

DANIEL LINK: [SIGHS]

SPEAKER 1: You need to be proud of that.

DANIEL LINK: Thanks.

JIMMY: You should very proud of that song. That is beautiful.

DANIEL LINK: Thank you very much.

JIMMY: I almost-- I don't want to even talk after it.

DANIEL LINK: [LAUGHS]

JIMMY: I just want to put on some Kitaro or something.

DANIEL LINK: [LAUGHS]

SPEAKER 1: Go home and play it again.

[LAUGHTER]

DANIEL LINK: That was--

JIMMY: That's a beautiful song.

DANIEL LINK: Thank you. Thank you. It-- it was a-- believe it or not, it took-- just was almost the longest song to record.

Definitely the longest one to mix. We probably mixed that song for about 8 hours. And because it was all acoustic, we had an open mic set up for my guitar player.

So because it was a long time before he came in we, just had the mic going. And you can hear-- in the background, you can hear like a little creaking chair. His wooden chair kind of creaking. And you can hear him--

[INHALES]

--take a breath every now and then. And we went, when-- there was one part-- when he comes in at the second chorus he's doing this count and he kind of goes (RASPY VOICE) na, na, Christine like that. And my engineer said, oh, we need to get that out of there. I said, no, we need to leave that in. That sounds really cool.

[LAUGHTER]

It just lends to-- it gives it a more organic sounding.

SPEAKER 1: Ghosty sound.

DANIEL LINK: Very, very haunting, very haunting. So, yeah. We left a lot of cool stuff like that in there.

SPEAKER 1: So is that song typical of the whole CD or not typical?

DANIEL LINK: I would say it is not typical at all. In fact, it's quite a diversion. The rest of the album is more-- it's electric. It's very guitar-oriented. My guitar player, Stuart Cundey, is also the co-producer on this. And he has a lot to do with the direction of this because I wanted to be more up front rock and roll.

So "Christine" is a nice diversion from the electric-- the electric stuff and the kind of rocking beat of the whole album.

JIMMY: After people have heard "Christine," I know they're going to want to get this CD. And how can they do that?

DANIEL LINK: Right now, if you go to my website, which is daniellink.com, I have a store. It's very easy just to click on and to place an order. And I will get it to you as soon as I can, actually. We will have it out, like I said, next week, Friday. If they ordered online, I will get it to you. As far as--

JIMMY: That's daniellink-- L-I-N-K.

DANIEL LINK: daniellink.com. Another way-- I will get it into the Borders Books and Music locations down here--

JIMMY: Oh, OK.

DANIEL LINK: --in Houston as well for everybody. That's probably a couple of weeks off, but I will have it down here for you.

SPEAKER 1: It's a very good website. You can read the lyrics to all the songs. You can hear a couple of clips. You can see pictures. You can read a little bio and kind of get a little more overall impression of who Daniel Link is.

DANIEL LINK: Yeah. Yeah. There's a little bit of everything there. Probably too much more information--

SPEAKER 1: No.

DANIEL LINK: --than you ever wanted to know about me but-- but it's all there.

SPEAKER 1: Daniel Link, the overload.

[LAUGHS]

DANIEL LINK: That's exactly right. Well, we've also got a really cool part of the website, which is for my street team, which is-- it's kind of a proactive fan club where my fans get involved in promotion. And we have links to all the radio stations, including this one.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, good.

DANIEL LINK: With the phone line. And my street team can go in there and email you, folks, and call in.

SPEAKER 1: And say play "Christine."

DANIEL LINK: Play "Christine."

[LAUGHS]

And a lot of different things. I'm going to have downloadable flyers you can print out and stuff like that. So--

SPEAKER 1: You have a press kit there, too, you can download.

DANIEL LINK: I've got an online press kit as well.

SPEAKER 1: That's a good idea.

DANIEL LINK: Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: I see more and more artists doing that.

DANIEL LINK: You know, I went to a meeting a couple of weeks ago up in Austin, all-- the Austin Music Foundation. It's a non-profit organization that offers services to the local musicians, and they have meetings once a month.

