

[MUSIC - ROMANOVSKY AND PHILLIPS, "MY MOTHER'S CLOTHES"]

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Romanovsky and Phillips, *My Mother's Clothes*. Yes, I meant to play that. That's a fun song. Lighthearted look at what we've been talking about. Because I'm getting ready to talk about something a little bit non-lighthearted. Because something happened, oh, just very recently to a very wonderful person.

Lester Pace. Now, you know, I never knew Lester's last name. But I sure did know Lisa Lawrence. And Lisa's not with us anymore. Hop right in here, Sarah, because--

SARAH Go ahead, I'm listening and then I'll say my little piece here.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: You told this wonderful story. Well, I'm going to read a little from the obit here.

SARAH OK.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Lester. A native Hous-- native Houstonian, of which he was extremely proud, left our stages to join so many others on October 17, 1994. Known primarily for his DJ abilities for drag shows, he was also quite the entertainer, and I can vouch for that, because I saw Lisa onstage many times. Using these two talents, he also gained a reputation for running the best in benefit shows. Everyone knew you could count on Lisa if it was to help the community.

Listing all of Lester's awards and accomplishments from his service to his country in the US Army on would take far too long. The highlights. One of his favorite moments was being crowned Miss Cousins, a bar which he loved and served from its opening. And that's where I saw Lisa perform. He received the very first Crown Pin Honor for Lifetime Achievement from Laura Lee Love Empress I and II and founder of the Royal and Sovereign Imperial Court of the Single Star.

He was appointed Imperial Sister for Life to Empress VIII Pitty Pat Magnolia Sugar Baker, PMS, of Houston. He was named Grand Duchess for Life to the Phoenix family of the Austin Court by their empress, [? one ?] Mona Littlemore. He was also Lawrence Welk Frog, friends of the gay community of Long Beach, California. And the list goes on and on and on.

We're going to miss Lester, and we're going to miss Lisa. And my condolences certainly goes out to Bill O'Rourke. A very good friend of this station, this show, and this community.

SARAH When I first moved to Houston in 1985, Bill O'Rourke and I lived right next door to each other in the Heights.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah?

SARAH And I went through a period like a lot of folks during the recession, and I got down to literally I had no food in my

DEPALMA: house. And it turned out that Bill O'Rourke was quietly going around arranging so I could have groceries.

JIMMY CARPER: Same.

SARAH And it was through Bill that I met Lester. Lester was one of those people who, if he had it, it was yours.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH Regardless. I needed to interview, I needed to go to a job interview. And I didn't have a suit. I didn't own one.

DEPALMA: And I was really desperate. Lester said, well, we can fix that. So Lester took me by the hand and we went down to a secondhand store, and he bought a suit. He bought the suit for me. He took it home, and he altered that thing and said, now you can go for a job. And I got that job. And I got it because Lester decided that it was important to help somebody else.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH I knew Lester and Lisa. And Bill, if you're out there, you probably already know this, but I love you. And I loved

DEPALMA: Lester. And I'm here, and I'm rooting for you, babe. I really mean that.

JIMMY CARPER: I have a special song I want to play. It's a very brand new song from a performance artist that this community knows and loves, Laurie Anderson. It's off of her brand new album called *Bright Red*. It's a song for the community. It's called *Love Among the Sailors*

[MUSIC - LAURIE ANDERSON, "LOVE AMONG THE SAILORS"]

Love Among the Sailors by Laurie Anderson. And that was for Lisa Lawrence, Lester Pace. But, but, but, those of us who knew Lisa Lawrence knew a different side. And that's what I want you to remember. Listen to this.

PRESENTER: Hope you like this dirty little song.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you!

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. That was Della Reese with *My Favorite Things*. That was a very good year. And I remember Lester doing that number. And I really enjoyed it, and I enjoyed doing it tonight. Goodbye, Lester. Take care. We'll be back in just a second.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hello, Houston. It's Jimmy with the QMZ. The Queer Music Zone. Heard every week on After Hours, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. We did a little R and P earlier, and I want to continue along in that vein. Because they've got a brand new album out called *Brave Boys*. And the hit number from that album is what you're going to hear next. It's called, *If There's A God, He's A Queen*.

