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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

houston, community, female impersonator, gay community, transgender community, live, gay, woman, people, amber, man, female, today, candidates, work, place, day, experience, talk, changed

SPEAKERS

Chris, Chris Harrison, Dionne Redman, Jimmy Carper, Judy Reeves



Chris Harrison 00:06

Warning. The following program contains subject matter that portrays gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people as first class citizens deserving of an equal share of the American dream. Topics like this are known to piss off televangelists. backwater preachers. Some talk show host blue haired biddies, several members of Congress and other socially unacceptable outcasts like radical right wing nut jobs listener discretion is strongly advised.



Jimmy Carper 00:48

You have tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude a continuing tradition here on KPFT 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring the news interviews, discussions and music here to the gay lesbian, bisexual, transgender community and our allies. We are a diverse group here, but we all have one thing in common, we are out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of his or her closet as well. That means recognizing who you are standing up for yourself and your rights and being proud of who you are. We understand that this might not be possible due to age job for a friend of mine. But remember, we are here especially for you. So kick back and relax and get ready for this week's edition of after hours.



Chris Harrison 02:19

Houston, Galveston in the world. This is the Saturday July 16 edition of after hours, we're ready with attitude. My name is Chris Harris, and I'll be your co executive producer this evening.



Jimmy Carper 02:29

And Jimmy Carper on time the other one



C Chris Harrison 02:33
was I was ice dragging things out a little bit along

J Jimmy Carper 02:36
there. No, I just the opposite.

C Chris Harrison 02:40
I got kind of you know, it's weird. I suddenly go really fast. It's about time to slow down and speed up and slow down and

J Jimmy Carper 02:47
are you bipolar? No calm. We

C Chris Harrison 02:51
don't discuss that as much. Oh, okay.

J Jimmy Carper 02:53
No, wait till you take a break. Nothing official.

C Chris Harrison 03:03
Well, I know well, any of the state hasn't come to lock me up yet. And as far as I know, I'm okay.

J Jimmy Carper 03:10
Well, this is my this is my last show and till I get back from vacation. Yes.

C Chris Harrison 03:17
You decided you wanted to go to where there's a drier climate. And that's Portland or Seattle, Seattle.

J Jimmy Carper 03:22
Yes. It is considerably drier than Houston in these days

Yes, it is considerably drier than Houston in these days.

 Chris Harrison 03:27

I wanted to start the show with a draining man followed by deep water. And I said no, I thought it was appropriate. But instead we started with Whitney McCray, we get hit by

 Jimmy Carper 03:37


Emily. Yeah. Whitney who is local woman.

 Chris Harrison 03:41

And that was faded away.

 Jimmy Carper 03:43


CD.

 Chris Harrison 03:46

Clever

 03:48

10 o'clock tonight was clever evolution.

 Chris Harrison 03:53

By now we're not supposed to get I know we're a bunch of gay men here in Houston. But we don't have to always talk about the weather.

 Jimmy Carper 04:01

Gay men don't always talk about the weather. Honey,

 Chris Harrison 04:03

have you looked at broadcast? Have you looked at the local stations? There's more blow drying going on with the weather men besides what goes on in the hairdressing salon with the exception of Neil Frank that aircraft carrier style only will turn on a woman. Yes. Right Judy? Oh.



Jimmy Carper 04:23

A straight woman. A straight woman? Laptop? Yes. Yes. The only the best looking flat top I've seen in a long time is on Shameless.



Chris Harrison 04:35

Who was supposed to be is going to be joining us here.



Jimmy Carper 04:38

She told me she would.



Chris Harrison 04:39

And it is IC o h night followed with our high C IC o h quickie. Followed up by the after hours quickie after hours quickie.



Jimmy Carper 04:50

You don't get a quickie with our cry. Ah



Chris Harrison 04:53

I hope you didn't get anything but quickies. Now they're not Yeah, turn it back on. If you insist on talk,



Jimmy Carper 05:03

yeah, well, they're not on officially yet because we need to do a couple of things. Talked about stuff going on. So in other words, click. Yeah, I don't know if that meant much. Saturday, July 23. There is a show going on at keys West, hosted by Ellen Cole and I was a leak Andrea called proud to be an American seven to 9pm benefiting the AIDS Foundation, Houston stone soup program. And that is the continuing saga of the faces as as I believe.



Chris Harrison 05:44

I don't know I close that one already.



J Jimmy Carper 05:45

Okay. And I want to remind folks, I know this is way ahead of time, but I need to tell folks at least every week to don't forget and save the dates. That's what it says Don't forget and save the dates. Okay. Little little problem with semantics there.

C Chris Harrison 06:06

It depends, you know, it could be a Middle Eastern fruit fun drive. Oh,

J Jimmy Carper 06:12

we have that. The Knights No, we

C Chris Harrison 06:14

don't have any Middle Eastern fruits on the show yet. Not yet. Jazz. Station, we shouldn't be finding a Middle Eastern fruit to be on the show. We need the K as long as on it.

J Jimmy Carper 06:24

We certainly do. Those Mediterranean then. Those

C Chris Harrison 06:30

new guy was last Jimmy now. The ninth

J Jimmy Carper 06:33

annual Houston gay and lesbian Film Festival is happening right here in Houston, September 8 through September 19. And if you want more information on that, visit dubcubed.org, H G L. F f.org. That's the Houston gay lesbian Film Festival H GLFF. And they'll tell you all about it your or you can sign up to be on their email list. The other stuff I have is for IC o h and they'll be coming on and oh, wait a minute. I do want to mention that. It is time again coming up to that time for JD Doyle's queer music heritage. That's the fourth Monday of every month. And it is the second half of our sister program queer voices heard every Monday night from eight till 10pm. So tune in the fourth Well tune in every Monday, brother, especially the fourth Monday at nine to hear career music heritage. And this month, he he JD is saluting the out Music Awards. So he's going to have you know,

C Chris Harrison 07:50

oh, yeah, some interesting ones on there. They're

J Jimmy Carper 07:53
interesting. Oh, yeah. Some some old names. Some new names. We have already gold. He's been around a while San Francisco. San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Lea Delaria Randy Jones

C Chris Harrison 08:07
catastrophe is in there. Randy Jones. I don't know Randy Jones is he

J Jimmy Carper 08:11
is the cowboy from village people. He's very big and queer music these days.

C Chris Harrison 08:20
When wasn't he he used to do YMCA that well he was wearing chaps out in public before was socially acceptable.


J Jimmy Carper 08:26
Yes. But he was wearing jeans with them even green and route, you know a brand new play. We played at least Tory fix. Marry me. Uh, you know, that's that's one of my favorites. Even the Atlantic Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. What do you know? Surprising. You'd


C Chris Harrison 08:52
find a few queers in

J Jimmy Carper 08:53
that NS racy. Sorry Tracy's here. I made something new. Oh, Angel walking. Yeah, scot free which lots and lots of folks that you've heard of whose catastrophe it


C Chris Harrison 09:06
is a it's a another one of the hip hop artists that I've seen like Tori fix Tori fix it's um I'm trying to remember if that's the transgendered one or not I know there's a tragic transgendered Hello, hop, really? So he went on about really being


J Jimmy Carper 09:26


 Jimmy Carper 09:26
kidding no,


 Chris Harrison 09:27
I'm not sure I know. I've noticed it on was I was checking out on gay dot coms. Music transgender

 Jimmy Carper 09:32
music is not all that. Prolific. Yeah. You know, once

 Chris Harrison 09:39
he gets passed through Paul and the Yeah, it was really Member of Parliament. Yeah.


