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SPEAKERS

Speaker 2, Jimmy Carper, Gigi

 Gigi 00:02

A little bit about what family is all about. family of choice family values, the whole nine yards. Talk a little bit about where you can turn to. Anyway, my first poem, it's called fire light. One Tap cystic upon a hollow log. He sits in the shadows at the edge of the clearing. Day dancing around the fire, a deep chant resonates from his chest. Palmetto close, rattled dry between his legs. It boy fuels the fire, burning a portion of the night. In the darkness, creeps towards the fire, dyeing the wind and circles, the dancing boys. A storyteller enters. As the beat softens. On the log, the dancers never miss a hot breath in twine and wave the magic of tales of nights long ago. Thunder brings up far away/

 Speaker 2 01:28

Oh, is that about a kind of shamanistic kind of thing? Yeah, the drumming in?

 Gigi 01:34

Well, it's, it comes from a time when I was very much into the woods and, and kind of optimist self a lot. My peers didn't quite understand Gigi.

 Speaker 2 01:51

As scientists are still looking into it, I'm sure.

 Gigi 02:01

It captures part of the feeling of, for me, just the whole essence of family of choice, which is somewhat to me primitive, I mean, the first lovers, male and female are is is a very kind of primitive searchings within the work. And so a lot of my early earlier poems kind of reflect some

of that. And I think part of bisexuality for me is it's, it's got a primitive heritage that goes way, way back before even civilization. Many cultures were bisexual. And when humankind was more in tune with the seasons, a lot of times, the men would segregate and the women would segregate and have hot, passionate lovemaking. And then there's the season for mating, and bringing children for and if you didn't pay attention to the season, it could be deadly to the mother and to the child. So, you know, bisexuality, I think served as a healthy outlet to for early humankind to explore their sexuality without some of the dangers. My next poem is called song in the main nets is one of my favorites. And after this, I won't do any more poetry, but I'm in a poetic mood tonight. The campfire within the forest, flames away the hazy darkness. Like a cavern the night hovers in a girl steps from the trees. She knows my yearning to see main night and soars to the silver lining around the main. She dances with the silvery white, doing the maths to me near the flame. The secret entrance opens. body shimmer the clouds depart, revealing fire licks and swirls when tongs cooler next, I opened myself come in a kiss. The main shines her blessing. My silvery shaft of light, merges with semi darkness. We thrust the silver shaft Are we doing innocence brings a tear. In twine, Bay, this warm fluid of silver mainline, we see beyond the whispering stars. When I reach you are here within discover.

S

Speaker 2 05:18

Well, that was pretty much self explanatory.

G

Gigi 05:24

I'll write that shortly after I had my first love experience with both a man and a woman. It was a very profound experience. All of a sudden, I knew where I fit in. How I fit into this world is like, for the first time in my life, I realized who I was. And, and then, ever since then I've just kind of had this calling towards the bisexual movement.

S

Speaker 2 06:07

Yeah, that realization kind of is a good thing. Oh, that's what it is. Okay.

G

Gigi 06:13

I mean, I've slept with men. And I'd slept with women. Before that, but that was the first time I slept with a man and a woman together. And it was very, very spiritual. I mean, in a sense, because I had both the male and the female energy flowing in and through me, literally. And it's like it, it struck the right chord here. I want to kind of move on into the family value thing, because, you know, I guess it's a lot of us grew up who are different, differently oriented? It wasn't always easy going. And I think you've had some pretty rough experience.

S

Speaker 2 07:12

Oh, yeah. It was not exactly. Pleasant. Yeah. You know, I keep trying to look back and say, Was it really that bad? And then go, yeah.

G

Gigi 07:27

I mean, you know, I know, for both of us, part of the equation was being dyslexic and being different in other ways besides sexual orientation. But that I think, also that that difference in sexual orientation was even even if it wasn't picked up at a conscious level within the family. It was certainly I know, in my case, picked up at some levels. I mean, I remember my father trying to, you know, show basketballs into my arms and had me do something with this monstrosity, and. Oh, no. And, you know, he gave me a baseball bat for for birthday one year, and I thought, What the hell do I do? To lop too big. Not quite that bad that are. But, you know, it's stormy. I mean, you know, I got, you know, his his thoughts was that I was supposed to be this equation of manhood that that just never existed. I don't know. It's just very bizarre.

S

Speaker 2 08:53

It's very confusing. I mean, that just simply not fitting. Fitting the mold. I mean, you know, it's like, I was like, the only okay, my mother only had boys. Right. Now, I was the only one who didn't like football. Yeah, you know, I still despise it. To this day, I cannot just sit down and watch football. I just don't understand I you know, anyway. I mean, you really start to feel funny, because, you know, where do I you know, where do I fit in? And family, you know, family does not necessarily mean blood relation. That's what you're trying to get at, right?