And their last meeting was-- they basically had all the venues come in from Austin and tell us how they wanted us to submit, what they wanted in a press kit. And you know, most of them said we want something online because first of all, press kits can be bulky. Take a lot of desk space. And if you go online, it's just right there.

SPEAKER 1: And they're probably going to click it and move it to an ad and send it somewhere.

DANIEL LINK: Exactly.

SPEAKER 1: All online.

DANIEL LINK: Right. Exactly. So the trend seems to be that most people want electronic press kits these days.

SPEAKER 1: Yes. Right.

DANIEL LINK: So, I thought--

SPEAKER 1: The ones that I get, I end up scanning them if I use them at all.

DANIEL LINK: Sure. Sure. Sure. That's right. So--

JIMMY: I hate to say this, but we're running out of time.

DANIEL LINK: Well.

JIMMY: Let's end with a song.

DANIEL LINK: Let's end with a song. How about "Good Life?"

SPEAKER 1: Tell us about it just a second.

DANIEL LINK: "Good Life" is the very last song on the album. I wrote it for a friend of mine up in Austin. And it's kind of make lemonade out of lemon kind of a song. It's like, take the good with the bad because we need all those things to really have a good life. Just be grateful for everything. So that's what the song is about.

JIMMY: Daniel, thank you for being on *After Hours*.

DANIEL LINK: Thank you very much.

JIMMY: And thanks for coming all the way from Austin to be on *After Hours*.

SPEAKER 1: What a treat.

JIMMY: Yeah. No kidding.

DANIEL LINK: Well, it was for me, too. I appreciate both of you, guys.

SPEAKER 1: Jimmy and I've been looking forward to this album for a year and a half now?

JIMMY: Yes, we have.

DANIEL LINK: Yeah. So have I.

[LAUGHS]

So have I. Thank you guys very much. I really appreciate it.

JIMMY: You betcha. And here it is, the name of the song is.

DANIEL LINK: "Good Life."

JIMMY: From the album called?

DANIEL LINK: *Ghost Stories*.

JIMMY: Where they can get at.

DANIEL LINK: daniellink.com

JIMMY: OK.

[LAUGHS]

[MUSIC - DANIEL LINK, "GOOD LIFE"]

Oh, yeah. Daniel Link, "Good Life." That's off of his brand new CD just coming out next week at the CD release party in Austin called *Ghost Stories*. You can get it now online at daniellink.com. "Good Life." Boy, that's a good CD.

Now special guest, very special guest-- and let's see. We've got Hunter here. Francisco is stuck in Galveston, I believe. Big Roy is here and the Lady Shamu. Thank you for being a guest on *After Hours*.

LADY SHAMU: Yes, thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. It's a wonderful, wonderful experience to be here with the radio station, with all Houston listeners and Galveston, all surrounding communities.

JIMMY: That's right.

LADY SHAMU: And I thank you for the opportunity for having me.

JIMMY: It is so difficult getting entertainers on the show because we're on Saturday night and that's when entertainers work. So it's-- I'm just-- I've got goosebumps. I mean--

BIG ROY: It really is-- it really is a very special treat for us to have to have you here. And we are so grateful that you're here.

JIMMY: Yes.

LADY SHAMU: Are y'all just saying this because I'm like half naked, or-- OK. Oh, can you say naked on the radio?

JIMMY: We can say--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

LADY SHAMU: Before we get started, can I get a list of words I cannot say because--

BIG ROY: You can say-- can I do the George Carlin?

JIMMY: No, you may not. No, no, no. Yours is a name that I have seen and heard for a very long time. In the entertainment field. How did you get started?

LADY SHAMU: Well, jeez. 17 years ago--

JIMMY: Wow. She said it, I didn't.

LADY SHAMU: Yes, 17 years. I started dabbling in a little bit of makeup. Putting on nails and sneaking off to Walgreens and putting on nails just around the house.

JIMMY: Oh, the Lee press-on's, yeah.

LADY SHAMU: Yes. Yes, and the [INAUDIBLE], whoever invented those, I hate him because they never stay on. They don't stay on.