 Jimmy Carper 09:43
Kind of. Exactly. So that's that's what I would say


 Chris Harrison 09:47
peters out. But you know, that's just wrong. Yeah.


 Jimmy Carper 09:52
That's what I guess I really love girlfriends, so much girlfriends


 Chris 09:55
and I was in San Francisco. Artist we play blues CD. She only made one CD and disappeared. She's doing cabaret out there now, is that what she's doing? We've had we looked up to me like I got a couple events here. Good. The bittersweet show is on Saturday July 16, from seven to 9pm. At keys West, and that is hosted by Lillian D of a risk us who have an endeavor raising funds for the risk is charities her and there will be a town hall meeting featuring a question to answer with panel of experts on the constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage. Hara the Houston area Equal Rights Alliance and the Houston GLBT Political Caucus. Well, we're doing a town hall meeting at Behringer United Methodist Church 1440 Herald Saturday July 23. Starting at 10pm 10am speakers speakers include Matt Forman, Executive Director of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force and Glen Maxi statewide campaign director

 Jimmy Carper 11:11


 Jimmy Carper 11:11
yes for elected


 Chris Harrison 11:15
there was the contact information for Hara you can go to WWE dot Houston era dot o RG that's used an E RA for more information on that it used to be the just recently changed names to Houston Hara. Yeah. It was a group of did all the walking. My mind has left me it's left the building. Okay, I think I left in suburbs. Let's just do Yeah, I think the rest of them that we've we've covered we'll get that. Out of our cast. Yeah.

 Jimmy Carper 11:52
Let's get to I see your wage. Here. Ria. Good morning. Good morning.


 11:58
Good morning.

 Jimmy Carper 12:00
Hi, honey.

 12:02
Again, oh, there he is. Hi. Hi. All I see is his voice off to the side.

 Jimmy Carper 12:09
Yeah, no, I thought we're here. Try to give you a little visual here. Hello, Gerald. How you doing?

 12:16
I'm doing great. Jamie. How

 Jimmy Carper 12:17
are you? Wonderful, longtime No. Say Who did you bring with you this evening?





12:21

I have Keith Vivio, one of our past dampers. And I have core one, sir. Core one who's going to talk a little bit about candidates for Emperor Anantha.



Jimmy Carper 12:32

Yes, because we haven't made the announcement here yet. We've been waiting for this moment.



12:36

Yes, we have last night. Is that legal to say last night? I know. A little while ago this evening and DJs if you



Jimmy Carper 12:43

haven't been to sleep, it's still Friday night. Okay.



12:47

The space city Empire had their official candidates announcement for our Emperor and Empress candidates. Yes, Dr. Howell it seems so weird. That's going to one day one of them is going to take over my job. But we have a swanky affair. Yes, it was kind of nice. Yeah, we have two Emperor candidates or more. One is one and Mark Cohen is the other. We have one Empress candidate, Chanel, Cartier. AKA Shawn Carter. Right. They're preparing to go to AIDS Foundation camp hope. So they couldn't join us this. Yeah, so sir Corwin is here and he's gonna talk about boating and all that kind of good stuff. Good, good,



Jimmy Carper 13:25

good. But before we do that, what's going on with IC o h and where are the shows and Oh,



13:31

heavens. Have we got time? Yeah, we have the next couple of months our full calendars leading up to our main in throne and ball on October 15. Kind of put that plug in there. Let's see on Sunday the 17th. We have one of our members entering mismanage Chula.



Jimmy Carper 13:53

Yes we do Kendra.



13:55

Kendra can tell us about it. More than that would help.



14:04

That is gonna be at 1415 California. Three o'clock in the afternoon day drag.



Jimmy Carper 14:11

That's Sunday, Sunday, Sunday Sunday. car salesman.



14:16

Yes. And the Goddess that she is Kendra is going to be competing. Thank you, Regina. Dang his alter ego. That is that that



Jimmy Carper 14:27

would be Kendra not Regina.



14:28

That would be Kendra. Yes. I have to thank Regina though for making me look the way I do.



Jimmy Carper 14:37

Yes, she does make you look fabulous.



14:40

This ought to be very interesting and a whole lot of fun to hold on. So, you know, come out and see one of our members right



Jimmy Carper 14:49

in there. And it's all a big fundraiser for Montrose



14:53

clinic women's program. That's one of their big fundraisers. And the way I The way we win is come out. Tip the money. It's all based on tips, right? My title by



15:06

the title. Go me. The one



Jimmy Carper 15:10

with the most money wins. That's it. That's it.



15:13

So you take large checks. Yeah. Oh,



15:15

I take anything. Oops.



15:17

Anybody goaltender any legal tender. Hmm. Okay before you guys get into trouble, okay. Too late Dan are normal Wednesdays at Mary's does it normal? Well, Wednesday of Wednesday's normal, that's show is not really normal.



Jimmy Carper 15:35

That's wild and wiggled out. Right? Right at Mary's now, Mary's has graciously offered their place every Wednesday for us to have a fundraiser. Yes. And it used to be called the jukebox show. But now it's less jukebox and, and



15:51

more more drag and special guests and yeah, dancers and live singers. And yeah, it's a little




Jimmy Carper 15:58


bit of everything. It's a little bit of everything. I like it. Of





16:01


course, what I what I miss, my daughter came down to visit me and she, I decided to take her to the show. And she was having a great time her and her boyfriend. Yeah, you went home early. Because it was I had to go and she said, Well, I'll wait till next time to do a number and then Sean calls me on the phone. Your daughter's on the stage doing a number? Yeah,


 Judy Reeves 16:22
yeah. Oh, is she doing a number?


 16:26
She was born however long before.


 Jimmy Carper 16:27
See anyway. Also Mary says the tight tissue contest on Tuesdays for those who are so inclined. Tight

 16:35
tissue. I knew you'd have to bring that. Moving right along on the Wednesday as Friday night at Mary's nine o'clock. Our Empress earthquake is doing a show working for the money work for that money girl. And she's a lot of our shows or functions or while she's working a marriage she works works eight to two so she gets out there and dances along with the rest

 Jimmy Carper 16:57
of us. Yes, she does.

 16:58
So what's she doing for the money?

