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SPEAKERS

Brian Nunes, Jack Valinski, Joan Devlin, Cindy Friedman, Glenn Holt



00:00

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Jack Valinski 00:12

Welcome to another edition of lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack Valinski



Joan Devlin 00:16

And I'm Joan Devlin.



Glenn Holt 00:17

And I'm Glenn Holt.



Jack Valinski 00:18

And well, who we have on the show tonight, Joan.



Joan Devlin 00:23

The men's gathering will be here at 830. And we thought we're going to have Deborah Denver, but that didn't work out. So we have me you and Glen?

J

Jack Valinski 00:32

Well, we're sort of up the creek without a battle, I guess. I guess. Oh, well, but there's a couple of things going on that we can talk about the community first, the holidays are coming up. Yes. And sometimes that's a lot of fun. Sometimes it's rather sad, because we're not with our biological families. Sometimes it's a lot of fun, because we're not with families. That and things going on in the community. Very nice gathering of Hemet on Friday. That was a lot of fun, which was which is the people who are on the list. That's a Yahoo groups list. And quite nice, no fights nothing.

J

Joan Devlin 01:08

I know. I was surprised.

J

Jack Valinski 01:10

No, it was a very nice gathering at the community center. And they do that I guess, once a year. And it was nice to have it in our you know, space rather than at a bar or somewhere else.

J

Joan Devlin 01:21

Now we had a really good time. You know, as always, the community centers always nice and you know, we were able to talk at them one good thing about living in Houston, you know, is it's so rarely gets really cold. That you know, when you have a party like that in a smaller place, you know, there's nothing stopping people generally, like going outside and kind of the smokers do Yeah, you know, kind of hanging around.

J

Jack Valinski 01:43

So we got a lot of talk about on the show tonight. But let's listen first to news wrap from this way out.

♀

01:54

I'm Cindy Friedman. And

B

Brian Nunes 01:55

I'm Brian in it with

C

Cindy Friedman 01:56

news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending December eighth 2001. In a landmark for Chinese culture, open gay Stanley

the week ending December eight 2001. In a landmark for Chinese culture, open gay Stanley Quan. This week won Best Director honors for his first gay themed film Lon you at Taiwan's Golden Horse Awards, known as the Chinese language Oscars. Lon you had been nominated in 10 categories, and also won Best Adapted Screenplay Best Film Editing and Best Actor for mainlander Leo ye in its title role. While it didn't take best picture in the official judging, it did win the people's choice award in that category. Adapted from the internet novel Beijing story. Lon you deals with a gay male couples stormy 10 year relationship in the period surrounding the massacre at Tiananmen Square. Hong Kong director Quan who came out publicly in 1996 identified the relationship with his own. despite China's widespread intolerance of gays. Lon you was shot on location in Beijing, although much of the filming was done behind closed doors. Lon you will be seen in the US in the coming year. First at the Sundance Festival in January and later in general release.

B

Brian Nunes 03:14

an anti gay leader in the US culture war stepped down from one key posts this week. Pat Robertson announced his resignation from the presidency of the Christian coalition, the spearhead of the anti gay religious right, which Robertson founded in 1989. Robertson now 71 years old, said he felt a renewed call to Christian ministry and that he intends to focus more on his Christian Broadcasting Network and Regent University. In a statement, Robertson proclaimed that the Christian coalition had achieved all the tenure political goals it set in 1990 and credited it with a pivotal role in placing George W. Bush in the White House, and Republicans in control of the House of Representatives.

C

Cindy Friedman 03:56

President Bush this week named former Montana Governor Mark Rask, co chair of the Republican National Committee, the Human Rights Campaign as well as the gay and lesbian Log Cabin Republicans view the selection of the leading Bush campaigner as positive Rascoe strongly denounced the notorious 1998 gay bashing murder of Matthew Shepard, and at the end of his eight year tenure as governor ordered a rewrite of conservative Montana state employment policies to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination.

B

Brian Nunes 04:27

The only openly gay legislator in the President's home state of Texas announced this week that he will not seek reelection. Austin Democrat Glen Maxey said on the steps of the state capitol flanked by the US Texas and rainbow flags. I came here as the gay representative. I'll leave here as the representative who just happened to also be gay. That in itself is my most important achievement. Maxey headed the Lesbian Gay rights lobby of Texas before beginning the first of six terms in the Texas House in 1991. A tribute his exit from politics in part two redistricting that would have pitted him against two political allies. Maxey will continue as a professional lobbyist in the state legislature on issues of health and human services. Karen Garrity

C

Cindy Friedman 05:13

was sworn in this week as mayor of Portland, Maine. There was loud applause at the ceremony when a speaker noted she is the first open lesbian or gay ever to hold that office. She was unanimously elected to the post by the City Council, where she'd served for five years. Her top concern is the city's serious housing problems

B Brian Nunes 05:33

and ordinance in the other Portland, Portland, Oregon, served as the model for a civil rights ordinance adopted unanimously last week by the Board of Commissioners of Multnomah County where Portland is located. Both sexual orientation and gender identity are included as categories protected from discrimination. Those who believe they have experienced discrimination can turn to either an administrator or the courts for redress.

C Cindy Friedman 05:58

And in a year end marathon session this week, the Atlanta Georgia City Council voted 12 to one to approve its own version of San Francisco's pioneering equal benefits ordinance, requiring city contractors to extend the same benefits to their unmarried workers' domestic partners as they do to legally married workers' spouses. The bill sponsor outgoing council member Michael Julian Bond managed to bring it to the table at literally the 11th hour after it appeared to have died in committee. But because of the circumstances, that bill did not include a long list of waivers bonded plant, and even he admits it could create real problems if it goes into effect in January with most city contractors not in compliance. Gay supportive exiting Mayor Bill Campbell must decide the measure's fate. At least four other cities and two counties in the US have adopted similar ordinances following San Francisco's 1996 lead.

B Brian Nunes 06:57

equal benefits for domestic partners also won support this week at a meeting of the American Medical Association. The AMA adopted a resolution called equity in healthcare for domestic partnerships, affirming the group's support for both equal health care benefits and for legal recognition of domestic partners for hospital visitation and medical care decision making. The AMA also added the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association to its specialty and service society. A first step in advancing the GLMA to organizational voting status in the AMA.

