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SPEAKERS

Vince Lee, JD Doyle

V

Vince Lee 00:00

Hello, today is Thursday, May 27, 2021. My name is Vince Lee, and I'm the archivist for the LGBT History Research Collections at the University of Houston Libraries Special Collections. Today, I'm joined by JD Doyle of the JD Doyle Archives. And JD, I just wanted to take a moment. And thank you for being a part of this interview and having this chat with me to talk a little bit about your archives. So thank you for joining me.

J

JD Doyle 00:37

You're welcome [INAUDIBLE]

V

Vince Lee 00:40

And JD, for many of our viewers and listeners out there that I know that may be tuning in for the first time in learning about this. Could you talk to us a little bit about what the JD Doyle -- what the JD Doyle Archive is, and is about and what you all collect and preserve?

J

JD Doyle 01:01

The actually, the three main websites came before the JD Doyle Archives.

V

Vince Lee 01:08

Okay.

J

JD Doyle 01:09

And the archives was created in 2015 when I applied for my 501 C 3.

 Vince Lee 01:17

Okay.

 JD Doyle 01:19

And then it got its own page on the internet as an umbrella page to direct people to all the stuff that they could find on the three major websites.

 Vince Lee 01:33

Okay. And could you -- I guess, give us an overview or maybe a preview of the three major --

 01:42

What are the sites?

 Vince Lee 01:43

Yes.

 JD Doyle 01:43

Yes, he queried. The Queer Music Heritage,

 Vince Lee 01:50

mmhmm

 JD Doyle 01:51

And the Houston LGBT History

 Vince Lee 01:53

Okay

J JD Doyle 01:54
site and Texas Obituary Project.

V Vince Lee 01:57
Okay.

J JD Doyle 01:57
And some of those have sub sites almost --

V Vince Lee 02:03
Right.

J JD Doyle 02:03
Like the Queer Music Heritage site, happens to have a very large section on female impersonation, which you wouldn't guess it from the name of the site but I had the information. So I created it, and people liked it. So --

V Vince Lee 02:19
Yes, and I realized that in looking over your site, I know that you had mentioned that your archives was started in 2000, with the then Queer Music Heritage program. I also know that you were in radio, specifically with KPFT. Would you say there was a learning curve involved in starting your website and adding content to it over time, because I know --

J JD Doyle 02:48
There certainly was a learning curve in starting doing radio, because I knew nothing about that. And when I was invited to be a part of Queer Voices, I had to learn quickly. And also, the person that got to help me record some interviews was, this was good for me, but she was very difficult to work with. And she was difficult to schedule to meet with her. And it just was too many obstacles. And I decided, I need to learn this myself. I don't need to depend on somebody else to do the work. So I bought some equipment, you know, a mixer and some recording equipment, and just figured out how to record this stuff. Some of the early shows were a little cringe worthy now, when I listened to them, because I'm super critical of them. But I was learning. And some of the interviews were done, if you could believe it, with a cassette recorder, stopping and starting someone's interview, and then me talking and introducing the song, stop starting their interview again, it was that crude. I was not blending mp3 files at that point. I did not know how to do that. And I'm not sure what software there was to do it back in 2000. But so that, that technology grew, and I got involved with another radio show in LA

through my contacts there, and into the music area of GLBT music. These three people who were doing this radio program on This Way Out, which is a syndicated show on 200 stations, and one of their members was kind of burning out and they wanted to replace her with somebody else. And they knew my background and invited me and okay, sure I'd like the exposure of 200 stations around the world. So we created this eight minute CD review segment monthly, where we would get interviews with artists and play interview segments and two clips of music for three artists in eight minutes. Okay, that takes some planning and, and editing to do that and pull that off. And we did it for 10 years. So anyhow, those two, especially the one person was the more tech guy really taught me a lot of how to do editing of a radio show, and how to prepare those kinds of files. And I learned an awful lot from him, which of course, I used in my own Queer Music Heritage show. So that skill grew. Within probably the first year of doing the show, I already knew I wanted to put the show online, because I knew this was history and it needs to be saved. It needs to be available. No one else is doing it. So I quickly wanted to figure that out. I was a member of AOL at the time, which allowed you some web space. But I quickly outgrew that I wanted to do much more than they, they wanted people to do. I wanted to put hour long shows on the website, those are huge files. So I bought a a program called Dreamweaver, a website program, didn't know anything about that area at all. I studied the manual for about a month before he even touched anything, and started adding content. So that was probably in the first year.

