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SPEAKERS

Gigi, Jimmy Carper



00:00

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00:45

Oh



00:46

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 transgender 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 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 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.



02:10

And welcome to after hours. Queer radio with attitude. Heard every Saturday night at midnight right here on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. This is the January 2 edition. And I'm Jimmy Carper with me tonight.





Gigi 02:30

Miss Gigi. Yeah, he's done. Yes. And we'll be doing a phone interview with Fritz Klein who wrote the bisexual option coming up shortly.



Jimmy Carper 02:41

This is live. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, this is not take folks. And big Roy and Michelle are here for the high they'll be bringing you the news and 120



02:56

Hi out



Jimmy Carper 02:59

there all stars, you know, with them on the air once they're all stars. Okay. X will be here later on with hatch music and fun and games. In the meantime, how was your Christmas?



03:16

Oh, real good. Actually,



Jimmy Carper 03:17

I don't say Christmas to you. I'd say How was your Solstice How was your holiday is



03:21

fabulous.



Jimmy Carper 03:24

Do anything special? Make candles. I noticed.



Gigi 03:31

Gave Miss Carper. A beautiful. Three and a half foot long thing.



Jimmy Carper 03:38

Just huge. It's the tallest roundest thickest candle I have in a very very long time. Huh?

just huge. It's the tallest roundest thickest candle I have in a very very long time. Huh?

G Gigi 03:50

It was right and I'm making homemade wine now you are Yeah, what's this deal? Oh, just decide to start doing you know me and my little hobbies

J Jimmy Carper 03:58

as I do.

G Gigi 04:01

Got a five gallon batch started at Cool. How long does it take? About four to six months?

J Jimmy Carper 04:08

Oh that long? Yeah. Oh,

G Gigi 04:11

okay. Has to ferment for ever and ever.

J Jimmy Carper 04:16

Evidently, yeah. So we're missing J. J tonight. Yeah,

G Gigi 04:22

she you know how j is sometimes she didn't have a book that she wanted to review and since we're doing the interview tonight, she decided to kind of stay in. She's been we've both been fighting cold so yeah here. So it's been kind of a while during rappels always wears both out. And rebels is its Christmas travels which is a celebration of the solstice that is put on every Christmas season. And it's more ours Opera House. Ah, well, it's different every year though. Yeah, it's, we take a different culture and look at their heritage, music, dance. All kinds of things all pulled together and they do a lot of research. The costuming is just fabulous. And we pull it all together. And it's kind of a celebration of the shortest day. The winter solstice, the earth goddess, it's kind of one of those pagan things. And they make some, you know, pretending they make some Christmas sure and but, but the central theme of Raffles is celebration of our distant distant past when man first started noticing that the there's a day when the Sun seemed very short, and they lit fires all night long to to bring the sun back and see rebirth. Oh, yeah. And it's, it's really a celebration of all that and



Jimmy Carper 06:13

in some ways, we've been celebrating it every in every culture. Yeah. Whatever the form takes,



Gigi 06:20

even the Christmas tree comes from paganism. Originally they let's put candles on it and let it and, and the whole your log thing as part of this bringing the sun god back. Really? Yeah. A rebirth. And they you read the poem, and that's yeah, unravels every year. It's called the shortest day and a big part of the poem is that, you know, we, our forefathers lit fires because they didn't know if the darkness was going to stay or, or if the light would come back. So fires to invite the sun guy back and get rebirth. Cool. It's really kind of a cool



Jimmy Carper 07:04

thing. Okay, so we're gonna get Fritz Lang, Fritz Klein, call. And throughout the evening, we're going to be playing lots of queer music. Alright, and we'd like to play your favorite. What was your favorite queer song of 1998? I probably have it here and can play it for you. All you have to do is give us a call at 526573852 6k PFT I had lots of favorites in 1998. The Least of all this one by a group called placebo. You actually can hear placebo on other radio radio programs here at KPFT. Yes, yes. I know. They're weightlifting. Yes. So we're beyond the age I think of, of queer music being directed solely at queers. And that it's for everyone regardless of the message and usually the message is one of unity and you know, get it together and all that kind of stuff. So placebo with Nancy boy and you're hearing it on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. This is after hours. We are the queer sound of Texas.