G

Gigi 09:38

Well, for me, it's kind of long story because it didn't. I didn't come to that realization for a long time. You know, for me, you know, for a long time I've struggled trying to fit into this thing that we call a family and you know, suffered years of abuse A physical and and certainly emotional abuse as beaten a couplet-. Well, I know one time for sure. And maybe a memories a little hazy on it but possibly a second and third time to the point of being semi catatonic for several hours, the firt The one time I remember distinctly as beaten into this catatonic state for about 12 hours. You know, I wasn't beaten for 12 hours, but I was in the state for about 12 hours. And it just kind of didn't, you know, I kind of lost somewhere. And but it was an amazing process because somewhere in there, I found hope. And I found that it was always within me within my heart. And I've always kind of followed my heart is very difficult. Well as oldest of seven kids hyperactive and got abused by more than just my parents. I mean, the school system certainly dished it out in unberable falls, football coaches. Oh, yeah. I mean, here's this sissy kid coming into gym class. And that's a little bit on the hyperactive side. And that was all the ingredients needed for quite a bit of punishment. And I went through this turmoil of, of a family that really didn't understand and that one point, I think, it got so bad that finally my grandmother, had me come live with her for a year may not think they were thinking I was almost to the point of being suicidal, I didn't know if I was gonna, you know, the I was horribly depressed the year preceding that. So I went and lived with my grandmother, and both my grandmother's advice, accepted me for who I am. And, and one of them never outwardly knew I was gay or bisexual, but neither one. She died before, you know, had a chance to come out to her. But my other ones certainly knew. And she even at one point said, you know, Gigi, you look better in a dress, dressed as a girl than as a boy.

S

Speaker 2 12:58

Well, what do you think it is about blood relation that has such a importance? I mean, Family Acceptance is a very, very big issue. I mean, a lot of lot of kids that's, you know, that's my kids. I'm terrified today that-.

G

Gigi 13:20

Well, I think part of it comes from the social structure and that is that you know, from the time we pop out till the time we finish high school, or maybe a little sooner depending on on particular family basically, you're stuck there and in whatever roles order government within the family abides in its early formative years that the you know, you're dependent on them for food, shelter, everything. You're also at their mercy as far as punishments go as far as you know, whatever. The hierarchy of the family decides and God Mother and the God I mean, the goddess of murder in The Godfather rural supreme, you know, especially, you know, it's it's, it's changing a little bit now. Kids have a few more rides that basically for for years and years and years kit children had no rights. Oh, yeah. The family ruled supreme. And I think that provided the the nucleolus to bring out this dependency on the family, real strong, to where you know. You wanted their love you wanted their favor, to be in good favor with them and And, you know, they had all the control.

S

Speaker 2 15:04

So, okay, now what about the family of choice? I want to get to that, but let me step back a few minutes. Okay. Because, you know, there's there's a few things I want to say about the family that, you know, I grew up with, you know, went through several stages of coming out and came out to different members in it. And, you know, at one point I was getting calls, threatening my life and safety. Course, my father was a minister. It, you know, up until I was in high school, I hadn't come out at that point. To him, it was much lighter, but but, you know, here's some, some a figure in the community that it's not supposed to be doing some of the things he did. And some of the messages I got growing up are very, very conflicting, because, you know, here's this almighty church, with the all man mighty pastor who who does some of the things he did behind closed doors. Now, a lot of people are faced with this in some form or another, this, this kind of not being able to fit society. Well, not just the society, but within the family. I mean, that's where I had a lot of problems, I realized, I don't fit here. Okay. It's like-. Basically, you had to leave just for pure safety sake. I mean, it's either stay and die.

G

Gigi 17:08

Well, this came lighter. But certainly, it was for safety sake, that I find my head to let my grandmother's it was, you know, I had no idea how far they go. I don't think they would have killed me. But I think certainly, they would have made me physically rather uncomfortable by the threads. I was getting threats that basically, they would have their ex cop friends come and pay me a visit. Now, that didn't sound very inviting to me, nonetheless. And that's, to me, you know, is the family I grew up with. That's the family that that you know, finally and I'm an even began on my mother. Yeah. From day one, we never got along. And it was at one point that she sat down and had this whole chat with me and explain why she always treated me differently

from siblings. Hey, you know, she used to either beat the hell out of me or have my father do it for her, set it up. And basically, one day, she just sat down and said, Well, really never one to have you in the first place. You're defective. And basically, you know, you were the experiment of the family. I knew that I could dish out whatever I wanted. And then it seemed to work out with you. And I can pass it on to your brothers and sisters.

 Speaker 2 18:57

About what at what age did she pop this little surprise?

 Gigi 19:01

That was when I was right at 18?

 Speaker 2 19:05

Oh, what 18.

