

# gcam\_ah\_19931211\_t1\_01\_edit

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

mildred, matt, houston, characters, people, san francisco, dysfunctional, play, margo, gay, texas, moved, ashley, girl, family, god, rob, mother, christmas, growing

## SPEAKERS

Speaker 10, Speaker 7, Speaker 11, Speaker 3, Speaker 8, Speaker 12, Speaker 6, Speaker 4, [Introduction], Speaker 9, Speaker 2, Speaker 1

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[I] [Introduction] 00:08

The following program contains language or images of a phrase or a sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised.

S Speaker 2 00:35

Okay, are we over that song yet? Anybody? Can we take a vote?

S Speaker 1 00:39

I'm over that song.

S Speaker 2 00:41

Okay. I mean, Scott and I have been talking about much like changing the theme song for after hours and well, when you count on Scott for anything he had no, you'll never get enough.

S Speaker 4 00:50

Yeah, here's your new theme song, bitch. He like it. I like it. I don't know. It's a beating. Yeah, but it's kind of it's not. I don't know. Do you like it, Jimmy?

S Speaker 2 01:07

I've always liked the song.

S

Speaker 4 01:09

You've always liked? It's only a couple months old. The CD just came out.

S

Speaker 2 01:12

It came out around Coming Out Day. That's why I liked it.

S

Speaker 4 01:16

Yeah, Howard came out around the original Coming Out Day. He and Ben Franklin were dating and, uh--

S

Speaker 3 01:21

The Alamo used to be a gay bar. I was there. Today, Davey? Watch it.

S

Speaker 4 01:30

Davey and Goliath, the Sunday morning cartoon?

S

Speaker 2 01:33

Queen of the wild frontier.

S

Speaker 3 01:37

Sam Houston.

S

Speaker 4 01:39

But that was well after his little infamous three way with Lewis and Clark. That we all know about. Remember when he got when he got those Indians to sell Manhattan for \$24? I tell you, the line was never ending. But he satisfied every last customer.

S

Speaker 3 01:56

I had on my forehead. Hi, Scott.

S

Speaker 4 02:00

Hi, Howard.

S

Speaker 3 02:01

How are you tonight?

S

Speaker 4 02:03

Tired.

S

Speaker 3 02:04

Dysfunctional?

S

Speaker 4 02:04

Just very dysfunctional?

S

Speaker 3 02:06

Oh, god. Been dysfunctional since puberty.

S

Speaker 4 02:09

It's going to be a very dysfunctional night here at After Hours.

S

Speaker 3 02:12

I can tell, we're off this light that's dysfunctional enough. What do you mean?

S

Speaker 4 02:17

And there are a lot of people up listening to us. We got the ratings in recently.

S

Speaker 3 02:20

I hope they're in.

S

Speaker 4 02:21

They're in and they're up, which is good.

S

Speaker 3 02:23

They must have saw me in the firefighters calendar.

S

Speaker 4 02:26

Well, I think it was the nude radio, which we will be doing once again tonight.

S

Speaker 3 02:29

Wasn't a better looking guest this week.

S

Speaker 4 02:34

Who knew Sharon was the guest when we booked nude radio? Who knew she'd do it? Oh, please. None of us got off that night. Oh, I tell you. Oh, and Sharon's probably listening in.

S

Speaker 3 02:50

Sharon. Hi.

S

Speaker 4 02:51

We love you, Sharon. Sharon knows about dysfunctional, dysfunctional life. Yes. And so does our guest tonight. Yes, Rob Nash, author, creator, but a one man show extraordinaire of curtains, theaters, new production, the 12 steps to a more dysfunctional Christmas, which is a scream playing right now. And so we've crammed all of his characters into the studio. And we're gonna be talking to them shortly.

S

Speaker 3 03:20

But I want to date four of them.

S

Speaker 4 03:23

The sad part about that is two of them are women. So one of them's kind of in between. She's kind of kind of often goofy. But we might even have a little interview with Sharon later. We're

going to do that tonight. Are we gonna save that for next week?



03:35

I don't know. What do you think I think, you know, Sharon's, wonderful.



Speaker 2 03:40

It's your show, Mary you call the shots.



Speaker 4 03:43

Just as long as you don't, we'll be fine. Thank you, anyway. And music what's going on in the queer music zone tonight, Jimmy?



Speaker 2 03:52

Queer Christmas music.



Speaker 3 03:55

Jingle bell, jingle bell Ra.



Speaker 2 03:57

I'll be a homo for Christmas, lots of penis Envy, Venus Envy.



Speaker 4 04:02

There's always a lot of penis envy in this room. Well, if you wouldn't have if you didn't, if you had one, you wouldn't be envious. Well, this is true. That's why I shouldn't really do nude radio, nude radio tonight. Everybody in or around the studio will be naked. If you want to join the address is 419 Lovett just come on down. But you have to be naked. Once you walk through the door.



Speaker 3 04:22

If you're at home, just take it off now.



