

**NARRATOR:** The sound of Texas.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**JIMMY:** And you are listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. That was *Pat and Rosie's Night Sounds*, heard about the same time tomorrow night. Those last two songs you heard-- the first was Hedwig. It's from *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, "Origin of Love." Thank you, Stephen, for providing that for us.

And brand new from Alan Reade, it's called "The Babble Chat." It's kind of performance art CD that I got from him. He sent it to me. And if you like that, you can go and check it out at [www.alanreade.com](http://www.alanreade.com). That's A-L-A-N R-E-A-D-E, [alanreade.com](http://alanreade.com). That cut was called "The Babble Chat."

And on the phone right now, we've got Dean Becker from *Cultural Baggage*. Had their first nighttime show last night, and he's got some news about medical marijuana.

Dean.

**DEAN BECKER:** Hey, Jimmy, how are you tonight?

**JIMMY:** Fine. How are you doing?

**DEAN BECKER:** Oh, I'm doing well. Doing well.

**JIMMY:** Good.

**DEAN BECKER:** I've been listening in.

**JIMMY:** The team group is quite wild, aren't they?

[LAUGHTER]

**DEAN BECKER:** I mean, you said it. That's right. That's for sure. It was great to see you last night. Yeah. My first show at night, I really enjoyed it. Next week-- I mean, excuse me, I have a two-week cycle. We'll have Sanho Tree come on and tell us about his recent trips to Colombia.

**JIMMY:** Great.

**DEAN BECKER:** But today, I was going to concentrate on-- I don't know, some news that I found rather astounding, having to do with Christians for Cannabis.

**JIMMY:** What?

**DEAN BECKER:** And there are several outfits around the country that they see these drug laws as doing more harm than the drugs themselves.

**JIMMY:** Wow.

**DEAN BECKER:** And the Christians for Cannabis is the foremost outspoken among this group. And they describe their mission to provide encouragement, support, and prayer for cannabis users. And this is not the only religious group to do this.

The Presbyterian Church, the Unitarian Universalist congregations at the Philadelphia yearly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and the Progressive Jewish Alliance are among those that do support a call to redirect our efforts against drugs and drug users.

Now, these organizations all make clear that their opposition to current drug policy is based not on support for drug use but out of belief that the war on drugs has done more harm than good and that it's essentially immoral. Now, the war on drugs has been an abysmal failure in any practical sense.

The number of people who are being victimized by the war is fairly awful. And that's a quote from Thomas Jeavons, the General Secretary of the Philadelphia Religious Society of Quakers. So it's getting diverse when the Quakers are standing up. It makes you wonder who's actually for this war.

We have the posturings of Bush and Ashcroft and so forth and proclaiming themselves to be such great Christians. But anyway--

**JIMMY:** Yeah. Good point. Good point. There's more and more people understanding all of the lies that have been told for so many years. And we're wondering, who's on the other side now?

**DEAN BECKER:** There's very few that they're willing to stand up. I mean, on my show, we beg for cops or representatives of DA officers or DEA or anybody to call in and substantiate why they do what they do. And of course, no one dares to stand and proclaim why.

Kevin Zeese, a friend of mine, president of Common Sense for Drug Policy. And speaking of this, he said that the policy of treating drug abuse as a criminal issue is responsible for the misuse and the spread of HIV and AIDS because needles are banned. And Houston is the biggest city in the world that does not have a needle exchange program.

**JIMMY:** That's right. That's right.

**DEAN BECKER:** It's just awful. These overdose deaths and so forth that people get because they get drugs, they don't know what's in the bag, they don't know if it's cocaine or heroin. We had a situation here last year where-- was it 15 children died or young adults died one weekend because they were shooting up heroin. They thought it was cocaine.

**JIMMY:** Oh. Ouch.

**DEAN BECKER:** Yes. Now, what these leaders of the Universalist church and so forth are going to do is try to engage other Christian leaders who say they favor the current policies. And they want to get them in a debate. And again, you cannot hardly get these drug warriors to debate. But people often justify this war by saying drug use is immoral.

