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night, lesbian, stonewall, police, gay, people, gay bars, women, homosexual, drag queens, stonewall inn, cops, deputy inspector, bar, west, remember, happened, gay men, queer, place

SPEAKERS

Harvey Milk, Jimmy Carper



00:01

and hopefully that's where I'll be going for the future just promoting diversity and tolerance and



J Jimmy Carper 00:08

would like to think so at least, at least,



00:11

that's one thing I really love about doing this show is, I mean, I've never really seen anywhere other than, you know, this show has just been, you know, for me the best example of, you know, just allowing everyone in the gig gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender communities, allowing everybody to have a voice and everybody to Well, thank you just wanted to commend you for doing that. It's, I mean, it's



J Jimmy Carper 00:38

cool, cool. Something we want to talk about a couple of things we wanted to talk about need to bring up hippie is having a carwash on July 2. And Lisa wants to talk about that a little later on. Like right now,



00:55

like right now runs into the room. Tell us about this,



00:59

Lisa. Hey, people through the carwash July 2, helping out us

J Jimmy Carper 01:08

Pippi Houston Institute for the protection of youth is

01:11

going to be able to the carwash is going to be at basic brothers in the parking lot between 10 and

J Jimmy Carper 01:19

three. Okay, I remember Yeah, on July 2 is had a Saturday. Yes. Okay.

01:26

And all the money is helping us to know that there are other ways, besides negative ways to make money so that we can survive. That is what it's for. Yeah. Because a lot of us need to learn that there's other ways to survive.

01:52

So please come out and help us raise the money. And it will also get your car washed. Oh, make it clean? Especially in here's him with all this pollution. Yes,

J Jimmy Carper 02:03

dear. Yes, dear. Okay. Okay. Little off the cuff thing here. And don't forget to support Q patrol. You know, they were in earlier with the, with their raffle. Oh, that was so much fun. Prizes. 8718519. If you If you can't donate time, please donate some bucks. So that they you know, they they do radio patrol, and it costs them for the cellular phones and all of that. So at least money if you can't give a little time 8718519 And I did want to maybe do this coming out of hiding thing. I really love this piece of music. And it has a whole bunch of queer history in it. Because there's Harvey Milk talking about come out, come out, you know, come out of the closet. And never enough. Never enough. Never enough. That was the funny thing. There's 150,000 people in San Francisco at their freedom day festival in the 78. And when they asked Harvey, you know, it was like, they'd never had that many people before ever. And he was just, it's never enough. Never enough. Never enough.

03:25

All right maybe this time it our parade will have 150 000 people it would be nice. Wouldn't be

All right, maybe this time it, our parade will have 100,000 people it would be nice. We didn't do really nice. So if you're listening, just come to the parade. Yeah, whatever you do, and just and in the

J

Jimmy Carper 03:36

meantime, enjoy this piece of music. It was put together by the originator of this show buddy Johnston, who you can now hear doing interviews on lesbian and gay voices every Friday night from six to eight. So we're glad that buddy's back in radio. And now this piece of music has gone all around the world because it was featured on this way out segment. And it's Pamela Stanley from Dallas, and she had a hit song and in the 70s and 80s and the dance music genre of coming out of hiding and it was adopted by gays and lesbians and queers of all kinds as standing up for yourself. Just like I say in the beginning, you know taking responsibility for your own life coming out of hiding. Voters began

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04:43

with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar for Stonewall on Christopher Street in the heart of the West Village. I want you

H

Harvey Milk 05:11

to savor this next moment this show the show we must destroy the myth shatter them, we must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out we must destroy the ones who are shattered, we must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out the other KPFA come on out You must tell your immediate family, you love to tell your relatives you love to tell your friends if indeed they are your friends, you must tell your neighbors you must tell the people you're working with. You must tell the people in the store you shopping once they realize that we are indeed their children, and we are indeed everywhere, every myth every lie every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all ask people all over this country to do one thing in America

J

Jimmy Carper 08:22

you're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. And now kids. It's history time. This is the history of the Stonewall riots. Listen up.