Gigi 08:47

Oh yeah,



Jimmy Carper 08:47

barns with a capital B ba r n e s with boy with a secret off of his CD, loud boy radio. And before that, we heard placebo with Nancy boy and you're hearing it all on after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. We've got somebody on hold. Don't wait. Before we get to him. I want to mention before we get to him, I want to mention Ray Hill and the sex police. Oh, wow. It's a new play coming out. One man play. Yeah. You know, Ray, Oh, no. He couldn't have any anybody else on the stage with him at the same time. And this is a second one man play. It's great. It's he's starting out with six Wednesday nights. Yeah. He's doing it at Wednesday night at 8pm. Beginning January 20. And it's gonna be happening. You know, okay, this is really weird to me at DeBose one's a meal on 647 West gray.



10:02

l l m l

J Jimmy Carper 10:03

like this restaurant thing going Yeah, but it's intimate theater anyway. Yeah, it's it's round. Yeah and you love look at the flyer here. Oh boy. It's a flyer policeman standing next to a police car. He's wearing a raincoat obviously with no pants on and and flashing the police car. So right here in the sex police.

G Gigi 10:28

I gotta tell you about my encounter with police the other day Oh, this black police officer showed up because someone Sideswipe? Oh, yeah, your card looks like while she took one look at me spending the night at Darlene. And

J Jimmy Carper 10:44

if you are just tuning in, Gigi is very androgynous.

G Gigi 10:48

And the cop took one look at me and she's said whose card is this? And I said it's my girlfriends. She said where's your girlfriend? Does she know you're here? And I said what? And she Darlene Darlene and she says I bet you're in big trouble. And then she saw my nails. And then the dress kind of registered because I was wearing jeans under my genitals and then Apple nails then she saw the rainbow stickers all over my car. And then I just picked up a brand new gay and lesbian yellow pages which are on the front seat. And she kept trying to add to and to and cannot figure out what not to figure out what was going on. And Miss Darlene she likes it the cop and she says Oh no, we're good friends. We got way back. China is all about him being here. It's no problem. The guy was just

J Jimmy Carper 11:49

I love it. And this was not in Montrose wasn't no, over on the east. That's so again, the

G Gigi 12:00

Eastern cops a taste of the queer community

J Jimmy Carper 12:05

as well, they should.



Gigi 12:09

I think she's still pondering on I bet she is.



Jimmy Carper 12:12

But anyway, I think we're about ready for Fred.



12:14

Yeah. How do we do this?



Jimmy Carper 12:15

Well, you should push that button that says number two, number two, and he should be able to hear us. Yeah. Hello,



Gigi 12:24

Fritz. Do you hear us? Do we do something else?



Jimmy Carper 12:31

Okay. Welcome to after hours.



12:37

It's my pleasure.



Gigi 12:38

Thank you. Glad you are doing the interview with us.



12:44

Ben, what is your weather as good as ours in San Diego?



Jimmy Carper 12:48

Oh, never, never a good friend of mine. In fact, my kind of family of choice has moved to San

Diego and tells me all the time about how wonderful the weather is out there.



Gigi 13:01

This is Jim Carper speaking.



Jimmy Carper 13:04

Hi. Hi. How you doing? All right. And right now I wore a fur coat because it's going to be in the high 20s tonight. Oh, boy. Yeah. Everybody's dragging plants inside are covering them up. And we don't have to do that too many times in Houston. But unfortunately, we're doing it tonight.



13:25

Right. And they were we are suffering in our winter with 4550 degrees tonight.



Jimmy Carper 13:32

I can't tell you how I feel.



Gigi 13:37

Don't feel too bad. He's about to go to Hawaii for 10 days.



Jimmy Carper 13:44

So I hope to avoid all the rest of the bad weather that we might have. Right. So San Diego. Are you born and raised there? Or?



13:56

Oh no, no, though. Can't you hear from my voice? I'm a New York boy. Right?



Jimmy Carper 14:02

You sound like my lover?



14:03

Well, actually, I lived in New York my whole life and moved out to San Diego about 16 years ago. And love it.

age, and love it.



