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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

pride, film, gay, lesbian, week, houston, heard, deborah, issues, year, stories, book, listening, protest, care, voting, call, life, howard ashman, shrinks

## SPEAKERS

Lucy Chappelle, Bruce Reeves, Greg Gordon, Judy Reeves

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00:02

As the telecast of the Academy Awards began and then progressed, there were no spontaneous eruptions from tuxedoed or sequined gown to queer nation infiltrators. But lesbian and gay visibility did play a part in the three and a half hour long extravaganza twice. First, in the acceptance speech given by open lesbian Deborah Chasma, for Best Short subject documentary,



00:25

I'm very grateful to my friends and family, particularly to Kim Claus dinner, my life partner, who always had faith in me, and to our son, Noah, who reminds me on a daily basis of why it's so important not to give up and to keep working for peace and justice.



00:43

The Oscar goes to Alan Menken and Howard Ashman for Beauty and the Beast from Beauty and the Beast.



00:51

Alan Menken and Howard Ashman received an Oscar for Best Original Song. Howard Ashman died of AIDS prior to the release of Beauty and the Beast. And as is customary when an Oscar is awarded posthumously, a family member was asked to accept on his behalf. That duty fell to Bill louse,



01:10

Howard and I shared a home and a life together. And I'm very happy and very proud to accept

this for him. But it is bittersweet. This is the first Academy Award given to someone we've lost to AIDS. And working on *Beauty and the Beast*, Howard faced incredible personal challenges, but always gave his best. And what made that possible was an atmosphere of understanding, love and support. That's something everyone Facing AIDS not only needs but deserves for Howard, I thank you.



01:45

Whether queer nationals were thwarted in their efforts to gain entry to the Oscar ceremony isn't clear. But Jonathan Demme who received an Oscar for his direction of this year's Best Picture, the queer criticized *Silence of the Lambs*, told reporters in a backstage press conference that he believes Hollywood is learning its lesson,



02:05

I endorsed the protests, I identify with the protests. I learned a lot from the abuse that came towards our picture from militant gay activists, because it woke me up to the fact that there is a tremendous dearth in terms of positive gay characters. My life is full of positive gay characters, and yet my movies aren't, and I wish to see them become more and more that way. And I want to see all American films become more and more that way.



02:32

Will Jonathan Demme's dream of better gay and lesbian representation in films amount to more than just a fairy tale? The answer is coming to a theater near you. Watching the image makers from Kansas City, I'm Dave Buell for this way out.



Greg Gordon 03:00

One of Oscars historic ironies was the appearance of *Basic Instinct* starring Michael Douglas following on the heels of Bill Losch his acceptance speech on behalf of his late lover Howard Ashman, this latest Hollywood release to draw outraged criticism for its negative images gets these sharp words from film reviewer John Bo prey.



03:19

Everyone should be up marching to protest TriStar Pictures new film *Basic Instinct*, not just gays and lesbians either, and not just women and minorities. Everyone should be marching in protest not because this film presents clumsy and stupid stereotypes of lesbians which it does in abundance throughout the film. They're all portrayed at very best as emotionally dysfunctional and at very least as killers. As a matter of fact, all the women in this film are killers what gives? You should be waving your banners in the night air not just because the absolutely beautiful Sharon Stone the prime suspect and most visible lesbian bisexual, is depicted as only finding fulfillment in the arms and bed I might add of a straight white middle class authority figure and the embodiment of Michael Douglas, as if to say all she really needed