And it's just not what Jesus said. Jesus said it's not what goes into a person but what comes forth from their actions and their efforts. And I don't know what else to say. But marijuana is a medicine. It's been proven by every report issued since 1890. And somehow, the US government just cannot read the page. They seem so unwilling to change.

**JIMMY:** Do you think there's a lot of pressure from the alcoholic lobby groups?

**DEAN BECKER:** Oh, Jimmy, I think there are four main groups that love this war. And that's, well, the oil industry because we can replace much of our oil usage by making hemp oil from the hemp plant.

**JIMMY:** Yeah, that's true.

**DEAN BECKER:** I've heard it said that if you grow 6% of America's arable land with cannabis, you can tell the OPEC nations to go to hell because we could make our own fuel. The alcohol, tobacco companies, major contributors to the ONDCP and the PDFAD, the government-affiliated offices that run this drug war that produced the ridiculous ads that we are forced to watch.

And the pharmaceutical companies, of course, don't want to compete with our gardens either. And those are four of the major contributors to every politician in America.

**JIMMY:** That's right. That's right. Yeah. Wow. Those are pretty tough opponents.

**DEAN BECKER:** You bet you butt. Every day it's being proved more that they have no leg to stand on, no ammunition left in their belt, and that there's time to knock them over. Starting this Thursday, myself, some friends from the Drug Policy Forum from Normal, we'll be going to different neighborhoods in Houston, handing out literature, booklets, trying to get other people involved, and to build a bigger mass to stand against this war and to bring it to a sooner a conclusion because again, they have no ammunition. It's time.

**JIMMY:** Yeah. It is time. Great. When's the next time that *Cultural Baggage* will be on Friday night?

**DEAN BECKER:** OK, it will be almost two weeks. It will be July 5, and it'll be at midnight again. We'll have *The Prison Show*, Amy Goodman in *Democracy Now!* And then we'll come on with Sanho Tree. And Sanho is an expert on Central and South America. He spoke recently at the International Drug Conference at the Baker Institute at Rice University. Very well respected.

And he'll be coming back from Colombia to tell us what he's learned down there with the election of Uribe as their new president, whose campaign manager is a major drug exporter for Colombia. And he was favored by the US, of course, because, I guess, they want to focus all their eggs in one basket. They got a good exporter down there, and they're going to take good care of him.

**JIMMY:** OK. Well, Dean, thanks for calling in with this week's edition of *Cultural Baggage*.

**DEAN BECKER:** Well, you bet, Jimmy. I appreciate your show, and I'll be talking to you soon.

**JIMMY:** Thanks a lot.

**DEAN BECKER:** All right.

**JIMMY:** Bye.

**DEAN BECKER:** Bye-bye.

**JIMMY:** OK. You are listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. I talked at the beginning of the show, and I'm going to repeat it, that I got an email from one of my favorite lesbian artists, Christy Claxton. She's local, of course. And she lives in La Grange, so she can spend equal times in Austin or Houston.

And she sent me an email that she had just been nominated for the 2002 Lesbian Pride Musician Award from the Stonewall Society for her song "Possibility." And she wanted to know, could I ask you to announce that folks, log on to stonewallsociety.com, and vote.

She's one of the four nominees, which is an honor in itself. But what an honor it would be for Texas to have a winner. You bet it would be. At stonewallsociety.com, Christy Claxton, the song is "Possibility." You've heard that many times. I'm going to play something from Christy Claxton, and it is not "Possibility." It's a dance remix version, believe it or not, of one of my favorite songs by her, "Best Loved Girl." And you're listening to it on *After Hours*.

Yes, Christy Claxton with the dance version of "Best Loved Girl." All right.

**JUDY:** Where do you vote for that again?

**JIMMY:** Where do you vote for that again? Yes. Yes, I heard you say that. That is stonewallsociety.com.

**MAN:** Damn, she's good.

**JIMMY:** Yes, she is good. Lesbian Pride Musician Award, let's stonewallsociety.com, and vote for Christy Claxton. Coming up at 3:00 AM, I have my annual history of the Stonewall riots. Folks, this is why we march down the street every last weekend in June on a Saturday night at 8:45. And this is what happened. This is interviews with people who were at the Stonewall riots.

