

- [INAUDIBLE]

- So Judy, are those tears in your eyes from having to listen to that song or from laughing so hard at it?

- Let me just say, Bruce, that you give a whole new meaning to the word Christmas.

- Thank you. That's our goal, I think, this evening. Of course, that was another cut from the Venus Envy album *'ll Be A Homo For Christmas*.

- I'd like to cut it from the album.

- Well, there's a couple more on here that hopefully we'll get to play before the night's over. It's a pretty nice album I think so. I'm enjoying it.

- Actually, it's wonderful. I am too.

- And we also heard Ella Fitzgerald singing *Swinging Christmas* from her-- no, singing "Good Morning Blues" from her *Swinging Christmas* album.

- That's hard to say.

- Johnny Mathis singing "Calypso Noel" from his *Give Me Your Love* album. And we're just having a very special Christmas evening.

- And I'm waiting to see who's going to come see us in a half an hour or so.

- It's going to be real neat in about 19 minutes. We're going to have a very special guest from the North Pole.

- Wow.

- Actually, it's a repeat visit, so.

- A repeat visit?

- Yeah.

- Hmm.

- And we're just trying to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays and winter solstice and just having a good time.

- This visitor that's coming to see us, I mean, he gets to kind of sit around and watch the solstice roll in, huh?

- Well, it could be, yeah. He'll probably escape just before it hits. So--

- Perfect timing.

- --he probably has to get back to the North Pole for that moon is just perfectly full.

- I understand.

- But we'll keep an eye on him, and I think--

- You keep an eye on every him that walks around, darling.
- I think I heard him fly over a little while ago, so I'm sure he's on his way. But we'll see what we've got.
- I'm waiting.
- Let's listen to some more music.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

And Merry Christmas from us here at the *After Hours* show. A little more Venus Envy there.

- Yes. And that one brought forth four different phone calls.
- "Rhonda The Lesbo Reindeer." Were they good phone calls or bad phone calls?
- Well, three of them were.
- [LAUGHS]
- What can I say? Three of them were good phone calls.
- OK.
- The fourth one had a question. He was very disappointed because he missed Santa Claus actually. He's a security guard at a bar here in town, and he'd had to walk away from the radio for a few minutes. And he had gotten back to it. And was calling to see if Santa was possibly still here because he had a question to ask him.

He doesn't really want a gift for-- or maybe he wanted a gift. And he really didn't explain it to me. And I really don't want to hear the details of it. But he's real curious about the fact that Mrs. Claus was not with Santa. She never seems to make public appearances with him except certain times of the year.

- I thought that song explained where Mrs. Claus was.
- Well, that might be why he called during this song, but he's just wondering when good old Santa is going to come out of the closet.
- Well, that's a good question.
- He thinks it's time.
- Well, of course, Rainbo's definitely out of the closet.
- Rainbo's out of a lot of things but OK.
- [LAUGHS] So we're just having a good time this evening, trying to bring Christmas in a little early and bring a little Christmas cheer your way, playing a lot of Christmas music. We do have a special guest. Actually, I guess we probably kept you in suspense long enough. We're going to let Rudolph tell his story at 2:30.
- Is that little funny reindeer with that weird nose?
- The one with the little red nose that goes [HARSH BEEP] all the time.

- Oh, I remember him.
- So it's actually a short piece that I did. Well, I can't say a short piece. It's an 18-minute long piece that I did for the show three years ago
- Oh, it's kind of an anniversary thing.
- So it's kind of an anniversary, but actually, it's getting its debut play here on *After Hours* so.
- Oh, exciting.
- We'll be looking forward to that about 2:30.
- And what does that nose do again?
- [HARSH BEEP] Then it turns red and just it's special.
- Oh, please.
- It's just special. I was listening to some old *After Hours* tapes the other day. And the church lady called in, and it was just special.
- I'll bet it was.
- So I'm sure the church lady's still around out there sometime, and maybe we'll hear from her somewhere along the way. But right now, let's listen to a little more music.
- I'm ready.

