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00:25

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after ours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their friends. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours.



01:49

Hello, Houston. Well, no, I'm not Jimmy Carter. Everybody knows that. You're tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. This is the April let's see, what is it? 26/24 Now 24th. Okay. 24th edition. And all that nifty business. And I'm not totally alone tonight. But we have like Roy has gone Jimmy's gone. We got we got rainbow. drove by. Yeah, we got rainbow going on in the background. But we do have some guests with us. So thank God, we have someone to talk to you. And let's get some introductions go in here and all that nifty business.



02:46

Good evening. Hi, I'm Rich Aaron shield. And I'm here with Gregory Brown. who's the Managing Director for the little room theater



02:53

room downstairs part



02:55

of the little room downstairs. Now why is that phone ringing in here? It's not supposed to be



03:01

probably our fans.



03:07

I don't like that at all. Anyway,



03:12

I want to ask us questions already.



03:14

Yeah, I'm sure. Go ahead.



03:17

So we're we're here this evening to tell you all a little bit about the next production that's up at the little room downstairs theater called the last session. It's musical with music and lyrics by Steve Shanklin and we've got quite a great crew of musicians and actors working hard on the production. So maybe we should tell you a little bit about the little room and some of its history. And just so you get an idea of what it's about Greg?



03:46

Sure. Actually, the little room started in the spy Center at garage department back in Well, four years ago. And we see that 16 I think back then, two years ago, we moved over onto Mesonet between Greenbrier and Kirby next door to Kay's lounge. We, at that time receiving 25 And now we're up to 47. Each year, we continue to grow. In fact, we just took over the remainder of the space where several dancers were used to be so we'll be having two spaces soon to perform in. So we continue to grow were on our getting our nonprofit status. And that's where it's coming up to our fifth season. Yeah, great.



04:38

So in keeping with kind of new and interesting events, there it is Houston's only gay themed theater and we are very proud of that distinction. A lot of other theater companies in town they do great work and they do good gay thing worked but they don't do exclusively gay thing work and we've we've presented A kind of some gems in the theatrical repertoire that really haven't been around.



05:05

The last



05:07

thing we did that was really important was the 25th anniversary showing of Jane chambers a late snow, which was a lesbian theme play, which was very well received. Tonight this evening, Confessions of a knight and Gail based on conversations with Tennessee Williams closed and so that you can see the theme of of our work and we're very proud to occupy this niche in the theatrical world here in town.



05:33

So other lots of gay plays out there to put on. Well,



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they're not just gay plays. I mean, most of them this year have been but we're doing by for about settlement could be by a gay playwright.



05:50

Oh, okay. So that's strictly necessarily a gay thing to play, but but produced by a gay group, or person or writer or director or so on and so on. Right. Oh, okay. Okay, that's cool.



06:04

And the last session is particularly interesting, because it's a musical number one, and I think that a little tiny stage, yeah, it's a small space. And, you know, there are a couple of small theaters in town. And I really think in this case, for once, size does not matter. I think that's certainly true of the little room downstairs theater, we take full advantage of the space. And the nice thing is about that, as it gives the actors and the audience a real level of communication. That's not possible. And, you know, some of these gargantuan venues, and I think, in a show, like the last session that that connection with the audience is really important and imperative. This is a very interesting show. It's a comedy, but it's a comedy, basically about a guy who's probably tired of life, and has basically chosen to end his life. And he's a musician. Music is his whole life. He was a gospel singer, and then he started producing people's music. And as a tribute or legacy really, he decides to bring all of his friends together for a last recording session, hence the name of the show the last session. Well, during the session during the recording session of his own works, that he's composed, his friends find out what has happened. And they essentially during the course of the show, convinced him not to do it. So it's a it's a show with kind of a dark beginning but definitely on up to uplifting show and Anna comedy at that strange as it sounds.



07:46

I mean, it's also touches on a number of different subjects, Christianity, homosexuality, can you be Christian and gay? There is a young fundamentalist Christian character that comes into the recording session that idolizes you know, the main character, and, and finds out at that point that he's gay, and has AIDS and then there's that whole struggle,



08:13

I don't think it's possible without a whole lot of guilt involved,



08:16

right. So everything is worked out. And humorously and not so humorously.