Now, most of them-- a lot of the people who were there, they're not with us anymore. But this interview was done in 1986. And so for something that happened in 1969, people were still around. It even interviews the sergeant who was in charge of the police that came to the Stonewall when that riot happened.

We've got some music and some stuff going on. I've got folks here in the studio. Yeah. Yeah, David's here. Hey.

**DAVID:** Hi.

**JIMMY:** Hey, you still there.

**DAVID:** We even have a Starfleet officer in the lobby.

**JIMMY:** I saw her.

**MAN:** Him.

**JIMMY:** Him. Yes.

**DAVID:** It's a him.

**JIMMY:** Yes, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Yes, yes. We've got--

[DOOR OPENS]

Bobby's here? Bobby's here, OK.

**BOBBY:** Still here.

**JIMMY:** Judy dropped by from Gulf Coast Archives and Museum.

**JUDY:** Et cetera, et cetera.

**JIMMY:** Et cetera, et cetera, yeah. I mentioned something about-- yeah, have a seat. Because I mentioned something about the fundraiser on Wednesday early on in the show, the Comfort and Joy Production. But I know you've got a lot more details on that.

**JUDY:** Oh, I have some wonderful details on that.

**JIMMY:** Yes.

**JUDY:** It's going to be Wednesday night, curtains at 8:00. It's a comedy with a gay theme, including a little fairy who flirts or flits around the stage all evening long. Well, he does some flirting, too. Let's face it. But anyway, it's a wonderful show. It's kind of had its ups and downs this week, but we're ready for Wednesday. And in addition--

**JIMMY:** But you've got everything you've always wanted.

**JUDY:** Oh, absolutely.

**JIMMY:** Gay men and overbearing mothers.

**JUDY:** It's got gay men. Hey, it's even got a pregnant sister.

**JIMMY:** Whoa.

**JUDY:** What can I say? And a straight brother.

**JIMMY:** Well--

**JUDY:** Try it anyway. Curtain is it 8:00. Tickets are \$20. They can call me if they want to make reservations.

**JIMMY:** And what was that number?

**JUDY:** 713-227-5973, number 1.

**JIMMY:** Yes.

**JUDY:** Yes. You don't even have to listen to all that message. As soon as it starts talking, just hit that 1.

**JIMMY:** Yep.

**JUDY:** And in addition to that, we have a little mini exhibit over in the theater lobby where you can see all kinds of little glitzy and glittery things and read all kinds of information, pick up some paraphernalia. And we'll be having a silent auction in the lobby that night as well.

So it's going to be a very exciting evening. And the proceeds from the benefit will be split between GCAM, and that's Gulf Coast Archive and Museum. Somebody came in tonight to the party and wanted to see GCAMs and Goebbels.

**JIMMY:** [LAUGHING]

**JUDY:** Excuse me? Anyway, he didn't see either way. Well, he did say GCAM. He said and he saw a lot of the Goebbels, too, because we were all there.

**JIMMY:** Yes, yes, yes.

**JUDY:** But it's going to be a lot of fun. And Pride Committee is the other recipient of this fundraiser.

**JIMMY:** And tonight, you had a cast party.

**JUDY:** Tonight, we had a cast party over actually at the museum to show all these nice people, who will be giving their time freely on Wednesday evening, exactly what it was they were trying to help us preserve. And it was a very nice party. Everybody seemed to have a good time.

The director was there, and the president of the theater board was there. And the box office-- she's a board member. I don't know exactly what her title is. She was there, too.

**JIMMY:** Great.

**JUDY:** Hi, Doris, if you're listening.

**JIMMY:** Hey, Doris.

**JUDY:** And Elvin, he's the president.

**JIMMY:** Yes, I saw him.

**JUDY:** And actually, Elvin and Doris are the ones who kind of instigated this whole thing.

**JIMMY:** Really?

**JUDY:** And Paul Hager was the director. Yeah. So--

**JIMMY:** And they're not even gay.

**JUDY:** Well, that's true. That's true, too. Hey, but it works out. But they put up with people like me all the time, so you know, what can I say?

