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00:02

And here he is meet or arrest Pucci on a arrest as the significant other of the flashy and famous fashion designer Rudi Gernreich for over 30 years and the couple have lived a private and very secluded life hi in the Hollywood Hills. Rudi's designer career took off in the 60s, and he quickly became a world famous fashion king, his topless bathing suit, bright colored, Bodywear. And outrageous Captain set the standard for American fashion. And through Rudy's fame and glory, or rest was there. After Rudy died, or arrest wanted to step forward and talk about their remarkable loving relationship. Lifestyle update was the first and only camera invited to tape inside their home. And this exclusive interview by Carl David was the very first time were arrested, spoke openly with the media. I



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met Rudy in 1954. In this room, I was giving a party that night. And a friend of mine whom I invited, phoned and asked me if he could bring a friend and I said, I would be delighted. And the friend was really good, Rick. And so Rudy came and was, took part in the party, and so on. And then he was leaving, and I walked out to the car with him and with his friend. And I said to him, as he as he was ready to go, I said, Why don't you? Why don't you come and have dinner with me, like, for example, tomorrow night, and he said, Fine. And he did. And he was the man who came to dinner, he never left. And there was no, there was no difficulty about his family's accepting our relationship, they were very glad to accept it and accepted it very, very well. But the public acceptance was very different. But Rudy, as early as 1952, was involved, along with Harry Hay in the early founding of the Machine Society. And I have here a little book that I treasure, he was Secretary and in this, I have the notes for 1952, and part of 1953, of the activities of the first Machine Society. I see here that, for example, in March of 1952, they were to have in two weeks a discussion as to how to present the homosexual culture to heterosexual society. And I read also that the moderator was to be Steve, I'd very much love to meet Steve today and talk with him. Of course, I haven't the faintest idea of who he was. And so he was, even while he was already emerging as a force in the fashion industry, and so on, was working with the Machine Society. I would say that his attitude was exactly the same as mine. Never accept actual limitations on your freedom, but remain within discretion. And so that was a fine line. And that was a fine line that you had to tread. Rudy and I were extremely well matched, we were a very well matched couple, because while we were doing very different things, we also we also had have a fundamental understanding with each other, which was, which was very strong as well and very intimate, and which was never called into question. Regardless of

the ups and downs of any relationship. The basic the basis of the relationship, the fundamental binding of the relationship was never called into question. And people always often asked us exactly the question that you would not so much what has been, what's what's particularly Do you remember, but they would ask us, How long have you been able to stay together? So 31 years? How do you make it our heterosexual friends all sort of felt on the defensive and ashamed, they'd all had three, four or five divorces. And we went on and on. I remember one very late conversation one night with a heterosexual couple with whom we were very, very close friends. And one of them said, Well, how have you two guys managed to keep going like this, you know, we're into our third and fourth husband or wife and, and so then I started off with some philosophical statement meandering along, but didn't seem to come to any particular At a point and suddenly Rudy said, Well, it's very simple. And everybody listened. And he said arrest and I have very different temperaments, we are very different, but we have the same value system. And he said I think that is why and I think he was right. I am not a fashion person. And so, I do not have too much fashion knowledge I cannot, you can talk with people far are far more competent than rubies fashion that I could hope to be. Because they they know the field of fashion. I was not in that field. And I did not live with a fashion designer, I lived with a man named Ruby gernreich. And that was something very different. Ruby was a very ethical person. And he was very conscious. He's been called a philosopher, as well as a designer, a sociologist, a social thinker, all of that he was very concerned with the relationship of clothes to human reality. What did it mean to dress? What did it mean to make yourself into an image? Image, we know is not a reality. It's a case of reality. It's an eerie reality. It is something that is in the imagination. Now, what is it we want to show when we make ours put ourselves into the imagination. And that's, of course, by the excitement of the person comes into play. Quickly, it came in 1984. Suddenly, we're celebrating the holidays in Palm Springs, and he had a kind of an attack. And after one month, as a matter of fact, on the 24th of January, he'd had his first attack on the 24th of December, they diagnosed it as lung cancer terminal. And from that point on, it was three rapid months to his death. He knew, of course, what the diagnosis was because neither one of us wanted to play games about a thing like that and pretend and it just wouldn't have been possible. Rudy couldn't pretend it. And



07:18

still, he said, I just want it to be fast.



07:24

And it was and that is something that is a comfort to me, in this area in which there is no comfort.



