

WEBVTT

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00:00:03.389 --> 00:00:06.569

Evan Taylor: OK, so the recordings going now. It's

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00:00:06.810 --> 00:00:09.059

Evan Taylor: A little recording both this gallery view and speaker.

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00:00:09.090 --> 00:00:10.440

Evan Taylor: View as well that flips back and forth.

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00:00:12.809 --> 00:00:25.800

Evan Taylor: So as we start off. So today, and here we are on the 17th of June 2020. My name is Evan Taylor I'm interviewing Dr. Aaron before and Dr. For you are in your office today at the University of Victoria.

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00:00:26.430 --> 00:00:27.060

Aaron Devor: That's correct.

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00:00:27.930 --> 00:00:31.500

Evan Taylor: And I know you go by. He isn't hitting pronouns. Yes.

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00:00:32.040 --> 00:00:34.380

Evan Taylor: Yes. And how old are you there.

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00:00:35.400 --> 00:00:35.760

Aaron Devor: Oh,

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00:00:36.030 --> 00:00:36.960

Evan Taylor: How old are you today.

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00:00:37.080 --> 00:00:38.220

Aaron Devor: How old am I, I'm

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00:00:38.220 --> 00:00:41.280

Evan Taylor: 6868 today and we're

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00:00:44.160 --> 00:00:48.120

Aaron Devor: Not actually 6068 years old.

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00:00:48.660 --> 00:00:49.320

Evan Taylor: When is your birthday.

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00:00:49.740 --> 00:00:53.070

Evan Taylor: October 15th 2015 duly noted.

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00:00:55.200 --> 00:01:01.920

Evan Taylor: And so I'll go through these kind of quick demographic questions and we'll get into that the fun conversational stuff. Um, where were you born

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00:01:03.240 --> 00:01:16.260

Aaron Devor: I was actually born in the Bronx, New York, but I didn't ever live in the Bronx. That's where my family used to live. So I grew up first in Queens and then on Long Island, just outside of New York City in a town called Great Neck, New York.

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00:01:17.070 --> 00:01:17.700

Evan Taylor: town called but

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00:01:18.180 --> 00:01:18.960

Aaron Devor: Great Neck.

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00:01:20.970 --> 00:01:21.330

Aaron Devor: Neck.

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00:01:24.000 --> 00:01:25.380

Evan Taylor: And where do you live now.

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00:01:25.860 --> 00:01:26.820

Aaron Devor: Victoria, BC.

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00:01:27.330 --> 00:01:28.740

Evan Taylor: And how long you been in Victoria.

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00:01:29.460 --> 00:01:33.300

Evan Taylor: 30 years and I understand you came over from Toronto.

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00:01:33.720 --> 00:01:43.410

Aaron Devor: Actually this summer is 31 years okay Toronto has to stop along the way. So if you're trying to trace where I've been.

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00:01:44.430 --> 00:01:47.730

Aaron Devor: I left New York and

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00:01:50.160 --> 00:02:13.740

Aaron Devor: Oh geez, I should know this 1969 in the summer. I can't remember what month. Exactly. Probably June ish. I went to Toronto, I stayed in Toronto, till 1975 and then I went to Vancouver and I stayed in Vancouver until summer 1989 when I Korea and I have lived in Vitoria ever since.

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00:02:14.880 --> 00:02:15.930

Evan Taylor: Vancouver quite that long.

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00:02:18.960 --> 00:02:27.120

Evan Taylor: And I think anyone watching this is going to know the answer, but for the record was what are you employing to retired and what is was your work.

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00:02:28.830 --> 00:02:29.940

Aaron Devor: Yes, I'm employed.

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00:02:31.320 --> 00:02:43.590

Aaron Devor: And I have been a professor at the University of Victoria since 1989 that's when I why I came to Victoria and currently my position is called chair in transgender studies.

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00:02:45.480 --> 00:02:48.240

Evan Taylor: And the chair position came into being in what year

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00:02:49.560 --> 00:02:58.530

Aaron Devor: This is something that I initiated and made it happen. I suppose we're going to get some more detail later it was officially started in January.

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00:02:59.220 --> 00:03:01.140

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00:03:03.720 --> 00:03:07.140

Evan Taylor: And what is the level of education completed.

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00:03:07.980 --> 00:03:08.610

PhD.

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00:03:10.320 --> 00:03:16.260

Evan Taylor: And your what what race, ethnicity, or cultural heritage or background is important to you.

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00:03:16.980 --> 00:03:22.500

Evan Taylor: Jewish Jewish and in terms of race, would you go with Caucasian

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00:03:23.100 --> 00:03:23.520

Yes.

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00:03:24.690 --> 00:03:28.200

Evan Taylor: And what about, um, any visible or invisible disabilities.

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00:03:30.660 --> 00:03:38.580

Aaron Devor: Nothing that I think raises to the level of disability. I mean, I can't see. If you take my glasses away from me but I wear glasses, all the time. No.

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00:03:39.510 --> 00:03:51.120

Aaron Devor: I don't think anything that makes it to that level of that various you know at 68 certain things hurt and don't work as well as they used to. But I have for my age, I think I'm actually in very good shape.

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00:03:53.760 --> 00:03:56.370

Evan Taylor: And what about relationship or family status.

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00:03:57.210 --> 00:04:12.420

Aaron Devor: I'm married. We've been together in various types of official types of relationships. Since 1989 when I first came to Victoria. So we were just on to just about to hit 31 years

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00:04:12.960 --> 00:04:16.860

Evan Taylor: And so this is a relationship that was also pre transition for you as well as

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00:04:17.970 --> 00:04:30.870

Aaron Devor: Most definitely pre transition and you've been married twice, once before transition before it was a legal marriage. You just marriage without a legal marriage and once after transition when it was both a religious and legal marriage.

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00:04:31.980 --> 00:04:35.130

Evan Taylor: I didn't know that when. Let's see, when we're each other over the years of those marriages.

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00:04:35.790 --> 00:04:40.020

Aaron Devor: The first one was 94

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00:04:40.350 --> 00:04:40.650

Okay.

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00:04:41.790 --> 00:04:44.400

Aaron Devor: No 92 first one was 92

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00:04:44.520 --> 00:04:51.450

Evan Taylor: And the second one was 2004 2004 So was that was that was right, as it was legalized that

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00:04:53.700 --> 00:04:54.420

Aaron Devor: Wasn't the issue.

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00:04:55.230 --> 00:05:02.970

Aaron Devor: I'm surprised to hear you say that because lots of other people say that no it was illegal. And what had nothing to do with legalizing same sex marriage because we were I was transition

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00:05:03.540 --> 00:05:13.320

Aaron Devor: So it was a regular heterosexual marriage was not long after the same sex marriages were legalized, but that was irrelevant to our situation.

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00:05:14.460 --> 00:05:18.450

Evan Taylor: So you had changed over your ID already so that everything was all male, male

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00:05:18.900 --> 00:05:19.560

Evan Taylor: Yeah, okay.

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00:05:21.480 --> 00:05:24.900

Evan Taylor: And in terms of any children or grandchildren.

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00:05:26.100 --> 00:05:46.680

Aaron Devor: We, we have a grown son biological son of lend step son by marriage of me. And we have two grandchildren. One is biological child of our son, the other is a step child of his

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00:05:48.060 --> 00:06:01.380

Aaron Devor: So if it's a little complicated so the granddaughter is not related to us at this point by either blood or marriage because our son is longer married to her mother, and he is not her biological father

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00:06:01.830 --> 00:06:09.450

Aaron Devor: Gotcha ran son is the biological son of our son, and they both have the kids have the same mother.

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00:06:09.960 --> 00:06:10.830

Evan Taylor: Gotcha. Okay.

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00:06:11.790 --> 00:06:14.310

Aaron Devor: So two grandchildren one son.

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00:06:15.720 --> 00:06:23.550

Evan Taylor: AND I ARE THEY BOTH THE KIDS full time with him or or the, the other one with the, the mother as well.

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00:06:23.970 --> 00:06:26.460

Aaron Devor: No. Neither one of them. And when the mother, the mother has

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00:06:27.000 --> 00:06:28.890

Evan Taylor: A cookie on their father.

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00:06:29.250 --> 00:06:31.950

Aaron Devor: And the mother has resigned from being a mother. She's in central let

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00:06:35.640 --> 00:06:45.030

Aaron Devor: The younger of the grandchildren is full time with the Father. Now, and the older the grandchildren is she's 24 she's on her own.

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00:06:45.660 --> 00:06:49.500

Evan Taylor: Okay. Okay. Did you see them regularly. Do you have a relationship with them.

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00:06:49.740 --> 00:06:52.710

Aaron Devor: I have a relationship with them, but they live in Edmonton so

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00:06:53.940 --> 00:07:02.820

Aaron Devor: A lot at this point today. The granddaughter has lived with us when she was a teenager and her mother through out of the house.

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00:07:04.050 --> 00:07:15.210

Aaron Devor: And has come back to little as a couple and other time when she was a young adult and the grand sons comes and stays with us. Usually for a week to two weeks.

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00:07:15.270 --> 00:07:20.460

Aaron Devor: Once or sometimes twice a year. So we have quite a strong relationship with with both of them.

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00:07:21.330 --> 00:07:22.110

Nice.

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00:07:23.400 --> 00:07:32.070

Evan Taylor: And my next question. I think we already kind of talked about with sex assigned at birth. So your sex at birth was female and then you changed your ID over and when you change an idea of where, where was

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00:07:32.370 --> 00:07:36.870

Evan Taylor: Where was that in terms of your sort of transition process with that early on and to take a long time to do that.

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00:07:38.940 --> 00:07:42.600

Aaron Devor: I know my transition process all happened pretty pretty quickly.

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00:07:44.820 --> 00:07:51.510

Aaron Devor: So that part of the early process was was changing the ideal for and changing the letters like the the the the sexy sign on letters.

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00:07:53.880 --> 00:07:57.600

Aaron Devor: Trouble following your question. Yeah, it would all happen pretty pretty pretty quick.

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00:07:58.650 --> 00:08:02.430

Aaron Devor: If you're asking me, did I lose a man for a long time before I changed my ID.

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00:08:02.820 --> 00:08:10.560

Aaron Devor: The answer is no. I changed my ID and change my identity and did everything is close together as possible.

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00:08:11.040 --> 00:08:11.850

Evan Taylor: Okay, okay.

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00:08:12.960 --> 00:08:20.070

Evan Taylor: And your current gender identity as a man and is that something that changed over time, or was that consistent throughout your life.

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00:08:21.390 --> 00:08:23.250

Aaron Devor: No, it was not consistent throughout my life.

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00:08:24.810 --> 00:08:34.710

Aaron Devor: I identified as a as a woman, until I transitioned. And then I didn't change. So I quite binary in my own lifestyle.

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00:08:36.000 --> 00:08:37.530

Aaron Devor: And well,

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00:08:38.670 --> 00:08:43.530

Aaron Devor: Binary in that sense. Before I transition my presentation was anything with binary

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00:08:45.990 --> 00:08:54.180

Aaron Devor: Considering the timing and my age, the concept of non binary was not particularly available to me through most of my life.

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00:08:55.260 --> 00:09:05.040

Aaron Devor: You are sure I'm sure you're familiar, a little bit with my publication and my research record. And so my first book was called gender blending

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00:09:05.580 --> 00:09:13.740

Aaron Devor: And the motivation for writing that was that I didn't know anybody else, like me, and I didn't have language to describe what i was like

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00:09:14.160 --> 00:09:26.880

Aaron Devor: And so I created the term gender blending to try and describe what today. I think would simply be called some kind of non binary, but we didn't have that language then that book came out in 1989 in the research for it started in 1982

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00:09:28.020 --> 00:09:33.360

Aaron Devor: So I was grasping for language to describe what I was. But in terms of

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00:09:34.470 --> 00:09:49.590

Aaron Devor: my gender identity throughout all that period up to and when I actually decided and started to make the transition, if anybody would ask me, I would say, at that point, I was a woman. And then I made the transition and now I'm a man.

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00:09:51.480 --> 00:09:56.790

Aaron Devor: So the you know the non binary concept really was.

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00:09:57.930 --> 00:10:14.430

Aaron Devor: It wasn't really viable yet when I was making my transition. It was around and there were a few people here and there, but mostly of gender queer was a language at that point. But it wasn't really widely available and hadn't been available for very long. And I didn't grasp onto that and

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00:10:15.930 --> 00:10:20.940

Aaron Devor: Go with that so binary. First, I was a woman. I was a very unusual woman.

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00:10:22.110 --> 00:10:27.090

Aaron Devor: Very gender and gender non conforming woman. And then I was in

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00:10:28.860 --> 00:10:38.520

Evan Taylor: And I think we've got most of these the the demographic questions, but is there anything else about identity that's important. And before we move into this because I think this is where things really begin

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00:10:39.300 --> 00:10:45.570

Evan Taylor: You know in your in your story. So is there any any identity that we haven't talked about that is important to lay that groundwork.

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00:10:45.900 --> 00:10:50.070

Aaron Devor: Well, there's lots more to say about how my identity has developed over the years.

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00:10:51.090 --> 00:10:56.130

Aaron Devor: And I would also say that my Jewish identity is very important.

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00:10:56.220 --> 00:10:56.700

Aaron Devor: To me.

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00:10:56.790 --> 00:10:57.690

Aaron Devor: And has been

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00:11:00.030 --> 00:11:07.140

Aaron Devor: A big element in my approach to the world that the lessons that I've learned from being Jewish and that the philosophy that comes with being Jewish

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00:11:09.030 --> 00:11:09.780

Aaron Devor: It's not

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00:11:11.040 --> 00:11:16.470

Aaron Devor: Directly related to gender or my gender identity, it's more related to my

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00:11:17.520 --> 00:11:18.540

Aaron Devor: Sense of

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00:11:20.610 --> 00:11:23.700

Aaron Devor: Engagement with the world and obligation to do good in the world.

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00:11:23.940 --> 00:11:24.360

He

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00:11:25.890 --> 00:11:43.260

Evan Taylor: Is there a I know you just said that's not entirely related to your, your gender identity. But I'm wondering, is there a different sort of archetype of masculinity that Judaism offers you that perhaps is no different than than somebody who is not Jewish.

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00:11:43.860 --> 00:11:47.250

Aaron Devor: Well, that's a very interesting question, and I can answer you two ways on that.

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00:11:47.250 --> 00:12:03.090

Aaron Devor: First one is that one of the research projects that I will probably never do, is that it has been my observation that there is a really inordinate amount of trans men who have transitioned gender and have converted to Judaism.

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00:12:03.300 --> 00:12:08.790

Aaron Devor: Mm hmm. And I think that's related to this second answer to your question that

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00:12:09.930 --> 00:12:23.760

Aaron Devor: Jewish masculinity is considerably less butch than kind of standard Canadian binary kind of hetero normative masculinity, way less butch

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00:12:25.020 --> 00:12:45.420

Aaron Devor: And Jewish men tend to be smaller and 10 I shouldn't say tend to, but there's a lot more smaller Jewish men with fine bones and intellectual pursuits and, you know, I do not stand out among Jewish men as small

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00:12:45.900 --> 00:12:53.130

Aaron Devor: In any way. And so that's that's a value to me and the fact that I'm not particularly macho, although

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00:12:54.210 --> 00:13:08.760

Aaron Devor: I'm Michael experiences. Nobody ever if they don't know the facts. Nobody ever thinks anything except that never occurred to them that they might be anything feminine about me. They don't think I'm gay, any of those kinds of things that happen to a lot of trans guys

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00:13:11.190 --> 00:13:12.720

Aaron Devor: But I'm not much of a hybrid

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00:13:14.970 --> 00:13:30.810

Aaron Devor: So, you know, in the Jewish world I fit in much more easily than I do in the non Jewish world where there's a lot of much taller muscular big bone.

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00:13:31.950 --> 00:13:46.230

Aaron Devor: Aggressive kind of guys. So there is a certain comfort there and I have no idea if that's why so many trans men also convert to Judaism, but there's there's a huge number of trans wait disproportion it's a huge way disproportionate number of guys

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00:13:46.740 --> 00:13:53.190

Aaron Devor: Transcripts who also convert to Judaism and there's trans limited do it as well. But I'm I'm aware. More transmit

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00:13:54.480 --> 00:14:03.840

Evan Taylor: That's something that's something I noticed as well. And I've heard, I believe it's on one of these other interviews where somebody mentioned something about that talks about the the intellectual masculinity of

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00:14:04.380 --> 00:14:10.140

Evan Taylor: Jewish masculinity that that intellectual masculinity made it much easier for them to sort of envision themselves as a man

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00:14:10.920 --> 00:14:21.960

Evan Taylor: So as interested to hear your answer for that. Thank you. And only other question I haven't asked you is around sexuality and attraction. It's not something that changed throughout your lifetime, or how do you identify your relationship sexuality.

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00:14:22.320 --> 00:14:26.610

Aaron Devor: Know, I've been kind of felt like, if I may use the technical term.

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00:14:27.900 --> 00:14:41.880

Aaron Devor: All my life. And so you know where I sit in sexual orientation identity has changed because prior. I was a lesbian. And now in heterosexual. But in terms of my attractions selves. Know that hasn't changed.

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00:14:42.750 --> 00:14:43.800

Evan Taylor: Well said. Thank you.

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00:14:45.060 --> 00:14:57.240

Evan Taylor: So moving into, I think this is the fun part is when we start talking about the activism piece. And I think that that in in your story. The place to start. Maybe is is at the beginning of the the research interest.

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00:14:58.710 --> 00:14:59.040

Aaron Devor: Okay.

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00:15:01.230 --> 00:15:02.610

Aaron Devor: I was looking at your

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00:15:04.020 --> 00:15:06.690

Aaron Devor: Questionnaire or maybe an earlier version.

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00:15:08.460 --> 00:15:14.070

Aaron Devor: Do you intend to do anything about growing up childhood, all that stuff. We move that to the end.

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00:15:14.700 --> 00:15:18.480

Evan Taylor: And leave that till the till the end we're about reflective of a place

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00:15:18.870 --> 00:15:20.760

Aaron Devor: That that that old version of the questions of

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00:15:22.320 --> 00:15:26.100

Aaron Devor: What was no was no it was coming. Okay, so one go to activism.

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00:15:26.430 --> 00:15:29.430

Evan Taylor: Yeah, and then let that the childhood peaceful back effect off yet.

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00:15:29.910 --> 00:15:33.000

Aaron Devor: So I'm question back to you in terms of where to start.

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00:15:34.860 --> 00:15:43.620

Aaron Devor: Because I have long history of various kinds of activism that starts in

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00:15:44.910 --> 00:15:47.760

Aaron Devor: Feminism and gay liberation.

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00:15:48.030 --> 00:15:48.450

Movement.

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00:15:49.590 --> 00:15:59.220

Aaron Devor: So you know how much of that is related to this project. I don't know where you want to go. If you've gone there with other people, or you just want to start with stuff this more directly on trans topics.

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00:15:59.580 --> 00:16:07.320

Evan Taylor: Now certainly with with other folks I left it. I laughed at them saying what is important to you. You know that that you want to know. So I'd like to that to them.

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00:16:07.500 --> 00:16:13.500

Evan Taylor: I suspect with you that I think it is important to talk about the earlier women's movement work that you're doing, I believe it was when you're in Toronto.

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00:16:13.770 --> 00:16:20.340

Evan Taylor: And I think it's important to start there and you know give some overview. With that, because all of those sorts of politics. I think will

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00:16:20.880 --> 00:16:30.690

Evan Taylor: Be important to give that that that base so that we understand when you get to the place of talking about a trans chair and talking about the, sort of, you know, the politics of, you know, with the

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00:16:31.320 --> 00:16:38.580

Evan Taylor: Trans feminism and trans misogyny and all that sort of stuff. I think what we got to that place will be important to understand you, as you know, as, as really one of the

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00:16:39.300 --> 00:16:47.850

Evan Taylor: Original feminist, you know, partner you you're part of that original movement, you know. So I think that that's important to to make sure we start there and get that get that base.

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00:16:48.210 --> 00:16:53.610

Aaron Devor: Okay so simultaneously with the feminism. I was also involved in the early gay rights movements.

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00:16:53.760 --> 00:17:04.860

Aaron Devor: He though we kind of have to look at both of those. And you know this connection to today. I think comes from the fact that

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00:17:06.360 --> 00:17:07.440

Aaron Devor: I never

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00:17:08.820 --> 00:17:17.100

Aaron Devor: I felt excessively constrained by what was expected of me as someone who was moving through the world as as a as a female

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00:17:18.330 --> 00:17:27.480

Aaron Devor: So what I saw as an opportunity to push back on those restrictions in those days. Now we're talking about

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00:17:30.180 --> 00:17:44.130

Aaron Devor: So what was available to me, that was a way to say, you know, I don't fit this role and I shouldn't have to fit this role was feminism and what was called Gay Liberation at the time.

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00:17:45.150 --> 00:17:50.940

Aaron Devor: So those that's how it's connecting to the story that we're really here to get to

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00:17:51.750 --> 00:17:55.950

Aaron Devor: That it had to do a janitor and it had to do with my gender non conforming

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00:17:57.060 --> 00:17:57.570

Aaron Devor: So,

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00:17:59.010 --> 00:18:00.000

Aaron Devor: I found

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00:18:01.650 --> 00:18:09.840

Aaron Devor: I came out as a as a lesbian quite young. And I was butch lesbian. And so, you know, I didn't fit the gender roles from that perspective.

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00:18:10.680 --> 00:18:26.730

Aaron Devor: You know, we're talking about a time when things were considerably more restrictive for what women could do in terms of physical presentation but also very much in terms of careers and just walking down the street and being a person in the world.

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00:18:28.590 --> 00:18:34.290

Aaron Devor: So feminism appealed to me for that as the Gay Liberation as a way to

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00:18:35.670 --> 00:18:37.410

Aaron Devor: Not hide.

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00:18:38.760 --> 00:18:46.680

Aaron Devor: That I was gay because remember in Canada. The partial decriminalization of homosexuality only happened in 1969

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00:18:47.940 --> 00:18:51.540

Aaron Devor: So the world does not change overnight, just because the law changes.

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00:18:51.900 --> 00:18:55.020

Aaron Devor: And so the world that I was functioning in

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00:18:55.050 --> 00:18:59.490

Aaron Devor: Up until WHEN I GOT INVOLVED IN POLITICS. POLITICS WHICH IS LIKE 1970

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00:19:00.570 --> 00:19:22.650

Aaron Devor: Was a world in which people like me hidden in the shadows and live with a lot of shame for being what I was at the time of how to look like a man and Sophia was a lot of room in the world. So I was trying to carve out some of the world by getting involved in these things so

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00:19:24.420 --> 00:19:26.220

Aaron Devor: In Canada in the United States.

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00:19:27.240 --> 00:19:29.100

Aaron Devor: Gay Liberation and

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00:19:30.390 --> 00:19:37.560

Aaron Devor: Feminism started a little bit earlier than in Canada, but not much. You know, a year or so, year and a half, maybe it wasn't a big difference.

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00:19:38.040 --> 00:19:54.720

Aaron Devor: And we all know that Stonewall 1969, we can do it now and come back later. But I got, I was in one of those rates that stone wall was part of that, you know, they raided the gay bars over that summer, and I was in one of those. And that was part of my catalyst and move to Canada, but

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00:19:56.040 --> 00:19:58.350

Aaron Devor: We can do that for later but

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00:20:00.000 --> 00:20:03.330

Evan Taylor: Well, I mean, where we're at, we're at right now with this and you were actually living

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00:20:03.540 --> 00:20:04.740

Evan Taylor: Down in the States when this happened.

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00:20:04.830 --> 00:20:07.110

Aaron Devor: Yeah, nice, nice night I was still in the US.

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00:20:07.260 --> 00:20:08.250

Evan Taylor: I didn't know. Okay.

174

00:20:08.550 --> 00:20:10.920

Aaron Devor: Right, so I moved to Canada in

175

00:20:12.540 --> 00:20:20.310

Aaron Devor: Like late 1969 and going, well, sorry. Late Late Late summer, early August or September or something like that. I think it was August

176

00:20:24.540 --> 00:20:26.340

Aaron Devor: Yeah, yeah, it was like August

177

00:20:27.720 --> 00:20:42.840

Aaron Devor: And Stonewall was June. And I don't remember. You know, where was directly in relation to Stonewall, but it was that same summer, and I was under age for being gay is. I mean, you know, it wasn't strictly legal but

178

00:20:42.900 --> 00:20:45.900

Aaron Devor: You did there was a term I know if you know the term jailbait

179

00:20:46.440 --> 00:20:47.070

Evan Taylor: Right, yeah.

180

00:20:48.540 --> 00:20:49.260

Evan Taylor: I've heard that. Yeah.

181

00:20:49.860 --> 00:21:01.380

Aaron Devor: So I was jailbait and I was under age for drinking as well. Right, right, because the drinking age was like 21 and do the math, I was like 1718

182

00:21:03.060 --> 00:21:13.590

Aaron Devor: I think I would have been seven days later he is in October. So, so I was 17 years old jailbait under a foreigner, he drinking. I had an older girlfriend.

183

00:21:14.850 --> 00:21:26.910

Aaron Devor: Older being 25 she and I and a pretty flaming gay guy. If I can use the language of the day.

184

00:21:28.980 --> 00:21:38.940

Aaron Devor: Went to this bar gay bar on somewhere on Long Island and maybe in Queens. I don't even remember where it was. I wasn't even old enough to drive. They, they took me

185

00:21:41.190 --> 00:21:47.850

Aaron Devor: I'm we're in this bar and you know having a drink, dancing, a little bit doing what we do.

186

00:21:49.230 --> 00:22:03.210

Aaron Devor: And all of a sudden the bars with dim were dark and in that era. I don't remember if this one was like that, but most of them, you would come to basically unmarked door.

187

00:22:03.810 --> 00:22:17.040

Aaron Devor: And you would show ID and sometimes you even had to have a password to get in the door. I don't remember this one in particular is like that. But that's the arrow is that clandestine it was

188

00:22:18.510 --> 00:22:19.740

Aaron Devor: Not an easy time to be

189

00:22:20.940 --> 00:22:37.080

Aaron Devor: So we're in this bar lights are low, and all the sudden the lights go on and it is right and a big male voice says, Nobody move. This is a rate shouted out, and everybody freezes.

190

00:22:38.130 --> 00:22:45.090

Aaron Devor: And panics, because this is an era when people, you know, this is it wasn't legal in the United States.

191

00:22:46.110 --> 00:22:53.880

Aaron Devor: There was no protections. There were no, there was no anti discrimination law, you can lose your job, you would lose your job, you could lose your

192

00:22:54.180 --> 00:23:04.320

Aaron Devor: Your housing, you could be you would be if anybody knew publicly disgraced in shame. Lots of people were most people were in the closet. Pretty, pretty much everybody.

193

00:23:05.460 --> 00:23:10.710

Aaron Devor: So panic sets in the room. You can feel it, you know, crackling through the room and then the police start

194

00:23:12.240 --> 00:23:18.480

Aaron Devor: Checking ID photographing people. So this bright, you know, and this is, you know, flash camera.

195

00:23:19.200 --> 00:23:33.300

Aaron Devor: phone cameras taking pictures of people and dragging them off to a waiting paddy wagon outside and you can see they're twisting people's arms behind your back and be roughhousing people and dragging them off. And I'm sitting there thinking, this is the end of my life.

196

00:23:35.070 --> 00:23:35.340

Aaron Devor: I mean,

197

00:23:36.720 --> 00:23:38.940

Aaron Devor: I grew up to this point.

198

00:23:40.290 --> 00:23:51.120

Aaron Devor: Very aware that there was a distinct possibility of anybody my family public sort of people found out that I was gay. So we thought

199

00:23:52.800 --> 00:24:01.380

Aaron Devor: That I would end up in some kind of mental institution and never get out right and and i and i knew people who this kind of thing. It happened to

200

00:24:02.190 --> 00:24:06.540

Aaron Devor: Knowing myself to be rebellious and difficult young person I knew I would not go

201

00:24:06.570 --> 00:24:13.740

Aaron Devor: Peacefully, and that I get in trouble, and that'd be the end of it. And that's what I saw flashing in front of my my eyes. This is where we were going.

202

00:24:16.140 --> 00:24:20.400

Aaron Devor: So to cut to the chase. I was the last one out of the box.

203

00:24:21.690 --> 00:24:24.240

Aaron Devor: The police photograph me repeatedly

204

00:24:25.350 --> 00:24:30.930

Aaron Devor: I had had the foresight to not bring any ID and I had left it in the car.

205

00:24:32.070 --> 00:24:43.110

Aaron Devor: And what they said to me after holding me back till the very end when they asked me where do you, where do you live, what's your name, where do you live, I don't. I think I probably gave him my real name, but I don't know if I even did that.

206

00:24:43.650 --> 00:24:47.820

Aaron Devor: But I had no idea. So they couldn't check it. And I said, I lived in Canada.

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00:24:48.840 --> 00:25:04.650

Aaron Devor: And my father's families from Canada. I've been I have been visiting Canada all my life. So I had a reasonably credible story about I live in Toronto and this is, you know, and so I had some things to say that were reasonably credible. They had no idea they were unable to identify

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00:25:05.850 --> 00:25:15.210

Aaron Devor: Anything that I was telling them. And I guess my accent from growing up with my father was enough that they didn't necessarily say, well, you sound like you're from Brooklyn.

209

00:25:15.630 --> 00:25:25.200

Aaron Devor: Or Bronx or whatever because all my life people and asked me funds from somewhere else, because I taught more like my father and my mother had the Canadian accent. So they said to me.

210

00:25:26.280 --> 00:25:27.570

Aaron Devor: I don't think they said to me, we don't

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00:25:29.280 --> 00:25:37.920

Aaron Devor: But it was clear that they weren't sure they did. They didn't really believe me, but what they did say to me was when the lights came on.

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00:25:39.480 --> 00:25:41.040

Aaron Devor: I'm getting feedback are you getting feedback.

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00:25:41.340 --> 00:25:43.050

Evan Taylor: I know it sounds fine to me.

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00:25:43.500 --> 00:25:44.070

Aaron Devor: Okay, but

215

00:25:45.780 --> 00:25:59.130

Aaron Devor: They said to me, when the lights came line and more with the only men and women who were dancing with each other in the place because my lesbian girlfriend and her gay friend, happened to be on the dance floor together when the lights went on.

216

00:25:59.610 --> 00:26:05.040

Aaron Devor: Rain, and I was I was sitting down. So somehow in the minds of these cops.

217

00:26:06.540 --> 00:26:07.860

Aaron Devor: They were good influence on me.

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00:26:09.840 --> 00:26:10.560

Evan Taylor: Okay.

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00:26:12.180 --> 00:26:20.640

Aaron Devor: And what was illegal. Most illegal of all of this was men and men and women and women were not permitted to dance together.

220

00:26:21.360 --> 00:26:22.020

Evan Taylor: Right.

221

00:26:22.080 --> 00:26:37.140

Aaron Devor: That was against the law. And so everybody else who was on the dance floor was busted for breaking the law. I was sitting down. I didn't have any idea that prove to them that was under age, I will just add that I always looked a lot older than I was.

222

00:26:37.200 --> 00:26:37.980

Evan Taylor: So, it

223

00:26:38.070 --> 00:26:38.460

Was

224

00:26:39.900 --> 00:26:45.450

Aaron Devor: Possible that I was old enough to be drinking drinking age is 20 when I was 17 it was possible.

225

00:26:45.570 --> 00:26:46.530

Aaron Devor: Because I always look

226

00:26:46.890 --> 00:26:47.340

Older

227

00:26:48.510 --> 00:26:51.300

Aaron Devor: And these two were men and women dancing together as

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00:26:51.720 --> 00:26:55.860

Aaron Devor: You know, you know, and she was feminine. I was surprised she was feminine.

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00:26:57.090 --> 00:26:59.700

Aaron Devor: But he was filming into, but at least he was a man

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00:27:00.540 --> 00:27:01.140

Evan Taylor: It's like

231

00:27:02.370 --> 00:27:03.480

Evan Taylor: Oh my goodness.

232

00:27:03.570 --> 00:27:05.280

Aaron Devor: And they let me go, but I was the last

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00:27:05.340 --> 00:27:06.540

Aaron Devor: One of the bar.

234

00:27:08.850 --> 00:27:15.870

Evan Taylor: And it was only because you were so young and there is this kind of backstory that they were like, and we don't really believe it, but

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00:27:16.200 --> 00:27:28.890

Evan Taylor: If something falls into place. And there is something weird going on. And maybe that's it. And you know what you're young, you were with the only like straight enough people so yeah and not with the paperwork, you go

236

00:27:29.220 --> 00:27:33.420

Aaron Devor: And maybe they didn't want to get involved dealing with them under each person.

237

00:27:34.380 --> 00:27:35.550

Aaron Devor: Is a whole other level.

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00:27:35.790 --> 00:27:37.920

Aaron Devor: But, you know, he knows we're speculating, but

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00:27:38.670 --> 00:27:39.240

Aaron Devor: I got out.

240

00:27:39.600 --> 00:27:59.490

Aaron Devor: Wow. And that was partly what motivated me to move to Canada later that summer because I was concerned that this was going to catch up with me somehow my parents would find out or some other authorities and I will be as they say up shoot creek without a paddle right so

241

00:28:01.170 --> 00:28:02.070

Aaron Devor: I moved to Canada.

242

00:28:02.640 --> 00:28:04.920

Aaron Devor: I got myself.

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00:28:05.940 --> 00:28:08.400

Aaron Devor: Admitted to York University.

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00:28:08.730 --> 00:28:09.120

Okay.

