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closet, gay, people, cat, tom, houston, tonight, lives, montrose, coming, society, counseling center, steven, broken, hours, homophobia, good, called, talk, community

SPEAKERS

Jay, Gigi, Kirk Keevert, Jimmy Carper

J Jimmy Carper 00:09

The following program contains language, images of displays or sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable myself. This your discretion is it oh yes you tuned into after hours are continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse. But we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closet. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of a job or frame of mind. That's okay. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after our. Hello, Houston and welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude heard every Saturday night at midnight, right here on KPFT Houston, and KEOS College Station. And I'm Jimmy Carper.

K Kirk Keevert 02:25

And I'm Kirk Keevert. my headphones aren't working. I hate that. Yeah. I mean, they're not working on the hearing. Oh, look. See? There. Thank you. Yeah, it's called vog turn my knob. Oh, yes. Hi. I'm lovely. Thank you. Oh, man.

J Jimmy Carper 02:42

The fat boy ain't here tonight.

K Kirk Keevert 02:47

Oh, Scott Scott.



J Jimmy Carper 02:48
No, he got the emergency call away to the club.

K Kirk Keevert 02:53
Oh, lord knows. There's some dire last minute dire emergency over at over at heaven tonight. They think I think they may have misplaced the copy of turn the beat around. Oh, yeah. See? And that's something Scott's got to be there

J Jimmy Carper 03:12
for. Yeah, they couldn't open the doors. Absolutely. And so that's also among us tonight. Amongst us, Miss Gigi Of course.

G Gigi 03:24
It's fine that night. The Oh, yes. And

K Kirk Keevert 03:27
it's by our night. Well, because we only have two hours time. Yeah. That is true. A little play on words that have done their little play as if it by me two by two hours. By sexual.

J Jimmy Carper 03:41
Oh, he's so click

K Kirk Keevert 03:42
continue on.

G Gigi 03:46
Well, we got a special show tonight. Yes. Coming out. For everybody who wants to and we're gonna have some guests to talk about,

J Jimmy Carper 03:56
no matter what closet you're in this. Right.

G Gigi 03:59

And just let it show baby. All the way like Miss Gigi. Got some folks coming from a mod Montrose Counseling Center. That's one of my favorite places.

J Jimmy Carper 04:11

I know several people are not the people who are going to be here tonight, though. So we get to meet new people. It's a new fun thing for you. Yes, it is.

G Gigi 04:21

And they're gonna give us some tips on all kinds of things like when to come out or how to come out. How to prepare oneself for coming out frame of mind all that good stuff. So I think it's really gonna be super.

J Jimmy Carper 04:39

And we do have this time thing. Yeah, we only have a two hour show tonight. Yeah. And why is that because at two o'clock, two o'clock, it becomes three o'clock, which means

K Kirk Keevert 04:50

we're done. We're done.

J Jimmy Carper 04:54

It's so weird.

G Gigi 04:55

We're spraying it.

K Kirk Keevert 04:56

Well, well, it's well because we had that for our show back six months ago. All right. Bye. Like, you know,

J Jimmy Carper 05:00

I'd like having a four hour show. Well,

K Kirk Keevert 05:02
we talked we used to have a four hour show six years ago, but

J Jimmy Carper 05:05
yeah, go all the time.

G Gigi 05:09
I do like to spring

K Kirk Keevert 05:12
you don't want no. Six years ago. I gotta throw I gotta throw this. Yeah, yeah. Back back. Oh, man, like Good Friday. I think it was somewhere around there. And the weather was just horrible and stuff. Mary didn't make it Mary Martina didn't make it in that morning. I was on vacation or something. I don't know. And they had one of the blues bras. Blues broad sitting in that used to come on after us. No, yeah. Kathleen. Yes. Yeah, I called her up. And I said, Honey,

J Jimmy Carper 05:43
I know. I love her. I really miss

K Kirk Keevert 05:45
her. And I said, I said, You got to play my songs because she used to play the song for me. On my way home. After I would leave her she play. Baby what you want me to do? My favorite blues? Right next to Dr. Long John. play that? She did. She played Dr. longtown on her show. I was I was so proud of her. Honey, I'm just full of stories tonight.

J Jimmy Carper 06:08
Well, good, because we'll have time for you to tell them.

K Kirk Keevert 06:15
As if Scott would feel any actual time No, no, no, no.