J

JD Doyle 06:44

I remember Dreamweaver very well as a student way back when and I think that was one of the few programs out which were was user friendly, in which you could use it to help design websites.

J

JD Doyle 06:54

And I hate to say it, I still use Dreamweaver, I still can get it to work on my Windows 10. And because it does what I need it to do, I'm not doing exotic websites with dancing unicorns and you know, special effects. I'm just, here's a radio show, here's a link to hear it. Here's photos of the artists. Or for the History site, here's pictures of this event, here's photos, you know, it's kind of template driven, where I can set up the page, I don't need to create that page again, I would just swap out the content for different stuff. So that procedures work well for me.

V

Vince Lee 07:43

And I guess it goes with the adage, if it's not broken, don't fix it. It's worked well for you. And yeah, that should do what you want to do.

J

JD Doyle 07:51

There are so many programs on the market that I learned the hard way that, Oh, they got a new edition of this program, "rhat looks pretty good." And I get it and I hated it. Because it was so hard. It made you... Yeah, you could do a lot of stuff. But you had to jump over a lot of fences to get there. So I limited that.



Vince Lee 08:17

Great. Well, I guess if from the story you had told me, you probably ought to thank the person that wasn't doing very well with the interview to get you to jump in and get your hands dirty, so to speak,



JD Doyle 08:30

I've not thanked her in person but in my heart.



Vince Lee 08:32

[laughs]



Vince Lee 08:35

And we know that technology has changed in over 20 years and time and how do you manage to keep abreast of certain technologies because I know that your site has a lot of digital content. So I would imagine digitization and scanners and all that evolved over time.



JD Doyle 08:53

Yes, my scanning ability has certainly grown tremendously, like two years ago, thanks to my 501 C 3 and some money now to do something. I bought a sort of professional scanner, not quite university level, but pretty good. Where I can scan a a, a page of a newspaper or an old newspaper with one pass through the scanner, where I did couldn't do that before in my simple little office scanner. So that was a big, big deal, big jump. And also it was a much smarter scanner, where you could rotate pages before you save the whole file and naming conventions and it was just such such a big technology jump to get the new scanner and digitizing is almost what I love to do the best, because I love preserving the old publications.



JD Doyle 09:54

And I'm sure there's an eye to that as well in terms of finding just the right resolution and how you would want the materials to be presented in its original form as possible for users or folks that come across it.



JD Doyle 10:10

You know, you want to want to make it large enough for people to read as a PDF, that gives you a lot of flexibility, you can enlarge a PDF file. So that's what I use almost exclusively.

V

Vince Lee 10:22

Okay. And I think PDFs are what most folks are probably used to or familiar with in terms of accessing those files and having some kind of

V

Vince Lee 10:33

reader to access those files.

J

JD Doyle 10:34

You better be on my site.

V

Vince Lee 10:36

[laughs] Could you tell us a little bit about your process, what you think about when you're thinking of adding potential content to your site?

J

JD Doyle 10:47

What moves me? That's kind of the short answer. I'm not systematically saying, Okay, I've done the 1991 Gay Pride, I need to do the 1992 Gay Pride, because I don't get the information that way. It doesn't come to you in a chronological fashion. You get it when you can get. Where someone-- Okay, here's some photos we took of the '83 parade. Okay, I might not have gotten anything from '85 yet. But, so you do what you get.

V

Vince Lee 11:23

Right? Or what's available or what you can access?

J

JD Doyle 11:28

But of course, my my site is. And I gave a lot of thought to this. It's I think it's very organized, where you could fit data in. So if, if I was missing quite a bit of data for a certain year of a subject, well, the spaces they're easy to add.

V

Vince Lee 11:50

Okay. I guess also, in addition to not being systematic, are there certain things like if you come across the publication, something that just resonates with you, I guess, from a gut visceral perspective that, you know, I, this is something I need more on to add to the site? Do you have those types of things?

J

JD Doyle 12:12

Yeah, and I'm, I'm wrestling with myself because I keep putting more and more on my plate because I'm so ambitious. Ah, I've recently gotten access to a number of old gay newspapers from the South, not Texas, from Atlanta, New Orleans, Charlotte, North Carolina. And so I've gotten these, and I've been digitizing them and putting them on my site on the publication site. I'm talking about the Histories website now. Putting them in that section, I've kind of realized I've been getting enough stuff from Southeast United States. And I might want to break this out into its own section. So and I've already done that with same conversation, I've got enough stuff from Dallas and Fort Worth now, I need to set up a special page for that. So they kind of like they didn't start out as organized. And now they they gather more files, more images, and they become more organized.