245

00:28:10.140 --> 00:28:10.440

Aaron Devor: So,

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00:28:10.710 --> 00:28:15.990

Evan Taylor: You're even planning to go to New York, or was that something that you kind of newly decided the end of the summer. This was my way out of here.

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00:28:17.640 --> 00:28:28.770

Aaron Devor: I had left high school a year early and 6869 I was taking I was in first year university in Hofstra University, which is on Long Island.

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00:28:29.430 --> 00:28:30.870

Aaron Devor: So I haven't been in your university.

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00:28:31.230 --> 00:28:43.470

Aaron Devor: I went up to Canada to visit family and and I had some friends there. And while I was there I presented myself at York University and you know I was pretty pushy, kid.

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00:28:43.920 --> 00:28:51.300

Aaron Devor: And I managed to get through to the registrar and convince her to let me be admitted at the last minute. It was like August

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00:28:53.040 --> 00:29:03.690

Aaron Devor: Turned around went home, got all my stuff packed it back together and what New York University entered in second second mercy. So I actually graduated University extremely young

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00:29:04.140 --> 00:29:06.720

Aaron Devor: Because they had a three year degree.

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00:29:07.200 --> 00:29:16.170

Aaron Devor: York at that point because they had three years of high school at that point. And so I took their three or bachelor's degree, even though I'd only had

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00:29:17.790 --> 00:29:18.990

Aaron Devor: Three years of

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00:29:20.340 --> 00:29:21.300

Aaron Devor: Two years of high school.

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00:29:22.050 --> 00:29:22.950

Evan Taylor: Oh, okay.

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00:29:23.340 --> 00:29:32.220

Aaron Devor: Because I didn't. I did first year university instead of grade 12 Ontario had agreed routine. Also, but I just went straight into second year. So it all went by very quickly.

258

00:29:33.390 --> 00:29:34.230

Aaron Devor: While I was a

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00:29:35.820 --> 00:29:47.700

Aaron Devor: There was a fledgling feminist group on at York University where I teamed up with a few other troublemakers. And we made some trouble.

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00:29:48.810 --> 00:30:05.610

Aaron Devor: One of the people that I met up with their became important in Vancouver and Victoria and then died. Way too young and her name is Janet. We've been image. And so she and I were caused a little trouble at York is local feminists and

261

00:30:06.690 --> 00:30:19.080

Aaron Devor: The first gay rights organization in Canada was started in Toronto by Gerald Malden our and some others, but I don't remember who else and that was that can

262

00:30:19.830 --> 00:30:30.570

Aaron Devor: U U of T amo file Association, and it had formed in 19 I'm pretty sure at the end of 1969. These are things that you can verify or somebody who's interested can verify

263

00:30:31.620 --> 00:30:44.250

Aaron Devor: And by 1970 there was one at York York on the file association. So again, these are pre gay rights, you know the language hadn't quite switched over yet.

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00:30:45.270 --> 00:31:03.570

Aaron Devor: And I got, I went to a meeting or two at the York University Homer file Association, and then I graduated downtown. Which reminds me, I mentioned this to you on another call but we weren't recording while I was at Hofstra in that first year that 6869 year

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00:31:04.650 --> 00:31:06.930

Aaron Devor: There was a Manichean society that meant there.

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00:31:07.620 --> 00:31:08.250

Evan Taylor: Right.

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00:31:08.370 --> 00:31:14.790

Aaron Devor: And I don't remember for the life of the how I found out about it, but I was gay. So I went

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00:31:17.070 --> 00:31:18.330

Aaron Devor: I went once

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00:31:19.350 --> 00:31:22.170

Aaron Devor: I looked around and realized the game in

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00:31:23.730 --> 00:31:34.830

Aaron Devor: Never went back. I don't know how often they mentor or whether this was a one off. I really have no more recollection. I do them all at once. So I had a little connection before I moved up to Canada. But then there was

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00:31:35.910 --> 00:31:38.850

Evan Taylor: This is the only place to go. So I'm going to go in at least try it out.

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00:31:41.250 --> 00:31:50.700

Aaron Devor: And it wasn't a bar. I didn't have to do have to be over 21 although maybe they had a rule on that too. I don't know. But I, as you can tell, I didn't always worried about rules.

273

00:31:52.140 --> 00:32:06.480

Aaron Devor: Okay, so I moved to Canada. I am at York I connect up with feminism and I connect up with gay rights, a graduate you're 71 he and I moved into the move downtown into the city.

274

00:32:07.590 --> 00:32:26.580

Aaron Devor: At which point I got involved with feminism and gay rights that was happening there. So the very gay organization up Homer file Association had turned into chat community Homer file association of Toronto, which eventually turned into

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00:32:27.930 --> 00:32:31.320

Aaron Devor: What's it called 916 911 that the Church Street location and

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00:32:32.460 --> 00:32:33.270

Aaron Devor: By 19 that's

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00:32:33.720 --> 00:32:38.460

Aaron Devor: Okay. So eventually, it turned into 519 sandy roots of that organization.

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00:32:39.660 --> 00:32:50.190

Aaron Devor: And then there were a bunch of different feminist organizations that were all just getting started in Toronto at that time. So there was a more liberal one

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00:32:52.530 --> 00:32:59.100

Aaron Devor: Was called the new feminist. There was something called the women's liberation movement.

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00:33:00.960 --> 00:33:02.760

Aaron Devor: There was a Marxist Leninist group.

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00:33:04.350 --> 00:33:09.210

Aaron Devor: I think those were. I think that's what they're. I think that's what they're with us three and

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00:33:09.870 --> 00:33:16.050

Evan Taylor: Like for you as sort of a young butch we're all of these open and welcoming of a young boy to lesbian or what was the

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00:33:17.310 --> 00:33:18.060

Evan Taylor: Dynamic like

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00:33:18.360 --> 00:33:19.770

Aaron Devor: No, so

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00:33:22.470 --> 00:33:32.880

Aaron Devor: The new feminists was the most conservative with a group of a they were living in addition, how we label their the politics and yeah they they didn't want

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00:33:34.140 --> 00:33:42.540

Aaron Devor: They didn't want the likes of me around and they made their pretty they made that explicit. I think there was even something that was published in

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00:33:43.080 --> 00:33:49.560

Aaron Devor: Their newsletter or a newspaper or something. And this vague recollection that actually sits on what we don't have lesbians here. We don't want

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00:33:50.730 --> 00:33:59.250

Aaron Devor: And, you know, as you know, there's some lesbians who are very obvious in there somewhere, somewhere, not very obvious which ones are the obvious ones, and I was obvious.

289

00:34:01.590 --> 00:34:17.670

Aaron Devor: So I think that the place that I hung out was war. The, the one that call themselves a women's liberation movement, which is kind of maybe the road I Marxist Leninist I didn't, didn't like they're Marxist feminist point of view. And then there was a Women's Center that opened up.

290

00:34:23.520 --> 00:34:34.410

Aaron Devor: DuPont street on do plus three down. Remember the address. It was on DuPont street and I got involved there. And that's where I ended up hanging out like a bit being

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00:34:36.000 --> 00:34:41.310

Aaron Devor: In your face kind of lesbian with another woman who

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00:34:42.390 --> 00:34:54.030

Aaron Devor: rose to prominence in Vancouver in local city politics and that's Ellen woods where you know that. Yeah, so she and I were a number for a while.

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00:34:55.380 --> 00:34:57.780

Aaron Devor: And we like to flaunt it and Stacy.

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00:35:00.060 --> 00:35:02.460

Aaron Devor: And one of the ways we can places we did that was a

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00:35:03.150 --> 00:35:07.800

Aaron Devor: 3060 plan is coming to mind. Again, you can look up those things. If it's important

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00:35:09.420 --> 00:35:18.390

Aaron Devor: So we hung out at the Women's Center and we caused a certain amount of iron among people who felt we were flying to need a bit too much.

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00:35:19.560 --> 00:35:23.520

Aaron Devor: And, you know, frankly, if I was an adult now I would think that too.

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00:35:24.000 --> 00:35:24.300

Evan Taylor: But I

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00:35:25.890 --> 00:35:28.290

Aaron Devor: Was I was an adult, I was very young adults.

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00:35:31.350 --> 00:35:35.160

Aaron Devor: And it was a different time and we felt as a very political act to be

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00:35:36.390 --> 00:35:37.680

Aaron Devor: You know the kissing hugging and

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00:35:37.860 --> 00:35:39.300

Stuff like that and publicly

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00:35:41.070 --> 00:35:42.420

Aaron Devor: So, it

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00:35:42.900 --> 00:35:48.360

Evan Taylor: Was really. I mean, it was coffee. It was getting that much reaction because it was such a political act at the time, really.

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00:35:50.010 --> 00:35:53.190

Aaron Devor: Well, that's what we did. So the other things we did was

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00:35:56.520 --> 00:36:01.770

Aaron Devor: In addition to my bachelor's degree which I completed. I also went to a trade school and I learned

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00:36:02.880 --> 00:36:06.300

Aaron Devor: The basics of the printing trade, most of which is now on so

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00:36:07.380 --> 00:36:08.220

Aaron Devor: But then

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00:36:09.360 --> 00:36:14.310

Aaron Devor: There's a saying if you want the power of the press belongs to those who own on the press.

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00:36:14.700 --> 00:36:17.100

Aaron Devor: Radio on the printing press in particular.

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00:36:17.700 --> 00:36:18.810

Aaron Devor: And so

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00:36:18.900 --> 00:36:20.310

Aaron Devor: I started a little

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00:36:21.780 --> 00:36:32.670

Aaron Devor: Feminist print shop called the Amazon press and the physical location of it began in that Women's Center on do punchy.

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00:36:33.840 --> 00:36:38.850

Aaron Devor: The other thing that started in that period of time, and it was Ellen and I and

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00:36:40.080 --> 00:36:43.440

Aaron Devor: Small group of other people. The only other name. I remember is Pat, Leslie.

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00:36:45.360 --> 00:36:56.340

Aaron Devor: Started a feminist newspaper with a very strong lesbian tilt to it. And that was called the other woman. And so we created that

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00:36:57.630 --> 00:37:15.150

Aaron Devor: There will, there was at the same time, there was a paper in Montreal and there was a paper in Vancouver. And I think the first issues have come combination for the three of them we put out a an issue together and then we continued on for a few years. Everything ran for a few weeks.

318

00:37:17.310 --> 00:37:32.340

Aaron Devor: I'm trying to remember the sequence of events here. I think actually prior to starting the other woman was I did a stint at a local left wing political paper called guerilla as in guerrilla fighters that kind of not the

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00:37:35.610 --> 00:37:50.700

Aaron Devor: guerrilla fighters. I thought it was a left wing radical paper. I spent a bunch of time there. So things are a little out of sequence here with their own roughly the same period of time. If you know the 7273 74

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00:37:50.910 --> 00:37:52.170

Aaron Devor: He in there.

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00:37:54.450 --> 00:38:00.360

Aaron Devor: So yeah, before we start the other woman. I got some experience on newspapers and guerrilla so that was before the other one.

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00:38:01.800 --> 00:38:15.840

Aaron Devor: And one of the things we did some stuff on the internet. I got this was a group of us felt that they were really sexist and gorilla nature. They were. It was you who knew from feminism. If you want a radical feminist

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00:38:18.570 --> 00:38:24.060

Aaron Devor: I think that's what the women's liberation movement called themselves who radical feminist before it was a nasty word right

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00:38:27.000 --> 00:38:27.690

Aaron Devor: So,

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00:38:28.290 --> 00:38:30.330

Evan Taylor: Whenever still radical, not just judgmental.

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00:38:31.470 --> 00:38:36.540

Aaron Devor: So we, we felt they were too sexist and on International Women's Day.

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00:38:37.650 --> 00:38:40.590

Aaron Devor: I'm going to say probably 72

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00:38:42.390 --> 00:38:53.100

Aaron Devor: We staged a takeover of the gorilla offices and we were very successful at it. I think we, it was upstairs in a building on Queen Street.

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00:38:53.430 --> 00:39:04.740

Aaron Devor: I think we got maybe halfway up the stairs before they call the police, which they think that roundly criticized. There's all your, your left wing radicals and you're calling the police on a bunch of women.

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00:39:06.180 --> 00:39:06.540

Aaron Devor: Is

331

00:39:08.310 --> 00:39:21.030

Aaron Devor: Pretty funny, in retrospect, but anyway we attempted a takeover feminists takeover of the gorilla magazine that I called it. We got even though we might have gotten to the top of the stairs.

332

00:39:22.890 --> 00:39:33.870

Aaron Devor: But I did work there. And that was part of the experience I took with me to say we can start this feminist newspaper now around the same time wasn't the getting the body politic.

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00:39:35.760 --> 00:39:43.470

Aaron Devor: And I lived in a house, known as see the street is on Second Street with people whose called it the seasons dream house that was

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00:39:48.000 --> 00:39:57.330

Aaron Devor: Had a reputation and I had a reputation because it was a lesbian radical Lesbian Feminist commune.

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00:39:58.110 --> 00:39:58.560

Evan Taylor: Gotcha.

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00:39:58.800 --> 00:40:02.430

Aaron Devor: Yeah, and that was remarkable in those days.

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00:40:03.810 --> 00:40:13.200

Aaron Devor: I say it had a reputation and people knew about it. But one day we were quite surprised because a letter appeared

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00:40:14.310 --> 00:40:17.640

Aaron Devor: In the males letter mailbox or whatever we had

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00:40:19.290 --> 00:40:27.150

Aaron Devor: That was addressed to remember exactly, but something like the lesbian house Toronto.

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00:40:29.430 --> 00:40:29.850

Aaron Devor: That's it.

341

00:40:31.230 --> 00:40:33.030

Evan Taylor: It's everyone should know. That's the lesbian

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00:40:33.630 --> 00:40:36.180

Aaron Devor: The post office delivered it to us.

343

00:40:38.040 --> 00:40:39.690

Evan Taylor: Was it actually for your house, like is it

344

00:40:39.690 --> 00:40:40.170

Correctly.

345

00:40:41.250 --> 00:40:41.610

Aaron Devor: Yeah.

346

00:40:42.870 --> 00:40:54.360

Aaron Devor: But that's, I mean, we had a reputation. Now, you know, it was probably some especially us then some dyke who worked in the post office as opposed to everybody in the post office knew about

347

00:40:55.650 --> 00:40:56.130

Evan Taylor: It.

348

00:40:56.460 --> 00:41:03.120

Aaron Devor: But it did not have seen the street on it did not have an address, other than Toronto and it made it to us.

349

00:41:04.140 --> 00:41:09.030

Aaron Devor: So Seton street was our house was on

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00:41:10.440 --> 00:41:13.620

Aaron Devor: SEE THE STREET BETWEEN Carlton and Dundas

351

00:41:13.800 --> 00:41:14.130

Evan Taylor: Okay.

352

00:41:14.610 --> 00:41:20.940

Aaron Devor: On the other side of done desk and I've really far down Seton street was Gerald Sheldon house, house. Well, I just mentioned.

353

00:41:21.240 --> 00:41:28.320

Aaron Devor: You also started glad day books and has a long history of political activism.

354

00:41:29.100 --> 00:41:46.530

Aaron Devor: And the first meetings of the body politic to start the body politic took place at his house. So it's just a short walk down the street and because I had this experience that gorilla magazine and starting the other woman and I was a known lesbian around town at the time.

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00:41:47.970 --> 00:41:51.450

Aaron Devor: They invited me to help them start the body politic.

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00:41:52.830 --> 00:42:03.690

Aaron Devor: And so I don't recall today whether I went to only one or two meetings, but I didn't go to very many and once again being high head angry on lesbian

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00:42:04.980 --> 00:42:15.000

Aaron Devor: I walked out in a half because they were far too sexist and completely preoccupied with having sex with as many voices, they possibly could.

358

00:42:15.690 --> 00:42:34.860

Aaron Devor: And it just wasn't what I wanted to be involved with. And I left and I ran into Jackson. A couple of years ago who I hadn't seen since then. He recently was one of the founding members who reminded me. Not only did I leave but I wrote them an angry letter denouncing what they were doing.

359

00:42:36.840 --> 00:42:44.520

Aaron Devor: I remember that. But a Jackson, remember that and maybe somebody has a copy somewhere. So I was there on the ground floor walls and stuff.

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00:42:46.320 --> 00:42:53.220

Aaron Devor: But you know, I wasn't necessarily the one that made it all happen at all the other woman. I will take lots of credit for making that happen.

361

00:42:54.390 --> 00:43:01.050

Aaron Devor: The print shop the Amazon press continued on for a while and moved into a building in

362

00:43:02.370 --> 00:43:10.110

Aaron Devor: Kensington Market and Kensington Street and we a group of us put together a

363

00:43:12.840 --> 00:43:18.840

Aaron Devor: We bought we bought we rented a storefront and at the very front was the women's bookstore.

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00:43:20.070 --> 00:43:29.850

Aaron Devor: And the Amazon press was in the middle and at the back was a women's self defense karate kind of training.

365

00:43:30.450 --> 00:43:47.040

Aaron Devor: Program. So, it continued on the Amazon press continued on for a while and you know it was a resource at a time where you couldn't always get this stuff printed in other places and you wanted to keep the money in the community and those kinds of things.

366

00:43:48.120 --> 00:43:53.970

Aaron Devor: So, you know, those two I stuck with the other thing that's kind of

367

00:43:56.250 --> 00:43:59.100

Aaron Devor: Too many pieces here and we're never going to get to the current stuff.

368

00:44:00.960 --> 00:44:02.430

Evan Taylor: About five years away. I think

369

00:44:03.390 --> 00:44:08.760

Aaron Devor: The other, the other interesting thing from that period of time is I was a photographer event.

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00:44:09.240 --> 00:44:20.100

Aaron Devor: Rate and one little piece of history that's relevant than I would like to take a minute to talk about was

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00:44:20.670 --> 00:44:27.630

Aaron Devor: I was, you know, one of many who were involved in organizing International Women's Day demonstrations that we have was a thing for many years.

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00:44:28.620 --> 00:44:37.920

Aaron Devor: And I told you before that I was involved in some of these feminist organizations. And one of the people that I met through all of that was reading McNeil and if that means you

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00:44:38.010 --> 00:44:39.120

Evan Taylor: Absolutely. I've

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00:44:39.360 --> 00:44:41.070

Evan Taylor: Been watching her Christmas specials every year.

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00:44:41.490 --> 00:45:03.150

Aaron Devor: Exactly. So in the early 1970s, Rita McNeil was living in Scarborough with her husband and I don't remember how many kids and basically had to sneak out to come down to women's movements meetings. And so she would come to these feminist meetings and

376

00:45:04.860 --> 00:45:12.000

Aaron Devor: She was you wouldn't know this from the Christmas specials, but at that point, she was living with a somewhat oppressive husband.

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00:45:12.690 --> 00:45:24.270

Aaron Devor: I never met him, but she would come in with their head down and arise down and she would be as mousy frightened person who had basically had to sneak out to come

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00:45:24.750 --> 00:45:37.350

Aaron Devor: But she had enough gumption to sneak out and come to these meetings, she would basically not say a word, but she let us know that she had a song that she'd like to sing for us. And that's why she came basically

379

00:45:38.940 --> 00:45:51.090

Aaron Devor: And so I remember being at more than one feminist event where she would come to, and she just sit there quietly with their head down and then the time would come for her and saying,

380

00:45:52.200 --> 00:45:57.930

Aaron Devor: When she would get up in front of us and she would stand up straight and she would open her mouth and the heavens would open

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00:45:58.950 --> 00:46:08.280

Aaron Devor: And I'm still emotional remembering it because she had the voice of an angel, and it was so strong and she was acapella and

382

00:46:08.970 --> 00:46:22.260

Aaron Devor: You know, a room somewhere and she just filled it and the energy of the heavens came into that room. She was so powerful. And then she put her head down and go back to being mousy little person.

383

00:46:23.820 --> 00:46:24.330

Aaron Devor: So,

384

00:46:25.350 --> 00:46:30.060

Aaron Devor: Then we got her to come to International Women's Day, and saying there and it was a similar kind of thing.

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00:46:31.140 --> 00:46:40.230

Aaron Devor: And I was a photographer and I took pictures of her and for some time and you know until her career took off.

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00:46:41.400 --> 00:46:47.940

Aaron Devor: She didn't want anybody else's pictures to be used only my pictures so her first

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00:46:49.980 --> 00:46:55.800

Aaron Devor: She put out a song book and a record album be long before she was famous, and

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00:46:58.320 --> 00:47:09.570

Aaron Devor: She wanted my pictures on there because I took pictures that she felt captured her and captured a few notes. Now again, I don't know how well known. This is

389

00:47:11.040 --> 00:47:14.580

Aaron Devor: You could still see it later in her life. If you look carefully, but she had a hairline.

390

00:47:16.140 --> 00:47:17.400

Aaron Devor: And if you have you

391

00:47:17.760 --> 00:47:18.780

Evan Taylor: Picture it a little bit.

392

00:47:18.780 --> 00:47:26.730

Aaron Devor: Yeah, a little time, this time and have you done as well repaired, as it was when she became a big star.

393

00:47:27.240 --> 00:47:29.010

Aaron Devor: And so she's like self conscious

394

00:47:29.400 --> 00:47:40.680

Aaron Devor: About photographs and they have to be from the right angle so that you know she looked good. And she liked what I did for him. So that's, that's another little piece from that era.

395

00:47:41.010 --> 00:47:47.250

Evan Taylor: So of course later on we're going to replace those, those, those in right here next to you talking about that they're going to splice those conversation.

396

00:47:49.980 --> 00:48:01.020

Aaron Devor: You know, and then she went on, and you know, our paths diverged in I did one while I was still living in Vancouver, one year she came for a concert and I did go backstage and she was very happy to see me, but I never started going after that.

397

00:48:02.010 --> 00:48:05.700

Aaron Devor: And the other thing about those early days is a set of the

398

00:48:07.230 --> 00:48:13.920

Aaron Devor: U of T Homer file Association turned into chat community homophobic Association, and I got involved with them for a little while, they had a

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00:48:14.970 --> 00:48:21.390

Aaron Devor: Phone in hotline, which I worked on briefly. All these things are briefly. These are not big claims is just

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00:48:22.560 --> 00:48:28.650

Aaron Devor: recycled into other things I would say say I was young, my attention span is short and mine was hot headed get angry easily

401

00:48:29.610 --> 00:48:45.690

Aaron Devor: But I did that for a little while and various volunteer things and then a group of us women felt that they were two sexes to and we went off and formed our own groups and, you know, refused to be involved with that.

402

00:48:48.690 --> 00:48:50.430

Aaron Devor: Can you stop recording for a moment, please.

403

00:48:50.490 --> 00:48:52.110

Evan Taylor: Yeah. Hold on a second.

404

00:48:53.310 --> 00:48:54.270

Evan Taylor: Back on. There we go.

405

00:48:55.230 --> 00:48:59.970

Aaron Devor: I didn't get a message. This time last time I got a message saying it was recording so you sure it is. Yeah.

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00:49:00.000 --> 00:49:08.070

Evan Taylor: I can see it recording what comes, it comes up and tells you what's recording at the very beginning, just to let you know. And then I can pause it on the positives, many times as we need to go.

407

00:49:09.810 --> 00:49:11.490

Aaron Devor: So I was gonna say that.

408

00:49:13.500 --> 00:49:19.680

Aaron Devor: That is where I remember coming in contact with transsexuals for the first time.

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00:49:19.890 --> 00:49:25.590

Aaron Devor: Right. So this is like 70s 7273

410

00:49:26.370 --> 00:49:26.640

Okay.

411

00:49:28.500 --> 00:49:37.530

Aaron Devor: So there were, I think we refer to him as trannies were around then. I didn't have strong contact with them. They were male to female

412

00:49:39.360 --> 00:49:43.230

Aaron Devor: I don't remember what stage they were at. And I don't remember it being a big deal, either.

413

00:49:44.910 --> 00:49:54.360

Aaron Devor: You know they were kind of part of the community, but they weren't my part of the community. And so I didn't pay much attention, one way or the other, but they were folks around, but I think it's

414

00:49:54.690 --> 00:50:05.730

Aaron Devor: Relevant to understanding the history that it wasn't in my experience, a big deal that they were there. We were identified that that's who they were. But it wasn't a big deal.

415

00:50:08.190 --> 00:50:16.080

Aaron Devor: I have this vague feeling there might have been someone like that on the periphery of the people I hung up hung out with before I left New York

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00:50:16.500 --> 00:50:20.850

Aaron Devor: Because his girlfriend that I went dancing with a hung around with a pretty wild crowd.

417

00:50:21.600 --> 00:50:26.700

Aaron Devor: And I was exposed to a lot of, shall we say, interesting people.

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00:50:28.230 --> 00:50:31.830

Aaron Devor: Through her not all of them in a terribly reputable

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00:50:33.150 --> 00:50:34.380

Evan Taylor: Punk rock crowd.

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00:50:34.470 --> 00:50:35.520

Aaron Devor: No, no, it's long before

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00:50:36.180 --> 00:50:38.070

Aaron Devor: This is disreputable

422

00:50:38.310 --> 00:50:40.260

Evan Taylor: Just, just, just as

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00:50:41.220 --> 00:50:47.970

Aaron Devor: Well, there were there were there were people that you know stall things off the back of trucks and fence them to, you know, I mean, not even my first

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00:50:49.170 --> 00:50:59.400

Aaron Devor: My first clock radio was stolen off of the back of a truck somewhere and I, you know, it was through her so there were indeed hoodlums there was drug dealing, she ended up going to jail for for dealing drugs.

425

00:51:00.390 --> 00:51:07.350

Aaron Devor: There was, I remember her driving around the car with a bottle of wine under the front seat that she was drinking while she was driving. I mean, it was

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00:51:08.520 --> 00:51:13.800

Aaron Devor: Wild days. And this was a wild crowd. I mean, one of the people in our crowd was

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00:51:14.820 --> 00:51:15.600

Aaron Devor: A meth addict.

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00:51:17.280 --> 00:51:17.610

Aaron Devor: You know,

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00:51:19.290 --> 00:51:21.810

Aaron Devor: The wasn't crystal method with long before that it was

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00:51:22.680 --> 00:51:23.880

Evan Taylor: Still just plain speed.

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00:51:24.300 --> 00:51:24.960

Aaron Devor: Yet speed.

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00:51:25.890 --> 00:51:31.590

Aaron Devor: Was, you know, he'd lost all this, he's losing his teeth and you know I mean it was a rough crowd.

433

00:51:32.760 --> 00:51:45.870

Aaron Devor: And included lots of interesting people. And the most interesting one was a guy that everybody referred to as freaky Pete and freaky Pete would like to go to parties and have people tie him up and beat him up at the party.

434

00:51:46.890 --> 00:51:49.980

Aaron Devor: You know, so I was exposed to a lot of stuff.

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00:51:50.250 --> 00:51:55.320

Aaron Devor: Right through her at quite a young age, because remember, I got together with her, I was

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00:51:56.820 --> 00:51:58.230

Aaron Devor: 16 maybe 17

437

00:51:58.680 --> 00:52:01.440

Aaron Devor: Yeah, we were together for about a year or so.

438

00:52:03.630 --> 00:52:10.680

Aaron Devor: And then my, I think I have this sense that there were there were some training people at the periphery of that crowd, but I don't remember knowing them.

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00:52:12.240 --> 00:52:20.880

Aaron Devor: But I give you that as context that is kind of been part of my consciousness. This whole Trans World for very long time.

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00:52:22.230 --> 00:52:34.590

Aaron Devor: And you know, I didn't just kind of drop into this, you know, somewhere in the 90s. Yeah, even in the in the 2000s, as they call them in the Brits call them the knowledge

441

00:52:37.950 --> 00:52:43.980

Aaron Devor: So it's kind of been part of my my world in, you know, on the edges of my world for a long time.

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00:52:45.840 --> 00:52:48.000

Aaron Devor: So that kind of gives you an overview of

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00:52:48.990 --> 00:53:02.070

Aaron Devor: And then, and then you know i was i did lots of public speaking. I was on the radio. I went to church basements. I went to university classrooms to talk about, you know, this is what a lesbian is like and

444

00:53:02.790 --> 00:53:12.840

Aaron Devor: Public education in the way that in the 90s and the noughties trans people would go around and go to classes. There's nobody ever met one of them would talk about it.

445

00:53:13.290 --> 00:53:31.980

Aaron Devor: And in public. You know, it wasn't ashamed and embarrassed and skulking around in in the shadows. So I did that kind of work in Toronto, you know, sort of simultaneously with the print shop in the newspaper in and just general rabble rousing in the photography and that kind of stuff.

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00:53:32.940 --> 00:53:33.600

Evan Taylor: So did you

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00:53:34.140 --> 00:53:51.240

Evan Taylor: Um, so it sounds like there was some sort of, you know, training type folks around in the event, this time. When did you first make start thinking they start working in that environment to start doing advocacy around gender like not just you know feminist agenda, but the the trans

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00:53:51.300 --> 00:53:57.330

Aaron Devor: Piece. Well, yeah, okay. Because for me, the feminine stuff and the gay stuff was also about gender that since I

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00:53:57.780 --> 00:54:17.580

Aaron Devor: Started like getting my stories, because that's what drove me into that that work is that my gender. My experience of gender was that I could not find a way to fit and I haven't found a better fit among feminists who were saying you can. You don't have to be feminine and among

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00:54:18.600 --> 00:54:23.160

Aaron Devor: Gay people who were, you know, kind of celebrated which dykes

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00:54:23.820 --> 00:54:27.390

Aaron Devor: Right. And you know even have any you know pitch decks were popular

452

00:54:33.810 --> 00:54:35.670

Aaron Devor: I didn't. I did well with girlfriends.

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00:54:36.720 --> 00:54:48.840

Aaron Devor: So, you know, but for me the motivation to go in that direction was the fact that this the straight world didn't have a whole lot of room for the likes of me and so

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00:54:49.500 --> 00:54:58.140

Aaron Devor: I wanted to change the world. So that there was room for the likes of me so that that's the connection, but the trans stuff didn't start until a lot later.

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00:54:59.700 --> 00:55:15.690

Aaron Devor: So I'll fast forward through a lot of years here so 1975 I moved to Vancouver I continue to have involvement with those communities, but I was not politically active I was friends with the people who were politically active

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00:55:15.780 --> 00:55:21.540

Aaron Devor: Gotcha. So I was kind of around the periphery and because they all knew leave from Toronto, because there was a lot of

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00:55:21.930 --> 00:55:32.100

Aaron Devor: You know, communication across the country. They knew I had a very good pedigree from all the stuff I had done in Toronto. So, you know, they accepted me into the community with with, you know, a lot of warmth

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00:55:32.550 --> 00:55:40.800

Aaron Devor: And I was very close with the people who were in the movers and shakers in Vancouver through the 70s and 80s, but I myself was not

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00:55:41.250 --> 00:55:54.210

Aaron Devor: Particularly a mover shaker. But I was there for a lot of the stuff and I saw a lot of it close up. So, you know, some point we could talk about the whole rapidly thing. For instance, so I was on the edge of that, if you know what I'm referring to. If you don't, that's fine.

460

00:55:56.610 --> 00:55:59.100

Evan Taylor: We'll be interviewing can be can be like sitting down next week. So yeah, so

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00:55:59.100 --> 00:56:02.370

Aaron Devor: It's not the Kimberley next story it's long or longer.

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00:56:03.390 --> 00:56:06.450

Aaron Devor: Yeah, so it's not a transitory it's a it's a feminine story.

463

00:56:06.630 --> 00:56:08.910

Evan Taylor: Okay, no, I don't know about that that history before the

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00:56:09.780 --> 00:56:11.010

Aaron Devor: Game. The two minute

465

00:56:12.090 --> 00:56:30.540

Aaron Devor: precis of what it is I'm referring to reap relief today is by many people's account a cult that revolves around the woman by the name of the lake and Lake men has a whole ideology of how this should happen. So the work that they do should happen.

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00:56:32.010 --> 00:56:40.890

Aaron Devor: She arrived on the scene around the same time that I did. I don't remember the exact years I was close to the people who were then running Rape Relief

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00:56:41.400 --> 00:56:47.910

Aaron Devor: And she came in and basically through force of a very strong personality, pretty much took the place over

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00:56:48.690 --> 00:56:57.540

Aaron Devor: And then there was a huge rift in the feminist community about what are we going to do about it and an alternate organization started called women against violence against women.

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00:56:58.500 --> 00:57:05.370

Aaron Devor: We've continued on the trajectory that they are still on today, which is a very anti trans trajectory. But that was not the issue, then that was

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00:57:05.430 --> 00:57:06.960

Aaron Devor: Completely not even on the radar, then

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00:57:07.290 --> 00:57:08.190

Aaron Devor: So this was just

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00:57:09.270 --> 00:57:17.670

Aaron Devor: Know what kind of services should be provided provided to women who were experiencing violence and there was a big rift in the feminist community about

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00:57:18.510 --> 00:57:25.860

Aaron Devor: Re belief, where it was going and starting a new organization and who was going to go with each organization and which philosophy. That's what I'm referring to

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00:57:25.950 --> 00:57:27.510

Evan Taylor: Long. Okay.

475

00:57:28.890 --> 00:57:46.770

Aaron Devor: So anyway, I went, you know, I had various jobs. I did a variety of things I hung around with the people who were doing the feminists and some of the gay stuff and but I was mostly mostly on and that's much case stuff the lesbian stuff, but I was not particularly active

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00:57:47.100 --> 00:57:49.500

Evan Taylor: Through the 70s building photography at that point.

