

# gcam\_ah\_19970621\_t2\_02.mp3\_edit

Wed, Mar 22, 2023 2:06PM 40:58

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, night, stonewall, gay bars, gay, cops, police, people, bar, felt, stonewall riots, drag queens, homosexual, women, stone wall, week, riot, day, village, closet

---

00:00

Oh, that was pretty stuff.

00:03

That was nice that nice. I'm gonna be mellow how I got back out there

00:07

I am. I'm gonna be playing more of that in

00:09

the future that is no

00:10

yes there are lots of other good tunes on that I've got a whole tape for you know 10 tunes,

00:18

but we'll just oh

00:21

yes we will. There's just too too much going on this week. I know 1000s of things which we read read off for you but there was like tomorrow zoom CCR thing at around 11 downtown Music Hall there's more things just everywhere going on. There's the community gospel thing has another

one after that. There's the pride thing that Gentry is there's a show adventure to that there's things things things things things all week long. Yes. Get involved in some of them. And keep track of this dos Chico's production thing. Oh,



00:59

yeah. Empire stop lesbians of Sodom



01:02

and sleeping beauty or coma coming up with a brand new theater starting July 10. Downtown at three live in Maine and New theater. We had a number for that and I don't know what I do with my little pink thingy. Well,



01:14

we bringing it to you in the future bringing it to you in the future because we're you know that that's after Pride Week. So



01:20

Oh, yes, it is okay to do entry in the parade this year. You know, a new entry in the parade Jimmy Carper commerce. And you've had this Commerce Bank is Oh,



01:32

entry in the gay and lesbian Pride Parade. Movie Miring my bank account Oh, honey.



01:40

Oh three snaps from the rainbow girl.



01:43

Listen, we got to get to this stage. Yeah, cuz it's the longest time the history of the Stonewall riots. This is runs about 30 minutes. 3035 minutes, we will be back to say goodbye and I'll see you next week. Yes, bye Bye, sweetie. Love you.



02:15

Today, this white two story building across from Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village is a clothing store and a closed Chinese restaurant 20 years ago. This was the Stonewall Inn. I'm

Michael shirker and I'm working on the first comprehensive history of the Stonewall riots. In 1969, the Stonewall was one of the most popular gay bars in New York City. And, like all other gay bars was routinely raided by the Vice Squad. The patrons of these bars, many of whom were frightened and having their identities revealed would quietly submit to any orders coming from the police. Yet, on June 27 1969, that all changed. The patrons of this bar with the drag queens at the forefront decided to fight back against the police. What happened here on that night would spark a revolution.

03:15

My I'm Jean Harwood and my age is at

03:22

um,

03:23

Bruce mero.

03:25

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

03:29

my age 78 Yes,

03:32

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

04:17

And you would judge me when you took my hand. Something happened. I had never

04:31

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



05:12

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.



05:47

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're 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 she were afraid that the recommendations that would come if you even stood there protested would be worse than just



06:41

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



06:52

There are before us now more was the harder there was always the gay bash and under drag queens



07:03

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



07:19

about it. 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, being masked, or in any manner disguised by unusual or unnatural attire, or facial alteration, loiters remains or congregates



08:23

in a public at that time, we looked at the reverse the hotel with the



08:27

sky around does not



08:31

try to figure out when and when this masquerade harassment would come to an end with knowing and or he would always dream that one day. It would come to an end when such and we prayed and we looked for it wanted to be human beings



09:02

My name is Rob Mahoney. I've been hanging out drinking, partying and working and the gay boys for the last 30 years. And the era before Stonewall all, 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 one or two 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



09:50

dump I'm Joe Nestle, co founder of what is now the largest collection of lesbian culture in the world. The police serrated 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 there 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 bush 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 wall. Oh,



11:06

that was good. That was just to get into the stone wall. You'd walk up and you'd knock on the front door. In knocking the door opening, Eduardo wants a merry sent me good cleaning girls, you know, when you walked in to your right was your boiler room to know, windows down at the far end of the bar was an opening in the wall going into the dance room with the jukebox in that room. And no one does in that room either. The stone wall, like all gay bars at that time with painted black, charcoal black. And what was the funny but the 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



12:08

felt 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.