 Gigi 19:06

Yeah. And she had already moved out of the house. At that point, she had gotten a divorce and then moved into a school bass with her boyfriend at the time. But I bring all this up, because, you know, a lot of times, you know, I know during this, you know, this early history of my family. As you know, I remember one time I went to another family member in the church and tried to talk to them about it, and for help, and they went back to my parents and said our kids blabbing about all this stuff and I got cremated. Like really bad news. And I was told, you know, quite frankly, I'm not Other than I was not ever to mention these things outside the family again, in a beat that was.

 Speaker 2 20:10

That's, that's it? Yeah, we kids really don't have places to go.

 Gigi 20:14

Yeah, a lot of times. And, and it was just the living nightmare. I mean, at one point I was going to run away and I had a friend that, you know, was we're gonna go together because he was having kind of a rocky road. And at the last minute, he backed out and said, Well, I don't want you to leave. Needless to say, I was kind of in a position where I couldn't leave anymore. You know, but I also knew that, you know, I'd had other friends that had tried to get away and had been picked up by the police in return. And being under age, didn't leave him any rights in our society. You know, and you just couldn't do that back then. Things have changed a little bit now. And now we have more throw away kids, and we have kids stuck in a bad environment.

Wow. And I don't know what the actual statistics are on that. I know, there's a lot of, you know, probably we have a little bit of that. I think the kids that are stuck in the bad environment are the ones we never hear about. Yeah. Because we're where do they speak out?

 Speaker 2 21:40

That's not until they get old enough to say stuff, right?

 Gigi 21:45

And then even then, it's like, you know, it took me many years of sorting through some this stuff before I could ever really put it into words or talk to people about it much. You know, it's like, I was very confused about all this, because there's a lot of double messages once again, you know, people telling me that they supposedly love me, but wanted me to be something different than I was and-.

 Speaker 2 22:13

Oh, I know that.

 Gigi 22:14

And just all the twisted intertwining, I said, this subliminal message that we get from that nucular family.

 Speaker 2 22:29

And where did you find this? I don't know. You're, you're one of these, to me one of these just naturally bubbly, bubbly, happy? Person. Yeah. Where did you find all this?

 Gigi 22:39

Well, interestingly enough, that comes later. That comes with a family of choice. And also was was part of soul searching, finding peace within myself, learning that, you know, I have a strength within me. And I have a pride of being who I am for who I am. And I've always kind of had this love for myself, you know, I've never been ashamed of, of sleeping with a boyfriend or a girlfriend or doing any number of things. You know. In fact, when I first learned what homosexuality was, I was appalled that people thought it was bad. I thought, how could anybody put a bad label? bad name to this? This is great stuff. You know, he had some experiences that that, you know, Surely they must not have experienced this, saying these things. They're saying an ignorance, because it was delicious. I mean, it was like, baby and I just, you know, what, I think part of it too, was a lot of my childhood. I grew up in my own

world. And it's oh, yeah, a world of fantasy a world of make believe. And I think it carried me through some of the rough spots. It carried me through some of the things that I faced and brought me to where I am now. I don't think I could have survived if I didn't have that world.

 Speaker 2 24:20

Hmm, yeah. Good. Need someplace to go.

 Gigi 24:24

Yeah, you need some place for for nurturing. That's just part of our condition. We have to have some nurturing to live. I mean, babies, they've done studies in hospitals. If they are not don't receive they're not right, they will die. And I think even growing up, you have to have some kind of love some kind of acceptance somewhere. And if it doesn't come from outside, sometimes it can come from within I want to take a break before we move to the family of choice.

 Speaker 2 25:06

And yeah, we gotta come coming up here on a ID thing here. Yeah.

 Gigi 25:12

And then to some music you're listening to KPFT 90.1-.

 Jimmy Carper 25:20

Close but no cigar. It was really the KPFT Houston. That's Ryan KEOS College Station. That's 90.1 and 89.1 respectively.

 Gigi 25:33

I'm such a dizzy blonde.

 Jimmy Carper 25:36

Let's go to a couple of messages or piece of music and we'll be back with Gigi. Whoa that was good.

 Gigi 25:49

I thought you might like that. The roaches? Yeah, what was the name of that? It's your the tea

that I want.

J Jimmy Carper 26:00

Ah, and is there a message there?

G Gigi 26:04

Oh, it's almost unmistakable. To boys that want to take it?

J Jimmy Carper 26:15

Okay, where are we going from here?