07:51

In 1987, America celebrated the 200th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. Michael Hardwick knows all about the Constitution, but he's not celebrating. Michael isn't the man who filed the 1983 suit claiming his constitutional right to privacy had been violated. When Atlanta police officers entered his bedroom with a warrant for a parking

violation. Finding Michael involved with sex with a man. The officers arrested him under the state sodomy statute. Melinda Tamala, to talk with Michael about his landmark arrest, his decision to fight and his dedication to go all the way to the Supreme Court.



08:35

How long ago was that?



08:38

It was about five years ago now. And for the first four and a half years, it was in the courts, and I didn't know, interviews or didn't come out publicly. And then the decision was a little more than a year ago. And it was right off the decision. Tell me how it started



08:55

from the beginning.



09:00

I was living in Atlanta, and I was working in a gay bar. And I walked out and this cop saw me leaving there in the morning, he asked me what I was doing, leave him there. I told him that I worked there. He then assumed that I was gay and proceeded to tell him that I was drinking in public, even though I wasn't drinking in public, gave me a ticket for drinking in public. skim through this real quickly. The court date came and I missed the court date. He was there in two hours with a warrant for my arrest. I was not there. So I went down to the courthouse you do that deliberately. Did you miss your court? No, there was a discrepancy on the ticket. There was a date and then there was an actual day Wednesday written on top and the date was actually Tuesday. So that day, I brought it down to the courts the same day and told the County Clerk he told me that it took 48 hours to process a warrant so that there was no possibility of the officer having a warrant for my arrest and gave receipt stating that I had taken care of the charges and that everything was in order. So about 21 days went by, and I didn't give it another thought. I came home one morning after work, and I was in a quiet residential area in Atlanta and there was three middle aged men clean cut, standing in front of my house at six o'clock in the morning, and they asked me if my name was Michael. And I said, Yes. And they proceeded to beat me up and throw the cartridge on my road, nose and crack about five of my ribs and crushed back my leg and kicked me in the head and all this stuff. And I made no correlation at the time. And about three more days went by, and I had a friend in from out of town, and I gotten home from work. And it was like 25 days after this incident with the courts. And my roommate left for work, I retired to bed with my friends. And I heard the door open, and I looked up and there was nobody there and my bedroom. So I went back to having usual oral sex with this partner of mine, and about 35 seconds went by and I looked back up, and there was officers, the same officer standing in my bedroom alone. And he then identified himself and told me that I was under arrest for sodomy. I asked him what he was doing in my bedroom. And he told me that he had a warrant for my arrest. I told him that the warrant wasn't valid, which by the way, it was the first time in 10 years with the police department that he had

personally processed a warrant. Not that he was vindictive, or anything. And so he proceeded, I told him that I had a receipt stating that I'd taken care of it and the warrant was invalid. He said that it didn't matter because he was acting under good faith. And he proceeded to arrest me and my friend bring us to jail. So um, anyway, 12 years, 12 years later, it seemed like 12 years later, 12 hours later, they got me out of jail. And I interned got my friend out of jail. And I was pretty shaken up by the whole thing. And about two or three days went by, and because the warrant that he came in with was invalid, I could have had the whole thing thrown out. And a group of lawyers contacted me and asked me if I would be willing to be a test case. Because it was two consenting adults. And it was they'd been looking for like 10 years for a situation like mine. So my friend that I was with was in a government position, he couldn't afford to do that. So they separated the cases he had thrown out and I pursued it. And that lasted about four and a half years. I did no interviews or anything, because it was a privacy issue. And we wanted it to be judged on the issue and not personal. And we were very sure that Lauren's tribe argued my case, at that point, when we went to the Supreme Court, there was 42 lawyers working on my case, 42. And after the, the arguments, we had like a pre victory lunch, and it went very well. And then we waited for about six months for the decision to come back. And found out about the decision, I was devastated.



13:35

The feeling when they came back and said that you had lost you did not succeed. Do I want



13:41

to leave the country? Is that what you want? I couldn't believe that in like, a 1987 that they were making a decision that was suitable to the Spanish Inquisition mentality. I couldn't believe this was American that this was happening in America. And I also thought everyone thought I was living in Atlanta and I had moved down to Miami. So I thought, well, you know, I'm safe and nobody knows where I am or what I look like or anything. So that's that. That's the end. And the same day of the decision that evening, I was at work behind the bar and a gay bar. And this news crew came in with camera on you right away, right behind the bar and



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you've noticed, you know, the decision, would you would you do it again? Yeah, you would do it all over again.



14:32

Even the sodomy. I have several times.



