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SPEAKERS

Greg Gordon, Jack Valinski, Joan Devlin, Cindy Friedman, Glenn Holt

J Jack Valinski 00:07
Welcome to another edition of lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack Valinski.

J Joan Devlin 00:11
And I'm Joan Devlin.

G Glenn Holt 00:12
And I'm Glenn Holt.

J Jack Valinski 00:13
And we have a big show tonight.

G Glenn Holt 00:16
Big shoe.

J Jack Valinski 00:18
Yes, Ed Sullivan. Jean brunches will be on talking about being the mayor's liaison to the gay lesbian community. We've got an election coming up and she'll be talking about some of the issues and some of the work that has been done by layer Mayor the brown in this community. Also, the second hour is going to course be the special music show that we do here every month. We do I mean, JD does. We just play it?

J Joan Devlin 00:46

Yeah, so it's going to be featuring Janice Ann and Glen's got the CD out there. So he can he can read it off do this.

G Glenn Holt 00:53

Well, let's see. It's it says, with blues from the 30s and humorous songs from the 70s plus a bit of hip hop. Okay, gay hip hop. Okay.

J Jack Valinski 01:02

Oh, yes. Oh, yes. There's every style. We're all in one place. Yesterday I was in Dallas for the parade. It's the 18th annual Alan Ross. Gay Pride parade, I guess is what they actually call it. And weather was nice up there before the cold front hits. It was nice. Of course, I'm a little bit biased about the Houston parade. But it was can you imagine that? They said they had about 100 entries but I don't know they I guess they said that. It you know moved along because they have to stop for traffic light in their parade. Right. And they had little Festival at the park which was actually the festival was very nice to share. There's a lot of people there. And Tammy Faye Baker was there.

J Joan Devlin 01:49

Oh how fun why didn't you ask her to come back to Eastern with you and be on the show tonight?

J Jack Valinski 01:52

I didn't want to drive down with her. I mean she's she's a lot of fun but sometimes I think she's clueless and she I mean she was very inspiring the parade very much turned into a Patriotic Parade Oh of course yeah with with everything going on in fact, they said they were even thinking about canceling at but they said no, you know we need to go on and move on.

J Joan Devlin 02:12


Speaking of yesterday Houston had their Pagan Pride festival. Yes. Oh, yes.

J Jack Valinski 02:15

Did you go yes, it

 Joan Devlin 02:17

it was it was very nice. A lot of things for sale. I bought some very cool earrings, which unfortunately, I can't wear on the air because the headphones will hurt me. But maybe that's the point. Right? I joined I bought a ticket into a raffle for a really cool hooded green Cape but I guess I didn't win it. But it was just it was a really friendly atmosphere open a lot of fun. A lot of people turned out like your pride parade though. There was also a lot of pagan patriotism, which was she was kind of enjoy that. Yeah, that would be really interesting was very interesting. And it was great. It was great fun.

 Glenn Holt 02:50

Oh no pagan terrorists. No, no

 Joan Devlin 02:52

pagan terrorists that was at the garden, the heights. Yes, it was at the garden in the heights. And then this Sunday, which we wanted to have them on the show, but I guess they're busy setting up for this is a sister's decadent dessert fundraiser at media or media from four to seven.

 Jack Valinski 03:08

Genesee, which is just off of Fairview slash to them, right. And assisters is a wonderful organization. And it sounds like this benefit is going to be a lot of fun and a lot of eating.

 Joan Devlin 03:20

Oh, big time. They have some chefs from all over the city Fox Diner is among them. I mean, I can't wait. I'm ready.

 Jack Valinski 03:28

And after we do our interview, I want to talk a little bit about the movie li e which opened this past Friday at the River Oaks, a wonderful movie. But let's first do the news.

 03:43

I'm Cindy Friedman. And I'm Christopher Gaul with news

 Cindy Friedman 03:45

wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending September 22, 2001. US Republican officials made three significant gay friendly

week ending September 22 2001. US Republican officials made three significant gay friendly moves this week, at a time when some gay and lesbian groups have joined in calling for care to preserve civil rights in the face of anti terrorist sentiment. As the US mobilizes for a military response to terrorism, President George W. Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld this week, authorized a so called Stop Loss policy for the military designed to keep as many service members as possible available for combat. That policy allows commanders more latitude to suspend discharge actions, including those for violations of the so called Don't Ask Don't Tell rules for gay and lesbian servicemembers. Stop Loss policies were instituted during US military actions in the Persian Gulf, Vietnam, Korea and late in World War Two, with discharges for homosexuality dropping sharply during those conflicts, only to rise abruptly when they ended. SLD n the service members Legal Defense Network has warned gays and lesbians in uniform that there has been no repeal or suspension of Don't Ask Don't Tell, and that even the stop loss policy is not yet actually in effect. The administration's move this week empowers the secretaries of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to establish stop loss policies, which they're expected to do within the next two weeks. Erin Belkin, Director of the Center for the Study of sexual minorities in the military said that stop loss draws into question the military's argument that gay and lesbian service members compromise the morale cohesiveness and operational effectiveness of their units. Since it is during periods of conflict, that morale cohesiveness and operational effectiveness are most vital. Even military sociologist trolls Moscow's who played a key role in drafting the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy called stop loss, kind of hypocritical.



05:49

Bush administration nominee Michael guest was sworn in to become only the second openly gay US ambassador. He'll serve in Romania, which has yet to fully decriminalized homosexuality. That's been the subject of eight years of strenuous debate between Romanian governments seeking to qualify for European Union membership. And Romanian Parliament's influenced by religious and nationalist concerns. But guest is reportedly already in Romania. So apparently that government did not object to his appointment. career diplomat guests selection represents something of an honor for Romania, as he's the highest ranking US Foreign Service official ever to serve in the Bucharest embassy. His most recent post in the Foreign Service has been acting assistant secretary for legislative affairs. Previously he was deputy chief at the embassy in Prague, participated in arms control negotiations with the USSR and served in embassies in Moscow, Paris and Hong Kong. Although guests sexual orientation was known to the Bush administration and was widely known within the State Department, he did not choose to make it public until this week. It was not discussed during his confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in July, the Senate confirmed his appointment by voice vote without debate. At guests swearing in Secretary of State Colin Powell publicly acknowledged guests partner of six years, Alex Nevarez, who was on the podium for the occasion,



Cindy Friedman 07:11

a committee of the Republican controlled US House this week agreed to drop its prohibition against Washington DC implementing the domestic partners legislation the city enacted in 1992. Because the city cannot tax its sole industry, the federal government, it relies on congressional appropriations for the bulk of its budget. Until now, the house has made its funds for the city contingent on complete suspension of the domestic partners ordinance. That

measure would have established a partners registry open to all unmarried cohabitants including non residents, giving them hospital visitation privileges, city employees would have been able to purchase health insurance coverage for their registered partners entirely at their own expense. But thanks to openly gay Republican Congress member Jim Kolbe of Arizona, the House Appropriations Committee voted to amend its appropriations bill. If the full House approves the amendment, Washington DC's domestic partners ordinance can finally go into effect. Although none of the federal funds can be used for this purpose. The city says it can implement the ordinance with its own funds. Both the full House and the Senate Appropriations Committee are expected to vote on funds for Washington in the coming week. Religious Right groups are lobbying against the change



08:29

and Australian gay man's quest to collect his deceased partner's military pension has been taken up by the United Nations Human Rights Committee. Edward Young's relationship lasted 38 years, ending only with the death of his war veteran partner three years ago. Yet Australia's Department of Veterans Affairs refused to recognize it. Jung says he's pursuing the case not for money, but for the principle of equality and to honor his late partner's military service. The Australian Defence Force officially opened military service to gays and lesbians in 1992. Both Young and the Australian government has made written submissions to the UN Human Rights Committee, but a ruling is not expected for at least a year and a half.



