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 Tue, Nov 29, 2022 9:18AM  37:28

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, women, sex, safe, aids, people, risk, music, gay, risk factors, listening, lesbian sex, margie, hear, friends, virus, written, talk, book, blood



00:05

I'm Frank Browning, the author of the culture of desire. And you're listening to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine that brings you all of the paradox perversities and desires of queer life.



00:21

Coming up the return of musical Marvel Margie Ausdom fifth anniversary fun with comic Kate Clinton, and together proud and strong with composer Lin Thomas, but first a snippet from the Beeb.



00:38

That's all that's all. I got a hitter big.



00:46

pop group erasers openly gay lead singer Andy Bell, and openly lesbian country singer Katie Lange joined forces on the BBC last month. The duo performed the 70s Disco hit enough is enough live during the nationally televised BRIT Awards, the British equivalent of America's Grammys. Here's a musically edited excerpt from that telecast.



01:13

Years have passed away eight to be exact, since concert goers and women's music collectors alike have had the privilege of Mark Adams wonderful music as one of the four most important performers in the evolution of women's and lesbian music. Margie, along with Meg Christian, Chris Williamson, and Holly near for the four horsewomen of the 1970s musical apocalypse. I recently talked with Margie in Berkeley, California home and asked why she quit writing and performing her music.



01:40

I stopped performing in 1984 Not because I burned out, but I simply came to the end of my work, I had recorded four albums, all the music that I had written, I mean the finest of the material.



01:55

Adams new album, another place has just been released by Pleiades records. The music is written from the perspective of someone who has passed her 40th birthday. There's a new maturity to Margie Adam and her extraordinary music. I asked her about the new compositions, her new seriousness and what became of the playfulness of the past.



02:13

It's always been really important to me as a songwriter to dance back and forth between the whimsy and songs of conscience, and tortured love songs that I'm well known for. It's what keeps me interested. And when I think about my new material, I enjoy performing it all because there is this balance Washington is



02:47

indeed upon us and in an interview with the theme song composer Lin Thomas, you can hear the building excitement. First, we dip into the archives in recognition of this way outs fifth anniversary to preview another sound that will characterize the upcoming event and April 1988 piece featuring lesbian comic Kate Clinton, who will be co anchoring March coverage on Pacifica radio.



03:11

This is Robin McCall. K. Clinton is a gutsy lady. She left her job as an English teacher at the age of 30. To become not just a stand up comedian, but a feminist stand up comedian.



03:23

When I first started, people said to me, don't call yourself a feminist humorous. It's a really a kind of sophisticated Deathwish people don't believe there's such a



03:31

thing. And not only a feminist stand up comedian, but an out of the closet, lesbian feminist stand up comedian. In spite of this risky stance, she says being upfront about her sexual orientation has actually been good for her career



03:45

to make it clear that I'm a lesbian. In a lot of ways, it's a great gimmick. I thought it would bring back when my favorite TV classics. This is your life. All right. But in the show, we bring a lesbian who is in the closet up to the stage and make her come out to her entire family and friends while on television. Oh yes. We drag the poor little women kicking and screaming all the way up to the stage. Skid Marks, parallel black skid marks all the way up. And its silhouette would appear on the closet door. And the MCS voice would say Do you remember this woman? Remember the girl your older brother went out with in high school? The girl you always loved but lost track of when to everyone's surprise after graduation she entered the Marine Corps



04:37

for material ranges from in jokes involving personal sharing to broad political humor.



04:42

People assume that as a feminist, I'm going to do a lot of anti male humor. I don't really know him that well to make. make jokes about him. So there



04:49

are challenges in transferring her humor from intimate women's bars to more mixed venues.



04:54

Well, let's just say don't play to Mickey Gillies. Although you know, I don't like to rule out a plane in a room with a mechanical But you establish a kind of trust you establish that we're similar in these things. You know, I talk about women's bodies. I talk about politics.