C Cindy Friedman 07:30

In Canada, Quebec provincial government this week introduced a bill to create legal domestic partnerships for gays and lesbians. The proposed partnership union registry would confer marital benefits in areas including inheritance, health care, insurance and taxation, but would not recognize couples for adoptions or CO adoptions. Nova Scotia is the only Canadian province to have enacted similar legislation. Quebec Justice Minister Paul Bagan called the bill the most gay positive legislation in North America, noting that the province lacked the authority to extend full marriage rights to same gender couples, and hinting that an independent Quebec

might have done so. With a major lawsuit in progress in Montreal seeking equal marriage rights. Quebec gays and lesbians are divided between those who support the partnership registry as at least a temporary remedy, and those who oppose it as discriminatory inequality.

B

Brian Nunes 08:26

Canadian gays and lesbians outside of Quebec last week filed two class action lawsuits against the federal government seeking survivor benefits to the tune of 400 million Canadian dollars. The lawsuit represents some 10,000 gays and lesbians whose partners died after the National Charter of Rights and Freedoms went into effect in 1985. But before the January 1998, date, the Canada Pension Plan set for benefits to same gender couples. The national government has vowed to fight the lawsuit, claiming it was already being generous last year when it made the benefits retroactive to two years earlier. But activists claimed the 450 Canadian dollar per month benefits have effectively been confiscated from survivors. Since all Canadians have been required to contribute to the plan throughout their working lives. Quebec is not part of the action because it has a separate pension plan. The main case was filed in Ontario on behalf of gay and lesbian survivors in all the provinces with a second filed in British Columbia because of that provinces separate rules for class actions.

C

Cindy Friedman 09:28

The issues are very different for same gender couples in India, where a woman was reportedly arrested in November after marrying a girl in a secret Hindu ceremony in the central state of shadows scar, the father of a 13 year old named Rukmani told police the 20 year old woman had abducted her and the woman was jailed and denied bail.

B

Brian Nunes 09:49

Elsewhere in India, activists have asked the Delhi High Court to stop the government from enforcing the sodomy law, which provides for a maximum sentence of life imprisonment for sex between men. The filing came from the NAS Foundation, a group which itself was charged this year in connection with that law because of its AIDS prevention efforts. Nas asserts that the law both impedes prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS, and violates the Indian constitutions right to life and liberty. The government has not yet filed its response.

C

Cindy Friedman 10:21

As World AIDS Day was observed December 1 with numerous marches, vigils, and other events around the globe. Barbados saw the official launch of its first gay and lesbian organization. The 60 member group in Bridgewater is called United gays and lesbians against AIDS. Barbaodoes

B

Brian Nunes 10:39

Nicaragua's National Committee of the Latin American Council of Churches has selected an open gate as its executive secretary. Reverend Dr. Armando Sanchez is the ecumenical officer for Central America for the World Ecumenical Fellowship of Mennonite Communities.

for Central America for the gay affirming universal fellowship of metropolitan community churches, as well as Senior Pastor of Managua, iglesia de la comunidad metropolitana past era Griya the Latin American Council of Churches includes more than 70 member denominations, and earlier this year granted you fmcc fraternal membership status,

 Cindy Friedman 11:11

and finally, a New Hampshire High School senior class has chosen a lesbian couple as their class sweethearts. When Dover high school seniors voted on 20 categories of so called senior superlatives, Best Dressed most athletic most likely to succeed and the like. More than 77% named Nicole Salisbury and Ashley Legato to be honored in their yearbook as their favorite couple. Perplexed yearbook staff turned to principal Robert Peterson who declared the runner up couples should be used instead. Because ballad instructions had required students to pick a male and a female in each category that riled the senior class as well as Dover's Gay Straight Alliance, and petitions began to circulate to give Salisbury and Legato their due. But then school superintendent Arman La Silva intervened to insist the vote should stand saying, I believe that even if there was confusion about the ballot, the senior class members spoke, I don't believe I have the right to throw out the ballot because we didn't have any hanging chads on this one. Or as one student told reporters, if people think they're the cutest couple in the school, then why not?

 Brian Nunes 12:26

That's news rap for the weekend in December 8 2001, written by Cindy Friedman, and recorded at the studios of KPFK, Los Angeles Sala

 Cindy Friedman 12:33

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

 Brian Nunes 12:39

And I'm Brian Newness.

 12:42

Imagine yourself serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in one of 80 countries around the world.

 12:46

I wanted adventure, I wanted to go out, learn about a new culture, learn a new language and bring it back to United States. You know for



12:53

sure for two years, it's going to be like nothing you've ever experienced.



12:57

I joined the Peace Corps because I think Peace Corps as a development organization is one of the best in the world.



13:04

My dream of becoming a physician if anything has become enhanced. The best part of my experience here I think is a volunteers that I found a second family.



13:13

I think one of the best things you can do with your time. It's a great program where you can come and help people out. excited about it.



13:20

There. The role for you in Peace Corps never really feels like work. You love what you're going through. You're helping people. You work in the community and people really appreciate you so much. For every little bitty thing that you do. It's fine.



13:32

Make a difference in the Peace Corps, visit our website or call 804 24858 It's the toughest job you'll ever



13:43

imagine this you're late for a meeting, you're driving your car, the radios turned on and you're really not paying much attention then a red light. That moment something happens. The story on the radio. The description of the story is so overwhelming. It stopped you right there. The red light did help of course, but the story took you there and taught you something new. That's what KPFT is about taking you there. Whether it's through our news programs like the BBC News, our the world Democracy Now. Pacifica network news or any of our other news and information programs. It's about independent radio Houston 90.1 KPFT, the sound of Texas



14:28

This first day of new Christmas my this love goes to the poor and some really tight place

THIS FIRST DAY OF GAY CHRISTMAS, MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO THE MAN AND SOME REALLY TIGHT JEANS.



14:37

Wearing her clothes are so bad to walk around and



14:45

I want to invite you to tune in Christmas and YouTube as many gay boys is for a special edition of queer music heritage. Hosted by JD Doyle I'll play Christmas Music Golden new, but all of it queer. That's Christmas Eve at 9pm All right.



Jack Valinski 15:25

It's sort of the annual playing of the river from Joni Mitchell from her blue album, or semi untitled album. And it's sort of the most Christmassy Christmas song that I like to play, because they don't usually like to play all those Christmas songs. And if you want to listen those Christmas songs, there's a radio station at 99. One that's just playing them all the time. So you get tired of them really quick.