Cindy Friedman 09:09

A bill for legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples in the Czech Republic won approval from the nation's cabinet this week and advanced to the parliament. No former communist bloc country has yet extended legal status to same gender couples. The government's proposed registered partnerships would carry many of the legal rights of marriage with equal recognition in areas including inheritance pensions and health insurance, but would exclude adoption rights twice before the Czech parliament has rejected similar proposals. The nation's Roman Catholic bishops and Catholic affiliated National Center for the family are actively lobbying against the current bill. The Czech national gay initiative assisted in the development of the bill and fully supports it. Spokesperson Jerry Romana called opposition to the bill hysterical envy



10:00

A conservative Christian group in Canada has hand delivered 5000 anti gay letters to residents of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Recently, a report recommended addition of information about sexual orientation to the city's teacher training school libraries and school curricula. The group Christian truth activists said in its letter now the homosexuals want to share their filth and propaganda with Saskatchewan children.



Cindy Friedman 10:24

In Egypt, the lone minor kneaded in the notorious May police raid on a gay inclusive Cairo riverboat club. This week was given the maximum sentence for debauchery three years imprisonment and a youth facility followed by three years of police supervision. Mohammed

imprisonment and a youth facility followed by three years of police supervision. Mohammed Abdullah photog confessed to having had sex with another male and two belonging to a gay organization, but that confession may have been extracted by torture. Because of his age variously reported as 15 and 17 years, Abdullah Fatah was tried in a different court from the other 52 men arrested. And so unlike them, he has the option to appeal, although it's not yet known if he will, the mass trial of the other defendants continues.



11:08

Berlin's mayoral election campaign is the ugliest in years. Openly gay interim mayor Klaus Vova right was described by his opponent Frank Steffel, as having a deformed character. While shuffle has apparently not been any more explicit than that in attacking Volvo right sexual orientation. Steffel has gone out of his way to display his wife as a reminder of his own heterosexuality. Ironically, Vova rights Social Democratic Party, which holds a majority in the Berlin assembly for years formed a coalition with sniffles Christian Democratic Party, but now each group blames the other for the city's financial problems.



Cindy Friedman 11:44

And while US Republicans may appear to be kinder to gays and lesbians this week, the same is not expected of Britain's opposition Conservative Party. The Tories elected in Duncan Smith as their national leader, and he promptly named a very conservative leadership team and fired gay supportive Stephen Norris, from the party post he held for the national elections campaign. This largely dashed hopes raised by Smith's briefly questioning the party's hardline support for Section 28. The Thatcher era prohibition against local governments devoting resources to promotion of homosexuality. The party's gay and lesbian group torch Tory campaign for homosexual equality welcomes Smith's selection, but openly lesbian former towards head Karen Juilliard, a member of the Plymouth City Council called Smith a bigot and defected to the gay supportive Liberal Democrats saying she had become embarrassed to be a conservative,



12:43

openly lesbian author Ali Smith's novel hotel world is one of six finalists for the UK Booker Prize, one of the richest and most distinguished awards in World Literature. Another of the finalists announced this week Andrew Miller's oxygen features a gay character,



Cindy Friedman 12:58

and finally, Norway's veterans gotten newspaper reports that women there are kissing other women in public as never before. A sociologist attributed what's been labeled a craze to a new openness among women for sexual experimentation. A nightclub owner agreed that it's totally part of the Zeitgeist just show that you're open for new things, adding that it's been going on for years so no one reacts anymore. A spokesperson for Norway's National Association for lesbian and gay liberation praised the new freedom that allows public displays of same gender affection, but noted there's a big difference between kissing a female friend and being a lesbian. If women are kissing other women due to social pressure, or as part of a trend, she said, That's wrong.



13:46

That's news wrap for the week ending September 22 2001. Written by Cindy Friedman, and recorded at the studios of KPFK. Los Angeles,



Cindy Friedman 13:55

follow the news is in your area and informs community is a strong community. For this way out. I'm Cindy Friedman.



14:01

And I'm Christopher gall.



14:03

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Glenn Holt 14:52

you are listening to lesbian and gay voices.



Jack Valinski 14:57

It is election season and there's a lot of stuff going on. And of course, we were talking about the referendum coming up and just want to remind you that you can get involved. And the best way to get involved is to call 5217161 for progressive voters and action, of course, that's Area code 713. And they're working seven days a week as we speak. Now they're checking the petitions, checking them twice. Because the best thing that could happen is it getting thrown out, although that is not likely to happen. It was a possibility there. So give them a call. Or, you know, just go by because they're they're working all day, Saturday, all day, Sunday, and every night of the week between calling and checking the petitions and doing all that work. And speaking of things going on with the election, and actually it's more than just the election. Janine brunches is with us tonight. And she is the liaison to the gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community for the mayor of Houston. And actually, I think, am I not mistaken. But Lee Brown was the first mayor to do that.



16:00

That's right, Jack Sure



Jack Valinski 16:01

is. And you're the second person to hold that job,



16:04

the second liaison.



Jack Valinski 16:06

And it's amazing. I know when you were appointed. I didn't know you, but certainly you got out the candidate pretty quickly. And got to know an awful lot of people.



16:14

Right, right.



Jack Valinski 16:15

So what's it like?



16:16

Well, one, it's exciting. I have to tell you that what what my catalyst was jacked, you know, I went down to Palm Beach for that election debacle back in November. And I came back and I decided I wanted to do something. And lo and behold, I got a call from Sula. Well, it was a Monday night Dirceu. She said, Hey, Janine, you know, a nice, just let me know that the lies on Matthew, East US, I think at the time, yes. was headed to LA. And she said, you know, we thought you might be interested in doing that. And since then, you know, it was like, That Chronicle article said it was it's been a baptism by fire. I mean, you know, I thought, Oh, your was this closeted executive all those years, you know, and then it was it was truly baptism by fire with the whole domestic partnership question coming up?



Jack Valinski 17:09

And? Well, I mean, you put a lot of work into it, I know, you put a lot of time into it work hard. But meeting with the different groups, I mean, then this is an incredibly diverse community. So

certainly, learning the issues and dealing with all the stuff that and this is an incredibly large city, also fourth largest city in the country. So there's a lot of ground to cover.



17:32

That's right, a lot of ground cover. It was at first, you know, a bit overwhelming, because the whole role of the liaison is not only to serve, as the mayor's help the mayor be the mouthpiece in the community for what the mayor is thinking, but also to feed back to the mayor, what the GLBT community is thinking. And the challenge of that if you look at all the you know, whether it's political PAC organizations, or all the 501, C threes charitable, as you're looking at, probably well, you know, Jack and Joan, well over what, two to 300. And I knew I couldn't get to all those. And so the the roundtable was born, you know, that every other Wednesday, I do have the Mon where anybody who wishes to come, you know, comes to the community center for, you know, from five to six o'clock, and whether they represent a constituency or not, and, you know, they can have a voice and that, that, for me has been not the single way to get out in the community. But one of the ways it's just immeasurable, you know,



Jack Valinski 18:35

and did you know the mayor beforehand? No, no, no.



