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beth, treme, people, toured, transition, cheryl, music, lesbians, live, told, studio, put, life, married, friends, radio, woman, sing, talking, bobby mcferrin

SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Speaker 2, Jimmy Carper, Roy McCarthy, Speaker 1, Elizabeth Richards, Cheryl Kosta

- S** Sarah DePalma 00:01
Sara, I see you standing in the corner here. You got something. Oh, okay. I thought maybe he had something else. Okay, well, we need to do is take-.
- J** Jimmy Carper 00:09
One more first of all, one more. Okay. Reverend de Lamb.
- S** Sarah DePalma 00:14
I saw that today and I was I was shocked.
- J** Jimmy Carper 00:17
Yes. 57 also died. And the memorial service will be held Saturday November 23. At noon at the MCCR church at 1909 Decatur 1919 Decatur.
- S** Sarah DePalma 00:33
I think it's 1919 Decature. Yeah, I think they blew it again. Yes. Yes. Yeah, I think by now we know the address for MCC. Gosh, yeah, I was shocked at that. I really was, ah, this is KPFT in Houston, and KEOS College Station.
- J** Jimmy Carper 00:53
It's After Hours queer radio with attitude.

S

Sarah DePalma 00:56

That's right. Now, what we're going to do is I have had numerous requests for various for various shows. But there have been two shows in particular, which have garnered a lot of comments. And so I thought what we would do is I went through today, and I pulled out some highlights from a couple of shows. And is as you know, as time allows, we're going to run these cuts, and we'll talk about them. Now. The first one was a show that I that Beth Richard co hosted with me in January, that while Jimmy was in Hawaii becoming a tanned God,

J

Jimmy Carper 01:30

And I will be doing it again this year. Thank you very much only I'm going to be there longer. And I'm going to be gone for a full two weeks this time. It's disgusting. Well, that's a nice way to celebrate your happy birthday.

S

Sarah DePalma 01:42

Well, this is true. This is true. Our guests on this show were Jackie Thorne, who we just were talking about and Cheryl constant. And Cheryl is one of one of only the only three openly transgendered radio hosts in the world. And Cheryl Kosta is one of them. And we got Cheryl talking about her show a little bit. And this is what this is what Cheryl had to say about being a radio host in in Maryland. Yes, now tell listeners about your show?

C

Cheryl Kosta 02:18

Well, the show that I do now is you know, were you in the NCIC do socially redeeming radio. I decided to make the approach at the urging of my producer I decided to take the take the approach of who's gotten now I'm going to drop his name. Richard Pryor. Okay, I'm a clown. Okay. And the type of radio I do the press up here in Washington DC, which is very conservative has called this the mix of burns the chemistry of burns and Allen and the sexual Frank sense of Howard Stern. That's the nature the show. It's called working girls with Francis into Kendra Francis is a big breasted geezer chasing material girl and she's got breasts so big, you can hide in a mobile one era, please. Okay, in fact, we had some lesbians dropping up on the show a few weeks ago to debate with her over some point. And they made a comment that she dresses very much like a drag queen, the female towards board gold than I ever did. Okay. And then of course, I'm billed as the transsexual lesbians hit with the happy homemaker. And the funny chemistry of the whole show, is that Francis is is one reporter put it is a wisecracking blonde beauty with the personality of Mae West and the disposition of Don Rickles and then they turned around looked at me and they say Now Cassandra is of all things is great man in the show, and I am the John pleased to Jack Benny in the Mrs. Doubtfire.

S

Sarah DePalma 04:05

Now what can you tell me your slogan up there was you put the broad back and broadcast

C Cheryl Kosta 04:11
Broad in broadcasting yes.

S Sarah DePalma 04:15
Now, Cheryl has taken a lot of heat for her show because she is not considered politically correct by feminists in by many transgendered.

J Jimmy Carper 04:24
I see.

S Sarah DePalma 04:26
But as I have gotten to know Cheryl, Cheryl is a heck of a person for her. And I have come to like her very, very much. She just recently did a play with Keith Bornstein in Washington DC, and if you can picture Cheryl and Kate Bornstein together that must have done some show.

