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SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper

J

Jimmy Carper 00:08

The following program contains the language or images of the brain or a sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned into After Hours a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of After Hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Here at After Hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of a job or frame of mind. That's okay. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of After Hours. Hello, Houston, it's Jimmy Carper with After Hours queer radio with attitude. Heard every week right here on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station with me tonight is -.

S

Sarah DePalma 02:19

Sarah DePalma. Howdy y'all how you doing tonight? Came in from the Southwest Freeway past three whack wrecks in a matter of about six miles. If you're out there and you're driving. Be careful. All of them outbound interesting one, okay. One by Sharpstown. One by Greenway Plaza. And one right coming out of town.

J

Jimmy Carper 02:40

I wonder what the deal is?

S

Sarah DePalma 02:42

I don't know what the record drivers sure seem happy. So if you're out there driving tonight, please be nice. No, as is typically the case, we really have a packed show.

J

Jimmy Carper 02:53

I know. I know. You always bring four hours worth of material for a three hour show.

S

Sarah DePalma 02:58

You know why? Why is that years ago, I were out when I was working in commercial radio. I ran into a problem with the news broadcast and came up 10 minutes short roll ups. And I had to fill that time. And I learned a good lesson from that is always better. We have way too much, then way too little.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:18

You're right. You're right. Sometimes. You know when you're tired. You've done three hours. It's a little tough to do that ad libbing.

S

Sarah DePalma 03:23

Yeah, yeah. Especially about that time of night. And so I learned from that experience. And ever since then, no matter when I've ever done radio, or if I have to write something. I always make sure I have more than enough so that if something goes wrong, we're still not stuck.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:37

It's a rare show that I go home and say, Oh, I wanted to talk about this and I just didn't have time. Yeah, yeah, it always happened.

S

Sarah DePalma 03:45

It's just you know, but anyway, that's that's this really where that came from those. This happened me years ago when I was working in radio. In fact, that worked at one station where they had a sort of an initiation. They used to have these noon broadcasts that would go for half hour. New news. They waited till I was about four minutes into the news program director came in and set the news on fire. I am watching it burn from the bottom up thinking I have 26 minutes to feel what do I do? It does teach you to be prepared.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:24

And initiation you missed a great show last week.

S

Sarah DePalma 04:26

I'm sorry I hear the-.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:27

Dee was on here for a good 1520 minutes and put put the faith back into me. You know I'm like if I had lost faith in town meeting and spectrum I've certainly got it back.

S

Sarah DePalma 04:42

You know, I was just selling telling people, people out in the lobby. Dee McKellar is one of those people who works behind the scenes. Worked her you know what, never gets credit for anything. I'm not sure that either fill us alright. could do what we do without Dee. Because Dee does all the work you get no credit for she prepares the airline tickets. I mean, she prepares all the paperwork, she gets everything done, she gets it all organized. And I'm glad to see Dee finally emerging and where people recognize her for what she is, which is a really capable individual.

J

Jimmy Carper 05:20

Well, not only that, but I get the impression that you know, if I was in a bad car wreck, I could hand Dee my life savings and say, Can you hold on to this until I'm out of the hospital and not worry/

S

Sarah DePalma 05:31

You get back with more money than you started out? I'm sure. And Dee is one of the two people who holds my medical power of attorney so that if anything ever happened, and that shows you how much I trust these judgment, because it could fault do you have to decide whether they cut me off or not?

J

Jimmy Carper 05:47

So the other thing that you missed last week is Gigi and the bisexuals were on and they did a book review.

S

Sarah DePalma 05:54

I heard that I haven't wrapped I happen to run into Michelle today to transgender warriors transgendered warriors. Me and Leslie Feinberg and I didn't like the books I wasn't gonna talk. I thought it was kind of kind of Marxist.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:08

They did they did from a from a gender point of view. And and looking at it from a non transgendered I guess. More point of view.

 Sarah DePalma 06:17

Yeah. Well, there's no question that Leslie Feinberg is a is a very thought provoking individual. And he and many Pratt are probably his, his lifelong partner, are probably two of the most well loved people in our community. And Lesley was a was a pioneer long before it was ever fashionable to be one. She's been a poet for forever. It many many pet brews. That's right. So yeah, I liked them on a personal level. I liked stone, which flues the second book kind of left me scratching my head saying, huh, maybe I just didn't get it.

