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SPEAKERS

Nancy Rodriguez, Jimmy Carper, Sarah Dipalma

Sarah Dipalma 00:01

And Kate is a fascinating woman she when we did is do a an interview here in studio. Big woman. I mean tall like she's 465 and that kind of thing. Yeah, she was she was at least six to anyway. Yeah. And she came in and I look way up at her. She came in, in black leather in a top hat. So she looked about 20 feet tall. And she is certainly certainly comfortable in her gender, in, in, in, in gender about gender, as just as a philosophy. The book is her is called Gender outlaw on men and women and the rest of us and that should tell you something, you should write their gender outlaw. And if you hear news, if you hear listen noise behind this. We have been joined by the Fred's they are in the other studio and we're getting ready to put them on the air. Somebody had called in and requested the Fred's and we didn't have that in music. And so the Fred's decided they would go ahead and bring it up here for us to play, which I think is very nice. And we're going to go to them in a second. Beth, one of the things that I wanted to ask you about while you're here, you are a member of renaissance in Philadelphia.

01:06

That's true. I was in involved in Renaissance in Philadelphia, and also the Philadelphia, Philadelphia area, transsexual support group, Pat's, both of those groups are our transgendered activist groups, and transgendered social and transgendered support groups in Philadelphia,

Sarah Dipalma 01:20

that tell people about renaissance that being the well it's kind of

01:23

an interesting concept for me to come here to Houston and meet people at like GCTC and tats that the transsexual associate Texas Association for transsexual support, because a typical night at Renaissance would have anywhere between 75 and 100 people at it 75 and 100 people

is, you know, unheard of around here. And and they're comparable sized cities, Houston and Philadelphia, why shouldn't there be that many people who are able to contact others of like mind and meet and discuss things that are important to them? have speakers in when they want to get support when they need it? It's it's there's no reason that we can't do that for each other.

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Sarah Dipalma 02:02

I have wondered why we don't do it. Why don't want if you go to a tax meeting, for example. I would guess

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I should mention that I'm on the board for tax. That's how I got involved with this in Texas in the first place down here.

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Sarah Dipalma 02:16

But you know, you're absolutely right. If you go to a tax meeting, I guess an average attendance of taxes. 15 to 20. Roughly, yeah, yeah, something something along those lines, and get in Philadelphia, they're drunk 75 to 100. Now, part of that is that the leader of the group there, Joanne Roberts, is a very nationally known figure, but he's not really considered an activist. She's actually not a very scary source.

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02:39

She's very charismatic. She's very Yeah, she's she's, she's got the they call her a mainline matron in the newspaper, when they interviewed her while the IFP convention was in town. You know, she's, she's a little bit wild at times, but she's not very politically active, but that she doesn't need to be that's not her style. She's into serving the community and other ways she publishes a lot of literature that's available out there for

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Sarah Dipalma 03:06

and that's not to say that Renaissance is completely apolitical when the HRC F came into Philadelphia, Renaissance led the picket line.

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03:15

Yeah, not that's not our Pat's not the people who are strictly TSS, but the group that came that will accept anybody, regardless of their their transgender nature, a group that

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Sarah Dipalma 03:25

S Sarah Dipalma 03:25
I would say is probably 50% cross dressers, by the way,

i 03:29
I would guess closer to 75.

S Sarah Dipalma 03:31
So all of you folks out there who say, Well, you know, cross dressers are really not part of our movement. Forget it. I'm

i 03:36
sorry. But you know, it's all or none. And you guys were talking about that earlier? That's absolutely right. We can't, you know, a lot of the things that the HRC app has done in terms of one way to think of it is that they've thrown us off the ship to the sharks in order that they can paddle away faster. Now, they're asking us to do that to the cross dressers? I'm sorry, I'm not gonna throw anybody off any ship to any shark. It's just not me.