 17:00
I'm not going to ask work and

 Jimmy Carper 17:02
work in it



17:04

when she's working all right. And every fourth Sunday, and when there's a fifth Sunday, ich Barton's at EJ sport at 9pm out on the patio, right? And this Sunday to have the Sunday the 24th. Earth and I'll be out hosting that one. Cool. And on 31st We're doing it again. Our Prince and Princess are going to be hosting that one mark and ginger. And on the 30th of July, we have our first candidate show that's going to be at bricks at eight o'clock. That's something new. That's gonna be fun. It's gonna be hosted by Mark Chanel, and circor one. I almost said Shawn, well, we know we know, what's the difference? What's the difference? And then on August 4, our monthly general membership meeting. That's going to be a fun one to say the least. And then we get into this voting thing where the community votes for the candidates for ampere and infra Yeah. And Sarkar. Well, why don't you tell us about the voting that we got three. You got three chances to vote, folks? Yep, sure



18:14

to we've got on August 6, between three and 8pm at the third Coast bar down at the 3102 seaward seawall Boulevard down in Galveston, we're going to be voting down there for all the people live down south. On August the 11th, between four and 9pm at EJ s bar, that's 2517 Ralph Street. here in Houston, we're gonna be doing early voting there. And on August 13, at 10am to 6pm over the pride committee office, which set the 1415 California, we're gonna be doing voting all day long. And everybody come on out. All you got to do is show geography license or something to show that you live in Harris or the surrounding counties, and we're all being elected by the community. So we need all the community to come out and vote.



19:12

Okay, and with that in mind after that voting on the 20th Saturday, August 20, our PMP ball which is our prince and princess ball, with Scott and Marcia, our Crown Prince and Princess Royal. We'll be doing their little Soiree. And at that time, we will announce who the new emperor and empress elect will be. Wow. Cool.



19:40

Jimmy, you know, yes. I'm a little disappointed in Corwin. Now. Why is that? He didn't tell everyone to bite him if they don't vote for him.



Jimmy Carper 19:49

Yes. That seems to be a tradition here



19:52

on after hours. Yeah. So if you don't want to vote for a Corwin, you can bite me.



Jimmy Carper 19:57

That's how you win. Yeah, the one who says bite me first way.



20:04

I think Mark would say that as well. Somehow I think so. Yeah. Chanel just hurt you. Yeah. Yeah. But we also at that same voting when it's a community bout is the we have another



Jimmy Carper 20:17

Yes. The berry Petri.



20:21

Thank you. I couldn't get it out there very Petri community commitment award. Yes. It's nominations by the community, for community members on their commitment to the community. And their names are put on the ballot as well. And, and they're announced on October 15. At our Enthralment ball at the Crowne Plaza Hotel downtown, I was



Jimmy Carper 20:40

truly honored to be a recipient of that award.



20:43

Well deserved, well deserved, well



Jimmy Carper 20:45

deserved. Wow, that that was an event. It was a shocker. But



20:51

what will be really shocked when now you won't be? Because I know all the nominees. Yeah, because they have to send them there.



Jimmy Carper 21:03

Okay, I see as



21:05

it's gonna be a good list. It really is. I'm impressed. Really? So good.



Judy Reeves 21:11

It's picking up momentum. You got many people on that list? Yes. Good. Good.



Jimmy Carper 21:16

That's very good.



21:17

Well deserved. So we're just keeping busy. You are.



Jimmy Carper 21:21

You are really busy between for for the next two months? Yeah,



21:26

the next few months. We're getting ready for the big ball. Yeah, that's that's the big thing. But there's also candidacy. And then we got a lot of odds and ends throughout the next couple of months. But I just want to tell you in the listeners that we set goals at the beginning of the reign.



Jimmy Carper 21:41

Yes, I want you to, I want you to tell the listeners this because it's it. It does me proud.



21:47

I'll just, I'll get through it. I'll try. We set our goal for benefits. That's money raised to local charities. At \$10,000. Were the year for the year. Yeah, at the beginning of the ring. And right now it's still going strong. And we're over 18,000. Yes. And we set our fundraising goal, which is our main fundraiser for our beneficiary this year, which is AIDS Foundation camp hope we set that at 15,000. We're well over 23,000. So we've upped that goal as well. That's



..



Jimmy Carper 22:23

incredible, just as incredible. And I was at that board meeting when we made those those pledges, and I thought oh my god, how are we ever gonna raise this much money?



22:35

And, and even more? Yeah, it's, it's just incredible. I've got to thank the community for helping supporting us. But they're, again, the membership of the space city empire. It's just a wonderful group of people.



Jimmy Carper 22:52

I think, art and have fun. Well, a big emphasis was put on all the members, inviting them to host a show or host an event for the to raise funds rather than just the kind of the royalty. Right? Exactly, you know, and it really gets everybody involved and and if a lord or a lady is putting on a show, then I think they're gonna get a lot of support from other lords and ladies, you know, thinking well, hey, they can do it, you know,



23:24

as well as all member Yeah. Got



Jimmy Carper 23:25

Jimmy on stage got both of us. Okay. I never thought



23:30

that would happen, girls. Yes. Yeah.



Jimmy Carper 23:33


Yeah. It's hard to keep them away.





23:37


But one thing with our membership is so diversified that Yes. You don't have to be a performer. That's right. Want to help and raise funds for the community? That's all you need. You can help do a lineup you can DJ you can wash a car. Yeah, I mean, there's just so many things to do with the shows that support isn't





 Jimmy Carper 23:56
looking for DJs aren't


 Judy Reeves 23:58
trying to impress us and that's one of the toughest jobs some days zipping dresses. Yep. Whoa,


 Jimmy Carper 24:04
yeah. Boy howdy.

 24:07
To get one of the other night. I've


 24:09
been doing all the DJing lately and now all of a sudden if things go the way they are, and me being a candidate and all we're gonna need Somebody to replace me as a DJ,

 Jimmy Carper 24:17
that's right. Because you've been doing the lion's share of the DJ and Yeah, well, Stephen

 24:22
bench did very well to say yes, he did. And he taught me how to use E Jays. Sounds

 24:27
good.

 24:28
So now we got a new down you can take my place

 24:32
will see my amp versus the performer. I'm the one that will I was building sets this afternoon for this show. I'll be in the DJ i Oh, I want to be the DJ. Just bite me. I'm awake now. I want to DJ
Yeah

mean.



Jimmy Carper 24:52

He wants to put on Chanel's music and then try to speed it up a bit and watch it



25:03

There's no place to run.



Jimmy Carper 25:06

That's true. That's true. shall get you. Well, you



Judy Reeves 25:08

have one more thing we need to say. Yes. Even though I'm just the girl in here. I don't get to talk tonight now when the guests Anyway, happy birthday, Keith. It's almost an hour and a half late. Yeah, but we wished him a happy birthday Mr. lair.



25:22

Did you have fun on your birthday?



Jimmy Carper 25:24

Don't go Don't stop. Don't don't ask don't even go there. Hang



25:29

him happy birthday. Bar days. We



Jimmy Carper 25:31

did. Do sorry



Judy Reeves 25:32

for that. But it was because we loved you. Ginger



25:36

did very well and embarrassing.



Jimmy Carper 25:40

You can say that. But you notice that she refrained from singing so she doesn't get the brunt of His wrath.



25:45

With a few drinks that you've got better.



Jimmy Carper 25:50

Well, guys, and gal, thank you very much for coming up. And we'll be talking about of course, the voting every week from now on until it happens because the important thing is to get community members out there. Anyone in the community? Anyone in Harris County and surrounding? surrounding counties can vote anyone? Yes. So all 20,000 of you who are listening to my voice right now have proof of residency? Yes, you need to you need to go out and vote and what 20,000



Chris Harrison 26:27

of them but you're under 2000 of them are the ones who aren't in prison.