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08:59

Today, this white two story building across from Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village is a clothing store and a closed Chinese restaurant 20 years ago. This was the Stonewall Inn. I'm Michael shirker and I'm working on the first comprehensive history of the Stonewall riots. In 1969, the Stonewall was one of the most popular gay bars in New York City, and, like all other gay bars was routinely rated by the Vice Squad. The patrons of these bars, many of whom were frightened and having their identities revealed would quietly submit to any orders coming from

the police. Yet, on June 27 1969, that all changed. The patrons of this bar with the drag queens at the forefront decided to fight back against the police. What happened here on that night would spark a revolution



09:58

my I'm Jean Harwood and my age is at



10:07

Bruce mero



10:08

he wants to he also would like to know what your age is. So my age



10:12

78 Yes,



10:16

I don't, I don't, I don't know if it's really true. But now people do refer to us as the two oldest gay men in America. We do have, I think, have maybe a record relationship of almost 60 years together, Bruce's memory started going bad in 1984 Fortunately, we have, we have our music together, which we've, which we've done over the years, we've we've written any number of songs, Bruce remembers the melodies very well and the lyrics of the songs.



11:00

And you would judge me when you took my hand. Something happened. I had never been being



11:13

gay before Stonewall was was a very difficult proposition because we felt that in order to survive, we had to try to look and act as as straight as possible. The attitude the general attitude of society as far as employers were concerned, and landlords, all of these people were very hostile and and to protect ourselves, we had to act as rugged and manly as possible to, to get buy in. My



11:53

name is Randy. I was the first openly gay person to appear on radio in 1962. And on television in 1964, as a self identified homosexual. And the year before Stonewall people felt a need to hide because of the precarious legal position they were in, they would lose their jobs. There was a great hostility socially speaking in the sense of people found that you were gay, they assume you were a communist or a child molester. And they have another dozen stereotypes are rampant in the public media at the time.



12:28

I'm Jerry fair, and I'm 80 years old. I started a gay lifestyle in 1948, when I was around 3940. At that time, if there was even a suspicion that you were gay, that you were a lesbian. You were fired from your job. And you're in such a position of disgrace that you slunk out without saying goodbye, even to the people that liked you and you like, never even bothered to clean your desk. You just disappeared. You just disappeared. You went quietly, because you were afraid that the red ruminations that would come if you even stood there protested would be worse than just



13:21

leave. My name is Sylvia Rivera. My name before that was bravery bear until I started dressing in drag in 1961.



13:32

There are before us now and war as a hide error, there was always the gay bash and under drag queens



13:43

by heterosexual men, women and the police. We learned to live with it because it was part of the lifestyle at that time, I guess. But none of us were very happy



13:59

about it. My name is Seymour pine. In 1968, I was assigned as Deputy Inspector in charge of public morals in the first division in the police department, which covered South Manhattan from 38th Street to the battery, including the Greenwich Village area. It was the duty of public morals to enforce all laws concerning vice and gambling, including prostitution, narcotics, and laws and regulations concerning homosexuality. The part of the penal code which applied to drag queens, was section two four 0.35. Section four, being masked, or in any manner disguised by unusual or unnatural attire, or facial alteration, loiters remains Oh congregates



15:00



15:02

in a public attack time we looked at the universe, the house with the sky around, not try to figure out when, when this masquerade, harassment would come to an end. But knowing and we would always dream that one day, it would come to an end when such and we prayed and we looked for it wanted to be human beings



15:40

My name is Rob Mahoney. I've been hanging out drinking, partying and working, and the gay boys for the last 30 years. In the era before Stonewall, oh, all of the boys 90% of the boys were mafia controlled. They were controlled because the mafia had the right connections. There wasn't there wasn't that many gay bars, you'd have maybe one to Uptown and the Upper East Side, they will get closed down and they'd be wanted to on the west side, they get closed down and midtown they'd be 123 maybe open. As they would get closed down. They'd move around. And they would dumps



16:28

and Joe Nestle, co founder of what is now the largest collection of lesbian culture in the world. The police raided lesbian bars regularly. And they did it. They both did it in the most obvious way, which was calling women away and paddy wagons but they there was regular weekend harassment, which would consist of the police coming in regularly to get their payoffs. And in the SI colony, we had a back room with a red light. And when that red light went on, it meant the police would be arriving in around 10 minutes. And so we all had to sit down at our tables. And we would be sitting there almost like schoolchildren. And the cops would come in now depending on who was on which cop was on. If it was some that really resented the butch women who were with many times very beautiful women. We knew we're in for it. Because what would happen is they would start harassing one of these women and saying hi, you think you're a man, come outside, we'll show you and the woman would be dragged away. They throw up against a wall. And they'd say so you think you're a man? Let's see what you got in your pants and they would put their hand down her pants to Stonewall. Oh,