was a good straight white middle class man. No, we shouldn't even be protesting that. After all, virtually all our mainstream media has been portraying gays and lesbians with such distortion for so long. No, the real reason that you should grab your placards and join the protest against this dreadful film is that Carol co who conspired with Tristar on this project, paid writer Joe s Rojas a cool \$3 million, almost four times what it takes to run this station for a year to write this cliché written piece of trash. And star producer Michael Douglas was paid \$15 million for his participation. What could any charity do with 15 million bucks today? How much AZT was that by Michael? My companion and I started counting the meaningful glances. You know those moments when someone on screen says something momentous. We focus on our heroes inscrutable face than a reverse shot whose friend equally inscrutable exchanging some private moment of understanding, we counted nearly 30 In the first half of the film before we gave up, as for cliché Is this film will stand as a catalogue for hackneyed formula filmmaking? For example, this so called thriller is set in San Francisco right? Well other than Dirty Harry's big phallic pistol, what movie cliché do you most associated with San Francisco? Could it just be a wild car chase maybe with airborne vehicles on SF stabled street Striking sparks on every available building. Give me a break. Then why is it that all these would be working class bohemian types live in luscious homes and drive expensive cars? They seem to suffer all those dreadful rich white upper middle class American afflictions like you know, quitting smoking drinking too much driving too fast, being loud and obnoxious having no meaning in their life. It makes killing your mate the central theme of this film about as dramatic as the heartbreak of psoriasis. And while we're on the subject, what is this business of movie psychologists having sex with their patients? Barbra Streisand and McNulty seem to hit the hay without a fairly well and Prince of Tides, and Richard Gere, and what's your name? That blonde one in final analysis? And now the aforementioned Mr. Douglas and Jeanne Tripplehorn as police shrink Beth Garner in this piece of dreck. All these writers who have their shrinks doing the dirty deed with their patients are living out some kind of fantasy and a very dangerous one at that. These movies shrinks are all beautiful and desirable and have absolutely nothing to do with the real world of psychology. What's really a tragedy though is the Dutch filmmaker Paul Verhoeven and his regular cinematographer John de bont made a truly astonishing and stylish film in the Netherlands some years ago called The fourth man which concerns gender confusion, murderous goings on and people being stabbed right and left by truckloads of pipe and scissors and knives. That film was stylish and chic and even cruel in a beautiful sort of way. It also had a deep and disturbing mystery that Basic Instinct thoroughly lacks. There was some concern about the GLAAD marchers giving away the ending of the film to people in line at the theater to discourage people from seeing it. That seems like an exercise in futility is there's never really any mystery or question as to who done it. The red herring tag ending notwithstanding, any six year old mystery reader can see this ending miles away. And I don't mean to insult six year olds either. I have to say I love controversial material, this film would have to rise several levels to become controversial. I would discourage anyone from seeing this movie, not because of its offensive treatment of lesbians, but rather for its offensive assault on our intelligence. Basic Instinct basically stinks. This is jumbo prey.



07:45

It's a kinder, gentler nation. That's America today. Nothing really changing. It's just something that we say. To the children left alone, we are best wishes for nothing will lead.



Lucy Chappelle 08:23

The Honorable Barney Frank, openly gay member of the US House of Representatives is the author of a new book, speaking frankly, what's wrong with the Democrats and how to fix it. He spoke just as frankly with this way as Greg Gordon about his perspective on American politics.



08:40

I am in politics because I care a lot about a certain set of issues. I would like to see the government doing a lot more to alleviate poverty. I think that it is important that we increase our efforts to deal with the effects of discrimination against racial minorities, women, gay men and lesbians. I think that we should be doing a great deal more in this country to provide those things that can only be done through government. We don't do nearly well enough in what we can do to complement the free market in terms of providing a good life through collective activity. My sense is that the Democratic position on things like the right of women to choose when they are pregnant to whether or not to have an abortion, increasing the availability of health care. Do we more to make housing affordable, similar issues, that the Democratic side is the most popular, but when we get to the presidential level, for a series of historical reasons, we've done a very poor job of presenting those issues. And I'm tired of losing. One of these, they argue in this book is that people who care a lot about the environmental issues, civil liberties issues, racial discrimination, gay rights, the rights of women ought to be much more interested in seeing that we are able to implement them. There's a debate I think that we need to have about what makes you morally serious. Some of my friends think that if you're morally serious, you take your position, and you never compromise. You never deviate. You simply stated and restated and any movement to settle for less than that somehow is morally flawed. I think that's the opposite of the truth. I think the truth is that the more serious you are about something, the more you care about a set of issues, the more willing you are to work hard to get the maximum implemented. And that means worrying more about winning an election, because losers cannot implement their policy positions to take the current situation. Should gay men and lesbians be banned from the military as if we were somehow an infectious plague, while every Democratic candidate for president says no. And George Bush and pat buchanan say yes.