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00:57:49.620 --> 00:57:51.960

Aaron Devor: Yeah, yeah. One of the things I was doing

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00:57:53.460 --> 00:58:08.760

Aaron Devor: And I had some some success. I had success with sorry in Toronto, before I left those you know gallery shows and publications and then I had some more of that kind of gallery shows and publications after I came to Vancouver.

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00:58:11.970 --> 00:58:34.980

Aaron Devor: Where I got involved with trans stuff was I decided that I want to go back to university. So I had a bachelor's degree in psychology from New York University and I first I went back to school and at Simon Fraser and taking a BSc in physics.

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00:58:36.420 --> 00:58:44.220

Aaron Devor: And I had certain goals, one of which I reached which is analyzing why the lights went on. When I turn the switch.

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00:58:45.480 --> 00:58:53.670

Aaron Devor: And the other was I wanted to read. Read Einstein in the original which I meant was in the math night in the German

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00:58:54.720 --> 00:59:04.380

Aaron Devor: And I was never quite reached that point. But I developed a much better understanding of it and I understood it from math, but not as not as sophisticated way.

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00:59:05.490 --> 00:59:12.480

Aaron Devor: I decided that I did not want to be a physicist, so I did not complete that degree I did three years, that would be a scene physics.

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00:59:13.620 --> 00:59:15.810

Aaron Devor: One of the good things that came out of that was I

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00:59:17.340 --> 00:59:23.970

Aaron Devor: Joined together my interest in physics with my interest in photography and learn basic philosophy and worked in

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00:59:24.510 --> 00:59:25.830

Aaron Devor: A holographic lab.

487

00:59:27.240 --> 00:59:30.750

Aaron Devor: And that was, it was very cool. And this is when philosophy was like brand new.

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00:59:31.050 --> 00:59:31.440

Right.

489

00:59:33.510 --> 00:59:41.910

Aaron Devor: And so that was, that was fun actually made some holograms like basically from scratch, kind of thing when it was very, very hard to do it, nobody was doing it.

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00:59:44.310 --> 00:59:51.540

Aaron Devor: Anyway, so I decided that I was going to go and get a masters degree when I abandoned the physics degree.

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00:59:52.380 --> 01:00:06.150

Aaron Devor: And I said to myself that point, I expected the master's degree be a couple of years. And I said, What do I think could possibly hold my interest for a couple of years. And I thought, gender equitable interest rates.

492

01:00:07.590 --> 01:00:07.950

Evan Taylor: Right.

493

01:00:08.850 --> 01:00:16.800

Aaron Devor: And in particular, my experience had been through most of my life that

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01:00:17.850 --> 01:00:19.020

Aaron Devor: People thought I was a guy.

495

01:00:19.500 --> 01:00:19.860

Right.

496

01:00:21.600 --> 01:00:30.390

Aaron Devor: It was not all the time, it was intermittent and some periods of time. It was more MIT MIT MIT and then entered

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01:00:31.560 --> 01:00:41.100

Aaron Devor: But it had been my experience all my life. And so I said I'll study that I'll try and figure out what is going on here.

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01:00:41.460 --> 01:00:54.870

Aaron Devor: Right, and so I set out my master's degree started 1982 and I set out to do a study on as I described it women who get mistaken for men.

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01:00:55.650 --> 01:00:56.010

Right.

500

01:00:58.200 --> 01:00:59.700

Aaron Devor: ended up taking four years.

501

01:01:01.350 --> 01:01:16.410

Aaron Devor: Everybody who was an injury did interviews and everybody who I interviewed said, well, I shouldn't say everybody, almost everybody vast majority of them said to me, I've never talked to anybody about

502

01:01:18.810 --> 01:01:23.340

Aaron Devor: It was an experience that they held that level of shame about

503

01:01:23.850 --> 01:01:24.240

Aaron Devor: And, you know,

504

01:01:24.420 --> 01:01:26.880

Aaron Devor: So did I. I was not talking about it widely

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01:01:27.930 --> 01:01:35.010

Aaron Devor: Because you weren't if you are in when when you work. People weren't supposed to think you from an awkward and difficult

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01:01:35.190 --> 01:01:37.170

Evan Taylor: There must be something wrong with you. Yeah.

507

01:01:37.680 --> 01:01:38.730

Evan Taylor: Yeah yeah

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01:01:41.160 --> 01:01:48.900

Aaron Devor: So I did that I did those interviews. In addition, the other thing that happened was a surprising number of people said

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01:01:49.410 --> 01:02:02.250

Aaron Devor: Well, I know somebody that happens to my cousin or my sister right you know I know somebody that that happens to and they'd never talked to anybody about it before either. So it was this big underground thing that was happening and nobody knew anything about

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01:02:04.440 --> 01:02:07.680

Aaron Devor: So that ended up took me four years to finish.

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01:02:07.890 --> 01:02:10.500

Aaron Devor: The degree and

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01:02:12.240 --> 01:02:14.880

Aaron Devor: The person supervised that degree.

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01:02:16.740 --> 01:02:25.590

Aaron Devor: said two things to me when I handed in the thesis, you're an academic you'll appreciate this. First of all, she said, this is the only thesis. I have not on the same night and read immediately.

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01:02:27.180 --> 01:02:30.120

Aaron Devor: And the other thing she said is, I have no doubt you'll be a colleague of mine.

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01:02:31.410 --> 01:02:32.250

Evan Taylor: Oh, nice.

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01:02:32.880 --> 01:02:36.720

Aaron Devor: That hadn't occurred to me, but that sent me emotion and

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01:02:37.200 --> 01:02:46.170

Aaron Devor: You know, ever since, you know, I'm a professor for a long time now, when I see students who does really well. I always I don't say that to them, but I always encourage them to consider graduate school.

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01:02:46.740 --> 01:02:53.490

Aaron Devor: Because her saying that to me encouraged me to consider going on, which I wouldn't have necessarily thought of.

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01:02:55.980 --> 01:03:00.660

Aaron Devor: So I also had this crazy idea that she was kind enough to not disabuse me

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01:03:02.400 --> 01:03:04.950

Aaron Devor: To crazy ideas. One is that

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01:03:05.970 --> 01:03:08.460

Aaron Devor: As a master student I should be doing original research.

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01:03:09.570 --> 01:03:11.970

Aaron Devor: I now know that that's what you do as a PhD student

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01:03:13.860 --> 01:03:15.720

Aaron Devor: What did I know, and she didn't tell me not to

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01:03:17.100 --> 01:03:20.520

Aaron Devor: And to me, original research men something nobody's ever studied before.

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01:03:22.440 --> 01:03:24.690

Aaron Devor: Which usually means some tiny little thing that nobody

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01:03:24.810 --> 01:03:25.290

Aaron Devor: Ever study

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01:03:25.980 --> 01:03:28.920

Aaron Devor: But I opened up a whole topic that nobody ever studied before.

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01:03:30.870 --> 01:03:37.020

Aaron Devor: The other things you just didn't disabuse me of is that I kind of went into it, thinking, I'm going to turn this into a book.

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01:03:38.550 --> 01:03:39.840

Aaron Devor: Or master's degree into a book.

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01:03:41.700 --> 01:03:43.260

Evan Taylor: Only people pay for years to write it.

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01:03:44.880 --> 01:03:45.930

Aaron Devor: To my knowledge,

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01:03:47.430 --> 01:03:47.760

Aaron Devor: You know,

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01:03:49.050 --> 01:03:53.850

Aaron Devor: I'm sure it's there's more people, but the one that I learned about Erving Goffman did that.

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01:03:55.440 --> 01:03:57.180

Aaron Devor: You know, but not a lot of people do.

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01:03:57.480 --> 01:03:58.680

Evan Taylor: Oh no, not at all.

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01:03:59.430 --> 01:04:00.090

Aaron Devor: And certainly not as

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01:04:00.510 --> 01:04:01.950

Evan Taylor: Lucky turned into a journal article

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01:04:02.130 --> 01:04:08.820

Aaron Devor: Yeah, and and certainly not as successful book that is still in print and still use 31 years later.

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01:04:10.650 --> 01:04:13.890

Evan Taylor: It's still probably the only book really on that topic 31

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01:04:13.890 --> 01:04:14.490

Evan Taylor: Years later,

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01:04:15.000 --> 01:04:22.920

Aaron Devor: Yeah, it was. I, I know the field quite well now call it the first first book on non binary people

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01:04:24.060 --> 01:04:24.540

Aaron Devor: And

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01:04:25.710 --> 01:04:28.440

Aaron Devor: You know it's taken me a while to kind of get that perspective on it.

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01:04:28.680 --> 01:04:28.890

Evan Taylor: But

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01:04:28.980 --> 01:04:30.900

Aaron Devor: That's the perspective I have looking back

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01:04:33.000 --> 01:04:46.830

Aaron Devor: So I got to the end of finishing that and I got a contract with Indiana University Press, a very good publisher and of course you know University Press, not popular press and of course nobody told me that's crazy. That's never been to have

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01:04:49.530 --> 01:04:57.900

Aaron Devor: Dr. Jones on and it was successful and the book has been very successful. And then I turned around. I said, wait a minute.

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01:04:58.380 --> 01:05:09.210

Aaron Devor: I've just started to understand a little better how things work. I have to say, okay, I spent for us to send it to. But that's not unusual at this point four years on, on a master's in, you know, kind of social sciences, humanities, sort of area.

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01:05:10.650 --> 01:05:20.730

Aaron Devor: And I said, and I producing University Press book. I think I should get upgraded to a PhD. Let's have PhDs don't even get a university press book out of what they what they do.

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01:05:21.330 --> 01:05:24.420

Aaron Devor: I added one chapter of the book was one chapter more than thesis.

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01:05:24.420 --> 01:05:25.830

Aaron Devor: But only one chapter. It's like that.

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01:05:27.600 --> 01:05:32.340

Aaron Devor: And basically, I was told the internal politics of the department don't allow that to happen.

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01:05:34.080 --> 01:05:41.370

Aaron Devor: So I had to get a PhD, despite the fact that, as far as I was concerned, I had already written a dissertation and earned my credential.

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01:05:43.170 --> 01:05:43.800

Aaron Devor: So,

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01:05:45.600 --> 01:06:00.570

Aaron Devor: So this is actually a very long winded answer to have they get into the trans stuff at the time I didn't think again the blending is trans and I didn't think of it as non binary. I just thought of it as I'm answering this question about what's been happening to me all my life. Right.

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01:06:02.070 --> 01:06:10.140

Aaron Devor: But as part of my literature review for writing that book I read pretty much everything that he get my hands on about trans people.

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01:06:10.950 --> 01:06:18.930

Aaron Devor: At that time, trans people were transsexuals. And at that time, you could read just about everything that was out there because there wasn't very much out there.

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01:06:20.370 --> 01:06:23.910

Aaron Devor: Right, so I became very knowledgeable on that topic.

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01:06:25.620 --> 01:06:30.870

Evan Taylor: Well, it wasn't like, now we get 14 million hits on Google. It was like there might have been 14 books.

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01:06:31.380 --> 01:06:32.340

Aaron Devor: And there was no Google

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01:06:34.350 --> 01:06:38.490

Aaron Devor: Right, remember we're talking about that, that the at that early age.

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01:06:39.570 --> 01:06:46.140

Aaron Devor: Okay, so there was no Google, you had to go to a library and you had to look in a card catalog. You know, you know what those are.

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01:06:46.530 --> 01:06:47.370

Evan Taylor: I do I

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01:06:48.630 --> 01:06:49.530

Evan Taylor: I was brought up on

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01:06:50.640 --> 01:06:52.440

Aaron Devor: I wouldn't use it anymore. But I remember though.

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01:06:53.490 --> 01:07:10.620

Aaron Devor: Our library here actually has a small panel of a card catalog as a historical artifact in the front, front lobby lounge lobby when you come in and I often bring young people over and say, Do you know what this is. Have you ever seen when I explained to them what it is.

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01:07:11.670 --> 01:07:24.600

Evan Taylor: Strange in my, in my mind, I guess I still feel like they're all still there. I suppose I suppose the golden like from now on our archives. By now, but like, in my mind, I'm like, well, obviously there's a back room where they've kept the card catalogs like is

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01:07:26.730 --> 01:07:30.000

Aaron Devor: There is a back room where there are a few card catalogs, but not all.

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01:07:30.450 --> 01:07:32.700

Evan Taylor: But it's just like special archival collections and stop.

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01:07:32.700 --> 01:07:35.160

Evan Taylor: It's not like yeah, totally.

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01:07:35.760 --> 01:07:40.260

Aaron Devor: All right, so yes, you can read everything. Basically, you could read everything that that that was out there.

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01:07:40.680 --> 01:07:57.480

Aaron Devor: You know, I became knowledgeable quite knowledgeable about trans topics. And after I was told that. No, you can't have a PhD. I said, Okay, well, I'll go get one. And I'm going to do as fast and dirty PhD, as I possibly can because as far as I'm concerned, I shouldn't have to do this at all.

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01:07:57.750 --> 01:08:06.210

Aaron Devor: Right, I was living in Vancouver, I really didn't want to leave Vancouver. But at this point, I'm already thinking I'm going to be a professor

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01:08:06.750 --> 01:08:16.890

Aaron Devor: And everybody told me that if you want to work in British Columbia, if you want. At that point I want to work in Vancouver, in particular, you need to get your PhD somewhere.

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01:08:17.970 --> 01:08:26.220

Aaron Devor: So I went looking for. Where is the nearest most convenient place that I could get a PhD and get it done fast and combat fast.

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01:08:27.390 --> 01:08:31.980

Aaron Devor: So people directed me to pepper shorts and filled lose steam.

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01:08:33.060 --> 01:08:40.800

Aaron Devor: Of Washington, you know those names. Okay, Washington and their sociology department. I did not have a background in sociology.

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01:08:41.160 --> 01:08:41.580

Evan Taylor: Right.

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01:08:41.820 --> 01:08:51.750

Aaron Devor: So remember, I've got a master's degree and I sorry I've got a bachelor's degree in psychology and I'll tell you that I did more fine arts classes and I did psychology classes.

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01:08:52.920 --> 01:09:01.980

Aaron Devor: Then I have three years of the physics PhD as a physics BSC sorry and I have a master's in communications.

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01:09:02.490 --> 01:09:03.420

Evan Taylor: Indications okay

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01:09:03.570 --> 01:09:07.770

Aaron Devor: If the last time I took his nose theology course was first year at Hofstra

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01:09:09.210 --> 01:09:23.070

Aaron Devor: In 1968 69 that school year that's less sociology course, it took so here I am applying to get into a PhD program and sociology. Now it's 1986 right

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01:09:23.160 --> 01:09:23.490

Okay.

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01:09:25.920 --> 01:09:26.850

Aaron Devor: But they accepted me

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01:09:29.130 --> 01:09:33.900

Aaron Devor: When you know we talked. I told them what I was doing. I had said, I have a university press book that's coming out.

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01:09:35.100 --> 01:09:37.230

Aaron Devor: You know, they thought they'd give it, give it a go.

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01:09:37.800 --> 01:09:53.910

Aaron Devor: And I had. So I said, What do I want to do and why did people directly to them while they were doing sexuality work and they were close by, and they had a good reputation. I don't know if you know Phillip Lim Stevie's since deceased, but he was gay.

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01:09:55.290 --> 01:09:58.560

Aaron Devor: knepper is very sweet, but they were working together as a team.

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01:10:00.360 --> 01:10:13.560

Aaron Devor: And the topic that I said I wanted to do is, why did the first Research on Women who get mistaken from him. Now this is where I was thinking at the time. I think I should do the next one on women who wants to be mistaken from it.

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01:10:13.980 --> 01:10:23.970

Aaron Devor: Right, or who wants to be man they want to be taken as men. So I said, off to do to do again interviews with

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01:10:25.770 --> 01:10:28.020

Aaron Devor: Work. Now I call trans men.

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01:10:28.290 --> 01:10:35.730

Aaron Devor: Right. And they were all female to male transsexuals and with then called passing women.

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01:10:37.920 --> 01:10:39.930

Aaron Devor: As it so women who want to be

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01:10:41.190 --> 01:10:42.690

Aaron Devor: Want to live as men or women.

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01:10:43.470 --> 01:10:47.670

Evan Taylor: So we wouldn't make the transgender rest but might be the other way.

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01:10:49.560 --> 01:10:53.040

Aaron Devor: Yeah, I guess so. But that wasn't language that I knew about at the time.

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01:10:53.370 --> 01:10:57.450

Evan Taylor: And what their actual language about at the time, we're just, we're just passing women what people said that

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01:10:57.630 --> 01:11:03.540

Aaron Devor: Well, Virginia place was using that. But it was only a very small circle of people who know the term transgenders

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01:11:03.870 --> 01:11:07.230

Aaron Devor: Right, like friends really wasn't in circulation and

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01:11:07.980 --> 01:11:09.750

Evan Taylor: Just her little circle of folks.

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01:11:10.020 --> 01:11:10.440

Gotcha.

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01:11:13.770 --> 01:11:25.500

Aaron Devor: The passing limit thing did not pan out, and people just did not come forward to say, you know, I live as a manner. I like people to think it just didn't happen. So I ended up with

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01:11:26.820 --> 01:11:40.680

Aaron Devor: Female to Male transsexuals being topic. And then I had a fairly big conflict with my supervisory committee because I wanted to do this, you know, really big project.

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01:11:42.180 --> 01:11:45.720

Aaron Devor: And they said, You'll never finish. It's too big.

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01:11:46.770 --> 01:11:49.710

Aaron Devor: And I said, that's what I want to do. That's what I wanted.

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01:11:50.850 --> 01:12:01.860

Aaron Devor: And they and we you know we kind of butted heads over it and eventually they won. And so I really did something that was fast and dirty. I did a survey.

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01:12:03.720 --> 01:12:14.010

Aaron Devor: I never, I never published anything out of it. It just was to get the credential and I did it faster than anybody ever done a PhD at the University of Washington and just went

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01:12:16.050 --> 01:12:20.550

Aaron Devor: Through it, so I started there in the fall of 86

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01:12:22.440 --> 01:12:26.010

Aaron Devor: By the end of December 89 I was done.

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01:12:26.520 --> 01:12:27.900

Evan Taylor: Wow, that's very quick.

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01:12:28.410 --> 01:12:31.560

Aaron Devor: Very quick and I ran into a problem with their fee structure because

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01:12:31.860 --> 01:12:43.650

Aaron Devor: They had, you know, kind of resident in residence fees and away fees and I had already finished everything that I need to be a residence for it and and they still wanted to charge me because there was a minimum amount of time and nobody ever finished in less than

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01:12:45.660 --> 01:13:01.410

Aaron Devor: Just like bam. I'm getting out of here and I basically commuted back and forth between Seattle and Vancouver. So I had a room in somebody's house and I went down there for like during the week and drove back to Vancouver on the weekends, kind of thing.

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01:13:01.860 --> 01:13:05.850

Evan Taylor: And so this December reading on that you're finishing so you have met limb by this point.

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01:13:06.420 --> 01:13:08.190

Aaron Devor: Oh, meeting Lynn is a whole other story.

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01:13:08.490 --> 01:13:16.470

Evan Taylor: Okay, I remember you guys doing the math. Sounds like so you must have gotten together with an 89 so it must be while you were in school that you guys connected

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01:13:17.280 --> 01:13:24.840

Aaron Devor: Well, I mean, I still officially in school, but I wasn't NCAA I was only in Seattle for four quarters. Okay, so they are on a court.

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01:13:25.380 --> 01:13:37.290

Aaron Devor: Boy, I did you know three then it took the summer off and then in September quarter. And that's it. And then I went back to Uber to write my dissertation and do all the research and and I was finishing up the book at the same time, the first book.

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01:13:38.850 --> 01:13:46.920

Aaron Devor: So also simultaneously with this. I said, Well, okay, I'm gonna do this fast and dirty project for the PhD, but I am going to do that big project that I want to do.

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01:13:47.400 --> 01:13:51.810

Aaron Devor: And that big project that I want to do didn't fact take me 10 years to finish, they were right.

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01:13:53.400 --> 01:13:55.290

Evan Taylor: Committees tend to be right back. This is

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01:13:56.040 --> 01:13:56.460

Aaron Devor: Going on.

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01:13:57.900 --> 01:13:58.170

Aaron Devor: Right.

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01:13:59.610 --> 01:14:01.830

Aaron Devor: And that turned into my second book ESPN book.

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01:14:02.370 --> 01:14:17.910

Aaron Devor: Right, which was 720 pages, it was you know way too much for a dissertation. But I started that at the same time. So I was doing the PhD that I got the PhD, for I was doing the research for the big book.

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01:14:19.260 --> 01:14:29.850

Aaron Devor: I got hired at music before I had completed my dissertation. In fact, I got you. Vic before I'd even don't tell them this may have to embargoed for that reason.

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01:14:31.530 --> 01:14:34.710

Aaron Devor: They hired me before I even really started writing a dissertation.

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01:14:35.550 --> 01:14:37.830

Evan Taylor: So you were add but not

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01:14:38.340 --> 01:14:41.130

Evan Taylor: But, but it's even all but even the draft still

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01:14:42.450 --> 01:14:43.080

Aaron Devor: Basically

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01:14:44.190 --> 01:14:52.920

Aaron Devor: So they hired me like February, I think it was in March or something like that. I had only applied to two jobs you Vic and Carlton.

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01:14:53.460 --> 01:15:07.710

Aaron Devor: You can I was called in for interviews and both and even go to the interviewer Carlton know because I wanted to be in DC. They can be at Google. Okay, I would take Victoria. I was not excited about it at the beginning, but I'm really glad I'm here that that I took it.

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01:15:09.540 --> 01:15:12.030

Aaron Devor: But they hired me, I think, February, March, or something like that.

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01:15:13.650 --> 01:15:31.380

Aaron Devor: It's a very divided department. It has always been and sociology departments, you know, people study sociology because they find it fascinating because they can understand society and that being said, Sometimes their social ability along other people's little funny.

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01:15:32.640 --> 01:15:40.410

Aaron Devor: Very divided department, but they were unanimous in hiring me and it's probably the only thing they've ever been unanimous in in the history of the Department

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01:15:42.150 --> 01:15:45.060

Aaron Devor: And the reason for that was that I was

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01:15:46.560 --> 01:15:48.240

Aaron Devor: extremely good at statistics.

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01:15:50.010 --> 01:16:03.870

Aaron Devor: And the guy that taught statistics at the University of Washington was the guy that wrote what was then the Bible of statistics in the minds of all the people who are hiring me

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01:16:04.770 --> 01:16:09.690

Aaron Devor: Like he was the god of statistics for this particular cohort. This particular age group.

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01:16:10.470 --> 01:16:17.940

Aaron Devor: Sociologists and he wrote a letter saying that I was. And I don't remember. Now there's two or three standard deviations above

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01:16:18.480 --> 01:16:25.380

Aaron Devor: The norm first students that he had taught in his 35 years of teaching. It was white haired us at the end of his career.

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01:16:25.920 --> 01:16:39.840

Aaron Devor: And that, you know, I was absolutely one of the best students, he'd ever had in statistics in highly recommend. So the faction of the department that tended to be quantitatively oriented and socially more conservative

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01:16:40.200 --> 01:16:47.310

Aaron Devor: Rate every single one of them wants to talk to me about the letter from his name was Blaylock the letter from the guy from Layla, they were just like,

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01:16:48.780 --> 01:16:59.550

Aaron Devor: completely blinded by the bright light of this letter. And then there was the other faction, the department that tended towards quantitative and more progressive politics and they were excited because of who I was.

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01:16:59.940 --> 01:17:02.370

Aaron Devor: Reading so everybody agree.

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01:17:04.500 --> 01:17:08.160

Aaron Devor: For once and never again. Is everybody agreed on anything in this department.

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01:17:09.390 --> 01:17:10.200

Aaron Devor: And never before.

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01:17:12.090 --> 01:17:15.150

Aaron Devor: Half apartments very upset. Once they found out who they actually hired, but

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01:17:16.470 --> 01:17:20.400

Aaron Devor: Nonetheless, so they they gave offered me this job and I

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01:17:20.730 --> 01:17:26.190

Evan Taylor: Because of the yard. You know, you're, you're being a lesbian or a queer person has happened. They were upset about it.

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01:17:26.550 --> 01:17:31.380

Aaron Devor: And you know where I fell on the political debates and arguments.

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01:17:31.830 --> 01:17:33.000

Evan Taylor: Okay, okay. Yeah.

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01:17:33.720 --> 01:17:35.730

Aaron Devor: But both were factors for Catholic

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01:17:37.710 --> 01:17:41.280

Evan Taylor: Basically they did. They did. They got a leftist lesbian and that's not what they signed up for.

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01:17:42.300 --> 01:17:48.840

Aaron Devor: Yeah, they just somehow they managed to not see that because all they were blinded by this letter from this. It's all they can see

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01:17:50.130 --> 01:17:57.060

Aaron Devor: And then when the you know the bright lights dimmed, a little bit and they saw what they got. He was like, Oh my God, what we've done.

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01:17:57.360 --> 01:17:58.230

Right.

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01:17:59.730 --> 01:18:10.620

Aaron Devor: But nonetheless, so they hired me, you know, like, February, March, kind of thing. And I started in September and I had this deal which was available than it

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01:18:10.620 --> 01:18:12.180

Evan Taylor: Is at night, just to

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01:18:12.480 --> 01:18:12.990

Aaron Devor: Let you know

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01:18:13.440 --> 01:18:14.370

Evan Taylor: Okay, thank you.

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01:18:14.460 --> 01:18:15.360

Aaron Devor: If you

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01:18:16.530 --> 01:18:30.630

Aaron Devor: complete by the end of December will retroactively put you on the assistant professor track if you don't complete by then you spend your first year as an instructor and when you complete next year you'll go to assistant professor so

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01:18:32.370 --> 01:18:43.770

Aaron Devor: By December, but it was fast and dirty and committee was not that great, the Supervisory Committee at my PhD super was not that crazy about it and I don't blame them. It wasn't wasn't very good.

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01:18:45.180 --> 01:18:52.680

Aaron Devor: So I didn't actually get their approval till January or February or something like that, because they asked for some revisions. So the first year I was a lecture.

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01:18:53.490 --> 01:19:07.710

Aaron Devor: But you know, I had had the job and went on from there and you know my book, the book came out in 89. So the first book, The agenda blending book. And I think it was around October so so in that first

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01:19:08.160 --> 01:19:12.030

Aaron Devor: First few months that was finishing up my dissertation out that the book came out as well.

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01:19:13.980 --> 01:19:14.550

Aaron Devor: So,

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01:19:15.810 --> 01:19:16.980

Evan Taylor: That you're still producing

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01:19:17.340 --> 01:19:17.790

Aaron Devor: What's it

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01:19:18.090 --> 01:19:27.810

Evan Taylor: You're still producing the university wasn't what we do so because like he you've written a book like we get that you're on your way here. So we'll add an extra year to finish things up and then get back on the TT going

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01:19:29.040 --> 01:19:29.400

Evan Taylor: Gotcha.

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01:19:30.510 --> 01:19:32.550

Aaron Devor: Okay, where do you want to go from there. So,

675

01:19:33.090 --> 01:19:33.510

Evan Taylor: Here we are in

676

01:19:33.900 --> 01:19:34.560

89

677

01:19:35.850 --> 01:19:37.020

Evan Taylor: Here we are in 89

678

01:19:37.710 --> 01:19:46.230

Evan Taylor: I I'm interested in what happened in in the in the 90s like that that that next 10 years is what I understand. I know we've talked about a little bit. You and I

679

01:19:46.680 --> 01:19:54.120

Evan Taylor: But just to not sort of process of you realizing that your research interests with becoming more than that.

680

01:19:54.570 --> 01:20:03.240

Evan Taylor: And I think that's something that folks will find very, very interesting. I think that's very unique to you that really, we haven't heard that story and all the other interviews, we've done that's that's unique to you so

681

01:20:04.020 --> 01:20:07.140

Aaron Devor: Okay, I'm a little bit. I'll say about the 90s.

682

01:20:09.180 --> 01:20:14.040

Aaron Devor: I you asked about the department and what was going on there. There was

683

01:20:16.050 --> 01:20:19.500

Aaron Devor: There was some harassment that I believe had to do with my gender.

684

01:20:21.180 --> 01:20:34.500

Aaron Devor: And we never nailed down exactly who it was, but I have my very strong suspicions, which is based on a certain amount of evidence that it was one of the it was one of the senior female professors at the time.

685

01:20:34.920 --> 01:20:38.370

Evan Taylor: Like what kind. What kind of harassment like not directly to your face but late sort of

686

01:20:39.150 --> 01:20:49.290

Aaron Devor: So there were two two different the one I'm talking about was, I think, was really one person and then it was another episode of harassment that took place in in the 90s. A little later on.

687

01:20:52.050 --> 01:20:53.610

Aaron Devor: The department at the time.

688

01:20:54.780 --> 01:21:01.680

Aaron Devor: Had bulletin boards where they would post publications from the faculty

689

01:21:02.940 --> 01:21:07.020

Aaron Devor: And so I had some publications and they had words like lesbian and transsexual in

690

01:21:08.520 --> 01:21:13.740

Aaron Devor: In the titles. Right. And somebody would tear them down.

691

01:21:15.450 --> 01:21:16.980

Aaron Devor: And that happened a couple of times.

692

01:21:17.520 --> 01:21:29.040

Aaron Devor: So the department when they first put them up. They just put up with sometimes. So then they came back and they stapled to the bulletin board. And somebody came and pull torn down.

693

01:21:30.060 --> 01:21:39.600

Aaron Devor: Or maybe shredded them. I can't remember which happened exactly what so then they said, then they tried gluing them to the bulletin boards.

694

01:21:41.820 --> 01:21:43.980

Aaron Devor: And somebody came leaded them.

695

01:21:45.390 --> 01:21:47.610

Evan Taylor: This is not the solution to the issue.

696

01:21:49.590 --> 01:21:50.520

And only mine.

697

01:21:53.070 --> 01:22:03.330

Aaron Devor: And then, and you know we got the campus police involved and, you know, there's a whole story that goes off in that direction and and then

698

01:22:04.890 --> 01:22:08.790

Aaron Devor: The solution which is the solution to this day is they had to install

699

01:22:09.840 --> 01:22:12.870

Aaron Devor: glass front fronted locking cabinets.

700

01:22:13.110 --> 01:22:13.590

Evan Taylor: Right.

701

01:22:14.190 --> 01:22:16.200

Aaron Devor: Put up for our publications, so that they can

702

01:22:16.200 --> 01:22:18.390

Evan Taylor: I think I can. I can picture of them actually

703

01:22:18.600 --> 01:22:24.150

Aaron Devor: Yes. Yeah, so right now they have books in but you know then and at that time.

704

01:22:24.780 --> 01:22:27.480

Evan Taylor: The very end of the hall kind of sort of at the end.

705

01:22:29.160 --> 01:22:31.950

Aaron Devor: Right next to the main office. Yeah.

706

01:22:31.980 --> 01:22:35.370

Evan Taylor: Yeah, right. Yeah, that's what I'm picturing yes yes and

707

01:22:35.820 --> 01:22:42.090

Aaron Devor: At that time, they were they were more papers because I think at that time, I might have been the only person had any books published in the department.

708

01:22:42.600 --> 01:22:42.960

Right.

709

01:22:44.700 --> 01:22:51.000

Aaron Devor: If not, then they were a couple of others, but there was not a whole display case, full of books published in the department at that time.

710

01:22:52.110 --> 01:23:00.450

Aaron Devor: Anyway, so that was harassment, number one, which I am convinced had to do with the fact that I was a gender non conforming lesbian

711

01:23:01.800 --> 01:23:10.140

Aaron Devor: And I was publishing about gender non conforming people and that there was somebody who just found they could not stomach that

712

01:23:10.620 --> 01:23:11.040

Right.

713

01:23:12.390 --> 01:23:20.520

Aaron Devor: Now, as they say, I have my very strong suspicions. Excuse me about who would actually was, but it was never they were never caught in the act.

714

01:23:20.580 --> 01:23:23.310

Aaron Devor: It was never even we did see

715

01:23:24.600 --> 01:23:28.530

Aaron Devor: Evidence of nail polish on the ones that got traded

716

01:23:32.400 --> 01:23:34.410

Evan Taylor: Through a shredder. They were actually shredded

717

01:23:34.470 --> 01:23:36.000

Aaron Devor: Though that we didn't have shredders then

718

01:23:37.350 --> 01:23:41.160

Aaron Devor: They were like this flying it off of the wall.

719

01:23:43.530 --> 01:23:48.960

Evan Taylor: The emotional issue here so painfully apparent.

720

01:23:49.290 --> 01:24:05.520

Aaron Devor: Yeah. And, and so there's only really one person in a department that wear nail polish. Now, it could have been someone who walks through the hallways and was not actually a department person, but the person who wore Nail, nail polish their office door opened onto this bulletin board.

721

01:24:07.830 --> 01:24:18.270

Aaron Devor: Yeah. So what I think was going on, it is they were coming out. They were a feminine woman. And the first thing they saw every day when they walked out of their office was lesbian transsexual

722

01:24:18.450 --> 01:24:20.640

Aaron Devor: And it's just throw them mad.

723

01:24:22.050 --> 01:24:23.490

Evan Taylor: Your agenda traitor.

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01:24:24.510 --> 01:24:25.710

Aaron Devor: That's what I think was going on.

725

01:24:25.950 --> 01:24:26.400

Evan Taylor: But I don't have

726

01:24:26.760 --> 01:24:28.110

Aaron Devor: I just have the evidence, I don't have

727

01:24:29.400 --> 01:24:29.670

Evan Taylor: Any

728

01:24:30.420 --> 01:24:36.060

Evan Taylor: Only there's only so many people in the department like power deduction. You know, you're, you're smart person they hired you for a reason.