Joan Devlin 15:44

Same ones all the time, too.



Glenn Holt 15:47

And I understand that XM Radio has a seasonal favorites channel.



Jack Valinski 15:53

Well, yeah. And I think the digital radio stuff that comes down the cable, or the satellite also has those two XM radios that new satellite radio system, which is like \$10 a month or something?



Glenn Holt 16:05

And of course, you need a special receiver for it.



Jack Valinski 16:07

Right, which is \$300. Right? So you get this for free? Yeah, you get your money's worth.



16:14

We're in the studio with Paul Guillory from the men's gathering.



J Joan Devlin 16:20

We're all in here writing our Christmas cards out. This is so sad. But, Paul, so tell us you said this is kind of open forum for the men's gathering this month. What are some of the things that you've got going on?



16:31

Well, we have I guess we have a lot. It's, it's kind of interesting. The the holiday season comes in, we think our meeting, attendance will fall off and just saw this past Saturday we had it was raining, bad weather, and we had over 40 people to show up. And the topic this week was, what do you want out of relationships, and we kind of got stuck on what is romance because the I don't know if you heard about the movie produced by babyface called punks. It's playing at the Angelika, and it's a lot of us have seen it. And it's, it's a very, very good movie. And it portrays for gay men in a role where one particular one is not as promiscuous as the other three. And he holds out to get what he wants. And many times I think we compromise before we get what we want in relationships. Romance, well, part of what romance is very subjective, we concluded that romance definitely is not love, that a person does not have to be in love to, to be romantic with someone. A simple walk in a park can be romantic, just watching television together, just looking at each other, can be romantic. And what we have found, or at least what we concluded is that many of us focus so much on the sexual part of a relationship, that before we have an opportunity to experience, the romance, the intimacy and things like that. We kind of, you know, close the door on that. Because, you know, it's like, well, if the sex is that good, maybe if I have it twice, and it's good again, then we should get together. Let's move in together. Yeah. And many of the relationships we're finding start off with sex. And so we step back to really look at the dynamics of that.



G Glenn Holt 18:23

Is that really any different though, than in the straight community?



18:26

Oh, I'm not saying it's different. I'm not I'm not really, you know, saying is different. I'm just looking at the fact that out of the members that we have, I would say 90% or more are not in a relationship. Yeah. And I think that would carry over to other aspects of the community, not just African American, black, black men.



G Glenn Holt 18:46

Where does romance start?



18:50

I think it could start, you know, in a conversation. A lot of times, I think if we're, you know, if we're not so quick, for example, we might have expectations in a relationship. And if I have expectation where he has to be six foot tall, he has to have this type of anatomy, etc, etc. Then what I have done in a way is that I have my checklist. So if he brings something else to the, to the picture, I don't see that because I'm not looking for that. So I think many times if we go into relationship, not expecting anything, like if we meet somebody, there's a chance that you might experience some level of romance, or intimacy, because you're not expecting the surprise. Yeah, exactly. And so it's, it's interesting that if you let go of your expectations, many times you're going to get what you want and more. And so I think the romance is kind of like the hidden surprise, and it's something that I think everybody wants, but it's not a logical thing. You can't just make yourself happy and have it. It just happens.



G Glenn Holt 19:57

It's probably more difficult for gay men and lesbians because as frustrated people, there's the constant tension of male female, the two dichotomies being totally different. And so there's no way that the male partner can always get to know everything about the female partner or vice versa. But in male relationships, men tend to come together so quickly, because one man knows another man. And that's probably the same thing too, with women, isn't it? And so there's probably less chance for that sort of discovery, Mystique, kind of surprise, romance.



20:36

And, you know, I guess another thing, since I'm, you know, I'm now in a position where I can experiment a lot for myself personally, since I'm single. And this is a new thing for me. I mean, this is, you know, for 24 years, I've been in a relationship. So I don't know how to be single



G Glenn Holt 20:54

experiment. That's such a nice term for and what's



20:57

happening. Experiment Well, okay. That's, that's one way. But what I've what I've been doing is really stepping back, asking myself, what do I really want? And I have to be honest, sometimes that I don't know what I want. And that's a good place to be. Yeah. So maybe by saying, I don't know, maybe I might have an opportunity to experience that romance, the intimacy,



J Joan Devlin 21:20

I wonder sometimes too if romance we get bogged down because in straight relationships

I wonder sometimes too, in romance we get bogged down, because in straight relationships, there's so much role playing, you know, you hear this, you know, oh, women, you know, men are romantic. And then then, you know, women are the romantic ones. And, and I think, you know, sometimes we just hesitate to like, imitate our straight counterparts almost, you know, buying flowers for anniversaries. Oh, that's so you know, suburban, or, you know, I mean, we always want to be so unique. I think a lot of times,



21:56

well, I think, for example, what you what you just described, when I was married, I bought flowers, and I remembered birthdays and anniversaries and things like that. But what, you know, what I know, wasn't there is that there wasn't romance. Because the feeling nature that I have with men did not exist in my relationship with my wife. And I'm not saying that's a bad thing. I'm just saying that's the way it was. Because I, you know, inwardly knew I was gay. And so if the dynamics were just different. So I think if you go out, and you might buy flowers, that could be romantic. So two different people can do the same thing. One is romantic because of the feeling nature. And what that means. And the other may just be an empty gesture.



Glenn Holt 22:42

We'll see. It's romantic. If you buy the flowers for the roses, it's something else if you buy them for the thorns. In that trip, yes.



22:51

Can I share an analogy, okay. And this is this, this, I think this came from a book called a return to love by Marianne Williamson. And she talks about either romance and intimacy. And she said, a lot of us want, if you imagine holding a rose in your hand, you want the softness the silkiness, and you can put it up to your nose and you want the aroma. That's the romance. But then you'd have to step back, and you have to realize that there's a stem there. And in this thorns, and a lot of us don't want to do the work it takes to have the romance. And I really think it's the whole relationship. But so many of us get in relationships get out so quickly, we never really have a chance to develop that stem in those those thorns in order to get to that rose.