05:09

As a recovering Catholic. Kate appreciates the wages of sin more than most, particularly when they're wages like Jimmy Swaggart, they had a picture



05:16

of him coming out of the motels with prostitutes or Protestants. She said that she had to do pornographic acts with I mean, the mind reels unfiltered for me, it would just be touching his hair. I love Jimmy Swaggart when he said, I have sinned. Like it was the first time you know, like, bilking poor people out of their weekly paychecks isn't a sin. Now, I think it's time that we have a new feminist TV network. We'd have an early morning religious show that would

combine the best elements of the PTO club with the 700 Club, short PTO, praise the lesbians. And we'd have some early morning religious music. They come on to give me that Oh, give that cake



06:06

out of the closet lesbian feminist stand up comedian. This is Robert McCall.



06:15

While the musical tastes of the 1 million or so people organizers hope will be marching in Washington on April 25. We'll certainly run the gamut. There's a good chance many of them will head back home humming the tune written specifically for the historic event. LYNN THOMAS wrote and supervise the recording of together proud and strong, the official anthem of the March on Washington for lesbian, gay and bi equal rights and liberation.



06:39

I wanted something that was going to be you know, sort of uplifting and prideful. But at the same time, I wanted it to be easy enough that people could pick it up on the first or second listen, you know that they by the end of this



07:00

Thanks for choosing this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Ryan newness, Mark Boyer, Deidre Kennedy, Shelly Roberts, Robert McCall, Kevin Lerner and Jason Lim contributed program material. Thanks also to Ron buchmeier. Mike alkali evades and focus, Bonnie Chipola and Pacifica network news



07:21

Romanovsky and Phillips, Katie Lange and Andy Bell, Margie, Adam and LYNN THOMAS with many others perform some of the music you heard and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.



07:32

This way out is brought to you each week by a staff of community volunteers and is sustained by a financial support from the community. audio cassettes of this way up programs are available by mail individually or by subscription. Write to us for more information.



07:46

We'd also like to hear from you with any comments, suggestions or questions you might have. Or just to let us know you're out there listening right to this way out, Post Office Box 38327, Los Angeles, California 90038. And please be sure to include the call letters of this station. This way ad is produced by Greg Gordon and Lucia Chapelle. And we thank you for listening on W O M R Provincetown to ser Sydney and kh su Arcata, among others and for supporting this community radio station.



08:15

Please do stay tuned. Okay, we're



08:22

live. We're live, we're not ready, but we're live. That's wonderful thing about volunteering down here is that no one down here is professional when you listen to us. You listen to what live TV used to be like when the show shows was on and and goofy was just gone right over and move right through. And that's what we do right here. And I haven't I haven't even got my headphones on yet. And my mic is sliding to the table. We have been really fortunate tonight. And unfortunately, I haven't heard from any of the three people that were supposed to call. Thank goodness that Bruce and Judy called let us know what was going on up there at the March on Washington and the festivities that are before I'm going to be actor. And if you were here earlier, that was some moving stuff that was going on up there that Bruce was talking about. But right now I want to tell you a little story. real short. Couple of days ago, a week ago. We got a letter here that I took really seriously it was from someone out there who was very interested in finding out about lesbian sex and lesbian safe sex. And I've given it a lot of thought and I want to be I want to talk about a little bit of that tonight and to talk about that. Did Shall I go. Sally went home. I knew she was gonna chicken out on me to talk about that. I invited a friend of mine who is also at the game listening switchboard. Becky And we're going to talk a little about lesbian say sex, I've convinced her that it won't be the hair pulling job that she thinks is going to be. That will be pretty simple. And what we'll do is we'll start the beginning in the basics. I think that in this day and time, it's fair to ask about lesbians safe sex and lesbian sex, because so often we hear about sexual contact between gay men more often than we do about women. And although we won't be going into the mechanics of lesbian sex, although that can be a whole nother show. If we get enough Colin voters, we might get into that someday, we got some steamy lesbians getting ready to run out of the room, it's not an easy thing to talk about sex. So and it's even more difficult, I believe, for women in general, because as a cultural, I mean, as a group, I think we've been trained to keep that part of us private and, and not talk about it. And fortunately, I've been a member of the game has been switchboard long enough that talking about sex and safe sex on the telephone is relatively easy for me. I've spoke at various organizations about being with the switchboard and discussing safe sex. But most people are interested in the male to male, say sex, and tonight we're going to explore I love that word. Explore lesbian safe sex. First, I'd like to tell you that there are, in our day and time great risk when you have sexual contact or truly intimate contact with anyone. And the rules are the same for everyone. know you've heard them we're gonna go through them real quickly about HIV and AIDS. Basically, you can get age by let's see blood to blood contact. Seen semen to blood contact. I believe that's the only two ways so far that you It's blood to blood, which means if you get a transfusion, or you cut yourself and and you're you've been cut, and you're sexually involved with someone who's who's also got a NIC or a