V

Vince Lee 13:21

So it sounds like the materials themselves have kind of created the outline of making them think in terms of their own geographic regions.

J

JD Doyle 13:29

Yeah, yeah. So I expect the next big jump I will make with would be to add a Southeast United States area for publications. Okay, I may be asking to borrow some more from U of H.

V

Vince Lee 13:45

And we're always happy to work and partner with you on that JD,

J

JD Doyle 13:50

That's a win-win.

V

Vince Lee 13:53

Are there things you've learned from the radio business and programming that you think have translated well over you with you running your website and kind of creating content your website? I know they sound like different spheres. But just in terms of

J

JD Doyle 14:11

I never really considered I was in the radio business. I produced a segment for a queer radio show queer voices on KPFT. But it was all volunteer, we all were all volunteers. And maybe if you learn something is learned to be more organized. And think more about the goal.

V

Vince Lee 14:41

And I use the term business very loosely, I guess maybe your involvement in radio production.

J

JD Doyle 14:49

Maybe that carries over to how does how does that work on a website? Well 1/3 of the the archives is devoted to music them, so that directly flows.

V

Vince Lee 15:07

And that's interesting because I thought about this a bit with LGBT history that they always talk about the activism and individual individuals and the politics and all that involved that there is there is the musical component and culture, to the LGBT community that

J

JD Doyle 15:30

I sometimes call myself a gay history activist.

V

Vince Lee 15:36

How so? Well,

J

JD Doyle 15:39

I'm getting the history, hopefully getting the history where people can access it, and realize it's important. So

V

Vince Lee 15:51

and I guess, folks, certain things may trigger a memory for folks, when they interact with the LGBT or gay history, as you call it. It could be music, it could be a clip, it could be something, an article that they may find on your site that triggers those memories, or that particular time period that's, that resonates with them.

J

JD Doyle 16:21

Yeah, I get lots of emails about stuff people find on my site. A lot of times, they want to use these photos for a documentary they're making or a book or something. So they want something.



Vince Lee 16:38

Oh, so you get filmmakers, requests from filmmakers, documentarians. And I guess, authors.



JD Doyle 16:46

Sometimes that can help them and sometimes I just can't, they want this image? Well, that's not my image, I just found it on the internet, I don't have that photo, I can't give you a high res scan of that. So



Vince Lee 17:00

Do you get requests for those things?



JD Doyle 17:03

Oh yeah, at least weekly.



Vince Lee 17:05

How about from the community itself or from family members, I'm sure you may get requests from them or just feedback from them as well.



JD Doyle 17:14

My first thought, when you ask it that way, would be the obituary project, I get a lot of feedback from people who found their, their lost person on the website, and it brought back memories and some degree of closure to them. Sometimes, they didn't know the person was deceased, you know, gay people move around a lot. So you don't know what happened to your friend in Austin, necessarily, because you lost touch. And you thought you might find that person on the website. And I've gotten some emails that would make you cry. And I could tell the person had cried when they wrote it, about what it meant to them to find that person's obituary and and get that closure.



Vince Lee 18:09

Would you say that the Texas Obituary Project is probably a very heavily used component of your website from the community? Or?



JD Doyle 18:16

Yeah, I do. Do I wish every state had a state obituary project, a queer state obituary project,

there are only two of them. The there's one in San Francisco, which was started by the people of the Bay Area Reporter to catalogue all their obituaries. And that's a wonderful project. And I was in contact with them when I was starting my project, to get ideas and feedback, technical advice and things like that. I ended up doing it differently, technically, than they did it. And I think better. But they have, it -- there's a wonderful site, they have the advantage is the data is all captured already. It's obituaries in that publication. I don't really have that advantage. I went to get obituaries from This Week in Texas, the Montrose Voice, the Chronicle, anyplace I could hear about an obituary of a GLBT person from Texas. I want to add it. If I can add candid photos that someone might send in, or I might put clippings of the person way before they were deceased or things they did in the community. So I'm almost building for some people a little bio there that they didn't have before.

V

Vince Lee 19:54

And I guess for some families, it's a memorial of sorts, because that may be the only instance, or one of the few instances of the individual along with their photo being captured.