Greg Gordon 10:49

It seems to me that the fewer and fewer people have been going to the polls to vote, particularly in presidential elections. And some people have said that there's a correlation between the increase in negative ads in the fact that it's, quote, turning off the electorate altogether. And certainly, I would think, although I don't know if there's ever been any studies done on this, that the people who tend to vote more conservative Republican, will go to the polls, the people who favor the issues that you've been talking about, would tend to be the ones that would be disaffected to the extent that they are not going to the polls,



11:22

if the people who run these negative ads thought that the effect of running the negative edge would be to keep the people most likely to oppose them from voting at all, you will get many more negative edge.



Greg Gordon 11:31

Not only that, but I'm so tired of voting for the lesser of two evils.



11:35

People who can't tolerate that, I guess, aren't really cut out for democracy. We share this country 250 plus million of us, that seems to me to be, frankly, a kind of self indulgence to say, Well, wait a minute, these two candidates, I realized there were real differences, I realized that one is going to do much more damage to me than the other. But neither one comes up to my standards, so I won't lower myself by voting. Well, I suppose if you are yourself fairly well off economically. If you do not feel yourself to be a member of a vulnerable minority group. If you feel that your own personal life will go forward because you've got the resources to protect yourself. That's a rational, albeit selfish choice. But taking George Bush and Michael Dukakis taking Walter Mondale and Ronald Reagan, if you cared about gay and lesbian rights, if you cared about the right of women to have an abortion, if you cared about extending medical care for people who don't have adequate medical care now to take three important issues, in every case, you should have voted enthusiastically for the Democrat and against the Republican or vice versa. If you took the more conservative position, had Michael Dukakis been elected instead of George Bush, Thurgood Marshall and William Brennan would have been replacing the United States Supreme Court by people like Thurgood Marshall and William Bennett, instead of by their exact ideological opposites. And I would think people who tell me that they're serious about these kinds of issues, would rather have seen that.



Lucy Chappelle 13:03

Barney Frank talks more about his strategy to advance progressive causes in part two of this interview next time on this way out. Thanks for choosing this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week Cindy Freedman marks aka Mauna Kea frog. De Buhl Jambo pray and Lisa Martinez contributed program material thanks also to Christopher David Trenton,



Greg Gordon 13:28

Amanda McBroom and Holly near and mid Christian perform some of the music you heard and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.



Lucy Chappelle 13:35


This way out is brought to you each week by a staff of community volunteers and is sustained by financial support from the community. Funding for satellite distribution and some expenses has been provided by the Paul Rapoport Foundation and the funding of change



Greg Gordon 13:50

audio cassettes of this way our programs are available by mail individually or by subscription.

Write to us for more information.

 Lucy Chappelle 13:56

We'd also love to hear from you with any comments, suggestions or questions you might have. Just to let us know that you're listening right to this way out post office box 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038. This was produced by Richard Chappelle and Greg Gordon, and we thank you for listening on one YC Auckland, WC SB Cleveland and KPFA Houston among others, and for supporting this local community radio station to which we know you'll stay tuned.

 Bruce Reeves 14:26

And you are listening to KPFT in Houston and the after our show, and that was this way. Yeah. Wow. They gave our call letters. I've never heard that before. But we've got hopefully jazz pas will be here shortly. We've got we'll have her on at two o'clock to talk about her book, our pride, which she's writing about Pride Week. And

 Judy Reeves 14:53

now it could be an awfully thick book. Yeah, it

 Bruce Reeves 14:57

could be real thick. But At let's listen to music. Okay?

 Judy Reeves 15:04

Punch. Punch the right one well,

 Bruce Reeves 15:08

my fingers aren't working.

