homosexuality. 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. And yet, I still don't have the personal courage to not care if these yentas in the building, note that Jerry's a lesbian.



13:45

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 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 archives



14:16

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 and the courage that found his 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 free but as a pupil I'm



15:07

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



15:23

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



15:59

dog



16:01

and V the same as I was before



16:18

No it's true

 Jimmy Carper 16:44

hmm, history of the Stonewall riots, ending with Judy Garland, who was an icon for gay people way back when because she had a tortured life. And we kind of, I don't know, we just kind of picked up on people who were fabulous with tortured lives, because that's the way we looked at ourselves. That's a classic. And anything by Judy Garland is a classic. And there have been many classics. Tomorrow at the Pride festival Bronski beat is going to be performing. Now. What is Bronski beat Bronski beat is a group. Now, way back when when Jimmy Somerville headed them up. They had a classic song called small town boy. And it's the story of if you live in a small town, you better get out and get to the big city if you're gay. So here's the message there. When we come back, we'll be talking with Glenn Weber, who is your favorite columnist at the voice. And Stacy and John are here. And so we're going to have are all kinds of things, all kinds of things, all kinds of leather, leather news. Leather news. She's in the other room. She's prompting me. But for right now, the classic, the classic. You'll hear it tomorrow songs. Jimmy Somerville, but this is the original and it's the long version because it starts out slow as a ballad and then kicks in kids. This is small town boy. small town boy by Bronski beat. Yeah, that's the original version. You're hearing it on after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. And with me now is Glenn Weber from the Houston voice. How you doing?

 19:00

I'm fine. Good morning to you nice people here and to all our listeners out in the great vast gay kingdom.

 Jimmy Carper 19:09

I enjoy your articles. Thank you in the voice because it's somebody that I feel that it's not somebody way out there. I think I think if he was a real person, because you write about very ordinary things close to home. And you don't. I mean, you write to me.

 19:31

I appreciate that. I I was having a lot of trouble trying to focus on what I would write every week, when I started writing about the Battle of eights that I was fighting. I really seemed to hit a chord with

 Jimmy Carper 19:48

you really did because I don't know. I have AIDS myself. And with every pound I lose, I can see the look in people's faces of oh, he's got it

 20:01

well, I know and I've been in the hospital twice already is pretty serious when you have to go in

the house it is.

 Jimmy Carper 20:09

I haven't had that yet. I've not had a anything serious enough to put me there. The

 20:17

only thing you can hope for when you're in the hospital as you get a handsome meal orderly.
Yeah, no

 Jimmy Carper 20:23

kidding.

 20:24

course that doesn't always happen but you always hope that the guy that walks in is gonna
think you're fabulous. Fabulous.

 Jimmy Carper 20:37

But then again, you may be too sick to relieve and he's not seeing me at my best.

 20:46

I tell you, Well, I had lost, I wasn't eating. And I'd lost 16 pounds. And you know, I'm skinny guy.
So that's a lot of weight. That is a lot of weight. And my doctor was so shocked. He says you're
going in the hospital. So when we depart plasm got enrolled in their food eating program.

 Jimmy Carper 21:06

Oh, the insurer thing or

 21:08

well, not well. They just gave me regular meals when I had to eat them. I had a woman with a
gun pointing

 Jimmy Carper 21:17

or die. I have a lover that does that. Or die? Yeah, that's right. That's right. It's it can be nerve wracking, especially when you don't have an appetite and you're semi nauseous. You know, you just don't feel like eating but you know, you have to you know, you have to keep it up.



21:35

So I gained some of my weight back not a lot and I felt a lot better eating. Yes, yeah. Now one thing I've discovered is the magic miracle of Geritol what, which tastes terrible, though when I started Geritol it gave me such an energy boost



Jimmy Carper 21:54

No kidding. What's in it?



21:58

Just yeah, as for iron, poor blood, but I noticed with myself, yeah, it just kicked right in. Wow, I hadn't tried that. So all of you out there who need a little boost try Geritol young, your mother's best friend. mother's best friend.



Jimmy Carper 22:16

I don't know about you, but I'm probably old enough for myself.



22:20

Well, it just it's just, I think because it's in liquid form it assimilates Yeah, body pretty quickly. Like say it tastes terrible. But God, you feel so good.



Jimmy Carper 22:34

No kidding.



22:35

I liked in fact, I ran out. And I noticed the difference of not taking it every day. One of my biggest problems is a fatigue problem that I have. Yeah. And they're just some days I can hardly move.



Jimmy Carper 22:48

I know that feeling. It's just a lack of energy. You just kind of do simple things and you're tired

I know that feeling. It's just a lack of energy. You just kind of do simple things and you're tired. Yeah. And you get mad at yourself. It's like, such Why am I tired? You know, I didn't do that much.