 Jimmy Carper 06:52

Okay. I just bought it. I haven't read it yet.

 Sarah DePalma 06:54

Yeah. So you see, you took a totally different impression as well. But I find myself reading reading you going? Are you sure?

 Jimmy Carper 07:03

Well, you know, it's it's somebody else's idea.

 Sarah DePalma 07:09

Yeah. Yeah. Well, I actually hurt her idea. And it's interesting because I converse with her on the internet from time to time. And she disagrees with practically everything I say, you know, everything I do. It's just that we have completely different views of what we can look at the same issue and we reach two totally different views and conclusions of what the issue is.

 Jimmy Carper 07:28

But but you need that you need the different viewpoints you get you need to Kate Bornstein, you need to Leslie Feinberg viewpoints.

 Sarah DePalma 07:35

Oh, yeah. I'm glad that she does that, actually. Because it makes me go back and re examine things and say, before I opened my mouth, am I positive about this? Did I did it right. Yeah. So I don't mind that at all. Actually, I'm glad she does that. You know, if I was surrounded by

nothing, but yes, people? I don't think even I could stand me.

J Jimmy Carper 07:54

There, there'd be no progress. Yeah, no, because you would never have to think.

S Sarah DePalma 07:58

One of my best friends in the whole world. One of the reasons that she is my friend, is because she's one of the few people who will stop me and say, I know what you think about yourself, but I'm gonna tell you what it is. And I think you have to have people around around you who do that. Yeah, from time to time. That's how I know she's really a friend. Anybody can tell me what I want to hear. Only a friend would tell me what I need. That's that. Just my distinction.

J Jimmy Carper 08:22

Okay, so what else are we going to do tonight?

S Sarah DePalma 08:24

Well, we have some real interesting show tonight. There is a PBS has an upcoming program that will air in July, called the transformation which has the transgender community in I haven't seen them this angry since they went after the HRC. Wow. And maybe more angry because this is much more personal. And so we're going to talk about the transformation. Have you seen this show? I have not seen it yet. But I've talked to people who have talked to the producers. Well, I'm not exactly I sent them a three page letter they sent me on an automated response. Okay. So we'll talk about that. We have an interview with Phyllis Frey.

J Jimmy Carper 09:06

Oh, how's Phyllis doing?

S Sarah DePalma 09:08

Phyllis is doing much better.

J Jimmy Carper 09:10

Isn't it time for the law conference?

S Sarah DePalma 09:12

— Yeah, the law conference is July 3 through the seventh. Yeah.

J

Jimmy Carper 09:14

Becayse she's been kind of sitting out and letting other people do things as she's still doing that.

S

Sarah DePalma 09:19

She's, it was funny. I was just with Phyllis on Friday, we were at an estate sale for one of our clients. And she was basically essentially saying, you know how glad she was that I was doing this fight. She could sit back and smile about it. So she's mellowing out some really is good. We're also going to talk about a subject that has come up on the internet and has come up on here locally, too, and that is the subject of transgenders who date. Yeah, now we're talking about transgenders. Typically we're talking about male to female transsexual, okay, but not always. Some of them are cross dressers do. They consider themselves to be I'm heterosexual. by that. I mean, they're changing to be female. And the plan to date men. Okay. Okay. All of that's well and good. But there has just been another incident. I believe this was in Boston, of a trend of a transsexual who was beaten to death by for date. Wow. After the date discovered that she still had male genital Oh, she didn't tell him. No, she didn't. Oh, so we're going to talk about that tonight. I'm not gonna clean my hands answer this because this is a very complicated issue it is. But I would like to at least explore it and bring it out into the open, because I occasionally do get phone calls about this issue. Yeah. I also have an excellent, excellent interview. I think one of the best interviews I've had in a long time actually, with the Policy Director of the Human Rights Campaign, as she I think she calls herself the pot her political advocate, but her name is Nancy B. Meyer. Nancy, very intelligent woman. She'll be talking about the about ENDA, the employment non discrimination act. She'll be talking about the defensive marriage bill that we discussed on this show. I think we were one of the first in the country. Yes, absolutely. And if there's any time left after we do all that, I don't can't imagine there would be I know, it occurred to me after I did the interview with Nancy did a year ago this time, the Human Rights Campaign and transgenders were beating each other up. I remember that. Now. We're working together.

