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📅 Thu, Sep 07, 2023 9:37AM ⌚ 1:01:36

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, people, gay, houston, tv, pledge, gay community, work, hear, stories, community, program, radio station, call, includes, rhythm, put, montrose, listening, performing

SPEAKERS

Jack Valinski, Deborah Bell


D Deborah Bell 00:20
[No Closet by Jamie Anderson plays]


J Jack Valinski 00:54
From Pacifica's KPFT in Houston, this is lesbian gay voices, a shelf word about the gay and lesbian community. This is Jack Valinski.

D Deborah Bell 01:01
And I'm Deborah Bell here on Friday the 13th. If that is


J Jack Valinski 01:05
not enough, we got a storm coming down. The rockets are playing tonight. We're at low power, but we're still here to talk about gay and lesbian issues.


D Deborah Bell 01:14
And hopefully we'll stay on the air because sometimes when we have freaking weather like this things happen with the transmitter but bear with us. And probably they're picking us up in Austin because of the weather inversion. So tonight on lesbian and gay voices we'll be talking to performance artists Louis Alvaro with an interview with as Zachary Steele and Jack Valinski. Alvaro will be performing at diverse works on Friday and Saturday May 20 and 21st as part of their beyond Designer Series.





 Jack Valinski 01:43
Very held we'll be talking to Kochi gray about the latest in lesbian and gay media. One TV


 Deborah Bell 01:48
KPFT is Morning News host Kyle Huggins talk to Diane Hardy Garcia, Executive Director of the Lesbian Gay rights lobby of Texas, about the recent vote that defeated their domestic partners benefits program,

 Jack Valinski 02:02
plus our regular weekly features, including news wrap from this way out our calendar of events. And of course it is membership drive. We have some special thank you premiums from lesbian and gay voices, stay tuned to find out what they are. But we do want to ask you to do pick up the phone and call us.

 Deborah Bell 02:19
So whether you're from a big town like Houston, or from a small town nearby, you should be calling whether you're


 Jack Valinski 02:25
from inside the loop or outside the loop. The number is 526-573-8526 KPFT. In we do ask you to support this radio station because it does take money. We're running low power because of an air conditioning problem out of the transmitter. We're subject to stay on the air as long as he can provide us with power. We don't have a backup generator, but we're here we're trying to talk about the issues that concern you and make your life feel a little bit better.

 Deborah Bell 02:51
And right after this piece of music we'll be back with performance artists loose Alfaro.


 03:04
Suppose my voice were HIV and you could get infected by listening. Oh, you wouldn't listen, you don't want to hear that or you change the station. But if I took a latex condom like this one and put it on the microphone you couldn't hear me right. You were protected from HIV. So the deal is sex without a latex condom isn't always safe and listening to me. It won't affect you but it could protect you call one 800 342 aids for a free brochure. Do the Right Thing Pete's when you growing up in a small town where only one good use was small. You hate it. You know you'll have to leave it.

 Jack Valinski 03:53

Yes, John crale and Lou Reed, you have to be that small town to come to the big city. Well, this is the big city, fourth largest city in the country and this is lesbian gay voices. This is John Jack Valinski. And tonight exactly, it's going to be

 Deborah Bell 04:08

we're interviewing Luis Alfaro. He's from East LA. He's going to be performing at diverse works. Producing are actually performing in his downtown production.

 Jack Valinski 04:19

Yeah, this is a small show. It's also

 04:23

very trendy.

 Jack Valinski 04:24

very unfriendly.

 04:27

Well, small town trendy, isn't it? Yes. Yes. I like it very much. I'm actually performing in a one man show I've been touring the country with called downtown. I wrote it and performing it. And it's part of a series that they're doing called Beyond desire. A series of film and performance works. And actually last week, they had rose up on primetime. And they had his films virus knows no morals and a few other films. So it's been very exciting to be here.


 Jack Valinski 04:57

We're here a little early, aren't you? Here?

 04:59

I'm actually too In a larger project, as part of beyond desire, we're doing a project with Gatsby and teams in Houston. So I'm teaching the first leg of two weeks, the first two weeks of a series that's going to happen, these kids are going through a process where they'll start with me. And I'm actually getting them to write their stories. I teach playwriting at UCLA, in Los Angeles, and also at Cal Arts, which is a big art school around the country. So they hired me to teach them


some writing exercises, and they're gonna gather a bunch of material of their own. And then the five lesbian brothers will be here in a few weeks to take them through the performance wing event. And then they'll end up with Mary Ellen Strom, who is an educator and an artist in New York, who will bring five gay and lesbian teens from New York to work with these teens. So it's a longer process. So it's been very exciting. And I'm also doing the tour of the Houston High Schools. So I did that today.

 Jack Valinski 05:56

So what are your feelings about young people nowadays?

 05:58


No, they're very cynical, and to say that much. But they're also very exciting. And, you know, one of my, one of the kids is, goes to her prom, next Friday, and she's going and attacks taking a girlfriend, I don't think I would have ever done that. I don't like my youth. And so it's very promising. You know, they're, they're out, and in a good way. So, you know, I'm also dealing with some youth that have some issues around their sexuality and, you know, drugs and prostitution, things of that sort, but I'm just not any different. I think I'm working. I do a prison program with boys in Los Angeles. And it's not really that different, actually, I find them much more intelligent and much more proud to be who they are. So that makes me very, very excited.