Jimmy Carper 14:14

Everyone that I talked to does, yeah. So what brought you to write the book?



14:21

The bisexual option? Yeah. Well,



Jimmy Carper 14:25

first of all, actually, I'm sorry to jump on you. But this was one of the first books that I heard of when the buy group came to after hours. All



Gigi 14:36

Yeah, yes. There weren't when we first started this radio show. There weren't a whole lot of books on the shelves



Jimmy Carper 14:43

about three years ago. Yeah, not right years, four years.



14:47

We started doing God. Time fun.



Jimmy Carper 14:50

Yeah. And so you know, we have just this regular group on and your name. I've been hearing your name for four years now.




15:00


Well, that's, that's an honor.




Gigi 15:04


We promote all the bisexual so we can do better.


 Jimmy Carper 15:06
So what, what, what brought you to write the book?

 15:11
Well, it happened a long time ago, I had just finished my residency in psychiatry. And I wanted to do an article on bisexuality. So I went to the New York Public Library to look up some books, and we do some research and see what the other people have to say. And what I discovered was that there was nothing at all in the New York Public Library on bisexuality, that's incredible. It was, I mean, there were exactly two references to bisexuality. One was written in 1920. And another one was by one of the old psychoanalysts, William Steckel. And that's it. So I said, Well, maybe the New York Public Library just doesn't deal with the gay issue. So I looked up homosexual or gay and lesbian. And they had hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of titles. And so, I mean, I was really shocked that there was absolutely nothing in the library, right. And so I, in order to write the article, I had to do some research. And the only way I could do research is I started a group called the BI forum in New York, and put a little two line ad in The Village Voice, and told people to show up every Tuesday night.

 Jimmy Carper 16:39
Now, this must have been quite some time ago. Oh, yeah,

 16:42
this was 1974. So we're talking 25 years ago. And for quite a number of years, I would hold these weekly groups, and I met hundreds and hundreds of bisexuals. And I started to understand a little bit about the phenomena of who they were and who is bisexual. What is bisexuality? And slowly but surely, I got enough information from an article I decided that a book has to be written about it. Yes. And so the bisexual option was born that way. And it came out in the first edition came out in 78. And then a second edition came out at the end of 93. Wow. And it's been growing ever since. Yeah,

 Gigi 17:33
it's like the textbook. And that is one of the forerunners Yeah. Of the bisexual movement. Yeah. I mean, that has had a I know it's had an impact in my life, because I've read it and read it. Back when I could find nothing in the bookshelves on bisexuality, and I was going, I know I'm bisexual. But everybody keeps telling me I'm just in transition. Right? Transition to when are you going to make up your mind? That's a no, wait, here's a book.

 Jimmy Carper 18:08
You made up your mind.

 Gigi 18:09

I said, I have made up my mind I like. But, um, and one of the things I like about your book that really hit me good was that it had a positive approach. It didn't look at bisexuality as an illness.

 18:25

Right at that, at that time. One of the myths was that if you were bisexual, there was something wrong with you. And just by being bisexual, there was something wrong. I mean, it's, you know, it's sort of takes off the same thing that they used to say about the gays and lesbians. You know, until 1973, the American Psychiatric Association had homosexuality as an illness. And it was in 1973, that they finally figured out that it's not an illness. And they took it out of that category. And it's the same sort of things that he I would say, even worse. bisexuals were looked on as automatically neurotic automatically mixed up or couldn't confused and couldn't make up their minds and hiding, you know, all negative terms. Oh,

 Gigi 19:23

yeah. And I think one of the things I like about some of the things you say in it is that it's, it looks at a cases of healthy bisexuality. Yes. Versus the troubled, troubled? Yes.

 19:42

Yeah. But I mean, what I've learned is that bisexuals like gays or straight, some of them are quite healthy and normal and everything fine and others are troubled the people and it has nothing to do with the with the sexual orientation at all it has to do with who the person is? And, of course, having interviewed and having spoken to hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of bisexuals, I mean, I, I've come to the conclusion that some of them are the healthiest people in the world. And then there are some that are as mixed up with some of the streets. I know, are some of the gays I know. You just can't differentiate being healthy or not healthy by your orientation.

