

CRISTAN And I just couldn't get this depression out of my system. I was just so depressed. And all I could think about is
WILLIAMS: that there's just something wrong with me. I just didn't fit in with everyone else. You know?

MAN: Mm-hmm.

CRISTAN I felt like some sort of vital instructions had been withheld, whenever God put penises and goobers on people or
WILLIAMS: something. I just didn't fit in.

[LAUGHTER]

And I was just so off-- just so depressed. It was over the summer, and I spent most of my time in my room, cross-dressed. And, yeah, just felt so guilty, so ashamed.

I slept most of the day when-- didn't have friends or anything. And I told my mom.

JIMMY CARPER: I cannot imagine this.

CRISTAN Walked in-- yes. I walked into--

WILLIAMS:

BETH I'm remembering this.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

CRISTAN Yes.

WILLIAMS:

BETH I mean, this is--

RICHARDS:

CRISTAN I walked in to talk to my mother and sat down. And I remember she was rocking in her chair. She was in a rocking
WILLIAMS: chair.

MAN: Imagine.

CRISTAN And I sat down. And I said, I have something awful to tell you. And she was rocking. And she said-- I said, mom,
WILLIAMS: I'm gay. And she was rocking, and she stopped in mid-rock--

[LAUGHTER]

--and sat there for a few minutes. And I just remembered all this crushing shame. And she said, why do you think that you're gay? And she said-- and I said, [SIGHS] you know, I, [SIGH] I, I just feel like I should have been born a girl. And I just-- I can't-- as much as I would like to stop cross-dressing--

I didn't call it cross-dressing. I said, I do things like put on girls pants. [LAUGHS] And I can't-- I'm just so depressed. And she said, well, that's not necessarily being gay. She was very supportive.

BETH Wow.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

CRISTAN And right after that, she took me to therapy.

WILLIAMS:

BETH This was high school, right, you said?

RICHARDS:

CRISTAN No, actually, this was elementary school.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

BETH Whoa. OK.

RICHARDS:

CRISTAN And she took me to therapy. And I went in to see the therapist. And I remember this. He was-- [EXHALES] how

WILLIAMS: many-- do y'all watch *Frazier*?

MAN: Yes.

CRISTAN OK. You know Frazier's brother?

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH Yes.

RICHARDS:

CRISTAN This guy reminds me of this guy. He sat down. He was very proper. Set back and looked at me.

WILLIAMS:

He had his pen. He was clicking it near his mouth and looked at me. And said, [CLEAR THROAT] do you masturbate?

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Who the hell doesn't?

BETH That is elementary school age, though?

RICHARDS:

CRISTAN And I didn't know what that meant.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

[LAUGHTER]

This was really elementary, wasn't it?

CRISTAN And he explained it all to me.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, why? Was he--

CRISTAN He had little hand puppets.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

CRISTAN And I just--

WILLIAMS:

[LAUGHTER]

And I just remember feeling so silly and put on the spot. And I decided that this is just--

JIMMY CARPER: Hand puppets?

[LAUGHTER]

CRISTAN --horrible. And I just need to get into shape and just straighten myself up. And so I did that by smoking a lot of

WILLIAMS: weed.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

[COUGHING]

Hey, works for me.

[LAUGHTER]

[COUGHING]

BETH Please don't murder Jackie.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Jackie, honey, your turn is coming, dear.

[LAUGHTER]

CRISTAN And I used drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism. And that worked really well, up until about high school.

WILLIAMS: And I-- it just wasn't working anymore.

And I was really depressed again. I just felt like-- I felt as if I just had this big gaping hole in the middle of my gut. And I felt, any time that I was around a lot of people in a room, I was completely alone. I didn't feel like I had anyone that I could talk to, at all.

As a matter of fact, it was at that time-- they had TWITs back then. And I found an address for transsexual help. And I didn't want anyone to know my identity. So I pulled out this old 1940s typewriter, and I typed out a little bit about myself and sent it off.

I received a reply, about a month later. And I remember getting it in the mail, and running into my room, and sitting down. And I opened the letter. And what I got was my letter back, except it had, in red ink, corrections.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

CRISTAN Spelling corrections, grammar corrections.

WILLIAMS:

BETH You got an English teacher?

RICHARDS:

[LAUGHTER]

CRISTAN I'm serious. I swear to God. I decided, no, this is just not for me anymore. Obviously, I'm not going to fit in. And so

WILLIAMS: I smoked a lot more dope and got a lot more depressed.