 Deborah Bell 06:45

Now the group that you teach writing to is this specifically gay and lesbians, or is it just an wants to take right

 06:52

now it's exclusively gays, lesbian teens from Houston. So we're sort of pulling up our Houston stories right now. So it's very exciting because I'm actually having them write very specific stories about this place, this time and, and so they're really writing stories about what it means to be growing up in Houston as a gay or lesbian teen. It's a collaboration with two outreach programs. One of them is called hippie and the other one is called hatch. But I have no idea what that means. Homosexual, I know is in there somewhere. Yeah.

 Deborah Bell 07:24

And you've also done some writing. I read some of your articles the drive by


 07:30

cimo Ching, Gong G drive by ching ching Guan is a Spanish word for like badass. I can say an


MF, but it's just sort of a Spanish word for sort of somebody who thinks he's really cold. But I write for a newspaper in Los Angeles. And I'm also published in motion a gay rags, I write some stuff for the advocate, I just was published last month in genre. And I do a lot of stuff in the gay rights, a lot of the local gay rights as well. And then I have some books out, I'm really anthologized a lot. So I don't have my own book. But I remember a lot of technologies. And last year, I was in men on men four, which is like the big, you know, the big one that comes out of what is that Random House in New York. So that was kind of fun. And then I have a CD out on new alliance records, which was released last month, so I'll probably be back in Houston very soon for that or as well. And what's on the CD is that just it's a spoken word album 16 cuts from the full length downtown show, which is about an hour and a half here in Houston. I'm doing about an hour and 10 Because I'm splitting the bill with an artist from San Antonio named David Zamora cost us who is a well known sort of folk artist was the most incredible house I've ever seen San Antonio it's a cultural landmark. And it's called the church of anti oppression is what he calls into his art studio. And I actually in every stop every that's one of my sort of gigs that every every city I go to, I usually perform with the opening act as somebody that's local. So I've performed with in San Antonio perform Louis Jones, who's a wonderful transgender artist, and, and every time they just play with somebody else, so it's fun. It's really fun.

 Jack Valinski 09:15

How is it? How's it different here from California?

 09:20

Well, it's easier with Shell. Yeah, well, people are much nicer I've been on my bicycle. We were just talking about this because it's dangerous. Yes, an anti bicycle. But I actually take like a lots of, you know, take Austin all the way up through downtown and hardly anybody you know, sort of notices me there. But uh, it's Yeah, anti bicycle town, but people were really friendly. Last night, I went to the alley theater to see oh liana. And you know, there was a question answer session afterwards and I found that people were actually very reserved, you know, Los Angeles. No. Leanna Mia was like an uproar. People were like practically throwing things at the actors. And here I found that people were really reserved and very friendly. You know, I went to a Some party in the plaza thing, it's called in the middle of downtown and people were very nice. You know, it's like asking people for directions. Everybody offers directions here. Everybody says, Hello, I saw a beautiful boy get off the bus and I thought he was cruising me, but because that was like the first experience I had here, and he said, Hi. And I said, Hi.

 Deborah Bell 10:22

What's going on?

 10:24

Everybody's friendly.



10:26

You know, the climate is different to it's interesting, just going to so many towns, I was in Seattle and Boston. And here, it seems to be sort of more relaxed politically as well. And sometimes fortunately, fortunately, yeah, I didn't, you know, I haven't seen I haven't seen anything violent or anything like that. And that's sort of been the the norm for this tour. Every time I've gone to this has been something I've spoken. However, the other day, I was I was riding my bike on the Santa siento and four men and a car pulled up and push me over. So that was intimidating. But I sort of forgave them. But yeah, I like it. I like I like the challenge. I like Houston. I was here three years ago for a gay and lesbian performance festival also. So it's kind of neat to be back. Actually, I was here three years ago to the day. Wow. So I performed you know, so you have a piece from your performance. This is a this is a piece called Clarence and it's a piece about growing up in downtown Los Angeles and a lot of the show is about what it means to grow up in an urban environment. So this is called Clarence. The year we had noon dances seventh grade baranda Junior High. My favorite was watching the basketball team the centurions. long tall, black guys with droopy sweatpants and no t shirts, swaying hips to the righteous sounds of the Reverend when he was just a sexual thing called Al Green. Even before I heard about the Mexican rhythm, Mexican rhythm was nonstop tangle of South sides and Chad ranchera as and only as you could stop in the middle of the dance and not lose the beat. The beat was in the heart, Massa can beat was born on street corners in downtown LA of rhythm hiding and alleys behind Lucy's all night tacos and the Habana bakery. Masa can rhythm was copycat Soul Train with the switchblade Mexican rhythm was Katie before Whitehead saw Mexican rhythm was running down Broadway and ducking into Woolworths with a ghetto blaster that was too small to show attitude or be stolen. Mexican rhythm was hot nights and gang fights Mexican rhythm was our drunken father's talking the native language. I always got jumped in the lunch line before I could buy my grilled cheese sandwich. But the dime the dime I kept in my shoe, the diamonds save for Clarence 10 cents got me into the gym before Diana Ross is part of my mistake was to love you boy love you boy. Pirates was always on the dance floor because he was dating Yolanda skipper and Yolanda Skipper was Miss rhythm herself. If Clarence would have made it to ninth grade yearbook you would have had titles like most likely to get stronger most likely to beat you up in the hallway a badass mother who worked out by lifting you from the belt loop for around a tan but it wasn't the muscles in won me over it was the hair because you see if you had an afro was because Clarence I mean she stood up to your mom on what your daddy's but when he grabbed you by the ear tried to drag it down to the barber. I of course was almost bald. But when he grabbed me and pushed me away with the Chomp, move your butt you hogging up all of the dance floor. A kind of electricity raced through me because one strong Cheb fueled 100 fantasies to be used under a bedsheet quietly. Later in the gym. I imagined I was his basketball and he grabbed me and caress me and he ran with me like it was a part of him a part of his body. When he paraded around the locker room in his jockstrap, you could see fingered traces of pubic hair rising right above the elastic waist span. But I couldn't stare too long because it's almost like staring too long at a picture of Christ on the cross. People think you're strange. Clarence died in the ninth grade he left behind Yolanda Skipper in the centurions, and he left me with the memory of one strong shove gets me by even now. It's great. Thank you.