**JIMMY:** Well, we're talking about history. And we're talking about the history of the Stonewall riots coming up at the top of the hour. But we also have somebody here, sitting right next to me, who will be taking over the reigns of all that we do soon.

**DAVID:** Not personally.

**JIMMY:** Well--

**JUDY:** Well, close enough.

**JIMMY:** David-- yeah. David, you're a member of HATCH.

**DAVID:** Yes, for two years, some months.

**JIMMY:** Yeah. And--

**DAVID:** It's kind of daunting thinking like, oh, he's taking the reins of the community and bringing it on. And then you think about, wow, I wonder what one of my friends are going to end up being on the weather show, and who's going to be on the like the threesome show and all that stuff?

**JIMMY:** Yeah, yeah. It is.

**DAVID:** Thinking about the future of the people you know, that's--

**JIMMY:** Well, then--

**JUDY:** I like a man who plans ahead.

**JIMMY:** See, which one of you is going to take over presidency of the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus?

**JUDY:** Angie Cam.

**JIMMY:** Angie Cam. Yeah, who's going to-- yeah. We're old. [LAUGHS]

**JUDY:** We're ready to retire and let the kids take care of us. Trust me.

**JIMMY:** Yeah, yeah, take care of that museum.

**JUDY:** That's right.

**JIMMY:** Find it a new home, all of that kind of good stuff. It's part of what I really like about having HATCH segment on is that I'm watching the future.

**DAVID:** I kind of want HATCH to go visit the museum and everything.

**JUDY:** So do I. Just call me.

**JIMMY:** That is a wonderful idea.

**DAVID:** I remember y'all came. And it was like, oh, museum people. Oh, he's kind of weird. Oh, wait, this is interesting. Then I learned that you had a radio show.

[LAUGHTER]

**DAVID:** It's like, wow. And it was so neat. And then I found out like one of the facilitators was once *ÆWIT* cover boy, so--

**JUDY:** Ooh.

**DAVID:** Yeah.

**JUDY:** I bet we have it there.

**DAVID:** Yeah, and I was like, hmm.

**JIMMY:** Yes, we have folks to it.

**DAVID:** Yeah. I couldn't find anything online. So I guess, I have to go there to see what he used to look like at 23.

**JUDY:** Something very exciting about the museum if I can brag for a minute.

**JIMMY:** Please do.

**JUDY:** I got an email from a gentleman in Kingston University in Canada, in Ontario. He was doing some research. And someone had told him about a story they had read in the *TWiT*. And I believe it was like 1989 or something like that. And he had the person who'd written it. And he thought it was pretty close on the date of the *TWiT*.

And he wanted to see if we could locate this for his research. Someone had told him that it was in Houston. So he called. He called someone to see about the *TWiT*. And they said, well, they don't exist anymore, but GCAM might have it. So sure enough, the very next day, I emailed that copy of that article to him for his research paper, for his dissertation.

And I was really excited about being able to help him. In the very next day, Ella Tyler from *The Voice* called because she was doing some research. And she needed some help on town meeting one and zapped off a two-page memo to her. So we're not just there to look at. We're there to remind people, help people out, and let people come in and do some research. We're not totally set up for it, but we're getting there.

**JIMMY:** We're getting there. Yes. Bruce has set up-- actually, just this week, set up computers over there, so we can do inventory.

**JUDY:** That's right.

**DAVID:** Are you going to try to scan everything and go digital?

**JIMMY:** Actually, that's another thing that is done.

**JUDY:** It started.

**JIMMY:** Yes.

**JUDY:** Yeah, but it's--

**DAVID:** Because everything is in a paper copy, you know.

**JUDY:** Yes. [LAUGHS]

**DAVID:** Every once in a while, you hear the story, it's like the only known copy was flooded or got burned down. It was like, yeah. I want my--

**JUDY:** It's true.

**DAVID:** My community needs a past if it's going to have a good future because I don't want to start all over again. That's a lot of work.