J

Jimmy Carper 11:20

What happened?

S

Sarah DePalma 11:21

The National Gay Task Force has really has really done a 180 and is really working with us. Trans, gay and lesbian groups and cities all over the country are changing their tune in Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh two weeks ago, they just opened their brand new Civic Center and it is the gay lesbian, bisexual and transgendered center. And they did that without being asked in Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh. Wow. Yeah. So things are really changing around the country now. Not in Houston necessarily, but all the all the places. So we'll talk about that. Also. Actually, the point I wanted to make it as we get closer to pride, what is it transgenders have to be proud of?

What have they done right this past year, where they can look at and say, Wow, this has really been something for us. Yeah, well, on a positive note, okay. Plus, of course, we get lots of news and music. Oh, yeah. Like it's definitely not marathon.

J Jimmy Carper 12:14

No, it's not marathon. I have, you know, news and tidbits bits from the game community, gay and lesbian community and bisexual and transgender community.

S Sarah DePalma 12:24

Phyllis has coined a term for that.

J Jimmy Carper 12:25

Oh, I hope somebody has LesBeGaTor.

S Sarah DePalma 12:28

LesBeGaTor. Okay, so it's a little bit of this lesbian bisexual trans. Yeah. Okay. Which is, I mean, it's, it's better than, say, four words-.

J Jimmy Carper 12:50

Or whatever. Or even, you know, the GLBT thing that you know, there's enough initials that you have to end up explaining anyway/

S Sarah DePalma 12:59

If I could just say, the queer community and everybody knew what it meant. Yeah, I know it. I'm getting used to that. That word. You know what those who used to hurt when ice was belong to the original queer nation. We drew an awful lot of flack for that. Yeah. There were a lot of people who came to us and said, What are you doing using the word queer? You know, how dare you people use this word, this is a curse word, etc. And we keep saying, Well, you know, the more you use it, the more and more you own it.

J Jimmy Carper 13:27

You own it. You take it back. Right and it belongs to you.

S Sarah DePalma 13:31

— And it's right took took people a while.

J Jimmy Carper 13:34

The same principle is the pink triangle. Yes, it was it was forced on us. In the in the Holocaust concentration. Can we now wear it with pride? It's exactly right. So we can do the same with the word queer. Yeah. Okay. Shall we go with his music?

S Sarah DePalma 13:52

Yeah, let's go to some music.

J Jimmy Carper 13:53

We'll get the nuclear interview group. You know how I am. Well, I've been waiting for this new group to come out. Imperial team is the name of the group they were supposed to have a CD release about a month ago and they've been putting it off putting it off putting it off. It's a new group headed up by Rodney bottom, who is the openly gay lyricist for Faith No More. He's put together a different group. Well, I've been looking and looking and looking looking and they're not in but this group called Imperial drag has been in and so I thought wow, look at over and there's this song on here. It says, Boy or girl. Interesting. What an interesting song. And so I played it. I have no idea if this group, you know is gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, straight, whatever. I have no idea doesn't matter if it's thought provoking. But this song is really good. Okay. It's the story of somebody meeting someone and being smitten Yeah, falling in love, and then realizing they don't know the real gender of that person and then thinking to themselves, does it really matter? Hmm.

S Sarah DePalma 15:09

Cool. I like that

J Jimmy Carper 15:11

This is the group Imperial drag the song is Boy Or Girl. Boy Or Girl by Imperial drag, I have no idea of the sexual orientation of the group. But to write a cool song like that they got to be pretty cool.

S Sarah DePalma 15:39

Kate Bornstein is the answer to that question. Neither. That's right. My typical answer is yes.

J Jimmy Carper 15:46

—
And it seems the whole album, you know, this, this good, good rock and roll. And if you liked that kind of music, the whole albums that way. It's really cool. Imperial Drag.