14:46

Is that also on the spoken word CD or?



14:49

Yeah, that's awesome. The spoken word CD. It's a challenge because most of my work is about the intersection of nationality and sexuality. And you know, a lot of people come up to me after my shows and they say I can take you doing the religious stuff and the Latino stuff on one side and I can take it to in the case of from the other side, but when you mix those together that's like combustible, you know? Yeah, I think that that's very hard for people. I was raised a strict Catholic, I was an altar boy, I was a boy scout, which I call, you know, probably the greatest gay club, I was into it. That's where I learned how to French kiss, you know, boys, Boy Scouts. But um, it's so funny because, you know, people have a hard time with, they have a really hard time with when you mix those two up, because you're, you're mixing, you know, family stuff and your history. My history has always been that intersection, you know, what does it mean to be gay? And what does it mean to be a man of color in the society and you're dealing with issues of race, and you're dealing with all those issues?



Jack Valinski 15:43

Are you very close to your family? And I think probably a lot of Caucasians would maybe move away, you know, like I



15:54

I sort of chair a chair of a committee right now in Los Angeles called the gay men of color consortium, we do aids work, I run an AIDS agency in Los Angeles. And one of the most interesting sort of things that's emerged from this group is a we find that most of the gay white men in our community go to live like, let's say, in West Hollywood was as a gay perceived city, the most of the gay men of color actually stay in the neighborhood, I grew up in the still live at home, and they don't openly identify as gay, they'll maybe identify as men who have sex with men. So there's, there's issues around that. And that's why we're probably the highest incident rate for HIV right now. Because there's a lot of sort of screwing around your why law goes around, there's a lot of societal and religious pressure put on a gay man of color around those issues. So it becomes very interesting, a very complex, you know, the way the whole, the whole thing works. Yeah, I do find that a lot of people move out of their communities. But actually, I think the issue might be more economic and more about classes, and a lot of gay men color cannot move out of their communities, they wouldn't be able to afford that kind of lifestyle. So Leah becomes very interesting.



Jack Valinski 17:01


Great, now you're gonna be at diverse works. Next Friday, and Saturday, the 20th and 21st, at 8pm. And we're talking about it was a pharaoh, from East LA here in East Montrose. And it's great what you're doing, teaching the younger people about




17:18


very excited, it's, it's going very well and the kids seem to be they're extraordinary. And they all have everybody. Once you figure out how to get people to tell their story, you find that the


stories of America, especially gay and lesbian teens are so complex and so incredibly compelling. And, you know, I can understand why we have high suicide rates and all that stuff. But I also can understand why we have another generation. And I hate that it's called Generation X, because I think it's a very positive generation. Great.


 Jack Valinski 17:47

Okay. Well, we're looking forward to seeing you next week. But right now, we want to remind our listeners that we are in the pledge drive to keep KPFT on the air. Actually, we're hoping the storm will not take us off the air tonight. But you're listening to KPFT. And our pledge number tonight is 52635738. That's five to 6k P F T, and we're asking you to pledge any amount that you can. This is a community based radio station, this radio station stays on the air solely because of the money that you donate to us. And it's tough. Sometimes it's tough. Sometimes right now, our transmitter is only at like 75%. We'd like to bring it back up. And we only can do that if we help pay for our air conditioning system out there on that flatbed truck out off the Jones road somewhere. You know, some of you new people that may not have been around at KPFT in the early days that we were bombed off the air by the Klan, one of the only radio stations in this country to be bombed off the air. And yes, that's all history. And it's it's it's something that happened way back when but you know, we have to bring that up every once in a while because this is a community radio based radio station. And where else can you hear a game as being programming in this Houston area, but on KPFT it lets me engage voices and after hours on Saturday night, Sunday morning. I don't know if we have any phones yet. We have any pledges in yet. But somebody out in the lobby? No. Okay. We're hoping that you will call that number 526-573-8526 KPFT and make those pledges. Now we're going to take a little break and we'll be back