J Jimmy Carper 06:20

Anyway, when your guests arrive, we can probably put them right on. Okay, with all the time they need. Because this is an important subject

G

Gigi 06:29

it is I know I went through quite a time coming out a very long period of time. And pretty much did it all on my own with no assistance, as a lot of us have done. But, you know, there are ways to make the process a little smoother. And a more positive experience. Oh, yeah. And,

J

Jimmy Carper 06:53

like we say, coming out covers covers a wide diversity of things. Because I only used to think about coming out in the context of gay and lesbian until one of the programmers here at KPFT years ago congratulated me for giving him the courage to come out as an actor. Oh, wow. It's something that he'd always done on the side, but was kind of ashamed of it. Because maybe, you know, the connotation you have of people as actors or, or maybe he was, he was afraid people might think he was gay because he was an actor or something. But well, you know, or that

K

Kirk Keevert 07:36

are gay actors. I mean, come

J

Jimmy Carper 07:38

on. No, but it's just whatever closet you happen to be in whatever. Well, I think.

K

Kirk Keevert 07:44

I think it's I think it's, I think it's very important to point out here that Mel Gibson has come out as a bed wetter. No, lie, I'm lying, entirely lying, you believe anything?

G

Gigi 07:55

Really, but I think it's important. I think it is important to kind of recognize that we live in a society that does not like differences. Oh, yes, you're right. And that's what makes the closet and

J

Jimmy Carper 08:13

even though it's everyone in society, can look at the gay and lesbian community and realize there are a lot of people there who don't like differences or who are different from them. It's boring with



Gigi 08:29

no one no, I love the diversity.



Kirk Keevert 08:32

Rubber Stamp world. No, thank you.



Jimmy Carper 08:37

I love the diversity bed. wetters of all.



Gigi 08:42

Wildlife golden showers.



Kirk Keevert 08:47

It's so hard to keep a clean



Gigi 08:49

show. Really? Well, you know, whenever. Whenever Miss Gigi comes in, it can never stay to clean.



Jimmy Carper 09:00

Oh, that's right. You have anybody with you tonight?



Gigi 09:03

Yes. Jay is here good in the studio. Good. Good. She'll be joining us in a while. Okay,



Kirk Keevert 09:10

so you mean like in the actual station? Yeah. Okay. Because, because I didn't want to think that you were hallucinating because I don't see you're over there. Oh.



Gigi 09:17

Well, she thought it's part of me. In spirit. It's important. But, and she's she brought a poem tonight. Aha, that's gonna be really, okay. something for the community, part of the whole community first. Coming out everything. Okay. So I think it's got a lot to say. Good. Good. And we brought some music. Special music. Yes.



Kirk Keevert 09:46

Oh, okay. Good. So we have a four hour show to fit in. to two hours.



Gigi 09:52

Oh, it's just one song. But but the words are pretty cool. And I think they pertain



Jimmy Carper 09:57

Okay. Speaking of music, there was some article in one of the latest advocates about the Blue Copper. Blue color. Well, it's blue. At Blue. It's the one about Willie Brown and San Francisco. Well, whatever. Anyway,



Kirk Keevert 10:20

you're behind. I'm sorry. Go ahead.



Jimmy Carper 10:23

A singer that we've been featured here for six months to a year, I guess Steven Karasik. Oh, yeah, I read that he has teamed up with a guy named Shaw, Mel Gibson. Symphony I made that up to show who was from England and is actually has has stuff you know, like, top 40 and stuff really over there. Yeah. So he and Steven are teaming up and doing shows together and stuff to openly



Kirk Keevert 11:04

live nude clubs are no musical stuff.



Jimmy Carper 11:08

It's just all of a sudden, in the past several months. The Jazz Jazz Music has come out of the closet.



Kirk Keevert 11:16

Oh, yeah. Right. You had to be straight man. You had to be straight to do jazz? Absolutely.



Jimmy Carper 11:21

You know, there was a big article about going straight horn who, who wrote all the good Duke Ellington and how he lived openly gay with his lover and so that he gave up fame and fortune. Yeah, he just remained in the background. And it was always been in fact, as a Gillespie was quoted as saying there are no gays and jazz. Hello. That barrier



Gigi 11:52

strike. Like there's exactly, there's no guys and there's no guys and that's just straight with a hair cut like that.