J Jimmy Carper 04:44
That really must have been because Kate has her own show.

S Sarah DePalma 04:47
She really is. I'm hoping to get a Cheryl is talking about coming to law conferences here. And if she does, we're gonna get her in studio.

J Jimmy Carper 04:56
Oh, yeah.

S Sarah DePalma 04:56
No way we're gonna miss out, right? Now one of the most talked about sections of the show I've had, I don't know how many different people call me and ask me about the discussion that Beth and I had talking about transition. And I wanted to play a little segment of that, because I think Beth had one of the most common sense, discussions about transition that I had seen. And it was just, it's just too good not to run this again. So this is Beth Richards talking about transition. Now, on the show, in the past, we have talked about transitions. And we have talked

about what's involved with transitions. And I guess I better let's start the beginning by telling the audience what transition is. Transition is, it's the process of going from one gender to another. Essentially-.

E

Elizabeth Richards 05:53

I had a close friend remind me that transition is like, every little bit of change is what the whole world is all about. So in talking to her about my transition, because she's not transgendered, it was just a matter of well, okay, I, I've understood how the changes in my life has affected me that she was able to bring that point of view into it and get an understanding for what we were talking about. So anybody can understand.

S

Sarah DePalma 06:23

They should be able to. One of the things that we've done in the show in the past was talking with people who've heard horror stories. And I have told stories on the show in the past about how transition can go wrong, whether you're admitted. But it doesn't always go that way.

E

Elizabeth Richards 06:41

I have had almost no negative about this thing. Just out of nothing to be negative about it. I cannot believe how, how smoothly it's all gone. And I think a lot of it has to do with preparation. If you just walk in cold things can be tough. But when you set it up, right, it works. It really does.

S

Sarah DePalma 06:59

But why don't you talk about that maybe there's a rare opportunity to have to open transexuals on the air at the same time in your transition has gone very smoothly wants to talk about that.

E

Elizabeth Richards 07:09

Okay, well, there's two camps on how you're going to do this. One camp is the well, I'm going to disappear into the woodwork and pop up somewhere else.

S

Sarah DePalma 07:20

Yeah, woodworking we know about that.

E

Elizabeth Richards 07:22

Yeah. And so I've known a friend for at least one who has quit their job. Less, the city changed, their name popped up somewhere else. And it took months to find her. But finally I did is really

interested in because we were best friends in college, neither of us knew about the other until she got it until I received this letter from like, well, I've got to go full time now I'll see you later. Hey, we have a lot more in common we ever thought that in any case, that worked for her, but it was hard. Because she suddenly in a new city. She's got a new job and the people they're supportive and the people who hire her new but but she had no friends in the area, no support structure. None of her friends from before were able to find her literally for months, this happened that Labor Day and it wasn't till after Thanksgiving before I tracked it down again. So that's a tough way to go. In my situation, I ended up doing it on the job in position I didn't didn't leave anywhere really haven't lost very many friends at all. Most people have taken it very well. And surprisingly well, very few of them thought it was a surprise. Guess I wasn't quite as secretive as I thought and, you know, my my my general outlook on life and who I was kind of showed through no matter what silly act I was trying to play character.

S

Sarah DePalma 08:51

One of the things one of the things that always I've had friends who've done the same thing they've been doing here one day, and they simply left town. Now for any of the folks who are out there, you know, if you've had to move from one town to another, you know how difficult it is to start over. Now. Yeah. Imagine that you're not only starting over, but you're starting over in a new gender as a different person in a new place.

E

Elizabeth Richards 09:21

You know, that's to you combine them in it's murder. Yeah,

S

Sarah DePalma 09:24

I that's probably one of the toughest things in the world. I can't imagine much worse for myself I could I so I didn't. It wasn't-. Yes. If you're new to the show, and you're wondering what transition is, transition is when a person is making his made the decision that they want to cross live often it is part of their therapeutic process. It's part of their therapy. And so transition is part of the process, where you start living in your new chosen gender. Well What what's very difficult is that there are still many therapists who are telling people will pick up roots, move to a new town, change your name and start over, brother. And one of the things that I liked that in Beth's answer, was it Beth took this slow, because she took her transition process. slow, easy, measured, but no one told Beth what to do. She made her own decision. Wow. In that makes her a rarity,

J

Jimmy Carper 10:34

I think yeah, I think so too.