729

01:24:38.070 --> 01:24:38.700

Aaron Devor: So,

730

01:24:39.690 --> 01:24:44.850

Aaron Devor: The other harassment that I also think was very much related to my gender.

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01:24:47.010 --> 01:24:54.450

Aaron Devor: Happened when I went in. Well, I also think was related, not just to my gender, but also to being Jewish and so I'll come back to that.

732

01:24:57.660 --> 01:25:01.590

Aaron Devor: Came when I applied to go for full professor

733

01:25:02.160 --> 01:25:02.520

Okay.

734

01:25:04.230 --> 01:25:08.100

Aaron Devor: And at that point, my second book.

735

01:25:09.270 --> 01:25:12.180

Aaron Devor: Had come out or was just about to come out. I think it was impressed.

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01:25:13.980 --> 01:25:29.460

Aaron Devor: And as you recall, that's 720 pages. It was also in Indiana University Press. So peer reviewed to Peer Review Press University Press books. One of them huge one of them no slim but not outrageously slim.

737

01:25:32.250 --> 01:25:35.850

Aaron Devor: And nobody else in the department had two books at that point.

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01:25:36.990 --> 01:25:38.670

Aaron Devor: To, you know, peer reviewed English and

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01:25:38.670 --> 01:25:39.240

Pressures

740

01:25:40.590 --> 01:25:50.490

Aaron Devor: Yet there was a faction in the department that went out of their way and made it their business to try and prevent me from the promotion.

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01:25:53.430 --> 01:26:00.390

Aaron Devor: The Jewish part is there was an attitude that I was

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01:26:02.040 --> 01:26:02.580

Aaron Devor: pushy.

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01:26:04.080 --> 01:26:05.160

Aaron Devor: And

744

01:26:06.210 --> 01:26:07.710

Aaron Devor: Thought too much of myself.

745

01:26:09.090 --> 01:26:14.520

Aaron Devor: Clicks but you know the word Klitschko yeah they were reacting to what they perceive this klitzman

746

01:26:16.470 --> 01:26:21.210

Evan Taylor: Which, of course, I've never met any Professor ever who has even like the slightest amount of hubris like

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01:26:21.240 --> 01:26:22.680

Evan Taylor: At all. I don't know why the

748

01:26:23.850 --> 01:26:25.320

Aaron Devor: Universe is not the same as looks good.

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01:26:25.890 --> 01:26:26.190

Aaron Devor: All right.

750

01:26:26.790 --> 01:26:27.300

Evan Taylor: A little bit more of

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01:26:29.400 --> 01:26:31.800

Evan Taylor: A jovial self involvement in

752

01:26:33.390 --> 01:26:36.570

Aaron Devor: Nerve you have the nerve to would be the best

753

01:26:38.220 --> 01:26:44.490

Aaron Devor: Translation, whereas Hubris is about thinking you're one of the gods. That's a different layer again. Okay.

754

01:26:44.820 --> 01:26:46.530

Aaron Devor: Especially as you can. You got a lot of nerve.

755

01:26:46.680 --> 01:26:47.790

Evan Taylor: Okay, that would be

756

01:26:49.500 --> 01:26:55.320

Aaron Devor: And, you know, they thought I had a lot of nerve to be going up for promotion so soon.

757

01:26:56.640 --> 01:27:02.580

Aaron Devor: So I came in at nine. I'm applying for promote any night. Remember I wasn't even an assistant professor. Yeah.

758

01:27:02.940 --> 01:27:07.470

Aaron Devor: Right. And I'm going for promotional full professor in 96

759

01:27:09.750 --> 01:27:12.720

Evan Taylor: That's seven. It's not like average like seven years. It seems about what

760

01:27:13.200 --> 01:27:15.990

Aaron Devor: Seven years is about when you go for an associate professor

761

01:27:17.250 --> 01:27:20.460

Evan Taylor: Right. Oh, this is for full professor. Okay gotcha, gotcha.

762

01:27:21.060 --> 01:27:22.920

Aaron Devor: I had already gotten associate professors

763

01:27:23.220 --> 01:27:23.760

Evan Taylor: Okay.

764

01:27:24.360 --> 01:27:25.110

And so

765

01:27:26.490 --> 01:27:30.210

Aaron Devor: I don't know, nine 493 94 or something like that.

766

01:27:30.270 --> 01:27:30.600

Okay.

767

01:27:31.620 --> 01:27:32.940

Aaron Devor: So I'm I see the it's online.

768

01:27:34.500 --> 01:27:41.100

Evan Taylor: We can look up those exact so so you've already got the associate. So this is the for the full professor in 1996 so seven years after you've joined

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01:27:41.790 --> 01:27:45.450

Evan Taylor: Yes, but really only six years. But as as a as a

770

01:27:45.630 --> 01:27:46.590

Aaron Devor: Teaching, Practice.

771

01:27:46.860 --> 01:27:47.580

Evan Taylor: Right, okay.

772

01:27:49.260 --> 01:27:49.470

Aaron Devor: Okay.

773

01:27:49.500 --> 01:27:50.100

Aaron Devor: Got it. So,

774

01:27:50.400 --> 01:28:07.620

Aaron Devor: So people resented that and I don't think anybody would have told you that it was any way connected to me being Jewish and I don't think it was in anybody's mind that it was connected to me being Jewish. The reason I'm connecting it to Jewish is that I have

775

01:28:09.900 --> 01:28:18.660

Aaron Devor: Come out of a culture that it is the norm to be ambitious, it is the norm to be intellectual

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01:28:20.070 --> 01:28:25.200

Aaron Devor: It is the norm to make your own case because nobody else will.

777

01:28:25.860 --> 01:28:33.390

Aaron Devor: Right and to the to a department, full of people who come from an Anglo Saxon kind of approach.

778

01:28:34.500 --> 01:28:41.610

Aaron Devor: That was considered really yeah this was for taking English you got a lot of nerve. Who do you think you are.

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01:28:42.810 --> 01:28:47.460

Aaron Devor: Now you combine that with I'm completely gender non conforming

780

01:28:49.200 --> 01:28:52.980

Aaron Devor: Or in another way to put it up a real butch dyke.

781

01:28:53.310 --> 01:29:06.450

Aaron Devor: Mm hmm, which pushes a lot of people's buttons and also causes people again not consciously, but to come to the place of, you know, people like you were supposed to stay quiet and be thankful that you've got a job at all.

782

01:29:06.810 --> 01:29:13.380

Aaron Devor: Mm hmm. With the hell do you think you are that you can leapfrog over us and and have such success so quickly.

783

01:29:14.100 --> 01:29:15.480

Evan Taylor: Yes, yeah.

784

01:29:15.990 --> 01:29:25.050

Aaron Devor: So it pushed a lot of people's buttons. I don't think any of them could have consciously articulated that that's what was bothering them about it, but they were bothered.

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01:29:25.710 --> 01:29:35.760

Aaron Devor: You know, a little group of them went so far as to get their knuckles wrapped by the dean for breaking protocol.

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01:29:37.350 --> 01:29:42.690

Aaron Devor: So protocol that they got their knuckles wrapped for was

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01:29:44.100 --> 01:30:03.270

Aaron Devor: They were members of a committee that was evaluating my case, but they were not the chair of the committee, they were not the chair of the department. They were not the dean and they wrote on their own to Indiana University Press to inquire about whether my book really was impressed.

788

01:30:04.920 --> 01:30:05.550

Evan Taylor: Oh,

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01:30:05.610 --> 01:30:08.070

Aaron Devor: Because they didn't believe me saying of was

790

01:30:10.800 --> 01:30:24.390

Evan Taylor: I mean, I didn't have itself is it's like you're basically accusing of complete academic misconduct, you know, being of itself, like if you're accusing me of that be writing a letter to Indiana University is really not the way to go about it.

791

01:30:24.720 --> 01:30:27.840

Aaron Devor: Well and and just writing that letter besmirches my name.

792

01:30:28.200 --> 01:30:32.490

Evan Taylor: Yeah, no. Kevin publisher that's published both of your box.

793

01:30:32.700 --> 01:30:36.450

Aaron Devor: Yeah. And so it was. And it's complete breach of protocol.

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01:30:36.660 --> 01:30:38.100

Aaron Devor: It's not there like to do that.

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01:30:38.310 --> 01:30:44.520

Aaron Devor: And and so that's one example of how hard they were trying to block my case.

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01:30:46.080 --> 01:30:53.760

Aaron Devor: Actually, I think the other thing I'll say in terms of harassment is there was one person in the department who voted against my promotion to associate professor also

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01:30:54.510 --> 01:30:58.680

Aaron Devor: And I wrote to him afterwards. And I asked him, why did you vote against me.

798

01:30:59.160 --> 01:31:09.210

Aaron Devor: And he told me why he voted against me. It was completely illegitimate. I don't remember. Now what it was, but it was sufficiently illegitimate that I went to the dean when it was time for me to go from my promotion case to fall.

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01:31:09.510 --> 01:31:13.260

Aaron Devor: And I said this guy cannot be allowed to sit on the Committee, because this is what he said last time.

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01:31:13.740 --> 01:31:18.660

Aaron Devor: And the team supported that Dean actually told him. You can't be on the committee, you're biased. Right.

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01:31:18.750 --> 01:31:21.060

Aaron Devor: So that was the Associate Professor so he was already off.

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01:31:21.240 --> 01:31:28.200

Aaron Devor: But here's three or four more of them who band together to do all of this and other example of, you know, the kind of

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01:31:28.980 --> 01:31:45.630

Aaron Devor: They really didn't want me to get ahead and I attributed to my gender. In my culture that you know they just were so offended at me, having the gall to think that I could succeed being who I was, you know, like, How dare you.

804

01:31:46.830 --> 01:31:56.610

Aaron Devor: The other thing they did was one of the parts of the procedure that we used at the time. I think it's pretty similar today is they send letters off to your referees.

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01:31:57.540 --> 01:32:06.360

Aaron Devor: Asking them to evaluate you. And the criteria hasn't changed much and criteria was that you had a national or international reputation for your research.

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01:32:07.020 --> 01:32:23.040

Aaron Devor: So I gave them some very big names, including one fellow who was the senior sexologist in what was then the USSR and was a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences figured that shows for international reputation right there.

807

01:32:24.630 --> 01:32:40.200

Aaron Devor: So they wrote them a letter and he wasn't the only big shot gave them. They wrote him a letter and in the letter standard language was if this person was applying for promotion that your university or your institution, would they qualify him, would you support that promotion.

808

01:32:41.970 --> 01:32:52.860

Aaron Devor: So Igor writes back can quote you, exactly. It's in the files, something to the effect of, no. I wouldn't support that at my institution because nobody gets paid here.

809

01:32:54.690 --> 01:32:58.980

Aaron Devor: And they did. My name is Holly and Holly deserves to get paid really well.

810

01:33:02.250 --> 01:33:04.770

Evan Taylor: Igor thinking about this verse. Just gonna get twisted

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01:33:05.370 --> 01:33:12.480

Aaron Devor: Well, and they did and they ran you know, into the community and said look, ego or wouldn't support this promotion.

812

01:33:15.060 --> 01:33:16.620

Aaron Devor: I mean, grasping at straws.

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01:33:17.940 --> 01:33:22.140

Aaron Devor: grasping at straws. Nonetheless, I got the promotion.

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01:33:23.310 --> 01:33:23.850

Aaron Devor: And

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01:33:24.870 --> 01:33:34.380

Aaron Devor: Almost immediately after that I was offered and accepted six months position is Acting Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

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01:33:35.430 --> 01:33:42.660

Aaron Devor: Which I felt really good about because that was the highest position any anyone in my department have ever had any any university structure. So I thought,

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01:33:45.360 --> 01:33:47.940

Aaron Devor: Well, if you guys, you may not appreciate me but other people

818

01:33:49.560 --> 01:33:51.870

Evan Taylor: Just in case anyone was noticing.

819

01:33:52.560 --> 01:34:09.900

Aaron Devor: So that was the start of my entering into administration. So, so I you know I'm doing this research. I continued after, you know, starting as assistant professor on this book that was continuing to research in the field of, you know, as researching

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01:34:11.340 --> 01:34:13.230

Aaron Devor: Trans men, as we say now.

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01:34:14.580 --> 01:34:21.180

Aaron Devor: There was, there were no, there was one book on the topic or transmit at the time that I started this research.

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01:34:21.990 --> 01:34:26.340

Aaron Devor: That was a book by Leslie last name. I don't know if you've ever seen it. It was very negative

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01:34:26.880 --> 01:34:34.620

Aaron Devor: It was from a cycle analytic perspective that basically said this is, these, this is a delusion and we shouldn't support it, it was, it was heated

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01:34:35.100 --> 01:34:43.110

Aaron Devor: There were articles, not a time there was very little attention given to transmit when I was doing the research, writing this book.

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01:34:43.890 --> 01:34:52.740

Aaron Devor: The guys that I talked to were really thrilled that someone wanted to listen to them because the other thing that was very rare at that time was trans people having a voice.

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01:34:53.340 --> 01:35:01.800

Aaron Devor: So everything that was written at that time, pretty much. I mean, there were a few autobiographies and not even very many of those

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01:35:02.550 --> 01:35:24.060

Aaron Devor: But anything that was written that was professional literature it all was written by cis gender people from a clinical perspective, the people that they were writing about were people who attended clinics, who told the gatekeepers what the gatekeepers needed to hear and was very

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01:35:27.480 --> 01:35:43.080

Aaron Devor: one sided, shall we say, it was a small slice, so the guys, I was talking to, you know, I was not a gatekeeper and similarly to what I told you about the gender blending book. It was not all that unusual for people to say to me.

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01:35:44.130 --> 01:35:54.360

Aaron Devor: I would never tell this to the people at the clinic. It was a little more unusual, but also happen. Certainly a few times, people said to me, I would not tell this to the other transcripts.

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01:35:56.040 --> 01:35:56.730

Aaron Devor: So,

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01:35:57.780 --> 01:36:00.330

Aaron Devor: The things that I was learning

832

01:36:02.820 --> 01:36:06.450

Aaron Devor: If nobody else was doing this.

833

01:36:07.470 --> 01:36:10.080

Aaron Devor: And there was nothing else published

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01:36:11.130 --> 01:36:18.720

Aaron Devor: In professional literature in anything other than auto biography and little newsletters.

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01:36:19.140 --> 01:36:20.850

Aaron Devor: Because remember, we didn't have the internet yet.

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01:36:22.200 --> 01:36:34.410

Aaron Devor: Right. The internet really didn't take off until the latter half of the 90s. It was just starting to take off writing my book was published in 97 I'm doing the research, starting in 87 or so.

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01:36:37.020 --> 01:36:50.070

Aaron Devor: So the guys were like really happy to talk to someone who was not a gatekeeper who was going to put their words out there and if you looked at the book you'll know that probably a third of his quotes from from the guys themselves.

838

01:36:50.700 --> 01:36:58.530

Aaron Devor: So lots of lots of their words and I'm not a great gatekeeper. I wasn't. Then I was not

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01:36:59.670 --> 01:37:11.730

Aaron Devor: In any power to change their lives in terms of whether they got what they wanted or not. And I wasn't coming at it from a clinical perspective right sociologist who wants to hear their story and tell their story.

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01:37:12.240 --> 01:37:12.810

Aaron Devor: Yeah, so

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01:37:13.890 --> 01:37:14.850

Aaron Devor: And and to understand

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01:37:14.970 --> 01:37:28.500

Aaron Devor: Yeah. And so I was very welcomed into the community. There were a few key individuals who were out Jason Cromwell Rupert Raj Jamison green was just getting started.

843

01:37:29.910 --> 01:37:37.890

Aaron Devor: You know, and they had connections and they introduced me to people and recommended that people talk to me. So I also got two people who work like closet.

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01:37:39.690 --> 01:37:53.880

Aaron Devor: So I started with the people who were out and they open doors for me because they knew people who were not out and who would not have talked to me and less without the recommendation of the people that were out who they looked up to

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01:37:54.810 --> 01:37:55.170

Right.

846

01:37:56.370 --> 01:37:59.040

Aaron Devor: So it was, you know, it's quite exceptional in that regard.

847

01:38:01.050 --> 01:38:05.910

Aaron Devor: So once again, you know, here I am thing I'm good research something that nobody else has researched.

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01:38:07.530 --> 01:38:09.270

Aaron Devor: And because it wasn't out there.

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01:38:09.720 --> 01:38:12.540

Evan Taylor: So let me guys, do you think you talked to roughly

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01:38:14.100 --> 01:38:18.240

Aaron Devor: I talked to 54 one of them declined to have his information so

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01:38:20.010 --> 01:38:21.510

Aaron Devor: I'm pretty sure I've got those. No, no, no.

852

01:38:22.980 --> 01:38:26.010

Aaron Devor: It was 45 books over there. I can go back

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01:38:27.180 --> 01:38:33.960

Aaron Devor: Again, it was unprecedented numbers, right, sorry, I don't remember exactly what we were looking at, you know, 20 something years ago.

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01:38:34.320 --> 01:38:36.150

Evan Taylor: Look it up. Look it up and slice it in later.

855

01:38:36.360 --> 01:38:39.270

Aaron Devor: Yeah, it's, you know, the books on the shelf. It's in there. How many

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01:38:39.420 --> 01:38:40.560

Evan Taylor: Of you guys in any way.

857

01:38:40.890 --> 01:38:42.300

Aaron Devor: You want. You want me to take a look

858

01:38:42.660 --> 01:38:43.620

Evan Taylor: Now, look it up. It's like

859

01:38:45.900 --> 01:38:49.080

Evan Taylor: A few Devon Fox, like it was a good. It wasn't like, was it good.

860

01:38:49.290 --> 01:38:51.660

Aaron Devor: Was it was somewhere in the vicinity of four dozen

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01:38:52.170 --> 01:38:52.620

Aaron Devor: Wow, so

862

01:38:53.040 --> 01:38:59.490

Aaron Devor: That again in that time to talk to that many trans men was that was a really big number.

863

01:38:59.940 --> 01:39:01.200

Aaron Devor: Yeah, absolutely.

864

01:39:01.620 --> 01:39:15.780

Aaron Devor: If you look, it was being published then from the clinics. You know, it was a half a dozen maybe a dozen. And again, it was a very stilted view of who trans men were and what they would tell in those in that content.

865

01:39:17.730 --> 01:39:22.530

Evan Taylor: So as you move through. I'm thinking we're now sort of in the late 90s.

866

01:39:24.060 --> 01:39:24.660

Aaron Devor: Yeah yeah

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01:39:24.720 --> 01:39:37.620

Evan Taylor: My time. This is published. So in those late 90s when we've talked. We've talked about your sort of your transition. This has happened in 2000. So what was those first 97 to 2000 what's happening, those, those few years.

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01:39:37.860 --> 01:39:45.120

Aaron Devor: So the Preface not yeah the preface the introduction to the MDM book.

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01:39:46.290 --> 01:39:47.130

Aaron Devor: Says,

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01:39:50.340 --> 01:40:08.760

Aaron Devor: The first edition, Second Edition. Okay, so the first edition says, people ask me all the time. Mia trans or am I married to someone trans. Why am I writing this book now at this time, I think I had the foresight to say at this time. Like, I am not trans and I'm not married to anyone trans

871

01:40:10.650 --> 01:40:15.870

Aaron Devor: Second edition has a new introduction that says what happened in the intro

872

01:40:17.910 --> 01:40:26.280

Aaron Devor: So I learned you know a lot I hung out in the trans community. You know, I went to conferences, when they started to happen in start happening till the 90s.

873

01:40:28.800 --> 01:40:42.240

Aaron Devor: I went to gatherings. I got involved in the if G or no those letters by now. I think the International Foundation for gender education and I think it was 1993 that was a relatively new organization.

874

01:40:43.470 --> 01:40:52.920

Aaron Devor: They asked me to serve on their board because they wanted to reach into the trans masculine community and they didn't know anybody to reach to so they reached me

875

01:40:53.670 --> 01:41:06.570

Aaron Devor: Right, and so I was a transition. And I think it was Jamison and Jason Jamison green and Jason Cranwell who joined the board after me and they actually had trans guys on board.

876

01:41:07.980 --> 01:41:08.670

Aaron Devor: But I had

877

01:41:09.390 --> 01:41:11.280

Evan Taylor: The expert in the area at that time.

878

01:41:12.840 --> 01:41:19.410

Aaron Devor: So I you know I had strong connections into the sort of broad trans community because that was the trans feminine community.

879

01:41:19.800 --> 01:41:24.750

Aaron Devor: And I knew all these trans guys, and I will go to events. And sometimes, you know,

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01:41:24.960 --> 01:41:34.980

Aaron Devor: I would be allowed into the trans men only stuff because I was trusted by everybody in that was okay. You know, like show and tells you things like that.

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01:41:36.750 --> 01:41:39.450

Aaron Devor: But I did not identify as trans

882

01:41:41.130 --> 01:41:48.570

Aaron Devor: The guys when I announced my transition, lots of people said to me, well, we knew you were. We were just waiting for you to figure it out.

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01:41:50.760 --> 01:41:58.980

Aaron Devor: They accepted me into the crowd and gave me special access and all that kind of thing. But I didn't identify as

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01:41:59.100 --> 01:42:01.020

Evan Taylor: Well, let me wait until you figure it out.

885

01:42:02.850 --> 01:42:14.520

Aaron Devor: So, so I had, you know, a very intimate and deep and extensive knowledge of the community. And I was as much as an expert on trans men as anybody was

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01:42:18.750 --> 01:42:27.150

Aaron Devor: And I was exploring and, you know, was it in my mind that I was trans. Not until after the book was published.

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01:42:27.690 --> 01:42:31.380

Aaron Devor: Did it ever occur to me to think about it before the book was published.

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01:42:32.490 --> 01:42:47.250

Aaron Devor: It would pop up. Occasionally, in my mind, and I pushed it away and did not dwell on it and did not think about it very much. So, you know, in terms of my own personal trajectory. You know, there's kind of a

889

01:42:48.930 --> 01:42:57.690

Aaron Devor: Standard story that you're supposed to follow and you know lots of people don't. And I certainly did not

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01:42:58.260 --> 01:43:08.850

Aaron Devor: Go through my whole life feeling like I was a man trapped in a woman's body or that I really was a man or really should be a man or any of those things.

891

01:43:09.270 --> 01:43:23.730

Aaron Devor: What I went through my whole life experiencing is that I was very masculine and that my interest in my proclivities and the way I moved in the way I dressed communicated

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01:43:25.740 --> 01:43:26.880

Aaron Devor: Will come back to communicate it

893

01:43:27.990 --> 01:43:36.750

Aaron Devor: Was more congruent with what landed right that my interest. My feelings. My approach to life. I was just

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01:43:38.460 --> 01:43:40.560

Aaron Devor: left to my own devices. I was like a man.

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01:43:41.400 --> 01:43:41.790

Evan Taylor: Right.

896

01:43:41.910 --> 01:43:46.950

Aaron Devor: And so that's what the why I studied and what I learned from doing gender blending

897

01:43:47.070 --> 01:44:06.930

Aaron Devor: First thing is, what was it that was making that happen. And what could I do to communicate to people more effectively, that I was female with and still be true to who I was and so that bought me a whole lot more years during which I could continue to live as a woman.

898

01:44:08.670 --> 01:44:26.670

Aaron Devor: And manage this thing. But over the years I became less and less willing to do those little things that I knew would communicate to people that I was female and the consistency with which people saw me took me read me understood me to be a man increased increased increased

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01:44:27.720 --> 01:44:30.780

Aaron Devor: And increased to the point where

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01:44:32.430 --> 01:44:33.660

Aaron Devor: The people who knew me

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01:44:35.100 --> 01:44:42.150

Aaron Devor: They had in their minds is special category that said, well, I know everything about you screams man, but I know you're a woman.

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01:44:44.280 --> 01:44:45.720

Aaron Devor: And the people who didn't know me.

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01:44:46.980 --> 01:44:53.250

Aaron Devor: First is concerned, I was a man. And if I wanted to make a big effort to convince them that I wasn't, I could do that.

904

01:44:54.960 --> 01:45:03.180

Aaron Devor: Often my voice would be enough to do that because my voice, of course, is different than it is now, but not even that didn't even always do the trick. Right.

905

01:45:05.130 --> 01:45:24.120

Aaron Devor: And so over time it became untenable to try and continue to carve out space to try and convince the world that I was really a woman because if I didn't put a lot of effort into it.

906

01:45:25.890 --> 01:45:26.430

Aaron Devor: I was a man

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01:45:28.140 --> 01:45:40.740

Aaron Devor: I had to really work at getting across to people who didn't already know and have didn't have hadn't already created a little box in their mind and said, Okay, well we can fit this person who's calling Holly into this eight

908

01:45:42.090 --> 01:45:45.180

Aaron Devor: Other than that, I just really had to work hard to to

909

01:45:46.200 --> 01:45:53.280

Aaron Devor: go walk through the world. And it's very difficult to function in the world when everybody thinks you are a man, but you're not

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01:45:55.080 --> 01:46:03.690

Aaron Devor: And very difficult to function in the world where a whole lot of people think you're this special category woman and a whole lot of other people think you're a man, right.

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01:46:06.060 --> 01:46:10.950

Aaron Devor: And I knew everything there was to know about being trans that you could know without being actually being trans

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01:46:12.630 --> 01:46:17.340

Evan Taylor: And at some point that effort becomes just, you know, I don't know. I don't know.

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01:46:17.700 --> 01:46:26.040

Evan Taylor: If it's if it's a chore, and in your sense just an understanding it and like learning more about it till the point you knew everything about it except for. Wait a minute.

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01:46:26.250 --> 01:46:32.670

Evan Taylor: I don't feel that way. Or maybe I do. And I've been pushing it away and then at some point, just give up that effort to try and convince people right

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01:46:36.480 --> 01:46:47.100

Aaron Devor: I knew what it meant to be trans. I knew what was involved in making transition better than, like I say, anybody who hadn't actually gone through the transition

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01:46:49.050 --> 01:46:58.950

Aaron Devor: I had, I felt push the limits of what you could have masculine, you could be and still be a woman as far as they could be pushed

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01:47:00.330 --> 01:47:08.010

Aaron Devor: I had managed to make a very successful life for myself I was internationally renowned scholar, I was

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01:47:08.430 --> 01:47:11.580

Aaron Devor: Well, established in my community. I had

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01:47:11.640 --> 01:47:16.770

Aaron Devor: That point for instance is just as an example I had been the president of the synagogue.

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01:47:17.340 --> 01:47:19.140

Aaron Devor: My you know so i mean

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01:47:19.230 --> 01:47:37.380

Aaron Devor: People I had success. I was dean of Graduate Studies. By the time I transitioned. I had been associate dean and social sciences, you know, I was a full professor ready for years. I mean I had lots of success. Yet every day was a huge emotional struggle.

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01:47:38.580 --> 01:47:42.720

Aaron Devor: With managing the emotions of the people around me.

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01:47:44.610 --> 01:47:53.610

Aaron Devor: Okay, because people needed to be managed. If I was going to continue to be successful. I told you about some of the backlash. I had over the years.

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01:47:53.700 --> 01:48:02.700

Aaron Devor: Against you know who the hell do you think you are being a person like that and expecting to have that much respect him that much success.

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01:48:03.180 --> 01:48:12.060

Aaron Devor: Rate. And so I had to develop the skills to be have my antenna up all the time and be highly sensitive

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01:48:12.660 --> 01:48:22.140

Aaron Devor: To how people are responding reacting is this one think I'm a woman that one thinks I'm a man, this one is going to be offended by what they think I am. This one is okay with it.

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01:48:23.100 --> 01:48:30.720

Aaron Devor: When am I gonna, you know, take this one is okay and step over the line and they will now be freaked out or offended or won't talk to me.

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01:48:32.040 --> 01:48:35.430

Aaron Devor: You know, there was just a huge amount of managing

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01:48:36.120 --> 01:48:53.550

Aaron Devor: Not just the people that I knew, but just walking down the street going about my everyday life. I'm like, all the time watching worrying careful. What am I going to wear today and how are they going to read me and it just took a just the toll, it was taking on my

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01:48:55.560 --> 01:49:08.220

Aaron Devor: Emotion, emotional, psychological energy to manage everybody around me well enough that I can continue to have a successful life, right, was it was debilitating.

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01:49:09.390 --> 01:49:17.580

Aaron Devor: It was just enormous. And finally, I decided to stop fighting. And I just said.

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01:49:18.600 --> 01:49:20.460

Aaron Devor: Well, I'll just be a man.

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01:49:22.920 --> 01:49:24.570

Aaron Devor: I don't know if it's going to be perfect fit.

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01:49:25.590 --> 01:49:26.190

Aaron Devor: But

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01:49:27.660 --> 01:49:31.020

Aaron Devor: I suspected at that point it would be a better fit than what I was doing.

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01:49:32.040 --> 01:49:35.040

Evan Taylor: Might not be perfect, but it was the you know the lesser of two evils at that point.

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01:49:35.670 --> 01:49:50.700

Aaron Devor: Well, and I didn't know how it worked out for me. I knew all the stories about people would lost their family had lost their jobs, had been, you know, shunned and and their transition didn't go well. And they had physical problems and and

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01:49:52.020 --> 01:49:59.760

Aaron Devor: You know that that I knew a lot of stories about transitions that were took a huge toll.

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01:50:00.270 --> 01:50:02.190

Evan Taylor: Probably better than me. When you do those stories.

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01:50:02.250 --> 01:50:03.270

Aaron Devor: Yeah, exactly.

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01:50:03.630 --> 01:50:10.740

Aaron Devor: Exactly. I know some people that have done reasonably well. I definitely i don't know if i do anybody who would say everything went right

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01:50:11.250 --> 01:50:22.200

Aaron Devor: Right, right. Today there's more people who can say that, but you know my transition, the actual data of the transition is I chose my birthday in 2002

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01:50:25.830 --> 01:50:40.680

Aaron Devor: So that's the actual date. So when I'm making the decision. We're talking about the very early days of the 21st century. And, you know, things were improving, but they still far cry from where they are today.

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01:50:43.650 --> 01:50:50.460

Aaron Devor: And I didn't know what I was going to get. And I was in a very high profile position. There was no way I could just do this quietly right

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01:50:51.060 --> 01:50:57.810

Aaron Devor: No way I could do it quietly, you know, I already had a very strong international reputation of on based on my research.

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01:50:58.260 --> 01:51:07.140

Aaron Devor: The internet was alive by this point. And so that means that people all over the world knew who I was and were interested in what I had to say and what I did.

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01:51:08.100 --> 01:51:17.010

Aaron Devor: I also have a very high profile in my workplace because I was the dean of graduate studies which touches every aspect of the university. Every aspect.

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01:51:20.040 --> 01:51:25.710

Aaron Devor: I also have a fairly high profile in the Jewish community, which was, you know, part of my home.

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01:51:27.600 --> 01:51:36.990

Aaron Devor: I was, you know, there was a lesbian community that I was embedded in. And so I had a lot of different places where I was a known quantity

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01:51:38.100 --> 01:51:42.360

Aaron Devor: Wall needed to have. Well, how are they going to react, what was going to happen to me.

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01:51:44.040 --> 01:51:48.720

Evan Taylor: Well, especially somebody in your in your position because you know it's not like there was folks that were

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01:51:48.930 --> 01:51:59.430

Evan Taylor: You know, as you said you eat attained a relative amount of success in your life, you're very successful and a lot of folks who would have that kind of success, certainly at that time were choosing not to transition. So they risked that success.

953

01:52:00.810 --> 01:52:05.280

Aaron Devor: You know, I can't say I don't, I don't know what they were doing, but I knew what I knew there were risks.

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01:52:05.460 --> 01:52:07.890

Aaron Devor: Yeah, I can tell you now.

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01:52:10.560 --> 01:52:16.500

Aaron Devor: That I would, I would still say, certainly in my generation.

956

01:52:18.030 --> 01:52:20.670

Aaron Devor: And I would say more broadly Amman

957

01:52:22.050 --> 01:52:23.820

Aaron Devor: Anybody who is

958

01:52:25.590 --> 01:52:27.660

Aaron Devor: More than 20 something years old.

959

01:52:29.010 --> 01:52:29.190

Aaron Devor: I

960

01:52:30.690 --> 01:52:32.880

Aaron Devor: I don't know anybody who had them all smooth transition in me.

961

01:52:34.830 --> 01:52:37.800

Aaron Devor: There were no glitches. There were no problems.

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01:52:39.690 --> 01:52:52.020

Aaron Devor: There were no, there was no negativity and didn't lose any friends my workplace was supportive as you could possibly want it to be. I'm gonna come back and tell you a story about that because I'd like it on record.

963

01:52:54.630 --> 01:52:56.130

Aaron Devor: Jewish community was great.

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01:52:58.080 --> 01:52:58.710

Aaron Devor: And

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01:53:01.710 --> 01:53:06.480

Aaron Devor: Family was good. I mean, it's just it was all good and it was extremely public

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01:53:07.560 --> 01:53:08.160

Aaron Devor: So,

967

01:53:09.600 --> 01:53:20.100

Aaron Devor: One of the things I did before. The appointment date is I went around in personally sat down and many of them with Lynn by my side. My wife.