23:03

I want all of you people out there that are negative to play safe. Because what's gone on between Jimmy and myself SARS illnesses. Oh, it's very inconvenient. Yes, it is. Yes. It really really is. It's, it's inconvenient to be sick. And



Jimmy Carper 23:27

you know, in Australia, the thing that I've been hearing lately, that really pisses me off, is that young people are like, not being safe, because they feel that, oh, hell, it'll take 10 to 15 years for even if I turn positive, it'll take 10 to 15 years for to really affect me. And by then there'll be a cure. And that really does piss me off.



23:55

Well, I'm not expecting a cure. I mean, they can select the weatherman threatening rain. Yeah. 20% Right. Well, you know, I get tired of hearing that because it never rains except now for the last couple of days. Like it's like a cure. Oh, well, cure is on the horizon.



Jimmy Carper 24:12

Yeah, but they've been saying that since 1980. I've been saying it and there isn't a cure and we're living longer.



24:18

Yeah. Well, to me, there will be a cure when they shoot it in my body. And the virus goes away. I get my health back. See, my problem is I look healthy. Don't look like I'm sick. So when you say well, I have AIDS and people look at you while you look fine. That isn't a slap.



Jimmy Carper 24:44


I know. What are you supposed to look like? You know, because we have this picture of AIDS as very very emaciated people with Yeah, yeah. Just very emaciated. And if you don't look that way, people don't think you have it. Now I've had it for a year and a half, officially. For Christmas of 1994. My T cell count went under 200. Merry Christmas.





25:14


Well let me ask you this When did you first start getting sick? I'll see that's what that's when


Well, let me ask you this. When did you first start getting sick? Oh, see, that's what that's when I


 Jimmy Carper 25:24
only about six months ago.

 25:27
That's the same sketch. That's when I started saying I had a just right after Christmas when I came down sick. That Christmas day I told my parents I had a wow, because I didn't want. I wrote a column about a woman and her daughter who got a call saying their son was critically ill in the hospital. Well, he was unconscious, but he had he was in the last step. So Aiden was dying. Blair was just terribly upset because they didn't know that their son was gay. Wow, they got the double whammy. So anyway, he died without ever regaining consciousness. And it was just these poor women from a small town in the middle of Kansas. And they call me because she saw my picture in the pick a paper the voice. Yeah, it was so sad. I cried right along with Yeah, I didn't even know that their son, but it was it hurt so much. And I thought, Well, I sure don't ever want that to be me lying there. Unconscious. And I can't talk to my folks. So lucky for me, they're very supportive. Yeah.

 Jimmy Carper 26:39
See, he may, he may not have have known that or felt that he may have thought that he would have been rejected. And so you know, there's still a lot of that going on.

 26:48
Yeah, I don't know why he didn't say a word he should have. Yeah. Long before he was in the hospital. That's for sure.

 Jimmy Carper 26:55
Well, I found out I was HIV positive in 1987. A long time ago, and I have been screaming about it on the on the air ever since. You know, it's like, people who have listened to this show long. for any length of time have gone through this with me, you know, from the from the being positive, and going to the A to the official diagnosis of AIDS. And if

 27:25
I go going to the quilt in Washington,

 Jimmy Carper 27:27

no, no, I did. I've seen the quilt now twice in Houston. And the first time was a real shocker. And the second time was really hard, because so many friends. Were in the quilt.



27:45

It's amazing when you see the names of people, you know, yes.



Jimmy Carper 27:49

And peep. Not only that, but people that maybe lost contact with 10 years ago, and you know, always wondered, Oh, I wonder whatever happened to so and so then you see the name?



28:01

Oh, yeah, that's,



Jimmy Carper 28:02

that's a real shocker.



28:04

My best friend from San Francisco. I like to see his quilt because it gives me a chance to think about Yeah, yeah, that's the other side of it. He's on two quilts one of his own and one. The quilt for the San Francisco gay men's choir, have a quilt. Oh, and I got a big honor. My poem that I wrote is on the Continental Airlines.



Jimmy Carper 28:28

quilt. Yes. Yeah. I



28:30

remember reading that I was very flattered that they ask. And then I saw it there at the ceremony and I thought, well, I've actually written something meaningful. Now. You



Jimmy Carper 28:40

used to work for Continental? Yeah. Okay. For five years. So that's how that came about? Well.



28:48

A friend of mine who was on the quilt committee called and said, we'd like to use your little pony. It was I had printed it in the column as we like to use us. Oh, okay.



Jimmy Carper 29:00

But that's really nice. That's really, really nice.