 19:59
heard

 20:17
that you would have been

 Deborah Bell 20:18
fine now

 20:29
why does everything precede a trifle twistedly And so limp recently along the avenue? Why does every little birdie seem to prune a Judy Garland to I have a theory I can eagerly present. Oh, we're more than just a meager 10% There must be something in the water in my neighbor. The flower shop is always full of guys. The little girl next door owns a motorcycle store. And the

children all have Betty Davis High. There is a lambda hanging proudly in each doorway. Superior interior design, all the furnitures and T. The men and women hardly see in that festive little neighborhood of my



21:39

well to every potluck, I just bring a dish along, the neighbors swish along from every block, every brownstone, every townhouse every ranch, and the postman said that I can call him black. All the street signs are Italian tiles. And have you seen the oldest Greenberg child Mercy Me. There must be something in the water in my neighbor. The traffic lights are lavender and green. There's an Esther Williams, who in the elementary school has instead of politicians, we have a queen. There's a veggie TOEFL football in the summer and the winner gets a bust of Gertrude Stein. So I am checking out the sink, because it must be what we drink. And that cozy little ghetto. It's a little like Soweto let's that festive little neighborhood. Oh my.



Jack Valinski 22:51

We do have a weather emergency outside a thunderstorm warning tornadic activity Yes. And yes, with a good take us up to Kansas maybe.



Deborah Bell 23:01

So you do have to be on alert to take cover. You need to get in a secure building if you're outside the innermost part of the building. And of course, stay away from any mobile homes. But



Jack Valinski 23:13

if you can keep close to your phone, you can pick up that phone and dial five to 65738 and make a pledge to KPFT 526-573-8526



Deborah Bell 23:20

KPFT. Please call with your pledge of support for lesbian and gay voices. We have some very special premiums to give away. You just heard Luis El Faro, who will be performing next weekend diverse works may 20 and 21st as part of their beyond desire series, and there are two tickets available to his performance. For the \$90 level if you put it on plastic charging on your credit card. There's also several other performances that are going to be taking place and you can also receive two tickets to those performances at that pledge amount. And on you can pledge for the \$60 level and receive two tickets to one of the movies that's now playing in the series. Now the other live performances one of them is is the five lesbian brothers. And that's going to be June 3 And Sunday June 5. And there's also Andrew Edmondson in Berlin stories June 10, and 11th. So at the Nany dollar pledge level two tickets to any one of those performances first come first serve. So you get your pick, the sooner you call in pledge your support at 526-573-8526 KPFT. And then if you would like to take up the offer of receiving two


tickets to any of the movie performances that are now playing in the series, that set the \$60 level. So that's a real good way to help out KPFT and to see some wonderful Lesbian and Gay performances

 Jack Valinski 25:03

and but to make all this happen so we can keep talking about these events on this radio station. We need you to make that pledge at 526-573-8526 KPFT. Shall we check out the lobby and see if we have any phones ringing or if it's awfully quiet out there?

 25:20


Well, we have open phone lines right now Jack and Deborah at 5265738. But we do have a couple of people who called in pledges this evening and we would like to thank those people. We want to thank and an anonymous donor is called in this evening. And we have another set of anonymous personnel. So yes, another anonymous person. She calls her generous pledge. Excuse me, kids. We'd also like to thank Nico Nico. Nico. Nico has donated dinner tonight for our volunteers here at KPFT Nico Nico is located at 2520 Montrose just off Westheimer and they have another location at 6415 San Felipe Nico Nico see original sandwich corner. Very hones you live here on a Marvin Zimmer's favorite places. And are you I live here?

 Jack Valinski 26:15

Yes. Do you live your dream marathon? I live in Houston. Okay, and you cerned about good radio.

 26:21

I am very concerned as a citizen of this community that my community radio station survive, and particularly that lesbian and gay voices stay on the air. And the only way that that can happen is if you call in with a pledge of support. And tonight, we do have some really special premiums, the tickets that Deborah mentioned are available. We also have with every pledge at the \$35 level or more a safer sex kit that we are offering to listeners of lesbian and gay voices. There are some really nice things that are contained within the safer sex kit. Talk about and you about it, they're all very useful. Yes, there are there, the cyber sex kit includes your phone in there includes a pair of latex gloves. It includes a pair actually, of condoms. It includes a sample size of comfort personal lubricant, it includes two, one spearmint, and one plane dental dams. Also a instruction sheet on how to use these devices, as well as a an instruction sheet on how to do a breast self examination.

 Deborah Bell 27:41

And Mary Helen put those packets together with the compliments of the Montrose clinic and the Montrose Counseling Center. They they helped donate the materials for those and those are throws comfort here, and you also get a mug at that level. You can put the little all that

stuff in the safe sex kit in the mug. And you know, it might be a nice gift for someone. Yeah, it's



28:07

it's kind of a neat item, it's available for your pledge of \$35 or more to KPFT your pleasure. And the way that you do those pledges, you give us a call here the number is 5265738. It takes a couple of minutes of your time, the volunteers will ask you your name and address, you're able to remain anonymous if you wish to do so. Or we can announce your name on the air does. It doesn't matter. It's all okay. We also have available tonight as a premium. A subscription to one TV. One TV is a new video magazine for lesbians and gay men. That is based here in Houston, they have donated a subscription for a pledge of \$120 or more, you're going to be hearing more about one TV and here's an actual excerpt from the program in just a little while. So if you would like to receive that as your premium, give us a call, we have lots of nice gifts. But the important thing is that a radio station like KPFT has has the dedication to the Lesbian Gay community to put on a show like this. We really need your support right now. And the number is five to 657 38 or five to six KPFT.



