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song, leather, talk, interview, community, fantasy, lesbian, gay, people, gulf coast, houston, melissa etheridge, closet, album, contest, find, janice, fist, break, black leather

SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper



00:00

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



Jimmy Carper 00:15

it must be Saturday night at midnight because you're listening to after hours. A continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews and music hear for gay and lesbian people. Just as Gloria Gaynor says in this song, it's time to open up your closets. We at after hours urge everyone to come out of their closets. By our definition, that means standing up for yourself and taking responsibility for your own life. But if you feel that you can't come out right now because of your age, your job or whatever reason. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours.



01:10

Hello, and welcome to after hours. This is Evelyn Carroll here filling in for Scott Lewis who's out today. I have with me my one of my favorite groups, women from Fiske here to talk to you about women's leather community. And we have a new volunteer. Wise here today we're having a little technical difficulties I can't even talk I was called in at the last minute here with Scott not showing up. So we've got a couple of interviews coming up. Hey Jim, Jim just walked in. This is Jim Vaughn. You may know him from esoteric adventures No, we're not gonna be doing husband hot tonight there might be doing lifetime a little woman didn't get up here. I think that I'd like to put a little bit of Melissa Etheridge on for you. Before we talk to these nation ladies. Jeremy want to help me out



02:23

here baby three thrusts okay



02:40

and we're back. I'd like to say hello to everybody out there especially to my babassu and children if you're listening go to bed. I've got the Terra twins this weekend and they wanted to come to the radio so bad that they had colds. So yeah, that that's a really good Melissa Etheridge song. I really liked that one. It's good for a Saturday night and that will forever make me think of Joel gray. We miss her here at the station. And with me tonight, I have Miss Houston leather. Miss Stacy Bolden. Hi Hi. And Josie clapper president of fist which is in females in search of trouble



03:27

for about six more weeks



03:31

six more weeks till you till your presidency is finally you get to take a break don't you



03:37

I may in fact actually run for another board position it depends to be seen who is in fact nominated at what position as to if I feel that my expertise would in fact be better suited for remaining on the border for actually just saying hey, I'm burned out and have had enough Thank you.



03:57

Well, you can't let you can't let yourself burn out when you're in a later leadership position. I know full well how easy it is to burn yourself out. So I certainly hope that you stay very active in the group I know I enjoy your your input into the group and as to many members and hopefully you'll run for something there girl we won't talk about what So Miss Stacy Miss Houston. Love it now. You should see her. I would love to describe to you what she's wearing. Not at all what you not at all what you would expect from from this. It's in leather. Not today but she looks hot. All the same baby. Thank you. So tell me tell me a little bit about your title.



04:55

It's a newly formed title. Basically it started out, it started out as practice for fists to get ready for Ms. Gulf Coast leather. But as time goes along, it's evolved into a lot more. I've gotten to do fun things like speaking engagements here with you, which have always been fun. And I'm basically out and about in the community, trying to talk to people, and we're trying to be more active with pap trying to pull those two communities together, Pap,



05:33

Pap, not all of our not all of our listeners are going to know what these acronyms are?



05:38

Well, it's almost like we're in the military here. Cap is people exchanging power, they are a predominantly heterosexual, SM organization, here in the community.



05:54

And working with them brings the leather community closer together.



05:59

Oh, that's really that's really wonderful. We have after hours, try to strengthen and force the idea not enforced. That's not a good word, reinforce the idea. Well, you know, to each his own, and that seems to be my role. But but we like to reinforce the notion of unity, as well as diversity in our community. And that that's certainly true of the different segments of our community. Leather being one of them. And so you were you were very active in the last contest that went around. You did excellent lighting for that last concert, that contest. I didn't want to talk about that last one.



06:48

Yeah, that was Ms. Gulf Coast leather. Our winner was shadow from Oklahoma City.



06:55

Yay. Oh, you know what? I've just got to I've got to ask, How does Texas Gulf Coast reach? Oklahoma? They don't they don't have a cup. Tell me about this. And is it just because they're attached to us?