**JUDY:** That's true. You don't want to repeat it.

**JIMMY:** Bruce is the chair of the organization, just wrote a computer program so that we can put photographs up and--

**JUDY:** And copy protect them.

**JIMMY:** They're copy protected. It has GCAM written on them.

**JUDY:** Like your driver's license, kind of.

**JIMMY:** Yeah, very much like that. Dalton DeHart is a gay man in Houston who takes photographs of every gay event. You probably have seen him, tall, older guy.

**DAVID:** All the time, like across road, Volvo, HATCH, everything.

**JIMMY:** He's got like 250,000 pictures that he is going to donate to GCAM. And we're eventually going to put them all online. And you'll be able to see the photographic history of Houston, at least from the time he started taking pictures, which is about 1987 until now and then the future. And they're all going to be protected.

**JUDY:** And the wonderful thing about this program too is that there will be a section under the picture where we will be able to identify them all. But if you know anything about somebody in it or when the picture was taken or something, you can type it in. And you don't even have to ID yourself.

And yes, it is protected against certain words and phrases. But for the most part, we'll get some pictures. And more than one person can do that because you can come back and say, no, that's not John Doe. It's Steve Smith. And eventually, we'll figure out who they are.

**JIMMY:** Very proactive stuff.

**JUDY:** And you can ID it that way, yeah.

**DAVID:** That reminds me of that picture of that sailor, that nurse in New York City on V-day. I don't remember if they ever identified who that was.

**JIMMY:** No.

**DAVID:** I think they have rumors and everything.

**JIMMY:** Yeah, but they never did.

**JUDY:** That's kind of neat.

**DAVID:** I'm just thinking, we probably have a whole lot of those. And the mystery of, do I know them, could I know them?

**JUDY:** That's right.

**DAVID:** It has a lot of romanticism to a lot of--

**JUDY:** That's right. It's true.

**JIMMY:** And we're going to be doing that and doing a whole lot of other things. There's been talk. Depending on the amount of volunteers that we get, we'd like to put all of the passed voices up on--

**JUDY:** That takes person power.

**JIMMY:** It takes person power. And it's going to take a little bit of money, too, for the room to put it all up there. But--

**JUDY:** We can do it.

**JIMMY:** I think this is very important, especially for people who want to research early gay Houston or what was going on.

**JUDY:** Absolutely.

**DAVID:** I mean, I could-- if there was just a CD that had like a big chunk of that on there or just a CD full, I mean, I just love to go through it all.

**JIMMY:** And we've got not only those kinds of things, but we have videos of past pride parades. We've got audiotapes of speeches and early gay performers and all kinds of different stuff.

**JUDY:** We actually have on-- it's on reel to reel. And we're still searching for a machine large enough to accommodate the 7-inch reel. I think it's 7 inch. What we actually have, yeah, town meeting 1 was tape recorded on a big reel-to-reel machine. And we actually have that tape. And we're trying to find the machine where we can transcribe it onto DVD or CD or something.

**JIMMY:** It's going to have to be a home machine because we tried it here, and the speed doesn't match.

**JUDY:** But the important thing is we have it. And somehow, somewhere along the line, we'll get that done.

**DAVID:** Yes.

**JIMMY:** Well, it's 3:01 in the AM. You're listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. I talked with KEOS earlier this evening.

**JUDY:** I heard that.

**JIMMY:** Yes. They were very upset to learn that the hours of *After Hours* have changed because KEOS is only simulcasting *After Hours*. They have their own shows for the rest of the time. And then since we had the time change, yeah, so they've been running this way out for the first hour.

And actually, I don't know if they're picking us up for this third hour now, that we have from 3:00 to 4:00. But I hope so because I'm getting ready to play my annual tape history of the Stonewall riots.

**JUDY:** Send them a copy of it, and they can play it next week.

**JIMMY:** OK. There you go. And this is called "Remembering Stonewall."

**JUDY:** I think forgetting.

**JIMMY:** If you don't know what Stonewall is about, set your recorders right now because this is something that you'll not want to forget. There's a reason that I played this every year because it's good, and it doesn't go out of date.

**JUDY:** Well, you know what they say about those who forget their history or ignore it.

**JIMMY:** Yep, bound to repeat it.

**JUDY:** That's right.

**JIMMY:** OK.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[AUDIO PLAYBACK]

- Today, this white, two-story building across from Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village is a clothing store and a closed Chinese restaurant. 20 years ago, this was the Stonewall Inn. I'm Michael Scherker, and I'm working on the first comprehensive history of the Stonewall riots.

