

[MUSIC PLAYING]

KIM SEVIER: Hi, I'm Kim Sevier.

SUZANNE And I'm Suzanne Anderson. Welcome to our 7th episode.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Thanks for being with us tonight. Today, we're coming to you from Sam Houston Park right in the heart of downtown. Sam Houston Park houses some of the oldest houses in the area. They're all from Houston and have been relocated to the park. So you can come down and tour them and enjoy them.

The one directly behind us is the Yates house that was built in 1868 and has since been moved to this location. The park also has beautiful hills, and sculptures, and fountains. So come down and check it out.

SUZANNE And our first story tonight, we're going to take you to the block party. Now the block party is a collaborative effort

ANDERSON: between Pacific Street and Rich's So right now, we'll join Fred Walters. Take it away, Fred.

FRED WALTERS Well, Kim and Suzanne, we're at Rich's tonight for the debut of the Black party. The Black party is a collaboration **JR:** of two bars to provide a great night of entertainment. It's a collaboration of Rich's and Pacific Street. So why don't we go on inside and take a look at what's going on.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN: Everybody, smile for the camera. This is Montrose TV, and you will be on television tomorrow. Warner Cable channel 54 at 8 o'clock.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

FRED WALTERS I'm here with Jerry Ramsey, The manager of Rich's. Jerry, how did you get this place packed on a Sunday night?

JR:

JERRY RAMSEY: We just thought we'd have a party with two bars come together and do a thing for the the community, Pacific Street, [INAUDIBLE] so, that the community here in Houston needs to get together and have everything to work together as a one community. And so we thought we'd go a Black Party between two bars and have the party.

FRED Great are you impressed with the turnout?

WALTERS:

JERRY RAMSEY: Oh it's fabulous, incredible. Rich's has been here for 15 years. We're here to serve the gay community. We do everything for everyone that's in this town, no matter who they are.

FRED It's a fun party. Thanks for talking with us.

WALTERS:

JERRY RAMSEY: Thank you very much. Y'all have a good time.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

FRED We're here in the upstairs lounge relaxing with Gregory Bosarch. Gregory is one of the cover models for tonight's party. So Gregory, what brought you out tonight?

GREGORY Well, there's a package deal. Whenever we did the cover, I also had to dance as well. So we did a lot of the screen dancing behind the white silhouette on stage.

FRED What do you think brings people out at a party like this tonight?

WALTERS:

GREGORY It's kind of odd. They've been advertising for about two months. And for a leather party to have a kind of a disco turn, it's rather odd. But probably just to have fun and kind of dance and show a little leather if you can, show that little secret side of you.

FRED Well, we may be out on the dance floor soon, showing a little bit of ourselves. Thanks for talking with us.

WALTERS:

GREGORY Oh, it's my pleasure. Thanks for coming by Rich's.

BOSARCH:

FRED Well, we finally made it over to Pacific Street. It was a great party at Rich's. We're going to go in and continue the second half of the Black Party, combination of Rich's and Pacific Street putting on a great party in Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

We're here with Randy behind the bar at the Black Party. So Randy, have they kept you busy?

RANDY: Oh yeah, they're coming in, coming in. And they're not going anywhere. They're just staying at my bar.

FRED Are they driving you crazy? Is it packed or is this unusual?

WALTERS:

RANDY: Only this one and this one and especially that one.

FRED It's kind of different than your normal party, the two bars combined?

WALTERS:

RANDY: Yeah, we've always had kind of a great alliance formed with Rich's. And I'm glad that we're finally doing something together. I used to work at both places too. So it's like, my old home and my new home, so I like it a lot. And all the people at Rich's are great.

FRED We were over there earlier. And it was packed. And it's packed here now.

WALTERS:

RANDY: Yeah, they're coming in. They're coming in.

FRED Well, thanks for talking with us.

WALTERS:

RANDY: My pleasure.

FRED WALTERS: Well, Kim and Suzanne, it's been a great night. Where else are you going to find two packed bars on a Sunday night then at Rich's and Pacific Street, the Black Party, the combination of the two bars joining forces to put on an incredible night. Well, it's about 11 o'clock. And I'm tired, and I'm going home and going to bed. Back to you, Kim and Suzanne. This is Fred Walters Jr. Signing off for TV Montrose.

SUZANNE: Well, it looks like they had a great time at the party, at the Black Party. And hopefully, Fred has recovered from this very challenging assignment.

KIM: Montrose has a variety of different events. And an example of that is the Earth Day festival that was held at Buffalo Bayou park last Saturday. As a matter of fact, that's where we came to you from our host segments last week.