12:42

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



13:16

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 homosexuals. Mayor John Lindsay had good reason to agree to the police crackdown. He had just lost his party's primary and needed a popularity boost. And the Stonewall Inn was indeed an inviting target. Operated by the Gambino crime family without a liquor license. This dance bar drew a crowd of drag queens, hustlers miners, and more masculine lesbians known as Bulldogs. Many were black or Hispanic. It was a warm night in New York City and a somber day for many. Judy Garland, who had died earlier in the week was buried that morning. It was almost precisely at midnight that the moral squad pulled up to the Stonewall Inn, led by Deputy Inspector Seymour prime.



14:44

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



14:54

He could actually feel it Yeah. You really could. I guess God God was that just really helped us really hit fair. And for



15:03

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



15:11

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



15:30

queen, as we put her in the car, opened the door on the other side and jumped out. At which time, we have 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 handcuffs the person. From this point on, things really began to get crazy.



16:05

My name is Robert Rivera. 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 religious 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 heels. She knocked them down and then she proceeded to frisk him for her the keys to the handcuffs that she got them and she handed herself and passed on to another queen that was behind her.



16:51

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



16:59

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 for my column. It really did appear at that crowd. Because we could look for little peep holes in the plywood windows. We could look out and we could see that the crowd all 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 me out



17:41

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 to control



18:22

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 because I started screaming freedom. We're free at last hour. It felt really good.



18:42

There were a couple of cops stationed on either side of the door with the pistols like in a combat stance aimed in the door area. 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.



19:03

Remember, these were pros. But everybody was frightened. There's no question around. And I was frightened. And I had been in any combat situation. And there was never any time that I felt more scared than I felt that night. And I mean, it was just you know there was no place to run.



19:33

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 canceled, and the telephone inside the Stonewall went dead. It took nearly 45 minutes for the riot police to get to the Stonewall and rescue them Morell squad from the smouldering bar



20:04

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



20:17

My name is Martin boys. In 1969. I was a drug known as mismarked. 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 songs to sing. We are the village girls. We wear our hair and girls we wear our dungarees are above our Nellies and the police going crazy hearing that and they just immediately rush because we gave one kick and fled.



20:49

My name is Rudy and the night of the Stonewall I was 18.



20:54

And to tell you the truth.



20:57

That night I was doing more running and fighting. I remember looking back from 10th street and there wherever the street there was a police I believe on this cop and his on his stomach in his tactical uniform and his helmet and everything else. With a drag queen straddling him. She was beaten the hell out of him with her shoot, whether it was a high heeled or not, I don't know. But she was beaten the hell out of her sister.



21:27

My name is mama Jean. I'm a lesbian. And I guess you labeled me as a butch. I remember on that night I was at the gay bar 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 our police coming from every direction hittin women, as well as men within nightsticks gay men running down the street with blood 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.



22:05

But here the screen is gone completely bananas, you know, jumping and hitting the windshield. And next thing you know the taxi cab was speeding over other 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.



22:27

I remember one cop coming at me, hitting me with the knife stick in the back of my legs. I broke loose. I went after him. I grabbed this nightstick. My girlfriend went behind him. She was a strong seven. I want him to feel the same pain I felt. And I kept on saying to him, he liked the pain. Do you like it Do you like and I kept on hit given him. I was angry. I went to kill. At that particular minute I went I wanted



22:53

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



23:06

Like just when you see a man protecting his own life. They weren't the Queen's that people call them. They were men fighting for their lives. And I fight alongside them any day medical there was a lot



23:19

of heads for bash.



23:24

But it didn't hurt their



23:27

feelings they all came back from when you could tell that nothing could stop us from that time at anytime in the future.



23:48

The media covered the riot extensively. The Daily News featured it on its front page. There were reports on all the local television and radio stations. By the next day graffiti calling for gay power had appeared on buildings and sidewalks all over the West Village hastily worked up flyers distributed on street corners touted the night as the Hairpin drop heard round the world. And the next night 1000s of men and women converged on the West Village. They came here back to the stone wall to see what would happen next. While trash cans were set on fire stones were thrown and sporadic fighting broke out between police and gays, the more than 400. Riot police milling around the village 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.



25:13

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



25:47

My name is Jenny Prusa. In 1969, I was in the convent. I was in the Sisters of Charity, and when Stonewall hit the press it hit me with a bolt of lightning 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, was only a matter of weeks before I left the convent and started a new life.