JIMMY: Not with that damn glue you get with them.

LADY SHAMU: Right.

BIG ROY: And, Jimmy, you would know.

JIMMY: I know. Well, we've all had our day.

LADY SHAMU: Right. Well, I started basically dressing up. The first time I really did was for Halloween. I was maybe 17 or 18 years old, I guess. Wore a huge ball gown, went to the Transco Tower, made my brother take me to the Transco Tower in drag looking like a man with the bluest blue eyeshadow and the ugliest wig I possibly could buy. And had no shame in doing it because I thought I looked good. But eventually, I learned a lot of secrets about female impersonations. And I've been a lot of places, seen a lot of things. And I used to have other names too, other stage names and I won't say what those are because I don't like them. But the name Lady Shamu actually came from my brother's lover. I have two gay brothers.

JIMMY: Oh.

LADY SHAMU: We are very-- we're pretty close. And my brother's lover is just a mess. I'm talking about just crazy, crazy, crazy, off the wall and everybody falls in love with him. Well we were in a swimming pool at the hotel in San Antonio once and every time, I'm a wonderful, wonderful swimmer, not to mention that I'm kind of double sized. But anyway--

JIMMY: You are-- you are generously proportioned.

LADY SHAMU: Thank you. Thank you, you're so sweet. Well every time I would go under water and swim from one side of the pool to the other, my brother's love would say, look, everybody it's Shamu. It's Shamu. Well we ended up going to the clubs in San Antonio, and everywhere we went, friends were-- he would introduce me as Shamu. You know, and honestly, it hurt my feelings. But you know, and we came back to Houston and I started performing at old clubs. And I'm talking about if you remember the Kindred Spirits.

JIMMY: Oh yes. Oh, that's my favorite club, yes.

LADY SHAMU: I did my first show there, and then I began working at Rubio's Nightclub, if you remember where Rubio was.

JIMMY: Yes.

LADY SHAMU: Yes, Rubio's. And well I couldn't get rid of the name Shamu. So I was like, everybody kept calling me Shamu, Shamu, Shamu. So a friend of mine told me, you know what, this name, you can't get away from it. But why don't you add something to it. Why don't you put lady in front of it because you give them something to remember you by. So I was like, OK. So I was like, now I tell people the reason this Lady Shamu was because there's not much of a lady about her because I tell you I am the worst on a microphone. But I have a-- people always come to my shows, they know that it's not a typical show. It's not a show that you would want to take children to.

JIMMY: It's adult entertainment.

LADY SHAMU: Right, it's adult entertainment. And I have been everywhere again, like I said. And it's just fabulous, it's fabulous. I feel that I'm truly blessed.

BIG ROY: Well.

JIMMY: Go ahead.

BIG ROY: I noticed like Jimmy was saying, that you have been around for quite a while and I do want to point out that the people in-- the entertainers like yourself have done such a tremendous job in fundraising in this city. I mean, between you and the leather folks in Country Western--

JIMMY: Woo, leathers.

BIG ROY: In our Country Western friends that are out at the BRB and other places that raise money. I mean, you all have done such a phenomenal job here.

JIMMY: That's absolutely true, yes.

BIG ROY: And I mean, we get these big name, big super megastars come to town. I'm thinking of one in particular drag queen who had a very popular show on cable. And we got \$1,000, or a couple of thousand dollars from her show.

JIMMY: Where are you going with this?

LADY SHAMU: Right, you know--

BIG ROY: Where I'm going is this, is that our entertainers, our homegrown entertainers raised circles. And You all have been the mainstay. It's not the big name entertainers that come in, it's you folks that are out there in the trenches.

LADY SHAMU: Right, well I honestly believe that we as entertainers, as female impersonators within our own gay community, especially here in Houston, can only be as big as our public lets us. And I honestly don't consider myself that I'm any more special than the person that doesn't perform. In our community, we actually should be probably more together than what we are. And we all know that probably one of the biggest problems, besides AIDS in our community, is the unity that we honestly, don't have.