14:55

Leonard Malkovich, a decorated war hero in Vietnam, who later fought a battle in the courtrooms of America for his right to remain in the military as a gay man died of AIDS in June 1988. Before his death, our lifestyle update cameras followed Leonard as he embarked on a

1988. Before his death, our lifestyle update cameras followed Leonard as he embarked on a path that made him a loving and powerful symbol of our gay community. In Washington, DC in 1986, Leonard headed a ceremony to remember his friend, the slain San Francisco Congressman Harvey Milk. It was here at this ceremony in the congressional cemetery, that lifestyle update recorded his most powerful speech.



16:07

Maybe I better just sit down after that. What else can I make first and I myself are the co founders never forget. 12 years ago, I lived two blocks from here. And I used to come down to the cemetery and Peter Doyle is buried here. And fear toilets won't women's lover. Again, three years ago, I was in Paris, France, I was at a cemetery. And right before me was Alice B. Thomas and Gertrude Stein was so powerful. And so moving from it, to be there to be two individuals who did so much for us who led the way. And it gave me chills. And as I came back to the United States flying on the plane, I realized that in America, we have nothing similar. There were that young kid that Harvey Milk so eloquently spoke about in Altoona, Pennsylvania, that young kid can come and say, there's Harvey Milk, there is a person who did something to make my life better. And I said, then, we need to save in this country, we need to never forget, we need to know our heroes, or heroines. We need to know the ones that went before us. Every one of you, you are a parent, and who are your children. Your children are tomorrow's lesbians and gays coming along. And being a caring, loving parents you are, we're going to leave in history today. So they can pay homage to what we've done for them. I welcome you to the Congressional cemetery. Thank you very much.



18:20

Leonard was always fighting. Just a month before his death, sick with AIDS. He stood in the rain to deliver his message at the California State Capitol during the march on Sacramento for gay and lesbian rights.



18:35

And I want you to look at our flag, our rainbow flag, and I want you to look at it with pride in your heart. Because we have a dream. And what is our dream? Ours is more than an American dream. It's a universal dream. Because in South Africa, we're black and white, in Northern Ireland were Protestant and Catholic, and in Israel were Jewish and Muslim. And our mission is to reach out and teach people to love and not to hate. And, you know, the reality of the situation is that before we as an individual meets, the only thing we have in common is our sexuality. And in the AIDS crisis, and I have AIDS and in the AIDS crisis. If there's any one word that describes our community's reaction to aid, the word, love nah, nah.



19:42

Let it knock the bitches no resting and congressional cemetery. his tombstone inscription reads, When I was in the military, they gave me a medal for killing two men, and a discharge for loving one



19:57

and every body knew ie to find when the night is a proud place beneath the sun to live and love
ah and nothing is so straw as an idea whose time has come and hello we've just because that
that's awesome



20:58

was able to go the stacks and I rushed to the books of psychology and sociology to read about
who I was because I knew who I was and I wanted to expand that knowledge. And what I found
was not cheerful, that homosexuality had chapter after chapter after chapter of abnormality
and explaining where that etiology was, where that had come from. And then the
manifestations of that and then how to treat that. Economic systems were against us before
1970 Capitalism treat us as credit risks are unemployable are employable at minimum
employment. Socialists treated us as a result of capitalist bourgeois educators. The nuclear
family for which we came treated us as a birth defect. So well, you know, he's like that, you
know, he's strange, different and, but we love him just the same, or they had us treated.
lobotomies. aversion therapy, aversive conditioning, psychotherapy. person after person who
might know who's old, is physically challenged, because they were victims of electroconvulsive
shock therapy, in which they tried to burn out our love. You were sitting on a gurney and rolled
into an electric chamber and a vote of electricity was run through your bloodstream, which
courier for homosexuality, it didn't do that. But it did burn out part of your brain and made you
a stutter or stammer an alcoholic or drug addict or a somewhat physically challenged person.
Mental health industry was against us. It was bad enough to have the church and the state I
agree with us. But in 1900 90 and 10, the science pseudoscience at best of psychoanalysis,
psychotherapy was invented by Dr. Freud, Dr. Moniz mayor, Dr. Chabot and others. And they
said, Oh, please, these folk are not sinful. That's a judge but of the church, an unscientific
institution, they're just sick. And so right away, they wrote vast bodies of pseudo knowledge
made up, concocted, kastigar says cycle neurotic and convulsive behavior and on and on and
on and on. And thus they were able to testify in court that we were not full persons. And they
constituted a powerful enemy. Now, where did all that come from? I'm not sure the fear of the
unknown everyone fears