S

Sarah DePalma 15:56

I like the name of the group. Well, let's start out talking about the show on PBS. Okay. Let me start off by saying that the program in question is called the transformation. And PBS did not produce this program. Okay. The program was produced by some independent filmmakers. And the filmmaker production crew is called POV or point of-.

J

Jimmy Carper 16:23

Oh, yeah, the point of view group, right. Okay. Okay. Those are those are usually very controversial.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:29

Well, they produce some shows in the past, which were excellent. I saw a show, for example that they did, where they followed a transsexual through the surgery surgical process. Oh, no kidding. And it was excellent. Yeah. So I want to start out by making sure everybody understands I'm not out to hatchet job, a whole group of people. Okay. Okay. Now, having said that, they have a program that they will be it will be airing on different PBS stations in July. It will be airing here in Houston last week in July, okay. Their choice of subject is what has our attention. I'm just going to read you part of their public release here. Says Ricardo was once Sarah, a homeless HIV prostitute trans, positive, transvestite prostitute living in the underbelly of Manhattan. Okay, today he's a church going married man saved by a Dallas ministry. Oh, forever. He has renounced his homosexuality. But is his conversion complete? The transformation. Filmed by Susan Aiken, and Carlos Aparicio, features astonishingly candid interviews with Ricardo, his friends and members of his church and raises provocative questions about sexual identity and self determination. Okay, I've got about five or six issues. I first of all, do HIV positive. Transsexual prostitutes exist. Yes. Yes. Yes. There are some I know some here in Houston. Do they? Are they typical of the transgender community? No, no more than prostitutes are the training of the community at large. Right. Okay. Right away. My first question to these people was why the choice of subject matter? Hmm, I don't know. Because I've chosen not to answer that. Then then went on to say, Well, today's church going married man saved by a Dallas ministry. Well, now those of us who live in debt in the Bible Belt, know what that is. That's called right wing propaganda.

J

Jimmy Carper 18:35

You know, it's, it reminds me of a show that was on a couple of years ago about some religious group took this. This guy who's dying of AIDS went back home to his mother and, and the church came and forced him to renounce everything, you know, or they were going to kick them out in the street. Here. He is dying.

S

Sarah DePalma 18:56

Lots of choices there. Yeah. And then they go on to say that it raises provocative questions about sexual identity and self determination. Now wait, wait, you pick you pick a candidate that's an HIV homeless prostitute? And then say the subject is about self gender identity and self determination? Could you pick a less likely candidate for this subject? I know, why not come and speak to the people who really know about this topic? Why not call IFG is international, the International Federation Gender Dducators. Why not call Dallas Denee Aegis becaus it wouldn't be a spectacular. Yes, indeed. And that was precisely the point that I made to producers in the letter that I send to them. They go on to say that on his wedding day Ricardo looks dapper in his tuxedo and radiantly happy. Well, as it turns out, that what they're doing here is they're setting up a before and after shot. There. They want to make sure you understand that Ricardo was once the man so they go out of their way to make sure they show you Ricardo on it. tuxedo as a man, so they can show you, Ricardo, Sara, same person Ricardo called slash Sara, enter in as a woman could shock value. I expect better from PBS. I'm sorry I do I expect better from PBS. I expect better from these people who in the past I've produced wonderful pieces of stuff. This is not yet that sleazy. Yeah, she says there's no ordinary marriage. I'll bet it is the transportation and yeah, it incorporates haunting footage from the filmmakers previous movies, and shows Ricardo appearing as Sara as a bleached blonde with a shy flirtatious smile. Who speaks wifefully of her dreams. Oh, cut it out. Cut it out, speaks wistfully of her dreams. I'm maybe ill, you know. And so then they go on to talk about the minister who quote saved these people. This guy's name is Terry. Initially resistant to Terry's offer of salvation. Oh, right. Yeah. But when Ricardo Sarah learned he was HIV positive, scared and weary of life on the street. He wrote, he accepts and moves to Dallas. Sounds like the story you just told your Now folks, we live in Houston. Okay. The first gay pride parade I ever marched in. I remember very clearly, the parade. Just go the opposite direction came up with Simon. We started Taft and we ended up at Mandel. Yeah. I remember the first year that I marched, there was a great big campervan by the side of the road. And there was this lady standing on the top of the camper van with one of these Christian flag singing Onward Christian Soldiers.