JIMMY: Yes, but--

LADY SHAMU: Right, right. And I believe that through the art of female impersonation, men-- and as a matter of fact and I understand-- and I haven't seen this yet, but I have heard that there are women that perform as men.

JIMMY: Yes, drag Kings.

LADY SHAMU: And drag kings, correct. And that is a show that I would love to go see to see what they're doing. And I mean, it's a lot about competition towards other entertainers. A lot of times, what kind of strikes me in my heart is that sometimes female impersonators are only thought of when money needs to be raised, which is-- it's not so much a bad thing as far as a lot of people don't consider that these people are working probably two and three jobs trying to fulfill their dreams as a female impersonator. And benefits are wonderful. And I've done many, many benefits. Raised money, I just recently came back from Saint Angelo helping the San Angelo AIDS Foundation.

I went out there, they told me, they go, what do you charge? I'm like, you know what, this is for your organization, a little town in West Texas, you don't have that much money. I'm like, I'm not going to charge you. I'm like, I drove out there, did the show, did my Wonder Woman skit, which they-- right. Right. And they loved it.

That night they raised over \$14,000.

JIMMY: Whoa.

LADY SHAMU: The most they had ever raised. They expected to-- they hoped to have raised at least \$2,000. The most they had ever raised was that \$1,700 in the past years. But I mean, just the donations, the people calling their friends, you have got to come out here. You have got to see this person. And it gets my name out there. It gets my name. And it's a lot of fun. It's fun for me. And I think that's what I always have to keep in mind, that this is for fun. And I do take it seriously, though.

But it's something that I have truly, truly enjoyed for most of my adult life. Am I adult?

JIMMY: Yeah.

LADY SHAMU: I am an adult, right?

JIMMY: I have been the treasurer of the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard and the treasurer of the Gulf Coast archive, the museum and small groups like that. And we could not exist without you.

LADY SHAMU: Oh, well that's--

JIMMY: I salute you.

LADY SHAMU: Oh, well, thank you, thank you. And I extend your salute to all the female impersonators in Houston. And Houston has, actually, I have said this so many times and so many people know it that the most beautiful female impersonators are in Texas. I don't know if it's in the water or what. But I mean, there are so many entertainers in Houston.

JIMMY: It's the competition.

LADY SHAMU: Right. And there are some fierce girls out there that are out for blood.

JIMMY: Yeah.

BIG ROY: And I'll say this though that with the way our impersonators and entertainers are looking today are such a big improvement over yesterday. I don't know if it's better cosmetics and better

LADY SHAMU: Duct tape.

BIG ROY: Duct tape.

LADY SHAMU: It's not just for home use anymore, honey. Oh, no. No, duct tape.

BIG ROY: Actually the truth be told-- truth be told folks, if you haven't heard, but in the regular Miss America pageants, those girls out there in their swimsuits, they have loads of duct tape that you don't see.

JIMMY: Right, right.

BIG ROY: Just to be able to fit into those things.

LADY SHAMU: Oh, definitely, definitely, definitely.

SPEAKER 2: I've been backstage at a few pageants, so yes.

BIG ROY: I wonder in the male pageants, if they have got tape on.

SPEAKER 2: More like socks.

JIMMY: They probably use rings, cock rings.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

LADY SHAMU: Can I say fluffers?

JIMMY: Oh, yeah.

LADY SHAMU: Yes, fluffers. All the fluffers out there, I love you too.

BIG ROY: We won't say what the fluffers do.

JIMMY: Oh, we all know that.

BIG ROY: Yeah, you just think about it.

JIMMY: My dream job.

LADY SHAMU: OK, now where do you apply?

BIG ROY: A little bit more personal.

LADY SHAMU: Sure.

BIG ROY: You are Hispanic.

LADY SHAMU: Yes, I am Hispanic.

BIG ROY: Has that been a problem with you being a drag queen impersonator? Is that-- how much of a-- what is that like in the Hispanic community?

