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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

bisexual, lesbian, gay, gender, feel, woman, hear, dress, discriminate, society, point, gigi, person, wear, talk, part, guess, myths, transgender, transsexual

## SPEAKERS

Gigi, Michelle, Sarah Dipalma

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00:02

to develop their own lives to go through this kind of real life transition, come out the other end and get on with their lives. And I think we've been very successful to help those kinds of folks that we've worked with.



Sarah Dipalma 00:15

Well, okay, if you saw Gigi here tonight, I promise you, she she would make her although she she would make Geraldo. Let's start by talking about some about this. First of all, Dr. Cole makes the point. He believes that that biology that a person is gay or lesbian or transsexual, from birth from something that happens in the womb, or that there is some biological reason behind that. Now, when I talk to people in gay and lesbian settings, they will tell me, yes, they believe that might be true of gay people. Yes, it might be true transsexuals, but they don't really think it's true of bisexuals, you want to what's Tony want to talk about that a little?



Gigi 01:08

I guess my perspective is, you know, I come from a social work background. And I had a professor one time he used to tell me, he said, I start where the client is. And it's like, you know, somehow that always made sense. Because, you know, in the field of mental health, we've always had the professional coming in, and kind of looking at the person under a microscope, and fixing their problems. And it's always backfired historically. You know, it's when you can sit down and look at a client and start where the client is to help them with their problems. And so you



Sarah Dipalma 01:47

don't think that you don't think it matters, the argument matters, or it's nurture or nature,

G

Gigi 01:51

right? I think what's important is that we're the person. It's like, the way I look at bisexuality, it's like, it's a self identified process. And when it comes to, you know, this is my own personal belief, but, you know, when it comes to bisexuality, it's an attraction to both genders. And there's some people that are bisexual, and practice and behavior but not out as bisexual, they're out as gay. And sometimes they'll say, Well, yeah, I was married to someone. And, you know, a gay man would say, Yeah, I was married to a woman at one point, and we had good sex, and we had children, and we did great. But I'm gay. You know? Well, does

S

Sarah Dipalma 02:43

that mean that the gay and lesbian people are right, that bisexuals are basically people who can't admit they're gay?

G

Gigi 02:48

No, I think what it means is that it's a self identified process. We are who we define ourselves to be in a society can't define us. This social structure can't define us. It's, we're how we define ourselves.

S

Sarah Dipalma 03:09

Okay, well, that's that, that leaves me a little confused. If society can't define you. And in in this, this definition is very vague. How can people understand you? Well, I

G

Gigi 03:21

think what's, what's important here is that, or at least for what's been important in my life, is that, you know, I recognize that as attracted to both genders, and identified as bisexual. Whereas a lot of people don't feel that attraction in the same way. You know, there's men out there gay men that I've known. That said, Well, I was attracted to women at one point in my life, but I'm not now. But they didn't have that attraction to both genders at the same time, or even in the head, attraction to both genders at separate times, where they kind of go back and forth. It's like, this phase, they were into a marriage, and later on gay, but is kind of felt like well, I'm really gay. You know, and I think it's kind of the self identified process. This is what turns me on. I mean, when we first started coming up with the idea of homosexuality, and identifying as gay. It was a self identified process. The first guys that came out, are self identified, and then they came up with all this research to back it up.

S

Sarah Dipalma 04:39

Michelle, you want to weigh in on this about nature or nurture?

M

Michelle 04:42

Yeah. Something I'd really like to say about this is that all the time I see this, I see this in the bisexual community I see as in the gay and lesbian community transgender community. There's a lot of debate, you know as to whether whether these conditions are caused by nature or nurture and Um, I've seen I've noticed that several several people in the, in all these communities tend to tend to want to believe that that is caused by nature so that they can say to like the the homophobic, biphobic, transphobic, whatever, I was not my fault. You know, it's, it's something I was born with. But this is this, you know, just worrying about this is something I really, really feel like comes from shame. I mean, if, even if it's if it's nature or nurture, or even if it's just that I choose to be bisexual. Why, why should this be something that I have to make a justification for? to society? I mean, I really feel that, you know, I should just be able to say, Yeah, I'm bisexual. And, you know, it's like, maybe it used to be this way. And it's just as valid as as choosing heterosexuality or homosexuality, or, or maybe I was born this way, and I don't, I guess I just don't really feel that, that it matters, whether it was nature or nurture choice or whatever.