[MUSIC - ROMANOVSKY AND PHILLIPS, "IF THERE'S A GOD, HE'S A QUEEN"]

[APPLAUSE]

MAN: Thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah. Romanovsky and Phillips. R and P, doing *If There's A God, He's A Queen*. They were in town a couple of weeks ago out at Rice, if you happen to catch them. They'll be back next year sometime, sometime. Here's a woman that I'd love to see in town sometime. One of my favorite bisexual women, Ani DiFranco. Doing something from her *Imperfectly* album, called *In Or Out*.

[MUSIC - ANIDIFRANCO, "IN OR OUT"]

[MUSIC - PANSY DIVISON, "ANTHEM"]

Yes. Pansy Division. The group that started the queer punk scene, with *Anthem*. Before that, [? Try Bait ?] with *Oversized Ego*. And I like the way they sampled that little Divo number in there. And that's about it, yeah. Thought we kind of-- oh, well, we did that Ani DiFranco before that. But I already told you about that. And that just slide right into all of that. That's a little abbreviated QMZ. We'll see you next week, and we'll be right back.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SARAH OK. Let's talk a little politics.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SARAH On Sunday, November 6th, Ray Hill, along with several gay rights activists and I, along with several transgender

DEPALMA: rights activists from It's Time Texas, decided it was time to pay a visit to Second Baptist Church.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes. That was the Sunday right before election day, wasn't it?

SARAH Oh, they were so thrilled to have us.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: I love that they were.

SARAH But what these hypocrites, what they like to do is on the Sunday before election day, hand out to their

DEPALMA: parishioners like the HGLPC endorsement and say, these are hateful people, and don't vote for any of these people because the queers were going to vote for them. Well that's exactly why we went out there. In years past, they had always made it a point to specifically target HGLPC candidates and then say, don't vote for them.

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

SARAH The ironic thing is because we were there-- of course, they will deny this. They didn't do that this year.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: What do you know?

SARAH How about that? And there were no fliers. The Christian Coalition flyers were distributed in every other church in

DEPALMA: the city, but not at the one we attended.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah.

SARAH What a--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Now it was just simply a group of folks from the gay and lesbian community and transgendered community just going to go to a Baptist Church service.

SARAH The whole idea was we had been so demonized, you know? Let me back up. A few weeks before our arrival, our

DEPALMA: good old buddy Dr. Ed Young--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh. Oh, yeah.

SARAH --had given a sermon called the New Sodom. I guess that's as opposed to the old. Sodom.

DEPALMA:

[LAUGHS]

But in any case, he's given this-- this sermon was so shocking and so hate-filled that various organizations around in this area got calls saying, can you recommend another church to us? We don't want to bring our kids to a church that's so hate-filled.

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding.

SARAH Yeah. I know--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

SARAH I know several organizations in which that was true. So we knew right away what we were getting into. And yes,

DEPALMA: it's true. The week that we were there, they were-- the sermon had still came from the same chapter, but it was not about Sodom and Gomorrah. It was about passive parenting. And I couldn't help but laugh when he talked about how basically it was all the fault of mothers. He specifically selected feminists as being demons for the weak.

[LAUGHS]

They were the bad guys. They were the bad girls this week.

JIMMY CARPER: I mean, when you have to teach hate, I just don't-- I don't get it. I just don't get it.

SARAH Well, more than the hate, there were some other things that bothered me. I wanted to do a little bit of math for a

DEPALMA: second. This church, if you've never been there, the Astrodome isn't much smaller, OK?

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

SARAH This place is huge. They have some stained glass windows, one on each side that's at least three stories high.

DEPALMA: Now, I don't know what it would cost to put together a three-story stained glass window, but it ain't pennies from heaven, OK? And this place seats, oh, I would say easily 800 and probably 1,000 people. OK. The service that was-- they have two services, and the service before ours was filled to overflowing. They had to bring in extra seats.