Two wonderful old songs or I guess they're fairly new songs, The Lettermen on their album *For Christmas This Year*, singing "The Christmas Waltz." And before that, we heard Alabama singing "Thistlehair The Christmas Bear."

- And it's 2:30, so it must be time for our special guest. A long time ago, *After Hours* had a segment on the show called *The Homophobia Report*.
- Yes, they did.
- And it was a very special report, and I should have cued music up for it tonight but didn't get to it. But anyway, here's a report that I prepared three years ago and is still equally viable tonight as it was then.
- Well, I'm anxious to hear it.
- So am I. Let's see. That was tape one. That's this button. And--

Hey, I'd like to talk a little bit about homophobia. Coming out and growing up being gay, the stars of my story today are Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, Hermey, the Misfit elf, and all the Misfit toys from the Island of Misfit Toys.

- Rudolf? Huh? Could it be that some of you are not acquainted with the story of Rudolph? Santa's lead reindeer, Donner, had just become a proud papa.
- Nah, we'll call him Rudolph.
- Rudolph is a lovely name. Rudolph.

- He-hey. He knows his name already.
- Papa, mama.
- He's got a shiny nose.
- Sh-sh-shiny. I'd even say it glows.
- Well, we'll simply have to overlook it.
- How can you overlook that? His beak blinks like a blinking beacon. [LAUGHS]
- Great bouncing icebergs.
- Nah, I'm sure it'll stop as soon as he grows up, Santa.
- Well, let's hope so if he wants to make The Sleigh Team someday. You see, little fellow, every year, I shine up my jingle bells for eight lucky reindeer.
- No, Santa's right. You'll never make The Sleigh Team. Wait a minute, I've got it. We'll hide Rudolph's nose.
- Hide it?
- Yeah. Come here, boy. You'll be a normal little buck just like everybody else, right? A chip off the old antlers. Now, now, you'll get used to it. Put it there, son.
- Well, you asked, how does that have anything to do with homophobia, coming out, and growing up gay? Equate Rudolph's red nose to being gay. Equate that black powder on it to your closet. The dismay in the parents' voice is well, what more do I need to say? Meanwhile--
- --toys Santa brings are made by these elves. Seems the elves have a certain knack for toy making. All except for this one Misfit.
- Hermey, aren't you finished painting that yet? There's a pile up a mile wide behind you. What's eating you, boy?
- Not happy in my work, I. guess.
- What?
- I just don't like to make toys.
- No. Well, if that's all, what? You don't like to make toys?
- No.
- Hermey doesn't like to make toys.
- Toys. Shame on you.

- Do you mind telling me what you do want to do?

- Well, sir. Someday I'd like to be a dentist.

- A dentist?

- Well, we need one up here. I've been studying. It's fascinating. You have no idea, molars and bicuspids and incisors.

- Now, listen you. You're an elf. And elves make toys. Now, get to work. 10 minutes break. Not for you. Finish the job, or you're fired.

[CHATTER]

[MUSIC - BURL IVES, "WE'RE A COUPLE OF MISFITS"]

- My, my, my, that does have a familiar ring to it to me. Growing up gay, how much more of a misfit can you be?

- Well, for the first year, the Donners did a pretty fair job of hiding Rudolph's nonconformity. Well, Rudolph is having his growing pains too. Old Donner is determined to keep Rudolph's nose a secret.

- All right, son, try it on.

- I don't want to. Daddy, I don't like it.

- You'll like it and wear it.

- Oh, but, Daddy. It's not very gullible.

- There are more important things than comfort, self-respect. Santa can't object to you now.

[MUSIC - BURL IVES, "WE'RE A COUPLE OF MISFITS"]

- Does that bring back any memories of coming out to your parents? It certainly does mine. Well, if you have to be gay, don't let anyone else know, OK?

- Why weren't you at elf practice?

- Just fixing these doll's teeth.

- Just fixing. Now, listen, we have dolls that cry, talk, walk, blink, and run a temperature. We don't need any chewing dolls.