LADY SHAMU: Well actually, for me, I would have to say that it's an added bonus because I do my shows in English, I do them in Spanish. I will make you laugh in English and Spanish, just saying crazy things. And I think for a while there, people honestly thought I was Black for some reason. And you know, I'm like, Hey, come on. I'm like, I want to be everything. I want to be a part of the big melting pot and I'm like, sure, come on. And I think it's actually, I don't know if it's so much of a big difference to me because I am Hispanic, but I think it's a bonus for me.

BIG ROY: Well how does the Hispanic, the regular, the straight, Hispanic community--

LADY SHAMU: Oh, honey, well that-- the straight Hispanic community would actually, that would depend. Men, if they're alone, will treat you differently than if they're with a girl. If they're alone, they're going to want to try to get your phone number, probably a little bit more.

BIG ROY: Probably a lot more.

LADY SHAMU: Oh, a lot more.

JIMMY: Oh, yeah.

LADY SHAMU: Yeah, yeah. They love-- I love my Hispanic brothers. I love them to death, but they love to act like they're drunk just to try to get some and you don't have to act drunk. You know, hey, come on. We're adults. OK. We know what we're doing. But actually, I've been a few places actually, I've even performed for wedding showers. I've performed for baby showers. Yes. I have performed

BIG ROY: Quinceanera?

LADY SHAMU: Quinceanera, no, not a quinceanera, not yet. Not yet. But when they come in here and people are told, yes, we're going to have female impersonators here. And so just watch the show, just watch what they do and whatever. We come out in these wonderful get-ups, these wonderful costumes. Rhinestones.

I mean, not a sequin is left in Houston after we get through. And not a size 13 pump is on the shelf down at the shop. So we come out and they're like wow, how can you do that? And I'm just like, oh honey, I can have a problem walking in flats, honey. It's just, it's wonderful.

And people when they know what you're about in the beginning is, they probably more open to you. I mean, this is when I performed, and this has been the second time I've performed for this one lady for her party, that she's extravagant party. These are down in the Barrio of Houston. And they come out and they really enjoy it. They really, really enjoy it.

SPEAKER 2: What I've always thought is you ever since like *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* and *To Wong Foo*, movies like that, and then you see a lot of people, big name stars doing drag on their sitcoms or what have you, it's brought drag more into the mainstream so it's not so different. And so a lot of straight people, or what have you, will say, oh, this is a different form of entertainment, this is a lot of fun.

LADY SHAMU: Right

SPEAKER 2: A lot more than it used to be 30 years ago, or what have you, when it was still kind of maybe taboo. And it's a lot more--

LADY SHAMU: And I found that in some places, it's still a lot of taboo. But I think Houston has really opened up the door--

SPEAKER 2: The bigger metro, you know--

LADY SHAMU: Exactly. Houston, Dallas, they have wonderful, wonderful, wonderful shows. You just have to look for them. And I think it's really opened up quite a bit from how it used to be. Bless you.

SPEAKER 2: When I first came out about 10 years ago, I went to just a small little bar--

LADY SHAMU: Oh, you're just a baby.

SPEAKER 2: In Corpus Christi. And the first night I ever been to a gay bar or anything, Diane Michaels was there, Sweet Savage, big name drag queens. And I didn't know anything back then or anything. But it's really interesting to have seen them my first night out and then see them in the media, or what have you, or going on to win titles and that sort of thing.

JIMMY: I remember when Diane Michaels was doing amateur night at the Copa.

LADY SHAMU: Diane, I love you. Diane, I didn't bring your name up, they did. And I don't remember all that. I was 14 years old when I went to the Copa. So Diane, don't hate me, OK? You know, you're still my sister, OK? We can go on.

JIMMY: And she looked good. You know, it was and she was an amateur at that time.

SPEAKER 2: Didn't she go on tour with Reba? I heard she had actually gone on tour with Reba.

LADY SHAMU: I don't know.

SPEAKER 2: I don't know.

BIG ROY: I don't, honestly.