Now the service that we were at was about 3/4 full. So I did a little bit of math to this, OK? Let's say for a minute that that average is 1,700 people for Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH For Sunday, OK. Conservative estimate, it averages out to \$5 per person. And giving the place of that size of that church, I think that's real conservative.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Because they probably every once in a while do that tithing sermon.

SARAH That's--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Give me that 10%, baby.

SARAH That's it. OK, that's \$8,500 for the morning.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Not bad.

SARAH Now you multiply that, that's times four. You're looking at \$34,000 a month.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

SARAH You could feed a lot of people for \$34,000 a month.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Sure could.

SARAH OK. So now, let's forget their Christmas show for a minute, which is Radio City doesn't put on a show this good.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah?

SARAH So let's ignore their Christmas show. We're still looking-- I figured out, \$408,000 per year just on Sunday morning collections.

JIMMY CARPER: And you're being pretty conservative.

SARAH \$5 a person I think is real conservative.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH OK. So they said in their fliers and that which-- that we picked up, their goal was \$300,000 for, quote, "giving."
DEPALMA: Then they must they had 60 groups that were raising money dedicated to nothing but raising money. OK, now we're at \$708,000 per year.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

SARAH OK, you figure in fundraising events, donations. This church has to easily make a million bucks a year tax free.
DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

SARAH Easy. OK. All right, next thing, Ray Hill and I sat next to one another, which I'm sure, if Ed Young knew who he were, he was done thrilled to see the two of us together at his church. We started doing a little bit of looking around. And we noticed that the choir was probably 150 people. And I said to Ray, you know, I don't see any people of color in this thing. So--

JIMMY CARPER: What a surprise.

SARAH We started looking and we found three. Count them, folks. That's three people of color in a choir of 150. We said, **DEPALMA:** let's look around the rest of the church. So we did.

JIMMY CARPER: See what we have, yeah.

SARAH We started looking around, and we counted a grand total of 10 people of color in the church. All right, OK. Let's **DEPALMA:** say that Ray and I missed a few and there were 20.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SARAH OK? That's 2.5% of the people in attendance being people of color. I challenge you to go to anywhere in the city **DEPALMA:** of Houston with an audience of 800 people and find 2.5% population only of color.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH Where were they? They must have really felt welcome, because they obviously were not in this church.
DEPALMA:

[LAUGHS]

And they were not at this church. OK, so we started thinking about that and said, gee, there's something really wrong here. Now I'm telling you this because we're about to play a tape in a minute, and you're going to hear some gay activists on it. And some of these activists are Lane Louis, Ray Hill, and Lou Jack Tyler. But I want to talk about the reporter for the Houston Chronicle, because I didn't really get to talking about this the other day.

Her name is Jennifer Lenhart. Well she must have gotten out of bed late that morning, because she wore a flannel shirt and jeans.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

SARAH She had to try three entrances because the security guards wouldn't let her in.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: What?

SARAH That's exactly right. You'll hear it on the tape. She'll talk about it on the tape.

DEPALMA: And the reason they wouldn't let her in is because she was told people at Second Baptist Church don't dress like that. I kid you not. I purposely made sure this was on the tape, because I knew people were going to think I was joking.

JIMMY CARPER: Wait a minute. Wait a minute.

SARAH It's the truth.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Now we're cutting you off from God because you dress funny. OK.

SARAH Well the God that I believe in doesn't hate and doesn't teach hate and doesn't-- we must worship totally different

DEPALMA: Gods.

JIMMY CARPER: It must be. Must be.

SARAH So in any case, we're going to play the tape for you. Right at the start, I want to apologize for some of the audio

DEPALMA: quality. Especially the beginning, if you're near your radio, you may want to go turn this down, because it's real loud right at the start. But it was a fluid situation. When we come back, we're going to talk about some of the reaction that's on the tape.

JIMMY CARPER: You ready?

SARAH Ready, go.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

MAN: Hope you like this dirty little secret.