- I just thought I found a way to fit in.

- You'll never fit in. Now you come to elf practice and learn how to wiggle your ears and chuckle warmly and go hehe and ho, ho and important stuff like that. A dentist, good grief.

- No, I just can't. It's like you said, I'll never fit in.

[MUSIC - BURL IVES, "WE'RE A COUPLE OF MISFITS"]

I guess I'm on my own now.

- Interesting. Surely, we've all felt that way. Meanwhile, Rudolph has found Clarice, maybe. Just maybe someone really likes him.
- Something wrong with your nose. I mean, you talk kind of funny.
- What's so funny about the way I talk?
- Well, don't get angry. I don't mind.
- You don't?
- My name's Clarice. Hi.
- My name's Rudolph. Hi.
- Hi.
- Hey, Clarice. Hey, after practice, would you--
- Rudolph, you get back here. It's your turn.
- Yeah, I got to go back. Would you want to go with me?
- Uh-huh. Rudolph, I think you're cute.
- I'm cute. I'm cute.
- Magnificent.
- I'm cute. I'm cute. She said I'm cute.
- Not bad not bad at all. [LAUGHS]
- Hey, you're OK.
- She said I'm cute. [LAUGHS]
- [LAUGHS] Come on.
- [LAUGHS]
- [LAUGHS]
- For crying out loud.
- Fireball, what's the matter?
- Get away. Get away from me.
- Now, now, now, now, what's this nonsense here, bucks? After all-- [SCREAMS]
- [SCREAMS]

- [LAUGHS]

- Hey, look at the beak.

- Hey, fire nose.

- [INAUDIBLE]

- Hey, schnoz.

- Stop calling me names.

- Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer.

[LAUGHTER]

- Donner you should be ashamed of yourself. What a pity. He had a nice takeoff too.

- All right. All right now, yearlings, back to breakfast. Oh, no. Not you. You better go home with your folks.

From now on, gang, we won't let Rudolph join in any reindeer games, right?

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Rudolph? Rudolph? Rudolph?

- Well, what do you want?

- You promised to walk me home.

- Aren't you going to laugh at my nose too?

- I think it's a handsome nose, much better than that silly false one you were wearing.

- It's terrible. It's different from everybody else's.

- But that's what makes it so grand, why any doe would consider herself lucky to be with you.

- Yeah? But I wasn't very lucky today, was I? I wish I--

[MUSIC - JANET ORENSTEIN, "THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW"]

- Clarice--

- Papa?

- --you get back to your cave this instant.

- But I--

- This instant, young lady.

- Yes, sir.

- Now there's one thing I want to make very plain. No doe of mine is going to be seen with a red-nosed reindeer.
- Well, not only does Rudolph fly from Clarice's attention, he excels at it too. But how soon? That doesn't matter all because he's a little different. Sound familiar?

Shunned by everyone except Clarice, he, too, moves out on his own.

- Who are you?
- Well, actually, I am a dentist.
- A dentist?
- Well, I want to be someday. Right now, I'm just an elf. But I don't need anybody. I'm independent.
- Yeah? Me too. I'm whatever you said, independent.
- Hey, what do you say we both be independent together, huh?
- You wouldn't mind my red nose?
- Not if you don't mind me being a dentist.
- It's a deal.
- And together, they start a new family, something most every gay and lesbian people have done. And they strike out together. And suddenly, they come upon--
- The official sentry of the Island of Misfit toys.
- A jack-in-the-box for a sentry?
- Yes. My name is--
- Don't tell me. Jack.
- No. Charlie. That's why I'm a Misfit Toy. My name is all wrong. No child wants to play with a Charlie-in-the-Box, so I had to come here.
- Where's here?

[MUSIC - THE MISFIT TOYS, "THE MOST WONDERFUL DAY OF THE YEAR"]

- How would you like to be a spotted elephant?
- Or a choo-choo with square wheels on your caboose?
- Or a water pistol that shoots jelly?
- We're all Misfits.
- How would you like to be a bird that doesn't fly?