Deborah Bell 29:23

Our listeners really came through for us when we did our little spring break and we met our goal and our goal tonight is \$800 for the total station goal of 100. We give you a lot the two hours we come to you each Friday night, the numbers of volunteers that take part in this program and that make it possible our guests that come in and give their time to talk about what's going on the community. So you've probably made use of an organization or an activity that you heard about from listening to lesbian, gay Voices. And if that's true, you should be calling right now. 526-573-8526 KPFT. Especially, I'd like to hear from you if this is your first time to hear.



Jack Valinski 30:12

Yes, Mary, Helen, you have an interview with one TV, do you want to tell us a little bit about it? We're gonna



30:18

be talking with cokie Gray, the President and co founder of one TV. One TV is, like I said earlier, a new video magazine, very high quality television production, you receive one TV as a subscription in the mail. Okay, unlike KPFT, you have to pay for it in order to get it it's not it's not a broadcast thing. Right now it's available for subscription only. And you can get one of those subscriptions with for your pledge of \$120 or more. You're really going to want it after you hear the interview. So let's listen to that and come back and see who's wants to get that subscription. Thanks, Donna. My guest this evening on KPFT is lesbian and gay voices in his Kochi gray president of one TV comm Cokie, welcome to the station.



31:15

Thank you, Mary. Helen,



31:17

I'm going to ask the most obvious burning question that everybody wants to know. And that is, what is one TV? Well, one



31:25

TV is a television show for gay men and lesbians. It's net national program. We it's about a one hour program it is has interviews and entertainment and travel and fitness. And the main difference you won't find it broadcast what we're we are distributed on videotape cassette, actually people subscribe to it, or they can buy it in retail stores. And they'll get it delivered right to their mailbox six times a year. That's



32:03

That's unusual. I mean, that's different from, from what we're used to. We're used to just turning on the TV and taking what we get, or by accident finding that there is a program on of interest to us as lesbians in in gays.



32:26

How did you decide to do this with the subscriber base like that? Well, when I decided to do this very early on sort of analyze the options for broadcast and realized very quickly that that broadcast brought with it a whole set of problems having to do with accessibility. First of all, you're not accessible everywhere. If you're broadcast, you're also moved around from time slot to time slot, you encounter squeamish network executives who aren't comfortable with the subject matter. So therefore, you you risk the being just closed down all together with the onslaught of the radical right and programming about the gay community. So we opted to go directly on videotape, make it available through subscriptions so that you could get it no matter where you where you lived. And you could watch it when you want to watch it. I mean, half the people don't even know how to program VCRs. And so I know you. So um, so this, these were some of the things that went into making this the decision to do it that way, there are other programs for the gay community that offer their stuff on videotape, but that most of them are broadcast. All of them with one exception anyway, that I know of is a broadcast and then they sell tapes, copies of their show, you know, to people who are interested. So it's not an entirely new concept. But I think it's a practical, common sense approach to getting your shows seen and avoiding some of the other problems are broadcast. I think by by making ourselves available this way too. We can put some money into it into each show to make to spend the money to get the production quality that people are used to see when they turn on television. I mean, often, gay television suffers from low, low production budgets, they just don't have the money on say access to do the kinds of programming that you know that our audience would like to be able to see. And we've been able to get the production quality that people are used to seeing when they watch when they watch television



34:52

comparable to say commercial television network network TV, right?



34:56

That's exactly right. And that was definitely a goal very Very quickly, I mean, very early, that was a goal for us. We wanted to produce something that would would look like television sound like television. And we wanted to produce something that would reflect the whole reflect gay people integrated into the world on all different levels that we wanted to see some we wanted to do what I think is a more accurate picture of, of the gay community than what you typically see on mainstream television. We wanted to broaden that picture a little bit and include more gay people doing things other than marching in parades, you know, and or taking, talking in and taking sort of a political stance on something. I mean, I think gay people are, those are certainly very important things happening out of the gay community, but there's more happening and we wanted to, to try to appeal to more people and show gay people doing a lot more than that.



36:05

Cokie, you're a successful business woman, and you've, you've been a business owner in a male dominated field for many years here in Houston, and you make money at it, you've been successful. What made you decide to change your career or change your focus? And try a risky venture? Like, like one TV?



36:35

Yeah, I am. I you know, I have been very successful with Artemis here in Houston. I started at 1981. And it grew in a lot of different directions in the construction industry. And I've been, I feel very fortunate to have had the success that I had. And my identity was very, very tied up in that, you know, being a successful person in the non successful businesswoman. It's taken me a long time to give myself permission to try something new. The main reason I did was because I didn't feel passionate about Artemis, I never really did, I tried to, but it was like putting on a shoe that you liked, that looks good, but it just doesn't quite fit. And I and I decided that it was scarier to me to stay doing something that I felt that I didn't feel passionate about than it was to try to do something that I felt very excited about felt fit me to a tee and, you know, served served me on a lot of different levels. And I think when TV does that, and I think I mean, I hope that i It will bring me the kind of success that I've had in in Artemis, but in different different ways. Not only financially, I mean, I think down the line, it has the potential to do that, but but personally and the satisfaction that comes with doing something that you that you really feel good about must have taken some soul searching for you to reach that decision point. Yeah, it did took a lot of took a lot of time. And like I said, I'm almost embarrassed that it took me so long to get to a point of just saying Go for it. Okay, but I did. Thank God, good for you. Thank



38:25

11 38:23

you, good for you and good for the lesbian and gay community because what's come out of that? Is one TV. And I've seen the preview tape. I know that the the production is going to be very high quality and interesting. Who are your collaborators in this effort? I mean, your background isn't so much in Intellivision who is adding their energy to yours to produce this?