S Sarah Dipalma 04:00
No, I'm not going to be the person to do the throwing. I promise you. That, thanks. Thanks very much. We need to go to the Fred's and I think, Jimmy, what do we have a tape cued up here? Okay, we're going to go to the threads and we'll come back and talk to them a little bit. The group is called the Fred's and

J Jimmy Carper 04:22
you've heard him right here on after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station, Bryan now. I'm telling you, we get a we get a woman calling in wanting to hear the Fred's we announced that, gee, we'd like to you know, I've really liked the group and I'd love to play the Fred's but we don't have the music. And what do you know women show up at the door with CDs and cassettes. It's just amazing.

S Sarah Dipalma 04:52
This is called live radio and we're about to turn on their turn them on in the studio you are on the air and speaking

J Jimmy Carper 04:57
of women who show up at the door We have one with us. And actual Fred. And you know, she

she doesn't look like



05:06

Fred at all. For Graeca the names this evening. Yeah, your name is, uh, my name is Kathy.



Jimmy Carper 05:12

Hey, Kathy.



Sarah Dipalma 05:13

Tell us about the Fred.



05:16

Yeah, we're a new band. We're Houston based. And there's three of us. There's me and Kathy Drake. Our drummer is Robin Borthwick. And guitar player songwriter also is Rebecca makan. And it's been a three of us. We're about a half a year old and we've been real lucky so far. We played spectrum 95. And we're gonna play the Lone Star women's festival in October.



Jimmy Carper 05:41

Okay, we've been talking about that. Yeah, we're looking forward to that. I heard about the Fred's from a bunch of women who do volunteer work at the gay and lesbian switchboard. Oh, they're friends. You got to hear the friends that are really great.



05:55

We play Miss bees a lot to out of the ranch. And to bees.



Jimmy Carper 06:01

We've also right here on Alabama. Yeah,



06:03

we've also been over at the mucky duck. And Danelectro rose and wow. So we're kind of getting around.





Jimmy Carper 06:11

How does your music go over it places like damn electrodes and Makita



06:16

they go over really good. In fact, rotten girl is a pretty popular song even with the straight crowd.



Sarah Dipalma 06:23

How'd you come up with a name for your band?



06:25

I thought that was gonna come around sooner. Oh, yeah. Well, I was in another band. Me and Rebecca were and there was a cat with an attitude. A female cat. I know what you're thinking a lot of puns in here. But



Sarah Dipalma 06:42

I'm determined to keep her mouth shut.



06:45

But anyway, a cat with an attitude. And we liked it. And her name was Fred and we kind of liked the attitude of Fred. So cool.



Jimmy Carper 06:56

You've got a you've got a tape out with three songs.



07:00

Yeah, that's kind of like our demo tape. We're currently working on a full CD right now. This is just a taste. And we're all original music and we all right, we all sing. We all play. So pretty well self contained.



Jimmy Carper 07:16

So where are you going to be in the near future?



07:19

Right now. We've got our first date coming up is gonna be September the 22nd. Miss bees Oh, at the ranch. And that following Tuesday, we'll be at munchies. That's That's right. Over your enriched? Yeah, very close to us here. Yeah. And then the Lone Star festival. And after that we have the first annual Houston women's Music Festival.



Jimmy Carper 07:43

You know, that's really exciting. Yeah, I



07:46

was really glad that we were asked to do that because this is their first time and it sounds like a good thing to be a part of. I'm glad you stopped by. Oh, well, thanks. I appreciate you welcoming me so nicely.



Jimmy Carper 08:02

Is this like music I can play every week now shoot, so that when all these women call up and say, Hey, play the Preds I've got to play?



08:10

Oh, that's great. We have two more cuts on there. So yeah, Atlanta and skidding down the road. Yeah. So play away.



Sarah Dipalma 08:17

This is one of the nice things about KPFT. Our listeners get to educate us. And they get to hear their education played on the air. I



Jimmy Carper 08:25

love to support new music and original music. I we've we've done it ever since we've started this show. And we'll do it until I have breath in mind.



Sarah Dipalma 08:39

Well, thank you very much for coming by. I really appreciate it.



08:42

Oh, appreciate it. Thank you.