JIMMY CARPER: Oops, wrong tape. Sorry.

SARAH That's it. That's the one, yep.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Live radio, folks. Here we go.

SARAH Folks, y'all like to talk to us? So were you aware that there were gay rights activists in the church today?

DEPALMA

(RECORDING):

WOMAN: No, I wasn't aware of that.

SARAH Well that was our point. We were hoping that no one would know. And that's fine. I was just curious if you were
DEPALMA aware of it.

(RECORDING):

WOMAN: No, we were not.

SARAH OK, thanks.

DEPALMA

(RECORDING):

MAN: Are you a gay writer?

SARAH I am a transgender activist and a gay activist, yes.

DEPALMA

(RECORDING):

MAN: Does that mean you're an it or he or she?

SARAH Well, I'm neither an it or a he or she. I am a transgendered person. And I'm not sure that a remark like that

DEPALMA doesn't sound bigoted.

(RECORDING):

MAN: No, I'm just curious. I want an explanation. I didn't understand.

SARAH Well, listening to KPFT, I'm on there just about every Friday night. And we do a show called After Hours we'll be

DEPALMA glad to explain it all to you. Thanks.

(RECORDING):

MAN: I almost wanted to buy the slant that you put on things. But when I think of myself and say I'm one of those sexual sodomites that he explained, we're so evil and vile. And when I start to think of that and believe in that, I have to consider that I've helped start youth centers. I've worked with youth. I've had teenagers and young people say, you've helped save my life. I've helped find families for young people.

I've helped build drop-in centers for youth people. Then suddenly it's like, you know what? You're wrong as hell. You're wrong as hell. Because I choose to share my love and my bed and my life with a member of the same sex.

WOMAN: How old are you?

MAN: I'm 27. 26, actually. I'll be 27 in two weeks. 26.

WOMAN: Well, there are some women out there who are protesting. I'm not--

SARAH I know, it's OK.

DEPALMA

(RECORDING):

WOMAN: There are some women out there who are protesting. And they're just-- one of them isn't even-- she said that she's just generally protesting oppression. She's not identifying herself as a lesbian. And she said she marched in the women's rights movements 20 years ago. And that it used to be as intense, the hatred be as intense against women then as what she's seen out there today. Which mainly what she's seen is a bunch of people driving by and giving them the finger and screeching and saying, you'll burn in hell.

I mean, it's nothing violent. I haven't seen anything violent. I've been out there a little while.

PERSON: But you know what they keep-- you know what really ticks me off? Is when I sit over there and listen to that gentleman continue to say I have a right, I have rights in this church, I have rights for my family, et cetera, et cetera. But you know what? My right to housing as a gay man, equal housing, is not messing up with his rights. But him claiming I have a right to prevent you from getting fair housing, prevent you from getting fair education, a fair display of history, his rights are interfering with my rights.

But my rights aren't interfering with his. But that's what they want us to believe. They want somehow to believe that we're seeking special rights, that we're somehow attempting to tear apart their ideal family. When their ideal family is what put me on the streets at 18, 19 years old. And what puts 50% of the people on the streets because of their ideal, quote, "family." Ticks me off.

PERSON: [INAUDIBLE]

PERSON: Yeah, it was a show. I mean, the lighting. I mean, the organ. I mean, it was just like a drama, you know?

PERSON: At this level, I mean, this is a very, very rich church. This is a very, very well done presentation of the Gospel with all of the technical skills that the 20th century can afford. And I don't begrudge the man's-- I disagree with him and his attitude about the relationship between men and women in a family. I disagree with him about the ideas that a woman has the right to choose what to do with her body.

I disagree with him with the idea of what kind of clothing is appropriate to a gender. I disagree with him with whether a person dressed in Levis and a shirt can get into a service or not.

PERSON: I remember when that used to be.

PERSON: There's a whole bunch of disagreements.

WOMAN: They eyed me many times. They didn't let me in the first time. But then I was so persistent, they finally let me in.

[LAUGHS]