08:24

But one of the one of the interesting things about this show is how well the characters are drawn and how they're, they're not one dimensional at all. One of the beneficial things about this piece is that each character is given opportunity to develop and mature and change through the show and specifically in the case of the, the the youngest character in the show, buddy, he he you see kind of a catharsis or a metamorphosis that happens to him, he comes into the recording session, idolizing the character, Gideon was a Gideon was a gentleman that he looked up to, you know, as a young fundamentalist Christian musician. He later finds out that Gideon is not only gay with HIV positive, and and this this gentleman who is really kind of from a backwoods type of environment, really has to think about what does that mean to him? And what are the labels that are that we put on people?



09:27

Oh, sure. Let's select phone in the background. I don't know why it's not supposed to do that. We must be popular.



09:35

Yeah. So the characters all have a real opportunity to expand and change and you watch that during the show. And not only is that given in the dialogue, it's also given in the music The some shows on the subject, and I think we've all seen quite a few of them. And one thing I want to caution audience members against this oh no, here's another show of about someone who is HIV positive, that's not about this at all. This is about how friends are connected. And there's a song in the show called connected. And it talks about how we are connected to each other. And what happens in that process. And one of the great things you see is even though the lead in

the show is a gay man, he has this whole kind of rainbow of friends literally that come from different backgrounds, each of their backgrounds is explored during the show. And their relationship to this gentleman is is



10:34

people more or less are, aren't they? I mean, I mean, do you have just exclusively gay friends? Or exclusively straight friends? Or, you know, I mean, everybody?



10:47

Yeah. It was. It just the biggest thing in this I think, really is the love and salvation and acceptance that goes on through the show me not, because the other people, all other characters, they all know about Gideon, and they've been around each other for years, but it's through body that we really learn about how connected we all are and accepting that we need to be



11:22

it's the new kid on the block that the kid that actually arrives at the recording studio almost by mistake, he's actually deceptively filling in for someone else who's supposed to be there. And he's thrown into this world. This is really his first Hollywood gig in a recording studio. So he's the, the totally green boy that has no idea what he's walked into, because we have Gideon who's the lead in lead in the show who's the gay HIV positive man, we have Trisha, who's a woman of color and a mother, played by Regina Hearn who has an incredible voice. And we have the other next character is a woman named Vicki who was actually married to Gideon, as a youngster in an earlier life. And now is, is kind of, you know, somebody that that takes care of him. She's a wild woman, and a real a real rocket. And so this unsuspecting kind of Baba comes into this situation, totally unaware of these personalities. So not only does he have to deal with Gideon, and his lifestyle, he has to deal with all these other people he's probably never come into before. And a lot of this hinges on his change and and the, the way you see him really look at things differently from the beginning of the show to the end, and he actually sings the show is very well structured and that it starts out with an ensemble number there are two big ensemble numbers one at the beginning and one at the end of the show. But this young fundamentalist Christian during the course of the recording session, sings what is really the only love to it in the whole show. And he sings it with Rick with Gideon with the other man. So here's a guy you know from backwoods Texas, that is is all of a sudden thrown into Hollywood and thrown into the midst of all these people and he sings what is really the true love to wet in the piece and one of the highlights of the piece. So



13:33

So I was it mainly voice or my another drag instruments out there, or is it just strictly singing?



13:39

Well, actually the character of Gideon, since it isn't a recording studio. He's playing all the music there on stage same time. Wow.

13:49

It's it's quite a complicated row.

13:51

Yeah, Rich has a saying act. Play the keyboard.