In 1969, the Stonewall was one of the most popular gay bars in New York City and, like all other gay bars, was routinely raided by the vice squad. The patrons of these bars, many of whom were frightened at having their identities revealed, would quietly submit to any orders coming from the police.

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

- I am Gene Harwood. And my age is 80.

- I'm Bruce Merrill.

- He also would like to know what your age is. So you tell him your age.

- My age, 78. Yes.

- I don't know if it's really true. But now, people do refer to us as the two oldest gay men in America. We do, I think, have maybe a record relationship of almost 60 years together.

- Bruce's memory started going bad in 1984. Fortunately, we have our music together, which we've done over the years. We've written any number of songs. Bruce remembers the melodies very well and the lyrics of the songs.

- (SINGING) When you touched me, when you took my hand, something happened I had never mind.

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

And to protect ourselves, we had to act as rugged and manly as possible to get by.

- My name is Randy Wicker. I was the first openly-gay person to appear on radio in 1962 and on television in 1964 as a self-identified homosexual. In the year before Stonewall, people felt a need to hide because of the precarious legal position they were in.

They would lose their jobs. There was a great hostility, socially speaking, in the sense that people found out you were gay, they assume you were a communist or a child molester or any of another dozen stereotypes are rampant in the public media at the time.

- I'm Jerry Fair, and I'm 80 years old. I started a gay lifestyle in 1948 when I was around 39 or 40. At that time, if there was even a suspicion that you were gay, that you were a lesbian, you were fired from your job. And you were in such a position of disgrace that you slunk out without saying goodbye even to the people that liked you and you liked.

Never even bothered to clean your desk, you just disappeared. You just disappeared. You went quietly because you were afraid that the recriminations that would come if you even stood there protested would be worse than just leave.

- My name is Sylvia Rivera. My name before that was Frey Rivera until I started dressing in drag in 1961. There before Stonewall was the harder. There was always the gay bastions on the drag queens, bi, heterosexual men, women, and the police. We learned to live with it because it was part of the lifestyle at that time, I guess. But none of us were very happy about it.

- My name is Seymour Pine. In 1968, I was assigned as deputy inspector in charge of public morals in the first division in the police department, which covered South Manhattan from 38th Street to the battery including the Greenwich Village area. It was the duty of public morals to enforce all laws concerning vice and gambling, including prostitution, narcotics, and laws and regulations concerning homosexuality.

The part of the Penal Code, which applied to drag queens, was Section 240.35, Section 4. Being masked or in any manner disguised by unusual or unnatural attire or facial alteration, loiters, remains, or congregates in a public--

- At that time, we lived at the Augusta Hotel. We sit around, just try to figure out when this harassment would come to an end. And we would always dream that one day, it would come to an end. And we prayed, and we looked for it. We wanted to be human beings.

- My name is Red Mahoney. I've been hanging out drinking, partying, and working in the gay bars for the last 30 years. In the era before Stonewall, all of the boys, 90% of the boys were mafia controlled. They were controlled because the mafia had the right connections. There wasn't that many gay bars.

It had maybe one, two uptown and the Upper East Side. They would get closed down, and there'd be one or two in the West Side, they get closed down. And Midtown, there'd be one, two, three maybe open. As they would get closed down, they'd move around. And they would dump.

- I'm Joan Nestle, co-founder of what is now the largest collection of lesbian culture in the world. The police raided lesbian bars regularly. And they both did it in the most obvious way, which was hauling women away in paddy wagons. But there was regular weekend harassment, which would consist of the police coming in regularly to get their payoffs.

And in the C Colony, we had a back room with a red light. And when that red light went on, it meant the police would be arriving in around 10 minutes. And so we all had to sit down at our tables. And we would be sitting there almost like schoolchildren.

And the cops would come in. Now, depending on who was on, which cop was on, if it was some that really resented the butch women, who we're with many times, very beautiful women. We knew were in for it because what would happen is they would start harassing one of these women and saying, huh, you think you're a man? Come outside we'll show you.