LADY SHAMU: Yes she did. Yes she did. She was-- she was Reba. As a matter of fact, wait a minute, yes she did. I'm just thinking about it. She came out on stage and did Reba before the real Reba came out. And when she came out and then the real Reba came out, everybody was just like, wait a minute, what's going on here? It's like what the bleep.

JIMMY: Oh that is so cool.

LADY SHAMU: Yeah.

BIG ROY: Sally-- you know, Sally Jessy has done the same thing. And the real entertainer would come out, right? And the other one said no, no, that's not the real one. They'd say that the impersonator was the real one.

LADY SHAMU: Right. Yeah and that's another point you know that. I remember Gerald, I remember Donahue was even doing it.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, yeah. They brought him on.

JIMMY: Is that telling my age?

SPEAKER 2: I remember Donahue, too.

JIMMY: OK. OK. Well he's back on the air now, so there.

BIG ROY: He is?

JIMMY: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, cable. I don't know what channel.

LADY SHAMU: MSNBC something.

SPEAKER 2: OK.

LADY SHAMU: OK. But hi, I have got to say hi. I have got to-- I wish you could be here in the station, there is a cute little Latino boy here and he's yawning and he's like staring at me. And he's like really, really handsome. And I have no idea what is his name?

SPEAKER 2: Lee.

LADY SHAMU: Lee. Hi, Lee! How are you? I'm in love with you. I'm going to have to marry you one day, OK? So take a number. I think like I'm on husband number 373 or something like that. OK.

JIMMY: He is cute.

LADY SHAMU: Yes, oh, he's wonderful. Hold on, is he married? Are you married?

LEE: No.

LADY SHAMU: Ladies and gentlemen, I have my drag daughter here for a good reason. Go get him, girl. Go get him.

JIMMY: And who is your drag daughter?

LADY SHAMU: My drag daughter is right here next to me. Her name is Virginia Slim. Say, hi Verge.

VIRGINIA SLIM: Hello.

BIG ROY: Tell us something about yourself. Virginia, tell us something about yourself. She's very cute, let me tell you something.

JIMMY: Yes she is, just smiling there.

LADY SHAMU: You can't see-- you can't see the cute little boy from where you are.

VIRGINIA SLIM: Yes, I did. I stood up and looked at him.

LADY SHAMU: OK. He's beautiful. He's beautiful.

VIRGINIA SLIM: My number is--

JIMMY: Yes, tell it to all the listeners--

SPEAKER 2: Right.

LADY SHAMU: Right, oh, it don't matter.

VIRGINIA SLIM: I have an open door policy.

LADY SHAMU: Right, just close it on the way in.

JIMMY: Oh, I think we'll get her performance yet.

LADY SHAMU: You probably will. You probably will.

VIRGINIA SLIM: I don't mind watchers. Once again, I've disrupted the show.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 2: Well, we were talking before the program about the myth about how drag people-- drag queens may name themselves about you take the name of your pet and the name of the street. And, Roy, what would your drag name be if that was the case?

BIG ROY: Well, OK, the street I was brought up on was Sperry. And my cat's name was Penny. So Sperry and Penny. How do you get a drag name out of that?

LADY SHAMU: Honey, call yourself dirty panties and we'll just go along with it. Just kidding.

SPEAKER 2: I've always said if I did drag, I'd be Mattress Montgomery.

BIG ROY: Mattress. Yeah, I know--

LADY SHAMU: There's a lot of [INAUDIBLE]. We have issues here.

BIG ROY: I know what the perfect drag name for me would be, but unfortunately, it's already taken.

LADY SHAMU: What was it?

JIMMY: Fuchsia Lame?

BIG ROY: No, Anita Man.

LADY SHAMU: OK, I thought he was going to say Barbie Coa or something like that. OK. Well you know Barbie Coa is available.

VIRGINIA SLIM: There we go.

BIG ROY: I want to mention that I was telling Lady Shamu just before the show started how that anybody can do drag, if they really want to.

JIMMY: I don't think that's true.

SPEAKER 2: I've done drag a few times.

JIMMY: There has to be some talent there. Not just-- nobody can just--

SPEAKER 2: You can't just be a boy in a dress.