J

Jimmy Carper 21:38

Okay. We're familiar. Everybody was dancing in ministry. Girl, go.

S

Sarah DePalma 21:43

I'll never forget somebody walking up towards me. Honey, do you know what the word on key means? I'm telling you, it was great. Okay, so I'm the point being the people who live here in the Bible Belt. We know what this is. Sure. Now, these these knots, these people have their own network. You want to show this on the Christian Broadcast Network? Be my guest. Yes. doesn't belong on PBS? No, you're right. Okay. So then they go on to say and this was this really, this is what has really set off my community. It says he had a heavy Minister talking he heavy, heavy desire that no one would look at him and see any kind of female mannerisms or traits. He worked at it very hard. I started showing him how to do things that were manly. I'm still trying to figure out what it is showing him manly things. Well, goody. And then he even goes on to explain what those manly things are. If something needs fixing, it's generally fixed by the man I

say apparently women don't know the upside of a lack of a ladder the downside of the hammer? Is that the implication here? Oh, I know a lot of lesbians who like their power tools? Who would not appreciate?

J Jimmy Carper 22:57

I know that? Yeah. What do you drink your beer and you sit with your legs far apart and watching football games and you beat your wife?

S Sarah DePalma 23:05

I guess so. Shortly after moving to Dallas, Ricardo met his future wife Betty, another them a member of the congregation. So So he goes from being an HIV positive, transvestite prostitute to a married man in Dallas saved by saved by these Christians, right? Okay, okay, fine so far. And then they finally ended up going to some other HIV positive France, transsexuals in New York and saying to them, what do you think of all this?

J Jimmy Carper 23:35

Oh, well, not that they told them.

S Sarah DePalma 23:37

Well, they did. And essentially what they said was, you know, we don't believe any of this. And it's never really resolved by the filmmakers. Fifth is it says, Well, the question is, has Terry's Minister rescued Ricardo or in the face of death? Has it made him to Fort make great sacrifice? Can we say sensationalism, boys and girls? That's it. You know, can we say a desperate attempt for good ratings? Well, rather, I saw this press release and went ballistic in the match. I mean, I'm sorry, Laurie will tell you I bounced around the house.

J Jimmy Carper 24:13

That sounds like it's on a par with that old movie reefer madness.

S Sarah DePalma 24:16

You know, the thing is, I think these people started out with good intent. Knowing knowing POV know, knowing this in the programs that scene, I don't believe they had any malice. I don't think they started out with malice intended What the hell happened? And I don't think they believe the program shows any malice. I really don't. That's my impression. I've talked to some people who have seen this program we've been we've previewed it. And they tell me that they have that they have left saying this is revolting. Yeah, really. Okay. Now then. So I sent the producers a message and I was very, very careful about the wording. And I wrote to them as the executive director of its time in America, so I was I wanted I read realized I was not. This

letter was not for me to vent my spleen. I was representing the entire community in this letter. So I was very careful about my wording. And I tried to stick to one central theme at the end during my first letter. And the letter said, essentially, you people just kill us politically, every time this crap hits the air, we end up going to talk to legislators, and instead of being able to spend our time talking about our issues, we have to spend the first half of our appointment undoing the damage that television has done here. I don't object to them doing a program like this. This is free country. I don't object to them. I'm giving their side of of story. I don't believe in censorship. I do believe we deserve equal time. Here you go. There's where PBS comes in. Here now that So while my my thought was, look, censorship is wrong. You it doesn't matter to me. It doesn't matter to me how much I disagree with something. They have the right. They have the right to say it. They have the right to produce it. They have the right to show it. I do believe in free speech, no matter what doesn't, you know, free speech is not what I believe I agree with it's what people have the right to say. Yeah, okay. Having said that, I also think that if they're going to produce a program, which is going to show us one more time I'm talking about transgenders if we are once again going to be portrayed on network television is HIV positive prostitutes. Then it's about time we got the right this Miko response. Yes, there were. There were two programs on network television this year that I can recall, in which transsexuals were part of the television script. One was a show that was on Chicago hope, where they got their facts completely wrong. And of course, the transsexual committed suicide surprise. Later, there was a show-.