Speaker 4 04:24

Just take off your clothes right now. And also call us at 5265738 and let us know about you, naked. First thing we're going to do is I went and saw Rob's play a couple of weeks ago, and I reviewed it, I've got it here on tape. Did it for the KPFT Morning News, which I'm sure you all listen to. If you listen to our show, you get right back up in a few hours and listen to that. Yeah, I do. So we're gonna play my review of Rob's play and then we're gonna come back and we're going to talk to all of, we're gonna talk to Rob and all of his crazy, crazy characters as soon as I find the right buttons to push.

 Speaker 3 05:05

You've been pushing my buttons for years, baby.

 Speaker 4 05:07

Oh, please Howard that's because you have him exposed with arrows drawn on him real big on your back.

 Speaker 3 05:12

I'm a Go Go dancer.

 Speaker 4 05:13

Doing a little promo there for the show, mainly because that was for the morning news. And now crammed into the studio, we have all of Rob Nash's characters with us. Move our people in here. Mildred, Ashley, Matt. Mildred, don't talk to me over that way because she always seemed to me, I didn't get to meet her personally until tonight, but watching her through the Play she always seemed like she was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. She was just like, nervous the whole time. I think it was the kids, Matt with the blue hair? They're kind of hard to miss. This is Scott Lewis for After Hours. Curtains Theater, you Houston's most functionally dysfunctional small theater has brought native Houstonian Rob Nash home to premiere the sequel to a smash comedy, 12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional You. The sequel entitled 12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas world premiered this weekend with the same characters that made the first show such a riot. The one man show is easy to follow. Because I'll be at all the characters look like Nash. They all have a personality and demeanor that is all their own. He's managed to create a family that all should be able to identify through one relative or another. There's Mildred, the 62 year old matriarch who just two years ago after 30 years of marriage divorced her husband. Mildred has become just a bit feisty in her older years. Then you meet her grandchildren, Ashley and Matt. Ashley is the All American girl who's a cheerleader at the high school she attends. Her dialect is definite Valley and quite a contrast to her blue haired brother and rebel, Matt. Matt justifies his blue hair by stating it keeps him out of church on Sunday, and he says he supports anarchy as long as it's set up right. We're then introduced to their mother and Mildred daughter, Margot. Margot, she appears to feel caught on a Tilt-A-Whirl world it just keeps spinning faster and faster. That Tilt-A-Whirl is her family. Margo seems to stay on the edge of a nervous breakdown for most of the show. Our next family member is Windsong, the lesbian lover of Moonbird and daughter of Mildred. Windsong is the ultimate 12

stepper. We all know the type. Windsong is a self described recovering anorexic bulimic on Prozac with chronic fatigue syndrome dealing with damage from past lives. Windsong is definitely this play standout character. We're then introduced to Freddie. This is Mildred's gay son who spent the last three years on the streets of San Francisco. His return to the family as welcomed not only by his mother, but by this reviewer as well. Freddy reminds us the painful reality of AIDS, it affects the family. He talks of the relationship that he shares with his mother. This character manages to steal some of the best lines of the show. Talking of his mother, he says we have so much in common besides the fact we both had syphilis. He also thinks denial gets a bad rap in our culture. I think that we'd all be better off if we practiced a little creative denial management he says and on the church. He says that church is the second most abusive vehicle in our society, second only to the family. And that's what this play is all about, the most abusive vehicle in our society: the family. Rob Nash has managed to take what we are also very familiar with, a dysfunctional family, and bring it to the stage so that we can have a look at it with humor. The sequel 12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas picks up after Freddie's funeral and promises to take us on the same riotous ride we enjoyed with the first. 12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas is currently running Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8pm, and Sundays two and 6pm through December at Curtains theater, 8624548 for reservations. This is Scott Lewis from After Hours heard here on KPFT Houston every Saturday night, midnight until 3am.

S

Speaker 3 09:04

I think it's the caffeine.

S

Speaker 7 09:08

You must be confusing me with my daughter in law Margo. I'm a very smooth and easy going person. With all due respect Margo is a little bit more high strung than I am.

S

Speaker 4 09:20

Is it the caffeine?

S

Speaker 10 09:22

Well, no, I never drink any coffee at all. I I don't like this stuff very much actually. It kind of it, well I won't tell you what it does to my body, but I don't like it very much but a lot of the problem is that I have two kids, Matt and Ashley and well we're struggling to get along a lot better and I hope that we'll be building some bridges as they say in those recovery circles which really worked my nerves.

S

Speaker 4 09:47

You don't like recovery. But Windsong, you are a 12 stepper, big time 12 stepper you believe you're involved in every 12 step program that is in existence. Alright. Are you?



Speaker 6 10:00

Yes I am. I'm a big fan of this program by the way.



10:03

We're glad you watch. We were informed your steps.



Speaker 6 10:09

I'm sorry, I missed that. But I'm sure it was very funny. Yeah, I'm recovering right now from, I'm recovering from compulsive overeating and I'm recovering from alcoholism and drug addiction. I'm great for recovering alcoholic and worthful precious child of the goddess for that matter.



Speaker 4 10:25

So you're a feminist as well?



Speaker 6 10:27

Oh, yes. Yeah. Sisters in this struggle.



Speaker 3 10:30

What size broad you were?



Speaker 6 10:33

I don't think that was an appropriate.



Speaker 3 10:36

Well, so you might be suffering from that too.