And I remember I went to my guidance counselor, in school, and explained things. And she leaned forward and said, you need to quit school.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

BETH Whoa.

RICHARDS:

MAN: [INAUDIBLE].

CRISTAN Yes. No, this was in Alvin, Alvin, Texas. And she said, you need to quit school because you're just not going to do

WILLIAMS: well in this atmosphere. You should quit school. And so, I quit school, and I went to a college.

JIMMY CARPER: Who is this idiot person? Do they still work there?

CRISTAN I have no idea. I have no idea. She was an older lady.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Still.

CRISTAN Yes. And so, I got-- I went to the college, got my GED, took some college classes. And I tried to transition a little

WILLIAMS: bit. Got my nails out and caught a lot of flack in that little town, and decided, once again, I'm going to straighten up and I'm going to be manly, manly, manly. And so I went and got a job at a warehouse, and it was like man school 101.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh. No kidding.

[LAUGHTER]

CRISTAN I learned how to spit--

WILLIAMS:

[LAUGHTER]

--how to walk, how to BS people. Usually, whenever I saw someone for the first time, I would say, hi, how's it going, how you doing, and everything. And I learned that you're not supposed to do that, as a guy, especially in a warehouse. You're supposed to cuss at them or put them down. That's a way of interacting. [LAUGHS] So I learned how to--

JIMMY CARPER: Straight male bonding, huh?

CRISTAN Yes. Yes. Yes.

WILLIAMS:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

You walk up to someone, punch them in the arm or something.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes, the old punch in the arm. Hey, yes, yes.

CRISTAN Yes. Yes. And this is how men interact, straight men. So I learned how to do all that. I remember getting there,

WILLIAMS: purposely, in the morning, early, so I could peruse the sports section and just pick up little bits and pieces.

BETH To have a clue.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: So you could talk about something.

CRISTAN At lunch, I could go, oh, yeah, did you see the so-and-so's-- the 49ers, they got a home run and--

WILLIAMS:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: I hope you didn't say that.

BETH No.

RICHARDS:

[LAUGHTER]

CRISTAN But that went on for about six years. Now, during that time, I met this wonderful woman. I met her at a book

WILLIAMS: study.

We were reading the *Road Less Traveled* by Scott M. Peck. And it was this great book. And it was all about getting real, and being authentic, and all this other stuff.

I was in heavy duty therapy and dealing with some of the things. And at this point, I had suppressed. I was in such denial. And I just lived with the omnipresent sense that there was just something missing, and I just thought that that was normal.

I just thought that's how things were for people. It's about my job. It's about the place that I live. It's about the car that I drive.

There's something missing. I couldn't put my finger on it but-- and I couldn't define it. But I just thought that that's how it's supposed to be.

JIMMY CARPER: It sounds like you were headed down the road to a clinical depression.

CRISTAN Oh, big time.

WILLIAMS:

BETH Tell me.

RICHARDS:

CRISTAN And as time went on, in my marriage, I remember, one time, talking to my wife and just talking about I just-- do

WILLIAMS: you do you feel like there's just something missing in your life, that-- and she was like, what!

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: Mm-hmm.

CRISTAN And about-- after several years of marriage, depression came back. Suicidal feelings came back. And I decided I

WILLIAMS: needed to go to therapy again, and I need to get fixed. And so, I went to therapy and just spilled my guts to this lady and just told her everything, my entire history, how I was feeling. And she said, well, I'm sorry, I can't help you.

[LAUGHTER]

You need a specialist. I went, oh, my God. And so, naturally, whenever I got back to the house, she said, how did therapy go? And I said, well, [CLEAR THROAT] I have to go to a specialist. And she said, what!

[LAUGHTER]

And so, I had this long talk and it was--

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

CRISTAN --really painful. It was so painful she went through a time thinking, oh, my God, is this person who I'm married to

WILLIAMS: going to molest my-- our kid and, just, all this stuff. And her own sexuality issues came up. And it was just really, really, really painful. And to make an incredibly long, arduous painful story short, today, we're very good friends.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

BETH Excellent.

RICHARDS:

CRISTAN Very, very good friends. And we talk on the phone. We see each other. I'm still very close with my family.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: What was the turning point? I mean, because you are such a self-assured woman.

CRISTAN Ha. [LAUGHS]

WILLIAMS:

What it was, whenever I transitioned, I lost everything. I lost everything that you could lose. I lost my job. I lost my wife. I lost most of my things.