And the woman would be dragged away. They throw up against a wall. And they'd say, so you think you're a man. Let's see what you've got in your pants. And they would put their hand down her pants.

- Stonewall? Oh, that was a good one. That was. Just to get into the Stonewall, you'd walk up, and you'd knock on the front door. You'd knock and the door opened and, hey, what do you want? A Mary sent me good cleaning girls.

When you walked in, to your right was your bathroom, no windows. Down at the far end of the bar was an opening in the wall going into the dance room with the jukebox in that room. And no windows in that room either.

- The Stonewall, like all gay bars at that time, were painted black, charcoal black. And what was the funny part? The place would be so dimly lit. But as soon as the cops are going to come in to collect their percentage or whatever they were coming in for, it being a nice dimly-lit dump. The place was lit up like Luna Park.

- Felt, well, two guys, and that's very often. All we sent in would be two men. Could handle 200 people. I mean, you tell them to leave, and they leave. And you say, show me your identification, and they all take out their identification and file out. And that's it.

And you say, OK, you're not a man, you're a woman, or you're vice versa. And you wait over there. I mean, this is a kind of power that you have, and you never gave it a second thought.

- The drag queen took a lot of oppression. We were at a point where, I guess, nothing would have stopped us. I guess, as they say or as Shakespeare says, we were ladies in waiting, just waiting for the thing to happen. And when it did happen, we were there.

- On Friday night, June 27, 1969, at about 11:45, eight officers from public morals first division loaded into four unmarked police cars. From their headquarters on 21st Street and Third Avenue, they headed downtown and then west towards the Stonewall Inn here at 7th Avenue and Christopher Street. It was the second time the bar was raided that week.

The local sixth precinct had just received a new commanding officer who kicked off his tenure by initiating a series of raids on gay bars. And New York was in the midst of a mayoral campaign, always a bad time for homosexuals. Mayor John Lindsay had good reason to agree to the police crackdown. He had just lost his party's primary and needed a popularity boost. And the Stonewall Inn was indeed an inviting target.

Operated by the Gambino crime family without a liquor license, this dance bar drew a crowd of drag queens, hustlers, miners, and more masculine lesbians known as bull dykes, many were Black or Hispanic.

It was a warm night in New York City and a somber day for many. Judy Garland, who had died earlier in the week, was buried that morning. It was almost precisely at midnight that the moral squad pulled up to the Stonewall Inn, led by Deputy inspector Seymour Pine.

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

- You could actually feel it happening. You really could. I guess Judy Garland's death just really helped us really had faith.

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

- People started gathering in front of the Sheraton Square Park right across the street from Stonewall. People were upset. No, we're not going to go. And people started screaming and hollering.

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

- My name is Robert Rivera, and my nickname is Birdie. And I've been cross-dressing all of my life. I remember the night of the riots. The police were escorting the queens out of the bar and into the paddy wagon. And there was this one particularly outrageously beautiful queen with stacks and stacks of liquors with just tail-style hair. And she was asking them not to push her.

And they pretended to push her. And she turned around, and she mashed the cop with her high heels. She knocked him down, and then she proceeded to frisk them for her keys to the handcuffs that were on them. She got them, and she handed herself and passed them to another queen that was behind her. That's when all hell broke loose at that point. And then we had to get back into the Stonewall.

- My name is Howard Smith. On the night of the Stonewall riots, I was a reporter for *The Village Voice* locked inside with the police covering it for my column. It really did appear that that crowd-- because we could look through little peepholes in the plywood windows, we could look out.

And we could see that the crowd-- well, my guess was within 5-10 minutes, it was probably several thousand people. 2,000 easy. And they were yelling, kill the cops, police brutality. Let's get them. We're not going to take this anymore.

- We noticed a group of persons attempting to uproot one of the parking meters in which they did succeed. And they then used that parking meter as a battering ram to break down the door. And they did, in fact, opened the door.

They'd crashed it in. And at that point was when they began throwing Molotov cocktails into the place. It was a situation that we didn't know how we were going to get.

[END PLAYBACK]