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Thu, Dec 22, 2022 3:42PM 25:15

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, gay, book, lesbian, kids, party, sarah, talking, transgendered, year, queer, pwa, young, interview, heard, crossroads, hours, voice, depalma, request

SPEAKERS

Joan Devlin, Jimmy Carper, Roy McCarthy, Tom Richards

J

Jimmy Carper 00:03

Ooh yeah Boy George Don't cry. I liked that song. It's it's not one that I've listened to a lot but it's it's really really nice. Thanks for requesting that. And women are requesting music to I'm glad to see Corinthia from galena Park wants to as requested a song and wants to dedicate it to our mantra. And it's Melissa Etheridge, you know, I love all of Melissa, anything old stuff, new stuff. It's great. And Corinthia enjoying the show tonight, we're glad to hear that this is Used to Love to Dance. Mmm Melissa Etheridge with Used To Love to Dance, and that that's not a song that I was ever turned on to, you know, when I first listen to this, this album by Melissa it was like, Oh, that's a nice song. And you know, I was more interested in some of the other stuff on here. But I had a lot of women call up and request it over the years. So it's it's got to be a favorite of the women and the longer I listened to it, the more I like it. So thanks for turning me on to Melissa Etheridge music. Now, Mark, a longtime listener has a request and it's one of my all time favorites. But then again, I have so many by erasure. And this is just for you Mark, this is going to close out the QMZ. But coming up we've got a piece from this way out talking about the new movie called Stonewall and an interview about the book free your mind which you heard about first right here on after hours. But now this is for Mark momentum on-. Yeah, oh yeah. Another another great episode of the queer music zone QMZ right here on after hours. I'm Jimmy and with me right now is Tom Richards from the neighborhood an old queer

T

Tom Richards 03:01

Oh, but no.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:01

Queer with a difference. I mean, because you're always doing kind of small little fundraiser things and just to help out the community. And you've got it seems well not I know other people are involved and have been involved but but you've got your your apartment complex really involved in raising money for PWA's and-.

T

Tom Richards 03:24

Yeah, Jimmy I years ago, I used to run the streets and holler and scream. I'm too old for that now. I'm 53. And I've found out of yours. It's not the big things you do. It's the little things that that really make a hell of a difference. Yep. And so yeah, we had a party. We talked about it on the radio here of my 20th anniversary, right coming out party. And that was the success and we raised money for for the PWA coalition as people with AIDS coalition, and also recently for switchboard they're not proud of that. And I'm really surprised on what we did. It ranked and that hurt us, but then that started a trend in the complex itself. This is Westmoreland Square Apartments. Okay. 98% gay. And so then, every fourth of July they've held a they've held a party of their well this year, they came to me and said, we want to do this this year for PWA. And so I was just happy and immediately I said let me help you do what you can. And so I got stuck with the cooking.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:41

Oh, you love most, and I was as bagel and hot dogs and it was just one and chicken. Yeah.

T

Tom Richards 04:52

We went through almost 60 hammers. We went through probably that many sausage, and and we went through I don't know how many hot dogs and chicken was chicken went by by the truckload barbecue. And I would not be surprised. And I do not know how much we raised yet. Yeah, I will know. And I will let you know next week, but I, I am I am probably 99% Sure we, we raised well over \$1,000 already.

J

Jimmy Carper 05:34

I mean, it's gotta have a neighborhood thing. But you know, best words it is. Other people showed up. And it was really fun. It was all around the pool. And you've got a very simple.

T

Tom Richards 05:45

But the nice thing about it was this, I had three people say to me, we're on your party next year, we want to help you and they begin offered suggestion. And so the second annual pride party will be held next year and it'll be bigger and better. But yeah, we had a lot of fun. There was a swimming pool was never empty, somebody there. And then at night, there was a little bit of a skinny dipping going on. And and that was fun. And I went to bed. I was so tired. I probably went to bed about 11 o'clock and got up the next day and and was told that they that they were continuing to party until By four o'clock. So So those of you who did not come to the party you missed out on on a world of fun. Oh, I went it was it really? was yeah, you was there. And And the weird thing about it was I asked people I need get hold Julie, how can I get hold you I can ever remember the combination to the gate that goes into your apartment

complex because I live right across the street, you have his phone number, you must give me your phone number. I do not have your phone. But anyway. And, and the next thing I know, about 30 minutes later here you are standing behind.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:17

But I'm glad you missed it. It was a great party and a wonderful way to celebrate the Fourth of July.