S

Sarah DePalma 10:36

You've met Beth?

J Jimmy Carper 10:38
Yes.

S Sarah DePalma 10:38
Beth is one of those people. She has a good head on her shoulders. She knows what she's about. And no one is going to come to her and say you must do this. I promise you and Beth will because Beth will look at them and say, thank you for the advice. And I'll do what I want. And it's a good it's an object lesson. I think. I got a call a couple of weeks ago from somebody who's in the transition process. And I mean, they want to build to transition like in three weeks.

J Jimmy Carper 11:09
No, it doesn't work that way.

S Sarah DePalma 11:10
No, it doesn't in one of the things that Beth talked about on that. In that sequence, where she talked about how preparation is necessary. Beth is very proud of who she was, as as you know, before she she began the process. And she doesn't try to disown it and her philosophy pretty much is, as far as I can tell, she isn't going to go and shout it from the rooftops. But if somebody confronts her about it, she won't deny it. And I think that's pretty courageous,

J Jimmy Carper 11:41
I think because she realizes her uniqueness as a transgender person.

S Sarah DePalma 11:46
And she sees it as a positive contrast. Yes, yeah, she's not at all ashamed about it. Now, and I really respect you for that. And her, her, her wife is just a wonderful person, in very much the same way. No one's going to come to her and say, Listen, you know, you're married to a transgendered person, say, you have to dissolve your marriage. Because I guarantee she'd look at them say, Hey, listen, hit the road, and I fell off the door hit you on the way out? Yeah. That is very, very, very impressive. And one of the most impressive things that Beth does. And she goes to the TATS meetings, and she will talk to people to look, you know, you don't have to pick up your routes and go elsewhere. You know, you can choose to live your life as you want it to be.

J Jimmy Carper 12:28
Yes

res.

S

Sarah DePalma 12:29

And I and I wanted to play that piece. Especially for some of the younger people out there who saying, Well, boy, I just can't wait for the day that I can go off and change my lane and have a whole new life. If that's what works for you, that's fine. But it doesn't have to be, that that's a hard way to live.

J

Jimmy Carper 12:48

You know. I want to liken it to gay and lesbian life 50 years ago, because 50 years ago, a lot of gay and lesbian people did the same thing.

S

Sarah DePalma 13:00

Oh, yeah.

J

Jimmy Carper 13:01

Move to another city start a new life. Because they couldn't be themselves at home.

S

Sarah DePalma 13:10

That's right. In one of the things, one of the things that she talks about there is how hard it is to try and live something that you're not. Now I have a good I have a very good, I had a very good friend who picked up and move to another city. And she tried to live that process, you know, went to another city. And when when she was in conversations, she'd say, you know, when when I was a little girl, you know, I did this because she was never a little girl, right? And she's discovered now she can't do it. And she's coming back. And he's also I'd love to get her on the show. I don't think she's quite ready for that yet. But she's talked he was talking about how she couldn't living a lie was worse than living as a male. It's really tough.

J

Jimmy Carper 13:52

Yeah, really, really tough.

S

Sarah DePalma 13:54

Yeah. So I would really it's a little cautionary tale here. I think that this idea that you're gonna go run off and live this whole new life and be this whole new person in life is gonna be hunky dory if you do it. Ain't necessarily so.

J Jimmy Carper 14:09

No, for a lot of reasons, because you're, you're trying to be something you're not number one. And number two, there's something about roots. There's something about the people you grew up with and the people who have helped you along the way it's part of you. In friendships, you take something from everyone that you come in contact with, and you become a little bit part of that person to trial. That's right. And to just rip up rip you away from this and put you within, no, you're gonna rip out from that you're gonna you're gonna want to go back to those roots.