18:41

I probably like everybody else, you know, you read the paper, and between you and I don't and, you know, I don't mind saying this. I don't think you know, the Chronicle is extremely kind, you know, in its reporting sometimes, but you know, you take, you take that in stride, I think politician, and I think the mayor has been sometimes unfairly the bit roughed up in the press. And so I really only knew the mayor by what I was reading. And so if you can imagine, you know, I'm a person that doesn't go by everything that they read. And if I did, I would not be feeling too positively. But I knew by talking to people that he was up to more than what the press was expressing. So no, I didn't know him. I had not met him,



Jack Valinski 19:27

and how much time do you get to spend with them? Well, I



19:30

get you know, it's interesting. I get that question often. Jack. What I can say about that is that he and I routinely meet we've planned quarterly meetings, but in the middle of that, yeah, in the middle of that i i set up for him and arrange opportunities for him at the community's request and at his request to be with the community. But I'm I do what they call staffing. They'll They, you know, Jenny, would you staff the mayor that night. And what that means is I meet

the mayor at these events, make sure he, you know, gets to the right room at the right time. And the people meet the mayor, as well as the mayor wants the opportunity to meet everybody in the room. And that's my role.

 Joan Devlin 20:16

Well, I heard through the Political Caucus grapevine that he just had the caucus. Now, were you there that night when he was endorsed when hours? Well, speech?

 20:26

I was. And I have to tell you that, you know, a lot of people say, Well, you were appointed, so you have to support the mayor, you know, this kind of thing. And I said, Well, that might be right, but I'm an unpaid political appointment. And that I like the mayor for the person he is and and what he stands for, and I went to the caucus, I'm a member of the caucus, that evening, and the group was very positive about what the mayor had to say. And of course, he did get endorsed that night, but he's a humble kind of guy. And that the night that night, he left and I walked him to the front porch, he turned around, he said, Why did I do? You know what I'm saying? I mean, he didn't take a thing for granted. He didn't take that endorsement for granted at all.


 Jack Valinski 21:13

Well, there's one thing that he said that night, among many other things, was that some of the things that he is hoping that he does, will that is sort of being out front will in a few years time be just ordinary type of thing, like riding in the parade, you know, coming to the to the community. And certainly, if we go through the history of the political people in the city, they there's been, you know, that distancing from our common. Right. And, and certainly, because we were generally thought of as a liability. Right. And, you know, being a member of the caucus for a long time and knowing some of the questions they ask, they don't just give out endorsements for nothing. I mean, there's times that they haven't endorsed incumbents, and incumbents even like the mayor, because they you know, they're looking out for the community. And they're also looking out, you know, not only for the community, but as this person who gets elected, will they also be good for the city in general? That's right. And certainly, you know, the, this is a time where the city has just totally been redone, especially downtown.

 22:21

Oh, yes. You're right. I think that that on all counters, if I look at, you know, people say, Janine, are you? Are you single focused? You know, are you focusing on the GLBT issues? I said, Well, we'll certainly that's a huge part of what I'm doing for the city doing with the city. But the other part of that is, I'm also watching and being part of a leadership here that's transforming downtown. It's just as the mayor says, someday he hopes people can walk downtown, like we

would walk to a quaint town in Italy. And, you know, that might be stretching, but I think that it could be wider streets. There'll be a lot more drastic, you know, but that it'll be that relaxing, and incredibly increased the quality of our life here.

 Jack Valinski 23:09

Well, and, you know, certainly the the mayor can't take all the credit for it. But the transformation of seeing downtown, other than having, you know, the the nights at the symphony, symphony or playing or the opera is going on, that you can go down any night of the week and see people down there, you know, with the bayou place and the allogenic. Downtown. I mean, and the fact that there's going to be the the hobby Center for Performing Arts, and all that stuff. Convention Center

 23:37


Hotel. Yeah, still on the plane. Yeah. You know, and, and in a time when I know the vacancy rate is low. Now, obviously, for the horrible reasons that bubbled up last year, last week is that we still have a major Convention Center going up, which will create a lot more jobs for people, as well as a lot more hotel rooms for conventions,

 Jack Valinski 23:59

and the trolleys that run down there for free, right? That's pretty in all of midtown. That has just changed completely. So may not say for the good, but But it has changed. So what do you think? What do you think that the, you know, the mayor would like to do in the next couple of years from from what you know,

 24:18

yeah. What I know. And of course, you know, I'm always careful about this, Jack and John, because I don't speak for the mayor. But I think that the mayor, I know the mayor related to our community's going to continue his stride as it relates to equal rights for us. I think the fact that it said that we have to go to referendum in November I agree with you that I think that that's where we're going to end up or I know that's what we're we're going to end up but I believe the mayor is a man of his word. And he's committed one on one with me as well as with a nice and other members of the community that he is there are with us. And we'll continue moving along, in support of our rides. I think on a community wide basis, you know, his his love of youth use meaning work for that we all love youth, but I mean work for kids, you know, with, with the with the car Internet access library card making this a wonderful place for kids to be raised. I think the whole development of downtown is not only being pursued, but as ash. I mean, he's, he's leading, he's not just talking about doing it. But he's doing it. As a matter of fact, I requested that he be in an event on the on the secondary server, and he's been requested to be at the Unity banquet March. Well, you know, I've got kind of blinders on. I'm just planning his time as though the mayor is going to blow right through election as our next mayor in his third term.

 Jack Valinski 25:53

And it should definitely be noted that Mayor Lee Brown was the first elected mayor to ride the parade, and to have that exposure and to be on TV and not to be afraid of it. Right. All right. That's pretty incredible. And and that's just, you know, a statement of him being there. There's a lot more to being mayor, the city then just riding the parade, sir.

 26:15


All right, right. It's a, I think, check the whole statement about being in the parade. And now the mayor being in the parade, but the mayor's wife being in the parade, she that's her favorite one of her favorite events of the year, and she loves being there. The other pieces that fall out related to him as his support of this, of the liaison position, you know, from, from what I know, and what I've heard that the other candidates are really not for promotion of the liaison position. So you know, I, whether it's me, or whether it's someone else in December, I do hope that the mayor remains for our community, because I know that he ascribes to having that position filled.

 Joan Devlin 27:00

He's also not backed down in support of our issues, right. You know, the referendum, the threats, everything else, he has never wavered in the face of that

 27:10

snapper. is a matter of fact, you remember John when He? Oh, as for the community, you know, when we came together as a community, and basically he asked the community what we thought about this whole domestic water issue? Sure. You know, he didn't need to do that. I think that that was a wonderful, wonderful way of asking our opinion. And he listened to us. He listened to


 Jack Valinski 27:36

us, right? Because originally, there was thought of doing this for domestic partner benefits, right. And the crowd in that room, basically said, Well, what good is that when we still don't have our basic rights, right? And you know, and that also sort of translates to the state, you still got 2106 on the books. Of course, the mayor can't do anything about that. But you know, we've got to go after the basic rights before we go after.