Joan Devlin 23:36

Well, the other thing too, and we were talking about this, it romance is a very simple thing, really, we were talking about how it's just means you're thinking of somebody else. And it can be something as small as you know, seeing something, you know, say going to we're saying like going into a coffee shop and getting a little gift certificate. Picking up a cute little toy that you think this person would like. It doesn't have to be that elaborate. It doesn't have to be that planned out. And sometimes it's those tiny little gifts, you know, or even the, you know, the old joke about oh, I brought you some Chinese food.



24:17

Yeah, you know, it's interesting. One of the guys shared that he liked Almond Joys. And so his partner would just come home and kind of stick his hand in his pocket and just placed an Almond Joy in his pocket. That's romantic a phone call. I was thinking about you. That's romantic. Just like it doesn't have to be elaborate.

G

Glenn Holt 24:37

Yeah, other tricks that I've heard of slipping a little I love you note in between the socks or the underwear. Yeah, places where they'll find it, stuff like that.

J

Joan Devlin 24:46

Yeah, but it's really more about showing that you're thinking of another person. And I think that's another way we get bogged down because we think it has to be you know, this big, elaborate, you know, presenting roses at the exact moment they were born. And while the sun streams in the background and the perfect song is playing on the radio, I mean, it just doesn't have to be that

G

Glenn Holt 25:05

why don't don't I never know you cared.

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25:08

And you know, the reason this came up is because, you know, the, like I said, we saw that we saw the movie, and there was a romantic theme you would want with two of the people in the room in the movie. And it caused you to question whether you want to just go out, like go out to the club, there was several, two of the guys that go out to the club. And you know, it was the one nightstand, the constant one nightstand and it was very empty. And they showed the contrast of that, which caused me to look at this and say, Wait a minute, maybe we need to talk about relationships, because we can talk about this forever. And it's really interesting, I had 25 Questions about relationships to cover, we covered about five because once we got on romance, we realize we don't know a whole lot about it. And so people wanted to share their experiences, so that we can learn from each other.

J

Joan Devlin 25:56

You're listening to Kpf TS lesbian and gay voices, we're talking to Paul Guillory of the men's gathering. And the next thing I wanted to ask you is we're talking about romance, is the holidays, we can tie this in, because a lot of people over the holidays, especially if you are single, maybe even if you are suddenly single, you suddenly find yourself thinking a lot more about, you know, relationships, romance and things of that nature. And so what would your advice be to people who maybe are having a little bit of a struggle getting through the holidays, even people who are in relationships, who are struggling with the holidays? Because maybe their partner in themselves have to pretend they're just roommates or something?



26:36

Well, first of all, I think you don't isolate. I know that what I used to do is, you know, when I was going through some type of crisis, and not necessarily just from being alone, but any crisis, you know, I would isolate, and that's the worst thing I think that I could have done. So I think of, you know, these individual individuals have, you know, friends or even churches or whatever organizations that they can go to, I think, you know, right now they can plan, and they could do something to ensure that on those key days that they're not alone.



J Joan Devlin 27:07

What would you say to people, because I know sometimes when people get depressed, like me, you just crazy stuff, you know, you just kind of say the heck with it, and you go home with that person in the bar? Yeah. Maybe you don't take the precautions you need to take you just figure who cares?



27:26

Okay, that back could be a lot. And I guess what I would say initially, if it's, if you just medicating is recognize that you're medicating and after you do it, don't punish yourself again. You know, recognize what you do, you did it, you made a choice, but you can make a choice to do something different. And I think many times what people will do is they, they get into the cycle of obsessing, they, you know, the ritual, the acting out, and then the despair, you know, feeling like, Well, what a piece of dirt I am, I'm just a lowlife. And then they get into that cycle again. So I think if they can just step back and say, Wait a minute, I don't have to do this. And recognize, I think that you always have a choice not to do that. It's just, you know, don't beat up on yourself constantly. Because I know that I've done it before. And I think, you know, in talking to people that may be in situations like that, they punish themselves again.



G Glenn Holt 28:27

You know, one of the nice things that I found about being in the gay community is that we get to invent our own traditions. Yes. So we all came from families where there was some kind of a Christmas, Hanukkah, or seasonal tradition of some kind. And it probably had something to do with, you know, family gathering and Turkey and presents and Christmas lights and that sort of thing. But it's up to us, individually, each one of us to invent our own tradition, in our own space that's meaningful to us in our own way with what we have to work with,



J Joan Devlin 29:03

I think in this community to, you're fairly fortunate, because there is so much going on, around the holidays, specifically because we are not the traditional community. You know, but it's still it's hard. You know, it's a very difficult time for a lot of people. Whether you're have a family

that doesn't accept you or you're forced, you know, just for that weak or whatever, that you go home to step back into the closet all of a sudden.

G

Glenn Holt 29:35

Well, I don't know I find that while it's been flat 15, almost 15 years since any sort of traditional family gathering just because I'm that age, and the fact of the family is dispersed and you know, my father's dead and mother's too old and all that kind of stuff. But I frankly I'm Glad to have the peace and quiet for a change, you know, because I mean, the rest of the year is so much going on. And there's so many demands on your time and so many people. And so it's nice to just have some quiet time for a change.

J

Joan Devlin 30:12

Yeah, we're I'm very fortunate to because I live fairly close to my parents, and most of the other relatives are way far away, and they're not going to come to Texas, and I see my parents all the time. So it's not like it's this big deal to be over there. During Christmas. Usually, we go over in the morning, open our presents, and everybody goes their separate

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30:29

ways. Yeah, you know, I was married for 90 and a half years. And now, you know, I have three children. And I don't get to spend Christmas with them. And so that's different. And I haven't spent Christmas with them for the last five years. But what I do, I do get spend maybe Christmas Eve on the day before. And it's interesting. For the last, you know, four or five years, my partner and I, we made a tradition, we will go out to steak and Ale. And it wasn't a traditional thing. And everything was fine. Yeah. And I do think, you know, whoever said that, you know, we have our own traditions. And if it's not in the norm, and it makes you feel good, do it.

J

Joan Devlin 31:07

But you would be amazed that, you know, I mean, we've all been around running around on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. And I mean, restaurants are crowded. You know, there's lots and lots of people out there who just don't do the whole family thing. They prefer not to do the family thing. And so I mean, I don't think anybody, like you said should beat themselves up, because for whatever reason, they're not going to be doing the family thing. You know, whether by choice or just because that's the way it is.