26:33

As long as they have a



Chris Harrison 26:40

very captive audience, we do



Jimmy Carper 26:42

have a very captive audience. Our MBBS are very faithful write us every week. Very good. MBBS are men behind bars.



26:52

Some people can keep them. No

Some people can keep them. So



Jimmy Carper 26:54

we have? Yes, I guess Okay. Okay. Well, I guess I've got to shut you down. But



26:59

one thing Yeah. And recognize the three candidates by wearing they're wearing their sash. There's a black sash is his candidate for Yeah, for ampere. That's right. Bubblegum as the sash, the other one will too. Okay. Whether it clashes with the outfit or not. Well, thank you very much. I appreciate it. Well, thank you very much, Jimmy.



Jimmy Carper 27:21

Take care. Okay, how about a little song in your ear? Now something in her ear transition here and I haven't heard this in a while and I just wanted to hear it



Chris Harrison 27:44

I know what boys like boys like maybe maybe. Was the frustrated housewives? Yes,



Jimmy Carper 27:50

you unfortunately are not together anymore. Because their house was well maybe that's it? Now



Chris Harrison 28:00

they're desperate. Oh, oh. I see a 15 Emmys can't be wrong. We



Jimmy Carper 28:05

We've got the music to prove that they were there.




Chris Harrison 28:08


Oh the radio version like attire to ask dance mix version. I think we can play that one. Who cares.




Jimmy Carper 28:16


 Jimmy Carper 28:10
It's time for blackout blades time for


 Chris Harrison 28:19
Dr.


 Dionne Redman 28:22
Good morning. Good morning. This is Dan Redman with black on black I want to say definitely that for those of us who are up and listening. I appreciate your appreciate you being here today. We have an excellent topic. I'm gonna definitely get started with that wanted to let you know that today's guest artists is going to be the late great Luther Vandross. Some of us who have grown up with him loved his music, still love his music. So I got some good music for us tonight. Stay tuned. Okay. I have two guests. I'm gonna go ahead and let them introduce themselves but tonight's topic, we're gonna look at issues pertaining to the transgender community. A blast from the past, you know, let's look at it from a past perspective to the present. My two guests go ahead and introduce yourselves.

 29:10
Amber, aka James Llorona from the pay is

 29:16
good afternoon I'm also a blast from the past. My name is poison Alexander.

 Dionne Redman 29:20
Great. We got some good stuff planned. I'm gonna give you a little taste of Luther and when we come back we'll get started for those of us who are listening when it gets stuck get ready for the Get ready for some questions call me at 713526 KPFT

 Chris Harrison 29:47
that was Luther Vandross event and rows for vandross. Tomato

 Dionne Redman 29:51
tomato. I'm not exactly certain Yeah, no mandrels Phaedra. Actually, I think it all depends on where you're from. There you go.



29:58

There you go. From the sound



Chris Harrison 30:03

that was never too much featuring Paul Jackson Jr. Giving



Dionne Redman 30:08

everybody a taste of the the compilation CD that's really a tribute to him. It's not really him singing as you can hear, it's more you know, the trip, the compilation of just a variety of different author music.



Chris Harrison 30:20

The music of him as as honored by other Yeah,



Dionne Redman 30:24

yeah, so this is a fabulous city it truly is. When you get a chance pick it up. Welcome back. This is black on black with Dan Redman. I got an excellent topic today please feel free to give us a call 713526 KPFT. Now, Miss Miss Ilona poison. Alexander, please tell me what was the differences between part time living and full time living in the transgender community back then, and what you see now



30:51

for myself, I can remember when it was hard to stay gainfully employed, if you lived at the 24 hour transvestite, especially if you were obvious. I mean, you know, some of us will rather be big, and we can't really really pay. But I could, you know, I remember before that was a glamour shot. That was not a glamour shots thing. And I could remember before the cause, because you're on the contract, you could live you can live as you can live as a woman and be paid and you back in the day you if you will, just to female impersonator, drag me whatever illusion is whatever you want to call yourself. You really got this paid straight cash for the you know, that night of the show. So you didn't, you weren't really putting anything into the system where you'd have Social Security, retirement and that kind of thing. But for me, in my experience was I was had a job and I was a transvestite. So I, I was gainfully employed as a guy, okay. And then I did the other for myself, okay. Okay. That



31:59

is actually my experience as well, back in the day, Monday, through Fridays, I lived my life as a male, I worked and I was also in college at the same time. And on the weekends is when I

would indulge, and, you know, do my hobby of female impersonation. I enjoyed it as a way to express myself and express my creativity too. But it was very, very difficult finding the balance between my nine to five everyday life as a male, and the balance balancing that with my side profession of a female impersonator. And it got to a point where one started to negatively affect the other. Okay, I started spending more time in the bars at night in the clubs at night traveling, performing. And it was my female persona was consuming my life. Okay. And it was there was some rough times as a result of that, balancing it with my family, you know, how do I present this to my family? Are they going to accept this, you know, with me coming home with residue from the night show before with all my face and the arched eyebrows and letting my hair grow out and taking female hormones. And it was it was very, very difficult for me. I can remember in a situation where I was at work one day, and I was actually wearing a bra under my male clothing. And someone noticed it. And I was extremely embarrassed, but I didn't feel comfortable saying that. Well, I'm taking female hormones. I do female impersonation on the weekend. I didn't I didn't really feel safe divulging that information in the workplace. But um, it it was it was very difficult finding a healthy balance between the two.

D

Dionne Redman 33:51

Okay, now, would you would you say that? The it was there's a there was an opportunity for one to freely express their sexual orientation. Without fear, then, or now.



34:06

I think it really depended on the community that you were in. I just kind of evolved into a transvestite I was always to community, CC and all that kind of stuff anyway, and I was in the band. So I did I skip when I was little in the Holiday Inn when I was young and all that kind of stuff. So definitely I came out very early. I could remember my mom used to let me take a bus to the Galleria. When I was about 13 or so. And I when I was about 15 and a half. I got off the bus on West Ham and Stanford and went in and picked up a tweet that changed my life. I went back I went back to high school with a twit and said oh look, we're professionals. We can do this we can do that. We have rights. So I kind of I kind of came out at 15 and a half and start sneaking into bars at 16. So therefore at seven When I told my mother Oh, guess what, I'm a Bitcoin. What is bad, okay? And I said, I said, and then my sister said yes, He knows our sign language. He sits with his friends and popped in waves and all this kind of stuff. And I started sneaking to the bars. And she asked me to promise not to go to the bars tried to turn 18. And the day I turned 18, I was I was served to high school it says so many means so little time.