968

01:53:21.270 --> 01:53:33.870

Aaron Devor: sat down with somewhere in the vicinity of 100 people and said, I want you to hear this from me before you hear through the grapevine or any public place and the language. I used

969

01:53:34.890 --> 01:53:36.720

Aaron Devor: Because I felt it would be

970

01:53:38.130 --> 01:53:48.330

Aaron Devor: The most understandable and the easiest to digest was that I want to start living as a man, right. It didn't say I'm going to become a man

971

01:53:49.830 --> 01:53:53.340

Aaron Devor: I didn't. They didn't know the word transition and

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01:53:54.510 --> 01:54:02.340

Aaron Devor: I just said, I'm going to be living as a man, because I felt that they could understand that and it didn't require them to

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01:54:03.990 --> 01:54:04.860

Aaron Devor: Believe

974

01:54:06.540 --> 01:54:07.290

Aaron Devor: In Transition

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01:54:10.230 --> 01:54:11.370

Aaron Devor: And they all knew me

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01:54:11.820 --> 01:54:20.580

Aaron Devor: And it wasn't a big stretch for them to imagine me living as a man, because I was so masculine than anybody you didn't already know me already thought I was a man And you know they have this category A

977

01:54:20.910 --> 01:54:25.830

Aaron Devor: Lot of people said, well, you're so successful, everything works so well for you. Why do you feel you need to do that.

978

01:54:27.240 --> 01:54:41.190

Aaron Devor: And they did not know because I was very good at managing the people around me and their reactions to me. They didn't know how much effort that took and how hard it was on because I made it look easy because I add them.

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01:54:41.730 --> 01:54:47.790

Aaron Devor: Right. Some of them I explain that to some of them. I didn't. So I went and did all of that and among those hundred

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01:54:48.870 --> 01:54:54.390

Aaron Devor: Is I went to my boss who is Dean of Graduate Studies. My boss was the VP academic

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01:54:56.070 --> 01:55:02.070

Aaron Devor: He later became is almost finished. Now he became the president of the university but that time he was the vice president

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01:55:03.090 --> 01:55:12.090

Aaron Devor: And I went to him and I knew him already, not for a long time because, you know, I've only been in that position. A couple of months at that point.

983

01:55:13.980 --> 01:55:22.260

Aaron Devor: But I think we've been around both been around the university for some years, but not had a lot of context. I know. Well, but I knew something of what kind of person he was. I expected a good reaction.

984

01:55:23.370 --> 01:55:25.950

Aaron Devor: first words out of his mouth, where, what can I do to help

985

01:55:26.490 --> 01:55:26.970

Me.

986

01:55:29.340 --> 01:55:29.700

Wow.

987

01:55:31.080 --> 01:55:37.710

Aaron Devor: So I said, you know what this building doesn't have a gender neutral washroom, in which you put one in my building police

988

01:55:38.910 --> 01:55:45.750

Aaron Devor: So he did. By the time the construction was finished. I didn't need a gender neutral washroom anymore but

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01:55:48.060 --> 01:55:48.360

Aaron Devor: We are

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01:55:48.390 --> 01:55:50.010

Aaron Devor: Many people since then I've benefited

991

01:55:50.280 --> 01:55:50.790

Aaron Devor: From that

992

01:55:52.800 --> 01:55:55.350

Evan Taylor: One of the sociology of the bottom floor.

993

01:55:55.680 --> 01:56:00.810

Aaron Devor: No, no that's way newer I my office I was the dean of Graduate Studies and my office is in the University Center.

994

01:56:02.130 --> 01:56:03.360

Aaron Devor: Single use

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01:56:03.420 --> 01:56:07.740

Aaron Devor: Washing washroom on the second floor in the University Center.

996

01:56:07.950 --> 01:56:08.310

Evan Taylor: Okay.

997

01:56:08.520 --> 01:56:10.290

Aaron Devor: Okay, my office was on the second floor.

998

01:56:10.830 --> 01:56:11.190

Aaron Devor: But

999

01:56:11.430 --> 01:56:15.030

Aaron Devor: What they did arrange for me was I got a key to the

1000

01:56:16.140 --> 01:56:34.530

Aaron Devor: University auditorium Farquhar auditorium right so that I could let myself in and use the washroom in there in the office when there was no events taking place in have that privacy. So that was until the, the one that they were building for for everybody.

1001

01:56:34.770 --> 01:56:37.230

Aaron Devor: was constructed, but they, you know, they accommodated me

1002

01:56:37.320 --> 01:56:43.350

Aaron Devor: as nicely as they could, but where that conversation went is they said well I'm going to write a letter to the community.

1003

01:56:43.620 --> 01:56:52.200

Aaron Devor: So that everybody knows at once, and nobody has to feel like, you know, can I talk about it. And, you know, and everybody needs to know because you know there were

1004

01:56:52.500 --> 01:57:03.810

Aaron Devor: 800 faculty members and several hundred graduate secretaries and thousands of graduate students and people in student services and health services and housing and they all needed to know.

1005

01:57:04.410 --> 01:57:12.150

Aaron Devor: All right, but the Undergraduate Studies deals with all of them international services all of that they all needed to know. I said, I'm going to write an email and we're going to send it around to everybody.

1006

01:57:13.500 --> 01:57:24.690

Aaron Devor: So then I don't remember exactly how it happened. But somebody. I don't think it was me. I think it was a vice president, but it might have been the I decided the president needed to know. Also, we decided

1007

01:57:25.800 --> 01:57:28.170

Aaron Devor: We had a meeting, excuse me, with the President.

1008

01:57:29.280 --> 01:57:31.650

Aaron Devor: And I told him this same story.

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01:57:32.700 --> 01:57:39.030

Aaron Devor: And then a little bit later. I hear back from them. I think it was a vice president who wrote anybody might have been the President

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01:57:40.350 --> 01:57:49.470

Aaron Devor: I had sent off the email to them. I said, This is what I want to send out to everybody. They came back to me and they said, We don't think an email is dignified enough

1011

01:57:50.910 --> 01:57:57.420

Aaron Devor: We want to send out a hard copy paper letter on the President's letterhead.

1012

01:57:58.980 --> 01:57:59.460

Evan Taylor: How

1013

01:57:59.640 --> 01:58:01.170

Aaron Devor: Signed by all three of us.

1014

01:58:02.220 --> 01:58:04.470

Aaron Devor: And they added a couple of sentences.

1015

01:58:05.700 --> 01:58:18.750

Aaron Devor: To what I had written, which is just the facts you know this is going to be my name pronouns and I had also put in there. I know it's gonna take you a little while to adjust and just do your best, you know, again, if you want the letters on I can show you a copy

1016

01:58:20.430 --> 01:58:25.470

Aaron Devor: And then they added a couple of sentences about you know how much confidence they had in me and there you know and maybe

1017

01:58:25.890 --> 01:58:35.040

Aaron Devor: You know support some supportive stuff about their confidence and then it's signed by the President, the Vice President and we did the undergraduate studies and goes out to every department on campus.

1018

01:58:35.250 --> 01:58:48.030

Aaron Devor: Wow, and to the Senate and to the Board of Governors. Wow. So everybody on campus found out at once. But what they found out was this had support from the very top of the university.

1019

01:58:48.510 --> 01:58:52.710

Aaron Devor: And we expected, everybody to come along and to come along nicely. Yeah.

1020

01:58:52.740 --> 01:59:03.840

Evan Taylor: There was, there was very little opportunity for dissent for people in that letter. Then when there's support from that, from those big three names up there on the letterhead. Anyone reading it, it's like okay

1021

01:59:04.410 --> 01:59:09.240

Evan Taylor: Exactly, and this, even if you don't agree, you're going to keep your mouth shut, and maybe

1022

01:59:09.540 --> 01:59:15.570

Evan Taylor: Rip down the picture and rip down the journal articles when nobody's looking because at that point you know now, you're not going to get away with it.

1023

01:59:15.900 --> 01:59:19.200

Evan Taylor: If somebody, you know, if somebody finds out that you're the person who's

1024

01:59:19.530 --> 01:59:30.840

Evan Taylor: You know having pushback, you're not going to get away with it and they're going to get in trouble. So it gives people the sort of preemptive, the answer is, don't be a jerk. And the question is, have you met Aaron Devor he goes by. He now.

1025

01:59:31.710 --> 01:59:36.210

Evan Taylor: And it's nice and simple. Here's the question and the answer at once, so no one can mess that up.

1026

01:59:36.900 --> 01:59:40.650

Aaron Devor: And I felt good. I thought I saw, I heard, I felt no

1027

01:59:42.000 --> 01:59:51.360

Aaron Devor: pushback negativity, from anybody in the campus community at all. And then I received a barrage

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01:59:52.710 --> 01:59:56.100

Aaron Devor: Cards and email well wishes.

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01:59:58.500 --> 02:00:09.090

Aaron Devor: I have a scrapbook. You know, like this, full of all the cards and emails from people all over the, well why did they come from all over the world. So the next next step.

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02:00:10.830 --> 02:00:15.240

Aaron Devor: So when that went out the university, a bunch of things happen there. The week before my birthday.

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02:00:17.130 --> 02:00:18.360

Aaron Devor: Two weeks before my birthday.

1032

02:00:20.160 --> 02:00:20.970

Aaron Devor: I had a dream.

1033

02:00:22.140 --> 02:00:27.270

Aaron Devor: My wife had been saying to me for some time, we should have a ritual and I was saying.

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02:00:28.410 --> 02:00:35.280

Aaron Devor: No, no, no, I don't want to make a fuss. Two weeks before my birthday. Because my this letter came out from my, on my birthday.

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02:00:35.670 --> 02:00:40.290

Aaron Devor: Okay. Two weeks before I had a dream. I decided up. I think I better have a ritual.

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02:00:41.790 --> 02:00:44.040

Aaron Devor: So I went to live. I said, You're right, honey.

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02:00:45.090 --> 02:00:51.330

Aaron Devor: We should do something. So she had a week talk. Maybe it was three weeks in two weeks. If you have very short.

1038

02:00:52.800 --> 02:01:03.090

Aaron Devor: I think she had one week, you may have had 10 days to two weeks, not very much time she got together with her best friend and they organized a ritual in the Jewish community.

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02:01:05.190 --> 02:01:11.370

Aaron Devor: That happened one week before my birthday one week before the big public announcement, which was this letter I just told you them.

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02:01:12.570 --> 02:01:30.420

Aaron Devor: And we went to Beacon Hill Park. So the big park downtown Victoria, you know, many, many acres of beautiful, beautiful grounds and in the center of it. There's a pond where the lovely old arched Stonebridge

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02:01:30.780 --> 02:01:31.290

Aaron Devor: The goes it

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02:01:31.530 --> 02:01:32.760

Aaron Devor: Goes over the pond.

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02:01:33.990 --> 02:01:43.500

Aaron Devor: And what they organized was largely the Jewish community, but they also asked some people from the lesbian community.

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02:01:44.940 --> 02:01:52.950

Aaron Devor: A guy a good guy that I went to high school with happened to be in town. So I had someone from back home as well.

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02:01:54.960 --> 02:01:58.980

Aaron Devor: And they separated the women on one end of the bridge and the men on the other end.

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02:02:00.720 --> 02:02:09.090

Aaron Devor: And the women gathered around me and they gave me their blessings and there's a Jewish tradition.

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02:02:10.620 --> 02:02:15.360

Aaron Devor: At a wedding that you get seven blessings and there's a standard set of lessons.

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02:02:16.500 --> 02:02:26.580

Aaron Devor: But instead they had asked seven different women who have roles to play in my life and in the community to bring their own blessings and give me seven blessings

1049

02:02:28.020 --> 02:02:41.460

Aaron Devor: I want and the people ranged from literally babes in arms to a woman in her 80s, who had no my mother. My mother was both my parents were dead. At this point, but who had no my mother and who spoke about my mother.

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02:02:42.450 --> 02:02:51.810

Aaron Devor: So we had all generations genders different aspects of my life. We're all there in each spoke a blessing.

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02:02:53.040 --> 02:02:57.390

Aaron Devor: And then Lynn walked me to the top of the bridge crying the whole way.

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02:02:59.070 --> 02:03:01.110

Aaron Devor: And the Rabbi met top of the bridge.

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02:03:02.460 --> 02:03:10.710

Aaron Devor: And he blew the shofar which is a ritual ram's horn that you blow, like a trumpet, which is ritual that is very

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02:03:11.010 --> 02:03:25.770

Aaron Devor: Sacred in Judaism and is used for special occasions, most mostly is just use on Russia's shine in your keyboard, which are two most holy days, but it's you know historically used for calling people together for important meetings and so

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02:03:26.820 --> 02:03:33.330

Aaron Devor: There's no rule that you can't use it for other things. But that's mostly is using those rituals. Okay.

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02:03:34.980 --> 02:03:39.900

Aaron Devor: So you close the show far at the top of the bridge and he reads a proclamation

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02:03:41.370 --> 02:03:53.040

Aaron Devor: From this point forward, I will be known as Aaron devor and here's my Hebrew name and I'm, you know, a member of the men's community. And then he walks me down to the other end of it, which were all the men are

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02:03:54.540 --> 02:04:04.320

Aaron Devor: And then they gather around and there's a traditional song which song in Hebrew, but it translates into how good it is to be together with our brothers.

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02:04:05.280 --> 02:04:22.320

Aaron Devor: And put her arms on each other's shoulders and it's a this traditional circle dances that the Jewish traditional circle. This is the folk dancing. And we did this folk dance together singing song and a couple of the guys said special gifts for me like

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02:04:23.820 --> 02:04:25.590

Aaron Devor: Duct tape and things like

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02:04:28.020 --> 02:04:30.210

Aaron Devor: A pocket knife, you know, essential mail tools.

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02:04:31.680 --> 02:04:36.360

Aaron Devor: And so we had that Jewish ritual. The week before. Again, you couldn't ask for better

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02:04:37.500 --> 02:04:40.860

Aaron Devor: And people told us later how

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02:04:41.940 --> 02:04:51.930

Aaron Devor: incredibly meaningful. It was for them and how they felt that it gave them the courage to deal with things in their lives that they had been avoiding

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02:04:53.610 --> 02:05:01.680

Aaron Devor: And that it was, you know, it's really important to them for their own personal reasons. So that was the week before and then a week later.

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02:05:02.130 --> 02:05:14.130

Aaron Devor: This letter goes around on campus and you know I'm getting cards and letters from the Jewish community and emails for the Jewish community. And then I start getting cards and letters and emails from the university community.

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02:05:14.850 --> 02:05:22.500

Aaron Devor: And then I think it's only a week later, maybe two weeks, but very shortly. Maybe a couple of days later, again, if any of this is important. I can look at all.

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02:05:24.570 --> 02:05:26.940

Aaron Devor: I'm at a conference readings, a graduate states.

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02:05:28.050 --> 02:05:36.780

Aaron Devor: And I get a call from a woman who continue to know, over the years, but this is my first contact with her, who is a freelancer for the Globe and Mail.

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02:05:37.620 --> 02:05:46.620

Aaron Devor: And she was a student on campus at the time and she heard about this letter going round and she wanted to do a story for the Globe and Mail.

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02:05:48.120 --> 02:05:50.100

Aaron Devor: And I said, I really don't want to do this.

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02:05:51.180 --> 02:05:52.890

Aaron Devor: She says, Well, I'm going to do the story anyway.

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02:05:55.740 --> 02:06:09.450

Aaron Devor: I said let me talk to the university. So I called up Jamie, the Vice President, I think, I think there was a conversation with the President to. I can't remember if I was part of that. I think that was without me and Jamie said it's better for us to get in front of this

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02:06:09.780 --> 02:06:14.010

Aaron Devor: Because if she does the story without you, there's going to be more inaccuracies and she does the story right

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02:06:15.210 --> 02:06:20.880

Aaron Devor: So I participated in it. Jamie participated in, you know, she said to them,

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02:06:22.230 --> 02:06:29.310

Aaron Devor: Well, how do you feel about the fact that you finally got a woman Dean and now you don't have a woman Dean anymore.

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02:06:30.720 --> 02:06:35.040

Aaron Devor: And he says, I have the only trans team of anybody in the country.

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02:06:35.310 --> 02:06:39.900

Aaron Devor: Exactly. And I think I until

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02:06:41.160 --> 02:06:42.690

Aaron Devor: Several years later.

1080

02:06:44.310 --> 02:06:51.090

Aaron Devor: I was the only and I think forever. I will be the first openly trans person who reached that level.

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02:06:51.360 --> 02:06:51.930

Aaron Devor: In the universe.

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02:06:52.530 --> 02:06:56.190

Aaron Devor: Now since maybe two years later, not, not a lot later.

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02:06:57.420 --> 02:07:07.200

Aaron Devor: Royal roads University appointed a transplant as a DJ. And he has since become. I think it's associate VP. I don't think he's a VP associated EP

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02:07:08.220 --> 02:07:13.710

Aaron Devor: Which he tried to step down from recently and they convince him to stay on a little bit longer. That's, that's Matthew Hines

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02:07:14.010 --> 02:07:15.030

Aaron Devor: So Victoria.

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02:07:15.570 --> 02:07:26.550

Aaron Devor: Finest stands alone in the world for promoting trans people to these higher levels. I've asked around not in the last year or so. So I don't know.

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02:07:27.570 --> 02:07:29.850

Aaron Devor: If anybody's been appointed

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02:07:31.230 --> 02:07:39.030

Aaron Devor: To a position of this level at our, you know, our major research university, etc. Well, Rose is not a major research university but it's an to university.

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02:07:40.140 --> 02:07:43.320

Aaron Devor: I don't, I'm pretty sure I was the first to reach that

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02:07:44.430 --> 02:07:46.170

Aaron Devor: To be out and at that level.

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02:07:46.710 --> 02:07:57.870

Aaron Devor: Right, so this Globe and Mail article goes ahead and it ends up being half page in the Globe and Mail with a great big picture and so that gets national coverage.

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02:07:58.980 --> 02:08:00.390

Aaron Devor: That's followed by

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02:08:01.770 --> 02:08:16.560

Aaron Devor: Multiple page article in The Times colonist on trans people, not just about me but the whole front page of that section of the newspaper is a full page full color picture of me.

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02:08:19.920 --> 02:08:21.780

Aaron Devor: Maclean's magazine picks it up.

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02:08:23.010 --> 02:08:32.040

Aaron Devor: And does two stories one about me again I maybe a half page or something. It wasn't big but you know with a photograph and a story about my transition

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02:08:32.640 --> 02:08:41.190

Aaron Devor: And then they also interviewed me as an expert, because I am an expert in this field on a longer article they were doing about how gender had changed.

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02:08:42.000 --> 02:08:55.140

Aaron Devor: And the one negative response I got through all of this came from someone who hand wrote me a letter and from the handwriting. I would say it was an elder elderly woman because their handwriting was kind of shaky.

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02:08:55.440 --> 02:09:09.540

Aaron Devor: Rate and it was a woman's name and she criticized me because she felt that that I was quoted in Maclean's magazine in the grammar. I use was incorrect and as a dean of Graduate Studies, I should know better.

1099

02:09:10.590 --> 02:09:11.940

Evan Taylor: Okay, that's fine. Then I'll take that.

1100

02:09:14.340 --> 02:09:16.950

Aaron Devor: And I'm not even sure if I was quoted correctly or not.

1101

02:09:18.000 --> 02:09:18.180

Aaron Devor: The

1102

02:09:18.210 --> 02:09:21.810

Aaron Devor: Only criticism I got through all of this was from my grammar.

1103

02:09:22.290 --> 02:09:22.830

Evan Taylor: Wow.

1104

02:09:23.220 --> 02:09:27.090

Aaron Devor: And nothing to do with me being friends. It's like a dean of Graduate Studies, you should know better.

1105

02:09:29.520 --> 02:09:29.820

Aaron Devor: Alright.

1106

02:09:30.270 --> 02:09:30.690

So,

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02:09:31.920 --> 02:09:37.470

Aaron Devor: That's it for negative responses. Right. And so once all this publicity was out there.

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02:09:38.550 --> 02:09:47.880

Aaron Devor: People all over. And so it was going all over the internet like crazy and, you know, because I was a scholar in this field. It was a more interest than it would normally have been

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02:09:48.270 --> 02:09:51.330

Aaron Devor: Because I was a dean of Graduate Studies at a

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02:09:51.420 --> 02:09:59.610

Aaron Devor: Major research university, you know, not as major than as it is today. But it was still, you know, a research university significant University.

1111

02:10:01.140 --> 02:10:05.880

Aaron Devor: That's what made it news and the narrative or transition people transition every day.

1112

02:10:07.050 --> 02:10:20.460

Aaron Devor: But I was newsworthy because of my position in the world and the news went like nuts across the internet, it went through, you know, traditional media with times colonists Globe and Mail Maclean's magazine, you know, in Canada. It's pretty big.

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02:10:20.730 --> 02:10:23.160

Aaron Devor: Yeah. And so everybody knew

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02:10:23.550 --> 02:10:24.600

Aaron Devor: And as I say,

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02:10:24.690 --> 02:10:32.310

Aaron Devor: I got a lots of feedback and it was all good and it has always been all good. So, you know, that's a happy story.

1116

02:10:32.790 --> 02:10:33.270

Yeah.

1117

02:10:34.290 --> 02:10:43.920

Evan Taylor: Something as well about the fact that you didn't, in some ways, not the had been transitioning, but you've been so much a part of the community. You had been read as a man people assumed your as a man that

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02:10:44.190 --> 02:10:48.960

Evan Taylor: When you got to that point 2% of I'm just, I'm just going to give up in that people think what they're going to think this point.

1119

02:10:49.350 --> 02:10:55.680

Evan Taylor: I know what I know what's happening. It's just too much effort. I think there's something to be said about the fact that you had in some way gone through

1120

02:10:55.950 --> 02:11:03.360

Evan Taylor: All of that the the being a lesbian, who was a director was butcher was gender non conforming all of that you kind of hit

1121

02:11:03.810 --> 02:11:13.890

Evan Taylor: All the negative parts as a gender non conforming Dyck, so that by the time by the time you were trends, you're able to, in some ways, just enjoy the the privileged that you've worked so hard.

1122

02:11:14.130 --> 02:11:26.250

Evan Taylor: To succeed, you know, you're able to sort of to be able to enjoy that piece. Whereas if you've been like, you know, a postdoc, and almost the president was gonna be writing a letter to every department or whatever it was about to achieve so much

1123

02:11:26.370 --> 02:11:26.670

Aaron Devor: And like

1124

02:11:26.700 --> 02:11:31.950

Evan Taylor: All the tough stuff and somebody that you experienced as a woman I it sounds like

1125

02:11:32.160 --> 02:11:33.990

Evan Taylor: You know that that was where the discrimination was

1126

02:11:34.140 --> 02:11:44.190

Aaron Devor: Yes, so the, you know, and you, you probably heard me say this in other contexts, the people who get the grief are the people who challenge the gender norms.

1127

02:11:44.880 --> 02:11:45.840

Aaron Devor: As a man

1128

02:11:46.560 --> 02:12:02.160

Aaron Devor: I have every privilege going for me and I very gender conforming, and I don't push anybody's buttons. You know, people know I'm trans, not everybody, but lots of people know but they forget

1129

02:12:02.730 --> 02:12:04.380

Aaron Devor: They forget because I fit in.

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02:12:04.980 --> 02:12:05.760

Aaron Devor: So well

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02:12:06.090 --> 02:12:24.840

Aaron Devor: Right, and I have very highly developed social skills which I had to develop as a survival tactic. When I was non conforming, and when I pushed everybody's buttons and caused everybody to, you know, be a little uncomfortable and need to deal with me.

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02:12:25.410 --> 02:12:27.840

Aaron Devor: So as soon as I said, Okay, folks.

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02:12:28.380 --> 02:12:30.480

Aaron Devor: Forget all that woman stuff.

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02:12:31.680 --> 02:12:38.400

Aaron Devor: Here I am. Everything fell into place and came getting through everyday became easy

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02:12:39.060 --> 02:12:50.010

Aaron Devor: Not immediately because you know I had a lot of things to learn and there were people took a little time to get used to the fact that this was happening is you know

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02:12:51.180 --> 02:13:06.990

Aaron Devor: Almost everybody I dealt with had never known anyone who transition before so they had to develop new pathways in their brain to be able to go from she and Holly to he and Aaron.

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02:13:07.440 --> 02:13:10.290

Aaron Devor: So it took some time, but as they say everybody

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02:13:10.380 --> 02:13:28.020

Aaron Devor: did their best and cooperated. And because I knew so much about what to expect. I knew a lot about how to handle it. And so, for instance, I made a deal with myself. I was not going to give anybody a hard time about pronouns for at least a year.

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02:13:29.970 --> 02:13:31.170

Aaron Devor: And when people

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02:13:31.860 --> 02:13:34.230

Aaron Devor: Messed up which still happens of course

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02:13:36.060 --> 02:13:36.870

Aaron Devor: I just said.

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02:13:38.010 --> 02:13:41.850

Aaron Devor: corrected them and said, Please try harder. And that was it.

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02:13:43.410 --> 02:13:48.780

Aaron Devor: I didn't flush it anybody to give them a hard time so often I would say to them, I know this is difficult to get used to.

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02:13:50.280 --> 02:13:50.760

Aaron Devor: Try harder.

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02:13:52.260 --> 02:14:07.830

Aaron Devor: I didn't start giving people a hard time like part time until two years, and there were very few people that I need to save anything to after two years. Everything was pretty easy by them. So, you know, I went easy on the people around me as well.

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02:14:09.000 --> 02:14:22.260

Aaron Devor: But the level of stress and anxiety and difficulty basically dropped over overnight and, you know, people ask me, you know, like this reporter, for instance, you know,

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02:14:23.430 --> 02:14:25.470

Aaron Devor: What did you have to change. I said my name.

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02:14:29.100 --> 02:14:30.210

Aaron Devor: You know my ID.

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02:14:30.480 --> 02:14:40.380

Aaron Devor: But in terms of you know how I dressed. My hair is a little shorter, but not much. You know how I moved how I talk how I conducted myself in the world. I was already in there.

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02:14:40.980 --> 02:14:42.120

Aaron Devor: And all of those ways

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02:14:42.360 --> 02:14:54.210

Aaron Devor: Right. And so when I stopped trying to force people to believe I was a woman. Everybody could everybody just relaxed, because everything about and screamed man and had for quite some time.

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02:14:54.990 --> 02:15:04.860

Aaron Devor: And so my life became much easier. And I acquired a whole lot more privilege and yes all of the grief was when I was non conforming

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02:15:05.460 --> 02:15:06.960

Aaron Devor: So, people asked me now.

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02:15:07.740 --> 02:15:19.590

Aaron Devor: Who, for some reason, haven't figured out that I'm translating all you have to do is Google. It's comes up like that. This article that she wrote still comes up pretty close to the top of the list, you know, almost 20 years later, which

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02:15:21.030 --> 02:15:22.410

Evan Taylor: Is strange kind of woman.

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02:15:22.770 --> 02:15:27.180

Evan Taylor: Yes. Yeah, but I know I've read that article, of course, get it does come very close the top of list. Yeah.

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02:15:27.600 --> 02:15:28.830

Aaron Devor: It's almost 20 years later.

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02:15:30.630 --> 02:15:31.290

But nonetheless,

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02:15:32.970 --> 02:15:42.210

Aaron Devor: You know, there's lots of other things that would tell you I'm trans because you have to be that article but you know there are people that know that I'm an expert in this field and don't know that I'm trans

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02:15:42.600 --> 02:15:55.200

Aaron Devor: Right. And you know, when you tell them you're trans. One of the first things that they didn't want to do is say, oh, what's it been like for you. Tell me about your transition and

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02:15:55.470 --> 02:15:57.240

Evan Taylor: I am you know what did your parents think

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02:15:57.480 --> 02:16:05.340

Aaron Devor: Yeah, and I have to say to them, my personal life is personal. You called me because I'm an expert. Let's talk about my expertise.

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02:16:06.390 --> 02:16:19.530

Aaron Devor: working in this field for what is it 35 years now, long before I was trans and that's what we're going to talk about and everybody's fine I say that, but I don't always want to even go through that.

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02:16:19.830 --> 02:16:20.370

Evan Taylor: He

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02:16:20.400 --> 02:16:22.920

Aaron Devor: They haven't got the

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02:16:25.290 --> 02:16:30.600

Aaron Devor: They haven't done their homework. I was going to give you a Yiddish word, but you don't know us if they haven't done

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02:16:31.080 --> 02:16:31.590

Evan Taylor: My words.

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02:16:32.880 --> 02:16:35.070

Aaron Devor: They don't have the safer, which is common sense.

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02:16:36.150 --> 02:16:43.020

Aaron Devor: To have done their homework and gone on the internet and look me up a little bit. If they're sloppy about what they do.

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02:16:43.620 --> 02:16:57.060

Aaron Devor: And not have done that, then a lot of times I don't bother to tell them that I'm trans thing figure that out later because I am an expert. And I was an expert before I'm a trans trans person. I'm an expert after and I'm not an expert, because I'm a transportation

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02:16:57.090 --> 02:17:05.280

Evan Taylor: Right. Right. Yeah, which is actually probably the most unique person the world and that way there's there's very few people who actually have that experience.

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02:17:05.550 --> 02:17:11.640

Evan Taylor: Who know it from a non trance perspective, first and foremost, as as an as an expert so

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02:17:13.140 --> 02:17:14.910

Aaron Devor: Unique, but I don't think it's common either

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02:17:15.000 --> 02:17:16.050

Evan Taylor: Very Yeah, very much.

1175

02:17:17.070 --> 02:17:24.540

Aaron Devor: So when they say to me, why did you get into this because they always say that, especially if they know I've been into it for a long time.

1176

02:17:25.110 --> 02:17:47.910

Aaron Devor: And what I say is that earlier in my life. I was a very gender non conforming person and it made my life difficult and I wanted to understand more about gender and how it works. And as you can see, that's no longer the case. But that was my experience for many years as a younger person.

1177

02:17:48.210 --> 02:17:50.940

Aaron Devor: Right, and it's entirely true.

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02:17:51.570 --> 02:17:55.890

Aaron Devor: Yeah, and it usually satisfies them and we can get on to what they actually call them for

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02:17:56.100 --> 02:17:58.680

Evan Taylor: Me and also avoid that whole trope.

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02:17:58.980 --> 02:18:12.450

Evan Taylor: Of, you know, I've always known I was always trapped in the wrong bodies. It avoids that true, but it adds a different narrative that just says, well, actually, there's all these people that we don't even talk about still today. Very well. These non binary folks.

1181

02:18:12.990 --> 02:18:15.840

Evan Taylor: And that was kind of my experience, but not but

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02:18:16.020 --> 02:18:19.050

Evan Taylor: Here's how I got into it. And then they're like, okay, great, and they move on.

1183

02:18:19.650 --> 02:18:32.760

Aaron Devor: Well, but I don't want it to be about me and I don't want, which is where people go all the time, says gender people. I don't want to encourage the idea

1184

02:18:33.300 --> 02:18:46.710

Aaron Devor: That every person who is trans is an expert on being a trans and that their expertise comes from being trans and that is that is the only way that you can understand being trans

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02:18:49.470 --> 02:18:55.530

Aaron Devor: There's you can you can understand quite well without going through a transition

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02:18:56.400 --> 02:18:59.070

Aaron Devor: It's rare that you will but it's

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02:19:00.120 --> 02:19:11.940

Aaron Devor: You know, I said earlier that I understood everything you can understand without actually going through it and yeah there are things you have to go through to understand it. But there's an awful lot that you can understand

1188

02:19:13.140 --> 02:19:24.870

Aaron Devor: Prior to that, or without that. And there's lots of allies who have a very good understanding and I don't discount them. There's a lot of trans folks who do I do not

1189

02:19:26.340 --> 02:19:29.280

Aaron Devor: Backing up a little bit on my first book.

1190

02:19:31.140 --> 02:19:38.580

Aaron Devor: I said when I started doing the research I was welcomed by the guys. By the time the book came out, because it took 10 years the political climate had changed.

1191

02:19:38.970 --> 02:19:52.170

Aaron Devor: And there was a strong element a strong voice in the trans masculine community and the trans community generally that said basically, you don't have the right to talk about us unless you want us

1192

02:19:52.680 --> 02:19:53.010

Evan Taylor: Right.

1193

02:19:53.880 --> 02:19:58.080

Aaron Devor: And so there were people who denounced

1194

02:19:59.160 --> 02:20:14.850

Aaron Devor: Just a few, but they were loud who denounced my book because the time it came out, I was assist 200 person didn't have the word says gender. Then, but nonetheless, it was. Yeah. And they didn't think that I had the right to talk about them and that I couldn't possibly understand correctly.

1195

02:20:16.350 --> 02:20:21.810

Aaron Devor: And then I turned out to be trans and the headache on their face.

1196

02:20:24.600 --> 02:20:25.170

Aaron Devor: But

1197

02:20:26.250 --> 02:20:30.690

Aaron Devor: The important point here is that you can know

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02:20:31.080 --> 02:20:43.770

Aaron Devor: A lot and you can understand a lot and it's important to not overclaim what you can understand, which is why I had so much of the book be the voices of the transmit I spoke to

1199

02:20:44.280 --> 02:20:44.610

Right.

1200

02:20:46.140 --> 02:20:50.820

Aaron Devor: But there were people who said you can't understand anything and you have no right to speak about us.

1201

02:20:51.150 --> 02:20:55.140

Aaron Devor: If you're not one of us. Well, you don't know who's one of us, necessarily.

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02:20:55.800 --> 02:20:57.750

Evan Taylor: And who will be one of us at some point.

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02:20:58.440 --> 02:21:10.170

Aaron Devor: Yet but and regardless. Even if I never became one of us. It doesn't mean that I cannot understand certain aspects of and I can't learn from listening to people and listening carefully.

1204

02:21:11.640 --> 02:21:14.070

Aaron Devor: And hanging out and doing all the things that I did.

1205

02:21:14.700 --> 02:21:18.270

Evan Taylor: There isn't a committee that you've been on a supervising somebody work.