S Sarah DePalma 14:48

Yeah, I had to make a decision when I started this new job, which is interesting. After all the talking that I've done on the year, yes. When I started this new job, I had to make pretty much the same decision. And I had made up my mind that I was gonna get, I thought Beth had a very common sense way of doing it, which is you don't stick it in people's face. But if you're at you're asking about it, you don't lie.

J Jimmy Carper 15:10

There you go.

S Sarah DePalma 15:12

And, and I am finding that it's a very interesting way to do things. Because I'm so relaxed at work, I don't have to worry about, well, what will people ask me? Because I know what my answer is going to be. I don't live in mortal fear. I don't have to dread it. And I find it as a very comfortable way to go about things. And so although I often talked about how I'm a role model, in this case, Beth turned out to be something of a role model for me as well. So it's kind of nice to have something.

J Jimmy Carper 15:41


Actually, we have someone on the line who I haven't talked to in a long time, we would be changing gears for a little bit. Okay.


S Sarah DePalma 15:50


We've been known to do that in the show. Who do we have in line here? Okay, so now you've got your-.

S Speaker 1 16:00


And so, you know, here it is. Now, we're later on-.


 Speaker 2 16:04
Treme. Hello.


 Jimmy Carper 16:05
Hi, Treme.


 Speaker 2 16:07
How are you?


 Jimmy Carper 16:08
I am just great. I am so glad to hear from you.

 Speaker 2 16:13
It's been long.

 Jimmy Carper 16:14
It has been too long. And I don't have your phone number.

 Speaker 2 16:19
Well, I'm gonna tell you. It hasn't. It hasn't really been that long.

 Jimmy Carper 16:23
No.

 Speaker 2 16:24
But I've tried to stay in contact. I missed I'll probably you know, I got a chance to preform for the Arts Festival is laying on top of the roof at Mary's-.

 Jimmy Carper 16:34

Whoa.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:35

I saw that, in fact, yes.

S

Speaker 2 16:37

You already did see me?

S

Sarah DePalma 16:38

I did.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:39

Yes. Sarah, you are talking to Treme Chardon? Uh huh.

S

Speaker 2 16:43

Yeah, I sang on top of the roof that Mary performed and over a year, and they asked me to do it. I said I would do it. And it was pretty, you know, I was it was different.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:57

Why was it different? Why was it different? Because I-.

S

Speaker 2 16:59

I hadn't. You know, when you haven't sung out for a while in public, you know, you the audience is different. The people have changed these kids. These kids are a little bit younger now.

J

Jimmy Carper 17:08

Yeah, that's true.

S

Speaker 2 17:09

And the audience that knew me or knows me, you know, I had to deal with the fear of knowing that I've lost a lot of friends, and that the new kids wouldn't know who I am. So I had to

that I've lost a lot of friends, and that the new kids wouldn't know who I am. So I had to reinvent myself.

J Jimmy Carper 17:22

Honey. You're a performer now. I mean, nobody can take that away from you.

S Speaker 2 17:28

Well, you know, don't don't feel let me tell you something. It's very scary. The various way they've been going.

J Jimmy Carper 17:39

It's terrific. It's terrific. We you know, you did that that flow promo thing. With Brenda, Brenda, wasn't it in here?

S Speaker 2 17:49

Yeah, the girls in my group.

J Jimmy Carper 17:51

Yeah, about two years ago or longer. And we still play that piece and love.

S Speaker 2 17:57

Well, I'm going to do something else. I'm going to I'm in the studio. I've been working in the studio. For a while back in the studio, matter of fact, this week or next week, and I got a phone call the beat.

J Jimmy Carper 18:12

Yes.

S Speaker 2 18:14

That's what I'm going to be bringing you there's going to be your new promo.

J Jimmy Carper 18:16

Oh, okay.

S Speaker 2 18:19

It won't be there. This and this is totally different from anything I've ever done.

J Jimmy Carper 18:22

Really?

S Speaker 2 18:23

Uh, yeah, this is totally a matter of fact, it's, it's totally the opposite. Of everything that I've done.

J Jimmy Carper 18:30

I'm just trying to imagine.

S Sarah DePalma 18:32

Must be a ballad.