D

Dionne Redman 35:33

You said, what



35:34

is it? That was this week in Texas that used to be a circular that went that came out in like a little magazine to tell you what was happening in Texas, okay. And they did interviews on the streets. We even had an interview on the streets. I mean, my best friend, we used to sneak off

over here. And yeah, so for me, when I started to dress, as a woman, I was already known in the neighborhood as to the CC so I really had what they're trying to call now. Download lovers I was my boyfriend's were the boys I hung out with, they just kind of let me hang out with them, because we were sexual partners too early. But so I kind of hung out with the boys, but I didn't hang out with them to play any sports, I just kind of hung out with them because we were partners in a sense. So it was for me, I felt safe. Because the neighborhood already looked at me like this. So when I started, and you were

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Dionne Redman 36:33

an urban city, you know, so that makes a difference what you are you from a smaller town



36:37

or as you know, I'm from Houston as well. And by the way, I miss twit twit with like the Bible of the gay community ever happened. But actually, my experience was a little bit different. But I feel a lot different from Amber's in that I grew up in a very kind of strict conservative religious family, where in high school, I played high school sports, and I went spent five, four or five years in the military. And, you know, went to college and by my church being by my family being so church oriented, and it made it very difficult, I dealt with a lot of shame, okay, and I was really afraid to come out and really express who I was as a gay man. Because I knew my family wouldn't improve in in the society in which we live, we wouldn't improve. And then I had the fear of the backlash from the Christian community, as well. So it made it very, very difficult. So I tried to really adhere to what society says a man should be in that thing. But I would sneak out. I can recall having a change of clothes, right in the back right in the back, stopping at the gas station and changing clothes gas station bathroom before I went to the gay club, you know, and so my situation was like that. And it caused me to feel a lot of shame about who I was and what I was. Because I wasn't, I didn't, I wasn't fortunate, like Amber to be able to freely express my male homosexuality, and it kind of it made it very difficult growing up,

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Dionne Redman 38:14

okay. All right, tell me where we are now, in our sexual orientation.



38:23

When I see different NASCI, I see more silicone, I see more young cross dressers and things getting getting work done. When we say work, they have breasts there, they have silicone in their faces. And my concern for this generation is a lot of times people will come to a gay community so they can express who they are. And maybe every now and again want to go back home and nobody know their business. But if you go back home with breasts, and a whole new face, you know, I am concerned that our we come to the city and it's somewhat like when you see people go to Hollywood to become a movie star, but they'd never get that deal. So they end up prostituting or whatever. And I just And my concern is for today's transgender community is if you're out here and you've got all this work done, and you're infected, how can you go back home sad my family support. My mother knew I was a female impersonator. When

I bought my first shoes, my brother and sister laugh when I tried to stand up in them and all that kind of stuff and the whole family knew but I'd never had it on and doing family functions. They just knew of my other life but if you when you get all this work done, the kids are pressured now if they're doing pageants that they must look like a woman and they have like a woman we'd put this on when we'll we want to be a boy we were a boy. But and when we wanted you You know, create the illusion, we put it on and took it out. But today the kids have this permanent work done. And it's just such a permanent thing. And my concern, I mean, my concern for this generation, transgenders that are that are getting their work done at such a young age, they can't take it off, and they can't get back, go back home. Okay, so that concerns me a lot.

D

Dionne Redman 40:20

Where are we personally in our development? Because this is a blast from the past. And when we look at it, you know, you used to do certain things you used to do certain things back then, where do we stand now? I mean, so if you had to put a label on your sexual orientation, are you are you transgender? Are you a gay male? Or are you no sexual? What do you say you are now because I know it's not like there's been a transition over the years. Oh,



40:44

I just consider myself open, open gay, male, gay me, I even go to a same gender affirming church and will in my home church. I'm openly gay there. But my friends laugh at me, but because I say I embrace my masculinity today. You know, because I didn't have hair on my face until I was almost 30. Okay, and I, you know, cap it, die, and kept bangs and all that kind of thing. But, you know, things changed. For me. I have a nephew that that he doesn't have a father. He knows I'm gay. My family's very open about that. But I really am more in touch with the masculine side of myself today. But I feel like if I want to switch to just like, like, snapping fingers, literally, yeah. And I don't feel Yeah, so today, I just identify as a gay male. Okay,

D

Dionne Redman 41:39

okay, so no dressing. No female?



41:44

Oh, no, no, it's just by changing. What I did was I stopped performing and living as a woman when I went into treatment to get clean and sober. And I'd be clean and sober. 10 years in January. So I took everything off just to get down to me. Okay, you know, and so now it's a choice. Before I was trapped, because all my, all of my sexual partners, were men who were closeted still in the straight community. So I felt like I had to look feminine to keep my partner but I don't feel it anymore. Okay, I was freed from that



42:20

...niger, you seem like, yeah, I can relate to that relate to that as well. I consider myself to be a

poison, you seem like, yeah, I can relate to that relate to that as well. I consider myself to be a gay male today. I've retired from the professional impersonation, okay. I was faced with the dilemma, like Amber just mentioned of that, I had to make the choice if I wanted to go into the chain, physical changes of my body, because I did start taking hormones. I was a pageant competitor, that was that was what attracted me initially to the art of female impersonation. And I was a former Miss Galveston, the former Miss Austin, the former Miss Travis County, Ms. Black, Houston. 13. And all of that goes on. But the point that I wanted to make is that I reached the point where I started taking hormones, I actually still have silicone in my cheeks. And I saw myself making that transformation to where I would be faced with living my life on a daily basis as a female, okay. And I it was a very difficult place for me to be I felt very lonely, I felt very depressed, I felt very confused. Because I felt if I went all the way and made that transition, I would give up my family, I would give up the the person that I was born as the identity of that person, you know, who would I become, you know, and I just had so many questions. And I actually stopped. I just stopped I stopped taking the hormones and I just, I'd because I, I knew I saw what was the road was like ahead. And I didn't want to go down that road. Because I think it's important for me to be proud of, and be empowered by being a black gay man. You know, and I really am proud of the fact that I've been able to get back to that a lot of amber has been a huge help in me, affirming who I am as a black gay man. And I don't have to make the transition to become physically a woman just in just to find a mate just to find a partner just to get into society. Because as a as an openly gay man, society is unwilling to accept that a lot of times, but if I look like physically like a woman, they will receive me better, because I'm fitting into the stereotype that's writing into the mold. He looks it's a man but he looks like a woman so I can deal with it. As opposed to I'm just a man who loves an openly gay man who loves openly other gay men will have a harder time swallowing that pill. But the tragedy is that so many of the transgender today they have to place themselves in in a pigeonhole. Yeah, yeah, no to where they've made the physical transition, and there's no turning back and there's no turning back. Okay. And then at that point, how do you support yourself financially? You know, I'm saying, how do you? Where does your income come from? You know, how do you? That's right, how do I go to my 10 year old nephew, who was a part of my life today as an openly gay man, and say, Well, I'm not your uncle anymore. I'm now your aunt. Because my nephew at 10 years old, he's gonna judge me by what he sees. So if he sees the physical appearance of a woman, he's gonna be confused. And I have a responsibility to, to not put that on him. Okay, place that on him, you know, at some point, and because I've matured, and I've gone through treatment and recovery as well, I just celebrated a year of recovery last last week, and was my sponsor. You know, I'm just really grateful, but I don't have if I make a choice as to how to live my life, do I really have the right to impose that on all the people that love me and care about? You know, my parents? What do I how do I interact and relate to my father? Okay, now that I'm no longer his son, you know, those are questions that that you've naturally thought about her. Okay, before it before you make those decisions. It's like, Do you really think about the long term implications of making that transformation from physical mail? To physical female? You know, is it really worth it?