 28:01

Yeah. And the That's right. And you'll remember that meeting it. Heck, we could still be discriminated against at the city level. So now we have and I think we have to remember that. Although we have a referendum looming that, you know, Jack, when you were talking about 16


years ago, when I, when I came to Houston, I walked into Louis Welch and his comments about what he say shoot the, you know, yes,

 Jack Valinski 28:29

it was 13. They were they're teasing the newscast. And they asked him what he was going to do about AIDS. And he says, Well, for one things, you can shoot the queers,

 28:39

right. He thought that didn't he think the earphones were? Well, the camera was off or

 Jack Valinski 28:43

whatever, right. He thought it was off. And just thought that was a funny, you know, funny thing to say. And this is a city where it was it was devastating during the early days of AIDS in the city, you know, that there was nothing being done by the county or the city, for people with AIDS. And we've come you know, we still got ways to go with our hospital district and things like that, but we've come a long way.

 29:08

That's right. And I think that I think there's an eye to that. And if you look at if you look at history, I mean, we had the Louis Welch and, and we had some other efforts over the years and certainly, Mayor Lanier Of course, Mayor Lanier has now stood up with with Mayor Brown is in support of anti gay initiatives. And I think that that we're just in a different time. Now. You know, if you look at Mayor Browns track record with us, you know, he issued the first executive order, banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and was just basically Rob Todd suit was just thrown out by the Texas Supreme Court. He rise in gay pride parade. I've never known. I mean, he's broken bread with our community on a number of times, but he's just I think he's just led and been a part of what we're doing

 Jack Valinski 29:59

well it I think it also should be a point that is at 45. The businesses were against us, right. And the times have changed where business needs good people into work for them, and whether they're gay or not gay, you know, that shouldn't be the issue. And that pretty much has an end, as you're talking about the Chronicle. I mean, the fact that even the Chronicle now has to match domestic partnerships for work for them. And, you know, and still, you know, the Chronicle hasn't always recorded wonderfully on the mayor, but, and the Chronicle is still has a ways to go. The fact that they have done it, you know, I mean, the Jerry Falwell gap that the Chronicle put an editorial out, like the next or a few days after that against his Idiocracy. So we, you know, we have moved, but we can't stop.



30:45

No, and I think you're right about the Chronicle. I mean, I've just, I remember when I woke up that Monday morning, and the announcement or the top headliner on Metro was gay, lesbian woman or something like that appointed liaison to the game, it was a picture of me, you know, it was like, Oh, my God, you know, all these years, I just kind of hid under the blankets and wrote an occasional check thinking that I could, I could hide from that, but they were very kind in that article. And I and hopefully, you know, of course, truthful, I felt, you know, but, but it seemed as though they're the articles that ensued. Were all positive, even the the parade article that the Rothko chap. I mean, there's been so much that's, I think, offered up education for the people of Houston, and for our community that would not have ordinarily been out there, except from the gay press.



Jack Valinski 31:41


Well, definitely. We've always talked about role models. And certainly you become a role model. And the size working with the mayor, you're also involved in a few other organizations, aren't you? Well, I



31:51

am. I am. Do you want to hear about your Okay. Well, you know, can I go back to one thing you mentioned, because I don't think I covered it well, and I won't, I won't go on on about this. But you mentioned how often I get to see the mayor, you know, that seeing him quarterly but I also do report into one one of his senior staff members that I spend some time with Jack. So there's a lot of time down at city hall or I might be caught in a hallway like you all have seen me having some heated agreement or disagreement with the animals that agreement denied disagreement with Dave Wilson. So there's there's a lot of time involved where we don't necessarily report meetings, but we're I'm just asked to be a variety places. But as far as other organizations I'm involved in. Primarily, I there's two or three right now one is an uncommon Legacy Foundation. And an uncommon Legacy Foundation basically supports or enhances the visibility, vitality and strength of the lesbian community. And we do that by giving scholarships to outlets bands, in our community as well as nationally. Well, last year, just alone, Houston gave 20 2000s out out grants and scholarships fabulous. And we've been doing this for approximately eight years nationally. Now Houston came along about six years ago, there's roughly 1200 men and women on our list those that get frequent mailings from us that have supported legacy and what legacy does. And we also give grants to organizations, like you had mentioned the sisters, you know, Kobe project, groups like that, that also support the lesbian agenda. The other group that I'm particularly proud of, of course, is the Houston black tie dinner of which, you know, I say, I'm one of the founders, but you know, that puts me in a row in that other age category, maybe. But when people think founder, they always throw me into what she's ready to, to come off the board, but not quite, it's only been researched about the past eight years now. And the other organization that I'm particularly focused on right now, and you know, the building sold as a Hollyfield foundation. I'm chair of that board and the Hollyfield Foundation, course, a memory of our dear friend, Jay Hollyfield, who was the founder who has now left us but in his stead, we basically give money away to organizations that promote human rights, and our AIDS advocates. And we've just sold the last of his three properties that

he gifted to the foundation. And we feel now we'll have more funds to distribute for the good of the GLBT community and we felt like we could be a greater catalyst to the community there by having more money in our coffers

 Jack Valinski 34:49

will Great. Yeah, great. I know you're gonna be busy, at least for the next couple months and possibly for the next two years. And it's great to have you on it Great the role model that you're playing for this community, both within it and without the community. I mean, it's it's pretty, pretty neat, and the best of luck. And of course, we all got to work towards defeating that referendum. That's fine in the upcoming months. And if you want to get involved, all you have to do is call them or stop over there still at the Hollyfield foundation is which is at 2700, Albany, suite 205. Or just give him a call at 713-521-7161. Janine, thank you very much.

 35:31

Yeah, thank you very much.

 Jack Valinski 35:32

You're listening to lesbian and gay voices.

 35:36

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 36:51

To 25,000 6500 25,000 How do you make

 37:11

Hi, this is Anthony Rapp and you're listening to lesbian and gay voices on KPFT in Houston.



Greg Gordon 37:39

40 countries were represented by about 100 Gay Lesbian buying and transgender activists who came to Oakland California in late August for the 21st World Conference of The International lesbian and gay association or ILGA. At a small pre conference before the main week long gathering about two dozen participants from Zimbabwe, the Philippines, Venezuela and China, among others, met to discuss issues relevant to lesbian, gay and trans people in the southern hemisphere. Reporters Mary Salome and Emery Charles spoke with some of them about yoga, the south south dialogue and the current situations in their home countries.



38:14

Yoga is the International lesbian and gay Association was founded in 1978, the only global Federation of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender groups worldwide. So it's very unique organization. It has very large member organizations within its Federation, right down to very small ones in very developing countries or regions of the world.



38:44

It is the largest international federation of more than 400 organizations and individuals. It was started in Europe, and it was central in the US and now it is more regionalized and we in our regions tend to do our own networking, our own capacity building and respond to the world mode.



39:06

According to Elga literature, the south south dialogue was initiated by ILGA, co Secretary General from xili in touch via the initiative arose from discussions at the ILGA 19th World Conference in Johannesburg, and the first face to face meeting took place at the 20th ILGA World Conference in Rome 2000. The objectives of the south south dialogue were formulated as follows To ensure that Southern LGBT perspectives and issues are raised and remain on the global agenda to identify key and strategic southern LGBT activities and ensure input and participation in the international processes to identify key areas of collaboration and our activities in the pursuit of full legal and social equality for LGBT people, to highlight the role played by LGBT people in the broader human rights struggle, and to situate our struggle within the broader human rights struggle. And finally, To open a specific space within alga to develop a southern agenda.