29:03

Then it's a ceremony. They asked me to sign my name under it, which I gladly did. Yeah. So I was very proud moment. And then the other day, lady friend of mine, Mary Parker. She's at some quilt show down at Astor hold, not a quilt quilt, but a regular regular quilt. It was there being shown off uses. Oh, I saw your poem. I saw your name. Oh, that was nice. That



Jimmy Carper 29:35

was nice. That is nice. I like that. Do you want to be remembered? Do I? Yeah, yeah. Is that this?



29:45

Yeah, well, you know, I think I mean, yeah, not everybody has to remember I'm sure the nice people in our audience probably don't even care who I am. But I want to be remembered for the people that know me and love Me, or that are affected by my writings? Yes. hope they'll remember kind thoughts. You know, I don't get paid for writing the column. I do it all because I want to just like this radio show. Yeah. Right. But I have such a love for writing. In fact, that's how I kind of identify myself now is through my writing.



Jimmy Carper 30:27

Well, you know, when I read your articles, I feel like I've just had a conversation with my next door neighbor. You know, that's, that's the impression I get. That's the kind of writing I think you do. And you write about things that that are meaningful for the gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual



30:46

community. I need someone to explain to me what a transgender is.



Jimmy Carper 30:51

... ..

You ought to listen to any after our show the second Saturday of the month, because Sarah dipalma heads that up, and she's the she's been ahead of its time, Texas. Well, it depends.



31:08

If you're a transgender person out there, call us and explain to us, please, I really don't know what one is. I mean, I seriously, I thought I knew all the terms, but



Jimmy Carper 31:20

Well, the transgenders will be in the Pride Parade this year. Okay. And transgender covers a wide spectrum of, from just cross dressing to, to changing sex. And so it's kind of it's as diverse as the gay community is racially. That's how that works.



31:42

Wow. That's pretty amazing. Well, I'm not really up to well, I'm not really up to speed and all the terms. And, you know, the talk shows,



Jimmy Carper 31:56

well, I wasn't either until I invited Sarah dipalma to be a co host on this show. And then, over the past year, I've learned all that I know about transgenders. It's been a learning experience. Because if we're only afraid of things we don't know about.



32:17

I just feel I just hate feeling ignorant about it. This transgender stuff and I'm thinking, what is it? I mean, it's bad enough having women and leather



32:30

just kidding there's a woman and leather over here, she just got her whip



Jimmy Carper 32:42


now Glen, you're into leather, aren't you?





32:44


Yeah. Wanna leather contest here? Ah, Mr. venture in? When was 1986 so long when I was young and pretty. Yeah, well, we


 Jimmy Carper 32:56
all were won.


 32:58
Oh, thank you. Then I went up to the international Mr. Leather contests and I made the top 10 Good. Well, you know, it's really strange because I'd never heard of the contest. And I was worrying about leather when I when Mr. Insurance already borrowed the leather. And I didn't know I mean, all these really big books, guys. And I was just Mr. Nellie. I keep having Nellie attacks. Well, they did I think they they found my innocence, and nativity refreshing or something. Now what happened is they found that and took advantage of what happened. Maybe. You know, I was kind of walking around last night. It was funny. I made the final so I got to be on stage two or three times, which was what I wanted, right? And all my Houston buddies were out there. And you know, we didn't want it just to be a waste of money. Not make the final Well, right. Right. So okay. I don't know what people thought about me making the finals but it wasn't really important. It was all that mattered was what I thought about it.

 Jimmy Carper 34:11
That's right that I think, yeah, there's, there's yeah, there's that aspect.

 34:16
And then I I did some modeling for drummer magazine. No, I've heard this and advocate magazine, and some others. And that was fun, too. And then it just

 Jimmy Carper 34:30
was that was that in the same timeframe? Around 86? Seven, yes. About

 34:34
a two year period. Okay. Modeling is hard. Really, jeez. Can you pose here, turn your head a little bit, turn your head, you know, the whole experience. My first layout was just so mechanical. I couldn't even get a tract. This guy was smiling with us, his big hunky guy and I couldn't get into him. Because I was so busy worried about it. Looking here and looking there? I don't know if all modeling scenes are like that or not,

 Jimmy Carper 35:06
I guess you have to learn to learn the basics of the mechanics before you can do any emoting.



35:12

Well, this photographer was very experienced. So I knew whatever he said I would do it because his job is to make both of us look really good and the photoshoot and that was it was more fun. Yeah. I mean,



Jimmy Carper 35:33

okay, we have to make way for the next group coming in. Right? Yeah. And I'm glad you came by. And maybe we can make this kind of a regular thing.



35:44

Well, listen, if you're interested, just let me know and I'll be here or be square. Okay. So all you listeners, I thank you for listening and I hope you'll have a great parade tomorrow.



Jimmy Carper 35:54

It's gonna be great. It will be great. Yes. Thank you, Glenn Weber. And coming up. We'll be Stacy and John. Right after this little piece of music