 Jimmy Carper 20:28

Okay. I'm gay. Yeah, from the gay community. And I know that even though this show has been on for four years, right, the by group, that there are so many people in the gay community that say, oh, there's no such thing as bisexuality, you just haven't made a decision. Right? And you've been working on this problem now for 25 years? Correct. So what is the holdup? What is what? What's it going to take to break through to people?

 21:03

Well, I think one of the things is a show like this, people writing about it, and probably the most important thing is the same thing as in the gay movement. What it will take is more and more

important thing is the same thing as in the gay movement. What it will take is more and more people coming out of the closet as bisexual.



21:19

I think that's a key. Because if if you



21:23

know someone personally, who is bisexual, a lot of the stereotypes just disappear. But if you didn't then just know Joe or Mary. And you take them at face value as to who they are, and you don't start generalizing into what all bisexuals are or what all gays are. But you touch on a subject, which is absolutely correct, which is that in the gay and lesbian community, there's as much prejudice as there is in the straight community. Oh, yes, towards bis. And gays, yes. And the guys really have what they call it by phobia. They are discriminated lots of time, both by the strike community and by the gay and lesbian community.



Gigi 22:15

And I know that runs real strong in the lesbian community.



22:18

Yes, it is. In fact, I would say in the last five to 10 years, the bisexual movement has grown mostly from the power of the bisexual women who have been so discriminated against by so many of the lesbians, that they decided to start their own organization. And a lot of the organizations have been started by women because the lesbians have been so strong, prejudiced against the bisexual women. It does go on also in the gay community, among men, but not as strong as in the women's community. Yeah,



Gigi 22:57

I went through quite a process. You know, 1015 years ago, when I was trying to find someplace to hook up with by people and went to Montrose Counseling Center, I went everywhere in Houston to find work, and I meet another bisexual, and it was just unheard of, well,



Jimmy Carper 23:17

as a gay man, I can the only answer I can give is that somebody my age, I'm 50 Is that in our coming out process, right, some of us hid behind a bisexual shield, in that coming out process thinking that oh, I will be accepted more by striking the straight community if I say I'm bisexual, or even to our own minds, that we weren't ready to face the fact that we were gay. Yes. And because we've had that experience, we think it's, we tend to think that it's the experience for everyone. Right, not realizing that bisexuality is its own orientation.



24:00

Well, one of the interesting things is, besides being a psychiatrist, I'm also a sex researcher. And as a sex researcher, I can tell you that I find the most difficult thing for a person to understand is somebody else's orientation that is not their own. You just generalize. I mean, if you really don't like something, you can't understand how other people can like it. And vice versa, you like something you can't stand out, somebody doesn't like it. And the what we call the mono sexuals, meaning the both the straights and the gay have tremendous difficulty in understanding how a person can be attracted to and want to have sex with both genders.



Gigi 24:47

And I think that kind of draws us towards the orientation grid that you developed in your book. Yes. And we talked about your book a little bit last month just to kind of go build up to the interview tonight. Right? So some of the listeners out there will be aware of what we're talking about.



25:07

Okay. Would you like me to give a short explanation of it? Yes, please, please. Well, originally, if you notice the title of the book is called a bisexual option. And the reason that comes about is that, in the past, people only had two choices. And that is that you were either gay or you were straight, you're either lesbian or you were straight. Those were the only two choices you had then came along Kinsey in the 1938 1940. And he was the first one to say, hey, wait a minute, we can put people just into two boxes, or for that matter, even into three boxes if you add bisexual, and that people really are on a continuum. And so he gave seven numbers, you could be anywhere from exclusively heterosexual to exclusively homosexual, you know, absolutely in the middle, or mostly one way with incidentally the other. So he gave seven numbers that a person can put himself in. However, in talking to somebody bisexuals, what I discovered is that sexual orientation is really a much more complex phenomena. And if you just give somebody one number, you really don't explain who they are, and you don't really understand their orientation. And so what I came to realize is that there are at least seven variables that make up a, an orientation. And you can put everybody in each for each variable, give them one to seven as to how straight or how gay they are, with respect to each variable. And the seven variables are sexual attraction, which of course, is quite obvious that you're attracted to one degree, or another degree, either the opposite or the same sex. The second variable is sexual behavior, because your behavior could be quite different from your attraction. You could be attracted to one gender and have sex with the other much more often or only. The third variable would be sexual fantasies, which again, could be a different number and a different degree. The fourth variable is emotional preference, because in addition to just being sexually attracted to somebody, who do you really love? Do you love a man? Do you love a woman? And to what degree or do you love both of them? Both genders? The next variable is social preference. In addition to who you love, who do you like to hang around with? Do you like to hang around with the guys or they like to hang around with the women? The sixth variable is the heterosexual, bisexual homosexual lifestyle. That's very important, because no matter what else you're doing, are you living in a gay world and live in only among gay people? Or do you live only in this strange world and have sex on the side and