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Sarah Dipalma 08:43

You bet. You know, Jimmy that's one of the things about a KPFT I think is that we have KPFT has a long history of introducing new music, local music, statewide music, you bet. I think that's one of the things when you get ready to make a pledge for KPFT at 5265738. That's really good five to six KPFT that's another good I think another one of the better reasons to pledge this show over the years and not just this show, but also gay and lesbian voices has really done a lot in terms of promoting gay and lesbian music, local music, local bands, local talent, local songwriters, local productions. And let's face it, it's another good reason to keep this station and this show on the air.

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Jimmy Carper 09:37

And speaking of local music, here's someone else who did a little something for us.

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Sarah Dipalma 09:46

Gimme gimme gimme que PFT

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Jimmy Carper 09:48

that was Tonatiuh Ardon from diverse house, another local group who we have on a couple of times a year and one time turn They came in with a member from his group, and just did that live right here in the studio. And I captured it on tape. And you know, I play it almost every week.

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Sarah Dipalma 10:13

And that's one of the things that I've always enjoyed about KPFT. I listen to it during the day in the office sometimes, and they will bring people in and they'll perform live in studio. Yeah, you know, that used to be very common thing in broadcasting. And today, it's almost unheard of

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Jimmy Carper 10:26

No, there's, there's, there's a show that here to KPFT that specializes in that. It's called night sounds. And it's on Thursday morning at 3am. Late Friday, not a Wednesday night or Thursday morning. And they have usually have one too or this past week, they had three different live folks playing together. It was like a 45 minute to an hour of live music continuous. It was great.

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Sarah Dipalma 10:55

Well, if that's the sort of thing that you would like to support, the number is 526-573-8526 KPFT. And Aggies, we haven't heard from you. It's right now, folks, I'm an Aggie, and I know AGS only support other eggs. So pick up your telephone. If you're on Sprint, it's 10 cents a minute or something like that. So come on, we know that you can do it and pick up the phone and call us.

J

Jimmy Carper 11:22

And Kathy from Southwest Houston. I hope you enjoyed that by the Fred's. Thank you

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Sarah Dipalma 11:27

for turning us on to the Fred's that was a group I'd never heard of it. That's one of the things I like about this. We get audience interaction on the show. I've told I told somebody this. If you ever watch Northern Exposure, love that show. You've seen the radio station that they have there. For all the world. That's what KPFT reminds me of. It's just like that station.

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Jimmy Carper 11:47

Except that actually their station looks nicer than this one.

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Sarah Dipalma 11:51

Their equipment is newer than ours. On the other hand, we don't have a moose steering in our window. We've had worse Yes, in this neighborhood we have on occasion. Okay, we're gonna go back to another piece with Kate Bornstein. Okay, now, of all the interviews that we've done in the show, nothing has ever drawn more reaction than Kate Bornstein nothing. I, we did this, this this show back in December. And I still have people who call me and say, How can I get a copy of that Kate Bornstein interview. She is she's just quite an amazing woman. She really is. This is Kate and Kate Bornstein talking about where we are as a community, and about a word that I thoroughly despise assimilation.

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Nancy Rodriguez 12:43

Like pre Stonewall gays and lesbians who had to hide all the time, that's where we are as a community. And we're just starting to come out with that. And I think gays and lesbians should look on us with kind of almost parently pride and go on good. We set the ground for this because gays and lesbians did. They came out against tremendous odds, and tremendous cultural oppression. And we're marching in that same path. And I think we owe a great debt to the gay and lesbian community for having kind of shown us that it's okay to come out about who we are. Well, that

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Sarah Dipalma 13:18

leads me right into the next question. That's perfect. In the chapter that was titled other questions, you say, it's no surprise that the steering committee for the 1993 warrant march in Washington for lesbian, gay and bi rights, the largest ever civil rights march in the United States, voted to exclude the word transgender from the title of the march. Well, regular listeners to this show have heard me talk about transgender exclusion from the Stonewall March in New York, in from our exclusion of the employment non discrimination act, which is currently in sitting in Congress right now. And are pointed out that both of these happened at the hands have lesbian and gay activists who are determined to achieve a really nasty thing called assimilation. If you will talk to the listeners about your concepts of eliminate assimilation.