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Dionne Redman 46:31

Do you think within that time, within that timeline, you got the chance to kind of do some self some self searching? Absolutely. Give me the timeline, you started when and then you decided not, it's not going to work.

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46:46



10:10

I started in December of 1990. S studio 13 and turnabout show, my partner at the time, put me in drag and did me up for the turnabout show. And I fell in love with it from day one. Constantly winning, winning, winning and pageant and dancing. And the creativity of it is what drew me to it, you know, the the glamour, the excitement, and all of that part of it. But then it I experienced my own personal experience was like a downward spiral is like my life became consumed. By the time that I spent in the clubs. It was no more getting up and going to work Monday through Friday, it was no more going to continuing my education in college, that became secondary to this, this new lifestyle that I was all excited about, and so on and so forth. But I started drinking heavily, which led to with progress to drugs, which progress to unsafe sex practices, and things of that nature. And so I just saw myself just spinning out of control, really, okay, so that was 90, that was the 90s in the 90s. And it ended at about, I would say about 9495. I had to physically remove myself from the from the openly gay lifestyle, especially as it relates to a female impersonator. Because at that point, I was dealing with a drug addiction, you know, something that was a whole nother can of worms that I needed to deal with. Okay? Absolutely.



48:22

But I do want to say, Well, for me, the timeline was, I've been dealing with being a feminine my whole life I have, I would never get there. My mom's ever aren't gonna say it. When it starts walking. It's gonna be a sissy. So I've always kind of had to wear that. And when I came out to my mom, I started living as a woman. I mean, it said, 17 I was weighing chiffon titties at the house and doing my nails all day long. And so you know, and we, you know, we have a slang for women. So I thought I was fish. My mother, she just really didn't fight me on it. And, but what I wanted to say was, there are those of us who feel like, we do not have a choice that we're trapped in a male's body. Some of us feel like we were alright with who we were with or without that garment. Okay, okay. So there, but I have had friends, that I have a friend that was born with an ovary. I mean, you just you look at you look at this person, and you say you just think this is a crossdresser directly. They're dealing with a lot of things. This person actually had a menstrual period. And so I mean, so it's a case by case basis. So we don't want to make people feel like they may be listening. Or you may have friends that may be going through something a lot deeper than just putting this on as an illusion might be battling an identity crisis, where you feel like you're a woman living in a mask in a man's body. So man came from While I would say the age 17 until I went into recovery when I was 36, okay, I lived as a woman for 25 years, I've only been living as a guy for nine, okay? And I blow a lot of people way that know me now. It's good because the people that I there in my circle, or at my church and in recovery, and they just see this guy, right, but then there'll be there'll be with me one of my old lovers or come up with somebody, you know, I've seen the pictures here, you know, as a performing essay. They'll



Chris Harrison 50:30

say, I just got finished with it. I have to jump in in



50:33

a second. Yeah. And they'll say oh, hey, Mr. Rollins, who the time I said that's my other person

you go.

C

Chris Harrison 50:40

I have to do this. FCC is a wonderful organization. You're listening to after hours quit radio with attitude here on listener sponsored commercial free Pacifica radio for the Gulf Coast. KPFT 90.1 FM, Houston, 89.5 Galveston and always on the World Wide Web KPFT dot o RG.

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50:58

Can you say any fancy cars faster if I can, but I have a goal.

C

Chris Harrison 51:02

Without this cold, I do it in one breath. You know, the old Dilbert animators said all you did was sit was sitting there go KPFT, Houston. Any amount of time he says you have to use an IRA. Because, you know all as all we need to be legal this way. But you know, the station said you know, we'd like you to say this, we'd like to say that and mix it up a little like, there you go. I sit there the whole thing out and, and the sad life I live as I practice it in the car.

D

Dionne Redman 51:32

You're listening to Black on black. If you have any questions, any comments, please feel free to give us a call 713526 KPFT. I have guests here, Miss Miss Llorona. And also miss poison Alexander. You know what, I've gotten some good information. I just I want to know. And my guess my my listeners may want to know too, as it pertains to people who you were hanging out with both of you are from Houston, did you not have a circle of friends who lived elsewhere in which you found that there were other pockets of either female impersonators or others who are going through the exact same going through the exact same thing and other states, you know, so now when we look at it, we know that you know, large pockets of the transgender community exists in California, in New York and DC, and Atlanta, and so forth and so forth. Did you Did you see that there were more pockets then? Or where were they? What were you I

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52:29

really met a lot of people that would migrate from Louisiana to Texas, because we were a bit more open. They had I went to Lafayette and in are performed from time to time. And those who didn't go to New Orleans came this way. And they would maybe stop off in Beaumont. There's a large gay population in Beaumont, and then Houston. And then um, and I live in Austin, Austin for a while. But Houston has always had what we call a gay community. And I was doing some work in my profession. Now, as an HIV educator, I was up in Dallas, and they're trying to do intervention there, but they don't have any clubs. They don't have they don't have a community. They just have to meet people like in the mall. And so you can find major cities that don't really have a community of gay people. So I wonder about their support. And, and I would think that like back in the day, I could remember before we had the clubs and we had the

Montrose Counseling Center and things like that. And there were a lot of congregating and people's home support. But for as this this region, I see a lot of people migrate from Louisiana here, but right now it's just like is Houston Atlanta, Houston, Atlanta, Houston, Atlanta. Atlanta has some of the most fierce transgender girls. They get all the work done. They get it all done. They look fabulous. Okay, no jobs everything they tried to take away everything male, don't girls who are who are planning to live that way and some of them are doing it only for to perform. Okay, no, it's more about the performance and then being in the continental pageant system.



54:29

Yeah. And I think Atlanta was the the seed where the big transgender movement that's going on now was planted as far as the making the physical transition to living your life on a daily basis as a woman because I think they started something and then everyone else is just following suit. What I found is that there's a pocket of transgendered that that I've been able to spend time with in Los Angeles. Also Miami, Chicago. And then like Amber said, Louisiana, and what I find is that so many of us relocate because we're searching for a place that we can freely express and be who we really want to be. So you have so many of the, in the transgender community, they move around. The lifestyle is almost like a gypsy, until you find that pain, that place where you're comfortable to live your life, in the manner that you choose to live it. But at the same time, you know, that detaches you from your roots, you know, your family or community and all that in and that becomes just not a part of your life. And that's, that's the sad thing. I think that's a loss. And a lot of times we don't realize that but the Atlanta transgender community is huge. Okay. Okay. Jen is phenomenal. Okay. And they have there are born women that don't look as beautiful. I can believe it as they do.



Dionne Redman 55:57

I can believe absolutely incredible. You find that in Atlanta, because that's the hub so to speak. If you are a transient and you're coming over and you move in, and we love relocating, they're welcoming. Actually,



56:09

they are, it's almost like, because because you've separated yourself from your family and your roots, this new community becomes your family. So girls that move relocate from Houston from Dallas, from Louisiana to Atlanta or LA, they are welcomed into the community because it's a community of people dealing with the same issue. That's right. And so they they do try to support one another and encourage one another. Because they know all they have is really is each other.