furtively? So that's another variable. And the last one, is your own self identification, no matter what are the numbers you put down? If you would have to choose one number? Which one would you choose? So those are the seven variables. So you would have seven numbers. But then what the problem is, is that sexual orientation is fluid, it changes over time. So not only do you have to have a number for the present, but you also have to have a different number for the past because you could have been very different. And then, of course, ideally, what would you like to be because that also is very important for your sexual orientation. So that's why the ends up as a grid, because you really have seven variables with three time periods. And so you end up with 21 numbers, and people who filled it out, it only takes about five minutes to fill it out, begin to understand who they are with respect to their own sexual orientation, where they were, where they are and where they want to go.

 Jimmy Carper 29:26

You're so right, because there are a lot of variables. Right now I know of a man who was going through what he thinks is an identity crisis, because he emotionally bonds with women, right? But he enjoys sex with men more than women and so he's he's trying to figure himself out. And actually that's nothing to figure out is there.

 29:52

Well, that you see that said, if you understand that you could love women and be attracted to men and just Give yourself two different numbers on the two different variables. All that what happens is, you would say to yourself, aha, that's who I am, rather than, Oh, boy, I got a problem.

 Jimmy Carper 30:14

By that, then and that's, that's it then nutshell, the way you look at it. Yes.

 30:19

It's very, very important. And part of the problem with the by sexual is that as you've mentioned before, it's so difficult to find other bisexuals unless you're in a big city.

 30:31

Yeah. And

 Jimmy Carper 30:34

even in the big city, I know Houston is a very large area, you know, we're 3 million in a metropolitan area. Right? And there's one bisexual group, right? And it's not wrong. It's it's in in its infancy?



30:51

And so that is correct. That is correct. What's the absolutely fascinating is that the gay and lesbian movement, are, have a tremendous subculture for, and there were hundreds of organizations and bars and clubs and parades, and, you know, and magazines and newspapers. So you would think that there are many, many more gays and lesbians and there are bisexual and what's absolutely fascinating is that the bisexuals outnumber gays anywhere from two to 10 times as many.



Jimmy Carper 31:29

Absolutely, that's what we've been saying. They're out there. Yeah,



31:33

they are out there. But they are not they don't have a movement yet. So that it's in its infancy. It's really the bisexual movement today, I would say is where the gay and lesbian movement was 30 years ago.



Gigi 31:47

But I think there's another element to this, and you brought this up on the show, and that is that, you know, you see two people walking down the street holding hands, and almost automatically, depending on the gender of each, you assume they're either gay or they're straight. That's right. We don't ever leave it or save that there might be there might be a bike camp or walking down the street.



32:10

Yes. That's interesting phenomena. In order to understand who is bisexual, you cannot take a snapshot. Yeah, just can't take a snapshot of those two people on the street and understand who they are. You have to sort of take a history and know who they are, where they are, and what their attractions are and what their behaviors are.



Gigi 32:31

Makes. I think that adds to the invincibility of the bisexual community.



32:39

Absolutely. Because the bisector, who was in a gay bar is automatically perceived as gay. And a bisexual who is in a straight swinging club. Is that automatically perceived as straight? Right.