 Judy Reeves 15:10

No come in

 15:26

when they cry to unite is in the air, fear, death and dying, even despair. But hopefully determined we will survive by keeping the flames of our faith alive. A cry to unite is in the air, singing praises of pride. A cry to unite is in the air. a time to celebrate. to love to care. Forever

United We must stand or divided, we will surely fall. Listen to the cry, rise up stand tall. A cry to unite is in the air, singing praises cried. A cry to unite is in the air. bonding of souls and hearts everywhere. Our dream to unite must come true. The courage to face the world as you cried to unite is in the air, singing praises of pride ever everywhere.

B

Bruce Reeves 16:46

And that was to what his poem praises of pride that he wrote for Pride Week a couple of years ago. And joining us now is Esperanza lavender jazz pause to talk about the book she's writing called our pride, which is about Pride Week. So good morning, jazz.



17:07

Good morning.

B

Bruce Reeves 17:09

So what made you decide to write a book jazz.



17:15

Last year was my first year to be involved with Lesbian Gay Pride Week. And I was on the parade committee. And I didn't have any written documents from the previous year on how to run a parade. And I had never done that before. And then as I became more involved with other committees, I thought, Well, surely somebody will be able to tell me how this was done previously. And there was no collection of information. And the more I asked the more curious I got. And then I got to thinking, Well, I wonder how this began in the very beginning. And where did people collect to express their pride? And how do they do it in Houston and curiosity got the better of me. And now I'm going to have to write a book to get all the answers.

B

Bruce Reeves 18:00

Well, that sounds like a lot of fun. So it's about Pride Week in Houston. It's about



18:06

Gay Pride Week, or pride, our pride in Houston, we didn't always have a Pride Week in Houston. And sometimes we didn't have very much at all in Houston. So it's not about Pride Week, per se. Now that we do have a year round organization called Pride Week, it's about our history. And what we have done through the years, up to and including now and it will talk about some of our heroes, some of the names that keep getting mentioned to me again and again, is people that if you're going to write a book about pride in Houston, you should really talk to and so it's

going to have a little bit of biography and little insight from those people as well as from participants and observers who are not as well known, but who have their own story to tell about pride in Houston.

B

Bruce Reeves 18:54

Sounds like a lot of fun. It's a lot of fun. It's fun. Get all the stories about all the fights and squabbles and stuff to



19:05

nobody really wants to talk too much about that, but I'm gonna find out.

B

Bruce Reeves 19:09

Well, I'm sure Jack and I can tell you and Deborah Belkin. I'll tell you about the wonderful time we were almost barbecued on the back patio at the BRB one Sunday.

J

Judy Reeves 19:22

Yeah, that's carrying state nine a little too far.

B

Bruce Reeves 19:27

Yeah, it was. Actually we were we were very thankful to get off the patio that night without tar and feathers. Well, it was a very interesting experience, to say the least. But I know there's a lot of stories like that out there. They've been. I think I was telling Jack when they were on a couple of weeks ago that they had succeeded last year and doing two things that no one else had ever succeeded in doing before they got rained down. Right but that got all the way through pride Sunday with no major problems, they didn't have any major backlash in the community about one issue or another? Because it seems like there's always been an issue there about, you know, whether we're gonna put the words on the t shirt or not, you know, or is,



20:12

that's been,

B

Bruce Reeves 20:14

that's been a real big one. I mean, it has been a big one, you know, there was about four years ago, I think all but one person of the committee resigned, like three weeks before,





20:25

we heard about that we can do whatever. And then we just have some real interesting stories in our community that keep getting repeated and repeated, almost until they become true. I have really enjoyed talking to people in here, and outrageous things about my friends that I'd never heard before. So I'm gonna try to collect all these things together. And as accurately as I can document, who said what, and when, and take pictures and clippings, and I think it's gonna be a good book, I'm really enjoying putting it together.