T

Tom Richards 07:24

Let me tell the people there, as I told, as I told some people there and this is discussed in the bottom my heart. And and I mean this Jimmy, you are probably one of the most beloved people in my life that I have one of the dearest and loving friends that I have. And, and I appreciate you 100% or more. You're great people. But But I will continue to press for our goal this year is to raise \$2,500 For for PWA coalition. Next year, it'll be higher. And I'm going to just I'm just going to give you a hint on what it will look like next year and in you use your imagination. Okay, we are already in the planning stage for next year's party. Next year will be dried shows, we will have a leather show. And we will have a male and female bikini swimsuit show. Oh, and we will also have different booths of different of different things. And all this is geared to one thing, the retin the raise money for charity. Now those now those of us who put on these parties take a whole lot of money out of our own billfold Oh, I know because you supply all your goodies, and we supply all the goodies. And it goes and for one reason. And not only that, but if you noticed that people who who were putting on these parts also donate very heavy during the year. Yeah, well maybe not look super happy. But but they don't regulate.

J

Jimmy Carper 09:03

We're talking about just average people. We're not talking about high powered business-.

T

Tom Richards 09:08

No, no, you're not talking about rich people. We were joking. Right. Yeah. That that hold a job out here. You know, so forth. And but yeah, and so plan for next year. We'll let you know when it's going to be but but and we plan to do a lot of advertising. We plan to try and get some some a few corporations and a few gay owned companies around Houston also join with us matter of fact, there was crossroads. Oh, yeah. Yeah, Crossroads wants to know. I did not invite them to donate. Yes. And they were rather angry about that a wasn't the fact that I held the party. It was the fact that I didn't ask them to donate some Wow. So And we'll get them up for next year. And so yeah, for your coming out, and three parties and different things we're, we're tossing about is we're even asked, we may approach an airline company I'm not going to tell you which one right now but but it's our plan to approach an airline company to donate tickets for to to the Gay Games in Amsterdam. We're even tossing data about so we were not thinking small about this. We are thinking we're thinking about sounds like a street fest. Oh, it is. It's gonna be it's gonna be a great thing. If your apartment complex right across the street, Brian will join with us. It'll be it'll be one one big party. That sounds like fun. Yeah. And that's, that'll

be for for Pride Day. It'll be during Pride Week. And we'll probably hold it at the beginning of Pride Week next year instead of at the end. And, and we hope to, to also include every fourth of July as a special fundraiser for for one of our special charities.

J Jimmy Carper 11:06

That was great. I really enjoyed it this year. It was fun.

T Tom Richards 11:09

I I was so tired, but I had just a blast. Have fun.

J Jimmy Carper 11:15

Okay, thanks, Tom. I know you're tired tonight to you're listening to after hours square radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. We did have another request from Thomas he wanted it's raining men. And technically that's not a queer song. So we can't play that in the QMZ. And second of all, I don't have it. But there's another song from that same era that says about the same thing. It's by Miguel Brown, a female and it's called so many men. So little time. This is for Thomas. Oh yeah, Miguel Brown, so many men so little time. I hope that's a nice replacement tune for it's Raining Man Thomas. You're listening to after hours career radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me is big Roy McCarthy. We've got some a couple of things we want to talk about.

R Roy McCarthy 12:25

Yeah. First, I want to say, Jim, it looks like after hours has started something. What do you mean, all the way out there and Taiwan? Taiwan. Yeah, and I don't mean Taiwan on I mean, Taiwan and I mean, Taiwan and Southeast Asia. Ah. They are, as it started Monday, this past Monday. They now have a two hour daily gay and lesbian radio show why government sponsored You're kidding. No, I'm not. This comes in from the routers. I hope I'm saying it right writers router is a new service. And it's a two hour show and they have lizard Collins and all kinds of other mayhem and no kidding. If you're out and anyway getting kicked out. Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 13:26

Wow. That's that's really pretty amazing.