I lost my car. I lost my motorcycle. I lost my home. I was damn near homeless, and it's like, what is there left to lose? You know?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

CRISTAN Where can I go from here? And I had lived my life so long trying to live up to other people's expectations, what I

WILLIAMS: perceived they thought that I was supposed to be and molding myself after that, that it just came to the point where I made the decision that I'm going to be real, that I'm going to be authentic. And that's just going to be how it is.

BETH Mm-hmm.

RICHARDS:

CRISTAN And it took a long time. It took several years of working on things, and lots of therapy, lots of looking at myself.

WILLIAMS: And it was a lot like taking your house and turning it upside down and then rummaging through everything to figure out what fits, what's right.

What do I really want in life? What do I really like? I didn't know any of this stuff. I had lived my life so long for other people's needs and expectations that I had to learn all these things over again. And I called and got a hold of-- actually, the first person that I called is actually sitting right next to me, and that was Jackie Thorne.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

CRISTAN Yes. And I talked to Jackie.

WILLIAMS:

BETH I'm sure there's a lot of people in this state that can say those same words.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: You bet.

CRISTAN Yes. Yes. And I talked to Jackie, and Jackie gave me the number for TATS, Texas Association for Transsexual

WILLIAMS: Support.

JIMMY CARPER: How did you ever run into Jackie?

CRISTAN Well, you remember that TWIT thing?

WILLIAMS:

BETH There you go.

RICHARDS:

CRISTAN I was at work, and I called the TWIT. And I said, look, I need some support, cross-dresser, transsexual something.

WILLIAMS: And they gave me Jackie's number.

JIMMY CARPER: It must have been Brian Keever.

BETH What would happen if somebody called the switchboard, Jimmy, and said the same thing?

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: It would either be Jackie Thorne or Phyllis Frye.

BETH There you go.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

CRISTAN Or CATS.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Because, between Phyllis and Jackie, the switchboard was educated on transgender issues. One or the other would come and do an in-service every so often, every couple of years, and keep us up to date on what was going on. That's how I met Jackie.

CRISTAN And so, it was right after that I had sent in a letter. Some of you all remember Sarah [? Caffey. ?]

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH Mm.

RICHARDS:

CRISTAN She was the one that finally replied to me. It took a while to get a reply. And she had a number in there to call,

WILLIAMS: and I called the number and left a message.

And it took a few days for her to get back with me. And one night, I was incredibly depressed. I had lost my wife and lost my kid, lost everything. And I sat down and wrote out a suicide note--

BETH Oh.

RICHARDS:

CRISTAN --and decided that what I was going to do is, that night, I was going to run a hot bath and slice my wrist. And

WILLIAMS: Sarah called.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

CRISTAN Yes. And for a long time, I kept that suicide note with me. And I carried it everywhere that I went because that

WILLIAMS: was one of those things, but for the grace of God, really. And going back to help lines and things like that, it's so important to have those things because, literally, literally, that saved my life. You know?

JIMMY CARPER: Whew. Wow.

CRISTAN From there, I went to support groups, and continued therapy, and just put one foot in front of the other, and kept
WILLIAMS: on going, and kept on going. And that's how I got to where I am today.

JIMMY CARPER: I think we need a break, after this.

[LAUGHTER]

You're listening to KEOS College Station and KPFT Houston, the voice of the many who have no voice.

[PIANO MUSIC]

[ROCK N ROLL MUSIC]

[SIGHS] From *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, that was "Wig in a Box." And that kind of-- what that's talking about in there is a lot about what I think many transgenders go through. [EXHALES]

BETH On of these days, I'll see that thing.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. You're listening to *After Hours*, right here on good old KPFT Houston and KEOS--

BETH College Station.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: You got it.

BETH There we go.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: I'm Jimmy Carper. Beth Richards and--

BETH Beth Richards here.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-huh. And we've got Jackie Thorne somewhere in the lobby.

BETH And Cristan Williams, she's walking around somewhere in the lobby--

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, probably--

BETH --at the same time. [LAUGHS]

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: --trying to-- yes. Wow.

BETH Wow.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: She just--

BETH And the--

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: [EXHALES]

BETH Yes, so much memories.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH I mean, ugh.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: And a lot-- what we were saying--

BETH Well, OK--

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: We were laughing at a lot of stuff, earlier.

BETH I had a couple of notes taken down. OK. OK. So I'm a geek. What do you think? But a couple of things that she

RICHARDS: brought up really hit home. That depression that I-- God.

You were saying, I can't imagine. I'm saying, I can just barely remember it. It's just such a heavy thing that you try to get-- once you get past it, you don't ever want to live there anymore.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, you're right.