G

Glenn Holt 31:36

And of course, we as adults, we choose our own families anyway. So go through that, that black book and find those people exactly. And call and arrange something, you know, there's other people out there who might like to get together for something like Christmas

31:55

with the men's gathering. That's exactly what we encourage our members to do. We have a list with over 100 names on it. So we always have a choice not to be alone,

G

Glenn Holt 32:03

right? And remember that that doesn't mean not being alone in the traditional sense of everybody getting naked. That means being alone, that sense of

32:11

exactly. It's not I'm not saying you know, call in, it's a sex thing. I'm saying call it's, let's go have a cup of coffee, let's go to dinner, let's go to movie kind of thing, or let's just hang out.

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Joan Devlin 32:20

And that gets back to the romance thing. Because do we, as gay and lesbian people know how to be intimate without being sexually intimate?

32·28

I think we have to be very careful not to generalize. Yes, we do. Because some don't. But, you know, I think there are definitely a lot of individuals in the community that do know how to, but that's not what we talk about. We talk about, you know, the stereotypes and the magazines and the sex and Yeah, and so yes, there are people that know how to be intimate without the sexual thing there. They may wait. You know, quite a while before they are sexual with somebody because they want to know that person. But then they're the others that know me don't have time to wait. One nightstands or whatever.

J

Joan Devlin 33:05

Like Glenn said, That's heterosexual community,

33:08

too. But what I'm saying elders Oh, there's normal. I'm not saying any of that is abnormal? I just think we must recognize that there's probably a significant part of whatever the gay population is that know how to be intimate first.

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Joan Devlin 33:21

Thank you. So you went through your five questions. So what is Romans? What were some of the other questions that you got to for it? It all started,



33:29

one of the the one we started off with? Is in relationships, do you accept the person for who they are? Or do you try to make them into who you want them to be? And that when we stayed on that one quite a while, because a lot of times we see somebody and you know, the outer shell may look good. But then after we spend a few weeks with them, it's like, oh, wait a minute. They're flawed, I have to fix them.



G Glenn Holt 34:00

According to your own standards,



34:01

exactly. And so that was the question, can we accept them for who they are with their faults and everything? Or do we start getting in there and trying to manipulate them into being the people that we want them to be?



J Joan Devlin 34:12

Sometimes I think we create fantasies in our head, too. You know, you meet somebody, and they look like, say, your old college girlfriend. And the next thing, you know, you're trying to make them act like, you know, all of a sudden, it's like, they're not the same person, but in your mind, you've somehow made them the same person.



34:31

And I do think, you know, we bring in the we bring in those past relationships. And, you know, we're looking for those type of reactions. I think what we have to do is be very open in our communication, because a lot of times we can set them up for failure. Well, I expected you to do this, but you didn't do that. Well, we need to tell them what we want them to do, and not assume that they know.



G Glenn Holt 34:55

Well, and the flip side to that is the partner who's trying so hard to be liked and accepted. that he he does things or she does things. Because he or she knows that you like that person or later it just yeah, it just consumes so much energy that they just can't keep up that facade



J Joan Devlin 35:15



JOAN DEVLIN 35:15

and pretending to be someone they're not



35:17

exactly. Okay, you asked what the other questions?



JOAN DEVLIN 35:21

Oh, I got the question here.



35:22

Um, what are you looking for in a relationship? What are you willing to give in a relationship? And why is the relationship necessary?



GLENN HOLT 35:34

That's a good one that. Yeah.



35:37

And so between those. And you know, have you had romance in the relationship? If, yes, describe the experience. So we were trying to really get a grip on what this romance thing was. But like I said, there were 25 Other questions or 20. Other questions, and we didn't get to them in I think that's how relationships are. I think it's, it's so important. And I think we need to talk more about them. And so in our group, we have taken the Sunday meetings at Rice. And except for special meetings, we now have relationships Sunday, where we're actually using a book called Journey of the heart by John Wellwood. And we're using that to it's a heterosexual paradigm. However, the concepts are universal.



GLENN HOLT 36:20

Okay, now you got 10,000 people screaming at their radios. How do I join? What What number do I call How do I find more information?



36:28

Well, the the Sunday meetings, like I said, the those of you that don't know what the men's gathering is, we're an African American empowerment group of gay and lesbian, gay and bisexual men. And we have closed meetings on Saturday evenings, however, every other

Sunday, we have open meetings at Rice University, and there from three to 6pm. If you want information you can call area code 713-528-4461. Or you can email the men's gathering t a t MENSGA, t h e r i n g@yahoo.com.

J

Joan Devlin 37:09

Great. Well, Paul, I want to thank you for taking the time to be with us this evening. We look forward to hearing from you next month. You are listening to lesbian and gay voices.

J

Jack Valinski 37:16

And one announcement must end this Thursday is Iron Ladies at greenways. Theater landmarks. greenways theater in Greenway Plaza. It's a story about a male volleyball team, competed in the Thai National Championships in 1996. I heard very good things about this movie. The last engagement is this Thursday, December 13.

♂

37:40

Even though it's still hard to get a gay movie made and into theaters, more and more often these days boy does meet boy on the silver screen. What sets writer director Patrick Ian pokes new film punks apart is that the men involved are both gay and black. It's a snappy romantic comedy but punks plows new ground for queer and African American cinema. This way outs award winning entertainment reporter Steve pride chats with the multitalented poke about the movie racism and the writing process.

♂

38:26

My name is Patrick Ian Polk. I'm the writer director of honks tell us what punk is about. Angst is a romantic comedy centered around for black gay men in in Los Angeles.

♂

38:38

There are some really interesting people behind this film. Tell me about the producers. Tracey Edmonds

♂

38:43

and Kenny babyface. Edmonds are the producers. And they produce movies like soul food and lighted up and have plenty Josie and the Pussycats as well as being big in the music industry as well.

♂

38:57

I read somewhere that you wrote this in eight days. Yeah,



39:00

I wrote the first draft in eight days. That's true. For some reason people make a big deal out of that. But writing doesn't have to be as lengthy a process is people like to think it is



39:09

where did the characters come from? Are they fictional? Or do you draw from your own life?