40:05

My name is Sherman DeRose. I'm from Sri Lanka. And I'm also the Asian representative to the international lesbian and gay Association, as well as the AIDS Working Party coordinator for yoga. I think this is certainly a very, very important step, to build up networks and bridges with groups in the south. South, I don't know how it has been defined, but it is for people of color people, of less minority, and economically less advantaged people. And I think this is very

significant, since it is very important for us to know our needs, and to see our own strategies, whether we really meet the needs of our communities, and also to see what we can learn from elsewhere. And I think this is why south and south is very, very vital to us.



40:53

My name is Sylvia Evans, and I work for the National Latino lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender organization, and United States in Puerto Rico. We're a huge community in Hallward. But I think that the activists were just few. Everybody cares about the issues. But the ones who are hands on the movement, were just few.



41:15

My name is Keith Goddard. And I'm from the gays and lesbians, it's a month wait, let me hear for really, for two reasons is the south south dialogue and also the Africa was a region, I was hoping that there would be more people from African LGBT organizations here, but the few of us here will, it should be enough for us to start working towards a bigger network. From the south south dialogue thing, it's really just, as far as I'm concerned, just to explore what the possibilities are. And whether there is much sense in people in Africa, making connections and working with peoples they in Asia or China to vary, and especially the Spanish speaking world are very different parts of the world, very different cultures. And just because we all come from the south, as it's called, it doesn't mean that we're all the same. Of course, it's beneficial to us, if countries from the south like Malaysia and whatever, are attacking government, and they they are the ones to be seen. Trying to influence changes in Africa. When it's an American organization or a European organization, it's just seen as foreign interference by those people from from the north. So in that way, South South dialogue should help us strange that we all have to meet in a place like Oakland. It's, I mean, we now have this thing called the Africa Exchange, which we had about six or seven organizations from East Africa and southern Africa, which met last year in Harare, and we're going to meet again in Namibia. But it does seem ironic that the only time that Africans get together is when we'll hold off the continent and shoved in some foreign hotel somewhere.



43:00

I'm Oscar Darrow. I'm president of progressive organization of gays in the Philippines, pro gay, left wing militant group for transgendered and gay men across the country, my Philippines. I'm here I'm here in Oakland to attend the global gaze summit and to push for more, a more palpable Asian presence here. From the south south dialogue, we want to make people of color and people from the southern countries some get more accustomed and familiarizing. being pushy, for myself, I would I would really want to make the Asian queer presence felt not only here because here in the United States in North America, it's there is a great Asian presence, but mostly in the academic sense. We would like that translated into a mass movement inside Asia,



43:57

came from China. So I present a group called the Beijing sisters based in Beijing, China. it's

came from China. So I present a group called the Beijing Sisters based in Beijing, China, it's mostly to exchange experiences and learn from each other, especially from South Asian countries. I think it's especially about how to manage the globalization because it's was our detective. Rhythm. There's nothing too much we can do. But with globalization, we hope that we can cooperate and learn from the others to manage it better.



44:36

I am used to Mirantis I am the GLBT, representative of the Venezuelan section of Amnesty International and also do media, political coordinator of an NGO focus it specifically in human rights GLBT people in Venezuela is the only one we deal with, not only with sexual orientation, but with sexual orientation. related sexual orientation discrimination related to gender issues, relations with the other NGOs from Latin America mainly to strengthen our abilities and our skills in order to, you know, to make force in front of our governments and to be common space for us.



Greg Gordon 45:24

You were listening to coverage of the 21st annual World Conference of ILGA, the International lesbian and gay Association on this way out, international gay and lesbian radio magazine,



45:34

I'm annaliesa Rabea. I'm president of click camp live in the closet, which is Manila based lesbian group in the Philippines. I am as well the, at the moment representative for Asia, women of ILGA click does work with women. And many of these women don't like to consider themselves lesbian or even bisexual. So we just say, okay, non heterosexual. Our problem is that we don't have enough role models. And people are not even sure what they are so much less know how to label themselves. After I organize the Pilger Asia lesbian caucus, which was at the end of July, I had a series of meetings with cabinet ministers in my country. These are agencies and institutions that can if they show sympathy and cooperation, they can make the lives of lesbians and gays in the Philippines less stressful, let's say if we can dialogue with government officials, I mean, using my my position, for instance, as ILGA, then why not? No, it seems like when you say you belong to an organization that has 400 500 600 members the world over and we are representing this number of countries, when people say Ah, you mean there's such a thing? Yeah, there is, you know, and they start to think, Oh, well, this must be serious



47:10

for us and Venezuela is we has the same, the same force, the same strength, international law than the constitutional law. So that's very important for us because any advancement in international field is legal in Venezuela. For our



47:31

president, President Mugabe is probably the world's number one best known homophobe. He was the one in 1995 referred to us as being worse than dogs and pigs. And for the past five years, he was very vocally homophobic, both inside and outside Zimbabwe, itself is now in a state of crisis. And in fact, the heat is off the lesbian and gay community, specifically is not mentioned very much about homosexuality in the last couple of years, we now find ourselves part of a much broader debate, the gay and lesbian group actually stood up and challenged the government in 95. And we were criticized for doing so now people are realizing that we were actually right. All the organizations that were in contact with are all on the net. And we even now have a list of so that we can get stuff out to people very quickly. But I mean, what she says about it only being part of a tiny minority that has access to it. Yeah, that is that is a big problem. Yeah. But I think we got to start somewhere. And if there's one workstation, which is linked to the net, and then that the people who will have access to that station, are working with people in rural areas, whatever, at least there's some kind of link between what is happening outside the urban areas and the rest of the continent.



48:53

So the Internet has become more of a tool for you organizing in China.



48:58

Yes, it becomes more of a chore but also it brings a lot of limitations. Well, because not many people have access to internet in China. So it's a class issue. Yes, it's class to show which is very new issue for China as the communism country been lucky



49:19

to be into gay rights already in Puerto Rico. It did amaze me the way they work hard. The union of the LGBTs it did amaze me, it was the way that women and men works together. That's the beauty of that specific country, Puerto Rico,



49:39

to be gay is a criminal offense in Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and so on and so forth. And it's certainly need to recognize that we are not criminals in our own land that we are people and we are not asking for any special rights but a right to survive. So this is what the basic issue that we are dealing with in Sri Lanka and South Asia in particular.



49:58

Australia is very well off when it comes to GLBT rights and issues, they have national Equal Opportunity legislation. But their anti discrimination legislation doesn't cover sexuality. That's a goal that we've been striving for for quite a while. All the states now have decriminalized homosexuality, they have equal opportunity in anti discrimination legislation. Although New South Wales now remains the only one that does not cover bisexual people. Transgender

people are still not covered in Queensland. We're also very concerned about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reconciliation our indigenous people. And they have black, white and pink which is group within the queer community, moving towards reconciliation, but it's a it's a growing campaign right throughout Australia,



51:00

when queer groups started talking about sexuality. Seven years ago, the fundamentalist fired their opening salvo that this gay agenda thing is imported from the west. And so we tell them that it's a reality that among gay people, queers in the Philippines, that the priority issues our jobs, education, health care, and sexuality really comes last but we'd pro gay, we share your concerns, and we want a better country. We want food on the table education for everyone. And you should realize that queer people are also deprived of the economic benefits, we suffer the same poverty.