07:15

That's my estimation. Basically, yes. Now, the country is divided up into several regions, by the community. And for what ever reason the people who empowered decide that what geographic is called what geographic? Oklahoma is on the Gulf Coast.



07:40

Now that would make Arkansas there too.



07:43

I can't remember if Arkansas is in fact, Gulf Coast or mid Atlantic? Well, I



07:49

guess I guess I'm just I'm just playing with the hair. I was on the 1987 march on Washington steering committee nationally. And our region was Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, which comprise the Gulf Coast region. Now, why Mississippi wasn't added to that. I don't understand that as Biloxi.



08:13

You know, or Florida or Alabama or what? Let's see what.



08:19

So so we have this that we had we have a leather competition, and the entrance participated in what way what did they have to do to earn their title?



08:32

They first did an interview with judges. If I remember correctly, it was an afternoon interview at Pacific Street. Thank you, Jay. We did after that they did. What was next?



08:52

The event itself was comprised I guess, is one of the judges I'm in a better position to remember. The event was comprised of the big three events in the competition being the interview, which was done privately behind closed doors, a speech given on stage and then the fantasy section. The best part.



09:16

I agree I was there. Jim, you missed that one you would have enjoyed that



09:23

was really something else. Matter of fact, the Sharon the contestant from the contest, the Houston contest Houston contest contest who did a the cop Fantasy has been asked and

actually have already performed that same fantasy at other events too. And most notably the knights and black leather event that raised my god over 5000 Dogs Yes, bearing Community Center,



09:52

which is excellent bearings get getting a lot of money these days. And that was that was one hell of a fundraiser. I really it was really fun it was a lot of fun. So when you were in competition for Miss Houston leather you basically went through the same process you were interviewed. Did you have a fantasy?



10:12

Yes I did.



10:14

I did. Without George Carlin seven words can you tell us about it



10:21

was a whip a nice fantasy Jersey my lover and my top basically ran in a dull knife or the or the unsure side of a knife across my neck. Which I find sexually appealing. At the same time I was so nervous I don't remember a lot of this. After that, there was my favorite whip was being wrapped around my neck and lightly used Oh, she cut one of my favorite shirts. That's right you still haven't sewn those buttons back on either



11:00

by unit shirt



11:05

after the single scene got going She then took the knife and cut the buttons off cut cut the shirt literally cut the shirt open on stage revealing a leather halter I had bought it leather by boots which I love



11:24

now did you did you perform a fantasy or onstage with the let the night and black leather





11:32

yes yes yes yes it was



11:37

a see similar fantasy but we were using a bullwhip instead of court and a much cheaper shirt believe me



11:47

was it it was Mary's



11:50

nights at black leather and the MS Houston contest for both held at the venture and Ms. Gulf Coast liver contest was held at the fist home bar which is Pacific street



12:03

if if there are any anyone is there if there is anyone out there who is interested in joining fest how do they get a hold of you?



12:12

Well you can either come by The Home Bar and one of this will be more than willing to meet you there matter of fact arrangements have been made that one of our board members if somebody shows up at the bar looking for fist and no one's there been one of our board members is on a page or and is contacted



12:30

Oh wonderful.



12:33

Or they can call us at 5224533 and we'll be more than willing to talk to him.



12:42

Okay and we will have that number ready for you if anybody decides to call in if you're interested in finding out more about fist right now we're going to take a little break and we'll be back all of us let's see what's on here. Oh God

back all of us let's see what's on here. Oh God



12:58

does Nine Inch Nails closer count for tonight.



13:03

We will have Jimmy let's say you've got to understand here that Jim Jimmy just wanders off and I don't have the slightest idea how to operate this mechanical equipment you understand this one baby? I don't know what number that is.



13:23

Does this mean somebody needs to teach you electrical play?