scratch, that that if that person if that person is HIV positive, and that is always the first factor in your risk. If that person is HIV positive, there is a risk if you're dealing with someone who is has a cut or a scratch of some sort. Right? Correct. I've been corrected. Vaginal, yeah, vaginal fluids are one of the fluids bodily secretions that you can find the virus in. And that would mean that a cut on a wrist or a hand or another part of your body that will come in contact with the genital area, and come in contact with vaginal fluids can be a risky and unsafe contact. It's difficult to sit here and talk about this because I can't see faces. So I don't know where to go. But oh, your face is this is the right way to go. Right. Okay. Um, the thing that I wanted to share was that the important thing I think, is discussing and knowing the risk factors involved. I have a wonderful book here. It's called lesbian passion, loving ourselves and each other. And it's written by Joanne Whelan, who is a wonderful writer, a wonderful lesbian, and a wonderful woman. I've met her several times, and they've enjoyed her company. And she has a section in her book called Where is it? Where is it? Oh, is 119 I want to read it real quick. What do lesbians need to know about AIDS? And it talks about? Let's see, caseloads means have lowest percentage of population contracting aid. We have a simple, unique opportunity to act wisely now and keep the incidence of AIDS in our community very low. And that's what she talks about in this book about the risk factors and keeping, keeping yourself abreast of the information and in tune to the people around you so that you can logically and reasonably assess your risks a lot less means feel that they are immune to AIDS because of the statistics. But the fact is, age is caused by a virus, and no one is absolutely safe. The only one who is absolutely safe is the person who's living in a glass bubble their whole life. Even if you're not having sex, you are still not perfectly safe. Because if you have an accident, or someone else has an accident, and you rush to their aid, and you get blood on your body, and you chew your fingernails to have an hangnail on it or something, then you have an area for transmission, so everyone should be treated same. If you approach someone who's bleeding, you must be aware of the risk that the possibility of transmission is there. Let's see where was it. Transmission of eight hearing. AIDS virus is transmitted by blood, semen and vant vaginal secretions. It's also found in urine feces from breast milk and may be transmitted through these now. When I first started hearing about AIDS, as far as women, the incidences of children being born with a from infected mothers was 33, no 66% were infected born infected. As it is now as the statistics stand. Now, it's only 33% are born infected if their mother is infected, so there's a good chance that even a baby won't be born infected. But if that baby drinks, fresh milk, while after being born, then it can contract the virus through that breast milk. It's been found in low concentration and tears and saliva so low that the estimation from the CDC is that it would take about five gallons of exchange to transmit the virus. So five gallons a slob or five gallons of tears, you figure it out? What are your risk of running across that? So let's see. It says to date has not been transmitted through either one. But they say that it's probably can't be transmitted, but they can find the virus in there. That's another place where today, we know one thing and tomorrow we may know another so include that into your your risk calculations. Let's see. Pardon me, Low risk, low risk, low risk. Yes. Um, it talks a little bit about testing, which we don't need to talk about right now. If you need to go test. If you feel that you need to test, then there are places to go though, Montrose Counseling Center and Planned Parenthood does anonymous testing. So those are things you can it's places you can go, if you're curious about your standings.



18:03

Do a blood test your husband, like I said, Any clinic will do a blood test.