13:56

Richard lob, who's the artistic director for the little room is also a very talented singer, pianist and composer in his own right and he's taken this role with a gusto and it's, it's the he accompanies the whole show and sings throughout most of the show, so he doesn't get too much of a break. But I want to go back to something I said before. You know, we touched a little bit about on this show and and the subject matter and how this has kind of been done and done and done in this town and everywhere. Well, this show is currently running in LA to just rave reviews and it won the GLAAD award for best gauge dramatic effort. It's a show that really is not about a specific subject really the the subject of this of Gideon and his plan suicide is really just a springboard for a whole host of other things and other emotions and through the piece we really get to know the characters and what they're about and what they think and you know what their attitudes are about life, about sexuality, about religion about there's a little bit of discussion. It's, it's termed in the show a theological chess game. You know, you have basically two preachers, kids quoting Bible verses at each other. It's a little bit like a, you know, a biblical contest. And so a lot of these dueling Bibles. Exactly, exactly a lot of these issues are all mixed in with this. So this isn't just one narrowly focused topic and, and the the last number is, is really uplifting because it's a number actually that the young fundamentalist Christian, he brought the tape to his idol and said, Would you be would you play this? And would you listen to this piece of music for me, and they ended up the show with that piece of music. So that kid has come full circle in the in the course of the two hours.

15:53

Wow. So, so when? When is this going?

15:57

And we open with previews on Friday, May 7, previews Friday in the seventh and eighth. And then we have our Champaign opening on Monday, the 10th runs through the 22nd of May, Friday, Saturdays and Mondays, Saturdays, Fridays and Saturdays at eight, Mondays at 730. Tickets are 10 to \$15.



16:23

Okay, and where did they get a hold of the summit? Okay, Kaldi, they



16:28

can call the theater at 713-523-0791. Once again, that's 713-523-0791. That's the little room downstairs theater. And we're on Bissonnette again, between Greenbrier and Kirby, right next door to Kay's lounge. So after the show,



16:51

so you have one of those nifty little computer addresses for those people who like these fancy little, you know, typewriters with TVs. But nobody knows it, right? Yeah,



17:04

it's still the little room downstairs theater. Too much room.



17:09

There is a web page, though, for the show, which can people can look up for even more information about it. Okay. Which is www. The last session.com? Well, that's easy



17:21

enough. Yeah.



17:23

And also, this is a this is a show that we're not only and somebody said to me, we were watching a rehearsal, and a friend of mine said, you know, this is a show that every straight person should see about this subject. Because there's a, there's a whole myriad of types of people. And so we'd not, I would bring, I want my family to see this show. I mean, I think it would be it might be a great way to come out to your parents, it might be a great way to come out about your HIV status, you know, no, I think,



17:55

Yeah, cuz so many shows are kind of preaching to the choir. Yeah. You know, the wrong people, really, you know, the wild people that need to see it. No, usually, for some bizarre reason.



18:08

So we encourage, you know, certainly members of the gaycupid gay community come out and see this, but to also bring their straight friends, I think they'll have a very uplifting and just a super evening.



18:22

I am on the email list for the last session. In fact, it's worldwide now. All of us on there, not quite chat rooms just emailing back and forth to each other, and have read a number of letters where kids have come out to their parents recently after seeing the show. And it's it's getting a big crowd like rent, it's got that same feel to it. However, it's more uplifting than rent. It's not such a downer. But we are actually the Southwest premiere haven't said that yet. For the show. It's only been in New York and LA. And now we're the third city doing it. And expecting to extend as long as they have been playing, especially with as smaller houses we have. Yeah, that was at 1447.



19:20

Right at seven, ya



19:21

know, I go to the alley, I go to different theaters around town, and I see tons of family members in the audience and I'm thinking, Where are these people? You know, they there should certainly be 47 of them. That should come to our theater. And so we were on the radio this evening to promote awareness because, you know, we we need to support our own art forms. You know, we and we need to support our forms where gays and lesbians and bisexuals and transgendered are portrayed in a positive light, you know, I think we're dramatically in There are ways that we can fight the stereotypes that exist about us. And I think that we, as gays and lesbians need to support those in artistic endeavors, that that tried to do that and try to say, hey, so many times Gay, gay people are viewed as one dimensional, oh, well, he's a homosexual, or she's a lesbian, and therefore they're like this. Right? Well, that's not what we're like. And I think this show is a lot about that about the, the, the multifaceted, you know, dimensionality of gay people. And so that's what I think one of the missions of the little room is to really bring that forth to this market and into Houston.