J

JD Doyle 20:05

Yeah, yeah. The This Week in Texas was famous for doing obituaries in the back of the publication. And sometimes it was a really short obituary, but I would go through and search for that person's name in all the issues of TWIT - This Week in Texas, and capture, maybe a photo, well here's so and so getting this award at this bar. And it's a, it's a bartender and a person and a tacky trophy. And here's this happened, maybe four years before they died. So I put that on the page. So there's history that the relatives or friends probably would not find, because they wouldn't know where to look.

V

Vince Lee 20:52

Yeah, it's, and I'm surprised to hear that there are only two sites that yours and the other that you mentioned that have an obituary, you would think that there would be be more widespread geographically and reach across the country.

J

JD Doyle 21:10

Well, you need a dedicated idiot willing to work on it.

V

Vince Lee 21:16

Well, we need more folks like you, yourself and the community and others to kind of multiply that out, because I know there's there's a need to document voices and lives and individuals. And speaking of which, I know that there are a lot of LGBT sites on the Internet, offering a variety of content. And I'm sure you you've probably looked around and explore to see what's

out there. What do you think set your site apart that you've created, that you think maybe missing from other sites, or that you wish other sites would have or incorporate that you've done?

J

JD Doyle 21:56

I have to give three answers for that. Because there are three makes main sites.

V

Vince Lee 22:01

Ok

J

JD Doyle 22:02

The music sites started first in 2000, with Queer Music Heritage, and that was a monthly show. Hour long show. I have to define that further. It was an hour long show airing on KPFT. On my website, it could have been several hours, because I would expand the coverage on my site. I didn't have the luxury of an eight hour show on KPFT. But on my website, I could do what I wanted. If somebody gave me a wonderful three hour interview, I'd go with it. So I would do often, lengthy shows, I did an eight hour show on queer core and punk music. And I did a six hour show on gay hip hop. And I did an eight hour show on gay choruses, and Gay Christian music and music for the bear community. And on and on, I would do these multi hour shows on my website. But back to the original part of that answer is preserving this history of queer music. I'm the only person doing it, or did it. No one else had a website, or that I know of at a radio show focused on history. And that's too bad because there's lots of history that I couldn't cover. And there's still lots of history and I wish people were doing it, but they're not. So that sets that aside. For the history site, again, I'm kind of one of the Lone Ranger's. The site is the HoustonLGBTHistory.org. It's really more than Houston, you know, it's grown to where I have a lot of statewide coverage, especially in the area of publications, a lot of old publications that were national publications from Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, whatever, cities in Texas so this site is kind of doing that history -- the focus on Houston. But how many other sites like that are there in the country? I think it's one. I found one, Wisconsingayhistory.org does a really good job. And they have apparently a bunch of people to work on this. And I just have me so so I wish every again every state should have you know, there should be a Vermont gay history.org. You know, to preserve all these all these histories from all over the country, but there just isn't.

V

Vince Lee 24:57

But it's still a passion project for you. I know. very much.

J

JD Doyle 25:00

Yes, yes. And again, the history, the Obituary Project we already talked about. There's only one other site doing that in San Francisco. So--

V

Vince Lee 25:13

Speaking of which, what are some current and potential future projects you're looking into, for the JD Doyle Archives?

J

JD Doyle 25:23

I'm always looking to digitize stuff, if I can get more publications, old publications. A, one of my Facebook friends recently, he's in Charlotte, North Carolina, recently sent me a box of a publication called Whatever. It was like an five by eight, sort of a bar rag. Not wonderful content, not wonderful quality. But this was 1979 - 80. And so he sent me about 50 copies that I will digitize soon, you know, and put those on my site for my new Southeast section of the website. I recently borrowed from from U of H, Cruise magazine collection, which is extensive, I think I digitized 125 issues of that publication, which went through several generations of format. At some points it was more an erotic magazine, but with news content, sometimes it lost the the erotic stuff and just did news. And sometimes it was almost a small bar rag. But very interesting process that covered at least 15 years of the history, mostly Atlanta. I love that stuff.

V

Vince Lee 26:55

So it sounds like you have a obviously a relationship with us and also your community or network of folks that you may reach out to for materials to digitize, do you have folks offering up materials to you to digitize by chance?

J

JD Doyle 27:12

I wish there were more of that. That's one of the things I regret, it is really hard to get that information from people. I remember when I had an occasion on a couple of times to speak at meetings of LOAF - Lesbians Over the Age of 50, a woman's group, and I would make a plea every chance I got to, hey, do you have copies of women's lesbian publications that you have in your closets are addicts that you could loan me, you know, or give me or loan me that I could digitize? Because I want to save this and make it available and capture this history? And no, I don't get any response. Either they didn't think was important to save. Or they were more closeted because they were women? I don't know. So I got very little help in that area. So I still could use help. I don't think you have he has a very large collection of that either. One one publication was called wand. One was women's space. Right? There isn't much, much, much gathered together.