Dionne Redman 56:38

Okay. Okay. Do you find that there's a division amongst the community in some way or some some somehow back in the day versus now?



56:48

I would say, back in the day, there was a lot of division, female impersonators, which, which are today called transgender. Okay, where we were, we were like, looked down upon, yeah. Within the gay community. Yeah. It was like, Oh, God, yeah, that's a drag queen, you know, and, you know, we were like, kind of like, ostracized and kind of set apart with it, that was my experience of being set apart. And it was, it was very, very difficult because, as in your personal relationships, intimate relationships that left you kind of out in the cold in the sand. And here we were, we thought we were empowering, you know, the gay community by being able to express who we are and entertain and, and work from that platform. But then at the same time, once we were off the stage, or out of the makeup and heels, and so on and so forth. It was in the community, it was still like, even without the makeup, you can still consider that drag queen. Okay, you know, so you couldn't shake it when other people would mention you or they'll point at you. It was like, oh, you know, he's a drag queen. Oh, that's a drag.



57:59

Yeah, I could I could remember when the continental pads and second when we say that, I can remember being a female illusionist. That's what I exactly that's Title I was the label I wore. I could remember when you were like running for Miss Gay Houston or whatever. There was a male interview. Exactly. And I could remember the separation for those who were living as women who didn't, couldn't didn't do a male interview. And that's when they created the Miss continental Miss continental girls with their work done. And they live as women 24/7 When both of us came into came into this, we it was more of an illusion, you took it off, and you hung out as a guy and you got high because you knew that it was only an illusion. Exactly.



Dionne Redman 58:49

So it was okay to be part time, whatever you want it to be right back then. Right.



58:54

And then you saw more of the you saw more we call the kids we call it just the kids getting work done so they can survive as a sex worker. And that separated us again. And then I can remember the ACA remember when the girls had their work done will come in and be just gorgeous. And support us who would just illusionist for the evening. And you but you knew us to be separate? You knew what you knew you can even see us as a boy during the day, but then you knew your friends that were like they're 24/7. So



Dionne Redman 59:32

was there there was a division amongst amongst individuals. If I will look down upon you if I know that you're a sex worker, is that what I'm here?





59:40

I think there's been of it's like the two have merged there was there was a group of female impersonators that entertained at all of the gay bars and gay clubs and did the gay circuit as far as entertainment. Like we just said, we created the illusion of Diana Ross or Tina Turner or so on and so forth. And And that was our, our niche in the gay community. Okay, then there was another group of trans transients, is what we call them. And those were the girls that had the tidies, and so on and so forth. And they were separate. They respected each, you know, each group respected the other. But their lifestyles were different. What's what I've seen, in my opinion, is the merging of the two, okay? To where there's no more, the traditional female impersonator who entertains and does the shows and travels around and so on and so forth. And the nine to five 24/7 I mean, you know, 24/7 shifts, day to day. transgendered, they've become one. That's all



Dionne Redman 1:00:43

right. So you've seen the difference over the years, okay. Okay. You brought up a couple of times, both of you the addiction issue, drugs, alcohol, that kind of thing. When we look at the drugs of choice within the TG community, we're talking about, and this is the most common drugs of choice, and this is back from 1999. And it could be current crack meth, meth, and also alcohol. Can Can we add ecstasy to Crystal



1:01:09

Meth is



1:01:10

crystal meth is really ramped, right? I mean, it's just rapid period.



Dionne Redman 1:01:14

Was that how it was back then? Or how it is now? No,



1:01:17

back then. There were more accurate. Remember, when I first started coming to the club, amonitrate, some things that you did more openly in the club, like, you snorted something in the club and in the restaurant. You dam on nitrate, it's like, you sniff it, and you can just immediate buzz for seconds, and then it goes away and downers and things like that. Now you see more of, like, highly addictive drugs. And that fuels the, I would say risky sex. And somewhat, if you can't pull yourself together for like crystal meth, you could be on it for a day. Exactly. So how can you pull yourself together to go to work, but if you just smoked pot, or did something that in the club just for that evening, you could shake it off and go to work the next day, okay, and but now, the, the drugs are so addicting. And, and you know, the difference, the difference is when I get up in the morning, and I can go to a regular job. And I have insurance and

everything. But if I am a sex worker, I have to do what I have to do to survive. And a lot of times the people that are the clients of the sex worker, they want to be high, so they don't have to deal with what they're doing. In a bigger closet, and they want anonymous sex. So you need something in there to kind of keep that whole cloud clouded. You know, mindset going, okay.

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Dionne Redman 1:02:58

So the drugs are definitely changed over the years. Yes. Okay. Okay. They're

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much more addictive and much more harming I think, because I mean, the drugs, back then it was like drinking and marijuana was the main thing, but now with, you know, the crystal meth and the then the big crack cocaine epidemic and all that that took so many people out. And it's changed tremendously.

D

Dionne Redman 1:03:22

It sounds like it was now it was a leeway into HIV, the HIV epidemic Absolutely. 63% of African American male to female, trans, from the male to females are HIV positive. Okay, so that's a large number. And when, in the past, I was not exactly certain if the numbers were I don't know the exact numbers, but it couldn't, it could not have been, it could not have been that large, anywhere

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1:03:49

close, who will know. And then the word back then was it was just that same thing that the heterosexual community is doing now, the African American gay community deeded to the white gay community. It's not us that have it. It's the white gay people that have it. And we were pointing the finger. Okay, so we were not we were we didn't we back then we were more segregated. We stayed in our communities, even though we were gay. It was a more segregated, I know here in Houston, but now we have come together. And, and we're, we're less segregated, we're more disaggregated. So we're together. So therefore we are interacting, and we're sleeping together. And the numbers are, of course rise in the African American community period. But I can remember they say we don't go down that of those clubs were because of the white gay males were known to be HIV positive. We probably were positive also, but we weren't testing. We weren't open there was so many things. Okay. But now we see. We see African Americans being infected and and I really Thank the anonymous sex partners for a is you have an addictive black male that sleeps with a woman and me. So therefore, if you are having anonymous sex, you do not have to be responsible for your partner. So therefore, I think that that's definitely

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Dionne Redman 1:05:24

okay. Okay, that makes sense. Now one of the things that we that we look at too, in terms of

okay. Okay, that makes sense. Now one of the things that we that we look at too, in terms of issues facing the TG community from the past to the present, discrimination and abuse, 60% of the TGT community says they've experienced some type of sexual abuse, not sexual abuse, but abuse or discrimination. You know, I look at I look at current papers in which they talk about deaths, you know, and we're talking about the year 2000. In Georgia, you know, a young lady was killed in the year 2001. In New York, you're in Georgia again, and Dallas, Texas in 2001. So you have a variety of different killings that have taken place, what was it like on a disgrace? Was there any discrimination back then? Any abuse back then?