BETH You know?

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: You're right.

BETH And I can remember a time when it was shortly after the conversation with Theresa, my spouse, and we were

RICHARDS: like-- I remember going through my head was that the joy of having a family, and having kids, and being a parent, maybe that'll balance out this depression. And for a while, it did.

But it never went away. That depression just kept getting stronger and stronger. And it kept coming. And there was nothing I could do about stopping it, except accepting myself and coming past that fear of who I thought I had to be because that's what society expected of me.

Got over that. Dealt with it, and I'm a lot happier person now. And everybody that's been around me in those times, now, knows it. I mean, it's really obvious.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, you see, I met you as you.

BETH Right.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: And I met Cristan as Cristan and--

BETH As Cristan, right. You can't imagine--

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. I can't imagine that journey because both of you are so self-assured and--

BETH And you met Sarah as Sarah.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. No.

BETH No?

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: No.

BETH Never mind. [LAUGHS]

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: I met Sarah before Sarah. Yes, briefly but--

BETH Yes, you got to know Sarah as Sarah then.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I did. Yes.

BETH Yes, but you'd met her before that.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: We've got some folks coming up-- about 1:15, 1:20-- to talk about the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and a big event that's-- what's going on. But I want to talk to Jackie Thorne because we're talking about-- I'm gay. And you are transgender.

BETH There's more than just--

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Cristan is transgender. But Jackie has a different outlook on it. Because you have a different coming out.

BETH Hello, Jackie.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Yes.

THORNE:

MAN: Very different. You've had-- you've come from a very different place.

JACKIE Exactly. I'm probably going to wind up being hated by many of my compatriots. But, basically, I had, I guess,

THORNE: what you would consider a very easy, compared to a lot of the stories that I'm aware of.

As far as my transgenderism, it started when I was four or five years of age, that I started getting in my mother's clothes and so forth. In that regard, I was very, very fortunate in that my parents never made an issue of it. The only thing I can surmise-- because, unfortunately, my parents were killed in a plane crash-- [EXHALES] is the fact that their attitude was that, OK, this is a phase that he's going through, and he'll grow out of it. Or, in the alternative, if it's not a phase that he's going through, our making an issue of it is going to basically cause him to become secretive and will not tell us what he feels. My youth or childhood and so forth was a very, very normal male childhood. I mean, I was--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, you were in the service. Not many know this.

JACKIE THORNE: I was a male child. I mean, I raised hell. And, oh, God, if my parents knew some of the stuff I did, I'm not sure I'd still be here.

[LAUGHTER]

But from my standpoint, it was a feeling that I had, that there was just something different about me. I was fortunate, in that regard, that, I guess-- and not saying this in a bragging way. I have two older brothers, and I was born about eight years after my next eldest brother. And looking back on it, now, I'm sure I was not intended.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh. OK. Yes, we're change-of-life baby.

JACKIE THORNE: Yes. Yes. But by the same token, because my parents had already had two males, two sons, I was expected to be a girl.

JIMMY CARPER: [GASPS] Ooh.

JACKIE THORNE: They never knew that [LAUGHS] they got what they were looking for.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

JACKIE THORNE: In fact, there was a female name that was ready. And my male name-- neither of my first or my middle name anywhere back in my family. I mean it was a spur-of-the-moment type thing, when they-- hey, we got a male child here. [LAUGHS]

But as far as my growing up, it was a totally normal male childhood, except for the fact that I felt that there was something different about me. And I was very, very fortunate in that, while I was in junior high and so forth, I was working in the medical research community. Basically, after school, I had a job to feed the research animals in the research lab. I fed the guinea pigs, and the rabbits, and the squirrels, and the monkeys, and so forth like that.

But in that same building was the morgue. And I got to know a lot of the doctors and so forth there. And they would let me come in and watch the autopsies and so forth.

And in addition, there was also the medical lab, as well as their library. And they had all of these displays and stuff, as well as the very, very limited literature on transgender. And, unfortunately, the vast majority of the authors were males who were not transgender, and so, I had to read between the lines and through the biases of the authors. Thank God that I was intelligent enough to do so.

BETH Yes, well, my first exposure was through the library, too.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE And basically-- and, of course, this was during the time when Christine Jorgensen was in the news, and there was the McCarthy thing, as far as the gays, and the homosexuals, and the security breaches, and stuff.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes, the risks.

JACKIE Oh, God.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, there were security risks.