Speaker 4 10:40

I thought maybe feminist, feminists don't wear bras. Do they wear bras?



 Speaker 3 10:43  
Everyone wears bras?

 Speaker 6 10:44  
Well, my lover does, but I don't usually need to. I mean--

 Speaker 3 10:48  
I wanted to talk to Matt, Matt. You know, I thought man--

 Speaker 4 10:52  
Well, he's here.

 Speaker 3 10:53  
Matt. Matt, where are you? Move over. Move over, man. Matt, come out.

 Speaker 7 10:57  
Well, what do you want to know?

 Speaker 3 10:59  
Matt, I mean, you're pretty violent, aren't you, dude. All right.

 Speaker 7 11:02  
Well, what. No--

 Speaker 3 11:05  
I mean, do you start people on fire? Do you belong a gang?

 Speaker 4 11:07  
Do you watch Beavis and Butthead?

S

Speaker 7 11:10

Man, Beavis and Butthead got a bad rap man? Some girl burns down or dumb, double wide. And it's Beavis and Butthead's fault. God, what's gonna happen next? Someone's gonna drop an anvil on somebody. I guess.

S

Speaker 3 11:23

Matt, do you have a girlfriend?

S

Speaker 7 11:26

Well, no.

S

Speaker 3 11:27

Why not?

S

Speaker 7 11:28

Because man all the girls at school are immature.

S

Speaker 3 11:33

Why?

S

Speaker 7 11:34

They are, no man they're just, they just giggle and they laugh and they don't care about anything that's important. They all listen to the New Kids on the Block. Need I say more?

o

11:43

Do you watch that, that 90125 show?

S

Speaker 7 11:47

I can't say that I've seen that, no.

S

Speaker 3 11:50

— What's your favorite show on TV, Matt? Do you think there's too much violence on TV? Matt?

 Speaker 7 11:59

Well, I kind of channel surf when I turn on the TV. I watch little headline news and I watch I watch a lot of MTV and some VH1. We're gonna have comedy channel here in Houston, which kind of sucks.

 Speaker 3 12:09

Matt, what's your favorite flavor of jello?

 Speaker 7 12:13

Lime?

 Speaker 3 12:14

Lime? Why?

 Speaker 7 12:15

Yeah, I don't know is first thing came to my mind.

 Speaker 2 12:18

Like the way it wiggles?

 Speaker 7 12:20

Yeah, I like the way it wiggles.

 Speaker 4 12:23

And because we're doing nude radio, Howard, you quit wiggling. Mildred, how do you? How do you feel about your grandkids? You've got quite a difference. You've got your Ashley who's the cheerleader. Good grades, model student, matte blue haired, rebel.

 Speaker 7 12:40

Well, we're all actually getting behind Ashley because she's going to be trying out for

Well, we're all actually getting behind Ashley because she's going to be trying out for cheerleader next year. She hasn't made it yet. But I think she's a very, very talented girl. And I think that she's gonna get it this time around. Matt, is Matt is a very headstrong boy. And I think that that's going to serve him well. In his later life. He has a lot of, oh, I think they call it anger issues. Because well, his his dad was just not there for him while he was growing up because his daddy was drinkin and his daddy took after his daddy Harvey, my ex husband, who drank like a fish.

 **Speaker 4 13:14**

Now, you're a little headstrong as well. Because Harvey, your ex husband? Didn't you just divorce a few years ago after go 30 years of marriage?

 **Speaker 7 13:22**

After 40.

 **Speaker 4 13:23**

40 years of marriage. Now what led to that?

 **Speaker 7 13:25**

Well, I just finally had said enough was enough.

 **Speaker 4 13:28**

Did it have anything to do with your son Freddie leaving?

 **Speaker 7 13:31**

It had everything to do with Fred. Fred called me up one day to say that he was not going let me call him every day with the latest thing his daddy did or didn't do. He said it was called tough love. And he said that his daddy was going to have to go to Alcoholics Anonymous, or I was going to have to leave his daddy or he was just not going to be able to be my friend. I didn't take him seriously at first. But then I found out that he meant business.

 **Speaker 4 13:54**

And where did you try to go?

 **Speaker 7 13:56**

Speaker 7 14:30

Well, Fred, Fred was living in San Francisco at the time. He's moved back here to Houston live with me. But he had moved to San Francisco and we kept in touch every day, sometimes twice a day. And he said that a lot of what was keeping me from getting out of such a dysfunctional relationship with his dad Harvey was the fact that I had him to go and complain to all the time and he took that factor out of my life. And sure enough, I got miserable enough to do something about it.

S Speaker 4 14:23

Do you feel like leaving your husband after 40 years of marriage was a positive change?

S Speaker 7 14:28

My life began at 60. I don't celebrate my birthday no more. I celebrate my divorce. A few weeks back I just turned 2.

S Speaker 2 14:39

Has Ashley ever seen that that Texas cheerleader movie. Which one? You know that one where the mother goes to shoot all the girls because she wants her daughter.

S Speaker 8 14:49

That cheerleader mom thing. I missed that but I saw all three Amy Fisher movies.

S Speaker 3 14:55

Would you ever want to do it with that Buttafuoco guy?