R Roy McCarthy 13:29

So if you want about in the Southeast Asia there and the facility of Taiwan, go ahead and try listening in. Wow. And I got one other thing I wanted to talk about real quick here and our very own Sarah dipalma. Yes. Is now a columnist in the Houston voice Great. Her primera column

appeared this week in in the most recent issue of the voice and for all you got transgendered and transsexuals and whatever else it is-.

J Jimmy Carper 14:07

Gender questioning folks right?

R Roy McCarthy 14:10

And those of you who don't understand about transgendered and transsexuals please read your-.

J Jimmy Carper 14:16

Voice that's I'm really glad to see that that's another piece of media that's putting putting their money where their mouth is because when they say this the voices for gay lesbian bisexual and transgendered mean it because they really mean I have a transgendered column this That's great. That's great.

R Roy McCarthy 14:36

I'm really excited about that. And I feel kind of proud that our own Sarah DePalma.

J Jimmy Carper 14:42

Well, I've got something about Sarah DePalma, too. I know you've heard something about her for London and some some news about Sarah. Oh, she's gonna be on channel eight. When? On July the eighth.

R Roy McCarthy 14:55

Oh, that's tomorrow.

J Jimmy Carper 14:56

Well, Sarah DePalma is going to be on channel eight. At five o'clock during their news show, talking about the transgendered community.

R Roy McCarthy 15:05

Isn't that the MacNeil Lehrer?

J

Jimmy Carper 15:07

Well, I don't know what it is. Oh, wow. But she's gonna be on there because there's a controversial documentary being shown on PBS later this month, which is Sarah talked about it on her last show. I forget the name of it. All right. But it's, it does not put transgender people in a very good light. It has to do with religion curing, you know, the trolls. Yeah, no, it's really awful. So, Sarah, talked with channel eight and said, you know, this is this is not a good portrayal of the transgender community. And they said, Well, how would you like to come on and talk about it? Really? Tomorrow night? Well, Monday night, right, right. July 8. During the five o'clock news hour, Sara is going to be talking about that.

R

Roy McCarthy 16:01

We're gonna let our local yokels take a backseat to Sarah. And also don't forget, she'll be with us next Saturday night.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:08

Next Saturday night. Yes. Sarah will be here. So she'll probably for those of you who miss it, she'll fill us in on it. That's great. That is really great.

R

Roy McCarthy 16:19

And I understand you have a an interview on a from some policy.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:27

As as a matter of fact, this is another instance where after hours and lesbian and gay voices are working together. We're in cahoots or in cahoots? Yeah, because there was this great book that came out called.

R

Roy McCarthy 16:43

Tell me the name of the book was free your mind free

J

Jimmy Carper 16:47

your mind? Yes. And the book company sent us a copy and Roy read it I certainly did did a book review on it the week before one of the authors was in town at Crossroads right now when that author what was intended to happen to be on the Thursday, so let's be in a gay voices, got an interview with her gray played it on their show. And I'd like to play it on this show because the book is just fantastic. It's Oh, about it.

R

Roy McCarthy 17:16

It is absolutely magnificent. If you haven't gotten it, pick up a copy. Get it? It is so important.

J

Jimmy Carper 17:23

Yeah, it's a crossroads and probably at all the other any other bookstore that has a gay and lesbian section Rives books will have this book, it's called Free Your Mind. That's right. And it's it's for gay teens.

R

Roy McCarthy 17:37

It's for gay teens, but it's not just for gay lesbian, bisexual teens. It is also for friends, and parents of gay lesbian and bisexual teens and for people who work with a lot and do a lot of counseling to gay lesbian, bisexual transgender teens, such as me, like, I'm usually there on the phone, and most of the calls that I get are from gay lesbian, bisexual, transgender teen, right. We can't put them on the air, put them in with it when they had the husband hunt and stuff like that, because they are minors. And and they call with I mean, like, kids that are emotionally scarred and they're some of them are near suicide. I know. It's these are all issues that this book addresses.

J

Jimmy Carper 18:30

Now each chapter brings up a different issue. Is that it right? And in the back of the book there was-.

R

Roy McCarthy 18:36

On the back of the book is a listing of different agencies of all the major cities in the in the US that are that gate gay teams can turn to.