JACKIE And so, basically, my thing was I was searching. What am I? Where do I fit in this spectrum? And reading the very limited amount of literature that there was, I was able to discover, by examining my own personal belief, no, I was not gay. I was not attracted to other men.

I was not transsexual, in that I had no desire for surgery. I didn't want to be a woman. I wanted to portray a woman. And so, basically, I came to a realization that I was a heterosexual cross-dresser. And the thing that struck me was there was a hell of a lot of us out there.

[LAUGHTER]

And, of course, again, as most of us, going through puberty, and then high school, and so forth, obviously, the sexual aspect of it was a major-- at least at that time, was a major proportion of it. I progressed on through, went to a all-male military school. Did not cross-dress while I was there.

But the very interesting thing was that I was the person that a lot of the other cadets would come to unburden their souls, if you would, because they knew that anything that they told me was not going to go any further and secondly, that although I didn't tell them what to do, the suggestions that I made were things that they thought, hey, maybe I need to try that. And so, I went on through this, through high school and college. Got married, not with any intention to defeat or reduce the transgendered aspect of my personality. And it was just--

And it was not a matter of suppressing that side of my personality. It was just that there were so many other things in my life that were of a higher priority that my transgendered personality really wasn't that important to me. I was involved in my career, in my family.

I had a son who was born 14 months after we were married, the light of my life. I love him to death. He doesn't really understand where I'm coming from, but that's-- and he's not real, real comfortable with it. I had a daughter that was born about eight years later.

But it was one of these situations that, basically, I never had the depression. I never had the problems with dealing with this side of my personality. It was always there.

And, ultimately, when our relationship dissolved into divorce, basically, my attitude was, OK, I've been doing for everybody else in my life for 20 years. I'm going to do for me for a while. And that's when Jackie came out.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm. I'd like to continue this, later on in the show, if you all can hang out. I've got Ernie Manouse sitting in the lobby--

BETH Excellent.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: --waiting to talk about the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. I've got Alyssa, Wright-- Alyssa Jacqueline Wright, who's going to do a segment on transgender news. And we've got a lot packed for the second half, so.

BETH Can I pop a real quick comment in before we leave?

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Please do.

BETH And it's the same one that we were starting to get into a little while ago. And at the time, it was just having gone

RICHARDS: through yours, Jimmy, and mine, and Cristan's coming out story, and now that we've added Jackie's, it's still true, even with the different parts of our community that we've covered here tonight. We're sitting around here, after the fact, laughing, laughing our butts off, just splitting our guts. And I'll tell you, at the time, it was scary.

JIMMY CARPER: It was scary.

BETH It was scary.

RICHARDS:

MAN: It was always scary.

JACKIE Mm-hmm.

THORNE:

BETH The thought about telling somebody just petrified me. And so, I have a real place in my heart for people who are

RICHARDS: out there, right now, thinking, God, I can't tell anybody.

WOMAN: And on that note, I want to give out a helpline number.

JIMMY CARPER: Please do, yes.

BETH Very good. Thank you.

RICHARDS:

WOMAN: It's a 24-hour helpline. The number is 281-585-8089. And you can call anytime, day or night. And it was usually at night, whenever I needed to talk to someone.

[LAUGHTER]

JACKIE Hey, 4:00 in the morning.

THORNE:

WOMAN: That's right.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that's it. Yes.

WOMAN: So, again, that number is 281-585-8089.

JIMMY CARPER: Great.

BETH Great.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

JACKIE Let me inject, real quickly, with Beth.

THORNE:

BETH Yes?

RICHARDS:

JACKIE This past spring-- or past year, we went to the-- I did, for the very first time, to the Transgender Lobby Days up

THORNE: there in Austin. And Beth was my mentor, if you will.

BETH Well, that's funny because that was my first day doing it, too.

RICHARDS:

[LAUGHTER]

JACKIE But we went to several of the legislators, both House of Representatives and the Senate--

THORNE:

BETH Senate, yes.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE --in our feminine persona and presented our concerns.

THORNE:

BETH Our issues and concerns.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE And it was amazing how accepted we were. They didn't necessarily agree with us, but at least they were willing

THORNE: to listen to us.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

JACKIE That is the main thing that you need to realize, is that if you talk to someone, they may not agree with you, but

THORNE: they, at least, hopefully, will listen to you.

BETH And that ties back in with what we were saying about it being so frightening to do it, until you do it.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH Until you do it, and then we can sit around here, later, and laugh our butts off.