SUZANNE: So let's join our producer Steve Baker. And we'll get an education on the environment and what to do on a Saturday afternoon.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

STEVE BAKER: Well, hi. This is Steve Baker. And I'm at Earth Day 98, Buffalo Bayou park, just on the very outskirts of Montrose. One of the great things about this show and my job here is that Montrose has always had a lot going on, but I never always did them because I just didn't. But now that we have this TV show and we got to entertain you, the audience, I'm doing a lot more of this kind of thing. And I'm having a blast today.

Earth Day 98-- it's all about the environment. Perhaps no other issue is more important to the world today than the environment and that's equally important for the Montrose area. It's a beautiful day here today, and everyone's having a great time.

The only unfortunate thing is about today is the lines are very long for food. If you want to have a beer, that's just about just as long to get a beer as it is to get a hot dog around here. But that's just the way it goes. Kids, people, lines, music, fun, it's all going on here today.

JANE LAPPING: I'm Jane Lapping. With Mothers for Clean Air. And we're here today to educate parents about the health effects of ozone on children. We have a little puppet show for the kids to explain to them about ozone and air pollution. This is Pesky Particulate. He's one of the problems we have in Houston, pollution problems.

And this is James. He's just here to tell you about air pollution, and that you need to be listening for those ozone watches and warnings. so that when you hear one, you need to stay inside. Because some kids are really sensitive to ozone. And they can get real sick. So it's important to listen for those ozone watches and warnings and stay inside on those days.

STEVE BAKER: One of the major purposes of the Earth Day 98 is to give an opportunity for environmental groups to put out their boots and hand out literature and educate the public about what's happening in the environment. There's just about every kind of environmental group is represented here today. They've set up their booths, they brought out their maps, they brought out their displays, they brought out their turtles. They brought out-- you name it, they've got it here.

Some of the booths are quite interesting. And it seems like everyone here is really enjoying the day. They're enjoying the idea of being educated.

HILLERY

My name is Hillery Cohanna. I'm with the Gulf Coast Council of Returned Peace Corps volunteers for the Houston-Galveston area. And what we have here today at the Enron Earth Day festival is a map of the world. And being former Peace Corps return volunteers, what we're having the kids do when they come in is color the different countries of the world. And then they're pasting on the flags that are symbolic of the different countries. So we have a great big map that we'll be showing to the rest of the world here so that they all know where Peace Corps is and where the rainforests are in the Earth Day festival

MONA SHALP:

Hi, my name is Mona Shalp. I'm with the Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association. And today, we're here spreading the word about some of the Galveston Bay issues. And one of those is the channelization of Clear Creek. We're trying to stop that and promote awareness about our watershed and our creeks. And we are hoping to save Clear Creek.

STEVE BAKER:

It's been a great day here today. I've been having a great time. So you can tell the crowds have been very big. Kids have been having a great time. They've been sliding down the hill and the cardboard boxes. You'd almost think that there was snow on the grass.

Anyway, it's been a great time out here. And this is just another example what goes on in the Montrose area. TV Montrose-- in the Montrose area, television for anyone, gay, straight, black, brown, white, any possible combination. There's so much going on in this neighborhood. I'm very proud to live here. I'm very proud that we have TV Montrose. And thank you for tuning in, and back to you. Kim and Suzanne.

SUZANNE:

There's so many things, Kim, that we do that harm the environment. And TV Montrose wants to encourage you to reduce, reuse, recycle, and conserve.

KIM:

We're standing now, in front of one of the most beautiful houses in Buffalo Bayou Park. It's the house I'd choose to live in if I had a choice.

SUZANNE:

Which I would choose to list if I had a choice. There's so many places that you can live downtown now. But this one is a house with an incredible view. I mean, this is super.

KIM:

Come down and take a tour some time. It's absolutely gorgeous. Next up, we have a commercial break. And we'd like to welcome two new sponsors that will be starting with TV Montrose next week-- Rich's and Computer Factory. Thank you both for joining us. Now, time for a word from our sponsors. Stay with us.

NARRATOR:

Some of them will be three times more likely to commit suicide than their friends. There's also a greater chance that someday, some of them will be assaulted beaten, threatened, harassed, or even murdered, just because they may be lesbian or gay. But look at them, they deserve it. Don't they? A message brought to you by the parents, families, and friends of lesbians and gays.

NARRATOR:

Come out of the dark. Open your eyes. Open the Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages.

Advertisers in the Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages want to do business with you. You'll find the phone number and address of every service, product, or group you need. Share the pride. Shop with our gay-friendly merchants.

Use their professional services. Support them. They support you. Pick up a copy of the Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages at locations near you.

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A six-time award winner, it's the only gay newspaper to receive an outstanding journalism award from the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association. The Houston Press writes, "for gay and lesbian news, by far, the best is the Texas Triangle." So pick up the Triangle every week. Quality makes a difference.

BETTY Hello. My name is Betty DeGeneres. And my kid is the greatest. You know her. She's Ellen, and she's gay.