S Speaker 2 18:33

Gets very different. It's, it's like a 360 degree. Turn around. I had to reevaluate my music and I had to start looking at well, a lot of it has to do with the club. Yes, I started, you know, going and talking to friends from Austin and talking to friends from Dallas and all my friends in New York. And they started sending me tapes download stuff that's hard and you know, what's not a what's hot. And it just, you know, the music. The music is change. Oh, yeah. I mean, everything that we played in what 93-94 is no more. I mean, these kids are listening to the stuff that is like got 127,28,29 BPM per minute now. Yeah, I mean, the music and the music is faster. It is louder. It's bumpier, you know?

J Jimmy Carper 19:24

Yes, it is.

S Speaker 2 19:25

And so I've had to compete with that I got a choice if I want to stay in the business. I'm going to either have to do it their way. Or I'm gonna have to be like John Tesh.

S Sarah DePalma 19:37
Why is it I don't picture that?

J Jimmy Carper 19:39
No I don't picture that either. You'll put roller skates on those heels first.

S Speaker 2 19:45
Yeah, that you know of course you know my I have a new look. Yes, and the drag has been toned down.

J Jimmy Carper 19:52
I will be waiting no more. Wait, no more.

S Speaker 2 19:56
Amazing, painting no more hunting. I will have to work me no more. You know, the drag is toned down, I'm giving you more or less a very, it's going to be it's a high fashion androgenous look, okay? It's not going to be wildly real feminine anymore. It's the look is going to be you know, I'm a guy just that I'm going to be a very, very gorgeous guy.

J Jimmy Carper 20:21
I see?

S Speaker 2 20:22
Yeah. But it's going to be toned down so people won't feel like I'm trying to be too feminine. Because I think that was one of the problems too, in a lot of my live performances, because, you know, people were confused. I had people confuse it even-.

J Jimmy Carper 20:36
I don't understand that, because you looked real.

S Speaker 2 20:38

We'll see. That's the problem. That was a problem. Every time I got on stage and saying, the lesbians came on because they thought I was a woman. And then the men came onto him because they thought I was a woman because the he uses his own voice. He right. And then everybody, when they booked me thought I was just a big woman. So it wasn't surprising to them that a big woman could sing. The only time they say, oh, is when, you know, somebody would say, you know that the guy? Everybody acted like they were shocked. You know, and then it came, it came back with negotiations when I was, you know, producing stuff, because a lot of people noticed that not take me serious. You know, and it's a known fact that men have never taken women, you know, me and just refused to take some men refused to take women seriously.

J Jimmy Carper 21:27

Oh, I know.

S Speaker 2 21:28

And I was having a hard time getting people to take me serious in the studio, and a lot of my production because they would look at me, and I'd be in drag. And they say, you don't know, you know, she don't know what she's doing. You know, and he really used to hurt a lot.

J Jimmy Carper 21:42

I can't imagine anyone saying that to you.

S Speaker 2 21:44

Oh, well, they don't see it anymore. I'm the one pay live video but but you know, at one time, it would go on like that for a while I couldn't get people to work with me. They were too busy. You know, put cut me down. I was saying, you know, he don't, you know, he don't know what he's talking about a shield or she's talking about. And it really made me it started, you know, breaking my self esteem.

J Jimmy Carper 22:03

It's got it's the only thing I can think of is jealousy. Because because I have seen you perform, and you are very professional, and very real. And very talented.

S Speaker 2 22:16

Well, thank you, you know, and I hope that that I hope that shows up on the new album, I've got a 12 songs that I'm going to be on the CD, one that were actually 13 the 13 songs gotta be the song, I'm going to release a single. And it's going to be the first one or at least as a dance

single. I'm gonna test to test the waters and see how well it's gonna do. And then remember, slowly, I'm going to release a piece, you know, I think a lot of time. Yeah. And see how well it does. And then if everything goes well, with that, I'm going to tour if it doesn't, if it doesn't go, well, even if it doesn't go that well. I'm still going to try to get on the road and try to tour and push up, you know, get back off here.

J Jimmy Carper 23:02

Good, you haven't toured in a long time?