S

Sarah Dipalma 05:56

So in other words, is the song says you are what you are?

M

Michelle 05:59

Yeah, yeah, I guess. Yes. That's pretty much what I'm trying to say.

S

Sarah Dipalma 06:03

Okay. Now, another another.

G

Gigi 06:05

I guess what I'm trying to say in this is that, you know, what's important here isn't starting from a vantage point of fixing a problem. I think what you have to do is start with where the client is. And yes, there's a problem. But is the problem in the client or is it in the, in the environment, the client lives in, like a homophobic society?

S

Sarah Dipalma 06:30

Okay. Borenstein is going to address that the interview later. I'm glad you said that. That's good.

G

Gigi 06:34

— . . . . .

Because you know, and that's why I say it's, you know, What's crucial is to start where the client is, start where the individual is. And when you can start there and put yourself in their shoes and empathetically using in as much many ways as you can to try to feel what the client's feeling or the individuals feeling, and really put yourself in their shoes and say, how would I feel living in this structure in the social structure? With this person's vantage point, then all of a sudden, you can see, well, is this a problem with the person? Or is it a problem with the society that person lives in

S

Sarah Dipalma 07:21

Dakka Dakka Chol makes another point and that piece about, about myths and stereotypes. And I intentionally brought up the the myth and stereotype about transgendered people being essentially unemployed people. And because I'm sick and tired of hearing that, quite frankly, but I know that trans I know that that bisexuals are getting hit with a lot of myths and stereotypes, too. And I thought maybe it would be useful to give you an opportunity here to address some of those, because I'm sure you must get sick of hearing them also.

M

Michelle 07:59

Now, one of the most common ones that I've heard is that, that bisexuals are very promiscuous, I mean, the bisexuals because I'm bisexual that I want to sleep with all men and all women. And that like couldn't be further from the truth. I mean, they're there. I mean, I know a lot of lot of heterosexuals and homosexuals who have far, far more sexual partners than I do and who are interested in far more people. And you've asked, that's something that's always really bothered me, because I've always heard that when I say I'm bisexual, like, oh, wow, they look at you like, oh, wow, you must have this wild sex life or something. And, and unfortunately, that couldn't be further from the truth, unfortunately.

G

Gigi 08:43

And some of us bisexuals do like multiple partners. But

S

Sarah Dipalma 08:49

Gigi condoms, I assume? Oh, yes,

G

Gigi 08:51

thank you. But Gigi has good taste and her partners. I mean, I do like certain men and certain women, but certainly not all men and all women.

S

Sarah Dipalma 09:05

Well, okay, I just thought I would mention that because I know Dr. Cole talked about it in his in his little piece there. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

this little piece there. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

**G** Gigi 09:14

Throw in one other thing is that, you know, another myth that you hear a lot is

**S** Sarah Dipalma 09:19

told everybody that part of our program

**G** Gigi 09:23

are not part of the gay community. We're in the closet when we want to be we hide out really easily. And we don't really take part in gay issues, or BI issues. And I think that's a big myth also.

**S** Sarah Dipalma 09:39

Well, I don't think it is, and I'll tell you why. I'll play devil's advocate with you. I'm very active politically. I'm active on a state level. I'm active on national level and I'm active on a local level. I have yet to see a single bisexual presence opened by sexual presence, anywhere, state, national or local. If there is an open bisects Political presents, I haven't yet found it.

**G** Gigi 10:03

I think part of the problem, and this is where it comes in, is that, you know, the gay community has been a visible community. The stripe community's been a very visible community, that the bike community has been a very invisible community. Part of the problem is an organization. It's a new movement, but it is springing up all over the country. There's new groups from coast to coast.

**S** Sarah Dipalma 10:31

And what's the name of the organization? It's fine that USA BiNet USA.

**G** Gigi 10:36

Yeah. And then there's also, like by now Houston is a part of binary, USA,

**S** Sarah Dipalma 10:42

where's the national group headquartered?

G

Gigi 10:44

It's loosely, I mean, it's not really headquartered, so to speak, as far as I location. It's more of a kind of Information Clearinghouse system that kind of unites the groups together through one central. They put out a newsletter, and they put out information about what's going on across the country. Okay, Michelle.