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Nancy Rodriguez 14:06

Oh sure. I think I think it's an inevitable sadly inevitable road that many many activists take that we struggle so hard, don't we to just find a resting place to just find a place where people will let us alone and get on with our lives right. And when we find when we when when we can't do that by lying when we can't do that by hiding. We can't do that behind closed doors when the police continually raid our bars. We raise our heads in protest and we and we storm around and we we go yeah, we are who we are and this is what happened with lesbians and gays and but there is still that search for arresting places and they're they're still please just leave me alone and let me love my lover will you just leave me alone? Unfortunately, what happens in order to find that resting place The battle isn't over until we named the real oppression and And the real oppression is a culture that does not like difference that says, quite liberally, oh, we're all the same. Oh, you lesbians and gays are just like us. I see. You want to vote, you know, like Republicans? Oh, that's fine. You know? And and I think too many people are too battle weary. And they go, yeah, yeah, we're just like, you were just like, you stop putting your cameras on on the drag queens, where you stop putting your cameras on the Butch dykes on the motorcycles we get, they're not like us, we're there. They're freaks. And those were the freaks on the edge of the, the lesbian and gay culture, were the ones that they put the cameras on, were the splendid ones wearing ostrich feathers, or were the ones of cut off or whatever. And and that makes it hard for the people who've been working so hard to find a resting place? Well, I say there's no resting place until we get rid of the real oppression in this culture, which I think is us versus them, which I think is this whole tendency of power and greed. And let's face it, capitalism. It's it's this acquisitive nature that has been constantly pumped into our culture by advertising, by the nature of a capitalist structure that we have to overcome. And once that happens, then we can start celebrating our differences, then we can start saying, Oh, you're away used to be cool. But until then, there's the we're always going to find freaks. And I think what lesbians and gays need to do as a culture is acknowledge a very huge, growing groundswell transgender movement. And welcome at his allies, because this recent Republican backlash that happened in the Senate and the House of Representatives, they're gonna hit out at anybody, and they're not going to make the difference between a transgender person and a queer person, or, you know, gay or lesbian person, they're not going to stop and ask, Oh, excuse me, we're about to persecute some people. Are you transgendered? Or are you lesbian and gay? Now? They're gonna lump us all together, and we better join hands now.

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Sarah Dipalma 17:15

Can we better join hands? Now, this minute,



Jimmy Carper 17:19

this woman does not mince words, you know. And she says things that need to be said. That's the point.



Sarah Dipalma 17:27

She's not the least bit afraid to say what's on her mind. But you know, I respect that. I really do. Now, I want to, she brought up several things in that segment that I think are worth talking about. The first thing is, in talking about gender, she makes the point or attempts to make the point that in her mind, she thinks that sexual orientation is a subset of the issue of gender. Now, I've made that argument. And I've heard lots and lots of phone calls since we aired Kate Bornstein are people telling me how wrong way how wrong we were out, but I'm gonna maintain my position on that. Another thing that she talks about in there on that tape, is the whole concept of assimilation. And she says, she points out that people are just tired of fighting, and they're looking for resting place. And it's easier to assimilate. What she doesn't say is that a lot of transgender people are guilty of that as well. It is taught by therapists, that they should simply go and hide. And it's a big, it's a huge problem in the transgender community that is not getting discussed enough. I don't think what happens is you go to a therapist, and the therapist says to you, now you realize, of course, you're going to have to create an entirely new background. So right away from the first word that you go into a therapist, they're telling you learn to hide, learn to lie.



Jimmy Carper 19:06

I thought therapists were supposed to tell you that secrets were bad. I'm confused here.



Sarah Dipalma 19:14

Yeah. It's why I brought it up. Because Because this issue has been mentioned to me several times. Many, many therapists will say to their will say to their, their, their client. Now, if you go in, if I accept you as a client, you have to understand that we're going to build an entirely new life for you. And you need if you're going to function as a woman, and if you'd like to avoid discrimination, then you need to be able to be convincing as a woman, therefore, you have to have a whole new past. And Beth is over there waving her arms like crazy. She wants in on this. Let me see here. I'm trying to make sure that we've got this okay, Beth, you're on the air. Go ahead,



19:58

waving my arms like crazy. No, not quite. that bad. But I just wanted to say that that yes, there are some therapists that say that, but not all of them do. And it's up to us as people who are shopping around just like any, any consumer of any product, that we have to decide whether

that's the kind of thing that we want to put up with. Now, if you don't like what somebody's saying to move, I mean, there's other people in the world, there's other efficiency.