17:43

that was good. That was just to get into the stone wall. You'd walk up and you'd knock on the front door. It knock in the door opening. A Mary sent me good cleaning girls. When you walked in to your right was your bar wrong. No one does. Down at the far end of the bar was an opening in the wall going into the dance room with the jukebox in that room. And no one does in that room either. The stone wall, like all gay bars at that time was painted black. charcoal black. And what was the funny but the place would be so dimly lit. But as soon as the cops are gonna come in to collect their percentage or whatever they were coming in for food being a nice, dimly lit dump. The place was lit up like Luna Park



18:44

fell. Well, two guys, and that's very often all we sent in would be two men could handle 200 people. I mean, you tell them to leave, and they leave. And you say show me your identification

people. I mean, you tell them to leave, and they leave. And you say show me your identification and they all take out their identification and file out and that's it and you say okay, you're not a man, you're a woman, or you're vice versa and you wait over there. I mean, this is a kind of power that you have.



19:17

And you never gave it a second thought drag queen took a lot of oppression and we had to we we were at a point where I guess nothing would have stopped us. I guess as they say or as Shakespeare says we will ladies in waiting just waiting for the thing to happen. And when it did happen, we were there.



19:51

On Friday night, June 27 1969 at about 1145 eight officers from public morals First Division loaded into four unmarked police cars. From their headquarters on 21st Street and Third Avenue. They headed downtown and then west towards the Stonewall Inn here at Seventh Avenue and Christopher Street. It was the second time the bar was rated that week. The local sixth precinct had just received a new commanding officer who kicked off his tenure by initiating a series of raids on gay bars. And New York was in the midst of a mayoral campaign. Always a bad time for homosexuals. Mayor John Lindsay had good reason to agree to the police crackdown. He had just lost his party's primary and needed a popularity boost. And the Stonewall Inn was indeed an inviting target. Operated by the Gambino crime family without a liquor license. This dance bar drew a crowd of drag queens, hustlers miners, and more masculine lesbians known as Bulldogs. Many were black or Hispanic. It was a warm night in New York City and a somber day for many. Judy Garland, who had died earlier in the week was buried that morning. It was almost precisely at midnight that the moral squad pulled up to the Stonewall Inn, led by Deputy Inspector Seymour pine.



21:18

There was never any reason to feel that anything of any unusual situation would occur that night.



21:27

He could actually feel it. He really could. I guess Judy Gall was just really helped us Billy had faith and for some



21:37

reason things were different this night. As we were bringing the prisoners out, they were resisting.



21:44

People started gathering in front of this shutters square a park right across the street from Stonewall. People were upset. No, we're not going to go and people started screaming and hollering



22:03

when drag queen as we put her in the car, open the door on the other side and jumped out at which time, we have to chase that person. And he was caught put back into the car made an another attempt to get out the same door the other door. And at that point we had to handcuffs the person. From this point on things really began to get crazy.



22:37

My name is Robert Rivera. My nickname is Bertie. And I've been cross dressing all of my life. I remember the night of the riots. The police were escorting the queens out of the barn into the paddy wagon. And there was this one particularly outrageously beautiful queen with stacks and stacks of liquid his style was just tail style hair. And she was asking them not to push her. And they continued to push her and she turned around and she matched the COC with her high heels. She knocked them down and then she proceeded to first confer the keys to the anchor salon. She got them and she handed herself and passed them to another queen that was behind her.



23:23

That's when all hell broke loose.



23:27

And then we were we had to get back into the stone.