M

Michelle 11:10

I'd also like to say something. One of the reasons that I feel that there, there aren't so many people who are active politically who are out as bisexuals is that, um, I guess I could just give you an example. I was in a gay and lesbian group for a little while. And I was the only out bisexual there. And, and I attended. I mean, I don't know, I just kind of felt some hostility from some of the members and, and but on the other hand, I also got at least six or seven people who came up to me and would say things like, Well, yeah, I guess, I guess I'm a little bit attracted to members of the opposite sex. But you know, I'm not going to talk about that, because I'm scared of losing my gay and lesbian friends. And I can imagine, you know, just just after coming out, you know, coming out and feeling out of place in the heterosexual community, and then coming into the gay community. And, you know, having just lost something writing about losing another community would be very devastating to some people.

S

Sarah Dipalma 12:08

So wait, hang on a second. So let me see if I understand this then. So then to be a bisexual, in the gay community is to be in a closet in the closet. Is that is that? Do I get that right?

M

Michelle 12:26

It can be if you choose not to be out about being bisexual, and in the gay and lesbian community then. I mean, I kind of feels like the same situation as like being a closeted homosexual, bisexual in the heterosexual community. I mean, I've known I knew somebody who's in the lesbian community and was like dating a guy. And, you know, she was just terrified that they'd find out about it, you know, and she couldn't talk about her life. She couldn't talk about this guy she was dating, you know, and she was, she was really in love with him. And, you know, she she's worried, you know, if she ever told told her lesbian friends that she was dating a man, you know, they'd all just kind of cast her out.

S

Sarah Dipalma 13:02

So and so I'm trying to make sure I understand this. So then, bisexuals fear discrimination from gays and lesbians. Definitely. Now, I'd be willing to, I'd be willing to bet right now that there are gays and lesbians out there who are going to say, I would never ever discriminate against anyone and would be shocked to hear that gays and lesbians could be discriminators themselves.

G

Gigi 13:31

One thing that I find is that, you know, just in binary, we've had in many instances, but I remember one time I was at a party. And you know, I've been out as bisexual for a long time. And I had a gay man come up to me, and he said, I hate bisexuals, you're just on the fence. You haven't made up your mind. Yeah, speaking of myths and stereotypes, and you need to choose one way or the other. But I've also seen like, in one, one person in the group. She was talking in a meeting with some lesbian. And she said, Well, how would y'all feel about dating and bisexual? And they said, Well, we wouldn't date a bisexual, we're not prejudiced against them, but they might leave us for a man. And she said, Well, they might meet leave for levy for a woman to what's the difference? And it's like, you know, create a dilemma. I mean, you could, sometimes the prejudice isn't right up on front. Sometimes it's kind of submerge through behaviors, and through attitudes,

S

Sarah Dipalma 14:41

I think most people of color would understand perfectly what you're talking about.

M

Michelle 14:46

Yeah, I'd also like, Excuse me, I'd also like to, to make clear that you know, I don't feel that all gays and lesbians are discriminating and spies. I mean, I've had I have some some gay and lesbian friends who are very by positive and and you know what I was going to this grip and I had I had people come up to me afterwards and say, oh, you know, we're glad you came and talk talked about bisexuality because because now we see it differently. And I guess I guess I really feel that a lot of the a lot of the discrimination comes from ignorance and not just not understanding what being bisexual is. And maybe, maybe if we had more out bisexuals and can be more visible, maybe we can clear up some of the myths and stereotypes associated with it.

S

Sarah Dipalma 15:25

Well, first of all, I want to first of all remind folks that this is marathon. And the number is 5265738. You're listening to a discussion right now but bisexuality and about gender. I don't know that there's another radio station, certainly not in the city of Houston, where you hear a discussion like this in open discussion without commercials. We want to encourage you to please donate to KPFT for \$35 you get a new program died for \$60. You get a coffee mug, or a t shirt. For \$90. You get a t shirt and a mug for \$102. You get a KPFT. Watch. And Gigi. The first

G

Gigi 16:05

two collars on \$90 with a credit card. Yeah. Priscilla poster, and

S

Sarah Dipalma 16:13

these are cool. These Priscilla posters are cool. Yes, they really are. I want to pick up on something that Michelle just said, Because transgender people have the same problem. We have a very interesting situation on in the city of Houston right now. There are some people who are very actively working on behalf of transgender people. Ray Hill in his Parker, Michael Crawford Lu Jacques hilar. And there are there are many others, because they simply believe in equal rights. They believe in that. There are also an almost equal number of gay and lesbian people who see us as a problem and as a distraction, and are actively working to to be sure we are excluded from any political gains, or any political bills even that are out there on behalf of gays and lesbians. So I can I want to verify something that Michelle said, It is not that all gays and lesbians are ignorant or care to discriminate or anything was sort on the contrary, we have some very good, very loyal, very positive friends. There are also some people out there who could use some education, and it's part of what we hope we're doing tonight.