13:25

Yeah



13:32

and we're back and you've been listening to the Washington sisters Sandra insuring Sharon Washington playing rock me baby from the tape to album. And that last one was my favorite Elton John. Yes, I got sick. Ed's Elton John and k.d. lang doing teardrops off the duets. We are going to go now to an interview that was previously recorded with Janice Ian. Janice en you may remember from a long time ago as being the artist who sang 17 Before I was 17. And it was but it was one of my favorite teenage songs all about being lonely and gay way out there and in the world. And I knew she was when I heard the song but she finally came out. And are we ready? Here we go Genesee.



14:37

menting 63 taken to the streets scathing where we're searching left a truth To set boundaries



15:42

I'm Burwell I'm speaking now with singer songwriter Janice Ian. Hi, Bert. Hi,



15:47

how you doing? Fine.



15:48

In 1964, the song society's child recorded by a 14 year old Janice and first hit the charts. The song, which was briefly banned from radio was about Interracial Love topic for a year. And Leonard Bernstein is the one who actually brought you out. Yeah, yeah, that's great work. You've had a number of coming out stories, but



16:14

we'll get to that coming out coming back leaving.



16:17

And in the 29 years that have passed and society's child was released, you haven't backed away from any painful topics. And in 1976, your song at 17 earned more Grammy nominations than any other female artists had ever received. At one time you went on to win awards for Best Female Vocalist and best record for at 17. Musicians like the Indigo Girls, Melissa Etheridge who just came out of the closet, and two nice girls who have no need to come out of the closet with Janis Ian as an influence and jazz great, Ella Fitzgerald has called her the best young singer in America today. And now your new album breaking silence is your first album in 11 years and the topics that you deal with are just as discomforting as society's child would you have come out of the closet as a lesbian? Right? Which actually you don't really deal with in the album over? No,



17:20

I try not to deal with anything in a song unless I think I'm dealing with it better than anyone else has dealt with it. I've wanted to write tattoo, which is about the Nazis in the concentration camps since I was probably 12 or 13. And started writing songs and it took me 28 years. So I figured when when there's the right moment and the right song, it'll be there. Know



18:20

mailed across the border, persons for Christmas food



18:39

you're Jewish, right?



18:40

And it was jersey, South Jersey, and we emigrated to the US.



18:47

Now, you actually came out of the closet? In the 70s. In an interview in the Village Voice, you came out as bisexual?



18:56

Well, it's real, you know, those are such volatile terms now because a woman I know said, you know, well, if if you slept with a woman, but you're really attracted to men, does that make you gay? And I said, No, no, I guess that makes you bisexual. But I personally have a problem with that term right now because I feel like there are a lot of people who have come out as bisexuals and it's almost a safety net right now with all the civil rights problems going on. So I'm using the word gay. I guess I use gay rather than lesbian because I feel like male homosexuals got to have a whole new word you know, and female homosexual got to keep lesbians so i i use gay as a kind of catch all term. Politically Incorrect.



19:40

I have a lot of trouble with the word queer value.



19:43

I use the word queer sometimes for shock value just to get people over the hump because I meet so many people who really think they've never met a gay person before and if I use the word queer, they're so freaked out by that that everything else I say comes is almost normal. I do think you have to de mythologize words, I think words are an amazingly mystical thing that conjure up all sorts of unconscious images. And if if I'm dealing in songs like breaking silence, the title cut of the album, which is about incest. And I choose to use a lion, like, children broken on the bed. I know that conjures up a whole set of images, from everything from a broken doll on a bed to someone on the rack in the Inquisition, that are unconscious that are moving through my audience's mind. So words to me are real powerful, but at the same time, you have to play with them. The coming out thing is, I was outed by the Village Voice. Basically, they were looking for a serious cover story. And there was a young reporter who outed me, Elton and David Bowie all in the same month. And I find it very offensive when people out some, I think it's real arrogant, personally, because I know so many people who would lose their jobs. Times have changed a lot since the mid 70s, though, you know, to me, at this point, if I'm not part of the solution, I become the problem. You were



21:12

an activist for civil rights for African Americans or minorities, sir, the 60s and the 70s. Why did it take you so long to come out as a lesbian?