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Sarah Dipalma 20:22

I actually went and shopped around for therapists, actually, we interviewed three foot three therapists swayed to do it. And I discovered early on that at least the first therapist that I went to our personalities, were never going to work. Never. The second therapist I went to, as it turned out was ideal. And the third one basically was in it to get the insurance money.

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20:43

Don't you just love it?

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Sarah Dipalma 20:45

And I don't think enough people do that. Kate Bornstein talks about how she went to a therapist and therapist said to her, now, Kate, you need to be able to say how when you were a little girl, you did this. And when you were a little girl, you did that. And Kate sent, but I was never a little girl. I was a confused little boy. But I was a boy. I can't manufacture a past. Yeah, but there still are many therapists who tell people to do it.

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21:13

Well, you know, I'm just one person doing this. But the way I do it anyway, I can give at least one example of how other people can do it. I don't I'm not in your face about this stuff. I don't come out in the first things out of my mouth out. Hi, I'm a transsexual, no, by the way. But here on my desk at work is a picture of the woman I'm married to Yeah, I'm legally married. We're both female. You know, it doesn't happen very often. But that's one way that can happen. And and when somebody asks, yeah, I tell him, you know, it's it's not the end of the world, people are going to find out one way or another, I'm, quote, lucky to have been born in Ohio, one of the few states that does not change your birth certificate. So things like getting passports, and that kind of stuff gets a little weird. It can be done. But it's going to come up. It's just going to come up. And so I can't claim things like when I was a little girl, because I wasn't when I was little, hey, that works just fine. People make up their own assumptions. But you know, that's, that's, I don't need to break anybody's head. But I'm honest about it. If they asked, they get told the truth.

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Sarah Dipalma 22:15

I told the story about I was at a, I was at a setting in somebody, we were talking about our children, and I happened to let it drop that I had a daughter, and someone looking at you in the right in the eye and said, Oh, and how long was your labor? Oops. And



22:32

let me tell you about an interview. Let me tell you about an interview I had about two weeks ago, didn't end up getting that job. But I think it might get the next one. In any case. Guy says to me, Well, you know, they're good bunch here. We've all got families, and you're married and have kids, right? And I said, Yeah, too. And he's like, are you gonna have any more? It's like, oh, no, no, twos, twos plenty. And then he says, Well, does your husband work here? And I looked at him and I said, Well, I gotta tell you this. Might as well get it out of the way right now. I'm not in your face about any of this, but I'm not in a closet about it either. No, she doesn't work here, either.



Sarah Dipalma 23:09

And that's an ideal way to handle it. Yeah, there's, there's some humor. Yeah, there's some tact, but you've made your statement. And what



23:15

he said to that was, Wow, you just made a home run. I love your honesty. And we went on from there. Yeah. And the reason that I didn't get the job had absolutely nothing to do with that. It was it was just a matter of he was looking for a different person at the time. But you know,



Jimmy Carper 23:27

sometimes I think, well, all the time. I think that's the better way. Because if you're accepted that way, then you have nothing to worry about. You have you don't have to hide. You don't have to do anything.



23:38


Yeah. So at this point, the guy thinks I'm a lesbian and says trees, that's okay. Because it's true. got here a little bit of a roundabout way, by the way most lesbian couples raising kids do but whatever happens, that's the way it works out.




Sarah Dipalma 23:52

I was happened to be a get together to Dr. Cole had. And I really got upset because so many of the women were making a point of saying, Well, I can't wait to woodwork. You know, I can't wait to simply learn how to hide. And to Dr. Cole's credit, he does not advocate that is that he advocates you do what's right for you? Yeah. So so I don't count him among the therapists who say we'll learn to hide. But I've met many women who have had that kind of a therapist. And it isn't it isn't a major problem. And so when Kay talks about assimilation, assimilation is not just a case is not always a case of gays and lesbians saying, we're going to we're going to integrate and leave you in the cold. In many cases, I think transsexuals or transgendered people have a responsibility that they need to step up to. Absolutely in. I don't think that's been said enough.