M

Michelle 17:27

Yeah, it really really upsets me when I see if I see like gays and lesbians, you know, like, basically teaming up with the religious right to discriminate against fellow queers. I mean, that just that just really disgusts me.

S

Sarah Dipalma 17:40

We're always going to talk about this earlier, but since since you mentioned, I'm going to mention this now. There is a a, as some people may already know, there is a hate crimes bill that is being sponsored by the Lesbian Gay rights lobby, it is Senate Bill 148. And I made a special point of contacting Senator Rodney Ellis his office because his office is sponsoring bill and their current hate crimes legislation is specifically non transgender. inclusive. We are not included in the hate crimes bill. And as as the chair of its time, Texas, a political lobbying organization for transgender people. I'm gonna make it real clear that we are going to fight until hell freezes over. But I promise you, we're going to be included in hate crimes legislation, Jim, when was I don't know which microphone am I supposed to be using here for you? Let me see. Let me see. You try. See, does that one get you on the air? I'm not sure. I think. Okay, one of those is bound to work.

⦿

18:47

One of these is bound work. There it is.

S

Sarah Dipalma 18:49

I don't know which one it is. But go ahead.

⦿

18:52

Actually, I just came in here to listen, we're getting some interesting calls



S

Sarah Dipalma 18:55

out there. Good, bad or indifferent?

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18:59

Some are kind of argumentative out there. They're saying? No, no, no, I think there are more gay people than there are bisexual people.

S

Sarah Dipalma 19:08

Well, you know, I don't think it's a numbers game. I don't think the issue is whether there are more of one or the other. I think it's it's a question of, of, of equal treatment. My experience has been that gays and lesbians work so hard on their own sexuality, in on their own issues, that they may not have time or energy to learn that other people have the same sort of issues. And the gay and lesbian community has had the political field for so long for to themselves. They are finding it very difficult to accept the idea that there are other people who are going to demand a piece of the pie in addition to them, and now as we pointed out, it's not universally true. We have some very good friends. But there are some people who are just going to have to learn And that we're not going to go away. And we're going to fight for what we believe in.

G

Gigi 20:03

I think also, Michelle brought up one point that really kind of intrigues me. And this is the whole idea of the queer community, versus the guy or the bisexual or the transgender. It's being all inclusive, and working together on common issues, to fight against discrimination. And I think as long as we remain fragmented, and fighting among ourselves, we lose power. There is what's important isn't the number of this group or that group. It's, we have a conservative, right? That it's discriminating against us, and on all different levels. And as long as we discriminate against each other than we're just feeding our enemy.

S

Sarah Dipalma 21:01

And that's exactly right. I have a resolution here, which is from the board of directors of the national lesbian and gay Law Association. This is a national group. And I'm not going to read the whole thing, but it urges the inclusion of transgender community into the employment non discrimination act in other statutes, ordinances and regulations, along with lesbians, gays and bisexuals. And one of the things he points out is it says that gays, lesbians and bisexuals seek protection under the term sexual orientation, whereas transgenders seek protection under the term of gender identification. And the four communities may together seek protection under the combined term of sexual or gender orientation. So she She's exactly right. Not only can we work together, I think it's imperative we work together, we're either going to hang together, or surely we're going to hang separately.

G

Gigi 21:56

And we're going to assess risk. A lot of times happens as history points out as we get knocked down one small group at a time. Whereas when we combine our strength, we can stand against whatever comes.

S

Sarah Dipalma 22:15

Well, I think that's exactly right. Let's go to another portion of this tape with with Dr. Cole. With an actually I believe this particular tape is not with Dr. Cole, it is with the some of the women that we were able to interview and let's listen to what they have to say here. The outreach program, a lot of our folks are, they're dressing in their bedrooms. They they call the show they're scared to death. And now here you are, you've made it through this process. You're You're a couple, you bought a home together, life is finally settling out for you. What words of advice could you use? Well, if there's any one thing that you can say to these people out there that are that are frightened in at the beginning, what what would you what would you say to them to let them know they're gonna survive?