- I swim.

- Or a cowboy who rides an ostrich?

- Or a boat that can't stay afloat?

- We're all Misfits.

[MUSIC - THE MISFIT TOYS, "THE MOST WONDERFUL DAY OF THE YEAR"]

- Hey, we're all Misfits too. Maybe we could stay here for a while.

- Well, you'd have to get permission from King Moonracer.

- Who's he?

- He rules here. Every night, he searches the entire Earth. When he finds a Misfit Toy, one that no little girl or boy loves, he brings it here to live in this Island till someone wants it. He's holding court in his castle right now.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Come closer. What do you desire?

- Well, we're a couple of Misfits from Christmas Town. And now, we'd like to live here.

- No, that would not be possible. This island is for toys alone.

- How do you like that? Even among Misfits, you're Misfits.

- Unlike playthings, a living creature cannot hide himself on an Island. But perhaps being Misfits yourselves, you might help the toys here.

- Help them?

- Yes. When someday you return to Christmas Town, would you tell Santa about our homeless toys? I'm sure he could find little boys and girls who would be happy with them. A toy is never truly happy until it is loved by a child.

- When and if we ever get back, we'll tell Santa, sir.

- More Misfits. And so society says we are all Misfits. But, of course, we all know how the story goes. Rudolph saves Clarice and Mr. And Mrs. Donner from The Abominable. And Hermey removes The Abominable's teeth, turning him into a harmless creature who helps to stop the Christmas trees in Christmas Town without even using a stepladder.

Isn't it amazing how we all fit in and have our place to play? The fog sets in, and Santa fears Christmas must be canceled when he notices--

- That nose. That beautiful, wonderful nose.

- Huh?

- Rudolph, Christmas is not off, and you're going to lead my team.

- I am?
- Yes, sir. You and that wonderful nose of yours.
- My nose, sir?
- Ho ho ho, from what I see now, that'll cut through the murkiest storm they can dish up. What I'm trying to say is, Rudolph, with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?
- It will be an honor, sir.

[CHEERING]

- I knew that nose would be useful someday. I knew it all along. Ready, Rudolph?
- Ready, Santa.
- Well, let's be on our way. OK, Rudolph, full power. First stop, The Island of Misfit Toys.
- It sure is. It's Santa. And look, Rudolph is leading the way.
- You can see his nose from here.

[EXCITED CHATTER]

- Well, let's be on our way.

[MUSIC - BURL IVES, "RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER"]

- Aw, what a wonderful story. And, of course, it has a wonderful moral for all of us because we are all useful people in gay society, and we all do have our place. And we all will survive. I'd like to remind everyone what the toy said earlier in the show.
- Wake up. Don't you know it's time to come out?
- Wake up. Don't you know it's time to come out? Because we all must come out of the closets. This is Bruce Reeves with this week's *Homophobia Report*, a special Merry Christmas edition. And I hope that you and yours have a very Merry Christmas.

And you're listening to *After Hours* on KPFT 90.1 FM.

- Well, that was very exciting.
- Well, I really had a good time doing that piece. I spent-- oh, untold hours, I guess, putting together that little 18-minute segment. But it was really-- it was a lot of fun. And when I started out looking for something to do, that would really be special because I think the show was actually on Christmas morning that year. And I really wanted a special Christmas present to the troops at *After Hours*.

I was going to be out of town that day. And it really meant a lot to me to do it. I guess it amazes me sometimes to really look at some of the different television programs that I watched as a child. And it's amazing, the different meanings they have on so many of them now that I'm an adult.

- They say cartoons weren't made for kids.

- That's probably true. And, of course, I know we both believe in Santa Claus and--
- Well, of course.
- --the reindeers and the Easter Bunny and all those fun magical things because they make our lives more exciting and more pleasant. And the world is just a nicer place with Santa Claus in it. It was kind of interesting. I was reading the atheist newsletter earlier this evening while I was sitting in the station wishing that it was midnight.
- Or 4:00 AM.
- Or 4:00 AM. And there was an interesting article on the front cover talking about no Jesus Christ but let's keep Santa Claus. And I thought that was real interesting because I guess I had never really looked at that aspect of atheism. And, of course, Santa Claus has been around for many, many years and came out of the winter solstice celebration, which actually preceded Christianity.