S Speaker 8 14:57

Ew, he's fully gross. He's the grossest ever. He's all fat and scuzzy, and he talks like all those people from New York.

S Speaker 3 15:04

But he owns a body parts shop.

S Speaker 8 15:08

Whatever.

S

Speaker 3 15:11

Ashley, you know, you're just like the coolest girl I've ever met my whole life.

S

Speaker 8 15:16

Well, thank you.

S

Speaker 3 15:17

You know, I mean, I mean, I mean, I've traveled all over this country. And I mean, I've even seen scooter in his underwear. So I mean, I've seen it all. I mean, can you do one of those cheerleading routines? I mean, just like the Go Go fight things?

S

Speaker 8 15:32

Okay. Scoot over. Matt. Move over.

S

Speaker 2 15:36

You're so queer sometimes.

S

Speaker 3 15:37

God, get a haircut, Matt.

S

Speaker 8 15:38

We are Lions. And we are proud. Stand up everybody. And shout it out loud. L. I, O, N, S. Lions, lions, lions. Shut up, Matt.

S

Speaker 4 15:59

Matt is the rebel.

S

Speaker 3 16:01

Matt is. he reminds me of my younger years back in the Vietnam, Vietnam War years.

S

#### Speaker 4 16:07

Please, the Civil War years. Freddy, where do you fit into all this craziness?

S

#### Speaker 9 16:13

Well, I just got back in town. And I'm moving in with my mother over in the museum district, which is just another nice term for the gay ghetto here in Houston. And we're going to be setting up shop over there and got some piano students that I'm teaching and I'm going to do some temp work and hopefully I'll start teaching substitute level next semester and then next fall I'll start teaching at Matt's high school over there. My side of town, Spring Hill.

S

#### Speaker 2 16:41

Spring Hills? Sounds like a mattress. We ever been out there, Scooter?

S

#### Speaker 4 16:48

Not on your mattress. We haven't. We've never gone very far on your mattress. Mildred, how do you sum up your family?

S

#### Speaker 7 17:00

Well, we are bouncing back I guess would be the best thing. We're reunited. Fred and I are moving in here. Matt is sober. He, he has, he's going to his matins and hopefully he'll be working his program and then Windsong and Moonbird come over now and then they make the best food and you know they don't use any meat. I did not know that you could enjoy a meal without meat but, but they do that and they make some very nice dishes and well, Margot she's been talking about going back to school, aren't you gotta do that?

S

#### Speaker 10 17:33

Yeah, yeah, I'm gonna go back to divinity school. Yeah, I get such a inspiration from the light I see in children's eyes that I thought I would go and preach the word.

S

#### Speaker 3 17:45

What's the word, Margaret? Margo. Hey, but listen, let me, Mildred, what's scooping around family time at Christmas here. Is the family all getting together and--?

S

#### Speaker 7 17:55

*Scooping? Is that one of those slang terms that you gay folks taught you?*

~~SCOOPING: IS THAT ONE OF THOSE SLANG TERMS THAT YOU GAY TEXAS TAUGHT YOU?~~

 Speaker 3 17:59

No, no. It's one of those slang terms and us New Yorkers moved to Houston.

 Speaker 7 18:03

I've never heard the term scooping. And I've been--

 Speaker 3 18:06

Well, anyway, so so so Mildred. What are y'all doing for for Christmas? Get a big old dinner. You gotta come over there and cut the turkey and fight and kill each other.

 Speaker 7 18:16

Well, the strangest thing happened. Phil Donahue called me just the other day and he's gonna be coming through Houston on Christmas Eve and we're going to do a show. It's on family values. And I was telling him about everything that's been going on since he saw me on the Geraldo show say I was on Geraldo last week. Yeah, it was elderly women who blamed their husbands. Yeah. Anyways. So Phil wanted to come down Houston and film a segment with our family on family values. So we're gonna be doing that Christmas Eve. And then Christmas day, we're all coming over and we've got a bunch of gifts under the tree.

 Speaker 3 18:47

Big dinner?

 Speaker 7 18:48

Big dinner course.

 Speaker 3 18:49

Big dinner. Is this a big functional family thing?

 Speaker 7 18:52

Well, I hope so.

S

Speaker 3 18:54

Who's gonna be there? Who's gonna be there? Who's coming down?

S

Speaker 7 18:56

Well, Moonbird and Windsong are supposed to be there. But Moonbird keeps saying that she's going to go and spend it with her. What's that--

S

Speaker 6 19:03

term with her family of origin?

S

Speaker 7 19:05

Yeah, that's the word that they use for your original family, the one that you were born into. Anyway, she's thinking about going over there, but she's certainly welcome to come and stay with us, Matt naturally, it'll be here and Margo, and then of course Fred and me.

S

Speaker 3 19:16

Who's making turkey this year?

S

Speaker 7 19:18

I'm making the turkey need you ask.

S

Speaker 3 19:19

You look like a turkey Mildred, what the hell.

S

Speaker 7 19:25

Don't get me started.

S

Speaker 3 19:26

Do you make pumpkin pie? Or do you make the southern stuff? What's that Southern stuff, Scooter?

 Speaker 2 19:31

Pecan pie.

 Speaker 3 19:32

No, not that pecan pie.