Jimmy Carper 12:06

That's another barrier that's been broken. And, and Ian Shaw and Steven Karasik are two that have broken it. But you know, it's, it's, they're gay, but they are over the head with it. Right because the music is first. And now in Stevens album, which is moods and grooves. He does a great rendition of polka dots and moonbeams he does a lot of his own original stuff. And there's only one song really that you could point to that say it says that it's specifically gay. And of course, it's the one that I like and play you're gonna hear in about 10 seconds



Gigi 12:50

is Lord and Skarmory. Before we play it, I would like to say one thing, okay. And I kind of want to dedicate this show to those courageous people who have come out of the closet, because it takes so much courage to come out to yourself first of all, and then eventually come out to the people around you. Yes. And I think tonight I'd like to dedicate the whole show to those who have come out before us and have paved the path.



Jimmy Carper 13:26

And now Steven Karasik Who do you do? Who Yeah, the smooth sounds of Steven cool whilst I try. You know, they tell us try to be more professional. It does smooth sounds of Steven Qualls. Good doesn't



13:51

work. APFT

J Jimmy Carper 13:55
Okay, some fagot singing Jacks Okay.

K Kirk Keevert 13:58
Lord, Lord, Lord. I'm sorry. I'm just I'm full of it tonight. I'm just vinegar. Your bullet found me. The best way to come up with anyway. Yeah, can I tell you my J story now, please. Oh, God, this was so Jay called me. J is J is my sort of ex I met Jay just before I left Houston. I met him in Austin. At last blush. We talked for about 15 minutes. And he was living in Dallas. I was leaving Houston the following week to move to Denver. Jay and I had like a two year long distance thing. We talked all the time on the phone and stuff j and i j and R is as close as I've ever had to anything like relationship. Oh. So after I moved to Atlanta, Jay hooks up with this guy Tom Hmm, I've mentioned you before that Tom is not the brightest bulb on the market. Right?


J Jimmy Carper 15:06
Right. Right, right.


K Kirk Keevert 15:09
Hey, well now he's Tom, right? No, I don't even think Tom. Apparently Tom is hung like a bear. But to have hidden tail and see and the thing is, well, we'll talk about it. I don't want to get into all that anyway. So, so J and J and Tom so So, J. They had this cap that's sort of the neighborhood cat. But the only people that they really liked in the neighborhood are J and Tom J and Tom live in the house and they take care of the cat and everything thing the doctor when he needs it. Well, he needed something. He had an abscess of some kind. On, on his on his back hip. So they take him to the doctor. The first thing they find out when the doctor X rays the cat, is that the diaphragm? Yes. Well, the cat didn't have one what? The cat doesn't have a diaphragm. How does the cat breathe? No idea that well, and that's what caused all this. The doctor goes, have you noticed that this cat has been breathing kind of funny? And they were like, No, not really. So they took the X rays and I find out number one, the cat has no diaphragm. Number two. All of the cats internal organs are in the area between like, his neck and five inches past his neck. What all of them the heart, the lungs, the intestines, the stomach. Everything is sort of smushed up there.


J Jimmy Carper 16:39
And what's in the rest of them?


K Kirk Keevert 16:41
It's just like, a body or something. I mean, I've always thought it was a skinny cat, but it knows because there weren't any organs there.


I'm not sure which I am I Oh, you're not on


 **Kirk Keevert** 18:57
that one. No, on that one? Nope. That's the one you're on.


 **Jimmy Carper** 19:07
Wow. Are you on that mic? Well,


 **Gigi** 19:09
I have two guests tonight doing Montrose counseling. And then I'd like them to introduce themselves because I'm so terrible on them.

 19:18
This is Shane Hennessy. I'm the therapist and the community educator at the Montrose Counseling Center where United Way funded agency that serves the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities of Houston. Did all that pick up on the mic? Yeah. Oh,

 **Jimmy Carper** 19:32
yeah. Oh, yeah.

 19:33
And I'm Christina Freeman, currently actually doing my internship at Montrose Counseling Center, and I've been there since August.

 **Gigi** 19:41
And we have j with us tonight. I do. Yeah. And she's gonna read a poem for us to kind of kick things off.

 **Jimmy Carper** 19:48
Well, just just to let people know, Gary Norman has been on the show a couple of times. He's from the Montrose Counseling Center and Tom strain is a very good friend of this show. You know, he's still with the center. So what's your, you have a poem?