And the winter solstice celebration has been around for a long, long, long time.

- Yeah.
- And we're going to celebrate winter solstice here in about four more minutes, not quite, 3 and 1/2.
- A very special one.
- So why is this one special?
- Well, this one is just real different. Winter solstice is-- well, solstice all together is a time of the year when the sun actually sets in the sky and stays where it is for a few days, three to be exact. And on this particular winter solstice-- it's happening today, which is the 22nd of December, which means the next time you actually see the sun move in the sky again, it will be Christmas Day.

It doesn't happen that way very often and in conjunction with the full moon on top of that.

- So we trust you're having a good evening. We are playing lots of our Christmas favorites for this our Christmas show.
- And some not so favorite.
- And we're playing a lot of fun songs as well. We've played a lot of Venus Envy, and I've got one more song to play on Venus Envy before the night is out.
- I'll wait for it.
- So that should be a lot of fun. It was kind of interesting. I was reading my hometown newspaper, the one where the little town of 2,000 people. And--
- I've walked through it.
- There was a wonderful editorial cartoon in there this last week, which means it was in the paper two or three weeks ago, because it takes a while. And the editorial cartoons are done by a statewide artist. He furnishes cartoons to a lot of places. But this one was really something that I guess it's a shame the national wires didn't pick up because I really loved it. But the topic says, What I don't want for Christmas.

And then it says David Duke's new Christmas album. And there's this wonderful album with this picture of David Duke on the front of it that says I'm dreaming of a white Christmas.

- Oh, please.

- And it just--

- Hits home.

- --kind of hit really home. Yeah, it's nice to know he's not around the picture anymore. We've got some interesting news items that we're going to be talking about in just a few minutes. And we need to talk for another minute and a half, so we can say happy winter solstice.

- Well, I want to ask you a question, please [INAUDIBLE]?

- OK.

- Everyone's always running around saying, oh, I got this for Christmas, and I got that for Christmas. What is the one thing you remember most about getting for Christmas?

- Getting for Christmas.

- Giving for Christmas

- Gosh.

- You missed it.

- Yeah, I missed it.

- Go ahead.

- It's still crawling. Goodness.

- Well, we could go the other side of it.

- Well, I think the most special thing was the first year I was actually really attached on Christmas. And TJ gave me a diamond earring for that ear, which I sucked up in the vacuum cleaner about three weeks later. But--

- It just wasn't meant to be.

- --it nearly killed me. But that was a very special gift.

- You go the other side of that coin?

- Sure.

- The strangest Christmas present.

- Strangest Christmas present. Probably a pair of bizarre socks or handkerchiefs.

- Handkerchiefs. I don't think I've ever seen you with a handkerchief. I can see where you think that was bizarre.

- And you will never see me, unless it's a nice pretty nice one to tuck in my little pocket.

- I'll see what I can do.

- I guess there have been several. I remember a train from childhood. I can remember getting a train when you're at Christmas. And that was really nice.

- I can remember getting one in adulthood.

- Yeah, well, it hasn't been that many Christmases ago. And then there's also a very special snowball that comes to mind, so.

- And yourself? Which end do we want to talk about.

- Well, I'm not sure. It is officially winter solstice now. It's winter, folks.

- Well, welcome to winter.

- Can you tell? It's what?

- Do you think maybe all that rain will turn to snow?

- 70 degrees and raining outside, right?

- Sounds like Houston to me.

- It's pretty dreadful for the first day of winter, but maybe it'll get cold before Christmas. And we can get into the spirit a little better. We'll come back and talk about your gifts in just a few minutes. You'll have a few more minutes to think about them than I did.

- Oh.

- But I've got a special song that I want to play in, I guess, in honor of the goddess and winter solstice.

- All right.