S Speaker 2 23:04

No, I really haven't. And I really, really, really miss it. Yeah, you know, so I'm dealing with and you know-.

J Jimmy Carper 23:12

Sometimes, you know, you're an expert if you're from out of town, so-.

S Speaker 2 23:17

Well, I'm gonna tell you something touring. Now, a lot of people don't believe this. But to me and to other people in the industry. The people that sing in the studio now I was a backup singer for a long time. But the best experience, the best experience entertainer is one that has toured, that's true. When you have tours, you have almost none at all, because when you've traveled in tours, there's no place you can feign there are some things they can only sing in the studio. Yeah, but when they get in the live performance, they sound I mean, they don't tell worth a damn, that's right. You know, but they got some that have toured and toured and toured and to look at look at erasure and look at look at look at how the stuff used to do. Yeah, that's all he did was tour.

J Jimmy Carper 23:59

That's wow, that's that's the difference between being a studio singer and an entertainer.

S Speaker 2 24:04

Right. Right.

J Jimmy Carper 24:05

Yeah. Yeah. Because you're working with the audience.

S Speaker 2 24:09
I'm so glad to hear you, though. Whether it was a spur of the moment that I called you.

J Jimmy Carper 24:13
Well, I'm glad you did.

S Speaker 2 24:14
I had company and I say, Well, let me call the studio, and how they're doing a KPFT.

J Jimmy Carper 24:19
We are doing just fine. And we look forward to your music.

S Speaker 2 24:23
Yes.

J Jimmy Carper 24:25
And I'm glad to see that you've kept your dream.

S Sarah DePalma 24:29
Or you know, I think I think I don't think I could ever let go those dreams right? It's a part of me. Now the only thing I do miss there was a girl nah, yeah, I've got two new girls I have Madonna still with me. Oh, good. Brenda, I tell you something with a new band. And it's Madonna. And we have this other girl named Cena and it is It's a different approach this time. Well, good things a little different.

J Jimmy Carper 25:03
So well, thanks for calling.

S Speaker 2 25:05
Yes. Thank you.

J Jimmy Carper 25:06
And wait to hear your new your new music.

S Speaker 2 25:09
I'll get it to you as soon as possible.

J Jimmy Carper 25:11
Okay, and I'll play it just as soon as you get it to me.

S Speaker 2 25:14
Thank you.

J Jimmy Carper 25:15
Thank you Treme.

S Sarah DePalma 25:18
This is KPFT in Houston ke O 's College Station,

J Jimmy Carper 25:23
You're listening to After Hours queer radio with attitude. That Treme. Treme has been around for quite a few years. But on the show many times. You know how Harvey Milk always talks about hope?

S Sarah DePalma 25:39
Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 25:40
Treme talks about dreams, and how important it is to have dreams and to keep them.

S Sarah DePalma 25:47

I heard that in her voice. I feel impressed with us. So many people don't have any kind of a golden dream now that it's important.

J Jimmy Carper 25:57

And Treme is a very, very talented artist. And I just you know, I can't wait for the new music to come out. You know, that just cannot have enough turn a shirt on music.

S Sarah DePalma 26:13

I'm looking around. I was thinking Do we have some place? Do we ask Do we have any? Any replay afterwards?

J Jimmy Carper 26:18

The The only thing I have right now is? Let's play this.

S Sarah DePalma 26:22

Yes. Gonna say let's put some on it just to correct that. Well, if we've got some let's do this. Don't don't mind us. This is live radio and Jimmy is digging for a piece of music. So okay.

J Jimmy Carper 26:42

Should I do this, especially for after hours? All you long term fans have heard it many many times. So here it is. One more time. Oh, yeah. Treme did that that live in studio.

S Sarah DePalma 27:04

When that cuts off? You're not kidding. Really cuts off?

J Jimmy Carper 27:07

Well, yeah, it Wow. Because it you know, I had it, I got it from the tape and I put it on the cart. And so we play that constantly. And I look, just imagine, just imagine that a lot faster. That might give you a little idea of of Treme's new music.

S Sarah DePalma 27:25

Sounds interesting. Yeah. We'll just go back and to talk about Beth a little bit.