51:50

I'd like to make an appeal to Asian Americans, Filipino Americans, to please try and come to the conference in Manila in November. This is the first time ILGA will have a World Conference in Asia. It's very significant, not just for the Philippines, but for many lesbian and gay people in Asia, who think they are living in isolation, but they are not and, and people from the countries that are very dangerous to organize in like Singapore, Pakistan, Bangladesh, other countries, please come or get in touch with with gay and lesbian people from your countries, so that they can can come to Manila. It's not all going to be called ILGA because we know how dangerous it is for them to come to a lesbian and gay conference. It's going to be a human rights and sexuality conference and we're going to be tackling religion, culture and tradition. And how this how all of these things discriminate against all of us. Please try to participate please try to come.



Greg Gordon 53:03

That was Manila activist mov as a Rovio and coverage of the Gilda conference, South South dialogue was prepared by Mary Salome and Emery Charles of queer in your productions in San Francisco. For more information about the international lesbian and gay Association and their upcoming events, including the 2003 World Conference in the Philippines, check their website@www.ilga.org That's www.ilga.org Thanks for choosing this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine this week Cindy Friedman, Christopher Gaul, gram Underhill, Chris Ambridge, Brian newness, Jason Lynn Rex Walker and Mary Salome and Emily Charles contributed program material. Thanks also to Arwen more, Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music. Remember, you can listen to this way out anytime online exclusively on planet out, just point your browser to www dot planet out.com and click first on multimedia than on radio. Some this way our operating expenses are funded through direct charitable donations from our listeners around the world. For an important message about this way outs tenuous financial situation please visit our webpage at this way. out.org Email us at TW o radio@aol.com Or write to us at Post Office Box 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038 USA for Associate Producer Lucia Chapelle and everyone that this way out. I'm Greg Gordon. Thanks

for listening on kn UD Garberville, California WJ SC Johnson, Vermont, CJ Sr, Edmonton, Alberta and more than 125 other stations around the world, including this local community radio station do stay tuned.

G

Glenn Holt 54:42

And this local community radio station is KPFT in Houston, you are listening to lesbian and gay voices. And Jack I see in the news that this past Saturday Senator John McCain a Republican from Arizona I A was delivered the eulogy for one of the people on flight 93, the one that crashed in Pennsylvania after the passengers apparently fought with the hijackers. The person that he eulogized was Mark Bingham, a gay person who was a, I guess, a former rugby player. And the Senator said, I know he meaning Bingham was a good son and friend, a good rugby player, a good American and an extraordinary human being. He supported me and his support now ranks among the greatest honors of my life. I wish I had known before September 11. Just how great an honor his trust in me was. I wish I could have thanked him for it more profusely than time and circumstances allowed.

J

Jack Valinski 55:52

Well, you know, it's funny how war changes things. And they're talking about doing away with the Don't Ask, Don't Tell thing. They have to recruit people. But, you know, that's bigotry. That's like, where's the where's the?

J

Joan Devlin 56:08

Well, I find it ironic that McCain spoke about Mark Bingham because as you know, in the majority of, of right wing publications, where they're listing the names of people who died in that particular tragedy, they're conveniently leaving Mark Williams name off the list notice that really, wow. You know, and especially after Falwell's idiotic remarks of two weeks ago, it's it's kind of cool to see a politician even though McCain is hardly what I'd call a typical Republican.

G

Glenn Holt 56:43

Well, on a lighter note, movies,

J

Jack Valinski 56:45

movies. A great movie that just opened on Friday lie standing for a Long Island Expressway, which is a story about a young kid growing up about 15 years old, dealing with his friends dealing with his family sort of disappearing. The fact that his mother died on Long Island Expressway, it's playing with River Oaks. It's gotten an NC through action. Actually, I think it was unrated. I think they pulled it from a rating system before it got that rating. Very good movie. I really recommend it as there's a number of good movies out there. Ghost World is another one. That's yeah, I really want to see that. You need to see that. And headwork I think is still applying now hadn't gone. Well. We'll be

J Joan Devlin 57:30

it'll be out. It'll be another good mainstream movie is hardball. Which is that Keanu Reeves new movie, but it's basically about a misfit. I don't know he could. He does. Okay, actually, in this one. It's about a misfit who's coaching a bunch of kids who are from the Cabrini Green projects in Chicago. And it's it's been billed as 2000. And one's bad news bears. But I wouldn't go that far.

J Jack Valinski 57:54

There's another one coming out. That is basically a documentary about this football team in Ohio. That, and I just don't remember the name, but that how this whole town I mean, there's nothing else in the town. This is the whole reason for, you know, having any type of hope or something like that. And how that when the kids are even born, a male baby is born. They come the coach or the or one of the teammates comes visit the family. And it's just yeah, but it's it's a true documentary.

J Joan Devlin 58:21

Yeah. But yeah, hardball is not that bad. If you want to check out a mainstream movie.

G Glenn Holt 58:25

There was a movie that was on HBO, this past Sunday, yesterday, yesterday afternoon. That was really very interesting. It was sort of a psychological thriller. A very limited set. It was almost like it was adapted from, from a stage play, and made into a film. But it had a father and two sons and one of the sons was gay. And they were all at a at a cabin on a lake. Yes, yes. Do you remember the name of it? No, because I tuned into it, just you know, just after it started. So I didn't get the name.

J Jack Valinski 59:00


They've been running that a number of times on HBO. And I'm sorry, I don't remember it either. But, yes, one of the kids is gay. They're both on the swim team. And it's a tragedy at the end, but it's an interesting movie.


G Glenn Holt 59:15


Yeah, I was looking@hbo.com Trying to find out if there's a listing maybe of what movies were there. Yeah. I'm not familiar enough with it to be able to find it quickly.


J Ioan Devlin 59:24


 Joan Devlin 59:28
And we gotta get to JD anyway. That's right.

 Glenn Holt 59:28
Well, I guess the next next week, next week, anything for next week.

 Joan Devlin 59:34
Next week Jim Sears will be on hopefully ADA Edwards will be on and Charlene Harris will also be on and Jim Sears is Jim Sears is the author of rebels rebels Ruby fruit and rhinestones queering space in the south Stonewall south, which presents a picture of the Easterns early gay history. Charlene Harris is the author we tried to have on last week who was having phone problems. And of course everybody knows who ADA Edwards is she

 Jack Valinski 1:00:00
is running for district D City Council? Yes

 Glenn Holt 1:00:08
at 90.1 FM This is KPFT in Houston, the sound of Texas and now more of lesbian and gay voices.

 1:00:46
Guys

 1:00:58
Welcome to lesbian gay voices on KPFT And this segment is called queer music heritage. I'm JD Doyle and I'm here on the fourth Monday of each month to bring you an hour devoted our culture's music. I plan to cover a lot of territory in terms of years and types of music. Mostly, I just don't think gay and lesbian music of the past should be forgotten. And I tried to give a little information about the music and artists as I go. I also slipped in songs from the prison as well. I introduced this segment with the song gay spirit by Charlie Murphy, from the 1979 album close to roses. It's one of my favorite games, and here's just a little more of it.

 1:02:03
I'm starting off Tonight Show with two old blues songs. Both of 1935 posts by straight artists can both make a comment on gay life. The first is by Lucille Bogan. She was born in Mississippi in 1897, was raised in Alabama, and started recording for a variety of blues labels like okay, Parramatta and Brunswick, around 1923, mostly in Chicago. She is best known for writing and

recording an X rated song called shape and dry. Kane was considered by many to be the toughest female blues singer of the pre war era. She also recorded under the name Bessie Jackson, and under this name, did a song in 1935 called BD women's blues. In those days, that listeners knew that BD stood for Bo Dyker. And it starts out comelit Time BD women ain't got an E no man. And there's another line. They got a head like a sweet angel and they walk like a natural man. Here's Bessie Jackson with BD women's blues.