18:07



18:07

There you go. Any clinic will do a blood test. Right? And if they find a positive match, then they will do what is called a West. No, the western blot is the first one they do. What's the second one they do? They call it the WHO Jimmy would know. Anyway. I wanted to tell you about some statistics that were gathered in 1987. Of course, I know that's pretty old. But I imagine the percentages will stay close to the same. So I want you to hear this, about AIDS. In June of 87 7% of women of people that had AIDS in the United States were women. 7% of the people now know that figure has risen because in the past three years, the largest growing population of people to get AIDS were straight, heterosexual women, straight heterosexual, heterosexual women. We're contracting in the last three years, the fastest of any population. And that is because I think women in general have I think straight people in general have kind of pawn this off to the gay populations and said it's their problem. Well, it's not and it is fast becoming a known quantity out there that it is not just a gay thing. It is a virus. And it does strike anyone who it can anyone that lets their guard down and is uninformed. But I want to get back to these statistics. At in 87 that means about 2500 Women at that time. were HIV positive. Half of these women who have who have AIDS were or are intravenous drug users. That's half so you can figure that what 12 The fifth 1400 people I mean 1400 Women 1300 Women 2500 So it's 1212 1150 1150 women were with intravenous were either then or before IV drug users. Another 29% of the women had sex with men in high risk groups. And those high risk groups were gay or bisexual. Were the men HIV drug users. Were the men had a transplant prior to transplant or a non transplant transfusion prior to 1985. And what is the other one? Those were the high risk groups of men. 29.9% of the women had sex with men and these high risk groups 11% had blood transfusions. So that explains some of the remaining 10% have no known risk factors, which could mean that they died before they were interviewed. Or they didn't want to say what the risk was, or they didn't know and couldn't, couldn't determine that. So the women out there can fix an idea of their risk by these statistics. I think the statistics, the numbers are probably are definitely gone up. But I think you will find that the statistics are going to stay just about the same. Is it time? Yes, it is. Okay. These statistics, it's important to note that 80% of the women with AIDS are women of color. And when we come back, I want to talk a little bit about that. But Jimmy's making that famous breaking sign language in here, which means we have to go to a quick station ID and do I have to do that KPFT Houston, this is after hours, continuing tradition and you're listening to World Radio. I think that's all of it. One breath. Okay. And do I need to do anything else are we going right on? Okay, we're going right on.



21:56

This is a point of pride a minute of gay and lesbian history. In April 1927. The padlock law was used to close Broadway theaters that showed plays with gay and lesbian themes. A year earlier under the name of Jane masked movie star Mae West wrote and starred in a play called the drag. Basil Rathbone, later best known as Sherlock Holmes starred in the captive Western Rathbone had been arrested a year earlier, but the plays were granted protection by the Supreme Court. The padlock law was directed against theater owners and used to suppress gay and lesbian creativity on stage. It lasted for 40 years and was only repealed in 1967. This has been a point of pride, written by Mike Cheswick for information on gay and lesbian groups or activities called the gay and lesbian switchboard of Houston at 5293211.



22:54

open gates up did you miss me? Jimmy, I see that you found a new friend. Warden come down

here. Kiss me Hello. Goes I'm back home. And Hans view. Again.



23:20

KPFT is prison program is devoted to cops courts, jails, prison and probation and parole and the other minutiae of the criminal justice system. Tune in every Sunday afternoon from three to five, kickback, listen up, and hear what you've been missing.