LADY SHAMU: Well, if you are going to stand by me that way I look better. And buy me some drinks.

JIMMY: While you're at it, that's right.

LADY SHAMU: Right. By the way, where are the drinks? I didn't see the cooler back here.

VIRGINIA SLIM: I don't think just anybody can do this.

JIMMY: No. For instance, I don't ever want to see Roy wearing a dress.

SPEAKER 2: No, no.

BIG ROY: Well not saying being an entertainer.

JIMMY: You would end up looking like Eleanor Roosevelt.

LADY SHAMU: Oh, my word.

BIG ROY: No, wait, wait.

SPEAKER 2: Janet Reno.

LADY SHAMU: Oh, they brought up Janet Reno. Girl, they have brought up Janet Reno.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BIG ROY: If J. Edgar Hoover could do drag, then I guess-- and I said, why didn't the people back then hang him. Set him on fire or something. Just the thought of that guy in drag is scary.

LADY SHAMU: Well, yeah, OK. OK. Verge, do you have anything to say about that?

VIRGINIA SLIM: No habla ingles.

LADY SHAMU: Right. Verge all of a sudden, no habla ingles.

JIMMY: So tell us about what could we expect if we went to a show?

LADY SHAMU: Oh, jeez. You could expect me probably to pull off my wig. You could expect me to talk about people. Talk about-- actually the other entertainers, and they know it's all in fun. I mean, if they have a difficult name and I have a problem pronouncing the name because-- well let me back up a little bit. In the shows, what happens is if I'm emceeing, I always come out first, do my first number when I usually dance. Usually dance or do something wild and yes, I would do a cartwheel for you. If the studio was any bigger, I'd do it for you.

JIMMY: Now this is radio folks, but I want to tell you that Lady Shamu is like busting out of her bustier here.

LADY SHAMU: Oh my god. I get nervous and they jiggle.

JIMMY: My, my, my.

LADY SHAMU: You have no idea what it is to drive in drag next to an 18 wheeler when you're taped up for Jesus and bouncing up and down like this and they are loving it because it really-- they look real. Well, at least to people--

JIMMY: Incredibly real.

LADY SHAMU: Thank you. You're so sweet. Can I have him? Lee, Lee, I am just like staring at you. I'm sorry, I don't mean to--

LEE: No, that's fine. It's OK.

SPEAKER 3: You're not doing anything that about 100 other people don't do on a regular basis.

LADY SHAMU: Oh, have you ever been sexually molested on the air?

LEE: No, I haven't.

LADY SHAMU: OK, well we'll have to wait then. Where were we?

JIMMY: Were talking about your show.

LADY SHAMU: That's right. Well I come out and I have a little monologue. It's just completely off the top of my head. I never, ever prepare anything. I found that it usually works better if I don't prepare for it because I just go to whatever the crowd is-- if there's a lot of straight people there, oh honey, they know they're going to be the first ones I'm going to pick on. I will ask everybody [SPEAKING SPANISH], you know, which means basically where are my Latin brothers and sisters?

And the crowd goes crazy, and then I'll say and where are those-- do we have any straight people in the house? And they'll clap, yay. And I'm like, OK, yeah, yeah. Yay. OK, yeah. Just act right and give me lots of money and I won't talk about you. I mean, actually and a lot of straight-- I have found that a lot of straight people do come to the show. There is one lady and I hope she'll forgive me, but I don't remember her name. Every time she sees me advertise somewhere in Houston, she shows up, gives me outrageous amounts of money. Just tipping me, just putting it anywhere she can find a crevice. Or a Canyon.

JIMMY: Oh.

LADY SHAMU: Right, I just choked on myself. But I mean, she is so wonderful. And she's always telling me, she goes, you're so wonderful. She goes, I can't get enough of you. And I'm like, girl, well let me give you my breast pads and take them home, just wash them and give them back, I don't know. But basically, I introduce all the other entertainers. We take a break. I come back, do my second number. Do another monologue. Basically, I can't believe I just said basically because that is the most overused word in the

JIMMY: Yes it is.