J

Jimmy Carper 18:47

That's great. So why don't we go to this interview because it's about 20 minutes, and I really would love to hear it. Okay. This is Jack velinski. And, and Joan, oops, oops, oops, Jack and Joan interviewing one of the authors of Free to Be

J

Joan Devlin 19:11

Hello, and we are back in the studio now and you're listening to KPFT Houston, and we are in studio tonight with Ellen bass, who co authored the book free your mind the book for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth and their allies. This may sound like kind of a trick question, but

what made you decide to do this book?



19:30

No, it's a very good question. What happened in my own personal life is that my daughter when she was 13, came out as a lesbian. And although I'm a lesbian, I had not really thought enough about the issues that young lesbians and gay men were facing. And when she came out, it was immediately apparent she was harassed in school and even though she had very supportive family, it was really difficult and all. So as she began to meet other gay and lesbian kids, it became really apparent in a very heartbreaking way what they were facing. Some of them being rejected by their families, some kicked out of their homes, kids who were trying to survive on the street and stay in high school and winding up dropping out of school. And very tragically, one young man who was her friend who committed suicide walked into the ocean and drowned because it was just too painful. And where was this at? This is in Santa Cruz, California, which is supposed to be progressive. Exactly. So you know, if it's like that in Santa Cruz, it's even harder many other places in the country. And my daughter joined a local speaker's bureau for gay and lesbian issues that my co author who became my co author, Kate Kaufman, was one of the directors of and that's how we eventually joined forces to write this book so that kids could be offered more support and resources. I was very impressed by the broad mix of kids that you spoke to in the book. How did you go about?



J Joan Devlin 21:09

I don't want to say screening, but meeting them choosing them, I No, you must have had a wealth of information. This



21:14

was a wonderful process. One of the things that was so inspiring and just terrific for us was how much gay youth wanted to be heard and seen. And it was not hard to find young people who wanted to share their stories. And they were so courageous, they wanted to say, what their experience had been so that other young people could feel supported, could have someone to identify with. It was very easy. We, we talked to local gay and lesbian community center in a city, or talk to a PFLAG parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays chapter in a city. And there'd be one kid who would introduce us to another young person. And they were very, very honest. And one of the most striking things was how honest the young people were that they wanted to share what really happened to them, even when it was very vulnerable, or something they didn't feel proud of, were not politically correct. And, and over and over, they said, Yeah, I want to tell it just the way it was. It was interesting, we have photographs in the book to of young people. And the photographer said that in their decades of photographing, doing portrait photography, they had never photographed people who wanted to be seen. So directly, these kids just looked into the camera. And I think that that speaks so much to how much we all need to be seen that it is. It's something that's sustaining to us to be able to say this is who I am, and be heard. Isn't it wonderful that young people are able to do that these days when we weren't when we were younger? Absolutely. And it's still unfortunate, there are so many people who still aren't able to do that. Right? Right. A lot of these young people were more out than the average young gay or lesbian person is going to be because they were out

enough for us to find them. But some weren't completely out some it had not come out to all of their friends or everyone at school. But in every one that we talked to, there was a very profound desire to be known for who they are, to not have to hide who they were. And for the young people who were in situations that weren't safe enough to be out. They were really waiting for the day. And that's the advice that they give to other kids is even if it's dangerous for you to be out now, keep growing up and get to a place where you can be safe enough, some of the little

J

Joan Devlin 23:49

quotes and stories that were in here, and were very touching, and very difficult sometimes to read. How did that affect you? And you know, you're talking to these kids and and you know, it can just some of the things they that they were put through. It's just it's so hard just reading it. I can't imagine looking at somebody face to face and hearing that

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24:11

some of it was very painful. But I think as with many of the painful experiences that we go through that there's something healing just about being able to tell the truth, and to have that be valued, as is really important. And I think that's what we kept focusing on that what these young people were sharing was really valuable, and that it was going to help other young people, they they felt that so strongly that if sharing their story could make it easier for another young person, then somehow it made it more okay that they had to go through that and they said that directly. Tell us about your background in preparing to write the book and how that affects being able to write a book. Well, my the specific background for this spark and then we can go back more if you like was interviewing a lot of people and my co author Kate Kaufman did most of the interviews we interviewed over 50 young people and about 50