39:13

Any writer worth his or her salt can help draw from life but the fictional I mean, I really wanted to show as broad a cross section of the black gay community as possible, which is why I decided to make it an ensemble. I started with sort of four archetypes and then kind of built the characters around them. So they're not really based on people as much as types of people. I guess,



39:37

Patrick, I hate to use a word like breakthrough because that puts a lot of pressure on one film to be many things to many people. You know, the early films have what they call the new queer cinema included such black directors as Marlon Riggs with Tongues Untied, but it has been a long time since then, and it's been a long time since black characters have been anything but it's important figure in a game movie. So this is indeed a breakthrough.



40:03

Yeah, no, it is. I mean, one good No, that's why I wrote the film. I mean, there are there's always a secondary character in these movies. There's always the stereotypical oversexed character or the you know, sort of snappy neck roll and advice giving person of color. You know, there's always that character, one or the other. But they're always cartoons, and they're never well rounded. And that's really why I wrote this movie to show another side. Because these films really aren't advancing the genre any. How many movies can we have about a group of white gay man going to some country house for a holiday week? How many times can we see that movie? How many times can we see the rosy cheeked 17 year old blonde boy coming of age and coming out of the closet and having his first boyfriend? I mean, those are fine to see once, maybe twice. But now give us something different. I think the public is responding in the same way when these movies come out, and they can barely make one maybe \$2 million at the box office. The public is saying, Look, we're tired of this give us something more move beyond that.



41:11

41:00

With a music mogul like Kenneth babyface Edmonds behind the production, punk pack some big names on its soundtrack like Janet Jackson and Diana Ross. But what surprised me is that you wrote and performed some of the music yourself. So what writing and directing the film wasn't enough work.

41:30

You know, making movies can be really, really expensive. And music is just another really expensive part of that. I really just had to figure out the best way to stretch the money that I had to fill all those music keys in the film. There was just no other way. I mean, you know, I never intended to be singing and writing songs.

41:49

There's a scene in punk said depicts a black gay man and a trendy West Hollywood Cruz bar. And he is essentially invisible to the white patrons. Is there a lot of discrimination within the gay community

42:02

that just like everybody else, they're conservative gay people. There are corporate gay people, there are middle American gay people there. It's really no different. And the racism is there just as much as in any other community. And certainly people of color, if they venture into West Hollywood, certainly they have they have that experience. I'm not saying it's completely that way. But you do feel that because there's plenty of white men who only date white men who are only interested in other white men and that way, you know, and it's, um, it's a real issue. I don't know how we got to the point where but but we're certainly here now where people really kind of think it's, I've had a lot of gay white men say to me in conversation that they don't date this racial group, but they don't make that racial group. They're like, I don't date black men, or I don't date, you know, I only date white men, or only they white enlightened men. And they really think it's just as simple as I prefer apples over oranges. And they never quite understand the racial implications of a statement like that. And if you call them out on it, they get really defensive. And because people think of racism, as you know, the Ku Klux Klan marching down the street, racism today is much more subtle than that. And we don't really think about it, we don't examine, why is it that you feel the need to exclude an entire group of people from your dating possibility, just because they happen to have brown skin? Like, why would you ever do that? I mean, the perfect example of racism, I think, in the gay community in LA, or in general is, I look at how the press has responded to the film. And there was a movie a few months ago, a small indie film called Speedway junkie, shot some years ago, at least two or three years ago, and made the rounds finally got a really small scale distribution. And that movie came out and the same two or three boys from that movie, were on the cover of two national gay magazine at the same time for this tiny movie that made \$2 in the box office, maybe and they're not gay. We come out, and there are no national gay magazine covers. I think there was a feature article in our magazine on one of the lead actors, there wasn't even a mention of the article are punks on the cover of the magazine, how they do like the headlines on the cover. I think the advocate is doing something on me. But again, no cover no cover on the movie. There's not a

mention of punks in frontiers covered a cover period. That just gives you an example of what I think is sort of the the racism, it's just like, whether we ever had a black gay film and a black gay film that's produced by one of our hugest superstars, you know, there's so many angles that they could exploit with this film, but you know, they don't want to do it. I think it's a shame how gay press panders, some cute, straight white actor, if they walk across the screen, and if the character has anything to do with anything gay, that we're putting on the cover, and it's ridiculous. It's ridiculous. It's ridiculous.



44:59

I was really I'm impressed by the way the film dealt with being HIV positive,



45:04

I knew that I wanted to deal with HIV in a way. And I had a number of friends who were HIV positive and all who were doing well. So it was really important to me to show how to a certain extent HIV has become a very manageable disease, and not not to be about every time you see an HIV positive character, or a character with AIDS and movies, it's very tragic. And they're really sick. And they're coughing in every frame, or they're always popping pills. And I just wanted it to be something in the background that was just cared to happen to be this and they could still live a normal, happy life because that's what I see around me.



45:39

One of the main characters in the film is a female impersonator. And is played by a wonderful well known la drag diva by the name of Jasmine. And there are a lot of drag performances were worked into the film. Tell us about that.



45:53

I had to represent the world of the female impersonator in some way. And I really wanted to do it justice. I remember being a teenager and me and my friends, you know, driving to Jackson, I grew up in Mississippi. So I've been to Jackson and sneaking in getting into the club to see these drag performers. And these were guys who were like, literally, you know, driving school buses by day, grinding garbage trucks by day literally, you know, leading these really normal ordinary lives, who by night would come in and create something amazing, you know, who would be literally on stage, turning backflips and making amazing costumes out of nothing, and completely dedicated to it. And that's what I wanted to pay homage to in the movie with the drag queens,



46:37

what do you want people to take away from the film?



46:40

Um, you know, I'm not one of these people who, you know, these sort of overly PC, gay people who like say, like, this new Montrose , you know, we're just like everybody else, just like everybody else, and then we're not just like everybody else. That's the point.



46:57

This has been a conversation with writer director, Singer Composer, Patrick Ian Pope.



G Glenn Holt 47:01

Punks is an urban world films release.



47:04

I'm Steve pride. Thanks for listening.



47:08

Friday night and the telephone rang but as my boyfriend got on with it I need a break thinking no and I mean, so I can lay my head down and get out it's just that you're grateful they can pick up the men but they're the guy who does what they want to do.



G Glenn Holt 47:48

A different kind of love song from shears new album Living Proof you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. So my brother says God is a platform at 90.1 FM This is KPFT in Houston, the sound of Texas and now more of lesbian and gay voices.



48:40

Save please. Save space for me. In your in your save the place. Save space for me.