23:47

I guess we're on again. Oh, surprise, surprise. We're just sitting here talking about what we can say what we can't say on the radio and I am safe. I am protected. I'm safe. What I want to do is read this little piece here out of this book. I've been paraphrasing and giving you bits and pieces but this is in someone else's words better than I can do in my own words. So I want to give it to you in this. This is Joanne Whelan's description of what is safe sex for lesbians. And she takes this from a pamphlet she's been given from the Women's aids network, I believe, which is out of New York called lesbians and AIDS and I'm going to read you exactly what it says here. Safe second, sex includes massage hugging, body to body rubbing, social kissing, dry kissing, voyeurism, exhibitionism, fantasy and masturbation. French Canada, kissing is considered possibly safe, also considered possibly safe as oral sex with a barrier such as a rubber dam will go into the dental dams in a little bit. A rubber dam is what some dentists use a well she's gonna go into it now. A rubber dam is what some dentists used to isolate a tooth or working on. It's a thin, stretchable sheet of light acts sort of like a flat square condom to have safe sex you put it on, you can put it between your tongue and somebody else's vagina, anus, clitoris and lick. The hard part about using the rubber dam is that it's somewhat awkward, it moves it small and you have to mark it or somehow remember which side your tongue was on and which side your child was on so you don't enter advertently turn it over and lick the vaginal juices off of it you want. You may want to have several available so you don't forget which side is which you can just reach for another hand a gentle tool or finger to genital contact is considered possibly safe. To be safe once you'd wear latex gloves or finger cots, which are just the tip side of a latex glove. Definitely unsafe sex for lesbians is blood blood contact of any kind including including blood for ministration IV drug use or traumatic sex traumatic sex is sex which creates cuts or abrasions this cute and cute clewd Oh, there's a word I can't use 15 or rectal or vaginal penetration was something that causes a break in the skin, and Satow sadomasochistic bondage or discipline which draws blood. Also unsafe is rooming, and sharing safe sex toys that have had contact with somebody else's bodily fluids, you can get these rubber dams at a dental office. I have a friend who's a dental hygienist who put a few in my hand some time ago, and I still have exactly with my hand. Actually, I have them scattered around my room and every now and then I pick one up and do what I call my hand calisthenics, I just you just stretch one between me no stretch, one between hands, just pull back and forth, you know, the thing that I think that it's time to talk about is a risk. And what the real life is like now, this is the party line, Jim and I have talked about that this is the party line, the safe sex information, these are the things that you need to be aware of, and the things that you should take into account when you're deciding your risk factor with the possible sexual contact you might have. The truth is, and this is the hard part to deal with. There's a real world out there. And I don't want you to go out there thinking that people are everyone is behaving like this, because everyone is not. I talked to a great deal of lesbian friends in the last couple of days connected with them and ask them questions. And I found that the greatest majority of my

friends, myself, and I believe we talked earlier, Becky, we choose our partners carefully and decide against practicing safe sex. This is our decision, our choice, we're educated, we're cautious, and we make an educated, cautious choice not to practice safe sex, which means and Becky and I were talking about this earlier, that you know, you can't you know, your partner, you know, in some degree, some part of their past that they haven't been an IV drug user, or they are exclusively lesbian and have not been with a man in the last three to five years



28:27

that you make sure that when you have sex with your partner, that there is no blood or abrasions in in your sexual contact that if you are into sadomasochistic



28:46

and there are safe.



28:48

Yes, if you're into that there are ways to do that without dealing with the blood and the bodily fluids. The interesting thing is that with, with women, sex, the mechanics of sex is so different than the mechanics of sex with men. With men, there's an a, an A, Jack Ulation, a force of the body, forcing of the semen, the bodily fluid into another body, or out of their body exposed to another body. And with women that is is not as common, there are certain certain kinds of ejaculation that women have, it's usually very small. And a lot of women of the vast majority women do not even know what happens. But because of the difference the risks fall considerably, and I make a choice depending on my partner's, my partner's history, my the kind of sex that I have with my partner, and the degree in which my commitment to my partner is determines with me whether or not I practice safe sex, Becky, when you make these decisions, What? How do you is? What do you? I mean, do you consciously make that decision? Or is it just something that has happened with you?



30:08

I think probably both. I think most women, it's probably both. I think in the time of AIDS, we're getting more conscious of the risk, and it's becoming more public that there are facilities to alleviate the risk and lesbian sex. Excuse me, but I think everybody has to make a conscious choice, a lot of its historical behavior. And in this community, granted, it's changing for everybody. But women probably are slower to change only because the numbers dictate that we are much lower risk cases for eight. So yeah, I think it's a con you I don't think you can make any choice these days being aware and not have it be conscious.