23:31

My name is Howard Smith. On the night of the Stonewall Riots as reporter for The Village Voice locked inside with the police covering it from my column. It really did appear that that crowd because we could look for little peep holes in the plywood windows. We could look out and we could see that the crowd Well, my guess was within 510 minutes is probably several 1000 people. Two to 2000 easy and they're yelling, kill the cops. Police brutality. Let's get them we're not going to take this anymore. Let me out



24:13

is that a group of persons attempting to uproot one of the parking meters which the in which they did succeed. And they then use that parking meter two as a battering ram to break down

the door. And they did in fact, open the door. They crashed it in. And at that point was when they began throwing Molotov cocktails into the place. It was a situation that we didn't know how we were going to be able to



24:53

control remember someone throwing a Molotov cocktail. I don't know who the person was, but I mean I saw that and I just said to myself in Spanish I said oh my god the revolution is finally here and I started screaming freedom. We're free at last it out and it felt really good. There were a



25:13

couple of cops stationed on either side of the door with their pistols like in combat stance aimed on the door area a couple others was stations and other places behind like a whole nother one behind the bar. All of them with their guns ready. I don't think up to that point I ever had ever seen. Cops that scared.



25:34

Remember, these were pros. But everybody who's frightened there's no question about



25:41

I know I was praying



25:44

and I've been in in combat situation. There was never any time that I felt more scared than I felt that man. And it was just, you know, there was no place to run.



26:03

When the moral squad officers barricaded themselves inside the Stonewall Deputy Inspector pine put in a 1041 call an emergency help request which can only be placed by a high ranking officer. That call was mysteriously cancelled, and the telephone inside the Stonewall went dead. It took nearly 45 minutes for the riot police to get to the Stonewall and rescue the moral squad from the smouldering bar



26:33

once the tactical police force showed up. I think that really excited us.



26:46

My name is Martin boys. And in 1969, I was directly known as Miss mark. I remember on that night, when we saw the writing is all of us directors we linked arms like The Rock heads and sang the songs to sing. We are the village girls. We wear our hands and girls. We wear a dungarees above our Nellies and the policeman crazy hearing that and they just immediately rushed us. He gave one kick and fled. My name is Rudy and the night of the Stonewall. I was 18.



27:23

And to tell you the truth. That night I was doing more running than fighting. I remember looking back from 10th street and there in Waverly street. There was a police I believe on His outcrop and his on his stomach in his tactical uniform and his helmet and everything else. With a drag queen straddling she was beaten the hell out of him with her shoe. Whether it was a high heeled or not, I don't know. But she was beaten the hell out of her sister.



27:56

My name is mama Jean. I'm a lesbian. And I guess you would label me as a butcher. I remember on that night I was in the gay bar women's bar full cookies. We were coming as a gay bar going towards Eighth Street. And that's when we saw everything happened blasting away people getting beat. Please come from every direction. Hidden women, as well as men within nightsticks gay men running down the street all over their face. We decided right then and there with the scanner. Now we didn't think about it. We just jumped in. But here



28:34

the screen has gone completely bananas, you know, jumping on hitting the windshield. And next thing you know the taxi cab was beat. The cars were being turned so busting. Windows was shattering all over the place. buyers were burning around. It was a beaut it was beautiful.



28:54

I remember one cop coming at me hitting me with the knife stick in the back of my legs. I broke loose I went after again. I grabbed this nightstick my girlfriend went behind him. She was a strong seven and I wanted to feel the same pain I felt and I kept on saying to him hide like the pain. Do you like it? Do you like it? I kept on giving him I was angry. I want to kill at that particular minute I want I wanted



29:21

to do every destructive thing that I could think of at that time to hurt anyone that had hurt us. You're



29:34

just when you see a man protecting his own life. They weren't the Queen's that people call them. They were men fighting for their lives. Ah I try to work try that



29:46

was a lot of heads for bash. But it didn't hurt there. They all came back He could tell that nothing could stop us from at any time in the future.



30:15

The media covered the riot extensively. The Daily News featured it on its front page. There were reports on all the local television and radio stations. By the next day graffiti calling for gay power had appeared on buildings and sidewalks all over the West Village, hastily worked up flyers distributed on street corners touted the night as the Hairpin drop heard round the world. And the next night 1000s of men and women converged on the West Village. They came here back to the stone wall to see what would happen next. Wild trash cans were set on fire stones were thrown and sporadic fighting broke out between police and gays, the more than 400 riot police milling around the village ensure that the previous night's violence would not be repeated. But on this night, for the first time, gay couples could be seen walking hand in hand or kissing in the streets, just by being there surrounded by reporters and photographers and onlookers. 1000s of men and women were proclaiming to themselves and the rest of the world that they were gay. And the crowds grew and came back the next night. And for one more night the following week. What happened here on those nights helped to usher in a new era, both personally and politically for gay men and lesbians.