You know, assimilation is a two way street. Yes, gays and lesbians could do more for us. But I think it's time we took some responsibility and did more for ourselves. And it doesn't necessarily have to mean that you have to be like me. It doesn't mean that you have to be willing To go on television, or be on a radio, or any of those things, I have a very good friend who works at the University of Houston, who is very quietly making her case by simply not denying who she is right when the subject comes up, she says, No, you don't understand. And she explains her situation. That's courage. She's not on television. But she isn't hiding either. She's living a life of honesty, it is possible to do that,


 Jimmy Carper 25:24
sure things

 25:25
to their credit, I, my, my personal view on where I'd like to be in my life is just a woman, just nothing special just getting on with my life and all that, right, because that seems to be the most, you know, as I find my place in gender space through this whole process, if you're gonna hang a label on it, that's probably the closest one to get. It's not perfect. It's not exact, but it's pretty darn close. But, you know, it's, it's how I got here. And that's in the past, what's here now is who I am. So in a lot of ways, is that going into woodwork? Am I am I hiding? No, not really, because I'm being honest about it. But it's sure it sure would be great to be just, you know, a total non event.

 Jimmy Carper 26:04
You know, that's kind of, I think, what all queers want, gay, lesbian, bisexual, whatever, just to get on with

 Sarah Dipalma 26:13
our lives. Exactly.

 26:14
I wish more people understand that. I really do

 Jimmy Carper 26:17
you know, at some, some people say, Why do you have to make a big deal about being out of the closet and all that the big deal about being out of the closet is so that in the future, we don't have to that it's no big deal that it doesn't matter. That's the whole deal of coming out of the closet,

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Sarah Dipalma 26:36

my hope is that someday, another generation will look back at us and say, Wow, look at the struggle they had to have. And boy, wasn't that all silly and for nothing. You know, it is certainly true. We're not at that point. Now, I understand that there are people who are not in a position to come out of the closet right now. And there are probably some situations where you shouldn't if you're living at home, and you think your parents are going to throw you in the street, I wouldn't advocate you coming out. If you're in a situation where you think you're coming out, would lead to actual physical violence against you, then shut up. i It's one of the things I worry about, about doing the show. And it's a people have come up to me and said, well, Sarah, it's all well and good for you to say, Come out, come out, come out. But I'm not in a situation where I can come out. And I'll often ask them, Well, what is this situation? Some cases they're right, they couldn't come out. And some cases they could come out and the fear is between their ears. And how you just how you come to realize what situation is the truth for you? Is the tough part of all that. That's right.



27:46

And so many times the fear is far worse than the reality actually turns out to be the least that's why I've found life.

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Sarah Dipalma 27:56

And you know what, sometimes it can really be funny. I mean, I've really had some very funny experiences being transgendered. Hey,



28:03

if you don't have a sense of humor about this, you lost.

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Sarah Dipalma 28:06

I'm telling you, if you go into this being deadly serious, it's going to eat you alive. Yeah, it really will. It'll eat you alive. Phyllis fraud loves to tell the story about a calling of for for a doctor's appointment. And the nurse said to her, Well, when you come in Miss fry, of course, we'll have to do a pap smear. And of course, Phyllis is like me, she is a non operative transsexual. And so she said to the nurse, I don't think so. And nurses Oh, yes, Miss fry. We do that for all of our women. And Phyllis that you must be new, I think you need to look at the charts. Now, you know, you could you could really be upset about that. Or you could take it the way she didn't laughs