1206

02:21:18.510 --> 02:21:30.660

Evan Taylor: That was doing a trans project that you otherwise wouldn't have been on if you haven't transition that was already your academic scholarly expertise you were already going to serve in that in that capacity for the rest of your career, whether you transitioned or not.

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02:21:31.140 --> 02:21:34.860

Aaron Devor: This is true and as a trans person.

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02:21:36.810 --> 02:21:41.310

Aaron Devor: I feel more entitled to be critical of

1209

02:21:42.750 --> 02:21:43.890

Aaron Devor: People who

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02:21:48.150 --> 02:21:53.190

Aaron Devor: Get blinded by political correctness, so that they can't see what's actually going on.

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02:21:53.580 --> 02:21:59.220

Aaron Devor: Right. Where is a standard person probably wouldn't dare criticize such things, even if they could see them.

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02:22:01.110 --> 02:22:04.260

Aaron Devor: You know it does. It's good sometimes to be the transfers.

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02:22:06.210 --> 02:22:13.770

Evan Taylor: Well, I'm also thinking as well. I want to bring us to the archives. I think that's an important piece of, you know, when we're talking about activists and we need to make sure that we talked about the archives

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02:22:13.980 --> 02:22:23.100

Evan Taylor: And I think that that's something that if you haven't transitioned it, you wouldn't have been able to to lead that as effectively as you as you had it would have attracted the international attention.

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02:22:23.610 --> 02:22:37.380

Evan Taylor: That it has where now. I mean, it really is. It's the international hub for how we are going to understand our own history. And I think that being a trans person is, you know, you wouldn't have the advocacy, the attention it wouldn't have gotten the same

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02:22:38.160 --> 02:22:43.500

Evan Taylor: Probably credibility and respect from our community. And that, I think that it's had because you're a trans person.

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02:22:44.670 --> 02:22:48.750

Aaron Devor: Yes. So, but there's there's more to it and then

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02:22:50.820 --> 02:23:01.920

Aaron Devor: Let's just kind of jump forward them because we've gotten you know I got my second book out of transition. Shortly after, you know, relatively soon after that.

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02:23:03.840 --> 02:23:18.660

Aaron Devor: I worked really for 10 years is the Undergraduate Studies during that time I continue to do some research and publication in the trends field I continued to be active in W path. I've had a long history with w path.

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02:23:19.290 --> 02:23:32.730

Aaron Devor: I was involved with. I was very central in the revisions of the standards of care between versions, five, and six. So there's a whole bunch of authors on version six but

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02:23:33.930 --> 02:23:48.390

Aaron Devor: Myself and and Lawrence, who is somebody who is not well loved in the trans community but nonetheless myself and and Lawrence were responsible for the bulk of the improvements going from version five to version six

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02:23:49.530 --> 02:23:55.200

Aaron Devor: There were, I think, 17 people's names as authors, but most of them did nothing.

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02:23:56.880 --> 02:24:00.540

Evan Taylor: And this is the time that you were the resident historian at w path.

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02:24:01.140 --> 02:24:11.730

Aaron Devor: I will. I can't remember if I was on for a number of years. I was on an Archives committee and then later they they disbanded the comedian, because I was the only one doing anything and just decide to call me the historian

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02:24:12.180 --> 02:24:14.910

Aaron Devor: So I think this one I was on the archives committee.

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02:24:16.500 --> 02:24:21.900

Aaron Devor: But I might not even have been on the archives committee, yet I don't be called the dates, again, it's all on my CV.

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02:24:23.370 --> 02:24:29.190

Aaron Devor: And then I was also so that version six

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02:24:30.270 --> 02:24:34.500

Aaron Devor: Came out 2001 so that was before I became the undergraduate studies.

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02:24:35.790 --> 02:24:39.270

Aaron Devor: version seven came out, I think it was 2011

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02:24:40.410 --> 02:24:55.860

Aaron Devor: Or 10 or 11, something like that. So I was also on the version seven committee and I had a significant role to play there but not nearly as significant as version six there was an official writing committee which I was not on

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02:24:57.690 --> 02:25:20.730

Aaron Devor: But anybody who was on the committee will tell you, I played a very active role and what I literally did is I read every word from the beginning to the end. And I made many, many adjustments to the language used to make it possible for version seven to be interpreted in a way that

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02:25:22.200 --> 02:25:25.920

Aaron Devor: Allowed those who wish to treat non binary people to do so.

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02:25:26.130 --> 02:25:26.970

Evan Taylor: Right, okay.

1234

02:25:27.660 --> 02:25:45.270

Aaron Devor: That I don't think the words non binary appear anywhere in there but I adjusted the language in a way that left the door open for non binary people and a number of other adjustments and other piece that I was responsible for in version seven

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02:25:46.440 --> 02:25:56.880

Aaron Devor: Was I wrote a list of tasks that surgeons should do in relation to

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02:25:58.200 --> 02:26:08.340

Aaron Devor: serving their patients and their SURGEONS AGREED TO THEM quite readily but they wouldn't have been in there if I hadn't done that. And I did that because I

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02:26:09.090 --> 02:26:18.900

Aaron Devor: Knew then and he's just resurfaced in my life in the last few weeks and individual who was very badly served by a welder and prominent surgeon

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02:26:20.070 --> 02:26:22.950

Aaron Devor: And whose life has been

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02:26:24.660 --> 02:26:25.890

Aaron Devor: For 10 years now.

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02:26:27.960 --> 02:26:33.840

Aaron Devor: He's life has been hanging on by a thread and I heard recently that

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02:26:35.370 --> 02:26:39.240

Aaron Devor: The he may be in his last days as a result of surgery gone badly.

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02:26:40.770 --> 02:26:48.720

Aaron Devor: So I insisted on certain elements being put in there between five to the important things

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02:26:50.160 --> 02:27:00.360

Aaron Devor: One of the most important things was the change that allowed hormones and upper surgery to be treated at the same the same gate keeping level.

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02:27:00.780 --> 02:27:01.290

Aaron Devor: That was a good

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02:27:02.400 --> 02:27:12.090

Aaron Devor: And that was mine. I had to argue hard for that was another one. I can't remember now what it was. It was important. Oh, the other one that was important, is in version five. It said

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02:27:13.470 --> 02:27:17.970

Aaron Devor: Gender dysphoria is a mental illness and had a whole section describing it.

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02:27:19.290 --> 02:27:24.300

Aaron Devor: I got it changed in version six to say is gender dysphoria and mental illness.

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02:27:25.740 --> 02:27:34.230

Aaron Devor: And the paragraph explains, under what circumstances it is a mental illness, it may be, it may not be that was a big change.

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02:27:34.680 --> 02:27:52.230

Aaron Devor: Right. Those are two big changes, but we rewrote the, you know, huge swaths of that one. And so version seven I was working on while I was doing a graduate studies and you know I published. I think with this thing and mirroring article which gets a lot of attention today.

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02:27:54.570 --> 02:27:58.200

Aaron Devor: The 14 stages of identity development, maybe, you know, under that name.

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02:27:58.500 --> 02:28:00.960

Evan Taylor: Yes. Yeah, that's how. Yeah, it's like, that's how I know, yeah.

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02:28:01.080 --> 02:28:07.350

Aaron Devor: Exactly. That one I think came out in 2003 or four, something like that. So that was in those Dean dad who studies, period.

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02:28:07.770 --> 02:28:08.280

Aaron Devor: And I think

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02:28:08.550 --> 02:28:26.760

Aaron Devor: Some of the art. I think my one or two of the articles about Eric's and came out at the beginning of that period, but most of those 10 years the research and was pretty quiet because and I was being the undergraduate studies. It's a very full time job and you know being this you know

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02:28:28.470 --> 02:28:29.730

Aaron Devor: Well, paid

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02:28:30.960 --> 02:28:32.070

Aaron Devor: White guy with a

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02:28:32.250 --> 02:28:33.060

Aaron Devor: Powerful job.

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02:28:34.230 --> 02:28:36.960

Aaron Devor: Right. And that was a nice change.

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02:28:38.700 --> 02:28:45.600

Aaron Devor: It was interesting to experience. And, you know, gave me an entire set of insights that I wouldn't have had any other way.

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02:28:46.710 --> 02:28:53.670

Aaron Devor: So I was cashing in on all that white male privilege for those years and trying to use it for good.

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02:28:56.760 --> 02:28:59.460

Aaron Devor: So the transgender archives

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02:29:00.690 --> 02:29:13.320

Aaron Devor: Started to come into being in the second half of those 10. Okay. And you've probably read the little book that we put out about it and the foundations for the future. And so you know the story that it all started by accident.

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02:29:14.400 --> 02:29:27.780

Aaron Devor: It's the thing about the archives being successful is there's two aspects and you pointed to one is that, you know, the credibility. I have is a prominent out trans person is very important.

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02:29:29.700 --> 02:29:33.870

Aaron Devor: I also have a lot of credibility with the research community.

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02:29:35.880 --> 02:29:43.800

Aaron Devor: And the research community is largely says gender and I have decades of credibility there.

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02:29:45.870 --> 02:29:53.670

Aaron Devor: My credibility with the trans community also is decades of knowing all the leading activists on at all, but lots of the leading activists.

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02:29:55.560 --> 02:30:05.400

Aaron Devor: So that's also a unique position to have credibility, both on the research side of it says largely says gender people and the activists side.

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02:30:06.120 --> 02:30:17.520

Aaron Devor: And the activist side again in the trans masculine community because I'm trans masculine and I have lots of strong connections there that go back a long way, but also because of my work with the if g

1269

02:30:17.850 --> 02:30:18.360

Mm hmm.

1270

02:30:19.620 --> 02:30:27.330

Aaron Devor: I know a lot of the early people and the people who have the history in the trans feminine community.

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02:30:28.890 --> 02:30:39.510

Aaron Devor: And a lot of people in the cross dresser community because the transsexual trans feminine community has some overlap with but it's not the same.

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02:30:40.230 --> 02:30:54.240

Aaron Devor: As the cross dresser trans feminine community. So there's kind of three communities and then because I'm at the university and I have more connection than most people my age with the younger non binary community.

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02:30:54.690 --> 02:30:55.140

Aaron Devor: Coming up

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02:30:56.070 --> 02:31:19.290

Aaron Devor: So I have this kind of very broad credibility that allows me to know already know a lot of the people that hold the history that we want to put in the archives and to have a credible access and to have entree to the people that I don't already have a history with

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02:31:20.640 --> 02:31:25.620

Aaron Devor: And so that's been very instrumental in building the transgender archives

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02:31:27.630 --> 02:31:33.600

Evan Taylor: Just those personal relationships where you already know who has what and whatever. And you know, knowing you know

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02:31:34.560 --> 02:31:40.140

Evan Taylor: There's multiple different interviews I've done with people where they say Aaron keeps badgering at me to send my boxes.

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02:31:40.710 --> 02:31:46.740

Evan Taylor: And and and just and I gave him about that because I think it's exactly what you're describing, which is those personal relationships with people that

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02:31:46.980 --> 02:31:52.440

Evan Taylor: That was their livelihood. That was everything they did that was their life's work and he asked him, you know, it's in a few boxes in their basement.

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02:31:52.650 --> 02:32:03.720

Evan Taylor: But they are not giving it up unless they really trust where it's going to go because they've collected this over a lifetime and it's literally you know it's the only thing for a lot of people that says where they came from and

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02:32:03.780 --> 02:32:10.410

Evan Taylor: I've talked to a couple people who are adopted, and that's what they said is, no one's going to know I was over here. If I don't call it you know put these collections into an archive.

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02:32:11.310 --> 02:32:20.070

Aaron Devor: And the end, they can trust. If I say you can trust this archive because they know me and then many of them know me for decades.

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02:32:20.760 --> 02:32:30.450

Aaron Devor: Or know of me for decades, because you know there's lots of people, I think you've told me you're one of them that my f TN book was really important to them.

1284

02:32:32.070 --> 02:32:35.010

Aaron Devor: You know, here's a little anecdote, for instance.

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02:32:36.420 --> 02:32:50.250

Aaron Devor: And it's not just the transmission communities, a little anecdote name Lana, which I'll ski mean anything to you. Okay. So I met Lana with Chelsea, and she told me that my gender blending book was important to her coming out.

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02:32:50.760 --> 02:32:50.970

And

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02:32:52.320 --> 02:33:01.410

Aaron Devor: Okay, so she's older she co on older generation. She's not as old as me, but she's you know she's i don't know maybe she's 60 by now, or something, which may be in her late 50s.

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02:33:02.310 --> 02:33:14.160

Aaron Devor: That book was important to her when she was coming on. Okay, then I met actually met her white first and wife used to be married to

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02:33:15.330 --> 02:33:15.960

Aaron Devor: Buck angel.

1290

02:33:16.680 --> 02:33:17.580

Evan Taylor: No way.

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02:33:18.720 --> 02:33:19.380

Evan Taylor: OLIVIA.

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02:33:19.680 --> 02:33:21.360

Aaron Devor: Is a whole fascinating story there.

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02:33:22.680 --> 02:33:25.020

Aaron Devor: And I'm trying to do that right now. I'll send there's an article

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02:33:26.310 --> 02:33:26.700

Evan Taylor: Okay.

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02:33:28.110 --> 02:33:29.310

Aaron Devor: I think it's Vanity Fair.

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02:33:30.900 --> 02:33:33.180

Aaron Devor: So she knew the MDM book.

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02:33:34.350 --> 02:33:35.880

Aaron Devor: And that was important in her life.

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02:33:35.910 --> 02:33:37.860

Aaron Devor: Because he was married to buckling.

1299

02:33:38.520 --> 02:33:40.260

Evan Taylor: Oh my goodness. Wow.

1300

02:33:40.680 --> 02:33:40.980

Okay.

1301

02:33:42.000 --> 02:33:53.370

Aaron Devor: So you know there are people that I've known for decades. But then there's a whole other generation of people who know my work younger people won't know that stuff because that's before they were born.

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02:33:54.180 --> 02:33:59.820

Aaron Devor: But they'll know about the chairman transgender studies because that's how or you don't know how to manage their archives

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02:33:59.880 --> 02:34:00.870

Aaron Devor: Because that's now.

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02:34:01.860 --> 02:34:06.000

Aaron Devor: So, you know, I've got generations of people who either I have known.

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02:34:06.150 --> 02:34:21.780

Aaron Devor: for that long, or they've been exposed to my work somewhere along the way that has made a significant impression on them. So when I get in touch with them and say, you know, would you consider putting your stuff here and I assure them that this is a good place to put it.

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02:34:22.890 --> 02:34:25.980

Aaron Devor: I you know I don't necessarily get yes but I at least get a warm reception.

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02:34:26.550 --> 02:34:29.430

Aaron Devor: Right. And sometimes I get. Yes.

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02:34:30.780 --> 02:34:41.040

Evan Taylor: When so you've touched on it. I know you know these questions very well we've touched on one, I think it's an important piece that to cover, especially from you. And so thinking about this next generation, these, these, you know,

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02:34:41.850 --> 02:34:50.310

Evan Taylor: Kids were young, maybe young adults or teenagers. Now, perhaps it there. They don't know about the book, they, they will know about the chair and transgender studies that will be a thing they

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02:34:50.310 --> 02:34:50.610

Aaron Devor: Know,

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02:34:51.060 --> 02:34:51.720

Evan Taylor: You know what

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02:34:52.650 --> 02:34:59.790

Evan Taylor: I'm so thinking ahead, you know, in like in 5050 years when neither of us is going to, it's going to be here by then.

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02:35:00.690 --> 02:35:16.290

Evan Taylor: What, you know, thinking ahead to that. What do you think is going to be possible for this generation of trans kids that is maybe young adults right now or teenagers right now. What's gonna be possible for them by the time they're 40 or 50 that you are. I know we're not going to see

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02:35:16.920 --> 02:35:20.610

Aaron Devor: Okay, so I thought you were going to the legacy question. I was gonna say too soon for that.

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02:35:20.610 --> 02:35:23.160

Aaron Devor: Because, oh no no no no that's last one.

1316

02:35:23.550 --> 02:35:33.810

Aaron Devor: Okay. Yeah, I thought so. All right. Um, I have lots to say about that. But I really need to go the bathroom. So you're going to edit that work that last sentence out

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02:35:34.500 --> 02:35:48.390

Aaron Devor: But we're gonna have to put it on pause so they can do that. And it's going to take longer than you expect because I'm on the third floor and the building is locked up for coven and I have to go to the first floor to find a washroom. That's not locked

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02:35:48.840 --> 02:35:49.170

Okay.

1319

02:35:50.370 --> 02:35:51.390

Evan Taylor: That makes sense. Yeah.

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02:35:51.870 --> 02:36:00.330

Aaron Devor: A lot of the wife is only one set of Washington's open in the whole building and it's the other end two floors down. So I'm going to be gone for a little bit.

1321

02:36:00.660 --> 02:36:03.930

Evan Taylor: I'm glad you're able to get in the building it off, put it on pause and I'll see you when I get back.

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02:36:04.350 --> 02:36:05.460

Aaron Devor: My Mikey

1323

02:36:06.480 --> 02:36:08.280

Evan Taylor: Okay so recording is back on.

1324

02:36:08.790 --> 02:36:12.540

Aaron Devor: Okay, so you were asking about, you know what, where do I see the world going

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02:36:12.840 --> 02:36:16.470

Aaron Devor: Mm hmm. And in order to answer that. I want to go back to

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02:36:17.580 --> 02:36:19.650

Aaron Devor: About 1972 okay

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02:36:20.490 --> 02:36:33.090

Aaron Devor: I think that's correct here. So, you know, it's hard for me to remember all at the right time, all the stuff that I've been involved with. So one of the things I did back then with this Ellen Wordsworth and I mentioned earlier.

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02:36:34.500 --> 02:36:38.670

Aaron Devor: Was we put on what as far as we know.

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02:36:39.810 --> 02:36:43.140

Aaron Devor: It was the first lesbian conference in Canada.

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02:36:43.800 --> 02:36:44.160

Okay.

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02:36:45.420 --> 02:36:57.030

Aaron Devor: And it was very few people know about it because we quite purposely said no media no publicity and we wanted people who were in the closet to be able to come

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02:36:58.050 --> 02:37:11.550

Aaron Devor: It took place, a little bit of irony irony. It took place at what was then the YWCA. So the irony is that it later became a very exclusive women's club private women's club. When you know

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02:37:12.330 --> 02:37:21.990

Aaron Devor: Women said well you have men's clubs, we're going to have Women's Clubs right in that period of time, and it was at the address was 21 McGill and Toronto and it was

1334

02:37:22.500 --> 02:37:29.970

Aaron Devor: Club was called time when we go. So the reason I'm going back to this is one. It's a, you know, it's kind of cool that we did the first lesbian conference.

1335

02:37:31.980 --> 02:37:38.580

Aaron Devor: Well, I remember sitting at a table and some lesbian came up to me.

1336

02:37:39.600 --> 02:37:46.560

Aaron Devor: Who was not a feminist, you know, we definitely wanted people to come for. We're not feminists, is everything okay can you staring at the screen funny.

1337

02:37:47.010 --> 02:37:47.760

Evan Taylor: Oh no, what

1338

02:37:48.930 --> 02:37:50.820

Evan Taylor: Is it okay. Yeah, no, it's fine.

1339

02:37:51.240 --> 02:37:52.320

Aaron Devor: Okay. I thought maybe watching

1340

02:37:52.320 --> 02:37:58.710

Evan Taylor: Oh, you know what it was. I think it's because I just moved. I just moved the end of the positioning. So let's look at the second part of the screen. They've been used to it. That's all.

1341

02:37:59.010 --> 02:38:00.990

Aaron Devor: Well, I know you can do that. Yeah.

1342

02:38:03.330 --> 02:38:03.660

Aaron Devor: You do.

1343

02:38:04.770 --> 02:38:08.010

Evan Taylor: So your gallery view in your in your speaker view. They're up at the top.

1344

02:38:08.250 --> 02:38:08.580

Aaron Devor: Yeah.

1345

02:38:09.150 --> 02:38:13.800

Evan Taylor: You click on speaker view. So right now I just see one on speaker view.

1346

02:38:14.190 --> 02:38:14.460

Aaron Devor: Yeah.

1347

02:38:14.820 --> 02:38:17.970

Evan Taylor: And I click on the gallery view, then I can see us both. So I can see a different

1348

02:38:18.870 --> 02:38:24.480

Aaron Devor: Oh yeah, I know that that I thought you were saying that in gallery view, you could switch the pictures from one side to the other.

1349

02:38:24.930 --> 02:38:26.430

Evan Taylor: I don't know if you can actually do that.

1350

02:38:26.670 --> 02:38:28.260

Aaron Devor: But that's what I thought you were doing no

1351

02:38:28.860 --> 02:38:30.570

Evan Taylor: Me neither. Speaker in the gallery view, that's all.

1352

02:38:30.990 --> 02:38:32.130

Aaron Devor: Yeah I know how to do that. So,

1353

02:38:35.010 --> 02:38:39.060

Aaron Devor: I want to know, how do I get you to be on the right hand side is to the left hand side. I don't think you can do that.

1354

02:38:39.390 --> 02:38:51.300

Evan Taylor: I think it's to do with the order that people join. Because when a big group on time transfers people around and trying to look at the person at very bottom when I've been doing like campus visits recently and scrolling down and get to the 12th person is actually like the chair.

1355

02:38:51.570 --> 02:38:54.210

Evan Taylor: But it just, I think it just depends on when people join I

1356

02:38:54.630 --> 02:38:55.650

Evan Taylor: Figured it out if you do let me know.

1357

02:38:56.190 --> 02:38:56.970

Aaron Devor: Okay, so

1358

02:38:57.990 --> 02:39:01.590

Evan Taylor: 25 years so they'll be like, oh my goodness, you guys couldn't do that on zoom back then.

1359

02:39:03.990 --> 02:39:06.510

Aaron Devor: Okay, so let's go back where we're at 21 Miguel.

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02:39:06.990 --> 02:39:11.550

Aaron Devor: and I were having these lesbian conference and there are lesbians here who are not at all. Feminists

1361

02:39:11.790 --> 02:39:15.180

Aaron Devor: And I'm sitting at a table, which I guess said something about feminism

1362

02:39:16.230 --> 02:39:18.990

Aaron Devor: And she says to me.

1363

02:39:20.130 --> 02:39:30.780

Aaron Devor: Well, what is it you feminist want you want like everybody to be exactly this the same you you know like you don't like gender roles, so therefore we should all be the same.

1364

02:39:31.020 --> 02:39:42.480

Aaron Devor: Right. And I said, No, actually I don't want us all to be the same. What I want is everybody to be able to be whatever the gender they want, whenever they want it.

1365

02:39:43.170 --> 02:40:06.330

Aaron Devor: And I want people to be able to come to the work one day as high fam. And the next day as a butch day and the next day as a man, and then next day as a FEM guy or to come, mix them up and you know you know a beard in a skirt and

1366

02:40:07.440 --> 02:40:19.740

Aaron Devor: And to be able to do whatever gender they want from morning tonight and whatever day they want and to have more variety and have intimate infinite variety

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02:40:20.190 --> 02:40:22.860

Aaron Devor: For each person in their lives from

1368

02:40:22.890 --> 02:40:25.140

Aaron Devor: hour to hour if they want to, from day to day

1369

02:40:25.260 --> 02:40:35.010

Aaron Devor: If they rent. That's what my vision is. So when I say free of gender roles. That's what I mean, not that everybody should be the same gender.

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02:40:35.370 --> 02:40:37.770

Aaron Devor: Mm hmm. Dull gray.

1371

02:40:39.420 --> 02:40:42.690

Aaron Devor: That we should have infinite variety for each of us.

1372

02:40:42.870 --> 02:40:44.310

Aaron Devor: at whatever time we want

1373

02:40:44.400 --> 02:40:45.660

Aaron Devor: In whatever way we want.

1374

02:40:47.280 --> 02:40:53.400

Aaron Devor: That's 1972 I feel like we're just starting to get their

1375

02:40:54.900 --> 02:40:57.300

Evan Taylor: Minds, just to be a possibility, opening up right now.

1376

02:40:58.020 --> 02:40:58.950

Aaron Devor: 50 years later.

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02:41:00.240 --> 02:41:01.020

Aaron Devor: Almost 50 years

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02:41:02.550 --> 02:41:15.450

Aaron Devor: It's at least a concept that people can conceive of can we live like that. No, we're nowhere near living like that yet, but people can at least conceive of it today, when I say that.

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02:41:16.110 --> 02:41:24.690

Aaron Devor: To people today or something like that today or other people say something like that today. Well, you may get the response that. Well, that's nice.

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02:41:26.130 --> 02:41:28.290

Aaron Devor: But people know what you're talking about.

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02:41:29.640 --> 02:41:31.560

Aaron Devor: They have some concept of it.

1382

02:41:32.430 --> 02:41:39.330

Aaron Devor: They have something they can relate to out of them. So where do I think will be another 50 years from now, I hope will be there.

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02:41:41.040 --> 02:41:42.480

Aaron Devor: Yeah, still my vision.

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02:41:43.260 --> 02:41:45.030

Aaron Devor: And if it takes 100 years to get there.

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02:41:46.680 --> 02:41:48.870

Aaron Devor: It's a lot of social change and 100 years

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02:41:50.250 --> 02:41:58.410

Aaron Devor: But you know i in the 50 year almost 50 years. I think it was 1972 and we're, you know, we're 2020 and a half right so

1387

02:41:59.610 --> 02:42:02.760

Aaron Devor: You know, a year and a half from now the movie 50 years from from it.

1388

02:42:05.580 --> 02:42:07.530

Aaron Devor: Is it's all I see on the

1389

02:42:07.530 --> 02:42:08.010

Aaron Devor: Horizon.

1390

02:42:08.340 --> 02:42:13.170

Aaron Devor: You know, when I look at the kids coming up today and their concept of gender.

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02:42:14.220 --> 02:42:15.120

Aaron Devor: It includes that

1392

02:42:15.750 --> 02:42:20.310

Aaron Devor: Yeah, absolutely. Are they able to live like that in today's world.

1393

02:42:20.460 --> 02:42:20.880

Aaron Devor: I don't think

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02:42:22.020 --> 02:42:29.790

Aaron Devor: I don't think there's enough room for that, as yet, but when we have us and by us. I mean, like, you know, grade school.

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02:42:30.810 --> 02:42:36.780

Aaron Devor: During junior middle school that kind of age, for whom that is part of their vision.

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02:42:38.070 --> 02:42:52.680

Aaron Devor: Not all of them by any means. There's lots of kids in that age group were complete excuse me completely binary and totally conservative but you know there's there's a there are kids that that's part of their vision of what gender should be even if they can't do it.

1397

02:42:53.850 --> 02:43:02.400

Aaron Devor: So they're going to grow up and they're going to become the adults and they're going to run the world and they're going to make more room for that.

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02:43:03.630 --> 02:43:15.330

Aaron Devor: And eventually, there will be people who can live like that it's it's coming. So I can see it. I could see it back then as my vision. I couldn't see it anywhere else.

1399

02:43:17.010 --> 02:43:18.810

Aaron Devor: But when I said this is what I want.

1400

02:43:19.860 --> 02:43:27.510

Aaron Devor: That's 50 years ago. That's what I wanted. So, you know, today, I can see that 50 years from now, it might actually be possible.

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02:43:29.670 --> 02:43:36.390

Evan Taylor: Beautiful. I love that. I love the idea that they especially that you're looking at it, saying, if it took 100 years. And honestly, yeah, this could be halfway

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02:43:36.900 --> 02:43:48.960

Evan Taylor: Like the fact that it's there's enough change that it's now as you're saying that the kids that you know young kids, it is part of their conceptualization of gender, it is it part of their possibility yet. No, it's not. But there

1403

02:43:49.380 --> 02:43:55.440

Evan Taylor: It's, it's literally what they're thinking, you know, like, and in 25 years when those kids are the ones running the world.

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02:43:55.800 --> 02:43:56.310

Aaron Devor: They're going to be

1405

02:43:57.750 --> 02:44:00.450

Aaron Devor: 25 years that's too soon, they won't be running the world for

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02:44:00.690 --> 02:44:02.310

Aaron Devor: 35 or 40 years

1407

02:44:03.270 --> 02:44:07.650

Evan Taylor: But when the way you want, right when they're, when they're in their middle aged years right

1408

02:44:08.310 --> 02:44:19.170

Evan Taylor: But it's gonna be interesting, I think, I think I'd love what you're saying about that just that whole idea that what if this was right now you know 50 years people listen to this and be able to tell us what if we are at that halfway point.

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02:44:20.400 --> 02:44:28.440

Evan Taylor: And the fact that you're even talking about this right now and can see that right now. It's very possible that, you know, something has gone from your head to

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02:44:29.130 --> 02:44:37.860

Evan Taylor: Actually a common understanding may well go from a common understanding to a common experience in another 50 years. Beautiful. Hello.

1411

02:44:38.370 --> 02:44:42.840

Aaron Devor: And for that level of social change. And that is really profound social change.

1412

02:44:43.170 --> 02:44:55.470

Aaron Devor: To happen in 100 years you know now I sound a little bit like a sociologist, I don't think that, you know, that's pretty fast. I think for that level of because social change, because you know we have

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02:44:56.400 --> 02:45:09.960

Aaron Devor: We have for a very long time you know as a society that is really at its core organized on the basis of binary gender and if we can move to that place.

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02:45:11.160 --> 02:45:20.160

Aaron Devor: It's not that there will not be people who choose to be binary gender, but it'll be one choice among men. Right. Yeah. Yeah.

1415

02:45:20.190 --> 02:45:29.880

Evan Taylor: It'll be on that spectrum of choice that people have, or the constellation, or however you want to conceptualize it then. It's one of the many choices, but it's not necessarily the anchor points of choice.

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02:45:30.150 --> 02:45:40.980

Aaron Devor: It's not an imposed. It's not imposed so you know another thing that I will say about where I think we're going with gender is that most things in nature.

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02:45:44.610 --> 02:45:59.550

Aaron Devor: Are on a bell curve and normal distribution, not everything so biological sex for instance for humans in many, many creatures is basically by Mo, but it's not perfectly by mobile

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02:46:00.900 --> 02:46:01.410

Aaron Devor: Binary

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02:46:03.360 --> 02:46:27.570

Aaron Devor: I think that sex is and always will be biological sex will be basically by mobile, but not completely, but I think that gender. If it were left to its natural state and not be unnaturally constrained by social mores and and requirements would be more like a normal distribution.

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02:46:28.800 --> 02:46:30.780

Aaron Devor: So most people

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02:46:32.040 --> 02:46:43.980

Aaron Devor: Left to their natural state their natural inclinations will be some mixture in the middle of what we now think of as masculinity and femininity.

1422

02:46:44.970 --> 02:46:58.710

Aaron Devor: And that there will, as an N or any normal distribution, there will still be in the tails. If you're familiar with the stats in the tails. There will be people who are very much men and very much women.

1423

02:46:59.190 --> 02:47:10.290

Aaron Devor: And are very binary, but they'll be small numbers and that the vast majority of people will be somewhere in that center and they may identify as men. But in terms of their gender expression.

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02:47:10.800 --> 02:47:16.110

Aaron Devor: Or they may identify as women, but in terms of their gender expression. He'll be very, very much a mixture

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02:47:16.530 --> 02:47:32.640

Aaron Devor: Very much a non binary central kind of tendency sort of gender expression. I think that's what nature would have us be if we did not impose our cultural demands that people choose a binary position.

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02:47:33.660 --> 02:47:37.470

Aaron Devor: And stay with it as much as possible. Right, right.

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02:47:38.460 --> 02:47:44.910

Evan Taylor: Sure. And I like the idea of the is not necessarily a bell curve, but like a that. What's that distribution called the

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02:47:45.360 --> 02:47:45.840

Aaron Devor: Normal

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02:47:45.900 --> 02:47:48.840

Evan Taylor: Normal distribution normal that sorry I'm not good with that word.

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02:47:49.980 --> 02:48:02.250

Evan Taylor: But don't know much about normal but yeah that the normal distribution. If we understanding it that way, that that would, that it works that way with sexuality, right, it works that way with all sorts of other social phenomenon that

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02:48:03.090 --> 02:48:07.800

Evan Taylor: We've come to understand to be part of just, you know, the diversity of human experience.

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02:48:08.790 --> 02:48:13.620

Aaron Devor: Not just human experience and not just social experiences throughout nature.

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02:48:13.980 --> 02:48:19.800

Aaron Devor: Right. They're awful lot that has that bell curve or normal curve.

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02:48:21.000 --> 02:48:21.750

Aaron Devor: Distribution.

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02:48:22.170 --> 02:48:25.500

Aaron Devor: And I think the gender, given the freedom

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02:48:25.710 --> 02:48:37.590

Aaron Devor: To move in the way that people, you know, intrinsically want to be will seem much more of a central tendency. Now you know I told you I was good at stats on now. I'm talking to you with stash metaphors, but

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02:48:38.550 --> 02:48:47.190

Aaron Devor: They call that a central tendency that binary district that normal distribution is what kind of everyday language. You should call a bell curve.

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02:48:47.220 --> 02:48:55.410

Aaron Devor: But it does have those little, little pointy bits at the end they call them the tales of the distribution where you get a more

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02:48:57.690 --> 02:49:12.300

Aaron Devor: simplified version of whatever it is you're looking at a more binary kind of dichotomies version, but it's only a small numbers that you find their most are in this kind of central tendency, around, around the, the central point for me. Yeah.

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02:49:12.630 --> 02:49:18.450

Evan Taylor: And we know the Kinsey sixes and zeros exist, but there's a whole lot in the middle. That's really where the interesting stuff happens.