V

Vince Lee 28:24

We have, I guess, a very small selection of those kinds of letters. But yes, those

J

JD Doyle 28:30

there were more. Right.

V

Vince Lee 28:33

Because I think they were published and produced locally, throughout the 70s. If memory serves me correctly, but yeah, we need more. With a I guess you could categorize them as being lesbian and feminist publications of the time. Yeah. Okay. And the other thing I wanted to mention and talk with you about is I know that your website has recently been honored by the Library of Congress, having it included in as part of their web archives. Was that something that came out of the blue for you from that from them? Or was that something that's been kind of

J

JD Doyle 29:15

touched, were in the works way out of the blue? I did not see that coming. And, of course, I was thrilled, like the Library of Congress says, Hey, we want to grab your digital content and put it in our LGBT Studies area. Yes. And not only that, this takes away some of the worry of, okay, what happens after my time to my website information? If the Library of Congress has grabbed files of it, then it's there forever. How long for forever is but the artists on my queer music Heritage site could immediately see that important, hey, I may not have gotten played on the radio. But I'm going to be in the Library of Congress because I was on his show. So

V

Vince Lee 30:13

in a way that gives them their second life, since it's making their way through the Library of Congress and through their channels.

J

JD Doyle 30:21

I've got a kind of a side story about the library Congress thing where, when that happened, Brandon wolf did a wonderful article about it, and dug into it, he did it for outsmart, did some research, and managed to track down the person who made the recommendation for my sites to be included. And so I reached out to her to thank her and so forth. And I found out that what really got her attention was something I did concerning a lesbian magazine. In 1947, there was a small, independently published, magazine called vice versa, out of LA, it was circulated by hand. The woman who did it had an office job, that didn't keep her busy all the time. So her boss said, look busy. So she would work on this publication, and passed around to her friends, and it got circulated. I had heard about it years ago. And on one of my trips to the one Institute, in LA, a wonderful organization. I decided this copies of vice versa, are not on the internet. And they really needed to be this is the first gay publication in the United States that there were earlier ones in Germany. But as far as in the United States, this was the first one. And so I asked to see that collection. And I went to the Xerox machine at that one is toute and copied them all. But I don't know, 100 pages, 150 pages, I don't remember what it was, I copied every single page and got home and put them on my website. And when this woman from the Library of Congress saw it, she said she about cried. Because here was a piece of lesbian history, certainly, that had not been available. And if someone even knew about it, it would be very difficult, maybe very expensive to go to LA or to go to whatever other cities happen to have

them. I don't think there were too many to have copies of this. Probably mostly LA to get there would be expensive. To know, it's there would be luck. And so that just broke her down that this, that I'd made this available. So that really touched her.

V

Vince Lee 32:58

Yeah, you made it accessible to her and many others and not not yet the logistics of flying to LA and the time commitment just to do that. I don't think too many folks would have the luxury or the time. No, no,

J

JD Doyle 33:14

there's lots of what I do research. I find lots of things in universities around the country. Oh, sure. I'd like to go to the Portland the university whatever and look up this file, but I can't

V

Vince Lee 33:28

I don't curiosity, what what sorts of content could someone expect to find on vice versa, if they were to look into

J

JD Doyle 33:35

it? They were, there were book reviews. There were film reviews, there were just opinion pieces. A lot of them were written by the woman Her name was Edith, I forget her last name, but I would as soon as we hang up, I'll remember.

V

Vince Lee 33:55

But I'm sure when they visit your website, they'll be able to find that.

J

JD Doyle 33:59

And she wrote a lot of this. And she used a a pen name called Lisa Ben. If you anagram that you get lesbian.

V

Vince Lee 34:16

Ah, okay.

J

JD Doyle 34:18

So that was her her pen name for this publication. And she also she, she died just a few years

ago, quite elderly. She also was an entertainer of sorts, where she would do folk songs with the lyrics made lesbians, lesbian, like she would do the song, Frankie and Johnny only had a lesbian plot in her version of it. And that was released by a 45 by the daughters of the lightest organization and sold and I've got a copy of that in my archives. So I don't know how many copies they made. 500 1000 But I got one of those

V Vince Lee 35:02

It sounds like the publication is fairly rare

J JD Doyle 35:05

from you. Well, it was hand on probably mimeograph. So they made a dozen copies, how many copies you get out of a mimeograph? Not many of you probably don't remember, before my time for sure. But you'd maybe get a dozen copies out of a mimeograph sheet that you could print. And then you pass those around, and people would pass them around from there. But how many would save them? Again, there'd be the fear of somebody fighting this publication in your home and say, Oh, Rachel's a lesbian. So that was that's very real, certainly very real to women in 1948. So the odds of too many copies of these means being around not very good.