G Gigi 26:17

Well, we were talking about family values. And we're moving now towards family of choice. I wanted to tell a little bit one last bad story that happened to me is happened shortly as 18 had just moved out of home and are not real happy circumstances and somehow wound up in Dallas of all places. Geez, I hope he escaped. Well, I went to a trade school there. An agency put me through it as a deprived youth with dyslexia. Graduated real good. When I tried to find a job and couldn't sell discovered real quick. I couldn't fill out job applications in an acceptable manner. Oh, no. And went for about six months trying to find work, lost an apartment lost everything I had, and pretty much made them with. There's these two hippies I stayed with for a while that are very much in love with each other. I see. And they picked me up for a while. And things just got real bad. And next thing I knew I was down with mono. I don't know if you've ever had it or not much bout. It basically takes everything you got away. As far as strength as far as I mean, as sick as the dog got wound up in Parkland Hospital. And somehow they had gotten in touch with my mom. She showed up and said, oh, you should eat more. Here's \$5 and laughed and wound up pretty much for the next six months. I could not get out of bed. They released me from Parkland and I'll never forget this, this hippies couple their parents came by and saw me in the shape house and they talked to him about it and they set up they had an extra bedroom put me in their bedroom for six months. They would come in and carry me on to the bathroom because I just did not have the strength to climb out of bed and pretty much nourished me back to health helped me build my strength back up. But I was just devastated for about six months I just you know, it's like having don't know just something sap all your energy. Just that depleted. And that was when I discovered the whole meaning of family of choice. You know, here is a woman that overnight became more of a mother than I'd ever had in my whole life. In a home it set and choose a stranger in never met her before. And all of a sudden I realized you know there's good people in this world.

S Speaker 2 29:48

I think they call it unconditional-.

G Gigi 29:54

And from there I just you know eventually When I finally found work, stringing bbar farms of all things and playing in the bunkhouse Saturday night with a boy doing wild stuff and met this guy and once he was on me and me and finally talked me into going to college, so I put myself through college. I kept telling him this is a bad idea. You know, I didn't even go into that as dyslexic. I put that behind me as I didn't want anybody to know this. But, but he kept after me and I finally said, like, I'm gonna show you what bad idea this is. Let's go and roll. And I don't know what happened. But all of a sudden, I was making A's and B's and never done that my life. You know, I don't know if that outgrew something or, or all the therapy I've gotten as a kid finally kicked in or what but all of a sudden, I started making good grades and spent the next 10 years and well actually 13 years in college. Wow. Taking courses working part time, remember my first official job was a security guard as offerings. Oh, geez.

S Speaker 2 31:22

Be scared of me, please.

G Gigi 31:26

Well, I mean that my posts are really great as guarding a battery factory. I mean, he's gonna go in and still lead I mean, that and guarding one place I guarded was seminary as looking back in the old logbooks went back 14 years. The only thing that ever happened there. This woman I think, probably looking back on it now I think she might have been bipolar was running around the grounds and the fountains naked.

S Speaker 2 32:05

Is a gorgeous place.

G Gigi 32:07

Yeah, I mean, the price was dead. I mean, I had the graveyard shift. And there's nothing going on there. No, but I never saw anybody there, you know. But what was great about it, I could get on studying then then go to class and then sleep during the afternoon names. And then you know, I'm going through it again. And that's how I managed to put myself through school and then finally met, you know, started getting into the bisexual thing. Few years site or after that. I was married for a while and the person I married and she, she knew that I was bi before we even started dating her. I mean, I told her from the beginning, we got married. And later she said, Well, I thought maybe I could change a bit. So that didn't work out. But what has worked is is the people I met through binet and through the bisexual network all across the country. Think the San Diego conference that I went to four years ago, I guess it is no, four or five was one of the most magical experiences of my life. I mean, all of a sudden I was in a room full of bisexuals of all ages. And realize that had brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers who loved me for who I was, at last you belonged somewhere and realized, Hey, this is where I fit in.

And I've thought a lot about this family of choice and you know, enough thought, you know, for a while I worked for Meals on Wheels and and I remember I went to this one little old lady's house. We all have these preconceived notions of things you know, we think of grainy, you know, sweet little grainy was sitting in the rocking chair. This one had a shotgun under a couch had served time in the penitentiary. You know, she was bad from the word guy. And I realized that, you know, we don't choose the family we're born into. You know, we get the luck of the draw, so to speak. And, but we do have this family of choice. We have we have members that we can call family. And sometimes when you wind up in a bad situation Oh, my God, no I did the family of choice give them a very special meaning. All of a sudden, you've got people who love you not because they have to, or because of a sense of duty or because of anything, they do it because they love you. You know. And, to me, that's what the whole gay community is about. Is, is in some ways, being a part of this family of choice. Being there for each other, being there to help each other. And now I've gotten some help through the family of choice. Just I think for me, more than anything else, it's been from this sense of nurturing the sense of just having someone there when you need them. You know, and that's where I get a lot of the strength.

S

Speaker 2 36:09

That's, that's what family is, yeah.

G

Gigi 36:13

It's being able to support each other and I think the other side and this kind of come