1:03:11

So you heard fumbling Bessie Jackson was by Pinewood tone, and was called sissy Man Blues, who according to the lyrics, he had, no woman says my good gal been gone. He got to the point where he exclaimed, Lord, if you can't send me a woman, please send me some sissy man. Pinewood Tom found a lot more fame under his real name Josh White. He was born in 1914. And South Carolina to a very poor family has a child join a minstrel show. By the 40s. His singing had evolved into Folk Blues, and he had got enough attention to even be invited by FDR to play at the White House. He became famous for his protest songs that dealt with social issues of conservative black Americans. In the 50s. He was one of the first American Folk Blues artists to tour Europe. Okay, now I'm going to bring things a little more up to date. See if you recognize the artist singing these two clips



1:04:08

of course, those two were huge hits written and recorded by Janis Ian society's childhoods were 1967 but did not start out as a hit. It was really to 1965 it was banned on many radio stations. They weren't ready for a song about interracial romance. And it wasn't until Leonard Bernstein featured her on a TV special that she received exposure for the song to become a hit. She was 15 years old. A song at 17 came along in 1975. With its stunning lyrics about the pain in high school of those who are not accepted, and many of us could very much identify with it. It's album between the lines won two Grammy Awards. Last year she released her 17th album called God in the FBI. And I'm very fortunate to have part of interview done with Janis he was interviewed by my audiophile co producer Chris Wilson in Los Angeles last month. Hit a start right after the song from God and the FBI called Play like a girl



1:05:10

to play like a girl,



1:05:13

you know, I play the best I can. And I don't think that it's that good, but an awful lot of other people do. So it's funny, it's interesting because when I was a kid playing like a girl was about one of the rudest things. You could say to a musician, you run like a girl, you play like a girly throw like a girl. And nowadays, the only answer to it is, well, duh, I'm female.



1:05:34

1:05:17

Do you think that you would be as well known without the controversy of societies? Child?



1:05:39

Oh, I have no idea. I mean, it's impossible to answer because I don't know if I would have written it 17 To that society's child, I probably would never have gone away for three years to figure out whether I was right or not. You know, if I hadn't started that young, I wouldn't have had that luxury. But it's impossible to tell.



1:05:57

When did you actually first start writing because that was published when you were so young. Do you recall when you started writing music? Oh, yeah,



1:06:04

I wrote my first song when I was 12. And it was published when I was 12 and a half. What at



1:06:09

that point, did you want to be when you grew up? Did you know was going to be a songwriter?



1:06:13

Oh, at that point, I wanted to be famous. I thought that the coolest thing in the world would be to be famous and walk down the street and have people running after you



1:06:20

all the time. how things turned out in relation to the way you thought they would turn out?



1:06:25

Well, I think when I became famous when I was 15, and 16, I discovered that really underneath that goal, that wasn't my real objective. You know, I always think that your talent leads you. And a lot of the time you just end up following it. Not really understanding why when I hit 1617, and I was already has been, I really wasn't sure if I was a songwriter. If I if I had the right to call myself a songwriter like Johnny Mercer did, or Bob Dylan. And I stopped performing for three years to figure that out. So you know, I'm grateful for that time because it forced me to make the choices I made.



1:07:08

Do you consider your life and your career to have been a successful one?



1:07:13

It's interesting, somebody posted that on my bulletin board a couple of weeks ago, said that they couldn't understand why they didn't feel like a success because they'd attained all their goals. I don't know what success is anymore. You know, as cliché as that sounds 20 years ago, even maybe 10 years ago, success would have been having another hit record. Right now I feel real successful that I'm out of debt, except for my mortgage in my car. And I managed to put my partner through law school and I lead a life that's congruent with my work. I think that's successful. Beyond that. I don't know anymore. And you know, I mean, if I think about it, you know, you look back on your life, and you think about what have I done that successful in my life. And to me, sure, I have a lot of platinum records, I have a lot of gold records. I've sold out theaters all over the world, there are people whose lives I've changed. That's an amazing thing, to me. Real success, I put my mom through college, I put Pat through college, have a foundation that sends one person a year to college. I change people's lives, you know, that's successful, to be able to change someone's life for the better and give them an opportunity. That success.



1:08:28

Back to the songs there's one in particular, I wanted to ask you about the song when angels cry, can you give us any background at all on that song? Because I know, I'm asking on behalf of someone who was really touched by that song.



1:08:39

Well, I got involved in AIDS work back in 1983, before it had a name, and have done a lot of the first benefits. You know, the first pediatric benefit the first one in New York, first one in Nashville. It really disturbed me when I was writing that song, how many people are using religion as an excuse for hatred, and saying things like, it's God's punishment on gay men? You know, because if that was true, really then lesbians who are the safest risk group really should have been punished as well. I can't imagine that God would hate gay men more than gay women. So it became an important song to me. And I liked the idea that when we see angels, you know, they're always depicted as these kind of happy figures and you put it on your lapel and you feel a little protected and to me to be that close to God would mean that you really saw into the hearts of men, and I would think there'd be a lot of tears involved.



1:09:38

Wait, you're tired times my stress. Let this moment Wait until



1:09:56



Let me see who Oh you you're left with



1:10:18

the writing rating



1:10:36

stones we can my wish I'd never wish I wish I



1:11:17

are four what's the difference now



1:11:28

with bottles and needles and true here is your living proof that cannot be proud Some say it's a judgment



1:11:51

can't believe that God would be the



1:12:06

standard



1:12:18

wish I'd never wish wish I had the



1:12:52

he says the



1:13:00

Fed



1:13:11

and say good



1:13:50

yes I find these



1:14:18

I'm the one who encouraged Chris asked Janice about the song when angels cry. It's from her 1995 album revenge, and also appeared the same year on the wonderful various artists Ed Love worth fighting for, along with music by Michael Callen, Holly near Chris Williams and many other talented gay and lesbian artists



1:14:47

Dr. Tom Robinson, you heard a bit of madness by Cheech and Chong from their last casinos album from 1973 followed by Martin Mull singing one called men from his 1977 album called I'm everyone I they're loved. And no, I don't think Cheech and Chong or Martin mall are gay. But those three selections certainly where it fit right in with a cabin boy theme of Tom Robinson song. The Nick Carter show here is one of my favorites, Jamie Anderson. She's released five excellent albums since 1989, and can sing serious as well as humorous songs equally well. This song happens to be one of her humorous songs from her latest album called drive all night. The song is called I want to be a straight guy



1:15:36

Jamie tells me she has a new CD coming out around November. I'm looking forward to it. Next up is a very special interview, but I want to start it off with two song clips.



1:15:57

The first clip many of you will recognize as seasons of love from the 1996 Broadway hit musical Rent. And it was followed by a little bit of the song from it called RIT sung by Anthony Rapp and Adam Pascale hit the riff has been acting and singing professionally since he was nine years old. He's best known for originating the role of Mark code and Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer Prize winning rock opera. Going with the show from Off Broadway to Broadway to Chicago, and finishing his round in London. He shared an Obie Award with the rest of the original Red cast for his performance. I'm very pleased to bring you an interview Anthony Rapp recorded for me. He's recently released his first solo CD called look around. And I think it's excellent. Anthony, how would you describe your musical style to someone who hasn't heard it?