 Speaker 7 19:33

It's the tree of Texas.

 Speaker 3 19:35

What's that round, that round stuff called?

 Speaker 7 19:40

Most pies are round. I don't--

 Speaker 2 19:41

Something at the House of Pies. What's that stuff called?

 Speaker 3 19:42

Some kind of robot. It's not pumpkin pie, it's the other pie.

 Speaker 4 19:52

It's the round pie.

 Speaker 3 19:54

It's the other pie.

 Speaker 4 19:56

It's not pumpkin. It's the other one, banana cream. No, the other one.

 Speaker 3 20:01

Squash, the same squash family. Mildred do you do like them squash pies?

 Speaker 7 20:06

You know, I have been around for about 62 years now and I have never in my life eaten a squash pie.

 Speaker 2 20:17

Anyway, my mother used to make squash pie.

 Speaker 4 20:20

Was that cookbook right next to the pork chop salad.

 Speaker 2 20:23

Sweet potato pie. That's the one.

 Speaker 4 20:26

Sweet potatoes, squash. They grow right together in the garden.

 Speaker 3 20:29

That's right. Do you make sweet potato or pumpkin pie?

 Speaker 7 20:32

I didn't. I've never made a sweet potato pie. Although it makes some very good sweet potatoes. You just put a little rum. And of course I can't do that this year because everybody's in recovery. I make pumpkin pie, make lemon pie, make banana pudding is really good. But you gotta eat it quick because those bananas get brown so soon.

 Speaker 3 20:49

Do you make it with bananas?

 Speaker 7 20:51

Well, that's the silliest question I've ever heard. Of course you make it with bananas.

 Speaker 3 20:57

No, because I mean, I've been in restaurants so they make banana pudding and there's no bananas in it.

 Speaker 7 21:02

Well, they're playing you for the fool.

 Speaker 3 21:05

So Mildred, have you grown up in Houston your whole life?

 Speaker 7 21:07

No, I'm from Texarkana, I just moved here a few days ago.

 Speaker 3 21:10

Well you like Houston, don't you?

 Speaker 7 21:12

I love Houston. I'm hoping that it's going to be cooler down here since it's so close to the coast.

 Speaker 3 21:16

It is. You know Cathy Wittmeyer isn't married anymore.

 Speaker 7 21:19

I know, it just just depresses me.

 Speaker 3 21:21

It just depresses me too.

S

Speaker 7 21:22

She's such a sweet girl.

S

Speaker 3 21:23

She's so short. Mildred, you're so short. I can't believe it.

S

Speaker 7 21:27

Oh, well. I didn't realize you know who I am taller than?

S

Speaker 3 21:29

Who are you taller than?

S

Speaker 7 21:30

H Ross Perot. I danced with him. I dance with him at the American Legion back right before I met my husband Harvey and he cut in and well we got married shortly thereafter. I keep wondering what life would have been like if I would have married that dead gun billionaire.

S

Speaker 3 21:45

Mildred Perot. I could see you now girl.

S

Speaker 4 21:47

Mildred Pierce.

S

Speaker 7 21:49

That's my maiden name. Why does that sound so funny to you?

S

Speaker 3 21:55

Well, you got to understand mama, your your maiden name is the name of a very famous movie with Joan Crawford in it. And so that's why people keep laughing. Whenever we're down here in Montrose, whenever you say your name is Mildred Pierce.

s

Speaker 7 22:08

Oh, well.

s

Speaker 3 22:12

Anyway, Matt, have you gone to college? Well, you know--

s

Speaker 11 22:16

I'm 14.

s

Speaker 4 22:17

He doesn't even go to high school.

s

Speaker 11 22:19

I'm very flattered.

s

Speaker 3 22:20

That's okay, you look a lot older.

s

Speaker 2 22:21

Who are you? Michael Jackson.

s

Speaker 3 22:22

It's the blue hair. You just look a lot older.

s

Speaker 11 22:25

Well, that's coming out because my mom made me sign that contract for 90 meetings in 90 days. And then she said that I had to let the blue come out of my hair. I wouldn't get an allowance. I mean, she's real. She's really really getting in my space.

s

Speaker 3 22:38

You don't go to Spring High School do you?

You don't go to Spring night school do you?

 Speaker 11 22:40

Springdale.

 Speaker 3 22:42

Springdale. So they let you have this blue hair.

 Speaker 11 22:45

Well, they they complain about it a lot, but there's really nothing they can do about it.

 Speaker 3 22:49

How's, how's life at 14 Matt?

 Speaker 11 22:52

Sucks. I was oh, I just no autonomy man. I got my mom breathing down my back all the time. My sister and her friends are always on the phone always hogging the phone and I can't talk like, they won't ever let me bring the band over here. So we can only practice once a week because Tank's mother will only let us be over there once a week.

 Speaker 6 23:12

Now why is your best friend's name Tank, Matt? Now really? What were his parents thinking, calling him name like Tank?

 Speaker 11 23:18

Mom. You know?

 Speaker 7 23:22

Maybe you should have had him then he'd be perfect.

 Speaker 3 23:25

Okay, let's you know let's not get started you two. All right, get in your sacred corners.