RICHARDS:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: OK. We'll be back because I want to talk more about this. This is--

BETH And a shout-out to Alana. Thanks for listening. I appreciate the comment.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, OK. We'll be right back with Ernie Manouse and the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

BETH As soon as we get the buttons pushed.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: As soon as I push the right button, yes.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SINGER: (singing) Oh, Rad, you're so rad. You're so rad. You're so rad. You're so rad. You're so rad.

BUDDY DEE: Hey, you cruising home Thursday night/Friday morning. What are you going to do? Tune your dials to 90.1 and check out the *Rad Rich Rock and Roll Revue*.

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

RAD RICH: Rad Rich. Rad Rich show, yes, bringing you all kinds of mayhem as he has been doing at the station for 20 years or so. He's been here quite a while. And we have-- well, someone's in there writing. And actually, he's been here before.

HOST 1: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes. It's not new that he's been here. And actually, he told me he got his start in radio and that TV was-- is just a new thing. And you see, he can't hear. He's not listening at all because nobody told him to put headsets on. So we're talking about him, and he doesn't know what's going on.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 1: And he missed that whole thing.

JIMMY CARPER: Hi, Ernie.

RAD RICH: Hello there.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

HOST 1: We're talking about you.

JIMMY CARPER: We're talking about you. I'd said this is not the first time you've been in this studio.

RAD RICH: No, it's not.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

RAD RICH: So how are you guys doing--

JIMMY CARPER: I'm--

RAD RICH: --this evening?

JIMMY CARPER: --great.

RAD RICH: Or is it this morning?

JIMMY CARPER: No, it's evening until you go to bed.

HOST 1: Yeah.

RAD RICH: OK.

HOST 2: [LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: It is not tomorrow until you go to bed.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

RAD RICH: Well, I took a nap this afternoon.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-huh.

RAD RICH: And I've started this day off judging at the Livestock Show--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

RAD RICH: --Rodeo Barbecue Cook-off thing.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow. Yeah.

RAD RICH: And that was at noon today.

JIMMY CARPER: Phew.

RAD RICH: So it's been a long day.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAD RICH: Yeah.

HOST: Yeah.

RAD RICH: But anyway.

HOST 2: I'll tell you.

JIMMY CARPER: So how long have you been involved in this organiz-- this is the Gay and Lesbian or Lesbian and Gay?

RAD RICH: Houston Gay Lesbian Film Festival.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

HOST 1: Damn.

RAD RICH: And this is my second year sitting on the board

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

RAD RICH: And the big thing that we're talking about now that we're all excited about are the two fundraisers we have coming up.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAD RICH: It's sing-along *Sound of Music*--

JIMMY CARPER: That is just too twisted.

[LAUGHTER]

RAD RICH: And our Oscar party. So where do you want to start?

JIMMY CARPER: Let's start with-- well, the sing-along thing--

HOST 1: (SINGING) [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: --is coming up faster, right?

RAD RICH: It is. February 18.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

RAD RICH: Monday night.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

RAD RICH: Now, you see a lot of stuff out there about the run of the sing-along *Sound of Music*. But if you're interested in getting tickets, the thing to go to is our benefit on that Monday night.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh. Yes.

RAD RICH: Hardly any bit more money. Just a little bit more in ticket price, but what you get is so much better besides supporting the film festival.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

RAD RICH: And if I get her name right, and anybody out there who knows the correct pronunciation, we're saying it's "Car-mian" Carr. Would that be right? "Char-mian?"

JIMMY CARPER: I'm with you on there, yeah.

RAD RICH: We've gone back and forth on this one.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAD RICH: She actually played Liesl in the film.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

HOST 1: Oh, really?

RAD RICH: And she is coming in to host--

JIMMY CARPER: So she'll be here.

RAD RICH: --our particular event. So she'll be there on that Monday night. She's going to be doing an autograph session, taking questions from the audience. Plus, there'll be the dress-up contest. Plus, there'll be the sing-along Plus, there'll be the film.

JIMMY CARPER: And she's not exactly "16 Going On 17" anymore.

HOST 3: No.

[LAUGHTER]

RAD RICH: She's something--

HOST 2: Neither are you, Jimmy.

RAD RICH: --going on something else. That's for sure.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, so am I.

RAD RICH: But she's found a way to make a career out of this one movie role, Liesl.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yeah, evidently. So this is like--

HOST 1: Hey, if it works, do it.

JIMMY CARPER: --the 21st century *Rocky Horror*. Is that-- that's the way I--

RAD RICH: Yeah. It started in Europe. In England, they were doing this.

