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Mon, Jan 23, 2023 2:06PM 33:06

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

spirituality, people, hear, called, bisexual, bisexuality, book, essays, deb, theater, sexuality, houston, song, read, review, judaism, homosexuals, pagan, interesting, playing

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00:04

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised.



00:40

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their friends. 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 closets. 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 age 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 hours.



02:07

Eu woohoo Hello Houston. And welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude on Jimmy Carter, your producer for the evening and with me is Chi Chi Chi. That's right. It's buying that night. It's been at night. And before we get any further, I want to talk about the music that I play because it is very crucial to the show. Oh, yes. The first song that I played is from a woman who goes by the name of horse and she's from England. She's had she's got several albums out. She's got this wonderful, wonderful smoky voice. And in fact, one of the guys from the last show made me realize who she reminded me of and it's Alison Moyet, who used to sing with the as if you remember back from now, nevermind. Anyway, hoarse and she will be. She will be back in the state soon. If this is from her. This is the song was called somebody it's a it's from her latest album that just came out called with horse with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Ah, and it's interesting listening to it, because it's like 95% of the people in the audience are women who know every song by the second note over there with women, and the second song was from a show that just opened up tonight last night as a matter of fact, here in Houston called Naked boys singing. And yes, it's a musical review with eight candles. Eight naked men singing for singing for you. Yes. It's incredible. That first song was called the very first song that they opened up with it's called gratuitous nudity. Wow. We like that. Yes, it's, you know, I figure since we do nude radio here so much with buying that that would be a great song, you know?

But I do want to talk about the show because it's playing over at the Bienvenu Theater, which is 3722 Washington that's a Washington between heights and Yale. Yeah. Wonderful small little theater. And this is really a fun show at you know you elation park you get over after the first song ever to this night.



04:45

Some people



04:49

say it's, it's just a song about gay men's lives. A couple of really funny funny songs. Ah, what was that one? That perky little porn star which is pretty good and they then have a penis song



05:09

in it songs,



05:11

you know, there's nothing, there's no touching. There's no erections. There's no nothing. It's just you know, but it's a whole lot of fun and I bet they single Well, I'll tell you it's they're going to have an audience that will challenge them soon because the Houston area. No, no, not the bears. It's the Lone Star nudists bought out one performance. Wow. And we'll be watching the show in the news. Cool.



05:37

Awesome.



05:40

That should be fun. Anyway, one of the stars of the show. Well, everybody's a star in the show, but one of them Shawn Carter, who is the president of HD LPC, the caucus, and Mr. BRB this year, he is in this show, he does a wonderful job. He sings one of the more serious songs and Sean's got a wonderful voice. I've been listening to him saying for years now he's been through the cord and, and teach era doing perform performing for fundraisers for yours. Yeah. And now he gets to do it on the stage for real. That's the first time he's ever been in a real show. Wow. Yeah. Cool. Yeah. Anyway, naked voice singing plays every Friday and Saturday night, please go see it. Some of the other things since I'm on that kick. The Bayou City boys club is in conjunction with theater under the stars presents, Aveda. Monday, July the 10th at the word them. So that's a fundraiser for the body positive Wellness Center. There's limited tickets, and they're pricey. But please call 5205253 for reservations or contact your favorite bicycle boys

club member. Don't ever forget theater, New West, which is our second all Queer Theater, the first being the little room downstairs. This is the Joe watch theater. He finally got his own space. It's about time. He's doing fairy tales. And



07:20

we like fairy tale.



07:21

Well, well, not only that, but featuring Keith Caldwell, who has a couple of albums out he's not from Houston. And so I was I was kind of surprised that that it's playing at the New West that Sonoma restaurant 1415 California, it has already opened and it's still going on. So give them a call. 394464 And don't ever forget ever, ever, ever, ever forget. Outlaw queer like Ray Hill. It's it's playing at the Ashman street theater. That's not hard to find. It's 2610, Ashland, Ashland at 26 In the Heights, and tickets are 12 bucks. And it's going on. Oh, gosh. Where are we now? We're into July 1. It's July sixth, a 13th and 15. All eight o'clock. And so don't miss that show. It's I've seen all of his one man performances. And this really is the best one. Wow. Yes. It really, really, really is. And let's see, I guess that's it. Okay. That's all of the theater stuff that I have for right now. And now,



08:40

I'd like to introduce please do I've got over here. We've got Jay Here. And Bill and a few other guests from Binah. Houston. Who do we have? And we've bill and



08:54

J. People. Everybody say hello? Yes. And okay, say hello with your name.



09:03

Oh, I'm J Okay. And have you heard that one?