20:40

I just like to see how they turn it a person who is committing or going, you know, going through this process of killing themselves, or thinking about it, how you could turn that into something humorous. Must be interesting.



20:57

It's, it's, it sounds so funny, because I read the music initially and read the script. And, and this is really a comedy. You know, that was my first question. It when you get it on stage, there are a lot of very funny moments. Because if you think about it, this at its core, this is a group of friends that have known each other a long time and know each other's buttons to push and know what motivates Well, sure. And you know, you think about your close, intimate circle of friends, they are people you spend a lot of time laughing with. And even in the midst of this situation, there there is a lot of laughter because these characters are so different and but they're so well defined. So you know, kind of exactly where everybody's coming at coming from.



21:46

Okay, well, we take a little music break right now and you have a chance to get a rest or whatever. And we'll be back shortly you're listening to after hours right here on KPFT Houston, and KEOS. college station



22:08

Okay, now that's the song I wanted to play because it is kind of springy ish out there. And all that. There, didn't really want to play the fish hit song. But he came on layer, Tom layer, of course.



22:34

You're going to say something? What?



22:36

What? Let's see. We did want to remind people how to get tickets for the last session. Oh, okay. It does run again, May 7 through the 22nd. And tickets are available via MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover by calling 713-523-0791. And we are doing a couple of benefits for a couple of organizations. If people wanted to call about those tickets. Also. May 9, Houston gay and lesbian Political Caucus is having a benefit performance and may 23. We're also doing a benefit performance for Stephens house.



23:26

Which is Oh yeah, okay. Yeah.



23:30

So if you're interested in getting tickets for either of those benefits, you can call either of those organizations and set that up with them. Unfortunately, I did not bring their numbers with me.



23:42

Well, they're, they're out there. You need to just pick up any publication that has the game, Yellow Pages even or the this week in Texas little paper. It has all those things listed



23:57

today. Actually, we would like to give away a pair of tickets for the Saturday night preview performance may 8 to the third color



24:11

There's number one right there. I see the little light coming on. Hot dog. Yeah.



24:16

Any other questions that may have the season we have actually had a few Yes, transgender? Well, not a few. We have reached out to the community and cast in fact a transgendered individual one of our shows for Kelly Lauren was the lead in our first show this season sex by Mae West.



24:43

Okay, and



24:45

it was quite a fun show. Oh.



24:48

So who got to Mae West.



24:50

She was Mae West. And I even took a drag roll on stage.



25:00

Everybody does it. Yeah, yeah. Yeah. It's one of those rites of passage.



25:07

They're trying to get me naked next, but that's a bit too far. Nobody wants to see this



25:18

you need to get a bigger theater. More seats. Those people in there? Yeah,



25:22

yeah. More money.



25:26

Oh, no. What about for the art?



25:30

For who? For the craft? Oh, yeah. Craft? Yeah. Oh, only a darkened theater maybe



25:43

at least repairing getting the headphones on? And



25:47

did we have so many yet?



25:49

I don't think so yet. So if you would like to see a terrific production, it's a cheap date. So that and a happy meal, I think you'll be set.



26:01

Hey, and you get the toy prize as well, as



26:06

well, and the cast has really put a lot of work into this musical. And we've got some pretty accomplished folks. And we have some new people, we have some rather experienced actors in the cast. And so there'll be a few surprises, there may be some familiar faces as well. And I think it'll be a treat for just about anybody. So there there are, there's one member of the cast that comes to us really, from a faith based background. And she says she's a young mother with an incredible voice. She's going to raise the roof and just her by herself. She's the she's the she's a reason to buy. She's certainly worth the price of a ticket. That combined with the other exceptional members in this cast. I think it's it's going to be just a great evening.

27:08

And again, you are from the little room. Okay, room downstairs 2326

27:14

Mr. Net,

27:16

then give out that phone number one more time.

27:19

713-523-0791

27:24

All right. And thanks guys for coming down. Thank you sir. It's great. And we'll put the little PSA in your ear here and find one I don't know what we're gonna do. But

27:39

Oh, thanks for letting us publicize Houston's a smallest but mightiest gay theater.

27:48

Yes, indeed. You're welcome.