23:02

California. Okay, go ahead. I say put your high heels on, put on your makeup. Get yourself out there, the more you practice, and the more you do it, there's no difference. Then my mother telling me this as a teenager, when I didn't want to leave the house or I was down or I was blue. This it's the same advice. It's very simple. Get up, take a bath, put on a nice dress, put on your makeup and get out there and stretch your stuff. Because you're not going to do it at home, you're never going to progress. You're never going to make the next step. You may get some looks. something ugly may happen. But you've got to do what you have to do and you cannot do it behind closed doors. And it's a lot easier now in 1994 then it wasn't 1974 I'll tell you that.

G

Gigi 23:54

I guess if I have any kind of advice, which I'm I don't think I'm a person that gives advice is that for someone who wants to do a transition? You really don't really don't start to talk like a woman till you think like a woman. You don't start to think like a woman until you start thinking of yourself as a person. I never found that much difference really. between being a man and a woman in terms of just life I'm in a profession where it's it's mostly male dominated. And most of the customers that I run into are man and they bring in to the sale situation now where I'm a woman, I'm selling them something that they're not used to a woman selling them. This particular product I've worked with with expensive products where I've had to really sell the product, I really had to know my product very well. And I've had to present it very well. I can walk rings around a lot of the people that I have worked with in certain areas of what I do. Now, as a female, I work with a male as a counterpart in the department. And I'll be talking to a customer and simply because now I am a female, they'll turn to Him and ask Him for answers. And just totally ignore the fact that I'm standing there. Until I start thinking, you know, you're doing this because I'm a woman. But because I'm a person, I'm going to I'm going to make you pay attention to me, I think that was important for me to decide, you start to see the things that women have to go through every day. But then again, you have to kind of overcome that. And simply say, I'm just a person. You can't treat me as an object. And then to have you think

of yourself as nothing but another person marching along. In file, I don't think you can really quite make that transition, as long as you think of yourself as I am a girl and I have to be, hey, like a girl, I have to behave the way a woman would behave in this in this particular situation. Really, that's just, I think you're putting yourself in the wrong mindset myself, just be yourself. Just do what you think you need to do. And you'll be better off than if you try to do something that looks fake, or, or sounds fake, or is fake just because you're trying to be something that maybe you're not quite, because you never had a mother who told you to get up, get a bath, put your makeup on. Just be yourself. That's really my advice.

S

Sarah Dipalma 26:56

Okay, now we're back from that segment with this was a, one of the women is a genetic, female, and an open lesbian. The other person is a post operative transsexual. So they are now living together as lesbian couple. And very proudly, talking very willing to talk about that. I want to ask about, I want to ask about your views as something that they talked about. And that is the idea of assimilation of simply blending in, if you heard one of them say that their goal in life is to be able to get up, go to work and simply not be noticed. What do you think of that idea about assimilation of a blending in?

M

Michelle 27:39

I just I just like to say that, that I don't feel there's anything wrong with assimilation. But on the other hand, I don't, I don't feel like that, you know, if if you can't be yourself and assimilate. I mean, I don't feel like you should just, you should repress yourself in order to assimilate into into our culture. I mean, I mean, what our American society has, at least I think they do have a lot of a lot of problems. I mean, just dealing with people who are different. And if you feel like you have to share your difference, I feel that you should be out there and do it. But if you feel like you want to assimilate in society, I feel that it's an equally valid, valid option, and that it's up to you. It's your choice, and you shouldn't be pressured by anybody.

S

Sarah Dipalma 28:20

I want to ask something, I think I think, Jim, you asked this question one time. And I've thought about it a lot since and I want to ask you both how out is out?

M

Michelle 28:32

I feel it's an individual choice. I mean, for some people out is just, you know, just being with a partner of the same sex or just, you know, telling close friends about yourself telling your family, for some people, it's wearing wearing pens wearing all kinds of signs going out there shouting in a microphone, going to rallies doing political work. I really know. I really feel that that depends totally on the individual.



28:59

Oh well. Am I on here?

Oh, well. Am I on here? I

S

Sarah Dipalma 29:02

think so. Let's see. Yeah. Okay.

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29:08

My only thing about this is what does it really matter? I mean, you know, just I don't really understand what everybody else's problem is with being straight, being gay being by being a transgender person being anything necessarily. I mean, you know, it's people just kind of trying to get into something that's really none of their business, basically.