09:09

Yes, but he needs to get closer to a microphone. Yes.



09:12

And we've got a very special show planned tonight. Yes, we do. We're doing a live interview shortly with Deb Kolodny she wrote while she edited bless it by spirit bisexual people of faith and Jays gonna do a book review on it cool. So it's gonna be kind of a double whammy tonight



09:36

you know just on the off chance I bet this review is gonna be favorable



09:47

just wondering



09:50

just about all Jays book reviews are somewhat favorite. Well, that's right. You know, the best of the buy books. Well,



09:58

they suck. She just doesn't review them. If that's the best way to do it, isn't it? Okay, so while we're while while we're giving Deb a call, let's go to a piece of music and artists that you turned me on to Robin Renee. Oh yeah, her new CD in progress is now out and available. All right. Very, very good. Yes.



10:24

And Robin when I met her at a conference, she is so gorgeous. Oh, and talent



10:30

will see that they have this kind of strange off picture of her on the cover. You can't tell if she's good looking or not.



10:37

Oh, she is a bay.



10:40

Hey, Robin. Renee is so hot. Robin Renee from her brand new CD in progress. I could love you and you're hearing it on after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's coverage?





11:03

Well, that was odd. It showed I still had 25 seconds. Wow. Well, well. Well. Anyway, that was I could love you by robbing Renee off of her brand new CD in progress. Yes. Now we've got Deb on the other line, and we need people who are going to be on the phones need to be wearing headsets? Yes. Because that's the only way you're going to be able to hear her.



11:29

And Jays gonna start with the big review. And we're gonna go ahead and let that listen in to the big review, then bring her on right afterwards.



11:44

So it will be a favor. Is that what you're saying? There? Yeah.



11:52

Well, I didn't want to bring Deb on cold. After Jay did or Vic or the you got it? You know, that's just not playing fair.



12:02

To defend ourselves, to defend yourself



12:05

against Yeah. So what's the book? Well,



12:09

it's called Blessed by spirit. Or blessed by spirit, I guess depending on how you, you know, want to pronounce it. And it's a collection of essays, mostly essays, couple poems, and I think one excerpt from a play about bisexuality and spirituality. And it's mostly Christian and pagan, of few Hindus. No Muslims, they tried to get Muslim people in but didn't work. Jewish people hope I'm not leaving anybody out to Buddhists and stuff like that. And anyway, so they talk about their spirituality and how their spirituality has affected their bisexuality and how their bisexuality has affected their spirituality. And well, just basically, I guess, whatever they want to talk about. The essays are divided into three sections. The first one is about Holy identity by our lives, be we Spirit, Holy identity. The second section is communing with spirit wholeness is holy. And then finally wrestling with spirit who defines holiness. So it's all these ideas of what is spirituality, etc, which, of course, is an interesting concept. I mean, you know, it's spirituality, religion, and the queer community is not always been happy little bedmates there. But so well, it's really interesting, you know, with that background, then it's really interesting to read these

essays. And of course, obviously, the people who aren't spiritual are not going to be writing in right. But to see how deeply these people spirituality has affected their coming out processes. And as I say, in turn, how the coming out process how the fact that being bisexual has affected their spirituality. Um,



14:03

I read the whole book through and was really amazed at how much flow there was between different religions.



14:13

I was Yeah, I was going to talk about that, that it, there seems to be a lot of for the people who find acceptance of their sexuality in their spirituality. They seem to be I guess, a little more open, more fluid in a sense as to who they are and how they identify spiritually. One essay that I read, I just remembering this off the top of my head, she described herself as a Buddhist, Neo pagan, part Buddhist part pagan. Some people are just, you know, Quaker, I'm Jewish, um, but I'm a recovering Catholic, recovering. But there are a lot of people who do tend to have these Well, I'm Christian, with a lot of pagan overtones. or, you know, I'm Hindu coming at it from a Buddhist perspective coming at that from a Christian perspective or something like that is



15:07

so over my head.