38:55

well built, no Cavanaugh. Bill Cavanaugh is my business partner. And he his background is film and television and video and he's sold his interest in the company that he started five years ago in order to do this with me. I went to him originally talking to him about helping you put together some numbers to see if it was financially feasible to make something like this work. And he started getting really excited about it. It it get it? Well, yeah, basically that's it. He just started getting very excited about it. And before we knew it, we were doing this together. And that's been one of the really fantastic things about it is our collaboration, learning to work together. All the things that come up with a partnership that I had never really had a chance to experience before I've been really I've really loved that part of it. I mean, I'm used to being the boss so it's had challenges, you know, to but I really like what our partnership, you know, has created. There's a certain synergy then you're saying Is that gonna lend itself? Well to what you're doing? Yeah, that's very well put Mary Helen. What are some of the programs that we can look forward to seeing on one TV? Well, there's all kinds of things we've been that are in development. I mean, this is brand new. And I'm looking forward to it, it changing and evolving all the time to find trying to find the things that that really that our audience gets excited about. I mean, among some of the things that we've got already in the can and ready to go with upcoming shows we have, we went backstage at a Madonna concert and have interviews with some of the dancers who work with Madonna and Herma, soothe and her brother and that's really fun. We have a woman we have an interview with a woman named Sally Fisher, who's written a book called Life Mastery, it's a lot about creativity, integrating creativity into your life, and all and, and looking at quality of life issues, kinds of things like that. We have an upcoming travel segment of a food and wine tour of Italy, this just beautiful, absolutely beautiful countryside of Italy places, sort of the not the typical tourist places that you go to in Italy. And that includes a gay nightclub in Florence that we went to Bill got to go to Italy, I stayed here, he's he's sending me on the trip to Antarctica, I think

41:32

have an article actually, there's

41:34

a women's tour. We joke we joke about who gets to go to Antarctica, but for on travel, we're going to do some bed and breakfasts around the United States some stuff that you can do in your own backyard. We have a thing with Costa Rica scheduled. So that should be really, I mean, lots of people I know are going to Costa Rica and are really excited about that as a vacation destination. So that's, that's another thing. We have a story called who leads when you dance, about relationships. And we have a story about Hollywood dreams. Producer from the Golden Girls and also a writer and producer of an upcoming CBS sitcom has done a thing

about making making it in Hollywood. So we're, you know, there's all kinds of stuff going on coming up with stuff from all over the country and stuff from Mensa for women. I think it's really wonderful. I'm just so excited about it. And I'm really, really enjoying it.



42:34

Well, it sounds like there's there's definitely the the production talent and the the interest in the gay community. Sounds like it's out there waiting waiting for vehicle.



42:49

Yeah, you know, that's true. We, there's a producer from 2020. His name is David Sloan. And he's actually won an Emmy for one of his segments on 2020. And he's doing a segment for us. It's it's in the development stages, I think it's going to have to do with plastic surgery, and, you know, vanity and plastic surgery and the dollars and cents of all of that that's happening with not only the gay community, of course, but with everybody, or with many people. But he you know, here's a 2020 producer who's going to produce a segment for us and, and that's been really fantastic. You know, putting this out there, showing it to people holding your breath and going, you know, are they going to get it this this is this? You know, am I totally off here, and having them respond with enthusiasm. I mean, I remember showing it to David the first time I met him up in New York and showed it to him, and he was just so complimentary and excited and wanted to be a part of it. So that's what's been happening everywhere. And so I think we're really getting to bring together some of the the best and the brightest in the gay community from all over to put together something that I think will be pretty wonderful. Yeah, that



44:04

sounds good. The preview tape that you all have out now has got some interesting stories on it. Yeah.



44:16

One of my favorites is, is a story about a woman who was diagnosed with breast cancer and in when she was about age 27, and she was trained for the Gay Games. At that point she went through this was the Gay Games. When they were in Vancouver. She went through treatment in his back as a spokesperson for the Gay Games and she is a wonderful, charismatic person who has a beautiful story and that was one of the stories we included in the preview we did the preview to sort of give people a feel of what the show what we were going for with the show and and that's one of my favorite stories on the preview. Let's let's take a listen to that. Now.