26:47

I'm Henry Baird, in 1969. I was in the US Army, a specialist three stationed at 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. In my heart was filled with joy. I thought about what I had read frequently but 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 those



27:29

of us in public Marvel's after the Stonewall incident, things were completely changed from what they had previously been. They they suddenly were not submissive anymore, they now suddenly had gained a a new type of courage. And it seemed as if they didn't care anymore about whether they were whether their identities were made known. We were now dealing with human being



28:03

my name 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 and Waverly

Place. We went and Randy wicker was running the meeting. For



28:25

10 years, I've been gone on television, as Randy wicker, the respectable homosexual dressed and 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.



29:01

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.



29:43

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 it. 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,



30:33

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



31:05

archives 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 its voice in the streets. That night, in some very deep way. We finally found our place in history. Not as a dirty joke. Not as a doctor's case study. Not as free, but as a pupil.



31:55

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.



32:09

Ah



32:11

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 Friday 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



32:44

ever



32:49

and the the same as I was before



33:06

No



33:13

it's too



33:31

shall not get on the sound they have been they started really started with Shana really helped me started really started



33:53

counting time



33:59

to gather all the



34:09

data to fight me about when we are



34:23

bound to win man we shall not get locked up like we have done that



34:38

we have really reached out now they're backed up by pay me video we shall not be waiting on this saw the



35:16

history of the Stonewall riots, followed by the lesbian and gay chorus of Washington DC doing we shall not give up the fight. History of Stonewall riots that is the reason that we have a Pride Day Parade so that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people can walk proudly down Westheimer as we should be able to do every day of the year. That's our goal.



35:56

You know, Jimmy, I'm, I'm 54. Now I can remember when Stonewall happen. I wasn't out of the closet. But I thought, this is something that is a part of me, but I couldn't figure out what it was not really. But I came out in 1975. Okay, so that was six years after Stonewall. But every time I hear this, I look back at those days. And they were tough.



36:24

They were very tough. They were very tough. And, you know, we're about to embark on having hatch on regularly on after hours, the first first Saturday of every month. And we're talking about kids that did not have to go through this to try it did not have to go through this. There's there's there's still problems. It's we are not without discrimination,



36:51

right. We're not and we've got a way to go. But



36:55

the kids growing up now. Don't know really what it's like to be ashamed of who you are.



37:03

Yeah. You know, I say Jimmy that then, when somebody was in the closet JUnit you didn't ask him why? You knew why, of course. But now. But now dear, dear one, when somebody's in the closet, you almost have to say why? Yeah, that's it because we've come a long ways. From from what I see them. I cannot possibly dream of being in the closet. Knowing what went on then of knowing that I come out in a very hard time. But knowing what goes on now,



37:40

that is the reason we have pride.



37:44

Oh, yes. Oh, yeah. I am a staunch believer in reincarnation. And I hope to I hope to god I come back as a gay man, knowing that it'll be even better when I'm dead and gone. And and then come back.



38:01

Yeah. Yeah, it will be. It gets better every day. They cry. Yeah. You've got something to say. Since you are a survivor of Stonewall your own self.



38:13

Yeah, I was. I was there that night. I was there for all three night. Yes. But I can say that. One of the interesting things that on the first night. Midway, okay, when the riots started, it started around midnight, right?



38:30

That's why it's the 27th 28th.



38:32

And the interesting thing, is that midway you were I don't know, I guess it's close around 233 o'clock in the morning. One of the cops had my first lover in a headlock, okay? And he had his nightstick which doesn't look like the ones you have now, those long billy clubs that they had

back in those days. And my my boyfriend had was wearing the Javelin type granny class. And he had my boyfriend in a headlock. And I saw the cop. Take the billy club, and with the back end, the button is too small and that the one the part that's close to the wrist, to the hand, hit him across the eyes, breaking the glasses, and all I could see was blood streaming down my boyfriend's face. And I went cuckoo. There cops him was going he had his hand back up again getting ready to hit him. And at that same instant I had jumped on the cops back snatch that billy club out of his hand and started beating him on his chest as hard as I could. You know and next thing I know I get hit. I see. blinding white light, intense pain in my head and I'm flat on my back with blood coming down me. Apparently some carpet. Done some are also in stone or what But a group of lesbians one of them grabbing each part of me one on a leg, another one another leg and my arm and everything and they brought me somewhere and they patched me up and those nights those those three nights of rioting I don't know the listeners just it was nothing like it before or since since Yes. Oh man, I tell you what, I get goosebumps every time.



40:29

But that is the reason that we march you've been listening to after hours, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station coming up in 10 seconds will be the BBC News followed by after after hours. We're going to be bringing you three hours of music until the blues comes on. Okay, okay. We need to remind