15:10

Well, it's really interesting to see how they integrate all these different aspects of spirituality because of their sexuality. Another another theme that I've noticed running through this is the concept of both and as opposed to either or. Yeah, and that really comes from the bisexuality issue. You know, we've talked about this before on the show that a lot of bisexuals you know, it's it's a both and thing. I go out with both men and women or, and intersex or an transgender, whatever, as opposed to either a man or a woman with heterosexuals and homosexuals. So I've kind of noticed, I mean, in some cases, it's a little more explicit. In other cases, it's not but this idea that bisexuality includes both and also carries over to the spirituality. So it's, it's, I don't know, if it's, like hard for them to have just one spirituality, you know, I'm just Christian or something like that. Obviously, some people do. And that's fine. It's great. But they seem to be even if they are just, I'm just Jewish, or something like that. They tend to I'm just Jewish. And I've read some stuff about Christianity and read some Hindu stuff. And I've read some, you know, so it, it seems to be again, with the as with the sexuality, and the spirituality gets to be kind of both and as well. So that's kind of, I guess, what you were talking about, that incorporates a number of different ideas with spirituality? Probably because of their bisexual



16:38

Yeah, it's kind of like, bisexuals tend to be very fluid and their sexual sexuality. And the coming

mean, it's kind of like, bisexuals tend to be very fluid and their sexual sexuality. And I'm saying trend and spirituality.



16:50

So it's just it's really neat. And it's interesting to see how people identify, not identify, define spirituality. Yeah. And, you know, something I've been studying this year. And one thing that I see again, in this book is that spirituality is different from just playing a religion, you know, and so there's, I'm religious, I go to church every Sunday, or something like that. But then there's spiritual, which can be I don't necessarily go to church all the time, but I have a deep relationship, you know, close relationship with God, or the goddess or earth or whatever. Yeah. And so that also kind of tends to come out in here too, is it? Well, obviously, this is a book about bisexuality and spirituality. But that, again, the fact of being bisexual and being kind of on the margins of society has kind of carried over to Well, again, how does that relate to one spirituality being on kind of the fringes so to speak? And so, you know, there's some people who, who, as I say, they're very, in a sense, mainstream Christian, although obviously not with the homophobia in there or anything like that. And then there are some people who kind of pick from a number of different religions and incorporate that into it as well. into like, just one holistic view of their spirituality. So it was it was a really interesting book. I'm finding it very slow reading, because I can't read more than like two essays at a time without having to stop and go, Wow, okay. And part of that is these essays are really long. I mean, man, when these people get going, who want some



18:29

essays really did? Wow, me, I feel the hairs tingling on the back of my neck, I



18:38

was really interesting to see how people's spirituality comes out, you know, um, and again, this is something that we don't really talk about in the queer community because mainstream Christian religions have been so down on homosexuals, bisexuals, you know, anything other than monogamous heterosexuality. Um, so it's really interesting, and really neat. I really liked the book, for the ways in which spirituality manifests itself in people's lives and how it's so important to them. And it's so neat to see that, yeah, you know, and it's, in some cases, it was almost a little uncomfortable for me, you know, because I'm kind of like, wow, this person is really, you know, yeah, really intense or something. And it was, it was kind of a very personal private thing. And also kind of like, wow, I, I don't feel that way. It's amazing. It's somebody else. But it was it was really neat to see that and, and, of course, for the most part, or I shouldn't say for the most part, all of them that I've read so far, and I have to confess I haven't quite finished the book, but all the ones that I've read so far, and I'm assuming the other ones as well is it's not that judgmental kind of religion, either. Yeah. You know, so again, that's something else too. We tend to hear in the context of religion and homosexuality is you hear the condemning all the time and that's According to change now, because the ministers in the congregation who are not condemning of homosexuality are really sick and tired of all those other people speaking for them. Yeah. So they're kind of starting to say, Maybe we should get up and get another voice in there. You know.