J

Jimmy Carper 26:56

What the gay community had to go through and 60s in the 70s, if there was a gay portrayal, they had to commit suicide at the end.

S

Sarah DePalma 27:04

Here you go. And there was another show on ER where the person who was not at all passable, extremely desperate, and of course, they jumped off the roof of the hospital. You know, I'm tired of that. Yeah. So I sent off this letter. And not only did I send it off, but hundreds of transgender people from around the country picked up on what I said. And they also sent letters good. transexual minutes jumped in and said, We'll join you on this. We believe this Wow. People from if GE all of a sudden, all I had to get up and say was, I'm tired of this. Well, you don't have to take this garbage anymore. Turned out there are a lot of people who agree with me, of course, the response of the producers, unfortunately, was to send out a mail merge letter, an automated response. They didn't address any of the issues that were raised. They didn't address any of our objections. They blew us off. Oh, if you know me, you know that ain't the answer.

J

Jimmy Carper 28:01

No, that's not a response. No, that's wrong wants to hear.

S

Sarah DePalma 28:04

I want to read one of the letters that was sent to them because and I usually will never read

I want to read one of the letters that was sent to them because and I usually will never read anything on the show. I don't like to read letters. I don't like to read press releases. But this letter is one of the most powerful that letters I have ever received in my life. Um, this I will not give this person's name, but this person is a minister in Georgia and I'm looking to get the letter here. Let me see if I can I had it in my hand. Oh yeah, here it is. Okay. And I'm just gonna read it exactly as it says. Here, he says here. Let me tell you why treatments like yours murderous letter was addressed to the producers of the show, right? Let me tell you why treatments like yours of the transgendered phenomenon are potentially damaging to me and my family. I am a 49 year old post operative male to female transsexual. I am also a parent, along with my former spouse to a 20 year old severely physically and intellectually disabled woman. One of the more significant things I provide for my daughter is the medical insurance policy I carry, which covers her considerable metal medical expenses in large part. This policy I provide is through my continuing membership in the Presbyterian Church. As an active ordained minister. I have been ordained for 23 years and transitioned only two years ago. I work as a private psychotherapist, this ministry is authorized by the presbytery as a pastoral counseling. I am currently engaged with the presbytery of Greater Atlanta, in a dialogue over the appropriateness of a transgendered person being allowed to continue with her ordination. I hope you can begin to see the problem. Should my presbytery decide to remove my ordination? I will lose my coverage through the church's benefit for plan for both myself and my disabled daughter. I assure you she is completely uninsurable through any other means. No matter what your program says about HIV infected prostitutes, I want you to know, that is far from the reality of my life, or the lives of the other people that I know. Not only am I an ordained Presbyterian, I was married faithfully for 27 years, and continue to maintain healthy and joyful relationships with my siblings, Father, two daughters and former spouse. In addition, I have earned three graduate degrees including a PhD. I'm licensed as a marriage and family therapist in Georgia had been an active on many boards and civic associations received the highest award of my my state as a professional association. I am a miss musician, carpenter, private pilot, and oh yes, I like Chinese food. I spent most of yesterday afternoon before going to church, repairing my daughter's powered wheelchair so she could go to school this morning. Because my what my life holds little period interest, I doubt it will ever be the subject of any movie. I am just an ordinary professional woman carrying on with her ordinary daily life. I just happen to be transgendered. Through the image that media like yours portrays. However, my daily life often feels like I am wading through the mud of other people's misperceptions. If you are a transsexual, then you must be a person to be feared is what I hear. Over and over. My family is often often offered sympathy when my quote condition is revealed. When what my family actually feels is much relief that my lifelong and overwhelming depression has finally been resolved. The people I love and who love me, must also contend with the prejudice and fear, which is exacerbated by portrayals like yours. And mine is only one story among 1000s the transgender people who bake your bake your bread school, your children, defend your country, protect your health, you get the point. To be sure, there are also many broken human beings within the transgender community who deserve to be ministered to. Sometimes the decision to live as the gender opposite to our assigned gender is unwise and even destructive. My therapy work includes many transgendered people, I would never advocate transition for anyone, but hold steadfastly to the need for informed and well considered decision making. I also advocate prayer as important to my Christian clients, you know, you could help, I will contact my local PBS station and ask that they consider the possibility of running a 30 minute segment, immediately following the movie in which other transgendered people like myself would have an opportunity to talk. And then she signs her name. Wow. Well, I've talked to Rp right letter. That letter made me cry. Yeah, it gave me goosebumps. And then I cried. Because those are the people that I work my butt off to represent. My biggest concern, I'm not worried about the people who can afford to get on the Internet. The Internet is preserved for people