Bruce Reeves 20:57

Sounds like it's gonna be a lot of fun. So, who knows? So how far into this are you I mean, you're just getting started. Or



21:06

presently I am collecting interviews from individuals who had been good enough to call and say I want to be in this book. And I make clear to people that unless you prefer not to be credited, I will definitely use your story in your name, and give credit to pictures and clippings and other documents that people are willing to share with me because I would like for this book to be one that has everybody in our community in it in some way. I think it'll be a more accurate representation. If we have representatives of every organization that's related to pride into gay and lesbian positivity in this community. I'm going to use people's names, if they allow me to, to say, at this particular event, this is what so and so saw, or this is what they remember. So that's what I'm doing right now is collecting interviews from people that are willing to be interviewed. Okay.



Judy Reeves 22:11

That sounds like a really interesting book, it sounds like something that that anybody who's around in Houston would want to read. But more important than that, I mean, you're talking about documentation and things that makes it an historic book. I mean, that's something that's going to sit on the shelf and, and 2550 years down the road, these kids can pick up the book and say, gee, you know, this really happened, and this was in Houston, and they have a name to acquire. I mean, we have a lot of names in our history that people suspect and people heard things and saw things, but it's a lot of it suspicion. I mean, these people didn't come out 100 years ago. But now it's different. And you can I have documentation is the most important and it's the most exciting thing to me.



22:53

That's what I think I not only was this recently, an issue with me needing information, like from one year to the next to be as successful Pride Week, team member, but we have very rich, remote history of the raids on the bars and the rallies in Sprott park that I don't know anything about because I wasn't living in Houston, and I wasn't out. But some of the people who who

know about what happened to us a long time ago are dead or gone or moved. And I do intend for this to be a historical document, I think I can document it well enough and leave a trail of evidence to say, this is essentially our history. This is what happened, according to those people who are there.

B

Bruce Reeves 23:48

Commonly, of course, Pride week around the country got started basically in 1969, with the Stonewall riots when a group of drag queens basically said, you know, we're not going to deal with this anymore. We're tired of these bar raids and you know, you're not just going to come in and take over and they literally kept the police in New York at bay for several days. And it was a nasty, nasty riot.



24:13

Yeah, I've heard that it really was, you know, Pride Week induced, not Pride Week, but pride. Gay and Lesbian pride in Houston existed before that, though. I've talked to people like Andy Mills, and Jack and other people. lady victoria lust have these people have told me of stories of how people used to congregate in private homes, they had parties, private parties, and outrageous rituals, and things that they did to express solidarity and pride. Way before Stonewall, and I'm even trying to research and document these things. The old landmarks that don't exist anymore and the old figures that that are gone or but that people know about or had pictures of Our pride in our history has existed long before Stonewall and as much as I can, with the inadequate resources that I have still available, I'm going to try to reconstruct as much of that as I can as well.

B

Bruce Reeves 25:16

Sounds like a very worthwhile but very taxing.



25:21

Very, very time consuming it is. It's, it's very rewarding it I get a lot of good self esteem, from knowing that I am of these people. This is my culture, and this is what I belong to. And it's been very positive experience for me to do this.

B

Bruce Reeves 25:41

While no just listening to the old stories themselves has to be thrilled because I Oh, I hope he's not listening. But I love to listen to radio.



25:56

Ray has some stories to tell. And I, I haven't heard very many of them, in their entirety from

him. And I'm looking forward to doing that. I know, he's been real busy lately. But I'm hoping now that he'll have some more time and then I'll be able to talk to him. He's, he's one of the ones that I Boy, I'm waiting for him to tell me some of these stories.

B

Bruce Reeves 26:16

I can probably tell you a book all and



26:20

I wouldn't be surprised.

B

Bruce Reeves 26:23

It's interesting. There's a lot of people like Ray in their community where they can be information. And so somebody's if they're interested in giving you a call and saying, Hey, Jess, I want to be part of your book Girl, please



26:35

give me a call. Oh, please give me a call. Whether you have a story, whether you have a lead a contact person, a question that I can follow up on. I really would like to hear from you. You can call me at home. My number is 5229325. I'm almost never home. So leave me a message and I'll call you back. Or you can call me at work. 5279111. And that's the tweet office right that I work with.