J Jimmy Carper 27:29
Okay.

S Sarah DePalma 27:31
One of the most requested pieces that I get people want to want to know, how did they get a copy of best email. Now, the story behind this is what Beth works for. I'm not going to mention the company but the company she worked for as an email process. And in this little segment, Beth talks about how she handled her employer. And behind that there's going to be a little a short pause is one or two second pause. And then we're going to play a piece of music that I have yet as many requests for is anything we were putting the show. And I didn't have it. This is a piece of music that Beth brought with her. And it's Bobby McFerrin doing the Wizard of Oz.

J Jimmy Carper 28:11
Yes, yes, yes. And I have been searching for this piece of music ever since.

S Sarah DePalma 28:16
Well, I don't know where Beth found it. It's it's actually I believe that she said it was on a CD for about the age quilt. It was a tribute to the age cult or something like that. But anyway, so this is Beth talking about how she handled her employment. And then right behind that this is maybe a two second pause. And then there's Bobby McFerrin doing the Wizard of Oz. Okay, so now you've got the definition resolved.

E Elizabeth Richards 28:46
And so, you know, here it is, an hour later, I'm sending that letter, it goes out to the 15 people in my hallway, at the same time, and it says to group members copied to my HR rep. From my email address, which included that name I don't particularly use anymore. And the subject line was time for a change... I'd written a letter, but I hadn't written the subject line segment. Oh, God, woman. And date Wednesday, June 14 '95, one 1.6 PM. So it's been two days and a half days since the first people this was in the world, my employer. And here goes and says, no, no, the first paragraph was the one that they had me add, and all the rest of it says I've requested management's approval to communicate this information via email. I've chosen to send this information via email in order to allow you the freedom to consider this information private, as well as to communicate with everyone approximately simultaneously. It's a belief of mine when personal life is best left out of the office must somehow affects the office environment. I have a personal issue which I'm dealing with, which will affect our ongoing person As long relationships as we work together in the lab and in this hall, so I need to let all of you know what's going on. On Monday morning, 19 June, when I come to work, I'll be coming as a woman, I've had my name and gender identification legally changed. Now already living with a woman socially and has been for some time, it's come to be the time to make this change at first because well, my legal name is Elizabeth Richard, I find it jarring to still hear people coming from my old name, rather than Beth. I've given me no reason in the past, past for me to expect to hear anything

but that it's time to change that. I'm sure some of you will find it jarring to refer to me using the feminine pronouns and to call me by my name, I truly hope we can all get used to the new situation quickly and hard to offend and occasional slips won't offend me at all. As long as we're trying together. I can never know what others expect or don't expect from these kinds of transitions. But one thing you shouldn't expect is to see RuPaul and Dame Edna or any of those other media stars, for a difference in the standard gender, gender situation. It's my goal in all this to become comfortable in my gender identity and roles, and not at all that stand out if you sensational, I am an always will be simply someone's doing what she has to do to get through life with honesty, integrity, and some amount of happiness. I don't feel as if I've been particularly in your face about any of this and don't intend to be. But at the same time, I felt that I've been fairly open with anyone who cares enough to ask the question. And recognize that this is somewhat unusual situation. And I'm sure that there'll be some questions. Any honest questions will be that was an honest answer. Please don't hesitate to ask, we can all learn from you. And telling you this information, I've changed something about you. I've changed what you know, I haven't changed me. I'm still the same person. I've always been. I've enjoyed working with all of you. And I hope our relationships have changed only for the better by how you're having this more accurate information about who I am. Thanks for your patience and understanding that.

S

Sarah DePalma 32:03

Now what is the reaction? Is there been any negative reaction at all?