S

Sarah Dipalma 29:38

Well, I'm glad to hear you say that because I agree with you. Kate Bornstein, who we're going to play her interview a little bit later makes an argument that gender as a concept is past the time for its existence in our society. She makes the argument that you're born when you were born, you are assigned in a gender, and she's she says on the tape that this gender is sanctified by the church, enforced by the medical profession, reinforced in the education process, you are never given an option to negotiate it, you are never given an option to say this gender doesn't fit me. And she asks the question in the book, suppose at birth, you are not labeled, you are not labeled male, female, whatever, you are simply labeled a person. And as you grow, you are allowed to find the place that is comfortable and right for you on a whole continuum of behaviors. And those behaviors are all considered normal, whatever normal is they were, it was socially acceptable. Would transsexuals still exist? Would they need to exist? Would it? Would you have men who became I don't know, whatever the most feminine profession is I can I don't even know what that would be? Would you have men who became ballerinas? You know? Would you have women who became a pile drivers are I don't know, some male profession? And would they choose that voluntarily? In other words, the ideas of genders and the separations of sexual orientations? Aren't they all just nonsense?

G

Gigi 31:26

I think what, yeah, Horton, one of the things I find important. It's like, I've always dreamed of a day when I could go to the senior prom in high school. And it doesn't matter who I take to the day, it's there. You know, our female

S

Sarah Dipalma 31:42

did that. And if you couldn't hear Sarah, off behind Sarah, JC will do it.

G

Gigi 31:51

But I think what I'm trying to say here is that when all of society can become gender blind and

But I think what I'm trying to say here is that when all of society can become gender blind, and be able to see that two people who love each other, and care about each other is the important issue here. Not what gender they are, or what gender they're attracted to. That just two people love each other. It's like, my grandmother once said that, it doesn't matter to me. Love is love. And that's what counts. So how do we get from here to there? Coming out? I think coming out, I think, you know, the heterosexual community flaunt their head or sexuality every day. Oh, they don't believe that. They don't believe it. But they do.



32:41

Look at any magazine, watch any TV show



Gigi 32:44

just watched a walk down the street?



Sarah Dipalma 32:47

Anything? I mean, you know, it's an advertising it's an everything. You know, that's Well, that's exactly right. You know, everything sells with sex appeal. For some reason. You're stealing Kate's interview, I love it. Keep going.



32:59

Keep going. This is great. You know what? You know, you have these blonde, you know, model types out here with a wrench in their hand, you know, and it's like, okay. I don't think she's a mechanic. You know what I mean?



Sarah Dipalma 33:17

14 interesting story about when my daughter was little maybe maybe adds to this discussion. I hope so. My father is from the old world Italian school of of child raising, you know, there are boys jobs, there are girls jobs. Okay. My daughter, of course, as you might guess, having me as a parent wasn't raised that way. So it's so happened. It so happened that one day I was working on the car. My daughter wanted to find out what the honor underside of the car looked like. I said, fine. So we took her inside, and we gave her some overalls and things. So here's my daughter underneath the car with me. And my poor father came along and took one look at me this this 10 year old girl under the car, and just went berserk, and just really gave me holy hell. How dare I raise a girl who who was going to be, you know, I wish girls had no business being under the car that you know, this is not a girl's job and everything. And my daughter poked her head out and looked at him said, Grandpa, why don't you just knock it off? She said Don't you didn't know today women can have it all. You know, and so maybe, maybe there's hope that with a new generation, some of the stuff that we're talking about tonight, some 10 years from now, or 20 years from now, people are gonna listen to this tape and say, What were they talking about? What a bunch of nonsense,



Gigi 34:37

I hope. Yeah, fortunately, what we're talking about is queer bashing. What we're talking about is the prejudice we're talking about is that when two people love each other, in our society, they're not always allowed to express that openly.



Sarah Dipalma 34:57

Well, yeah, that's true. But I maybe that's part of the quest. student that I asked how out is out is Well, part of the reason that people are not out b is because they fear violence against themselves.



Gigi 35:08

I think part of that, and I think part of it is discrimination. You know, if I was out where I work, I certainly wouldn't have a job tomorrow.



Sarah Dipalma 35:18

Well, not the would not dress the way you are tonight, certainly.



35:22

quite differently.



Gigi 35:24

But I think these are very real issues. You know, discrimination, cuts very deep. And it can include everything from death, to loss of job to loss of everything that we value in our society. Self esteem. Everything our whole self worth. Because when one's discriminated against the cut steep on many different levels, not just economic, not just political, but it cuts down to the heart.