B

Bruce Reeves 27:08

Oh, wonderful. So goodness, it just did sounds overwhelming to me. I can't imagine just so much of it. It's hard to even think of a question when I can, but I know. Yeah, is Chris Deborah Belen, our co chairs, God, four years ago. Five years ago, five years ago. No, it was an 88

J

Judy Reeves 27:36

Deborah Belen, Bruce Reese were coaches A while back, it was

B

Bruce Reeves 27:39

an 88. But and it was just, it was Chris, Deborah had been co chair the year before, which made my life a lot easier because Deborah knew what all had gone on. And I had been on the committee the year before, but I hadn't really been, you know, like crazy, crazy involved. And it was, but it was just, it's amazing to me the quantity of information that has to be reinvented every year to do that. And it's because people work with it, and then they retire. And the next

group of people that come in a lot of times, don't want to go to the people the year before to ask questions, because there's some kind of friction there or something. And, and so you lose a lot of continuity. And, and I've always been, I've, we've discussed several times that, you know, someday it would be really nice if Pride Week, rotated people through, you know, instead of just it's like, you go in every year, and I like to cold people, because it's, you know, this year, I'll be real good because you got Jack and Carol at the helm for the second time. And so they know what's going on.



28:50

And they're doing a good job. Pride Week, is really going to flourish under the direction of Jack and Carol, they were in charge last year, and they are again, and we're real lucky to have their their dedication. Like I said, Pride Week now under their direction is a year round project with other events being sponsored by Pride Week. And I think it's going to make it a lot easier for everybody that's involved. We won't have to reinvent the wheel every year, like you say, and it'll make my job easier when I do you know, an update to my book.



Judy Reeves 29:29

I think will already in the making.



Bruce Reeves 29:32

Of course, I guess sort of a news item that many of you may not be aware of but Pride week just got their own 501 C three status. So sometime in the coming year, they're going to be actually moving out from underneath the umbrella of the Montrose activity center and, and moving into their own world and I think that's really great because it's I think it's a long time overdue and that'll really give Pride Week full control of you know everything that goes Some, and I think that's a big step and, and they got approval in just a short time. I mean, it's like three months I think which is almost unheard of to get 501 C three status,



30:13

very, very dedicated and skilled people working with pride we can very fortunate to have the people that we have a lot of important things are being done very efficiently in very well. Presently, I think because of the good example of Carol and Jack and that they can inspire people to do what they want done. And also because we have good people in the community that care a lot about lesbian and gay pride, and they're all very generous in their efforts in donating their time and their skills to get stuff done. And this 501 C threes is very important step in our progress in the very existence of Pride Week, it's going to make us much more capable of executing the plans that we would like to have done.



Bruce Reeves 31:08

And I guess course in writing the the different stories about Pride Week and and our pride in general, it's not just about Pride Week, but I'm sure you could use all kinds of things besides

general, it's not just about Pride week, but I'm sure you could use all kinds of things besides interviews, probably like copies of logos, or Oh, yes, pride guides for that year. And you pride guides laying around, I'm sure.



31:29

She'd love to borrow them. And it old pride guides, newspaper clippings. I wasn't in Houston. I've only been back to Houston for about two years, three years, maybe now. And while I was away, I understand that there were some very rowdy parades with a lot of police and press coverage in some real law. Some some coverage by not gay friendly media, as well as you know, with our own publications, and if anybody has a collection of any kind of clippings, pictures, anything that I can look at and make a copy of I'll give it back and I'll give credit in the brochure. Sure. Oh, any kind of souvenirs that I can look at. Yeah, I really want this to be an encyclopedia of Pride Week specifically, and our pride. Our good feelings about ourselves, peripherally



Judy Reeves 32:28

should give your numbers again.



32:30

My home number, if you will call me is 5229325. And my office number where you can also leave a message is 5279111 and this is it twit.



Bruce Reeves 32:50

Okay, let's take a short music break and then we'll come back and talk to jazz a little bit more about her book you're listening to after hours here on KPFT continuing tradition of the gay and lesbian community in Houston.