28:41

Wow, what a challenge to get a pap smear from yours. That would

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Sarah Dipalma 28:45

have been interesting. But it really is true. It's all how you approach it. If you can laugh at it. You're better off I think. I really think so. We have one more piece that we need to go to have Kate Bornstein. And this is Kate. And she's talking about about the idea that gender is not consensual. Now, when we play this piece, I want to come back and talk about that a few minutes because it leads into some issues about violence and coming out and several other important issues. But before we go to her let me remind folks, it is still marathon as it is we I don't hear the phone ringing at this moment. Did we just get another pledge? Yes, yeah, that's as

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Jimmy Carper 29:33

a matter of fact, we got a pledge from Edmondo

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Sarah Dipalma 29:37

Hey, cool. Thank you. Yeah. Isn't that cool? Hey, that's all right. He is renewing his membership. And we are certainly glad, and I'm privileged that it's on our

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Jimmy Carper 29:47

show I speechless

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Sarah Dipalma 29:51

and which is probably the best thing to be I think we'll leave that one right there. Okay, anyway, it is still in it's still marathon, our number is five to six KPFT 5265738. And we just had another pledge come in. This is cool. I love this. Jimmy's reading this one over. But we have another pledge and folks, we take small amounts, we you know, we do have, we do have the premiums, we have a bumper sticker and a book bag and, and it's a tote bag and we have all the other usual premiums. But realistically, when you when you donate to us, when you when you pledge to KPFT, you're really pledging to keep the station on the air. Allow us to continue doing the kind of shows that we do. We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, come on. We know all self respecting queers have charge cards. That's right. That's right. You know, so the number is 5265738 helped to keep the show on the air helped to keep the station on the air. Yeah, you know, let's face it, the Newt Gingrich is not thrilled that we're here. And so So with that in mind, let's go to Kate Bornstein talking about all sorts of good stuff. I want to quote from this in that section of your book, because it really it just really struck me. I says, in gender is not consensual. We're born, a doctor assigned us a gender. It's documented by the state, enforced by the legal profession, sanctified by the church, and it's bought and sold in the media. We have no say in our gender. We're not allowed to question it. Play with it. Work it out with our friends, lovers or family. Gender is not consensual. I love that line.

N

Nancy Rodriguez 31:49

Well, you know, it's a sad thing. I mean, we're supposed to be you know, these enlightened people, you know, like, we're raising banners left, right and center that say choice, choice, choice choice. And this, this one thing, this this thing called Gender. When we when you and I come up and say, choice people go home? You can't have a choice in that. I mean, you were born with a you know, a penis. You don't have a choice in that. What's a penis? Come on? I mean, didn't we all see the Crying Game? Didn't we all see those great lines and people forget this line. In early part of the movie, where it's just a flap of flesh. I think people confuse a penis with the Freudian concept of phallus. phallus is a symbol of power here we get back to power, a symbol of power over and it has become linked by Freud and his followers with the penis. I know many gentle women who have penises. It's not a big deal. But I think what we need to do is get rid of the concept of phallus. I think that's an evil concept. I agree with that. I don't think anyone should have nonconsensual power over anyone else.

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Sarah Dipalma 33:05

I don't think anyone should have non consensual power over anyone else. Now let's think about what that means for a minute. Gender, as we've talked about on the show before, I think, let me let me let me start out by talking about the difference between sex and gender. Sex, is biology. Sex is what you do or do not have between your legs, gender, or is all of the behaviors that is expected or demanded of you, because of your biology. Now, from the minute that you were born, your expectations are put upon you. You didn't ask for these expectations. You didn't ask to be told that men must behave in a certain way. Or that women must behave in a certain way. From the second that you are born, society lays the expectation upon you. And that is what you are supposed to do. Now, that's what Kate means when she says gender is not consensual. Gender, never asked for your permission. Gender demanded these behaviors of you. And anyone who didn't meet those expectations, had to have something wrong with them. Now, what are we talking about here? Let's take the case of gays and lesbians for a moment. Gender says that if you are born, when the first minute or you are born, it is expected that you will have you will be in love or fall in love with a person of the opposite sex. Well, you didn't ask for that expectation. Oh,

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Jimmy Carper 34:50

that's gender. And that never even happened in my case.