49:01

kids grew up and kids dream. Some dream of going to college. Dreams The United Negro College Fund helps make real or for every deserving student we help as one we can. Not without the funds. Please help us ensure there will be a place for everyone with a dream.



49:21

Save please fully.



49:23

Please support the United Negro College from the mind is a terrible thing to waste call one 800 332 UNCF A message from the Ad Council.



Glenn Holt 49:34

Okay. You've been you've been listening to that. Whatever it was KPFT 90.1 in Houston. And Joan, you had a comment.



Joan Devlin 49:45

I said you know you have some news.



Glenn Holt 49:47

I do.



Joan Devlin 49:48

Think we're just in here reading something to me.



Glenn Holt 49:50

Well, you throw it on the floor. In one of our quality rags. There's an article about the top 10 Place is to store your wealth. This holiday season, you know when it blobby sends you \$100,000 for Christmas. And I'm glad to see that number six is Q patrol. Of course, you know, I had to get a plug in there somewhere. For anyone who doesn't know, Q patrol was formed 10 years ago following the gay bashing murder of Paul Broussard. And since then, que Patrol has been patrolling in the Montrose area as part of the Houston Police Department's citizens on patrol program. It has become an incorporated 501 C three nonprofit. And like other efforts, and nonprofits and so on in our community, is always in need of money, and always in need of volunteers. It's something that's easy to do and worthwhile. And if we're going to get tired of going out to the bars, you can come out on cue patrol, and you still see everything, you don't miss anything. In fact, you probably see more out on cue patrol than you do on the bars, and you have a lot of fun doing it and talk to some people and why are you waving at me?



Joan Devlin 51:02

I have a question for you. Okay. And it's kind of a similar along the lines of the one I asked Troy. There's a lot of people now who think, you know, think Since things have calmed down a whole

lot in the last 10 years, there's no longer a need for cube patrol. So why don't you let people know exactly why there is indeed still a need for cube patrol.

G

Glenn Holt 51:21

Well, because things really haven't calmed down all that much. There's still an awful lot that goes on out there. Part of the reason why it seems like things have calmed down, is because Q Patrol has been a continuous presence for the last 10 years, we see things and we take care of things before they happen, which means that just having the Q patrol emblem out there is a large deterrent in itself. And then if we spot something that looks like trouble, we can either report it to the police, or just make sure that they see that we're there. And we hear reports back from people that something was about to go down. And then Q patrol just happened to drive by and they ran off. So it is a valuable, viable, proven deterrent. And it's something which is well worth an investment of both time and money by the community and saving.

J

Jack Valinski 52:12

As we're comparing magazines and mentions. The Houston the triangle, the Texas triangle did their round up awards. And they list the best thing to happen to JLPT community is the pride parade slash festival. Oh, congratulations. And the most friendly gay radio station in Houston of course is KPFT. Right? I'm not surprised. Most Friendly TV stations channel to I don't know why. And the best radio stations krB II.

G

Glenn Holt 52:45

I thought the most gay friendly station was KJ OJ

J

Jack Valinski 52:48

joy of Jesus. Yeah.

J

Joan Devlin 52:50

I don't say our B II was Sam Malone. krB.

G

Glenn Holt 52:56

We should have saved money. I

J

Jack Valinski 52:57

hate to see gay hostel. Probably because or Maria. Well, yeah, she is

J

Joan Devlin 53:03

they're saving grace.

G

Glenn Holt 53:05

You know, Planet? Well, she, she's an African American woman, isn't she? Yes, yeah. And so I mean, Queens and African American women have sort of a psyche in common their planet out.com Has the planet out holiday Survival Guide. And there are several points on here, which are interesting. And if you want to take a look at this, just go to www dot planet out.com. And, of course, at the top of their list is movies, movies, movies. This is an excellent time of year for movies. A lot of big movies come out this time of year. I personally still have not even seen the magic thing. Whatever it was with the kid. Don't you know what I'm talking about? We're

J

Jack Valinski 53:57

talking about the magic thing about with a kid. Harry Potter. Harry Potter.

G

Glenn Holt 54:01

Yeah, that one. I still haven't even had a chance to see that yet.

J

Jack Valinski 54:05

Have you seen Gone With the Wind yet?

G

Glenn Holt 54:10

I have not seen ocean on Ocean's 11.

J

Jack Valinski 54:12

Well, that just opened on Friday and it actually beat out seen Monsters Inc yet. So I'm still and I do want to see Ocean's 11. I've heard good things about it.

J

Joan Devlin 54:22

I still want to see punks. But we won't go into that because it was that's very close to go with certain people in the studio who blew me off and went without me know

J Jack Valinski 54:30

we blew you off on Harry Potter. But you saw it anyway. Yes.

J Joan Devlin 54:36

This is how I'm treated by these

G Glenn Holt 54:38

people. Right, right.

J Joan Devlin 54:40

Okay, so tell your heart bleeds for me. So

G Glenn Holt 54:43

number one on the list was movies, movies, movies, and they even have a link here to the cinematic Survival Guide for a few movies to help you out. Number two is to stay in touch of course. If you're visiting family over the holidays, make sure to stay in touch with your normal life. First Normal such as it is, how about a couple of prepaid phone cards? They might come in handy. And also a long debriefing session while stuck at the airport on the way back. Interesting. Go to the library or an internet cafe and check your email. Yeah, I've done that while I'm away. Yeah, that's actually a very good idea.

J Joan Devlin 55:21

It really is. Yeah, he gets to meet some cool people at the cafe too.

G Glenn Holt 55:25

Yeah, especially if you go and dress like I did when I was in Provincetown. But anyway, make up your own traditions. Take Back the holidays exclamation mark. decided to spend them like Joan is licking envelopes. While she's on the air while she's on the

J Joan Devlin 55:39

on the air. We're going to look something.

G Glenn Holt 55:43

Surprise all the skeptics who thought that you couldn't cook a fabulous meal? Throw the

Surprise all the skeptics who thought that you couldn't cook a fabulous meal, throw the queerest holiday bash in town? Well, that would be Jack. Actually, I'm

J Jack Valinski 55:53

not good at throwing party. Well, well,

G Glenn Holt 55:58

just once a year. Yes.

J Joan Devlin 56:00

And it's a good one every year.

G Glenn Holt 56:04

Make up your own traditions kind of what Jack just did take back the holidays. spend them with your partner or friends or in some unconventional traditions. Seek a trick to pick up a trick. Oh, how unconventional. How unusual.