Sarah Dipalma 36:04

I want to remind listeners that this is 5265738 KPFT, the radio station is 90.1 FM, and this is marathon. Our phones are not ringing. We are having a discussion tonight where you're talking about bisexuality, gender, oh, gee, I know, we've covered a lot of stuff already. And we're G we're off an hour and a half. Yeah, no, we're gonna happen to the show, you know,



36:27

we had a caller with an interesting comment about sexuality and who you're attracted to that, let's say, Michelle, talk to her did you

M

Michelle 36:40

this was something that I also feel pretty strongly about, and that we we didn't really mention is that, like, when I fall in love with somebody, if I fall in love with a person, I don't, I don't fall in love with a body part or you know, I don't fall in love with a penis or a vagina or with, you know, arms or legs or, or breasts or anything. I mean, I fall in love with the person inside and who they are. And that's something that that I feel very strongly about it. That's what made us identify as bisexual, because I feel that I can find love from either a man or a woman and, or anything in between. And it's the person that I love and not the body.

S

Sarah Dipalma 37:18

Well, maybe we got to get my life partner in here and let her talk about that. Because I as a transgender person, as is a person who is I've essentially chosen not to have the surgery for a whole lot of reasons that I've talked about on another show. But I've often thought that for my life partner, it must be very difficult because she is dealing with a person who has not had surgery but does have breasts. And I would think that it must be very difficult and very confusing. And her response to me is is that well, but I love the person and I I'm very grateful for that. And I'm sure that that there are gonna be people out there saying What do you mean you just love the person you know?

G

Gigi 38:14

There's another side to and that is where you know half it into all this is it now I don't really consider myself transgender I'm more in trojanettes I have a little bit of male and a little bit of female

S

Sarah Dipalma 38:26

that your dress tell people how you're dressed and I would talk about it tell them how you dress.

G

Gigi 38:30

Well I've got a black leather jacket, collar leather leather collar started and I have lipstick on and blue jeans

S

Sarah Dipalma 38:42

jeans that look like they came from the Salvation Army but they tell me their fashion so I always go ahead



Gigi 38:47

am bisexual colorful web,



Sarah Dipalma 38:50

which is what pink and blue and pink and blue whip and purple and purple. Okay, now that sounds raunchy and explain what androgyny Yes,



Gigi 38:58

the bisexual colors are pink, purple and blue. The pink represents female. The blue represents a male and the Purple represents androgyny. But what is androgyny? It's identifying is having both genders within myself and being both male and female.



Sarah Dipalma 39:19

So you are neither male or female you are Yes.



Gigi 39:22

Yes. Okay. I mean, sometimes I even wear my fake breasts and have the balls in my pants. And it can be a real gender Bender, you know, people take a look at that and they go, Wow, that's



Sarah Dipalma 39:42

okay. Now we've talked about violence against people. When you dress like that. Do you not feel like you are sort of you're walking and walking target? Definitely. How do you handle that?



Gigi 39:54

There are several ways I mean part of it to me is that I carry an attitude with my So, an attitude of, I'm going to be who I am. And I'm not going to bow down to violence. I'm going to stand up against it. Fortunately, I've never had any close calls, no calls at all. But I have had people come up to me, at least no physical ones. I have had people yell at me and scream at me and, and, you know, make gestures that that we're certainly not we can



Sarah Dipalma 40:31

probably guess what the gestures are.





Gigi 40:37

Enjoying my first love.



Sarah Dipalma 40:40

Now, Michelle, you're you are not dressed anything like that, if I am now, you know, now you've listened to what Gigi has had to say about this. What do you think?



Michelle 40:51

I mean, I don't know I just the way I want to you because I mean, this, this is who I am. And this is like, I mean, I like androgyny a lot. I like androgyny a lot and other people, but it's not something I've ever been drawn to in myself. And I feel like if I you know, if I were to dress androgynous that would be, you know, that would be denying myself just just as much as if, as if Gigi was like to wear a suit and tie or something like that.



Sarah Dipalma 41:16

So then what we're saying if I hear as you're saying, is that sitting in this room right now, we have a lesbian. We have two bisexuals, a transgender person. And Jim, I don't know how to classify you, I guess you can self label yourself.



41:32

No, I'm bisexual. I'm in their group also.



Sarah Dipalma 41:35

Okay, so we have three bisexuals, a lesbian, and a transgendered person in this room. And all of us sitting in this room, by Kate's, by, by by Kate Bornstein is definition would fall within the realm of socially acceptable behavior, if we did away with gender, and concepts of sexual orientation, right?