E

Elizabeth Richards 32:07

Well, like I hit the return key on sending this thing and walk down the hall to my secretary's office, because my boss told me, she'd have all the paperwork in my mailbox name, business cards and all that, on the way down to her office. One person who was just coming out of his office, obviously, having read the letter, looked up at me and smiled, said, Hi, Beth. Wow. And I walked into her office, and she had it up on the screen. And I see you reading my letter, and she's like, Oh, yeah. I'll let you finish. So she says that. And she says, Oh, if I do, and I said, Well, we got to do this paperwork stuff. So she pulls out all the forms. We sit down, we fill them all out. And she's done with that. And she says kind of questions with it. Yeah, sure. We talked a little bit about what living full time was for and how long it be, as the minimum requirements, you know, the bending standards for surgery and that kind of thing. And whether I really intended to do that, or just what we talked about all that kind of stuff, maybe 10-15 minutes. And I said, Can I ask you a question? And she said Fair's fair. And she said, as I said, You got to tell me, was this a surprise? And she said, Oh, I cannot lie. No, not at all.

S

Sarah DePalma 33:24

Then you said you were oh, by the way, I'm still legally married. I want my kids covered on insurance.

E

Elizabeth Richards 33:29

Well that came the next morning when the HR rep called back and said We have found a

Well, that came the next morning when the HR rep called back and said, we have found a snag. I said, What's that? And she said you're driving the benefits people loony? I said how so? And she said, Well, you're legally female. Because your spouse legally married. You don't know what to do about to legally married female that partners computer system real bad? I said yes, that's true. And you do intend to remain married. Wait, a lot of work in this country is once you're married, the only people who can make you unmarried is you and your spouse. So until further notice, neither of us intend to not be married. So we're entitled all those legal benefits with any other spousal parents. So for all the people out there who's in fighting for same sex marriages, hey, we got one it's legal. It's been around already for six months and we're not seeing in the foreseeable future. So-.

S

Sarah DePalma 34:26

Phyllis and her wife has been married for on for I would give at least 10 years and their marriage is certainly legal and certainly has endured. So there you go.

J

Jimmy Carper 34:44

If ever anybody deserves applause, I'm telling you that's Bobby MC Baron.

R

Roy McCarthy 34:50

I think that guy saying the word be happy one too many times that it got to him.

J

Jimmy Carper 34:55

Isn't that terrific, though? I mean, it was all his voice. All of that. So when did he take? I mean, what did he breathe? I mean, it's just

S

Sarah DePalma 35:04

Well, the thing about Bobby McFerrin is he's a one person symphony. Yes. I mean, I've heard a couple of his albums where he just does some incredible things. But that really.

J

Jimmy Carper 35:15

That really is and so this was like a benefit and aids benefit. He did. I think so-.

S

Sarah DePalma 35:19

I don't know if Beth is listening tonight. But if she is, give us a call and let me know what that CD is.

J Jimmy Carper 35:27

I know she's told me before but and I never wrote it down.

S Sarah DePalma 35:29

I think she said it was for the something to do with the quilt. But that's I and I have had so many people call me and ask me, where did where did I get it? I didn't get it. That was best. So thank you, but that was a heck of a piece of music.

J Jimmy Carper 35:45

But Bobby McFerrin is a friend of the gay community. He's, he's, he sings once a year, he does a concert with the Seattle Gay Men's Chorus.

S Sarah DePalma 35:53

Is that right?

J Jimmy Carper 35:54

Yes. Yes.

S Sarah DePalma 35:55

You know, here's there's a guy who's it's unfortunate. He's known for this wimpy little facade.

J Jimmy Carper 36:00

I know. And I worry.

S Sarah DePalma 36:02

And it's a shame because he's really a talented man.

J Jimmy Carper 36:07

I remember when when that played this I was it just blew my socks off. And I could not believe it was Bobby McFerrin could not believe it.

S

Sarah DePalma 36:15

That's all one person.

J

Jimmy Carper 36:16

Yeah. And since then, I've learned a lot more about this very, very talented man.

S

Sarah DePalma 36:20

Yeah. Well, okay, let's move on to a little different show. Okay. Another show that we that we did had to do with legal rights. Oh, and that was a show that we had with Ray Hill, and Dee McKellen. Oh, yeah. What a great show. And I still think that that ranks is one of the top two or three programs that we've done in the two years that we've been on the year. First of all, I think it's a piece of history to get Ray Hill in here and talk about that stuff in the first place. Yeah, no kidding. And then to get Dee McKellar in here and to talk about