J Joan Devlin 56:19

Like that never happens any other time of the year.

G Glenn Holt 56:23

If you're going away, keep your trip short. Because even the best family relationships can turn.

J Jack Valinski 56:27

That works. Good one. Yes, that is yes. And there was that movie home for the holidays with Holly Hunter and Morton. Morton Downey Jr. Yeah, yes. Was it No. Robert Downey, Robert Downey Jr. Yes.

J Joan Devlin 56:39

Jodie Foster directed that.

G Glenn Holt 56:42

And, of course, to arrange for an extra day off so that when you get home, you can do the laundry. You can do the laundry and you can unwind, especially if it's been one of those stressful holidays right back to the family type holidays. Schedule a massage, give your apartment a thorough winter cleaning, or just relax on the couch all day with a stack of videos. Even if you don't go anywhere, you still deserve a psychic cleansing before the New Years. And of course, finally, take care of yourself. Sometimes all the movies and good intentions in the world can't keep you from feeling down during the holidays. If you're sad, lonely or stressed out. The Listening Ear Massage board might help. Oh, message board message board. Okay. Well, I mean, you know,

 Joan Devlin 57:32

never mind when we know what you're thinking about.

 Glenn Holt 57:35

And if you're worried about a friend, talk to him or her about getting help. Depression is a real problem, especially at this time of year, as any psychotherapist will tell you. And a good place to start is on the web or in the phone book or in the Yellow Pages

 Jack Valinski 57:51

or the 900 numbers.

 Glenn Holt 57:57

Okay. JD of course is going to be doing his fabulous Christmas special because we are going to be on the air. What is the Christmas Eve Christmas

 Joan Devlin 58:06

Eve? New Year's Eve. Okay. And I believe New Year's Eve you have something special planned for us.

 Glenn Holt 58:12

Right. I won't be here but I will be here. Okay, yeah. Last year, I did that that urine review y2k retrospective thing. So this is going to be the second annual retrospective thing. Okay, so I'm going I've been searching back through the extensive lesbian and gay voices archives looking for things that were newsworthy that we did. Well, we had Ray Hill on several times.

 Jack Valinski 58:45

Well, I hope you can find it ours worst.

G

Glenn Holt 58:51

Yeah, unfortunately, nothing happened this year. It was just, you know, a completely dead year, nothing happened.

J

Joan Devlin 58:56

We had the elections, which were like, technically last year, but they sort of ran over. All right, right. In fact, this coming Friday will be one year.

G

Glenn Holt 59:05

I was being facetious president. I mean, elected. Yes. And of course, there was all kinds of fallout from the World Trade Center thing, literally and figuratively. Yeah. And that was in September, and a couple of things happened before that even there was a whole lot of stuff about gay marriage rights. So yeah, I'm gonna make it but you know, about half sort of the things that happened in the news and half, just kind of some of the people that we had on the show and some of the profiles I gave him some of the things that are going on in the community. Maybe sprinkle a little bit of music in there, not much, but just you know, enough to keep it interesting. And speaking of music, I was in the middle of saying that JT is going to be doing his Christmas special again this year, and that's going to be on Christmas Eve Christmas

J

Joan Devlin 59:56

Eve. That'll be two weeks actually is two weeks from tonight. And Next week we are going to interview a some I'll say semi local musician. She's actually based in Austin. Her name is RoseMarie. Crowell, I believe, and we've got her CD here for JD. And he is going to be talking to her next week, and she has just released her CD, and we got an advanced copy. And we will be speaking about that. And she, she self produced it. And we're just going to be, you know, hanging out.

G

Glenn Holt 1:00:27

Okay. And we also have an opportunity to plug what's coming up on December 18, which is going to be the folks we've had on the show here doing the poetry thing at Lobo. That's right. So what is the poetry thing a logo?

J

Joan Devlin 1:00:40

How do you think that logo is actually happening on the 16th? Okay, so confusing everything. All right. All right. Play some music land.

G

Glenn Holt 1:00:49

But you're speaking my calendar thing. Okay. And I can tell you what day the 16th is.

J

Joan Devlin 1:00:54

It's a week from actually it's this coming Sunday.

G

Glenn Holt 1:00:59

Yeah, you're right. Okay. And that's going to be at what time 6pm at local bookstore, bookstore at 939 Montrose .

J

Jack Valinski 1:01:07

Well, I real good Christmas thing is to see a tuner Christmas.

G

Glenn Holt 1:01:10

Oh, yes. And it's the tuner Christmas two.

J

Jack Valinski 1:01:14

No, I don't think there's a two is there to planning. So there's three in the series one is about Fourth of July one is about Christmas. Greater tuna, I think. And it's been a while since I saw it. Actually. They're celebrating their 12th anniversary. It's going to be in Galveston December 11 through the 16th. Tuesday through Friday evening at 8pm Saturday at two and 8pm Sunday at two and 7pm at the Galveston Grand Opera House 2020 post office that's the name of the street. For more information you can go to 409-765-1894 and their website is www.Thuggrande.com.

Ω

1:01:56

God help you very much to this day you have to see or be at least on Christmas Day for ready to discover. Jojo is so Ray and they call this joy

Ω

1:02:22

I want to invite you to tune into Christmas Eve to lesbian and gay voices for special edition of queer music heritage. Hosted by JD Doyle I'll play the Christmas music you won't be sicker by the end Christmas music with lesbian and gay lyrics. That's Christmas Eve at 9pm.

G

Glenn Holt 1:03:07

That's more share from her new album Living Proof and the first cut on that album and it's titled The music's no good without you, Joan, you are saying that that's not even going to be released until what 2000 is

J

Joan Devlin 1:03:21

in the United States in April 2002. It's currently only available in the UK. Low got a shipment in however to very limited supply of I think they have well it was 50 but the night I bought mine which was Friday. They had sold all but two of the first 25. So I'm going to assume those two cents have gone away. So they've probably got if they have any less they've got maybe 2025 left.

G

Glenn Holt 1:03:48

So if you want to be one of the first people to get this album, go to LeBeau and reserve one one of the next ones coming in and you can actually do that you know you can order Yeah,

J

Joan Devlin 1:03:56

or you can try to get one of the few pro, I guess advanced copies they were fortunate to get hold of