JIMMY CARPER: Did it? Oh.

RAD RICH: And it wasn't done officially.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-huh.

RAD RICH: They had just started singing along to the movie when it was showing at a theater there.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: [INAUDIBLE].

RAD RICH: And some brilliant Canadian group thought, wait a minute, let's make money off this.

[LAUGHTER]

So they created sing-along *Sound of Music*. One thing I do want to say, I was over at the Landmark the other day seeing some films.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

RAD RICH: And they put up the clip for this, and the clip they showed was this old, worn out, really sad-looking negative that they were using.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

RAD RICH: And the truth of the matter is for what we're doing, we have a brand new print of the film.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

RAD RICH: It's never been shown. That was one of the things we asked for.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

RAD RICH: So it's a brand new print. It's--

HOST 1: Wow.

RAD RICH: --first airing will be on that night for us here in town.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, hey, hey, hey.

RAD RICH: So if you want to see a crisp, clean, nice print of the movie with subtitles, of course--

HOST: Yeah.

RAD RICH: --you can sing along.

HOST 1: On a big screen.

RAD RICH: That's what you'll see on a big screen.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, there's going to have subtitles for the words?

RAD RICH: Well--

HOST 2: Of course.

RAD RICH: --for them. Do you know all the words?

BOTH: Even the bouncing ball.

JIMMY CARPER: Well--

RAD RICH: [LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: --I was just thinking we all know the music. We may not know every word, but we all know them.

RAD RICH: Well, now you will. It'll all be up there.

JIMMY CARPER: That is too fine.

RAD RICH: So for tickets, you can get them at Basic Brothers, or you can call the River Oaks, Landmark River Oaks, and get your tickets there.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

RAD RICH: And I can even give you a phone number if you want.

JIMMY CARPER: I'll take it.

RAD RICH: Here's a phone number for you-- 713-524-2175.

JIMMY CARPER: And who is that?

RAD RICH: That would be the Landmark Theaters.

JIMMY CARPER: Landmark?

HOST 3: River Oaks.

HOST 1: Say it again. Say it again.

RAD RICH: Say it again? OK. 713-524-2175.

JIMMY CARPER: That is going to be so much fun. Two friends of mine and I are going to go. And you don't know what to expect. Plus, there's-- you're going to have this little bag of goody thing.

RAD RICH: You'll get a little goody bag. To put it in terms people would understand, if it were *Rocky Horror*, it would be a bag with toilet paper--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAD RICH: --and a squirt--

HOST 3: [LAUGHS]

RAD RICH: --bottle and a newspaper.

HOST 1: Cleveland playing [INAUDIBLE].

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 3: And toast.

RAD RICH: Right. Right, and toast.

JIMMY CARPER: Toast.

RAD RICH: All that stuff.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAD RICH: But for this one, it's other things.

JIMMY CARPER: It's other things, huh?

RAD RICH: And we're not supposed to say what the things are until you get there.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

HOST 3: But now--

HOST 1: Ooh.

JIMMY CARPER: Do we have the--

HOST 3: What night? What night?

RAD RICH: Monday night. Monday.

JIMMY CARPER: Monday night.

RAD RICH: February 2.

HOST 3: Monday only?

RAD RICH: Well.

JIMMY CARPER: This is the fundraiser?

RAD RICH: That's our benefit.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

HOST 3: Oh, OK. OK.

RAD RICH: And then the actual--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

HOST 3: OK

RAD RICH: --run of it will come the following Friday and run through--

HOST 3: OK. OK.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAD RICH: --for a bit.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAD RICH: And it's been selling out.

HOST 3: Monday, it's a benefit.

RAD RICH: Well, because you'll get to meet Liesl. And it's-- Liesl

BOTH: Yes.

RAD RICH: --won't be here for the whole run. She's one-night, our night.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. See, that's it. That's it.

RAD RICH: And we'll be there, and you'll be there.

JIMMY CARPER: I'll be there, yeah.

RAD RICH: See? So that's a reason to go.

JIMMY CARPER: Do we get those-- that little-- you can do a raspberry thing. You blow into--

HOST 3: Kazoo? Kazoos?

JIMMY CARPER: It blows a raspberry--

RAD RICH: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: --for the Nazi scenes. [LAUGHS]

RAD RICH: I don't know. You're just supposed to boo the Nazis.

JIMMY CARPER: You're just, oh, OK, boo the Nazis.

RAD RICH: And there is a costume contest.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really?