who are wealthy enough to buy a computer and can afford online fine, right? My concern is for the people who call me who are on the edge. They're barely holding down a part time job. They're doing the best they conceivably can. They're on the edge of desperation. And they're looking for positive anything, anywhere you bet. And shows like this, just knock them over. And I'm tired of it. So I talked to the people in our P, our local PBS, and I was very pleasantly surprised. I talked to the program director, channel eight, there have been no commitments made. No, but it is possible, possible that they may come to the law conference, and film some interviews and talk to some of the transgendered folks who come to look on. Wow, that would be terrific. It would be incredible. If it happens. They did not promise to do it. They did not commit to do it. He did the program director did say that he would check with the production crew to see if it was possible. That's better than I expected. I expected to be blown off. Yeah. And other PBS stations around the country, people have been blown off. Today, I fired off another letter to the producers. And this time, I made it a lot more clear to them what I thought I felt like I could let the anger show a little bit at that point of the game. I also made it very clear that there were a lot of people in our community who would like nothing better at this point then start a nationwide action against PBS. Now I have problems with that. I have Problem with holding affiliates responsible for something they didn't? Well, yes. But there's no other target to go to. We all can't go to the PBS headquarters in New York and complain. So I don't know what the answer is. And that's still being discussed. I think people are a little surprised that I that I was not in favor or that said, you know, maybe you might, you might be better off going to your PBS affiliates and opening up a line of communication. No, they if they don't do something now, maybe you can set something up in the future. So I don't know where this is gonna go. I do know this, that the time that we did, what you said about us is right. Gays and lesbians are very lucky. They have organizations like GLAAD, the Gay Lesbian into Defamation League. They have the Human Rights Campaign fund that has the money and the resources to really make a public stink about it. They have the National Gay Lesbian Task Force. There are more out of the closet gays and lesbians and there are many transgender people. So there is a greater force and a greater ability to organize dissent over program like this, but it's taken a really long time to get there. Yes, in many ways, the transgender community is what gays and lesbians were in early 70s. There are just a handful of us right now, who are in a position that we could afford to go on television say, Yeah, we're mad as hell. But it's a start. It's a start. I am sincerely hopeful that PBS here in Houston, at least, will be able to come out to the law conference. If not, maybe we can set up something else.

J

Jimmy Carper 36:33

-even just to observe-

S

Sarah DePalma 36:35

-right would be something else. I cannot speak for transsexual minutes, I don't run their organization. But I do is my impression that in spots where the PBS where the PBS affiliates behave like jerks in Pittsburgh happened to be one of them. Interestingly, they hung up on the on the transsexual minutes, Representative three times. I think those three, I think some of the affiliates are going to be in trouble because transsexual minutes will go after that.

J

Jimmy Carper 37:00

— Oh, yeah. Yeah. And it won't be pretty.