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02:49:18.930 --> 02:49:23.190

Aaron Devor: That's where most people fall really hate. If you look at their actual

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02:49:24.150 --> 02:49:36.150

Aaron Devor: Well, if you look at you know maybe you have to look at their practices. Maybe you're looking at their fantasies. Maybe you're looking at their attractions, but very few people are purely 100% zero or six, that's another example.

1443

02:49:37.320 --> 02:49:37.770

Aaron Devor: Interesting.

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02:49:38.130 --> 02:49:45.660

Evan Taylor: I like that way of looking at it. What do you think, what are they, I'm interested as well, just because it's a cop and other interviews. So I'd be interested in your perspective.

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02:49:46.050 --> 02:49:52.980

Evan Taylor: And 50 years. Do you think that will use gender on our IDs and on sort of things like that, that'll all be gone by that.

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02:49:53.340 --> 02:50:02.160

Aaron Devor: It's it's it's it's on its way out. It's definitely on its way up. And this is one of my campaigns that I'm working on for years in various ways.

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02:50:03.210 --> 02:50:06.960

Aaron Devor: I did an op ed in The Vancouver Sun on a couple years ago.

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02:50:08.250 --> 02:50:08.790

Aaron Devor: And I

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02:50:10.740 --> 02:50:16.260

Aaron Devor: I haven't like published. Other than that, on the topic, but I do

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02:50:17.340 --> 02:50:30.540

Aaron Devor: Have access to the ears of lots of people in positions of policymaking in government, certainly at the university, but also in in various levels of government.

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02:50:31.290 --> 02:50:40.920

Aaron Devor: And I speak to them frequently and the as do many other people. I mean, I think personal credit for and saying, I'm contributing to this happening.

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02:50:42.600 --> 02:50:57.570

Aaron Devor: And certainly in Canada. We're already moving in that direction, you may not be aware that the federal government has a policy and is working on implementing that policy of going through all of their

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02:50:59.070 --> 02:51:04.710

Aaron Devor: All their paperwork all their forums all their data management policies, etc.

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02:51:06.030 --> 02:51:08.610

Aaron Devor: To ask the question.

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02:51:10.200 --> 02:51:13.650

Aaron Devor: Where are we collecting gender information.

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02:51:14.820 --> 02:51:17.970

Aaron Devor: Do we need to do it. Why are we collecting it

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02:51:20.100 --> 02:51:22.260

Aaron Devor: If we are collecting for good reasons.

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02:51:23.490 --> 02:51:28.770

Aaron Devor: Will continue to do that if we're not collecting. It's a good reasons they're planning on not collecting it anymore.

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02:51:30.000 --> 02:51:32.130

Aaron Devor: And then the data that they collect

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02:51:33.570 --> 02:51:53.310

Aaron Devor: Is to be treated with as private information and should be shared on a need to know basis. And so they're examining who has access to this information under what circumstances. How does it move through our systems. Now, this kind of project is at least a 10 year project.

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02:51:54.540 --> 02:51:57.300

Aaron Devor: Right, because it's a huge, complicated bureaucracy.

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02:51:58.380 --> 02:52:16.620

Aaron Devor: But they already started on that. And so I believe it's not that many years away where we're going to see gender coming off of a lot of documentation, where it's really not helpful not relevant and causes problems. Now, the flip side of that is

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02:52:18.120 --> 02:52:33.270

Aaron Devor: My opinion. I did publish them inside is that I think the default position on ID should be no publicly facing gender markers and say publicly facing because there are reasons why some people need to know that.

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02:52:34.380 --> 02:52:37.830

Aaron Devor: It shouldn't be just, you know, blanket on everything all the time, everywhere you go.

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02:52:39.090 --> 02:52:45.630

Aaron Devor: That should be the default, but I think there should be an option available to people to have it publicly facing if they wish.

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02:52:46.830 --> 02:53:00.330

Aaron Devor: And I say that because I've heard some very strong and persuasive opinions from some trans women who have said that two things. One, they work very hard to get recognized as a woman.

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02:53:01.590 --> 02:53:18.510

Aaron Devor: And to that they rely on having government approved documentation, because other people don't consistently read them as women right and they feel it's important for them to be able to say, look, it is official

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02:53:20.040 --> 02:53:29.190

Aaron Devor: I have government ID that says I am a woman and you need to accept and treat me as a woman, it is legal and official. Here it is.

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02:53:30.570 --> 02:53:41.820

Aaron Devor: And they want to have that right. Okay, so I think it should be available to people as an option. But I think the default position should be, you don't have it, you

1470

02:53:42.780 --> 02:53:46.380

Evan Taylor: Interesting what you say about the publicly facing one that in the sense of

1471

02:53:46.620 --> 02:53:51.810

Evan Taylor: You know, if the, if there's a way to access that information when people need it. Like if you're in a car accident and

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02:53:52.020 --> 02:53:57.900

Evan Taylor: You know, I don't know if there's an immediate emergency Catholic or a situation that has to happen or whatever I want people to, you know,

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02:53:58.110 --> 02:54:02.670

Evan Taylor: Bring the pink catheter, if that's like whatever you need me to like bring you know whatever it is you need, like, you know,

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02:54:02.940 --> 02:54:06.720

Evan Taylor: I don't know why you might need it. But if if that if there is a you know if there's a

1475

02:54:06.960 --> 02:54:11.670

Evan Taylor: Specific thing you need to do based on different types of bodies and please bring the one that I'm going to need

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02:54:11.880 --> 02:54:19.110

Evan Taylor: And, you know, that'd be nice to have that information be available, but also to not have to flash it every single time you want to go into a concert or something like that.

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02:54:19.410 --> 02:54:25.770

Evan Taylor: That you know it's completely irrelevant me so I like I think that's an interesting distinction I haven't heard anyone making before about

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02:54:26.130 --> 02:54:34.590

Evan Taylor: Whether you know it's one thing to collect the information. It's a whole other thing to be making it publicly visible and accessible and that that's that's a really important distinction. Thank you.

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02:54:35.070 --> 02:54:38.520

Aaron Devor: So another couple of aspects of that is that

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02:54:40.890 --> 02:54:42.270

Aaron Devor: If you don't count it.

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02:54:43.620 --> 02:54:48.390

Aaron Devor: You don't count. If you're not counted. You don't count. So we need to know

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02:54:49.440 --> 02:55:03.480

Aaron Devor: For the distribution of resources. How many people there are in different gender categories. So that's another reason why there's some data that should be brought in, but it doesn't necessarily have to be attached to your personal record.

1483

02:55:04.050 --> 02:55:16.440

Aaron Devor: Right. Okay. So we need to know how many men, how many women, how many trans people, how many non binary people, how many to spirit people for a whole variety of resource related and support.

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02:55:17.670 --> 02:55:23.610

Aaron Devor: Reasons, but we don't necessarily need to have that information tag to you, everywhere you go.

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02:55:24.600 --> 02:55:25.290

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

1486

02:55:25.410 --> 02:55:26.880

Aaron Devor: Maybe not to you at all.

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02:55:27.570 --> 02:55:30.510

Aaron Devor: So there are reasons to to gather that information.

1488

02:55:30.810 --> 02:55:38.820

Aaron Devor: Well, what do we do with it. Where does it go so that's that's one one aspect that I wanted to mention, and so I you know I talked to people about that as well.

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02:55:41.580 --> 02:55:48.300

Aaron Devor: You mentioned the, the medical question. So there's a project that is being led here at you think

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02:55:49.050 --> 02:55:55.740

Aaron Devor: And this comes back to me being, being a graduate study. So years ago we when I was doing a graduate studies, there were

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02:55:56.580 --> 02:56:03.930

Aaron Devor: Lots of new programs created while I was doing like 50 something new programs in the 10 years of boosting and one of them was in

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02:56:04.470 --> 02:56:13.110

Aaron Devor: Health Information Science. And so I got to know some of the people in that program. And then since I've been doing. I'm on I continue to be on the Senate and I saw that they were developing

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02:56:15.030 --> 02:56:19.200

Aaron Devor: I think it's a certificate in electronic health records.

1494

02:56:19.560 --> 02:56:23.580

Aaron Devor: Okay, I knew the guy, one of the one of the people associated with I called him up.

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02:56:24.870 --> 02:56:35.580

Aaron Devor: His name is Francis Lau. And I said, Francis I see you're doing this and there's a big wave coming down the road and you have the opportunity to be a world leader.

1496

02:56:36.360 --> 02:56:51.270

Aaron Devor: Using your program because we need to deal with transgender people in electric electronic health records. You need to be able to accommodate properly the records and it's complicated.

1497

02:56:52.230 --> 02:56:58.260

Aaron Devor: And he said, well, that's very interesting. But I don't know anything about that. It took him a couple of years to get on it.

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02:56:59.160 --> 02:57:09.270

Aaron Devor: But now he's on it and he's leading teams of people and coordinating with teams of people who are working on it and other places.

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02:57:09.690 --> 02:57:18.150

Aaron Devor: And he's got a research project right now that I'm participating in that runs all across the country at all levels from

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02:57:18.990 --> 02:57:39.510

Aaron Devor: Consumers individuals to private doctors offices to clinics to provincial health authorities to federal health authorities to people that work in other countries and a project has begun, which is, again, probably a 10 year project if not longer

1501

02:57:40.770 --> 02:57:57.600

Aaron Devor: To identify what kind of gender based information do we need and sex based information do we need in what circumstances about individuals. So one of the things, for instance, that we're discussing is

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02:57:59.160 --> 02:58:08.580

Aaron Devor: Where do you denote sex. Where do you do know gender. What do you denote about sex and gender.

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02:58:09.780 --> 02:58:13.350

Aaron Devor: And for instance, I think in most cases.

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02:58:14.730 --> 02:58:23.070

Aaron Devor: Denoting sex is not terribly useful. And one of the things we're talking about is having anatomical inventories. Right.

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02:58:23.190 --> 02:58:29.040

Aaron Devor: Yeah, so what you reference just now in your question will be answered by an anatomical inventory

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02:58:30.030 --> 02:58:33.780

Aaron Devor: We put down male, female, or trans or intersex.

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02:58:34.020 --> 02:58:36.510

Aaron Devor: None of that's going to tell them what color catheter to give

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02:58:37.140 --> 02:58:39.750

Aaron Devor: Exactly and anatomical inventory will

1509

02:58:41.400 --> 02:58:53.820

Aaron Devor: Be so we're looking at the entire world. And it's very complicated when you start getting into who needs what kind of information. You know what information do you need it in, er, what

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02:58:53.820 --> 02:58:54.750

Aaron Devor: Information do

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02:58:54.870 --> 02:59:05.880

Aaron Devor: You need it. If you're going for medical imaging. What information do you need if you're going for blood tests, you know, and it goes on and on and on. Who needs that information.

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02:59:07.200 --> 02:59:09.600

Aaron Devor: What do they need, how do they learn about it.

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02:59:10.800 --> 02:59:20.280

Aaron Devor: And how do they record it and there's a million different systems beings right now to record this stuff and how do they talk to each other.

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02:59:21.000 --> 02:59:29.700

Aaron Devor: Have you transported from one system to another system, it's a very complicated set of problems, but we're working

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02:59:30.360 --> 02:59:37.770

Aaron Devor: And there are teams of people in many places, working on this, but they're kind of in these different pies and in Canada at least

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02:59:38.460 --> 02:59:48.720

Aaron Devor: We are working towards having communication and and some level of standardization inter inter opera ability

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02:59:48.990 --> 02:59:54.270

Aaron Devor: Among all the system. So I've met with the people from the province in the talking to people at the federal government and

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02:59:54.540 --> 03:00:06.780

Aaron Devor: And many others, and we're doing consultations with user groups and consultations with users at different levels and patients and etc etc. It's a big complicated project.

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03:00:07.800 --> 03:00:12.060

Aaron Devor: But ultimately, it comes back to your question about, you know, where are we going with gender.

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03:00:13.200 --> 03:00:20.550

Aaron Devor: And this is another piece of moving us for that rainbow of genders.

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03:00:21.870 --> 03:00:28.980

Aaron Devor: Because it's moving us away from a simple binary because simple binary just is not working anymore. Exactly.

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03:00:30.240 --> 03:00:43.230

Aaron Devor: So that's a big project I'm really pleased Francis is taking it on. He is expert and there's a lot of people on these teams we have calls every zoom calls every two weeks, and lots of email in between.

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03:00:43.860 --> 03:00:47.160

Aaron Devor: As lot of people on these teams we know nothing about transgender

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03:00:47.610 --> 03:00:59.250

Aaron Devor: And they have the problem once we map out. We're working right now in mind maps. Once we map out all the different elements they have the problem of figuring out how to translate that into

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03:00:59.640 --> 03:01:10.980

Aaron Devor: Actual computer systems that people can use and understand what they're doing and can communicate with each other and communicate when you travel and

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03:01:12.150 --> 03:01:13.680

Aaron Devor: I don't want their headaches but

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03:01:14.250 --> 03:01:23.400

Aaron Devor: Well, you know, I'm a content expert and I keep going. I keep coming to the meetings and saying that you can say it this way you can be going to do this. And there's other content experts. I'm certainly not the only one.

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03:01:23.670 --> 03:01:37.830

Aaron Devor: But it's a it's a huge project I'm really happy to see it happening. I think it's going to ultimately really improve all of our lives, you know, I keep pointing out things like you know there's lots of SIS gender females who don't have a uterus either

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03:01:38.400 --> 03:01:39.450

Aaron Devor: You know,

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03:01:39.690 --> 03:01:40.740

Aaron Devor: What organs, they have

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03:01:43.800 --> 03:01:47.670

Aaron Devor: The other thing I'll mention that you're probably aware of his stats can in the last

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03:01:48.840 --> 03:01:53.940

Aaron Devor: Might be as much as two years now has started a project where

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03:01:55.830 --> 03:02:00.990

Aaron Devor: They've always just recorded sex and they now are recording both sex and gender.

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03:02:02.280 --> 03:02:02.940

Evan Taylor: Interesting.

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03:02:03.270 --> 03:02:11.760

Aaron Devor: So there they if you go to their website they have definitions within you, by sex and gender and they're doing two part questions on everything.

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03:02:12.870 --> 03:02:18.420

Evan Taylor: So are they doing the the gender blank box or gender still MF or other

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03:02:20.520 --> 03:02:21.210

Aaron Devor: Adoring them.

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03:02:21.630 --> 03:02:23.790

Evan Taylor: Okay, that's interesting. You're doing that.

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03:02:23.880 --> 03:02:24.390

Evan Taylor: I'll look they have a

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03:02:24.420 --> 03:02:30.870

Aaron Devor: Definition on their stats can website. But yeah, I think they'd be sex assigned at birth and current gender right

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03:02:30.900 --> 03:02:34.080

Aaron Devor: Okay, because what they're doing. But what that means.

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03:02:35.130 --> 03:02:37.560

Aaron Devor: When you have stats can

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03:02:38.790 --> 03:02:47.910

Aaron Devor: Gathering that data. This will be. I'm pretty sure the first and only national level.

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03:02:49.740 --> 03:02:51.750

Aaron Devor: Population did not sample.

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03:02:52.290 --> 03:02:55.770

Aaron Devor: The population of people on how many people are trans

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03:02:56.160 --> 03:02:57.420

Evan Taylor: Right, right.

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03:02:57.480 --> 03:03:12.150

Aaron Devor: Because that's can surveys, the entire population as close as you can possibly get right stats all the other studies are a sample out of the whole population and then you get into all the questions about, is it a good sample and so on.

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03:03:13.410 --> 03:03:24.480

Aaron Devor: And you know how good are the researchers. Well, now we have the national body who are gathering just started gathering this information. But at some point, we will have

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03:03:25.590 --> 03:03:32.070

Aaron Devor: As close as you can get to impeccable national level full population data.

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03:03:32.760 --> 03:03:33.660

Aaron Devor: How many trans people.

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03:03:35.250 --> 03:03:44.460

Aaron Devor: And again, the resources, follow the numbers and we don't know where to put the resources if we have no idea where the numbers are

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03:03:45.150 --> 03:03:58.680

Aaron Devor: And we'll actually have some real numbers that are as good as you can get on how many trans people are there where they live. And then we can start talking about needs and how do we address needs. Right, right.

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03:03:59.610 --> 03:04:05.700

Evan Taylor: That's an that's a fascinating, fascinating project I was aware of the work that w path had done that.

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03:04:06.300 --> 03:04:10.590

Evan Taylor: Sorts of a sub group of folks who published a piece on that they've been looking on on the

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03:04:11.130 --> 03:04:18.480

Evan Taylor: Electronic Medical Records, but I hadn't heard that this piece has been defending you that that's and I definitely didn't know that stats cannot change that change that over

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03:04:19.020 --> 03:04:24.480

Evan Taylor: I said, I remember the last time I filled out one of the long form census things. And I remember this.

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03:04:24.690 --> 03:04:33.090

Evan Taylor: Because I was lucky enough to get the long form one because I was kind of happy about that. And it said, you know, you have to market this way not to market this way as an offense. And I was just like,

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03:04:33.780 --> 03:04:36.390

Evan Taylor: I don't care. I'm going to write it in then because he

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03:04:36.750 --> 03:04:42.570

Evan Taylor: And I wrote in and it said specifically do not do this because it's not an incorrect answer, it's illegal, we can find you, yada, yada, yada.

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03:04:42.780 --> 03:04:47.040

Evan Taylor: But I was like, take me to court. I want you to take me to court kind of want to explain to you.

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03:04:47.370 --> 03:04:52.800

Evan Taylor: Which is, I literally wrote in this isn't accurate. This is why you're not correcting the correct information.

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03:04:52.980 --> 03:04:59.910

Evan Taylor: That. And I just, I wrote in why it's completely inaccurate from a scientific research point of view that they're not getting you're not getting accurate results. So it's a uses beats.

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03:04:59.910 --> 03:05:03.180

Evan Taylor: Information and I didn't hear anything back and then eventually I did get

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03:05:03.900 --> 03:05:12.690

Evan Taylor: I got, I sent a complaint letter, basically. And I got one back. That said, Okay, fine. We're reviewing it. Thanks. So, you know, as we always do we set up an advisory group. Thanks.

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03:05:12.960 --> 03:05:17.040

Evan Taylor: But, you know, I'm glad you know they actually did that because it was something that I was just like, I'm

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03:05:17.460 --> 03:05:30.270

Evan Taylor: I'm done with this point in my life trying to fix fit myself into these things. You guys need to change it. And if you don't want to change it. I'm going to ruin your results. Anyway, so that's my happy to do so, but so I'm very happy to hear that changed.

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03:05:30.570 --> 03:05:30.900

Aaron Devor: Well, they're

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03:05:31.920 --> 03:05:35.280

Aaron Devor: Working on changing as they say this is least a 10 year project.

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03:05:35.520 --> 03:05:36.390

Evan Taylor: Yeah, but

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03:05:36.420 --> 03:05:39.750

Aaron Devor: They have made the decision to pursue this

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03:05:40.080 --> 03:05:50.910

Evan Taylor: Very cool. Very cool. Um, in terms of, um, so one of the things that we've talked a little bit about in terms of, like, looking back to the past and then changes, what's going to go forward.

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03:05:51.150 --> 03:05:56.550

Evan Taylor: And one things we haven't asked you about is sort of your own work and your own activism.

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03:05:56.850 --> 03:06:03.300

Evan Taylor: Is their work, they said, you know, you look backwards. It's great to look forward and see changing some of the identification and so forth.

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03:06:03.630 --> 03:06:15.660

Evan Taylor: When you look back. Is there work and from an activist point of view that you think you know we should have done this as a trans community earlier or there would have been, we would have set ourselves up better if we'd taken on a particular piece of work earlier than we have.

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03:06:18.750 --> 03:06:19.890

Aaron Devor: To have an answer to that question.

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03:06:22.980 --> 03:06:31.650

Evan Taylor: Sometimes people do sometimes people like it will be like let me tell you everything and then sometimes to be like now I would have made every, every stupid decision I made the same way I made it or whatever.

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03:06:32.070 --> 03:06:36.600

Aaron Devor: Well me you're at you. I thought you were asking about what you think the community should do as opposed to

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03:06:36.660 --> 03:06:43.950

Evan Taylor: Myself, either for you. It's hard because some folks, I'm asking and saying, so you know if you've known this in the 80s, would you have done something differently with Aegis

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03:06:44.100 --> 03:06:55.350

Evan Taylor: Well, to be honest with you, I asked both because I don't know if it was a, you know, personal thing or if it was more of a, you know, academic expertise, you know, we should have been on this in the early 90s as community or something. So for us, but it's both.

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03:07:00.390 --> 03:07:01.710

Aaron Devor: And I

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03:07:01.980 --> 03:07:04.710

Aaron Devor: haven't given any thought to that I really fair enough.

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03:07:04.950 --> 03:07:07.200

Aaron Devor: I don't know where to go with that one. So I'm going to pass on it.

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03:07:07.560 --> 03:07:20.460

Evan Taylor: No worries. Yeah, some people are just like now I think it's fine. So, fair enough. And so where are we now, I think we've gone through, we want to talk about the chair and how the chair came about. Before we go into the more personal reflections.

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03:07:21.930 --> 03:07:26.130

Aaron Devor: Okay. And I'd like to talk a little bit also about the conferences.

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03:07:26.640 --> 03:07:27.840

Aaron Devor: Okay, those are big.

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03:07:27.870 --> 03:07:28.530

Aaron Devor: Really as well.

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03:07:28.590 --> 03:07:29.340

Evan Taylor: Yeah, definitely.

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03:07:29.370 --> 03:07:43.770

Aaron Devor: Know the chronology is that the the archive started first started collecting 2006 2007 2008 started talking about it, six and seven. I think the first collection came in at I think

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03:07:45.570 --> 03:07:54.450

Aaron Devor: We officially launched 2011 at the W path conference of that year, which was in Atlanta across the street from the CDC at Emory University.

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03:07:57.060 --> 03:08:12.060

Aaron Devor: And then a couple years later, we decided we being myself and a couple of people at the library Laura Wilson, who's the archivist and Christine Walt who works on

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03:08:14.580 --> 03:08:20.430

Aaron Devor: Grants and projects in the library. And we decided to have a conference.

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03:08:21.450 --> 03:08:29.460

Aaron Devor: To basically bring the archives more to the attention of the world and we were thinking of it as a conference focused on

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03:08:30.720 --> 03:08:32.400

Aaron Devor: Trans archival work.

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03:08:34.140 --> 03:08:47.790

Aaron Devor: That will first one was in 2014 and we had some great people. There are keynote speakers were Dallas Danny Vivian misty and Susan striker

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03:08:49.080 --> 03:08:51.180

Aaron Devor: So pretty pretty nice.

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03:08:52.470 --> 03:08:52.950

Evan Taylor: Collection.

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03:08:54.060 --> 03:08:59.760

Aaron Devor: And again, if we feel that they're all people. I've known forever. And when I asked them. Oh yeah, sure, I'll do that for you.

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03:09:02.040 --> 03:09:18.900

Aaron Devor: We had 85 people, and it was 85 is fairly intimate. It was very nice. And there are a whole bunch of people who said, oh, gee, I can't make it this year I'm going to come to the next one, or this was so great. I can't wait till the next one. And I realized that it wasn't a one off.

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03:09:20.730 --> 03:09:22.350

Evan Taylor: The people, they are expecting it now.

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03:09:23.070 --> 03:09:25.110

Aaron Devor: Yeah, I thought we were just doing this one conference.

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03:09:26.430 --> 03:09:33.720

Aaron Devor: And they wanted it next year and I said there's no way we can manage it next year. So I said on a cycle of we'll do another one in two years.

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03:09:35.820 --> 03:09:37.920

Aaron Devor: So I also

1603

03:09:41.610 --> 03:09:53.100

Aaron Devor: Was in that period of time I finished being the Dean of Graduate Studies in 2012 okay I hadn't had in July 2012 I hadn't had a sabbatical at that point for 13 years

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03:09:53.880 --> 03:09:59.850

Aaron Devor: Wow, so I had earned two years of leave

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03:10:00.900 --> 03:10:01.470

Aaron Devor: paid leave

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03:10:03.570 --> 03:10:09.990

Aaron Devor: And it was it mentally, which was fine detail, but the detail is you get paid better on had been leave than you do on sabbatical.

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03:10:10.230 --> 03:10:10.680

Aaron Devor: Okay.

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03:10:11.430 --> 03:10:12.180

That's the finding

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03:10:13.560 --> 03:10:15.180

Aaron Devor: So I had two years.

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03:10:16.650 --> 03:10:26.790

Aaron Devor: To self. So as I said before, I had not really done much research during that period of time. At this point, I hadn't taught for 13 years

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03:10:27.000 --> 03:10:28.470

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm. Right.

1612

03:10:28.890 --> 03:10:34.230

Aaron Devor: And now it's going to be 15 years before I actually went back into the classroom.

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03:10:35.250 --> 03:10:55.500

Aaron Devor: And so I thought, What do I want to do with myself and I didn't really want to just go back to being a regular profession, after all those years in administration. So the 2014 conference was at the end. Towards the end of those two years of leave

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03:10:56.070 --> 03:10:56.490

Okay.

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03:10:59.070 --> 03:11:01.560

Aaron Devor: Well 1213 1314 yeah I was in there.

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03:11:03.600 --> 03:11:12.300

Aaron Devor: And during that time I gave a lot of thought to it and I'm talking to one of my friends was a previous academic

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03:11:13.200 --> 03:11:27.060

Aaron Devor: And was in another career now and I saying, you know, gee, I'd really like to spend my time, you know, really working in the trans stuff. I don't really want to be a professor again. Yeah, she said, why don't you start a Research Institute.

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03:11:28.500 --> 03:11:28.920

Aaron Devor: I said,

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03:11:30.630 --> 03:11:31.740

Aaron Devor: How am I going to do that.

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03:11:33.540 --> 03:11:34.590

Aaron Devor: He said, Well, think about it.

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03:11:35.640 --> 03:11:37.080

Aaron Devor: So I started

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03:11:38.370 --> 03:11:49.890

Aaron Devor: talking to some people about starting a Research Institute, and I knew enough from being an administrator for as long as I was to know that there was no way the university was going to pay for that.

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03:11:51.330 --> 03:11:55.110

Aaron Devor: And that if I wanted to do that. I was going to have to raise the money myself.

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03:11:56.310 --> 03:11:57.720

Aaron Devor: And that it would be a lot of money.

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03:12:00.510 --> 03:12:09.360

Aaron Devor: And I started talking to people about it and everybody I talked to said, Oh, that's a great idea. And over and over again. I heard people say if anybody can do it. You can do it.

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03:12:11.220 --> 03:12:12.660

Aaron Devor: Well that's, that's lovely, but

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03:12:14.580 --> 03:12:15.600

Aaron Devor: It can't be done.

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03:12:17.250 --> 03:12:20.670

Aaron Devor: It's very nice that you have confidence in me, but I don't know if it can be done.

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03:12:21.900 --> 03:12:35.790

Aaron Devor: So I during that time I started, you know, trying to figure out how to do that and fundraising was core to doing that and I really didn't have a lot of experience in fundraising.

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03:12:37.050 --> 03:12:42.300

Aaron Devor: As a dean of Graduate Studies. Dean of anything else you do a lot of fundraising with the undergraduate studies.

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03:12:42.600 --> 03:12:53.340

Aaron Devor: Everybody I talked to said thank you very much. It's very nice that you'd like to do some fundraising, but nobody gives to graduate studies. It's too vague. They give two studies in a particular topic that's meaningful to them.

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03:12:53.970 --> 03:12:54.750

Evan Taylor: Right.

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03:12:54.870 --> 03:13:05.130

Aaron Devor: So I didn't really have much experience in the way of fundraising. So I said about learning about fundraising. And then I said about trying to find

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03:13:06.420 --> 03:13:14.220

Aaron Devor: People that might have money that would be interested in helping me out with this and i think you know as well as I do trans communities poor

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03:13:15.000 --> 03:13:18.090

Aaron Devor: Exactly. It's not a lot of people with money and the fans can you

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03:13:18.600 --> 03:13:21.900

Evan Taylor: Know you were the most successful person that we were looking at, at that point.

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03:13:21.900 --> 03:13:33.300

Aaron Devor: So, so I started looking around and asking questions in there are some trans people that have money and I started making it my business to reach to them.

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03:13:34.380 --> 03:13:35.940

Aaron Devor: And to bring them in to

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03:13:36.960 --> 03:13:38.040

Aaron Devor: Get them involved.

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03:13:41.340 --> 03:13:48.480

Evan Taylor: In the work you've done on Erickson's history. I imagine you had some ideas and strategies about how that might look to approach folks like that might have those interests.

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03:13:48.720 --> 03:13:55.710

Aaron Devor: Well you know those people Eric's gonna have the money, but he was gone and I needed to find the people who are there now so

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03:13:58.680 --> 03:14:01.170

Aaron Devor: 2014 conferences is coming up.

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03:14:02.280 --> 03:14:05.700

Aaron Devor: And I'm looking around and I hear

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03:14:07.530 --> 03:14:10.680

Aaron Devor: About somebody a friend of mine in LA sends me a

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03:14:12.660 --> 03:14:14.490

Aaron Devor: Link to a story online.

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03:14:16.080 --> 03:14:18.300

Aaron Devor: The world's first transgender billionaire.

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03:14:20.520 --> 03:14:21.120

Aaron Devor: Billionaire

1648

03:14:23.940 --> 03:14:24.570

Aaron Devor: Transgender

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03:14:26.130 --> 03:14:32.430

Aaron Devor: So I said about trying to find somebody who knew her

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03:14:34.020 --> 03:14:40.260

Aaron Devor: And indeed, I did find somebody a couple of people I knew who knew her but they weren't about to introduce me to her.

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03:14:42.390 --> 03:14:43.200

Aaron Devor: So in the end,

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03:14:43.890 --> 03:14:46.290

Evan Taylor: Why is that because she was just so intensely private or

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03:14:47.010 --> 03:14:55.620

Aaron Devor: Well, I now get people approaching me all the time to introduce to get me to introduce me introduce them to her and I won't either.

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03:14:57.150 --> 03:15:02.130

Aaron Devor: I know that everybody in the world wants to target her for money.

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03:15:03.600 --> 03:15:06.030

Aaron Devor: I want to protect my relationship with her.

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03:15:07.380 --> 03:15:09.330

Aaron Devor: And I don't want to strain it

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03:15:09.360 --> 03:15:15.900

Aaron Devor: By having this onslaught of people who she not interested in hearing from them. They just want our money.

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03:15:16.800 --> 03:15:18.330

Evan Taylor: Gotcha. Exactly. Okay.

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03:15:19.050 --> 03:15:26.160

Aaron Devor: And everybody else who knew her. I think also wanted to protect and preserve their relationship with her by not

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03:15:27.240 --> 03:15:33.780

Aaron Devor: Having her feel like that they were exploiting their knowledge of her to their own benefit, or to her detriment.

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03:15:34.620 --> 03:15:35.580

Aaron Devor: Right, so

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03:15:36.570 --> 03:15:47.520

Aaron Devor: I simply wrote a letter to her foundation. She has a foundation called to one TWA and I so I wrote a letter to info at

1663

03:15:48.660 --> 03:15:54.480

Aaron Devor: Dot com or.org whatever it was, like, that's the epitome of a cold call

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03:15:57.450 --> 03:16:07.830

Aaron Devor: And what I said was, I had studied up on her. And what I found out is that she had a long history of and her family as well had a history of interest in the military US military

1665

03:16:08.970 --> 03:16:17.460

Aaron Devor: Military generally that focused on us and that she had created a Military Museum and archives

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03:16:18.780 --> 03:16:21.330

Aaron Devor: So I thought transgender archive.

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03:16:23.490 --> 03:16:26.820

Aaron Devor: Conference. Number one was about transgender archives

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03:16:27.840 --> 03:16:37.830

Aaron Devor: So I invited her to come and give an opening night address and now I didn't hear a better even until all the keynotes were lined up and everything else, but the opening night had a had

1669

03:16:38.490 --> 03:16:45.720

Aaron Devor: To have a plan for it and I invited her to come to an opening night address about transgender and archives

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03:16:47.970 --> 03:17:04.560

Aaron Devor: And of course, I sent this cold call and we didn't hear anything and I you know I was very persistent and I kept writing letters and making phone calls. And did you get my and finally I got to her one of her personal assistance and yes she got your letter, she's thinking about it.

1671

03:17:05.580 --> 03:17:12.300

Aaron Devor: So a call back in a couple of weeks and well she thought about it, and blah, blah, blah. So eventually I get

1672

03:17:13.560 --> 03:17:27.360

Aaron Devor: It. I think it was an email. It says, Colonel Pritzker would is interested in in having a brief conversation with you about your proposal. Okay, can we set up a time. So we set up a time unfortunately

1673

03:17:28.530 --> 03:17:31.950

Aaron Devor: I didn't schedule anything on the other side.

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03:17:33.300 --> 03:17:41.280

Aaron Devor: Because what I think was supposed to be a 15 minute conversation or even a 10 minute conversation brief turned into an hour and a half.

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03:17:43.140 --> 03:17:56.400

Aaron Devor: We really hit it off and lots to talk about turned out we have lots of mutual friends and we had mutual interests and we just had lots of talk about, and she she agreed to come

1676

03:17:58.230 --> 03:18:03.000

Aaron Devor: And fortunately, she agreed to allow me to help her with her speech.

1677

03:18:03.630 --> 03:18:08.910

Aaron Devor: Because he needed quite a bit of help that she was very humble about it and very gracious about it.

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03:18:10.230 --> 03:18:10.950

Aaron Devor: And

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03:18:12.480 --> 03:18:24.480

Aaron Devor: I asked her to come. Few days early and allow me to show her some hospitality and show around town and I introduced you to a young man, I knew who was in the Canadian military here.