S

Speaker 4 23:34

You have been listening to Rob Nash who has managed to rip me up in the studio like I haven't been in a very long time.

S

Speaker 3 23:46

Rob has lime jello.

S

Speaker 4 23:48

Rob has created, Rob has created all of these characters that you've just been listening to the studio is not full. It's everybody you've been listening to is Rob Nash.

S

Speaker 12 24:00

Go break that fourth wall just rip it down.

S

Speaker 4 24:05

How, when did you start doing this?

S

Speaker 12 24:08

This particular--

S

Speaker 4 24:09

What just, did you grow up like making voices and making little characters and making people laugh.

S

Speaker 12 24:13

My sister talked so much like Ashley. I mean, she did like fifth grade and suddenly all of her vowels flattened out and all these expressions came out of nowhere and so I've been doing my sister forever long before I saw the Rain Newman do the valley girl and long before Moon Unit Zappa came up with valley girl. I was doing my sister so there.

S

Speaker 3 24:33

What's your favorite character. They're also wildly fascinating.

**S Speaker 12 24:37**

Well, you know, they just I love them all. They all live within me.

**S Speaker 3 24:41**

We all have all these characters that live in all inside of us. That's why we have personalities. Thank God that some of us can be gay and some of us can be straight. But do you relate to one of them more than you do any of the other because it's I have all these characters going on inside of me and I can relate to something more than I can.

**S Speaker 12 24:58**

Well I certainly a lot of me is in each one of them. When I was fresh out of high school I got, you know, knee deep well knee deep, elegant neck deep into recovery. So, I have a lot of Windsong in me. And she's the recovery addict. She's the therapy medic. And Fred is kind of the mouthpiece for most of my politics. And I'm an atheist. And he's the only non believer in the whole family. And I'm the only one in my family of origin. And so a lot of my politics come out of him and then Mildred is an awful lot like a grandmother of mine who has Alzheimer's now, but back during her prime, she was just real spry and brassy and body and you just had a lover. And she and my grandmother happens to have a wonderful, wonderful husband. So Grandpa is not Harvey. Harvey is completely fictitious.

**S Speaker 3 25:47**

Do you think as as gay people, we have these multiple characters in us?

**S Speaker 12 25:52**

Oh, I don't know that it's a, it's a gay thing. I mean, I know a lot of I know a lot of gay people with a lot of characters in the middle of some straight people, too. I don't know that specifically a gay thing.

**S Speaker 3 26:01**

Do you think do you think that maybe being gay people, we get to bring them out more we get to show him more?

**S Speaker 12 26:07**

Well, we certainly get to bring certain kinds out more. that's for sure. I know that my brothers

...we certainly get to bring certain kinds out there, that's for sure. I know that my brothers could never let, they're all straight. So they could never let that drag going within out. And that's very, very sad. Because I know they'd benefit a lot from that kind of thing.

 Speaker 3 26:20

Do you think we all have straight and gay? We all have these creatures inside of us who yearn to come out and surface?

 Speaker 12 26:27

What do you want me to say? Where are you going?

 Speaker 3 26:30

I want you to say yes, Howard.

 Speaker 12 26:32

Yes, Howard. Whatever you say, yes.

 Speaker 3 26:35

We have all these multi characters and and as gay people are multi talented, and we're the only only ones that realize this. Right?

 Speaker 12 26:43

You want me to say that Larry Kramer, we're better than everyone else.

 Speaker 3 26:46

Yes, course I do.

 Speaker 12 26:47

Well, I mean, I mean, most of most of my circle is gay and, and, and most of my friends are gay. And with the exception of my family, I don't have a whole lot of straight people in my immediate circle. Although I have a few if I think.

 Speaker 3 26:58



Speaker 3 26:50

When I think of characters, I think of Robin Williams because this man is this. You know, I think God gave him 49 Maybe 49,000 trillion characters. And as I sit here and talk to you--



Speaker 4 27:09

49,000 trillion, Rob. Yeah. 49,000 trillion from God, no.



Speaker 3 27:15

And I look at you and I see all these characters come out. And all of a sudden, I realized I have all these characters in me. And it's like, wow, you know, I mean, it's just some God given talent.



Speaker 4 27:29

He's already established he's an atheist. So I don't guess it's a god.



Speaker 3 27:33

I know straight people have to-- I think believers too, right.



Speaker 12 27:37

I think believers have the most creativity of all because you know, they create a god. I'll be here all week.



Speaker 4 27:46

When did you first, would you, when did you first write 12 Steps to More Dysfunctional You? Was that your first?



Speaker 12 27:53

That was the first one. I left Austin. I graduated in December of 91. And Derek, my lover graduated that summer and he moved to San Francisco to go to Stanford, I moved to Southern California to go to Hollywood. And we carried on the long distance thing on a bilocal kind of way. And all--



Speaker 4 28:09

Oh, he's bilocal.

 Speaker 3 28:11

I'm bisexual. Buy me something and we'll talk sex. Thank you.

 Speaker 4 28:18

And on that note you were saying.