Gigi 41:55

Yeah. One thing I'd like to add to is that, you know, in the bisexual community, environment, Houston, we get a lot of diversity, we get males and females that would totally fit into straight society. And then we get people like Gigi, and a few others that that really stand out.



Sarah Dipalma 42:19

Well, I'm sorry, go ahead. Go ahead.

M

Michelle 42:20

I guess I'd like to say that, I mean, sometimes I've found since I do tend to look like a straight woman most the time that people tend not to take my sexuality seriously. I had a I had an I had a neighbor who I told I told him, I was bisexual and he goes, You can't be bisexual, you wear makeup. Like he expected, like I have to like shave my head or you know, something just so I'd like to like women.

S

Sarah Dipalma 42:44

And where would the arrogant concept like that? I

M

Michelle 42:47

don't know. I just have like, no idea in the world. I mean, to me, it's like, you know, something that I understand pretty simply that those two things are totally unrelated to each other. But I guess society just has this image of like lesbians that, you know, I guess you kind of lumped it all together that you know, that in order to like women, I'd have to have a shaved head I'd have to have you know, never wear dresses or skirts, you know. And

S

Sarah Dipalma 43:13

now sera sera sitting right behind me. Why don't you address this from the lesbian perspective? Lesbians dress how real cool that's pretty well covered the subject. Thank you very much.

i

43:32

Character comfort is a big thing in clothing. Yes.

S

Sarah Dipalma 43:35

Isn't that the way Robin Williams describes lesbians is women in comfortable shoes.

i

43:44

No, I have to say when I go to work, I did bow to the system. And I worked for a big company now. So I do kind of dress up a little bit. But as soon as I get home, I put on my shorts and you know, the grunge wear. But that's just me as an individual. You know, I have a lot of friends that like to dress up but and that's that's the whole astigmatism that really ticks me off. You know, the fact that you know, if you're lesbian, oh, like, Oh, well. Alright, I digress. But anyway,

when I when I started working somewhere, somebody said, Well, I could tell you are feminists and I said, Wow, he goes, Well, because you have short hair. And I watch. I just looked at him and I said, Okay, Billy, Bob, whatever. So I knew I didn't want to talk to

**S** Sarah Dipalma 44:21

him. When the Wait a minute. Does that mean the end? Richards because she had puffed up here was not a feminist. I said he his name was Billy Bob. I yeah, like I need to say yeah, Billy, Billy the Bubba, we got it.

**M** Michelle 44:37

I guess this means we can't be feminist since we have long hair.

**S** Sarah Dipalma 44:40

And you know, I'm going to get my hair trimmed on Tuesday just to have the bulk taken out because I want it to grow longer.

**G** Gigi 44:45

So that means you can't be a feminist anymore.

**S** Sarah Dipalma 44:49

I think you can pretty much be anything you want. Isn't it might be it might be time for us to go to some

**G** Gigi 44:58

music. Well, I think first one Do a pledge premium break, okay, are not ringing. And KPFT does need money to continue its programs like after hours, we could use a \$35 donation. And with that you would get a program guide.

**M** Michelle 45:23

For \$60, you can get either a coffee mug or a t shirt.

**G** Gigi 45:27

The first two \$90 on credit card would get our poster for Scylla and a T shirt or Oh t shirt and a mug. And then

M

Michelle 45:43

for \$150 you can get a KPFT watch. I'd also like to say that even if you don't have 3560 90 or \$150, any donation will help. I mean \$10 \$5 \$2 Whatever. Just, I mean we'd really, we'd really like your help and you know, just whatever you can spare would be great.

S

Sarah Dipalma 46:02

You know, I want to I want to pick up on something that Ray Hill mentioned earlier. This is our 25th anniversary KPFT. Over the years, this radio station has been involved in the anti war Vietnam movement. They've been involved in feminist issues. They've been involved in get lesbian, gay rights, transgender rights issues. They've been involved in human rights issues. They've brought entertainment that you can't hear anywhere else. The history of this station is really remarkable. The transmitter was once blown up by the Ku Klux Klan. And because they didn't care what people on KPFT had to say, this station deserves your support. If for no other reason than it has stood for something, when most other stations have simply come and gone, and what it has stood for is freedom of choice. Freedom of choice, a KPFT that is something that is well worth your money. And I agree with Michelle, if you're out on the bars tonight