DEGENERES:

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

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Premier also carries a complete line of accessories for both pagers and phones. Premier Paging and Wireless--with guaranteed low prices and the best service anywhere. There's no need to go anywhere else.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[CLOCK TICKING]

KIM: Welcome back and thank you for staying with us. Up next, we have my very favorite part of the show.

SUZANNE: It's only your favorite part because you think I screw it up. But I'm not going to screw it up. We're now going to the community calendar. And that was really good.

KIM: Suzanne did a very good job.

SUZANNE: I did a good job.

KIM: And I'm not going to get in any trouble this week.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SUZANNE: And now you know what's happening in the community. And we want to thank the community for being such a big part of promoting TV Montrose. We've had newsletters that have put articles about TV Montrose. And they're putting us in their schedules and their calendars. And we appreciate that. And it's making a big difference.

KIM: We always appreciate your viewer feedback and your viewer mail. And up next is Steve Baker, our very own producer, to tell you exactly how to get your comments to us.

STEVE BAKER: So show number 7 for TV Montrose-- we've come a long way since show number one which aired on March the 2nd. I believe our talent's getting better, I'm getting better putting the show together. Our stories have just really been improving all the way around. Our audience is growing, but we need more help there.

I need you, the viewers out there, to help me spread the word. We printed the flyers by the thousands. We're running printed advertisements in the local papers. Word of mouth is very important.

This show is a first of its kind. And it's for you, the viewers out there, those that care about the Montrose area, that live in Montrose, that travel in the Montrose. This TV show is for you. And need you to keep writing us, keep emailing us, give us some show ideas.

If there's anything you can do out there to help us distribute flyers, let me know. If you own a business and you don't mind putting a stack of flyers by your cash register, please give me a call. If you're part of a nonprofit group and you have a newsletter or any sort of mailing that goes out and we can insert the flyers in there, let me know. Again, if you have a newsletter going out and you don't mind printing TV Montrose, every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8:00 PM Warner channel 54, I'd sure appreciate it if you do that.

SUZANNE: TV Montrose is dedicated to programming all segments of the Montrose community. And one segment of the community that's often overlooked is the transgender community.

KIM: Last weekend, I had a wonderful and exciting opportunity to cover the Transgender Festival at Diverse Works. Let's go take a look.

Welcome. I'm Kim Sevier. And I'm bringing you a very special story tonight from Diverse Works. Diverse Works has been around for a long time. And it's actually made up of three spaces-- a main gallery and a subspace, which showcase visual art exhibits, and also a performance space that seats about 100 people.

Currently in the main gallery, is an exhibit entitled, "Stories About Us: Photographs from Juarez." This is an exhibit that is an absolute must see. The material is extremely hard and made me completely angry when I saw it. It's the kind of thing that makes you stand on your chair and act, do something about it.

It's a must see. I recommend it highly to everyone. And Diverse Works, living up to their name, has a hysterical exhibit in the subspace right now. It's by Dario Roberto and Bernard Brennan. I hope I'm pronouncing that correctly.

The exhibit is funny and light. And it's exactly what you'll need after watching Juarez. Both of these are visual light exhibits. And the gallery is open 12 to 6 Wednesday through Saturday, and it's free to the public. I highly recommend coming down and checking it out.

Tonight I'm here, actually, to introduce a story about the Transgender Festival. This is opening tonight in the performance space.

I'm here now with the curator of the Transgender Festival, Laura Kellner. Hi Laura, thank you for being with us tonight.

LAURA Thanks for coming out.

KELLNER:

KIM: I wanted to ask you why an event about transgender issues?

LAURA Well, I don't know if it's really about transgender issues as much as we just thought there really hadn't been a venue for kind of a transgendered art. I mean, it's out there. And Diverse Works had some money to put on a show.

Loren Cameron, he's a photographer from San Francisco, is going to show his work. He is a female to male transsexual, which is unusual. Well, I don't know if it's so much unusual, as you usually don't see one or any. They seem to assimilate out into the community.

And they're kind of hard to find. So we found him. He has this wonderful book of portraits of male to female.

KIM: Female to male. It gets quite confusing. As a matter of fact, it's been my impression that typically, my experience with transgendered people and transgendered issues, it centers around a drag queen, drag show sort of mentality. Do you intend to dispel that myth? And if so, how?

LAURA Well, basically by doing what we're doing this weekend, showing some real artwork and plays written by

KELLNER: transgender and gender identified people.

KIM: Diverse works is a not-for-profit organization. So anything you could do to help or contribute would be gladly appreciated and accepted. You can volunteer. You can even make cash contributions.

Right now, Diverse Works receives a national endowment from the arts Matching Grant. So anything that you donate will be matched by the NEA. Also you can volunteer, which is what I'm about to do. I'm going to volunteer at the bar for the next three nights, which is my forte. So I'm going to hand things off to Kelly Lauren, who will take it from here.