 Speaker 12 28:20

Enjoy the nachos. Anyway, so I set up the gig. Like six weeks before it was supposed to open all the way out of town on the way out of Austin, I set up the gig to do a late night show after Well of Horniness had finished its run at Curtains back in October. And that was crazy. But it was the best mistake I've ever made in my life because I've always wanted to write something I was writing a novel at the time and it was just crap it was just can I say crap?

 Speaker 4 28:47

You can say Crap.

 Speaker 12 28:51

And having a deadline looming in a show that had to open finally forced me to put the show together. And it worked.

 Speaker 3 28:59

Do you see A Tuna, A Tuna Christmas, or Tuna Texas? Do you see familiar? I love Tuna Christmas. Do you see any of your characters floating around there?

 Speaker 12 29:05

I've seen, I've seen, I saw Greater Tuna eight times probably. I've seen it that that the tower three times not the Austin twice and and I've seen Tuna Christmas once and you know I actually did like Tuna Christmas better and I love Tuna. Well, I everyone tells me that Mildred is an awful lot like the Joe Sears characters of Pearl Burras and Bertha Bumiller.

 Speaker 3 29:28

You kind of look alike.

 Speaker 12 29:29

Yeah, well, thank you.

 Speaker 3 29:32

I see both with your clothes off. What do you mean?

 Speaker 12 29:36

But it in many ways, I hope that they sound distinct enough that he doesn't feel ripped off but they're very different characters because both Pearl and Bertha are still in their marriages that aren't working and Mildred got out that's that's one difference. And Mildred left her small town and moved to Houston.

 Speaker 3 29:56

Any of your characters, do you base them on your mother, your grandmother, you said--

 Speaker 12 30:02

You know, the mother, the mother character Margo, a lot of people think that that's my mother. That's not my mother. My mother is a very sweet woman. We fought like mad and Margo did when I was growing up. But, you know, moving out of my mother's house was the best thing that ever happened to my relationship with her. And we're good friends now when she's very sweet. And she's a dynamic character. And Margo is a static character. Margo does not change. My mother has and does. And she's really cool. Hi, mom.

 Speaker 4 30:27

She here in Houston?

 Speaker 12 30:28

Yeah.

 Speaker 4 30:28

Is she listening?

 Speaker 12 30:29

Probably not. She's asleep.

 Speaker 4 30:34

You perform this, that here? Have you performed this in San Francisco? Yeah, you're you're in San Francisco now?

 Speaker 12 30:41

I live in San Francisco now. I play the josie's for a week. And then one special command performance, which hopefully landed us a longer run when I get back.

 Speaker 3 30:49

How things go on in Houston.

 Speaker 12 30:51

How are things going here?

 Speaker 3 30:52

How are they going? How the crowds? What are the reviews?

 Speaker 12 30:55

Well, the people vote too Republican here.

 Speaker 3 30:57

Yeah, they spit.

 Speaker 12 30:58

They spit.

 Speaker 3 30:59

I can't believe it.

S

Speaker 12 31:00

Mosquitoes. The crowds are great. You know, actually, Houston has spoiled me because I have not found audiences and I I'm very very serious about this when I share this. I have never had an audience as good as I've played Houston. I played Austin, I played San Francisco and Edinburgh, Scotland. And the best audiences I've had so far have been in Houston. Hmm, yeah, the space is really good too. The audience arcs just correctly, it's always full. They're all people who get a lot of the inside Houston jokes. A lot of them have done all the recovery things so they get the inside recovery jokes.

S

Speaker 3 31:11

When you travel from time to time. Do you use inside town jokes? No. I mean, when you're San Francisco, you don't talk about Houston do you?

S

Speaker 12 31:43

No sure, the setting is Houston.

S

Speaker 3 31:45

So Houston is a joke.

S

Speaker 12 31:47

You didn't know that?

S

Speaker 2 31:50

I will dare. God forbid.

S

Speaker 12 31:54

No, yeah, no. The play itself, I mean, was written within a particular setting. And the setting is Texas. I don't change Mildred's accents to make her from Glasgow, Scotland for crying out loud.

S

Speaker 3 32:08

People poke at Texas. Do you take a humorous aspect of your Texas roots?

S

Speaker 12 32:14

You know, I get so defensive when people do that. When people diss my state and that's and that's so full of it. Because you know--

S

Speaker 3 32:20

Don't you dish it?

S

Speaker 12 32:21

Well, yeah, and we and we deserve a lot of criticism that we get. But there are also pockets of liberalism, there are pockets of love. And there are pockets of mindful people here in Texas and so so I guess I kind of take it a little personally when people say oh, you know, you're from Texas. How many cows do you have, you know, or whatever.

S

Speaker 3 32:38

But but but I mean, if you want to think that that Texas is somewhat comical, I mean, you didn't set your characters in Iowa. Oh, I don't know.

S

Speaker 12 32:48

Oh, yeah. I got all this wonderful comedy bits going on. I got to Texas, which is hysterical. I got lesbians. They're a scream.

S

Speaker 3 32:55

Wait, there are lesbians in Texas?

S

Speaker 12 32:56

Oh, yes, there are Windsong and Moonbird are lesbians and they're just a scream. Gay people are crazy of families. Oh, wacky, so funny. And the recovery movement in New Age. That's some funny stuff.