V Vince Lee 35:59

Thanks for sharing that, Judy. I know that you've retired from radio back in 2015. But it seems that your website and digital archives have kept you very busy post retirement, can you give us a glimpse into maybe what the day in the life of God dwell on what's like working on your passion projects,

J JD Doyle 36:18

David, I start every day with on Facebook, with what I call my Facebook history outreach posts. And I do 1015 posts every day, and sometimes I had something to them or I add a link to the post, back to my website. Now, here's a photo from the lead entry in that 93 Pride Parade from the mining company, because they use construction vehicles as their parade entries. So here's a photo of that. And there's a link back to that page, where you can see more photos of the 1993 Pride. So I do links all the time when I can. And I realized most people don't follow the links because they're lazy, but I provide them anyhow. And so the advantage of Facebook is that it lets you know what you posted a year ago. There's a memory link you can look at. So you can see what you posted on what is it may 27 in 2020, or 19, or 18, or 70, and are doing this for 10 years. So I can look at those posts, and pick out which ones I want to recycle. Which ones are relevant, which ones everybody ignored. And okay, that didn't fly. So let's not use that one again. So, or, yeah, I can use that. But let me add something to it. So I'll post these every morning. And then I keep checking back on Facebook, because I get replies and comments. And I want to network with people to let them know that I appreciate that they've commented on my post. And I might add to their comment, or answer their question or whatever. So I'm checking back on Facebook all day long and into the next day

about those 15 posts. So that's, that's distracting. I could do more work if I didn't do that. What am I working on right now. I'm working on a book. And that's become a major attention. Or it wants lots of attention. And I have not been giving it as much as I should because I get distracted with other projects. But book takes a long time. It's a lot of work. I'm learning. It's a memoir of my gay years, probably 1978 to 1981. So it's a narrow span that I'm documenting how hopefully this year but who knows. We'll take a while.

 Vince Lee 39:18

But do you find it I guess, I guess part of the process or cathartic and working on your book for a bit, taking a break working on something else. And then maybe that stirs a thought or

 JD Doyle 39:31

Yeah. Think about Sarah Fernandez. And I joke about this that we both fall down rabbit holes very easily. Like, I get distracted by something else. I'd say, oh, I want to do this or I posted something about the denim party, which was a party held at the President's river bottom for like 20 years or so once a year and they would give out as invitations handkerchiefs. Actually, I have I can show you one. Sure. You can tell me, can you see that

 Vince Lee 40:22

I can barely see the edges of that, I guess because of maybe the background.

 JD Doyle 40:30

too hard, I can

 Vince Lee 40:32

see some of the, it's coming in and out a little bit with the lettering. Okay, something,

 JD Doyle 40:38

this was a printed handkerchief made of cotton, maybe 20 inches square with names of the people who hosted the event, okay, on three sides and people called heavenly hosts at the bottom. People who had passed on that were hosts. And this was a really good party that I went to a number of times. There were handkerchiefs, different ones every year. And I happen to have eight or 10 of them. JD, I should put these on my website, I've never done that, which means I have to scan them. Because it's too hard for a scanner, I have to scan it four corners, and piece them together. And I have a project I'll be working on. I'll be adding denim party handkerchiefs to my site real soon.

V

Vince Lee 41:33

Interesting. I didn't know that you were also digitizing some some textiles and things.

J

JD Doyle 41:39

If it's flat, I can scan it. Okay.

V

Vince Lee 41:44

I was under the impression that you were doing photographs, publications, documentation, but interesting that you're adding textiles to the

J

JD Doyle 41:52

so I can do memorabilia if I can take a picture of it. Good picture.