1:16:40

1:10:40

I would say that my music is pop music, but it's guitar based pop music. So as the kind of a rock and roll adds to it sometimes. And it's not pop music like bubblegum pop music, so it's sort of alternative pop music in a way. So I sometimes say alternative pop. But it's not like an official label that the industry has embraced yet. So I don't know if that means anything to people. But the other thing I would say is it's influenced by 80s, pop and new wave. And so it's, I think, heavily influenced by all that, although it doesn't necessarily sound like that music. I think I hear it when I when I listen to my music. I'm very influenced by Elvis Costello and the Beatles and REM and I mean, it's it's catchy, edgy pop music, I guess is what I would say.



1:17:22

Who's your audience?



1:17:24

I think the main number of people come to see me know me from rent. Although I think you know, sometimes people know me from some of the films I've done, but it's most mostly the younger crowd that seems to know me from rent.



1:17:38

You are openly gay artists, is it important for you to be out? It's really



1:17:42

important for me to be out and publicly recognized as a queer artist. And at the same time, I'd say it's it's also deeply important that my work can speak for itself and that people can be drawn to it for its own sake. But that part and parcel of my work is my sort of political and outreach and activist work. So it's, it's very important for me to be out.



1:18:03

That kind of leads us up nicely to your song live in a live. Can you tell us about that song.



1:18:10

I was when I was filming days confused. In Austin, Texas, there was a queer youth group called Out Youth Austin. And I was I would hang out there and sort of see what's going on. I was myself only 21 At the time, but they had this. What I felt was like a really wonderful motto slogan on their wall, which was there's only one you for all time, fearlessly Be yourself. And it was unattributed. It was anonymous and anonymous quote, but I know it's very simple. And maybe not the most eloquent model ever spoken. But it really spoke to me. And so I was hanging out with Joe, my collaborator, and fellow songwriter and friend and just like I wanted to

try to write something in tribute to that. And he was totally up for it. And so we like what set out to write an anthem. You know, sometimes I wonder if it's, you know, I get a little self conscious about it, because it's, you know, this is such a cynical time. And it's hard for people to be so sort of unabashedly positive as that that people seem to really respond to it, which makes me happy. So it's the anthem inspired by the slogan at the queer youth group. Yes.



1:19:20

That was a little bit of the song living alive. In addition to read, you've appeared in a number of movies, including adventures in babysitting, dazed and confused, and six degrees of separation. And in the Broadway production of your Good Man, Charlie Brown, and now you have a solo album and are doing live concerts. Tell us how you view the two craps of acting and singing.



1:19:39

acting and singing are very different in a lot of ways and very similar in a lot of ways. In enacting, I'm playing a character some performing some, almost always performing somebody else's words, or singing somebody else's songs. And it's so it's filtered through a lens of another person. Who is this character, even though it's me up there. or it's like it's filtered. Whereas performing as a singer, I'm mostly singing songs that I've at least had a hand in writing. So there's a whole other layer stripped away. So it's a little more vulnerable and hopefully authentic. And it took me a while to start to feel really comfortable with that. And I'm feeling more and more comfortable that I'm letting sort of, hopefully letting it all hang out a little more.



1:20:24

There are three songs on your CD that at least lyrically kind of tie together, the songs look around, goodbye. And now I know, can you tell us about them?



1:20:33

Look around this is about time after a breakup, when you kind of wonder where the person who broke up with his in their life, and it kind of wonder if you'll ever see them again. And that was very specifically what that song was about. Goodbye, is. Goodbye. Goodbye is sort of the other the earlier moment of the breakup song in which all there is anger. So goodbye, is the angry, get out of my life song and look around as Okay, now they're out of my life, I kind of want you back. And now I know, we're actually back together. And I am sorry for the things that happened. And now I know that we should have always been together. The people who know the people who know my life, know that the CD does document a period of time in my life in which I as you can imagine, had a little affair broke up, wanted to get back together and got back together.



1:21:33

Let's see a quick collage of those three songs. Sometimes

Let's see a quick collage of those three songs. Sometimes



1:21:47

if any, please tell us about your live show.



1:21:50

The live shows, I do pretty much almost all the songs on my record, usually. And I like to throw in some fun covers, like I guess it's not a surprise anymore. Like when I first did it, I think it was something of a surprise when I did miss world by hole. I like to you know, sort of shake it up a little bit. And so I guess that's where I approach irony is doing those kinds of things. And I've done like a lot more sets you ought to know, but you know, not changing the gender of the song. But then I also do songs by Radiohead, because I like to do songs that are in tribute to some of my favorite artists and like Radiohead and REM and Elvis Costello and I do almost every show I do seasons of love from rent. And in a couple shows, I've also sung without you from rent and because I'd like to honor that part of my history as well.



1:22:39

Can you sum up for us your experience of being in red



1:22:42

rent was the most intense and wonderful and incredible and fulfilling experience that I could ever wish on any artist of any stripe. And all the material success that came along with it was just gravy icing. Because before well, before that happened, there was incredible artistic success that we were having with all of all of my friends and collaborators on it. So it was just it was just the epitome when people come together who all share a common vision, who all love what they do, and then do their best work. And then it's recognized. On top of that,



1:23:18

how has been in read influenced the direction of your music.



1:23:23

I think if if rent has influenced my style of songwriting, it's just that, like, most of the music that I love, it's incredibly melodic and catchy. And I aspire to the kind of relationship to hooks and melody that that Jonathan Larson had in spades, and the kind of energy that I felt as a performer in rent, I tend to write in that vein to, you know, sort of the big sort of epic, emotional music rather than sort of, I don't know, more head heavy music. So in that sense, I

guess, I guess it influenced me that because I got so much pleasure and fulfillment out of performing that kind of music night after night and rent and so now i i like to write music that's of that vein as well.



1:24:08

I think my favorite song from your album from my last question, I just love this song. Please tell us about just some guy.



1:24:14

Just some guy was written because I wanted to write a very specific boy boy love song. And it was written in honor of a very sweet affair that I had. That was like the song says very tender and sweet. And I wanted to sort of capture that essence of young, not necessarily young age but young in time, the young relationship in which those sweet feelings of love were just beginning to bubble up, but I very specifically wanted it to be a boys singing to a boy he's holding me



1:25:02

Hi, this is Anthony Rapp and you're listening to queer music heritage on KPFT in Houston, Texas, the United States of America.



1:25:10

I want to thank you all for tuning into the show. And I especially want to thank Chris wells with allowing me to use part of her interview with Jada Cena. And a special thanks to him and your app for my feature interview. If you have questions or comments about any of the music I featured, please email me at QM_heritage@aol.com. This is JD Doyle for lesbian and gay voices on KPFT in Houston, and I'll be back on the fourth Monday of next month with another installment of queer music heritage. I'm closing the show tonight with a music style that you've never heard me play on this show. Because I have almost no hip hop or rap music in my collection. But this one I had to get. It came out in 1992 on a CD single with four remixes. This is the hip hop mix. Now a friend of mine has approached me to the CD and on his copy it says the group's name is brothers about living loving and sensuality. On my copy, they are just known by their initials balls. They do a remake of the Acadians big hit from 1968 Girl watcher with the appropriate queer changes. Here is balls with boy watcher.



1:26:15

Bye bye