1:06:08

I don't think I had I could, I, myself experienced it. They wanted to be a gay bashing, but I ended up bashing Westheimer going to my apartment, and then these five guys jumped out on me. And you know, I'm just not having it. Okay, you know, so therefore, because I stayed in my community, and I fought for my place in their communities. And you didn't hear as you hear so much about gay bashing, and stuff like that, where,



1:06:43

I don't know, I had an experience as well, where I remember, there was a time when straight, the straight guys would come into the gay community, and just wreak havoc and just terrorize people, you know, coming in and out of the clubs getting out of their car. And I had an incident where I was getting out of my car to go into South Beach, which back then used to be called heaven, and being pelted with rocks from like four guys riding riding by in a car. And I don't think situations like that or, or as common as they were back then. So I think it has changed a lot. And I think Ember hit a good point about within the gay community, which are gay community is already a minority. And then we were so separated by race within the gay community. Back when I was, you know, active in the gay community, it was like all the, the the white gays went to one club and hung out in one area and other black gays in another area. And I think that kind of fuel this whole atmosphere of negativity. And then I think now that the two have merged and become one stronger gay community, that is not as much happening but I know of amber and I were just talking earlier about an incident of a female impersonator that was actually shot in the face. And then another incident, several incidents. There was a female impersonator from Baytown Miss Baytown. You know, she was shot and killed. And so this race, there have been a lot of local, I would say this was in the late 80s.



1:08:15

Yeah, and the personnel base of late was just the last pay is here, but that was a sex worker going into a car, you know, people coming around, but I can remember such discrimination. When I went into recovery, I was setting pause. And earlier, I could remember coming from one treatment center to the other, and learning months later, that the actual counselors from one treatment center to the next, let them know that there was a gay, a feminine guy coming, and you all choose how you're going to house him. And they drew straws and I'm just I'm just so offended. And I'm Paul, where, who I was going to roommate with and and what they were going to do to me if I acted out, they told me that months later when we were friends, but I just thought how dare the facility that was sending me to one facility to have me vulnerable position and I can remember also with the guy just bringing me we will be going to we go to

AAA meetings and and what bring me to Montrose and said, Well, we're just gonna take you through that. So you can see somebody like you, you may even want to get out. And that kind of thing happened for me and I can remember just being so offended and having one guy that befriended me, and then he told me, like, a couple of weeks later or whatever, I really liked you and I love you as a brother until you open your mouth and start moving and then I just hate you. And this was in a process group. Okay, okay. And you know, I mean, so I know a lot of effeminate persons that have gone into treatment have left treatment behind being treated like this right And



1:10:00

I had an experience with that as well, once once I reached a point in my life where I needed to address my addiction, and try to take some steps to to, to put that into perspective, I was in a treatment center as well. And they would not, it was a two man room, but they would not house another client in the room with me because I was openly gay. And I don't know what they were afraid might happen or what they assumed might happen. But it just left me totally isolated, even within this community of recovery, where I'm trying to seek counseling and support and things of that nature. I was totally isolated within this recovery center. Okay, you know, and you know, that, that, that was not very helpful, a very, you know, encouraging to my, what I was



Dionne Redman 1:10:55

that happened before, but we're still experienced that even to this day. Yeah, I mean, our current situation, young lady out in Brasilia County, May of this year, you know, experienced that same thing in the criminal justice system, you know, to be to be allowed to be raped by an inmate. And here you are a prison guard who allow such a thing, you know, that shows the insensitivity. It shows the lack of knowledge about the about the community, even currently, you know, some of our agencies that are out there have a lack of knowledge, their staff have a lack of knowledge, you currently work in a setting in which you are a provider, you are a helping profession, how do how do you see your agency in terms of sensitivity?



1:11:35

I think they've grown since I've been employed there, because I can remember when I, early on, when I started working for this agency, a from every now and again, a transvestite or a person living as a woman will come in. And either they will call me to the front, like I'm the person need to deal with them, because they didn't want to deal with them. I was snickering around, and I will confront them. And I say, You know what, you're not gonna remember one day a person came in to get help. And they were saying, Oh, you need to go to and see, I think you're gonna like that. This piece of hair that this person has on it, and they say, oh, but yeah. And then they started to snicker. And I could remember also we have shower and laundry. And they were saying that that the person could not use the the female shower when laundries and they were saying that he had to go outside and all this kind of stuff. And I and when I got to the bottom of it, this person was really a hermaphrodite. And I say, you really need to look closer and be more sensitive. So I think my presence at that agency makes a difference. That's

D**Dionne Redman 1:12:44**

good. All right. And it sounds like it takes someone to take a stand, you know, someone has to do something, because if not, it'll be a perpetual cycle. If no one is knowledgeable here, if no one chooses to treat the clients with respect on a variety of different levels, then why should we do it? You know, so that is something that, that I think agencies tend to struggle with currently. Political, the political forefront. Was there any politics involved or, you know, involvement on both of your hands back in the day? Or do you do a little bit more of political involvement now as it pertains to TG issues or gay rights?

**1:13:21**

I could remember we were talking about Halloween has really been always been a big time for our dressing up in costumes and everything. But I could remember when I first came out when it was not legal to wear, but so many female garments, I'm thinking if you had over two or something, you could be arrested. But Halloween was a day for dress up. And so, you know, you could be arrested if you're walking down the street, with maybe a woman's pair of pants on and attack. When today we can, you know, we can outwardly express ourselves, you know, for flares, but I can remember when it was not legal, what was that like? 87 that was I came out in my age myself and 7575 so I can remember 75 I can remember when they would have pageants, and the female impersonator would have on men shoes and things just not to be arrested if it wasn't Halloween, and they would have on male underwear, okay, you know, because they will be pulled over and check to see if they had the the number of male garments that they had to have. And the police just rest back then. I remember that. I remember that.

**1:14:40**

I think politically, a lot of progress has been made, though. Because now with I think there are three states that recognize gay marriages. I think there's Canada as well and so on and so forth. And that's a huge step. And then there are a lot of companies that allow that recognize same sex unions swim. And that was all stuff that we had never had before. And Amber made a good point about, I think it's important that we, as a community start thinking about our future. And I think that's what the Movement is doing. As far as having health insurance, like Amber said earlier. In the event, your partner dies, you know, a wheel in place, you know, as far as benefits available to the partner that, you know, is left alive, or just, that is so important. That's right, you know, and those are the things that are just, you know, automatically given in a heterosexual relationship. But if you've been in relationship with a partner for 30 years, why should you not be entitled to that same opportunity? So, you know, and things of that nature, and I think that politically, that it was as a result of the gay community becoming more politically active, okay, you know, by demanding certain recognitions in corporate America, in in, in society

D**Dionne Redman 1:16:01**

overall. Exactly, exactly. You know, you have states that have your anti discrimination laws put in place. Ohio, California, those are letting you know, those those things are taking those things that are taking place are letting us know, we're moving in a different direction, even though we

really are. In terms of differences. What do you see as a difference between the white transgender community versus the black transgender community?



1:16:28

How see, I see lack of support in the in the black community, and and I think that's our fault. I received most of my counseling from Montrose Counseling Center, which I think is a predominantly Caucasian or white agency, but they didn't treat me they didn't treat me any different. But there were issues I had in the black community that I can remember my therapist saying, Amber, you all need more counselors, because we're taught and trained in cultural sensitivity, but we really