45:30

Welcome to one TV. I'm pro sowards. And I'm first Francis. We're here to introduce you to a whole new television experience. That sounds a little dramatic. That's because that's what one TV will be. One TV is a one hour television program created for the gay and lesbian community

will subscribe to one TV just like a magazine, and will be delivered right to your mailbox and a videotape cassette be promised to entertain, inform and inspire you with stories from across the country. Stories that truly reflect the nature of the gay community. Now much of America perceives that gays are only marching in the streets and dancing in the dark. Now it's true politics and parties are important. But in reality, most of us are busy doing our jobs, hoping for that promotion, deciding what to eat for dinner tonight, and figuring out which bills to pay afterwards. That just begins to tell you what one TV is all about. We're programmed for and about the way we live. It's about our dreams, our friends, our health, our vacations, our heroes, our work our bodies, our spirituality, our families, our homes, our parties, our art, I think that probably sums it up pretty well, Bruce, here's a little bit about us. Bruce and I have worked together before in mainstream television news. And this is a chance for us to work together again. But this time in an area that's closer to our hearts and to our homes. You know, through as a journalist, I talked to lesbians and gays all the time. But my mainstream editors like to leave an important part of the story between the lines. So this is my chance to make being gay or lesbian to lead or you can just part of the story. It means so many different things to each of us and so many different compelling stories to one TV. That's right, we'll be covering those stories the way we the gay community live them with the understanding that whether we're comfortable or struggling with our sexuality, being gay impacts so much of what we do. And despite the diversity inherent in a group of 18 million people, there's still so much common ground we share with each other our stories will reflect that



47:40

it was very hard initially, you know, because the first time they told me, I thought I was gonna die. I was pale white and I was already planning you know, my death.



47:50

Breast cancer is three times more prevalent among lesbians than heterosexual women. Lillian, the grown of Fort Lee New Jersey learned the hard way that youth and physical fitness are no guarantee against the disease.



48:06

I tried to spread the word to a lot of women as well check yourselves out before mammograms, you know do a lot of breast self examination that is very, very important because that's the way I found it. And even the mammogram didn't pick it up. So that scary.



48:22

It was the loving supportive longtime lover, Sony Acevedo and Lillian zone sheer determination that carried her through recovery.



48:32

I was lucky because I found it so early. I didn't spread to my lymph nodes and I'm happy to live

I was lucky because I found it so early. I didn't spread to my lymph nodes and I'm hoping to live for another 100 years.



48:42

Lillian's early discovery of the lump occurred while she trained for the 1990 Gay Games. Her life changed then and the games have a special significance as a result she's back in training and an active spokesperson for Gay Games for furthermore she says the games are for every one



49:03

everybody walks out of one it doesn't matter. So I tell people go for it. You know if they enjoy sport you don't have to be a jock or a jacket to be part of the games because I was not



49:17

okay cookie that that sounded really good. It sounds exciting and I know that I personally own a copy and have watched it several times just preparing myself as a subscriber for for what I have coming up and what I have in store for me. Cookie, how do you go about reaching your target audience which is obviously the lesbian and gay community how do you go about reaching these people and letting them know that one TV is there and and I mean, it's a little hard to convey the quality of it sometimes but how do you go about Look, reaching your market? Well,



50:03

when we're at events, people notice the quality, the quality very quickly. I mean, we have monitors going with the, with the preview showing and, and it's very, it's immediately noticeable the production quality of the show. So that helps because it gets attention, people come over and they say what is this, we're we will people will be seen as more and more an event. So hope your, your listeners will watch for us and come and check us out and talk to us and meet us if the if the if we're at an event. We're also we've also embarked on a direct mail campaign, and, and sending out letters to talking about what we're doing, what our vision is, what are some of the upcoming stories, and people are responding to me, we've just started to mark it. We've been working on this for a year and a half. And about a month ago, we just started to market and our first show is due out this summer. And so I think people will start to hear more about us. We are marketing it predominantly in Texas now although actually that's not really true. We do have a nationwide list we that were people have sent asking information about one TV and so we've been responding to those people as well. So there's a story coming out in OUT magazine about gay television, I believe it's next month and we're were included in that story. A man from TV TV Guide wrote the story for OUT magazine and included us in that so people will start to hear more about us and see us out and about I think if one of our listeners is interested in wants to learn more about one TV or wants to subscribe, what should they do? Well, the easiest way to subscribe is to call call us directly we have a one 800 Number

and that numbers 1-800-663-1067. And people can call us at that number and subscribe over the telephone or certainly respond to to our mailings or do some of the display advertising that we expect to be starting in the next couple of weeks.



52:26

My guest tonight has been cokie Gray, she's the president of one TV, Houston based which we're proud to that. We're proud that you're here.



52:37

I mean, it's it's a little unusual that that a television production would be based in Houston, Texas. Yeah. And that's certainly what we're hearing from the people and we go to New York and Los Angeles, they just can't believe that we're, you know, wall there. That's your question. This is really great. But why are you in Houston? Because we live in Houston and gay people live in lots of places besides New York and Los Angeles and San Francisco and the obvious little gay Mecca is, and we intend to stay here in Houston. And I think the fact that we are in Houston has really helped us in terms of coming up with an interesting program was stuff from all over. The shows that come out of New York or San Francisco tend to focus on New York personalities, San Francisco personalities. And, you know, which is, which is interesting to a point, I think, but there's just a lot more going on than what you'd find in those cities.



53:36

There's the rest of the middle of the country. Even down here on the third coast, that's



53:45

That's right. And so every now and then I think, oh, geez, we're not you know, we're not where it's where it's happening, you know, because when you get up into New York, you get that feeling really quickly. But I always go through this little wave. And then and then I, by the end of that time there I'm thinking, it is so good for us business wise that we're not here, you know, in New York or by that, I mean, we're not in New York or San Francisco because it it I think it gives us a much bigger perspective, where you're a creative person with a unique and exciting product. And thanks for being with us here tonight.