V

Vince Lee 41:58

So there's a variety of history and tangible objects to choose from. And

J

JD Doyle 42:04

maybe that'll encourage people who have other years and I'm lacking to take a photo of their handkerchief and email it to me

V

Vince Lee 42:13

and have that included as part of the project maybe. Okay. And I know that from our last, or I shouldn't say our last interview, but the interview that I did with some of your colleagues, which I wished you were there, but I know that there are other intervening circumstances that prevented you from being there. Could for our audience, could you explain your role and involvement with the banner project and what what your role is

J

JD Doyle 42:42

with Sarah Fernandez came up with that idea. She was the founder. And I joked with her that I resisted being involved in the banner project because I That same year, I had started the history project, and the obituary project both same year, and I had not stopped doing the radio show yet. So I was crazy. And in what kept saying no, no, no, no, I can't do anymore. I can't do anymore. I can't be dragged into this. But of course she did. In because I have the history

information, which they needed. So I couldn't say no, you know, so she got me involved with that. And that's been good. I've enjoyed it. And so it's Sarah and Kirk, Kirk Baxter is our designer. It is wonderful. And so the three of us mostly navigate the banner project.

V

Vince Lee 43:41

So you provide kind of the historical information and context,

J

JD Doyle 43:45

right, Sara, and I select who's going to be honored, which is we have some interesting discussions sometimes. Like, like, I think this person No, I don't think that person really. But how about this person?

V

Vince Lee 44:01

Some back and forth? Maybe compromises?

J

JD Doyle 44:04

can sometimes Okay, I'll let you have this one if you can have this one.

V

Vince Lee 44:11

Yes, sir, is great to work with and I know that she can be very persuasive, so on projects and involvement and getting getting folks to help out with things so in starting and growing the JD Doyle archives over the years, what have you learned in the process?

J

JD Doyle 44:35

Then I'm a fanatic. It's a passion project, as you said, and I'm kinda I'm driven to provide the information to save the information for the community because it's our history. But the bottom line is, I'm pleasing myself. It's, I enjoy doing it. I want to do it So what have I learned? I haven't learned to keep stuff off my plate very well.

V

Vince Lee 45:12

What would you say has been the most rewarding experience or gratifying part of the project?

J

JD Doyle 45:18

Probably the Library of Congress Park, I guess. And I do get feedback from people frequently for

the different sites for the obituary site for for honoring people they've lost or, or for professors at universities that, oh, I'm trying to add. I'm teaching a course on queer culture. And I wanted to add a music section and there was no place to find it until I found your site. My God, it's handed to me on a plate. There it is. I created a, a university course on queer music, I call it queer music history, one on one. And it's a 10 hour course, with me narrating the history of queer music. By but 10 minutes a segment with some graphics. It's not a video, it's mostly like, like a slideshow. So this is a this is a quick history, it's organized. They can assign this to their class as homework, or they can do it in class. And it's already for them. It's done. And no one's ever done that. So this was, I think, a missing piece of university queer culture that in and well, you got to say, Okay, where were they get their information? Well, for me, so I did.

v

Vince Lee 46:58

You I think your anticipated my question is like, any surprises along the way? And I guess would that be one of the surprises that pleasant surprises of finding yourself may be helping to create content for a course curriculum for Professor.

j

JD Doyle 47:15

I actually thought of that idea. When I was sitting as a guest, and Brian Riedel class Rice University. And I was thinking, well, I could do a lecture for this class. And I thought, I could do a lecture for any class. Let's, let's go bigger on this. Let's make it you know, anybody can share this. You know, why do the work just for a one off? Oh, that was fun.

v

Vince Lee 47:46

Do you get surprised? I guess looks or expressions from students that have kind of interface? I

j

JD Doyle 47:53

don't see them. I don't

v

Vince Lee 47:55

see the students. Okay. Anything that's been difficult in the process, or in creating and growing the JD dwell archives over the years

j

JD Doyle 48:08

time management

v

Vince Lee 48:14

— because I'm sure there's like competing things for your time, in terms of ever grown. Yeah.

J JD Doyle 48:19

And I. And I get distracted by other things, emails, emails take a lot of time. People don't realize you probably realize how much time answering emails is. I'm sure you have more cancer than I do. But people are wanting things or asking things all the time. And I want to help. So I gotta give those some attention.

V Vince Lee 48:46

I'm sure you do your fair share of reference too. Because I'm finding myself going down all kinds of different rabbit holes, as I'm sure you do, as well just find out the answer their question or basic get folks to getting the resources they need.

J JD Doyle 49:01

Some folks like human nature are lazy. And you could say, have you tried Google?

V Vince Lee 49:10

You'll always get those folks. I know even when you if you spoon feed a little bit they take

J JD Doyle 49:16

well, I thought it'd be easier just to ask you, easier for you. I know. I'm sure you do.