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Sarah Dipalma 34:53

Well, it doesn't happen for a lot. That's why people are gays and lesbians, of course. But the point that I'm trying to make here is a lot of people don't Don't think of that as being an issue of gender. They say, Oh, that's a sexual orientation issue. Sure, let's sexual orientation is a subset of gender. That's an issue that we've tried to work very hard to try and get people to understand. Sex is biology. Gender is the behavior expected of you because of your biology. If, if you are born, we're going to regardless of your sex, and the expectation is that you will fall in love with the person opposite sex, and you do not do that. You are a gender outlaw. That's right. That's what skateboarding Steen is talking about when she says gender is not

consensual. Now, let's take the case of a crossdresser. Across dresser sexual forget a sexual orientation for a minute because a person can be a crossdresser and be any sexual orientation. That's right. Sexual orientation has nothing to do with it. But that's right. So you take let's take this case of a crossdresser. Regardless whether this person is gay, lesbian or bisexual has nothing to do with it. If the person decides they like dressing in the clothes of the opposite gender, there, is there a gender outlaw? Because society says you will dress in your dress gender appropriate, right? Well, gee, there are lots of people who don't do that, whether they do it part time, full time, intentionally or unintentionally. Those people are gender outlaws. So in their case, gender is not consensual. Either. These people are being told what they must do. And these people saying but you never I never gave my permission or agreement with this. That's right. That's right. Now, you know, we take the case of transsexual, obviously, a transsexual is a gender outlaw. But by definition, again, it's not by choice. I certainly didn't wake up one morning and say, Boy, I want to be one of the most discriminated minorities in the history of humanity. I want to have to deal with surgery and hormones and all the other crap that comes with being you don't wake up and say, hey, that's what you want. No. So gender is not consensual there. Either. One of the one of the problems with the whole concept of gender is that we have confused gender with a whole lot of different stuff will confuse gender, and sex, and sexual orientation, and gender and sex and gender presentation. We've We've muddy the waters so badly that many people simply can't find their way through the mud, that gender presentation. Yes, yeah. And and one of the things the themes that I think that we've tried to present on the show is we have tried to work very hard at separating these issues out and looking at them independently. Despite that, I've had any number of people who have come to me after we've done shows, and I still don't get it. And I'll bet if we do the show for 20 years, we're still going to get people that don't get it. Yes, because we're going to we explain it to them. And then they go back and they watch television, and they see a Pepsi commercial, where the woman who's six foot and weighs less than 100 pounds, and has a perfect figure and and you know there's the pot Well, that's that's a gender presentation, or it is and it's an impossible presentations. Yes. You know, how many of us are going to end up looking like Twiggy Come on.

J

Jimmy Carper 38:15

That is just as impossible as the person you see in a low cut dress, with hair on their chest. Yeah, it's the same thing. Exactly. Right.

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Sarah Dipalma 38:25

And, you know, men are asked to live up to expectations all the time that are insane. You know, American men have the highest suicide rate of any men anywhere in the world. American men Far and Away have the highest suicide rate. And it's because men in this country are not given their and they're not given the right to their own emotions. Oh, that's true. You know, I mean, all men, I guess virtually all men grew up with this idea. You know, big boys don't cry. And I know lots of men who kids can't. I know men who were not able to cry at the death of their wives. Well, what do you do with that emotion?

J

Jimmy Carper 39:03

Sad? Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Cuz if you don't let it out, it can do bad things to your psyche.

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Sarah Dipalma 39:09

One of the things that I've talked about when I go to classes, is I talk about how liberated I feel as a female, because women are allowed the range of emotions. You know, if they're having if they're feeling weak, or they're feeling vulnerable, they're allowed to express that men are not given those rights. But don't they feel the same way? Sure. You know, that's gender not being consensual. Yeah, that's what Kate Bornstein is talking about, for all of the things that Kate has said, and for all of the things that you that you hear about Kate, about her attitude, about her presentation, about how outrageous she may be. The bottom line is that Kate is really a deep thinker. She has presented many of these things in a very humorous format, but the subject matter is very serious. And the issue that she present And I think it's going to be a subject of the 90s the issue she's presenting is what the heck is gender How did we get to this point in can it be fixed those