LADY SHAMU: Right.

JIMMY: Yes it is.

BIG ROY: Well basically, it is.

LADY SHAMU: Basically, yes. That's a big word for me being Latino, that's like a big word for me, basically. So they are going to kill me. But anyway-- anyway, it's really-- the shows usually last anywhere from an hour and a half to two hours. And all during the time, I'm making people laugh. Just doing crazy things. I have been known to pull a cute guy off from the audience, sit him next to me on the stage, get completely out of drag. But keeping my underwear on. Well, my pantyhose and stuff. But I put everything I have from me, put it on him and make him sit there with me through the duration of the show. And people are just like, I can't believe you did that to him and it was his birthday. Well, good. He should have thought twice. Right, right, happy birthday. That's something you're never going to forget.

BIG ROY: John Leguizamo has got nothing on you.

LADY SHAMU: No, no, no, look, there's the other cute boy. Look, look, look.

JIMMY: And see and that's what I mean by talent. I mean, you're just talking about how you gauge your crowd. And it's off the top of your head and nothing is planned, it's just-- you go with it. Someone without talent can't do that.

LADY SHAMU: Well, there's a lot of people without talent that are doing it. Could you stop there? Could you stop there? Well I have a form letter on my computer, if you'll sign it, I will send it. No, but actually there's so many wonderful, wonderful emcees.

And I can think of a wonderful, wonderful originally from Houston, Sophia Mackintosh is a nut. This Sophia Macintosh, if you have never, ever seen Sophia Macintosh, you have got to see Sophia Macintosh. She will let you have it.

Carmela Marcella Garcia from Florida is a wonderful emcee. She works off the top of her head. Shady Lady from San Antonio, a good friend of mine is a wild and crazy woman. She is another one that, basically, and we just-- there I go again. Can somebody count how many times I've said "basically"? Oh, jeez.

We just work off the top of our heads. And I think it makes for a better show because it's something that you're not preparing, something that you-- not something you're always doing or saying at the same time.

SPEAKER 2: It's not rehearsed--

LADY SHAMU: Exactly.

SPEAKER 2: Improvisational--

LADY SHAMU: Yeah, exactly.

SPEAKER 2: It changes from night to night.

LADY SHAMU: Right. I don't know if I could do it every night. But I mean, I probably-- I know I have I also have diarrhea of the mouth and I love to speak. And I will get up there and talk and talk and talk until they tell me you know what B-- you know what B. That's a pet name.

JIMMY: You can say bitch.

LADY SHAMU: Oh, OK. They say you know what, bitch, This club closes at two, it is now three. Could you please shut up, there's no one else in here. They have all left. I can't believe I said, my mother's going-- oh my God, my mother's probably saying like five rosaries right now because I said-- is the FCC going to come take my parents house away?

JIMMY: No, no.

LADY SHAMU: OK.

VIRGINIA SLIM: Oh no, you have to say something much worse than that to get--

LADY SHAMU: Don't say it.

BIG ROY: No, I won't. Believe me, I've thought about it.

LADY SHAMU: But--

JIMMY: Supposed to have a guy that couldn't get three seconds into the show without saying stuff like that. What clubs do you normally play?

LADY SHAMU: I have, well, up until about two months ago, I have worked at Club Energy in Southwest Houston for about 10 years. I'm taking a break from there because I feel that my shows have reached a peak and I need to reorganize myself and look at myself and redo my costumes and things to be better for what I love to do. So right now, what I'm doing is taking the old stuff I got and taking it everywhere else that they've never seen it. I have been recently quite a few times in Galveston at Garza's Kon-Tiki.

And Jesse, this is a shout out to you, honey, because you are so wonderful. The people in Galveston are just loving everything. Virginia and I have been they're like the past three weeks. I've been in San Antonio at The Saint. In Lubbock, Texas-- yes-- Lubbock, Texas. Right down Buddy Holly Boulevard at The Luxor.

JIMMY: Oh, my.

LADY SHAMU: I'll be there again in September. And so right now I'm really just traveling a lot and--