31:39

When when Stonewall happened, Bruce and I were still in the closet. And we're where we had been for nearly 40 years. But we realized that this was this was a tremendous thing that had happened at Stonewall and it it gave us a feeling that we were not going to be remaining closeted for very much longer. And soon thereafter, we did come out of the closet.



32:12

My name is JR Prusa. In 1969, I was in the convent. I was in the Sisters of Charity. And when stone wall hit the press. It hit me with a bolt of lightning It was as if I had an incredible release of my own outrage and having to sequester so much of my life. I made my way down I seem to recall in subsequent nights being down on the you know kind of just in the periphery looking observer, clearly an observer clearly longing to have that courage to come out and was a matter as I recall was only a matter of weeks before I left the convent and started a new life.



33:12

I'm Henry Baird, in 1969. I was in the US Army, a specialist three stationed at long been posed near Saigon in Vietnam. I remember I was having lunch in the army mess, reading the Armed Forces news summary of the day. And there was a short paragraph describing a riot led by homosexuals in Greenwich Village against the police. And my heart was filled with joy. I thought about what I had read frequently but I had no one to discuss it with. And secretly within myself, I decided that when I came back stateside, if I should survive to come back stateside, I would come out as a gay person. And I did



33:53

for those of us in public Marvel's after the Stonewall incident, things were completely changed from what they had previously then they suddenly were not submissive anymore, they now suddenly had gained a new type of courage. And it seemed as if they didn't care anymore about whether they were whether their identities were made known. We were now dealing with human beings. My name



34:27

is Jim four. And I'm in the mid 60s along with Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, who was one of the founders of the of the hippie movement. I remember the third night of the riots, there was this meeting called by Madison society at St. John's Church on West on Waverly Place. We went and Randy wicker was running the meeting.



34:49

For 10 years I've been going on television, as Randy wicker the respectable homosexual dressed and dark suit and tie. explain to people that most homosexuals look like everybody else. Some behave like everybody else. And when Stonewall began happening, you had chorus lines and queens kicking their heels up at the police and bonfires burning in the corner, trash baskets and throwing bricks and stones at the police. I was horrified because this violated everything that we thought of as responsible behavior that this was not the way respectable citizens behaved.



35:24

Evelyn Hooker was a sociologist, I believe, Randy hit introduced her and she got up and she suggested that we should have a candlelight March that we should turn the other cheek because gay people were really different. We were really nice. And we had to show how nice we were in Stop all this riding because people are going to get hurt. I remember I stood up. And I said, No, we are not going back. And people felt the same thing I felt, and we marched out of that room. And that was the night that the Gay Liberation Front was born.



36:06

Today, I live in a senior citizen apartment building. What's different now is that I can be free. I have a daughter who's a senior citizen, and my son is 58. They know about my homosexuality. My three grandchildren in the 30s know about their grandmother. I have a great granddaughter who at the age of 10 learned that grandma Jerry was a lesbian, and she thought that was most interesting. And yet, I still don't have the personal courage to not care if these yentas in the building, note that Jerry's a lesbian.



36:56

Well, I retired from the police department in 1976 20 years have passed. I'm going to be seven in a few months. I still don't know the answers, I would still like to know the answer. I would like to know whether I was wrong or whether I was right. In ever thinking that there was a difference, and ever thinking that maybe you shouldn't trust a homosexual because something is missing in his personality



37:26

archives of lesbian culture, which surrounds us now and was created four years after Stonewall owes, at least from my part, its creation to that night and the courage that found his voice in the streets. That night, in some very deep way. We finally found our place in history. Not as a dirty joke. Not as a doctor's case study. Not as free but as a pupil.



38:16

For me, remembering stone ball was engineered by spider blue. It was produced by David Isay with a grant from the Pacific National Program fund. I'm Michael shirker.



Jimmy Carper 38:27

And you're listening to KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station Bryan and this has been after hours and that was a history of the Stonewall riots and then just a minute or so. You're gonna hear the carbon dating game with Eric coming your way. Everybody have a happy gay pride. Happy queer pride.