J Jay 20:08

Yes, I have a poem. And it was written by the feminist writer Marge Piercy. From her book, *The Moon is always female*. It's called the low road. And it just kind of talks about. It doesn't specifically talk about coming out, but it does talk about, I think, an issue of coming out, in that, when you come out, I think you come out from a sense of powerlessness, to a sense of power. And not just you know, with the community, the community empowers you and you empower the community because one person alone has a tendency to be kind of overwhelmed by society at large. Whereas with more people, you get more power. And that's kind of what this poem is about. Okay, it's called the low road. What can they do to you? Whatever they want, they can set you up, they can bust you, they can break your fingers, they can burn your brain with electricity, blur you with drugs till you can't walk. Can't remember, they can take your child while up your lover. They can do anything. You can't stop them from doing. How can you stop them. Alone, you can fight you can refuse. You can take what revenge you can, but they roll over you. But two people fighting back to back can cut through them on a sneak dancing file can break a cordon, an army can meet an army. Two people can keep each other sane, can give support conviction, love massage, hope sex. Three people are a delegation, a committee, a wedge. With four you can play bridge and start an organization. With six you can rent a whole house eat pie for dinner with no seconds and hold a fundraising party. A dozen make a demonstration 100 Fil A Hall 1000 have solidarity and your own newsletter 10,000 power and your own paper 100,000 Your own media 10 million your own country. It goes on one at a time. It starts when you care to act. It starts when you do it again after they said no. It starts when you say we and know who you mean. And each day you mean one more

J Jimmy Carper 22:36

Yes, it does.

J Jay 22:38

Yeah, I thought especially that first part was pretty, pretty accurate that all by yourself, you can't really do anything and they can take your kid away. You know, take your lover away blur you with brains, the blurry with drugs, electricity, that's all stuff that's happened to gays and lesbians, you know, bisexuals train anyone who doesn't fit. And but you know, when you come out, you come out with this community, you can get some power, then you can start doing something about it. So I thought that was pretty accurate.

G Gigi 23:11

And you said you brought something to

23:14

read. Right. I wanted to start off with a reading from a recent book that was published just last year called *coming home to America*. It was written by Tory Osbourne. And the subtitle kind of says that it's a roadmap to gay and lesbian empowerment that that place that sort of spoken

the last piece of your poem. The piece that I'm going to read comes out of the section of a chapter called homophobia is weapon the powerful closet. The knowledge of our potential social ostracism, and an exile from society's mainstream is imprinted early on our souls and gives rise to the all powerful closet. Every gay person believes that defying heterosexual norms will lead to pain, rejection, loss of family and friends and limitations on career and social status. In the past this internalization of negative social attitudes, and our subsequent closeted lives led many of us to suicide and drug and alcohol abuse, low self esteem, difficult with intimacy, sabotage of long term relationships and all too many fragmented and stunted lives at the margins of society. Thanks to the twin transform transformative forces of gay liberation and a new wave of feminism over the past 30 years does wants common stories are finally changing. Although the claws its stranglehold on our lives is steadily loosening, it remains homophobia is basic weapon. What is this powerful force that has rolled so many gay lives that still throttles too many of us psychologically and spiritually? The closet is unique, this institution dominating billions of People's Daily real daily lives, in fact, a metaphor a metaphor for denial and hiding. Although traditionally especially associated To some extent with the notion of privacy, the closet is a fascinating and extraordinary, extraordinarily potent force. That is quite simply a structured lie. Coming out of the closet, then shatters the lie breaks the silence and begins the truth telling that leads to the possibility of a sane and happy life.

G

Gigi 25:21

You know, that kind of reminds me the mechanics of the conspiracy of silence that operates in many families. That also happens at a social level. People turn their backs people won't see won't hear. Right. And that can be it's cutting, if not more, so sometimes. And then outright hatred.



25:49

Well, sure. And I think the base of that the base of homophobia is heterosexism, which is this pervasive belief that everybody is heterosexual. And so it's a mold that has to be broken out.

G

Gigi 26:03

We were talking a little earlier in the show before y'all got up here about coming out and how in our society coming out isn't just for gays, lesbians, transgender bisexuals, it's for just about anybody with differences, because our society seems so keyed in on you've got you know, if you're a little bit different, it's bad.



26:29

I think that's a very good point. And I think it's very important that we remember that and and perhaps we can even role model for others that it's okay to be different and also for our community. Exactly. And as your as your poem so eloquently pointed out, you know, there is power in the masses. Absolutely.