V Vince Lee 49:32

Is there anything else you want to mention or talk about that? I didn't get a chance to cover and some of my questions.

J JD Doyle 49:40

If folks have old publications in their attics or closets, gay lesbian publications. Don't hoard them. loan them, give them whatever. I'll be glad to take them. I will probably pass a good good percent of that on To you, ah, because I don't need to keep everything that I get. I've already donate a lot of things to you of age boxes and boxes, magazines. I'll be glad to filter through scan what I can use on my website, movie restaurant, but get the stuff out of your closets? You know, you don't think Well, alright. I don't want to deal with that. Now, who's going to deal with it? You know, if you something happens to you, who's going to know what this is?

Vince Lee 50:31

If they want to contact you directly, can they reach out to you at JD Doyle?

JD Doyle 50:35

All my websites have email address, email, easy to find. Every home page also has a donate button.

Vince Lee 50:46

You heard it here folks. Reach out to JDS website, and share some of the history that you're keeping within attics, closets and other storage spaces. And I also think of donating to your archives as well, local archives as well, because we both of us and working in tandem would like to preserve and make accessible the history that you have. And this is something that just hit me JD Oh, not a surprise question. Well, maybe a bit little bit. But what do you think in the future? I mean, the content and the website and all of that? How how do you envision that going forward? Even let's say when we're both not here anymore? How do you think how do you? Do you have plans, plans or things to keep it sustained?

JD Doyle 51:46

Well, remember that the collaborative Congress is scanning pages all the time of my sites. Okay, so they're backing that kind of backing that up? Yeah. Yeah, archiving it, archiving the website, and I hope one of our local universities would step in and help preserve my websites.

Vince Lee 52:11

And I'm sure that your maintenance of your site is constantly growing in terms of memory and server space used to host all of that. Yeah,

JD Doyle 52:21

it's pretty big. It's I don't know how many gigabytes It is at this point. But I have a huge, huge server.

Vince Lee 52:30

And I'm sure you had to learn about that technology like server technology. Yeah.

JD Doyle 52:35

And fortunately I have a a techie friend who is brilliant who helps me with tech problems I

And fortunately, I have a, a techie friend who is brilliant, who helps me with tech problems, I can't figure out to some of those, I wouldn't be expected to figure out because they're just some internet server communications things that How would I know that, you know, but he can figure it out. His name is Don MUMA. And he's brilliant. So he is also the person who helps Dalton, Dalton, the heart with his archives, right? And how to store all the data that Dalton has is huge.

V

Vince Lee 53:16

I believe Dalton has like, literally several million photographs that he's taken over 3040 years. So my friend

J

JD Doyle 53:25

on MUMA technically, helps with the hard stuff for both of us.

V

Vince Lee 53:32

The technical back end stuff that the techies would be interested in how to provision space and expanded, like if you need

J

JD Doyle 53:40

to move to a different server. How do you do that? And how do you make the new connection links to the DNS and ports and stuff that I barely know what I'm talking about? And I don't need to know

V

Vince Lee 53:53

that that's his job. And your job is to create

J

JD Doyle 53:58

volunteer jobs.

V

Vince Lee 54:02

Great to have friends like that. Volunteer. Alright, JT, that's all the questions I have today. There's one more going once going twice. If there's anything else you want to have

J

JD Doyle 54:16

been an hour that's plenty

been an hour, that's plenty.

V

Vince Lee 54:19

So I really appreciate you taking this afternoon and spending some time with me to talk about the JD duel archives and its history and its beginnings and what folks the kind of content folks can expect to find there. I know I've used used it for many my reference and education in terms of learning about the drag scene and drag queens and transgender community and also, I think there's a local bookstore called local bookstore that learning history about so

J

JD Doyle 54:55

remember, combat Christian made like, Oh, we found this new newspaper from 1980 Oh, JD already digitized it.

V

Vince Lee 55:06

Yeah, usually, I guess we'd like to cross check to see what's up there. And we usually usually beat us to the punch, which is a good thing. All right, JD, I thank you again for your time and for during the interview with me, and we will have this preserved on our oral history website. And also, we intend to share some of this with the collaborative exhibit that we're doing with the Texas a&m University, and

J

JD Doyle 55:36

I can put it on my site too, right. And, of course, we will share this recorded interview. I have a video section on my own site so I can add it to that. Great.

V

Vince Lee 55:46

Thank you for your time again. JD.

J

JD Doyle 55:48

Thanks, Vince. All right.