Gigi 32:54

And so and but the other thing I see, and I've been going to the conferences, first one was in San Diego, actually,



33:02

what are you there? Yeah, see,



Gigi 33:03

well, not this past one. But the one before



33:06

all the one in 93? Yeah, yeah.



Gigi 33:09

And ever since then, I've been going to conferences all over the country. Last year, San Diego, unfortunately, the budget wouldn't allow that. Right. But the thing I have discovered is, you know, the just walking into a conference and feeling the love energy and and just the connectedness of such a diverse population. Yes. I mean, it was just the most incredible experience of my life.



33:39

Well, what is absolutely fascinating, and that holds true for bisexual organization. Let me give you an example here. For the BI forum in San Diego, we get 40 to 50 people coming to the meeting once a month. And we make the statement and we feel it. And that is everybody is welcome. If you're gay, you're welcome. If you're straight, you're welcome. If you're trans, gendered, you're welcome. And which is a very, very different feeling when you walk into a gay organization, a lesbian organization or a religious organization for that matter. People really want to exclude other people who are not like themselves, while the bisexuals encompass everybody. And so that everybody is truly welcome into the bisexual community. And people feel very welcome. I mean, there are several straight people and several gay people attending the bisexual forum for years, but they find it the most accepting group of people I've ever met. It's



Jimmy Carper 34:48

true. I've always felt welcomed at it by NetMeeting.



Gigi 34:52

Yeah, and Jim spend quite a few. Yeah, in fact, right started you're gay.



34:55

I am gay. Yeah, right. And you don't find any prejudices again. And you know you don't



Gigi 35:02

the least well, it's interesting how Jimmy got involved with by net he his lover what why don't you tell?



Jimmy Carper 35:08

Well my boyfriend Yes. I knew my boyfriend was coming out of a heterosexual marriage, right. And I had known him for several years and and I knew that he had gay leanings. Right. Then it struck me that because he was really emotionally connected to his wife, right, that, you know, okay. There's there must be this element of bisexuality. Right? I found out about the bike group and kind of pushed him into it. But he wouldn't go the first night alone, he would only go with me, right? And what was really kind of amazing is that five minutes after he was there, right? He didn't even know I was in the room. Had, he felt so accepted? It's like, Hey, I've come home. These are my people. Right? And from then on, I really didn't have to go to one. I just went.



Gigi 36:08

Because, yes. I mean, the bandit meetings are just a wonderful experience to walk in and be around. Especially if you buy and because the thing I found here in Houston was that being bisexual was so isolating for such a long time. Oh, yeah. And that was a big part of why I started buying that Houston was because you know that there's gotta be other people out there like me. Yeah,



36:36

you know, there was one thing that is coming up, which is changing the bisexual community. And that's the internet. Oh, I'll bet it is. The bisexuals are coming out by droves. On the internet, because they can remain anonymous. They can feel safe. And yet, all of a sudden, they can start to talk to hundreds of other bisexuals. And realize that they're not alone. For instance, I have a web page called www.bisexual.org. Organization, o r t. Now, we started about two years ago, a personal page where you can list yourself and you're looking for other people, etc. In terms of being bisexual, in two years, we've gone to over 6000 people were listed there personnels from all over the world, it's not just the United States all over the world. So so the so

the internet really is changing this feeling of bicycles, not belonging. But as you say, if you live in the city, you really want to meet people. Sure. And you need an organization or a group or somebody to connect with.

 Gigi 38:03

And, you know, kind of strikes me that, you know, back to this invisibility thing. I think the internet is kind of giving a semi visibility to the by movement. Yeah. And it is such an underground moment. I think it's still so much in its infancy.

 Jimmy Carper 38:23

Well, like you were saying, right now, there's a lot of books. And isn't that

 38:29

oh, wait a minute, why don't we we have to put that into context. Okay. For instance, we have a gay lesbian bookstore here in San Diego. Yes. And let's say I'll make up a number with I don't know how many they have on their cells, but let's assume they have 3000 titles on their cells. They have exactly maybe 25 on bisexuality. So even in terms of today, what you find in bookstores on bisexuality is miniscule compared to what you find on either gay or lesbian.

 Jimmy Carper 39:03

Yes, but that's the that's first step because it's my observation.