RAD RICH: And that's the-- see, I guess, the entire event. Now, I have not been through it. yet. But as I've been told, it starts at 7:00. But the film really doesn't start till 8:00.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-huh.

RAD RICH: The first hour of it, there's a costume contest where they'll be prizes.

JIMMY CARPER: Hmm.

RAD RICH: So you come just as--

HOST 2: Man, I got to cut my curtains.

RAD RICH: --either hair your favorite character--

[LAUGHTER]

--or your favorite object. Now, what did they say?

JIMMY CARPER: Object?

HOST 2: I said I got to get cutting on my curtains.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

RAD RICH: You do. You do. So you can come. You compete.

[LAUGHTER]

You can win. You can play games. There'll be a stage show of some sort with it. Liesl will be up there--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAD RICH: --talking with the audience. Afterwards, she'll do a book signing. And if you have *Sound of Music* memorabilia, an album, a video, she'll sign that afterwards.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

RAD RICH: So it's definitely an event you don't want to miss.

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding. And this is for the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

RAD RICH: It's our first fundraiser of the season.

JIMMY CARPER: That is terrific. Has the group got together yet to decide on the film?

RAD RICH: We never stopped getting together from--

JIMMY CARPER: Ah, well.

RAD RICH: --the last festival. We just kept going. And I think we're in some pretty good shape for this year.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAD RICH: I'm very excited about some of the things we're bringing in, but we can't talk about it yet.

JIMMY CARPER: [GRUNTS] Oh!

RAD RICH: We can't tell you what any of this stuff is yet.

JIMMY CARPER: It's [GRUNTS] oh!

HOST 1: It's so secret.

HOST 2: And can you tell us--

HOST 3: Will I be thrown out if I come as Rolfe?

RAD RICH: No, you will not.

[LAUGHTER]

You will not if you'd also come on a little bicycle, too.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, I'll tell you. Jackie, for you, that would be drag.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 3: Oh, trust me. Yeah, but the funny part about it is I've got a bunch of-- having been in military intelligence and so forth in the military, I have a slew of-- and being involved in military history,

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

HOST 3: --I have a slew of World War II.

JIMMY CARPER: Stuff, huh?

HOST 3: Stuff, yeah. I've got some of the cap shields and the armbands--

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

HOST 3: --and the whole nine yards.

RAD RICH: I have a funny feeling you might be winning a costume contest.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. That would be terrific.

HOST 3: Exactly.

RAD RICH: Now, talking about costume contest, I'll just put a mini, little notice in about this. On Valentine's Day--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes?

RAD RICH: --for all of you that have nothing to do, over at JR's, we're going to be doing a sing-along karaoke *Sound of Music* that night--

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

RAD RICH: --and a costume contest. And myself and a couple other what they're calling celebrity judges.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-huh.

RAD RICH: Obviously, they're using that term very loosely.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, come on. You are a celebrity.

HOST 2: Oh, yeah.

RAD RICH: We'll be there--

HOST 3: What night?

RAD RICH: Thursday.

HOST 3: What night?

RAD RICH: Valentine's Day, Thursday.

HOST 3: Oh.

RAD RICH: February 14.

HOST 3: Oh, 14th, OK.

RAD RICH: So then we'll do a costume contest there, and you can win tickets to it. And the person who wins that contest that night will be up for guest hosting one of the performances of sing-along *Sound of Music* once that's opened.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK. So that's JR's on Thanks-- on

RAD RICH: Oh, giving? [LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: Thanksgiving, yeah.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

RAD RICH: --it's Valentine's Day.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 3: And then the 22nd is Friday, a week later.

RAD RICH: Yes, but we don't care about that. We care about--

HOST 3: No?

RAD RICH: --the 18th, which is the following Monday.

HOST 1: Oh, Monday. That's right.

[LAUGHS]

RAD RICH: You keep checking this. See, that's the real run.

HOST 3: I'm reading the damn thing. OK.

RAD RICH: Oh. Now, look at that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. See?

HOST 3: Oh.

RAD RICH: Look down here. See? There we go.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

HOST 3: OK.

RAD RICH: There we are.

JIMMY CARPER: There we are.

HOST 1: See, the part you missed is Jimmy started this show off earlier tonight trying to introduce the December show.
So--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

HOST 1: --his whole clock has been a little--

RAD RICH: He's going backwards, then, if he's on Thanksgiving now.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Yeah. [LAUGHS]

RAD RICH: Or he's gone all the way around.

[A HOST COUGHING]

JIMMY CARPER: Pretty soon, it's going to be--