S

Speaker 3 33:10

Why did you leave Houston? I mean, to follow your lover to follow Hollywood, but I mean, I mean, I feel kind of bad because you left. I'm kind of pissed, mad at you.

S

Speaker 12 33:20

Can we say mad?

 Speaker 4 33:24

We can say mad. I'm mad because you left.

 Speaker 12 33:27

Well, I come back. Okay, I'll always come back and visit.

 Speaker 3 33:30

You come back and visit. And, and, but Houston is always a little part of you.

 Speaker 7 33:34

Oh, yeah. I can't shake Houston. And I love coming back. And I love, I love a lot of things about Houston. I love Austin to and I love Southern California where I live there. I live in San Francisco and I love it. I'm just--

 Speaker 3 33:43

What was the the most if you can sum it up in one word, San Francisco. Because I told you I spoke to you earlier. And I said that, to me San Francisco was Mecca and I lived in New York City. I mean, to me, San Francisco is Mecca. Houston was gravel road. But hey, I can pick on it. Boom. San Francisco. I mean, I mean, there are maybe how many thousands of men listening right now who live out in Katy and out in the suburbs, and will never ever see anything outside of Texas. Oh, well never see California or go west.

 Speaker 12 34:15

Make the pilgrimage, you owe it to yourself and your brothers and sisters. Yes. I love San Francisco. The weather is great. The city is great. It's you know an old world city on the West Coast. The wind.

 Speaker 3 34:30

Tell us about the men. Come on, we know you're married.

 Speaker 4 34:34

THE END OF THE RECORDING

He can't talk about the men. He's married.

 Speaker 3 34:36

Heck, I can talk with him and I'm married. When talkies fly, anyway, but the men I mean, we the San Francisco-- tell us what the San Francisco look is. Well. Well, I don't appear. Map the Houston look right.

 Speaker 12 34:55

I guess so.

 Speaker 3 34:56

But having been up a character

 Speaker 12 34:58

You're kind of in a limbo, right now because there's this post ACT UP era where everyone's kind of growing their short haircuts out and their goatees that's kind of going the grunge way. And that's a word we don't use anymore. Grunge by the way, are really sick of it that and Generation X. If I never hear that word again, I'll be really happy.

 Speaker 3 35:14

What is Generation X?

 Speaker 12 35:16

Girl? Where have you been?

 Speaker 3 35:17

I have been interested. What do you mean?

 Speaker 12 35:19

And things are tight, that things are the retro 70 thing? It's such a it's such a--

 Speaker 3 35:25

They have dance bars in San Francisco?

 Speaker 12 35:27

Yes, the 70s or retro? Sorry.

 Speaker 3 35:29

Are there any other? What's the music in California? What's happening right now?

 Speaker 12 35:34

What do you know hip hop? House, rap.

 Speaker 3 35:36

Do you go out and dance?

 Speaker 12 35:37

I don't go out that much when I'm there.

 Speaker 3 35:38

Why?

 Speaker 12 35:39

I don't know because I do the fussy little domestic home thing. We just sit around. He studies. He reads, I type. Oh my God. He plays the Sega and I watch you know, Larry Sanders or I watched the late night talk shows and I go I can't believe he got that gig. I'm so much funnier than him.

 Speaker 3 35:58

Has White been one of your role models?

 Speaker 12 36:00

I can't say that but you know that Pat Sajak? What a looker.

 Speaker 3 36:04

He's from San Francisco, isn't hr?

 Speaker 12 36:05

I did not know.

 Speaker 3 36:06

I knew that. Yes, yes. He's born and raised. Did you always want to go to UCLA?

 Speaker 12 36:12

No. Why?

 Speaker 3 36:13

I just always I always did. Okay. You've always wanted me I didn't know what a Bruin was until--

 Speaker 4 36:19

We digress.

 Speaker 12 36:23

Do we all have gay characters living in? I'll answer that question. Yes, we all have gay characters living within it.

 Speaker 4 36:28

And on that note, we're having so much fun. And on that note, we have been visiting with Rob Nash, who's one man show 12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas is currently running Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8pm. And Sundays two and 6pm. Through the month of December at Curtains Theater, you can get reservations by calling 8624548. You don't have to raise your hand in here to talk.

 Speaker 12 36:57

Why thank you. We are bringing back to 12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional You, the original. Oh,

really? In January.

 Speaker 3 37:02

Oh, great.

 Speaker 12 37:03

Second weekend of January. And we'll play all four of the last four weekends. We're skipping New Year's weekend. All the other four weekends we'll be playing there. It'll probably be Friday, Saturday and--

 Speaker 4 37:12

Nobody would come, they'll all be with me in Vegas with Barbara. And it's a wonderful show. I've seen the first I haven't seen a second one yet have to go see that. So call 8624548 and get reservations and see, it is wildly funny as I am sure you can tell from what you've heard here tonight. Thank you very much for coming down. And Howard--

 Speaker 3 37:35

Yeah, Big Daddy's here.

 Speaker 4 37:36

Yeah, go big daddy. Now that now that he's naked, we were wondering where he got the name from? Rob has told us to all go west. So on that note, we're gonna send him off with this song from the Pet Shop Boys.

 Speaker 3 37:50

BBGs or the Fruit of the Loom?