30:55

Sarah, do you want to add anything to this Sarah sneaking you to sitting way over? Nisyros? Swear to me, she's not gonna say anything. But I sense that you that you have might have something to add to this. And no, you don't have she doesn't. She swore to me, she wouldn't.

something to add to this. And no, you don't have she doesn't. She swore to me, she wouldn't talk. She doesn't have anything to add? Well, I wanted to address this. Because of the letter we got asking questions about what was safe sex for lesbians? Could is this possible? Is that possible? historical facts. Oh, what? Oh, I see so called behavior, historical behavior, knowing yourself and the people that you hang with?

 31:41

No, I'm in it more in terms of prior to age being so public, you know, I mean, a lot of us are old enough to have been pre that time. So behaviors, learn sexual behaviors, which are learned through time as teenagers and, and young adults, people carry those behaviors forward. That's what I meant by historical behaviors.

 32:02

Yes. Well, I know I have, I've, I've, I basically have been, I spent a lot of time with a woman before I become intimate with her. So that I do know a little about her past and about, you know, the kind of person she is and, and enough to judge for myself, not ask her to just tell me not expect that she's going to tell me the truth. But to judge for myself, whether she's an HIV drug user, that's something that if someone is an HIV drug user, at some point in time may feel that that is information they do not wish to share with you. So it's not something you should leave up to someone else to answer you, you should ascertain that information for yourself. There are easy ways to find out it's it's a visible thing, it's a physical thing. If someone is in need related all the time, it's very likely that they experiment with drugs. There are a lot of ways to there are a lot of ways to question and find out about someone's past. So

 33:10

choice is yours. And I think if you are not comfortable with having sex with someone after some short period of time, you need to make that clear. Alright, to that to that particular individual,

 33:22

right. There are some things that that I practice as a as a as a practicing there's something there are some practice practice that I I do in my sexual contact with with another woman that is has always been safe. I've always been into mutual masturbation kind of thing. Which is is pretty is pretty safe. It's not absolutely say there are ways to make it safer like that was they were talking about the the dental dam, the finger cots, latex gloves, sometimes those latex gloves can

 34:05

can be harsher than



34:06

correct and well, sometimes they can actually sometimes they can be pretty fun. I mean, if you get the right kind of lubricant or lotion that can be pretty, pretty enjoyable. And, and that's something that people but my point here is that there's a scale that you have to carry around with you, where you weigh your risk factors. You have to be aware of these risk factors. There are places you can find out more information as manufacturers are a reading list in the back of this section that I I do want to share with you. One of the things that you can do is call the AIDS Foundation and ask them to send you their women and safe sex pamphlet. I know that's a little different because most of the pamphlets don't deal with lesbian sex. So if you are lesbian and you looking for a safe sex information, request the lesbian say sex a pamphlet that they have, and they'll send it to you in the mail, I'm sure I'm almost positive few questions, they'll send it to you. But there are some books and organizations you can get in touch with to find out more about women and AIDS. You can call the women's aids network. I was wrong earlier, it's in San Francisco. And you can get a hold of the National AIDS hotline, which is the one 800 342 ai D S number. You can stop at one of your local gay and lesbian bookstores and ask for books on women and aids clinical Resource Guide, which is comes out of the women's aids network in San Francisco. There's a pamphlet out you can order called lesbians and AIDS, also out of the women's aids network, and you can call that number the women's aid network and get a pamphlet now give you these numbers in just a minute. But you can ask for large quantities and pass this out to your friends. There is a safe sex kit and book that you can order for like \$20 plus little postage and handling from the art and from the Institute of the advanced study of human sexuality. As I say sex kit that includes a rubber dam, a condom, adult adult toy cleaners, that's another thing about safe sex is toys. If you're going to use toys between partners, you want to make sure they're clean before you use them on another partner. And if you are alone, then that's an option. Also that toys are an option. You can get this book for just \$20 it comes in a in a box with lavender wrapping. It also comes with two lubricants. So that was that sounds like just a re regular party book to me. Just call your friends and tell them come over you got your party book. And you can find out more information about this also in the lesbian passion loving ourselves and each other by Joanne Lulu. There's a lot of information out there. It's very specific, supposedly very specific information. But very general information can be interpreted if you sit down and you take a minute, you can interpret it and figure it out for lesbian say sex