KELLY LAUREN: Hi, I'm Kelly Lauren with TV Montrose. And I'm here with Loren Cameron for the gender fest. So tell me, you've only been in town a few minutes. Where did you come from?

LOREN San Francisco.

CAMERON:

KELLY LAUREN: Yeah, how was your flight?

LOREN It was OK. I don't like flying very much. I'm glad to be here.

CAMERON:

KELLY LAUREN: Great. Can you tell us about what we're going to see tonight?

LOREN I'm going to show some slides of my book, *Body Alchemy: Transsexual Portraits*. And I'm also showing some of my early work, "Our Vision, Our Voices," which is how I got started as a photographer

KELLY LAUREN: Well, I personally kind of hate labels. But everybody wants to know about them. I'm considered a pre-op transsexual. So what do you consider yourself?

LOREN Well, I consider myself a transsexual man or female to male transsexual. Labels, labels, very interesting-- I guess I would be called pre-op in that I haven't altered myself genetically. But I've had chest surgery.

KELLY LAUREN: How are your book sales?

LOREN The book is doing very well. It's a bestseller in the gay and lesbian literary circles.

CAMERON:

KELLY LAUREN: Do you feel right within your own skin? And are you like really open about all of this? Obviously, you must be with the book, but just in your regular life and personal life?

LOREN Absolutely. That's a decision that I made when I became a photographer. And that's the way I've always lived my

CAMERON: life. Before I went through the change, I was pretty much socialized as a lesbian. And I was very open about my sexuality.

And I am likewise, very open about my gender identity now. I think what I'd like to say to any transgendered or transsexual viewers is that it's important to feel a sense of pride and dignity about who you are. It's not an easy road to be on. But for some of us, it's the only road we can be on. And it's very important to know that you're not alone, that there are resources and support for you, and that there will come a time when this won't be as stigmatized as it has been and is today.

KELLY LAUREN: Well, it's very important to be true to yourself. And I'm Kelly Lauren for TV Montrose. Thank you so much.

SUZANNE: You know, Pam, I'm glad to see TV Montrose do a segment on the transgender community, because I think they're probably one of the most interesting parts of our community and probably the most overlooked segment of our community.

KIM: By all means. I definitely got an education this weekend, got some enlightenment, met some new friends, and had a great time. Next up, we have a commercial break. Please stay with us.

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SUZANNE: Kim, Sam Houston Park is a great example of what's happening in downtown. I mean, people are no longer getting in their cars, driving to work, and driving home. They're staying here, they're coming out at lunchtime. And they're starting to live in the city and enjoy the city.

KIM: And they're eating their lunches right here in Sam Houston Park and running and holding hands. It's gorgeous here. Come down, and by all means, take advantage of the park. Take a tour of the old homes. It's a day worth spending down in Sam Houston Park.

SUZANNE: And keep your support up for TV Montrose. You all have done a terrific job of calling in and writing and telling friends about friends about friends. And we're catching on. We're getting telephone calls and emails. And it makes it a really fun part of being a part of TV Montrose.

KIM: Remember, you can always send your viewer mail to us at TVMontrose@aol.com. We appreciate you staying with us. And we'll see you next week. Remember, our, new shows air on Monday nights. And then we repeat on Tuesday and Wednesday night at 8:00 PM. Thank you for staying with us.

SUZANNE: Good night.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

FRED Well, we finally made it over to Pacific Street. It was a great party at Rich's. I forgot what I was supposed to say.

WALTERS:

[BEEPING]

Tonight, it starts at Rich's, it starts at 4:00. It goes to 9, and then onto Pacific Street. blah, blah, blah.

[BEEPING]

Well, Kim and Suzanne, there's loud music. OK, here's your bloopers.

[BEEPING]

Of two bars-- Pacific Street and Rich's. And inside-

CREW: You're doing fine. Just relax. [BEEPING]

STEVE BAKER: One of the major purposes of Earth Day 98 is to get- one of the major purposes. [BEEPING]

SUZANNE: Wants to encourage you to reduce, reserve, recycle, and conserve.

KIM: And reuse and everything else and whatever. What did I say?

[BEEPING]

SUZANNE: Yeah, there's so many things, Kim, that we do that harm the environment. And TV Montrose wants to encourage you to reduce, recycle, reuse, and-- what's the other one, consolidate?

KIM: Conserve.

SUZANNE: Whatever.

[BEEPING]

You don't know how to act.

KIM: I don't. I was never taught as a child. I didn't get that. But I still don't get it.

[BEEPING]

And I'm not wearing a bra. Testing, testing. Well, I couldn't.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

And this is also my wife, Lala. Congratulations.