20:16

The other thing I found interesting was how different bias approach resolving sexuality and spirituality. And it's really quite amazing. Yeah,



20:28

yeah. Well, for some people, they had noticed some people that had no problems with it's like, oh, yeah, you know, I've always been by always been spiritual, it's no big deal. Let me talk about it, you know, kind of, and there was one, especially that I can't remember who wrote it right now. But um, someone who was raised in a Christian tradition, Christian household and everything like that, who really seemed to have difficulties, you know, coming to terms with her bisexuality, and then how does that have affect her Christianity and her spirituality, and it was just this struggle, and she really manages, you know, I mean, she she gets there, and she's working with it. She's found something that she can she can live with, of course, but the struggle and the pain, you know, that she had to go through and in some cases is still going through is very evident for some people, you know, it's a very joyous and fun thing to talk about.



21:24

And the other thing I found was the beauty that how some incorporated sexuality into spirituality through sacred sex.



21:36

Yeah, yeah, that's something else too. So it's, it's interesting just to see all the different views of spirituality and what exactly that means. Yeah, it was really cool. Just a little note, by the way, is that some of these people, some of the authors are fairly well known authors Lorraine's? Yeah, Lorraine Hutchins had one in there speaking of sexuality, spirituality, about creating sacred Sex and the sacred sex space and stuff like that. Amanda? Otis Kessler, I think is how you say your name. She's in there Canyon. Sam, I've heard the name before and I just the reason why I bring this up is because I happen to Raven caldera who's my man also talks about in there that's one that I finished reading fairly recently talking about Aphrodite. Urania we're just talking about this last night we're beard and Aphrodite who's the aspect of Aphrodite? Who's like the goddess for all of the people on the fringes of sexuality, like homosexuals, transsexuals transgendered, you know, stuff like that, so, yeah, never heard of her before. Wow, cool. And that's why like the turn of the century homosexuals were called your Iranians. Because of that because of Aphrodite. Urania. Because she was the goddess of fringe. I didn't either so I thought that was really cool. It's Raven caldera. Who's a priest priestess. person so anyway, and then some of these people or people well, I've never heard of them, which doesn't necessarily mean that you know, nobody else has but you know, it could just be just everyday kind of people you know, so we have some people who have been very prominent in the BI movement been out there published authors and then regular people as well. So it's it's a really nice mix but Well Shall



23:33

we brings devonne sure you're okay let's



23:37

see if we can do this with our new system new and improved system



23:42

and we hang out that by accident I'll call you right back.



23:47

Another piece of music immediately. What do we do chit chat



23:56

this new technologies



24:03

so reading good books lately.



24:04

Oh, sounds like we're Deborah you there. Hello, Deb. Not orients do you have to do something with this box or no?



24:19

You have to hit conference. Dry that bad be there? I can barely hear you. It may be that he doesn't have the sound turned up yet.



24:32

That someone can hear.



24:33

Speak for a minute



24:41

We're still working with the technological problems. I can just faintly hear your voice just slightly. I'm hearing it over the phone here. Let's Okay. Hey, she hears us loud and clear. Yeah, he's punching buttons. So he's trying to get the they've read down some of the technology here, so he's going to get some help. But anyway,



25:15

Let me down everything here. We don't know what's going on around here.



25:20

Just a minute. Just hold on a sec.



25:24

So meanwhile, we'll have to do idle chatter. And



25:30

Now I hear you really loud.



25:31

Oh, she's on now. Oh, okay, I hear you now on the headset. Good. Got it squared.



25:42

Yes, put that thing on the floor. I



25:44

Gotta put the receiver on the floor. Okay. And now my mic. squawking? Okay. Well, I hope you were able to hear the back review.



25:53

I did. Oh, good.



25:56

God really does good book reviews?



26:00

Well, I don't usually get to talk to the author, I should say, editor. So this should be even more interesting. First,



26:06

on after hours.



26:09

Right? interactive book reviews, might be a first anywhere.



26:15

But I kind of want to get a little background on your spiritual kind of adventures, and in particular, by spiritual matters. Can you give us a little bit of a personal history? How you got into all this?