54:21

cokie Gray, with one TV.



54:24

Thank you, Mary, Helen, and good luck with this. All that's happening here at KPFT. Thanks a lot.

J Jack Valinski 54:33

And you're listening to Pacifica radio here in Houston. KPFT. And of course, you know, we're gonna be asking for you to do now. It's such a nice day to be inside being curled up with your radio with your radio and your phone next to you. And you can put your hand over on that phone and dial those digits. Five to 65738 reason we're asking you to do that is because this station in support by its listeners, we are responsible to you, we're not responsible to anybody else. We're responsible to the people who listen to this radio station. That's an hopefully there's a lot of gay lesbian people out there, or you don't necessarily have to be gay or lesbian, to be listening to the show, because this show talks about gay lesbian people. But we also talk about the fact that we're part of the greater world.

D Deborah Bell 55:22

And there are many people who are concerned with human rights who were rights. There's also parents and friends of gays and lesbians who listen to this program and are supported brothers or exactly. And, of course, you were listening to Mary Helens interview with cokie gray of one TV and cokie has generally generously offered a one year subscription to one TV for the first person who calls and makes a pledge of \$120 and puts it on their credit card. So you can be one of the premiere subscribers to one TV a new venture in the media for gays and lesbians. That's right here in Houston, Texas,

i 56:04

Deborah, in fact, they get not only the year subscription to one TV, but also a special limited edition, one TV embroidered t shirt, as well as a preview tape from one TV that tells you, you know, basically what you're going to be seeing. And then six issues of the program will arrive in the mail every other month, starting about the end of the summer of 94. So but

J Jack Valinski 56:31

here on KPFT, you don't have to wait for that now. You can listen to us all the time, we're on the air all the time, electricity permitted. And the air conditioning permitted. We're on the air all the time. This is your source for information from around the world, from the BBC, to Kyle in the morning, doing some incredible interviews, talking about a lot of different things. This is your radio station, it is your community, we really stress community because we hope you're part of the community in the Greater Houston community and being involved in different things.

D Deborah Bell 57:03

And that's why you do need to call now 526-573-8526 KPFT take us up on that one year subscription to one TV available at the \$120 level, the performance tickets to any of the Beyond czar series. Now at the first works at the \$90 level, or for the movie tickets at diverse works at the \$60 level plus the usual premiums, the mugs, the T shirts, the program, God

excetera you're listening, you're the one who needs to be paying for the service that you receive. I mean, we don't have we don't just say, Okay, you're listening to KPFA. So here pay us this money. What we're saying is support us. Do you care about what you're hearing? Do you think that is important? I know a lot of young people that don't have access to the community. And a lot of times I have people say, you know, the first time I ever heard another person talk about being gay or lesbian, and in a positive way was on your radio show. And they say thank you, and they get involved in the community, they become involved in organizations. And that's why we're here doing it right. And

J

Jack Valinski 58:18

some of the younger people cannot afford right at this point in their life to be able to pick up the phone and donate some money to us. But perhaps you can. And you know, it's only less than 10% of the people who listen to this radio station do support it. That's sort of I guess the the average of a lot of public radio stations, you get it for free, whether you pay for it or not. But if you think there's some value to this, if you think what we do, hopefully you do think what we do is valuable, that we're helping out the community or trying to bring a better understanding about gay and lesbian people to the to the general community. If you think that is something that is worth it, would you please pick up the phone and dial 526-573-8526 KPFT.

D

Deborah Bell 59:00

And just remember that you also get with each pledge of any amount \$35 or above the safe sex packet. They were contributed compliments of the Montrose Counseling Center and the Montrose clinic. And the Montrose Counseling Center has been around for quite a while now here in Houston. And they work with lesbians and gays in a variety of programs including therapeutic services, educational services, which includes the men and women's network, which we often give the calendar for each week, case management, private one on one counseling, community services such as sensitivity training, employee assistance, referrals, and they work on sliding scale their confidentiality is assured, and they're part of the community that's fair for you here in Houston, and it's the oldest and largest lesbian and gay mental health provider in Texas, and it's right here in Houston. And they said, Yes, we want to support what's going on at KPFT. We appreciate what you're doing. We also believe in safer sex. And here's a way to, for us to accomplish some of our shared goals. The Montrose clinic, is the clinic that people can get anonymous HIV testing, and other services, they also have women's unit, which actually doesn't get very much attention. And at this time has not received enough support for them to do all the work, the research, the Houston research, can't remember that the full name of it is located through the Montrose clinic. And so we want you to support those organizations. But we also and more primarily want you to be supporting KPFT. And you can do that very easily. I mean, I do is one of the easiest things in the world to do. Because all you have to do is pick it up, pick up the phone and the Phone. Yes, pick up the phone and make a phone call. If you can call those phone six numbers you can call KPFT numbers last digits for KPFT. Yes, and it doesn't cost you anything but what you're pledging and support at the station. And we have some wonderful volunteers standing by and I know they want to hear the phone's ringing. So please do call now. 52657385 to six KPFT

J

Jack Valinski 1:00:38

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testing,