21:24

Well, it got complicated by the fact that I married man in 1978. And that did confuse the issue for a while was that to throw people? Well, no, try and prove something to yourself or I would do something to throw people off something. No, I was in love. And and that's why the term bisexual to me does make a certain amount of sense. I don't think at least in my case, that being gay precludes having an intimate relationship with the opposite sex. But my preference is obviously for women. You know, I've always been out to my family and to my friends, everyone I've ever worked with, always brought whoever I lived with, to whatever awards shows, etc. but haven't been doing anything public. It's been 12 years since I last toured or did any kind of publicity. So if the point of people in my position coming out, is to reach a segment of America that really does believe that they don't know any gay people, then it's senseless to come out by calling USA Today, four years ago and saying, Hey, my name is Janice, Ian, and I'm queer. And they go, oh, yeah, great, call us when you have a record coming out. We started planning for this record in 1989. And we started looking for a record company. And at that time, it was real clear to me and my business manager that this was going to be part of what I talked about when it took us three years to get funding, and another year to find someone who was willing to put it out. So I feel like I'm almost living in a state of grace that the record is coming out right now, when this appears to be a very popular issue for the media. It's very strange to me, because four years ago, it definitely wasn't. That's right. It's odd to me, because I don't quite know how to respond. I've been out and moved to Nashville, I was out. I've been living with someone there for five years. Now. Everybody knows even in Nashville, particularly in Nashville. Actually, I've had more problems in the north than I have in the South. Is that right? Oh, people are pretty upfront in the South. Yeah, they'll stand there and say to your face, I don't understand it. I just don't get it. You're welcome in the house, but uh, don't get it. Don't talk about it with my kids. You know, they're real frontal, whereas in the north, they're very nice. But they'll make sure that you don't babysit,



23:32

we understand will tolerate you. But please don't. You know, why do you have to talk about



23:36

sight? My partner says, you know, I'll keep mine in the bedroom when you take the wedding picture off your desk. That's right.



23:43

They all keep quiet about I'd say you join me in helping us get our civil rights in the day after we're guaranteed our civil rights all shut up.



23:51

Well, that's the bottom line, isn't it? You know, and I think that's the bottom line for any anybody with a public audience like myself, who's coming out now is that we really are at a crossroads for the civil rights issues. And if we don't get them now, I'm afraid that they're going

to disappear.



24:10

When Pete Townsend came out a couple years ago, I was immediately able to think of songs like behind blue eyes that I knew identified with, I wasn't quite sure why and I immediately went to the album and pulled it out. And of course, it was about his sexuality. I mean, rough boys was obvious, but behind blue eyes wasn't quite so obvious. Can we do the same thing with Genesee and



24:32

go I will shoot anyone who does. I'm not talking about you and Pete's work but I find that really offensive as a songwriter because as a songwriter. First of all, I do have a track record of some integrity and not being afraid and second of all, as a songwriter genderless songs are more universal, and I strive for universality. So I find it offensive when somebody now is going back leafing through my songs and going wow, Jesse's about a one And then when I know the Vietnam veteran I wrote it about, and it was definitely male. There's references in my songs that are real obvious back to when I was a kid with a song called Queen American me that talks about two men walking by the fountain holding hands and says Your love is not wrong. And I think when I've had something to say, and I felt that I could say it, well, it's been right there. And right up front,



25:23

you actually got a piece of fan mail from a 16 year old man who was 16. That song and yes, you were 16 out of bed. Oh, I I read your press releases. Mr. Tolson, anything. Yeah. You also were friends with Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix. I knew. We hear a lot about Janice being a lesbian and Jimmy being gay, and



25:45

I didn't know that. I was 14 and 15. And no drugs. Well, I had some drugs with those guys, but certainly nothing near what they were consuming. parties and stuff. backstage stuff would get to a certain point and everybody would realize I was in the room and kind of gently shoved me out of the room. Nice to be protected. Yeah, I was really lucky. I mean, if I think about the amount of people I knew who died from drugs, from drugs, from drowning in swimming pools while on drugs, overdosing at the Chelsea Hotel in those days, I'll tell you, Oh, yeah, it was a great Yeah, wonderful



26:19

time a lot more hair to wash back then too.