26:34

Who are? You know? Well, let me let me start at the beginning, I suppose I was raised by devout atheist. And by that I mean, my parents were very strongly committed to the idea that there was no God, that there was no nothing larger than those of us who walked about on this planet on this earth. And when I was 16, I went on an exchange trip to Israel. And I took took a little trip while I was there, to the Western Wall. And I prayed there, and I had no idea what prayer was, and I had never prayed before. But I knew that people did that they went to Israel, and they prayed at the Western Wall, and they put little prayers in the cracks of the wall. And while I was there, I had what I could only call a direct experience of the Divine or God or whatever word people would like to kind of use. And so I didn't come to spirituality from dogma, or from teaching or from a book, or from any kind of framework, I came to it from a very direct experience. It gave me it gave me a very, very deep knowing that we were in fact not alone, there was something far greater than me or humans or even dogs. That kind of began my spiritual quest in general. At that time I was I was 16 years old, I would say I was identifying as compulsorily heterosexual to use an Adrienne Rich term. And I hadn't explored all of the possibilities in my sexual orientation and attractions. And I actually went through a rather winding path to come to where I am today, for the next 16 years about I did do a lot of reading. I read a lot of metaphysics, I read a lot on paganism, I did some pagan ritual, I did some

shamanic work. I worshiped with Quakers for a while. And ultimately, I came back to Judaism, which was my faith of birth, or at least my identity. My parents were not really involved in a safe practice, but they were Jews. Which is what's so interesting about being Jewish, it's not just a religion, it's also



28:58

it's also a cultural thing. zactly.



29:02

So, then, the pro rata long explanation. And I could talk actually, for hours probably about this. So I'll just kind of say a little bit about the by the by piece. And then if you had follow up questions, let me know. For me, it wasn't so much that I came into an understanding of my spirituality. What happened was that I came out as bisexual. When I was about 25, after having identified as a lesbian for several years, and there seemed to be some kind of simultaneous development in me, as I came became aware of my bisexuality, I also came into an understanding of my spirituality. And they were parallel. They weren't intersecting and it wasn't what I'd call by spirituality. I just became aware that my my attractions were both and as you are and that The only way I could understand God was also as a both and as something that was both within us. And outside of us that was kind of theological terms, both imminence and transcendence. And that any faith tradition that didn't acknowledge that couldn't fit for me. So that was around when I was 25. And basically what happened is, as I said, I took this route, a winding path. When I came back to Judaism, what happened was that the deeper I got into my faith practice, the more I found myself mirrored in Judaism, and the more I found the traditions, and the rituals, and even the liturgy, the prayers, help, were able to hold me, all of me all of my wholeness as a bisexual person, in ways that I was certainly not looking for. So it isn't so much that I found a by spirituality, but I found my bisexuality held within Judaism. And I found no contradiction or conflict, which I'm sure from for many people might seem outrageous, or at least, at least as, if not outrageous, at least, strange or unusual. That's it not expected.



31:20

I wonder if that might have something to do with the fact that you were not raised in a strict tradition?



31:26

I absolutely think that it does. I think that anyone raised in fundamentalist ways, in kind of very rigid or strict, interpretive kind of textual interpretive ways would not would have had difficulty finding themselves or would have had to struggle. As you said, some of the authors in the book said, I didn't, I didn't have to do that. I kind of had a freedom.



31:53

Well, one thing too, this found in some of these essays, and in my own spirituality, and this

well, one thing too, I've found in some of these essays, and in my own spirituality, and I've heard this elsewhere, you said that, you know, when you started your spiritual path, you explored a lot of other the pagans, Quakers, things like that. But eventually you came back to Judaism. And I've heard that actually in a number of places that and I think it's, you know, if they're raised more fundamentalist and stuff like that, maybe then their, their birth, religion or whatever, can't quite be so flexible, but a lot of times people and again, in the some of the essays, they talk about doing that wandering and going out, well, I went here and I went there, but then in the end, I came back to who and then But then in their wanderings, they've picked up maybe new ways to see their spirituality, and maybe the bisexuality, you say, it didn't work this way so much for you, but some of the other people talked about that their bisexuality in a sense helped them see their spirituality in a different way. You know, so like you say the both and