S

Sarah DePalma 37:03

No. Well, in an areas like that, where they were they were they were jerks. I've asked her it's time as America chapters to cooperate and show and show up with your patients do. I think it's a shame that this kind of stuff goes on. You know, here's, here's my concern you and I've talked about this before. People who can afford to go on the internet. They know that a good good role models exist. They already know that they can plug into the internet today and bring up 350 webpages, about transgender, they can learn about transgender issues. But that is still a rich person's Preserve. Pretty much it really is. Really, consequently, I get an awful lot of letters. I get a lot of letters from young people. They're 17-18 years old. They're listening to us from headsets, because they don't want their parents know what they're doing. They're scared to death. They need role models, and they need them badly. They watch television, it's the only outlet that you have, and what did they get? They get Geraldo right now my anger about all this is something that you and I have talked about before I have been turned down by seven count them seven television talk shows. And I've been returned to normal. Exactly. That's exactly what the Donahue show actually came out and told me that they turned me down because as they say, Well, nobody's interested in people who do everyday things. Well, that's interesting. I talked to Cheryl Kosta the other day she's one of the we were only three transgender radio tacos in the whole world is Cheryl Kosta happens to be one of them. Cheryl Kosta told me she has spent the last year trying to get somebody to do a story about the idea of transgender radio host. Newsweek turned her down. And specifically the reason was no one cares. That's an average event. There are three of us in the whole world. That's an average. I don't think so. But getting images of HIV positive, transvestite prostitutes-.

J

Jimmy Carper 39:03

Can turn up everywhere, because it's it's it's not sensational.

S

Sarah DePalma 39:07

Yeah. Well, we're fed up with that. Yeah, we really are. We've had it. I don't know what's going to come with this. I want it to make people aware of it. There have been some people in my own community who have said, Well, why don't we wait until the program airs. And then if we don't like it, we'll do something. The problem with that is you have nowhere to go with it. You're left in the position of saying the damage has been done, but the show has been shown the negative image is out there, right? It's too late. If you can't go to a media outlet after the show has aired and say now we want equal time.

J

Jimmy Carper 39:38

It's too late. It's just like cruising. Remember the movie cruise? Exactly. That shows you know an incredibly negative side of s&m show people going to going home with complete strangers for BND-.

S Sarah DePalma 39:51

-doing stupid things. Yeah, nice. Yes. I remember that movie which does not happen.

J Jimmy Carper 39:57

It's called safe, sane and consensual. You don't do that. But they showed it anyway and the whole world had this idea that s&m was you go to you go home with strangers and they tell you off.

S Sarah DePalma 40:08

It has come as a surprise from the feedback that I'm getting from, from my people rock crawling across the country is it has come to us, it has been a surprise to PBS that there is a trans a transgendered political rights organization. That was news to them. They didn't know that transsexual minutes existed ah, and now we're saying to But why didn't you know you were able to find this HIV prostitute?

J Jimmy Carper 40:32

No kidding.

S Sarah DePalma 40:33

You know, why didn't why wasn't ages contacted? Why wasn't transsexual minutes contacted? Why wasn't the law conference? Come on fellas tries and grown all over the world? Are you telling me they weren't contacted by it? Because there is no sensationalism. It's not good. Right.

J Jimmy Carper 40:48

That's right, is sensationalism and some some religious huckster again, doing this so called transformation.

S Sarah DePalma 40:58

Yeah, in I feel I my really my biggest complaint of all this is that those of us who are transgender activists get left with the aftermath. Yeah, no kidding. We ended up taking the phone calls from the people who are now suicidal, because they think their life has to be the way they just saw. They don't see any other portrayals. We have to clean up the mess these people leave behind. And some of us are tired of it, and say, it doesn't have to be this way. I know that we are in the same position that gay rights movement was in in the 70s. It is going to take a long time to turn this negative publicity around. And even now there are still shows that

show gays and lesbians is a bunch of pet rafts. And they're much fewer than they used to be though. And so we're in the position now of saying, Okay, we're 15 years behind the gay community on this score. We have to make a stand somewhere. And this is it. So I just wanted to make people aware that this this program is coming. We'll be back on the July show by then I will know what PBS local PBS affiliate is or is not going to do. And I'll let you know whether we're going to have an action or not. So it's Wednesday it goes music-.

J

Jimmy Carper 42:08

Go through a piece of music. I wish Michael Crawford was here so he could pronounce the name of this woman because I never can. It's Michelle. Na, cello something like that. It's brand new from her. It's called fagot.

S

Sarah DePalma 42:28

Oh, good title. I like that.