1680

03:18:25.560 --> 03:18:28.020

Aaron Devor: She was quite excited about that trans guy.

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03:18:28.470 --> 03:18:28.920

Aaron Devor: That was a

1682

03:18:28.950 --> 03:18:36.660

Aaron Devor: Canadian military and military paid for his transition and I took her to you may not know this, but there's actually a Military Museum in Victoria.

1683

03:18:37.110 --> 03:18:47.550

Aaron Devor: I took her to that she she bought up half their gift shop. The guy was like no much this is you know what you're scraping nobody's ever bought this much stuff in our gift shop before

1684

03:18:50.790 --> 03:18:57.690

Aaron Devor: And I had her and she was, I had a woman. She was involved with who came with her. They're no longer together, but they they came together.

1685

03:18:58.560 --> 03:19:10.380

Aaron Devor: And I had them for dinner at our house and Lynn made a lovely dinner and we introduce them to Victoria. Jen, which is a locally May, June, which is very nice she really liked it and they stayed for hours.

1686

03:19:11.160 --> 03:19:27.090

Aaron Devor: And she was thrilled and I got the impression that it was a very rare event in her life to go into somebody's home and just have a home cooked dinner.

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03:19:28.440 --> 03:19:41.070

Aaron Devor: And be able to talk about being trans and her partner to be able to talk to another partner be trans person and just be relaxed at home with somebody in

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03:19:41.490 --> 03:19:41.820

Aaron Devor: Time.

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03:19:42.180 --> 03:19:48.510

Aaron Devor: For she talked about it for a long time after about the hospitality and having dinner with us.

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03:19:49.260 --> 03:20:00.270

Aaron Devor: So we had several days together really when you put it all together with this in that the conference and so on. And I put it to her that I wanted to start this research center and I wanted her help

1691

03:20:03.420 --> 03:20:11.760

Aaron Devor: And before she left. I said, I want to come visit you and talk to you some more about this. I'm gonna come to Chicago and talk to you some more about this.

1692

03:20:12.630 --> 03:20:21.300

Aaron Devor: And she said, well, you know, I'm very busy I schedule two or three months out, I said, that's fine. I'm very busy two to three months out just about right for me.

1693

03:20:22.920 --> 03:20:27.150

Aaron Devor: And went to Chicago. Few months later, Lynn Cain.

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03:20:28.320 --> 03:20:30.030

Aaron Devor: She gave us dinner at her house.

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03:20:31.620 --> 03:20:37.200

Aaron Devor: And we also went out to a restaurant and we did a few things and we toured here and we were there. We looked at her property, she does.

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03:20:37.890 --> 03:20:49.110

Aaron Devor: Restoration of heritage properties and we look a bunch of those. We've spent a couple of days with the two of them with her partner dinner at her house, of course, was cooked cooked in served by her butler.

1697

03:20:50.370 --> 03:20:54.390

Evan Taylor: I'm just gonna say until the I got that the partner was in the kitchen during our

1698

03:20:55.590 --> 03:21:00.330

Aaron Devor: Partner didn't, didn't live with her and see if they had separate residences. But yeah, the butler put that on.

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03:21:01.680 --> 03:21:04.260

Aaron Devor: Anyway, I left her with a proposal.

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03:21:07.410 --> 03:21:10.650

Aaron Devor: And one month later, almost to the day

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03:21:12.030 --> 03:21:20.370

Aaron Devor: We're driving back from a wedding in Calgary and I get an email that says, Colonel Pritzker would like to have a phone call with you.

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03:21:21.630 --> 03:21:41.070

Aaron Devor: At which point, she told me that she was going to give me a million dollars to start the Geron transgender studies and that she was putting another million dollars on the table as challenge grant matching funds if I raised \$1 should give me \$1 so then I had to get

1703

03:21:41.700 --> 03:21:45.150

Evan Taylor: A popular technique among among the supporters of the chair.

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03:21:45.900 --> 03:21:47.250

Aaron Devor: As popular technique in general.

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03:21:48.900 --> 03:21:49.620

Aaron Devor: So,

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03:21:50.730 --> 03:22:01.470

Aaron Devor: At that point, she had given \$1.3 million grant to the palm center to do research on transgender people getting in the moment in the US military

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03:22:02.490 --> 03:22:12.000

Aaron Devor: And depending on whether you saw this grant to me is 1 million or 2 million. It was the second biggest grant ever given to trans project.

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03:22:12.510 --> 03:22:14.400

Aaron Devor: Or maybe the biggest every

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03:22:14.700 --> 03:22:16.980

Aaron Devor: Whether it's one or if it's too because

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03:22:18.150 --> 03:22:23.340

Aaron Devor: I did not cash in on the second million I cashed in on a piece of it, but I was not able to raise another million dollars.

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03:22:26.280 --> 03:22:27.690

Aaron Devor: So this was a very big deal.

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03:22:29.370 --> 03:22:44.670

Aaron Devor: And then I had to make my way through the victory Roxy, and this this offer this commitment to give me this money came almost to the day, one year after I first learned her name.

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03:22:46.440 --> 03:22:57.090

Aaron Devor: In the fundraising world to to raise that kind of money from a single donor in that amount of time is really quite amazing.

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03:22:57.990 --> 03:23:05.760

Aaron Devor: Wow. And you know, it's kind of like nobody told me that I couldn't make my master's into a university press book.

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03:23:07.440 --> 03:23:14.070

Aaron Devor: I was dumb luck. I didn't know that this was like unbelievable. And this was my first ask

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03:23:14.490 --> 03:23:14.730

Right.

1717

03:23:18.540 --> 03:23:20.250

Evan Taylor: Pretty good balls. I, for the first ask

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03:23:20.460 --> 03:23:23.490

Aaron Devor: So I thought, raising the second million with easy

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03:23:23.940 --> 03:23:24.540

Aaron Devor: But it hasn't

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03:23:25.560 --> 03:23:26.700

Aaron Devor: It has not been easy.

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03:23:27.810 --> 03:23:30.240

Aaron Devor: But I got off to a great start. A really great start.

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03:23:30.900 --> 03:23:41.520

Aaron Devor: So I had to go through the University bureaucracy. It took quite a long time it took longer than I think it shouldn't have because they were one individual, in particular, who was worried about

1723

03:23:42.270 --> 03:23:50.760

Aaron Devor: Backlash that did hadn't needed to be worried about that backlash and didn't understand the world changed and that there wasn't going to be a backlash.

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03:23:51.150 --> 03:24:08.490

Aaron Devor: Right, so it was slower than I think it needed to be. But nonetheless, he went through all the hoops it needed to go through and got all the approvals that needed to get approved and so that first conference was 2014 the chairs official launch was January 1 2016

1725

03:24:09.630 --> 03:24:12.300

Aaron Devor: We had a press conference.

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03:24:15.030 --> 03:24:23.760

Aaron Devor: To announce it. And one of my favorite photographs of me is I'm standing there with his press conferences with I can't lose three or four TV cameras pointed at me.

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03:24:24.960 --> 03:24:25.740

Aaron Devor: I love that picture.

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03:24:27.780 --> 03:24:30.180

Evan Taylor: All the books and the displays everything. No.

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03:24:30.750 --> 03:24:31.920

Aaron Devor: No, it's a different one.

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03:24:32.280 --> 03:24:39.840

Aaron Devor: Okay, now you can see me through the pictures taken from behind the TV cameras and you can see me standing here facing

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03:24:41.490 --> 03:24:45.510

Aaron Devor: A falling. So I can't remember three or four TV cameras all pointed at me.

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03:24:47.130 --> 03:24:47.790

Aaron Devor: It's great fun.

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03:24:49.170 --> 03:24:50.910

Aaron Devor: So the president who's there.

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03:24:52.680 --> 03:24:54.300

Aaron Devor: Colonel Pritzker made a video.

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03:24:56.010 --> 03:24:58.140

Aaron Devor: Announcement to join us.

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03:24:59.880 --> 03:25:09.930

Aaron Devor: We had Jonathan Banks in who's the head of the library because of transgender archives was there and it got it got publicity all over the world, all there were like several hundred

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03:25:11.460 --> 03:25:16.740

Aaron Devor: news articles TV, radio, whatever about it.

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03:25:18.360 --> 03:25:25.500

Aaron Devor: Not so much a little bit because of me because it was billed as the first chair and transgender studies anywhere in the world.

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03:25:26.580 --> 03:25:33.120

Aaron Devor: Or the only depending on you know who is writing a story, but I think mostly because of the transgender billionaire.

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03:25:34.440 --> 03:25:35.370

Aaron Devor: Thing why it got

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03:25:36.270 --> 03:25:42.840

Aaron Devor: Attention around the world because that's a hot story. It's a much hotter story then chair and transgender studies.

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03:25:43.680 --> 03:25:53.520

Aaron Devor: But it did get published the all over the world. So that's January conference. Number two is in March. So I'm well on the way to organizing conference number two in March 2016

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03:25:55.350 --> 03:26:01.710

Aaron Devor: First one was 85. The second was 150 so it was actually it was a big appetite for

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03:26:03.330 --> 03:26:08.340

Aaron Devor: Terrorists continue to grow, you know a lot about it on you know all the great things we've done

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03:26:09.840 --> 03:26:13.350

Aaron Devor: You know, we've been at this for hours. I don't know that we're going to go into all of that right now.

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03:26:14.670 --> 03:26:18.870

Aaron Devor: The conferences have also continue to grow. We had a conference.

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03:26:20.340 --> 03:26:29.730

Aaron Devor: It had 300 people at it 600 people at the biggest event because we had Kent McMahon was one of our keynote speakers at that one.

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03:26:30.870 --> 03:26:37.620

Aaron Devor: And he's got national and international reputes of easy artists. You know who I'm talking about

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03:26:38.130 --> 03:26:49.350

Aaron Devor: Absolutely, yeah. And recently he was chosen by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City to do art that they had up for I don't know how many months in their great hall.

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03:26:49.740 --> 03:26:56.070

Aaron Devor: Which is very they don't often have art in the Great Hall. I've been going to that museum since I was a little nothing and

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03:26:57.090 --> 03:26:57.720

Aaron Devor: Generally

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03:26:58.800 --> 03:27:08.370

Aaron Devor: There's they don't do that. He's like really successful. So this was, you know, he was certainly very popular in Canada at the time, but he's gone way up even since then.

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03:27:09.630 --> 03:27:11.730

Aaron Devor: Or maybe way down, depending on how you feel about a

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03:27:13.350 --> 03:27:15.900

Aaron Devor: piece of artwork involving our Prime Minister.

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03:27:17.820 --> 03:27:28.440

Aaron Devor: So he was one of our keynotes. And that was a very big deal. The other keynote was Andrea Jenkins and Andrea Jenkins. When I invited her Not yet.

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03:27:30.180 --> 03:27:37.380

Aaron Devor: Reached the position which he reached by the time she came to be our keynote, which was that she became the first

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03:27:39.660 --> 03:27:52.650

Aaron Devor: Black openly trans woman elected to public office in the US and that public office was it Council Council person for Minneapolis. Now since then. She's become the

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03:27:53.940 --> 03:28:00.870

Aaron Devor: Co Chair of vice chair of the Council in Minneapolis and she's in that position at the time that George Floyd was killed.

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03:28:01.710 --> 03:28:03.960

Aaron Devor: So she's very much on the National

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03:28:04.530 --> 03:28:15.960

Aaron Devor: Scene. Now, because of course that happened in Minneapolis and you know everywhere. United States is burning. As a result, and demonstrations are happening all over the world about that.

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03:28:16.620 --> 03:28:31.860

Aaron Devor: And here she is a black trans woman who was speaking on behalf of the city in response to what has happened. So she's been interviewed all over the place. She was famous enough before and she's even more of a high profile person. So that was the last conference.

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03:28:32.640 --> 03:28:36.150

Aaron Devor: We had one plan for 2020 I was expecting 500 people

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03:28:36.870 --> 03:28:38.280

Aaron Devor: And then cold in it.

1764

03:28:39.840 --> 03:28:52.140

Aaron Devor: So that got cancelled and we're still figuring out what we're going to do next. And we've we've reserved a time slot, it's probably going to be virtually even in 2021

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03:28:53.460 --> 03:29:10.230

Aaron Devor: We're still working working that out. We'll see what we end up deciding. So those three I think are very big accomplishments of this phase of my life is the transgender archives, which I founded and conferences, which I found it.

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03:29:11.580 --> 03:29:26.040

Aaron Devor: And the first one was, you know, in coordination with the libraries. But the second and third, and the fourth will be chair projects and library is, you know, peripheral not really involved, other than we haven't displayed from the chance to New York Times

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03:29:27.120 --> 03:29:29.010

Aaron Devor: And the chair which

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03:29:29.640 --> 03:29:31.830

Evan Taylor: Separate from the chair. At this point, the

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03:29:31.860 --> 03:29:42.780

Aaron Devor: Transgender archives from the beginning, have been owned and operated by the University of Victoria libraries. It's part of the recommendation that I can give to people.

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03:29:43.320 --> 03:29:52.620

Aaron Devor: I can vouch for the libraries to say they take this very seriously. They will steward it. Well, they will look after, but the fact that it is actually part of

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03:29:53.310 --> 03:30:06.960

Aaron Devor: An integral part of a publicly funded university library where University, which is well established will continue to be well established and it's integral to that is, is something that people

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03:30:07.680 --> 03:30:16.140

Aaron Devor: Value and because a number of people have said to me, they wanted to give their archives away, but they were fearful to given to a community based archive.

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03:30:17.550 --> 03:30:29.220

Aaron Devor: Because they were fearful that they could not be properly preserved because of financial constraints and that they didn't know if how long they would continue to exist as an archive at all.

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03:30:30.330 --> 03:30:34.530

Aaron Devor: And so when we look at a university. They know it will be properly cared for.

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03:30:35.070 --> 03:30:49.320

Aaron Devor: Then it'll be climate controlled and and properly catalogued and then because it's a public university will be open to the public and available to the public. And because it's a publicly funded well established University. They have confidence, it will be there for a long time.

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03:30:50.490 --> 03:30:50.790

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

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03:30:51.240 --> 03:30:58.320

Aaron Devor: So it is not under the control of the chair. I work in partnership with the library.

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03:30:59.610 --> 03:31:13.080

Aaron Devor: And I am the content expert there as well. And they care for the materials and they catalog them and they make sure they're properly preserved and they bring them to people when they need them and they they own.

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03:31:13.710 --> 03:31:27.930

Aaron Devor: That's who they are donated donated to the chair now. Very often they arrive. If it's a small collection, they very often arrive in my office and I get to look at them and do things with them before I bring them over to the library, but once they're in the library. They belong to the library.

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03:31:28.980 --> 03:31:34.710

Aaron Devor: And I am not an employee. I have a relationship with them but it belongs to the library.

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03:31:35.430 --> 03:31:37.680

Evan Taylor: Right. I think that's important to know. Just for for

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03:31:38.070 --> 03:31:47.490

Evan Taylor: Have that noted for the future so that folks understand the different roles and and also particularly in the work that we've been doing as part of this project where we're working with the archives for the

1783

03:31:47.880 --> 03:31:54.570

Evan Taylor: That Canadian gay and lesbian archives in Toronto, where that's been part of the conversations that we've had to have, oh, you know, and I'm certainly having I'm sure you've had with

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03:31:54.840 --> 03:32:10.020

Evan Taylor: With Dr. Brown as well around. How does that we're having these stories because the the archives are a community based, you know, our as opposed to the University of Victoria. So that is something that a number of our narrator is actually said to me as well. And, you know, we're very

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03:32:11.850 --> 03:32:20.880

Evan Taylor: reassured by is that we're actually doing this on a on a kind of a dual level. So there is as a community archive, as well as as an established

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03:32:21.150 --> 03:32:25.440

Evan Taylor: Totally permanently funded library in a university that we don't have to worry about it.

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03:32:25.770 --> 03:32:32.490

Evan Taylor: And so it's a that there's these two pieces that are accessible. I think folks and really appreciate about this project. So I'm glad that we have this piece of view on

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03:32:32.670 --> 03:32:38.100

Evan Taylor: ON THE VIDEO AND TALKING TALKING ABOUT THAT REALLY solidifying those differences. And then, and why why it's important.

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03:32:38.760 --> 03:32:43.050

Evan Taylor: Particularly, again, a lot of these folks that we've that I've talked to and that you know I've been friends.

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03:32:43.290 --> 03:32:52.470

Evan Taylor: For years, they've given 1000 interviews over the years. And this is one of those pieces I'm able to to reassure them and say this is different because this interview will never go away.

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03:32:52.830 --> 03:33:05.940

Evan Taylor: You know that the whatever's in the CDC archives, even a 10 minute clip once 10 years ago, they'll lose that probably, you know, but the archive of the university as a permanent installation. And I think that's really important for folks to know that.

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03:33:06.150 --> 03:33:19.110

Aaron Devor: Okay, so the other thing we need to make sure that people know is that because it's a public institution that the archives are open to the public that this is, you do not need to be

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03:33:19.980 --> 03:33:29.070

Aaron Devor: In any way affiliated with this university or any other university to access the material and because it's an archive the material doesn't leave the building.

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03:33:29.490 --> 03:33:38.400

Aaron Devor: It doesn't leave the archive reading room so you don't need to have a library card I you don't get to take anything out. You only get to use it in that room.

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03:33:38.820 --> 03:33:47.580

Aaron Devor: But anybody can walk into that room during the hours if they're open and can say, I would like to see whatever it is, you'd like to see and they will bring it to you.

1796

03:33:48.240 --> 03:33:57.870

Aaron Devor: I, you are required to provide some kind of identification, because if something does walk. They need to know who to walk after to go get it back.

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03:33:59.730 --> 03:34:15.570

Aaron Devor: But because it's a transgender archives. People are very sensitive. So the limitations on people's ID as well. And so, you know, you're not gonna get people being weird about the fact that you look this way and you might have a different letter on your ID.

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03:34:17.820 --> 03:34:18.120

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

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03:34:18.540 --> 03:34:31.170

Aaron Devor: But, but you do not. You do not need is no cost. There's no charge. And you do not need to be associated with any institution at all. It is open to the public, free of charge.

1800

03:34:33.750 --> 03:34:41.940

Evan Taylor: Right here. I think that I think that's one of the things that look again making sure these things are accessible that they're in a library that people can just go and get them that I think that the public

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03:34:42.270 --> 03:34:52.260

Evan Taylor: The public accessibility is so important in terms of making you know making these stories, making this history available to people, you know, when it certainly wasn't able to ask you, when we were looking for it too much in the early years.

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03:34:52.800 --> 03:35:00.870

Aaron Devor: So, and not all archives are free of charge us a lot of them that will charge us. I don't know how much, but they'll charge you something for accessing

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03:35:01.650 --> 03:35:14.850

Aaron Devor: The other thing that distinguishes our archives from some of the others is that you don't have to make an appointment ahead of time and you get your hands on things very quickly.

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03:35:16.020 --> 03:35:22.650

Aaron Devor: So, you know, for instance, the Kinsey archive. You have to give them a day's notice you have to make an appointment ahead of time.

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03:35:23.250 --> 03:35:35.580

Aaron Devor: And I don't think they charge, but some of them charge as well so open to the public, free of charge, and also in maybe 15 minutes to get your stuff. It's not very long.

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03:35:36.330 --> 03:35:36.570

Evan Taylor: You know,

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03:35:36.810 --> 03:35:37.530

Monetary

1808

03:35:38.670 --> 03:35:42.840

Evan Taylor: As, as opposed to having to order it from the microfiche and waiting for three weeks for it to come back and

1809

03:35:43.710 --> 03:35:44.160

Evan Taylor: Whatever.

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03:35:44.610 --> 03:35:49.350

Aaron Devor: Or just a lot of a lot of archives have their material stored in another location, for instance.

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03:35:49.710 --> 03:35:50.070

Aaron Devor: So,

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03:35:50.430 --> 03:35:54.300

Aaron Devor: That's why you need to tell them in advance because they have to go somewhere else to go get it.

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03:35:54.780 --> 03:35:57.810

Aaron Devor: Hours. Yeah, you have to go somewhere else to reading room is here and it's, you know,

1814

03:35:57.990 --> 03:36:09.690

Aaron Devor: 50 or hundred paces down the hallway to to where it's stored, you know, that's why I say it's him 15 1015 minutes. Somebody has to get up from the desk go down there, get it off the shelf, put it on a car, and we'll it down the hall, but it's not very far away.

1815

03:36:10.260 --> 03:36:13.200

Evan Taylor: Right, it's not no warehouse off site somewhere that's got to be shipped in

1816

03:36:13.800 --> 03:36:17.280

Aaron Devor: I can't guarantee it'll always be that fast, but that's the way it is now.

1817

03:36:18.600 --> 03:36:23.340

Evan Taylor: Hopefully it won't always be that fast. Hopefully eventually we'll have so much stuff to start off site.

1818

03:36:24.450 --> 03:36:29.310

Aaron Devor: I know we do have a lot of stuff there. You've heard my line that this point where

1819

03:36:30.180 --> 03:36:39.390

Aaron Devor: Fields one and a half football fields would be the size of the shelf very good 23 countries 17 languages back into the 19th century.

1820

03:36:39.960 --> 03:36:41.610

Evan Taylor: And the only thing we're missing is Antarctica. Right.

1821

03:36:42.030 --> 03:36:46.440

Aaron Devor: That's the only continent right all the other continents. Correct. You've heard me do it.

1822

03:36:47.490 --> 03:36:59.700

Evan Taylor: I actually went, it was, it was Michael, the very first time he did the presentation. He told me that. And I was like, and clearly we need to do some sort of like research project and Antarctica, obviously, that's the next step.

1823

03:37:00.030 --> 03:37:01.080

Aaron Devor: Nobody lives there.

1824

03:37:02.910 --> 03:37:07.440

Evan Taylor: I'll move there. Come on, we can we can do a research study of the entire trans population be me.

1825

03:37:07.920 --> 03:37:08.460

There you go.

1826

03:37:10.650 --> 03:37:16.080

Evan Taylor: Um, so as we get to the end one things I will make sure is that there's before we move into the sort of the

1827

03:37:16.290 --> 03:37:27.930

Evan Taylor: Reflective piece. Is there any pieces of the of activism that we haven't talked about that. You want to make sure we got on this recording, we can always do another one later. But just to make sure that if there's anything that's on the top of your mind right now before we move away from

1828

03:37:28.560 --> 03:37:34.560

Aaron Devor: Well here's the thing I'd like to say is that when it comes to trans topics.

1829

03:37:35.700 --> 03:37:39.780

Aaron Devor: I know people. Some people anyway. Think of me as an activist.

1830

03:37:41.220 --> 03:37:43.920

Aaron Devor: I don't very much, think of myself as an activist.

1831

03:37:46.140 --> 03:38:01.710

Aaron Devor: I've gotten a lot of things done. As in, you know, I published a lot of research. I have had influence on policy decision makers. I've done a bunch of policy work for instance I rewrote the

1832

03:38:03.480 --> 03:38:06.060

Aaron Devor: BC corrections policy on trans inmates.

1833

03:38:07.980 --> 03:38:17.730

Aaron Devor: Now they had somebody in the system, take what I wrote and turn it into the language of the system understands. But basically, I wrote that they

1834

03:38:18.120 --> 03:38:31.260

Aaron Devor: You know, had a contract with them to write the policy, I'm doing work now on trans people in poverty with a provincial government I testified before the Canadian Senate about trans inmates. I worked with

1835

03:38:32.850 --> 03:38:37.740

Aaron Devor: Corrections leaders across the country on trans inmates I've addressed the

1836

03:38:39.060 --> 03:38:49.800

Aaron Devor: 750 people attending a Canadian Chiefs of Police conference on talk to them about trans people. So, you know, those are just a few examples. I could go on. So I've had a lot of input.

1837

03:38:50.760 --> 03:38:58.530

Aaron Devor: In some cases actually writing policy, they've had a lot of input into decision makers into policymakers and you know I've helped influence

1838

03:38:59.940 --> 03:39:10.500

Aaron Devor: My writings are used by lots of people. I've also had a lot of influence on individual trans people's lives through my through my writing because I try to write

1839

03:39:11.880 --> 03:39:23.580

Aaron Devor: Pretty much everything in a way that's accessible to people who are accustomed to read if you're not accustomed to reading. Okay, but people who are accustomed to reading should be able to understand. I try to make it, you know.

1840

03:39:24.660 --> 03:39:25.530

Aaron Devor: accessible to them.

1841

03:39:26.880 --> 03:39:29.280

Aaron Devor: So, you know, I think I've had influence

1842

03:39:30.600 --> 03:39:39.300

Aaron Devor: But when I think of activism. I think more of the kind of stuff I did when I was young, which is, you know, demonstrations and and

1843

03:39:41.550 --> 03:39:53.430

Aaron Devor: Creating community based organizations or working and community based organizations. So when I was on the board of the i, f, g. Okay, that I think probably was activism, but that goes back a long way.

1844

03:39:55.590 --> 03:39:56.460

Aaron Devor: Creative creating

1845

03:39:57.750 --> 03:40:01.740

Aaron Devor: A TRANCE archives and creating the conferences.

1846

03:40:03.240 --> 03:40:13.200

Aaron Devor: Creating the chair again, I think these are important accomplishments that I'm proud of, and I think they have in some small way shifted the world.

1847

03:40:15.690 --> 03:40:27.570

Aaron Devor: In some cases it's metaphorical or symbolic it's meaningful to people in, you know, I do a lot of public speaking as well. I talked to the media a lot. I think I have, you know, I had a lot of influence that way.

1848

03:40:29.790 --> 03:40:32.640

Aaron Devor: But it's not really what I think of when I think of activism.

1849

03:40:34.770 --> 03:40:45.570

Aaron Devor: So I'm a little uncomfortable with thinking of myself as a trans activist, I think of myself as a person who has

1850

03:40:46.050 --> 03:40:54.540

Aaron Devor: Helped to make some change in a lot of different ways. And a lot of different places. Again coming back to what I said before that I have

1851

03:40:55.110 --> 03:41:04.410

Aaron Devor: Good credibility and access in the trans communities, many different trans communities and good credibility and access in research communities.

1852

03:41:05.130 --> 03:41:11.640

Aaron Devor: And at this stage, I've spoken so much in public. I've been in lots of videos that get a lot of Eric airplay

1853

03:41:12.570 --> 03:41:29.130

Aaron Devor: Then I'd say just in the general public. I have a fair bit of recognition and credibility me all the time. I go places I meet strangers. I say, don't I know you know when we met before. You look so familiar. And I don't want to say that you saw me on TV.

1854

03:41:32.160 --> 03:41:35.220

Aaron Devor: Because there's a lot of i get i get fair bit of airplay but

1855

03:41:35.670 --> 03:41:40.770

Aaron Devor: You know they recognize the face. I don't remember words from. So I think I have influence

1856

03:41:41.670 --> 03:41:51.690

Aaron Devor: You know, along with a gazillion other people who have influenced and in some places I have, you know, particular item. So I have a bigger influence and then a lot of other. I don't know that that's actors.

1857

03:41:52.500 --> 03:41:58.950

Evan Taylor: Where do you used before when we when we've talked about it, as he said activism is sort of what people do in their, in their 20s, when they're doing

1858

03:41:59.040 --> 03:41:59.670

Aaron Devor: When I did.

1859

03:42:00.870 --> 03:42:01.830

Aaron Devor: Put all their lives.

1860

03:42:01.980 --> 03:42:03.510

Aaron Devor: But I, you know, I'm not

1861

03:42:03.840 --> 03:42:05.460

Aaron Devor: Down sitting in at the legislature.

1862

03:42:05.880 --> 03:42:12.510

Aaron Devor: I think it's more likely to be sitting at the legislature in a meeting room talking to the Minister.

1863

03:42:13.680 --> 03:42:21.720

Evan Taylor: So you've used the word I wrote down here that you've used before about about advocacy and the difference between activism and advocacy and that when you were younger.

1864

03:42:21.990 --> 03:42:33.180

Evan Taylor: You might have been more of a, you know, I've been, you know, rabble rousing activist, but then in, you know, as you're older. And maybe it's not so much with age as much as their own, you know, just just life trajectory

1865

03:42:33.630 --> 03:42:38.520

Evan Taylor: But that in your own trajectory as in, you know, nowadays, he wouldn't say actress, but you'd use advocate.

1866

03:42:39.030 --> 03:42:39.720

Aaron Devor: Is that still

1867

03:42:40.440 --> 03:42:42.300

Aaron Devor: The. I think that's probably a good

1868

03:42:42.360 --> 03:42:54.450

Aaron Devor: Distinction. And as I'm listening to you saying that thinking, well, I guess kind of the way I feel about is activists are outside of the halls of power.

1869

03:42:57.060 --> 03:43:02.820

Aaron Devor: Trying to get their point across. Right. And my

1870

03:43:04.410 --> 03:43:06.060

Aaron Devor: Placement in the world now.

1871

03:43:07.620 --> 03:43:11.220

Aaron Devor: Is much more as an advocate, because I have access

1872

03:43:12.270 --> 03:43:14.460

Aaron Devor: A lot of access to the halls of power.

1873

03:43:16.590 --> 03:43:20.640

Aaron Devor: And, you know, part of that is what I've accomplished in my life.

1874

03:43:22.770 --> 03:43:40.230

Aaron Devor: And I've been able to accomplish that, because of all the many privileges and, you know, yeah, I've had my issues with gender for a lot of years but I managed as I talked about before, to make a success of my life by kind of traditional standards of what successes or

1875

03:43:41.490 --> 03:43:43.770

Aaron Devor: Normative standards of what successes.

1876

03:43:45.360 --> 03:43:54.990

Aaron Devor: And, you know, now I have white male you know English speaking able body, you know, go down the list. I've got all those privileges.

1877

03:43:55.950 --> 03:44:14.310

Aaron Devor: And one and all the credibility and credentials and all that stuff. And one of the things that that means is that when I sit down with the people. First of all, I get access to the people who are inside the citadels of power and when I sit down with them.

1878

03:44:15.720 --> 03:44:20.190

Aaron Devor: They see me as someone that they're willing to listen to

1879

03:44:22.890 --> 03:44:31.800

Aaron Devor: And one of the things that I talk about sometimes you know that people talk about it too is that it takes

1880

03:44:32.910 --> 03:45:01.260

Aaron Devor: Many different kinds of pressure to move institutions and large social bodies and social opinion and so on. And it requires that whole spectrum. And when I was younger, I was outside of the halls of power and I was more doing activism than advocacy and I was more radical than I am today.

1881

03:45:02.370 --> 03:45:18.720

Aaron Devor: But one of the places that I have often been in my life is I'm inside the halls of power, saying the radicals are outside. If you don't want them to burn the place down. You better listen to me because I can tell you what you need to do. So they don't burn the place down

1882

03:45:20.820 --> 03:45:42.240

Aaron Devor: Right, and I will help you move in the direction you need to move in. So, but the only reason I seen middle of the road or relatively benign is because those radicals are out there, otherwise I would be there if they would see what i'm saying is radical

1883

03:45:42.450 --> 03:45:43.980

Aaron Devor: If those people weren't out there.

1884

03:45:44.160 --> 03:45:45.240

Aaron Devor: Demanding even more.

1885

03:45:46.230 --> 03:45:47.820

Aaron Devor: And pushing hard right

1886

03:45:48.180 --> 03:45:57.450

Aaron Devor: So I see us is working in tandem. And to some degree the radicals. The add the activists also see everyone's working in tandem.

1887

03:45:59.160 --> 03:46:14.940

Aaron Devor: Because they make the people inside nervous and scared and then I can talk to them and say you need to do the following things. And I could say it to them in language. They understand

1888

03:46:17.250 --> 03:46:18.720

Aaron Devor: And I can get some movement.

1889

03:46:20.490 --> 03:46:24.180

Aaron Devor: But you know i'm not any more radical on the outside.

1890

03:46:24.900 --> 03:46:26.130

Evan Taylor: Right, yeah.

1891

03:46:26.160 --> 03:46:35.160

Aaron Devor: What I've been there and I have some sense of what that's about. And I'm you know I'm watching the gay pride parade right at the front.

1892

03:46:36.180 --> 03:46:46.200

Aaron Devor: Right now, I'm not saying Gay Pride is radical, but it is on the street. Okay. Yeah, yeah, I'm not spending all my time in the halls of power and

1893

03:46:47.190 --> 03:46:58.800

Aaron Devor: I, you know, kind of move around. But this stage of my life. I have to say, you know, I have become you know a white man with a lot of privilege and I'm trying to use it.

1894

03:46:59.640 --> 03:47:16.530

Aaron Devor: To the advantage of people who don't have that privilege by, you know, using it to get the years and hopefully get the hearts and minds of the people who actually do have their hands on the leavers of power. I don't have my hands on, but I have access to the people who do

1895

03:47:17.280 --> 03:47:28.680

Evan Taylor: Right, yeah. I can't remember who who it is. And I've been driving. That's my watch this back but there's this there's this quote, she she died the day of my defense, and her clothes.

1896

03:47:29.730 --> 03:47:41.040

Evan Taylor: dragging us, but she talks about major feminist feminist theorists and she talks about the your role in achieving power is to use it to help others achieve our

1897

03:47:41.130 --> 03:47:42.000

Aaron Devor: Yeah, absolutely.

1898

03:47:42.240 --> 03:47:42.960

Aaron Devor: Absolutely.

1899

03:47:43.200 --> 03:47:56.730

Aaron Devor: You know, I mean that's that's that's always been my philosophy because I've always had some level of privilege. You know, I've been white all my life. I was, you know, raised with good education and English speaking. I'm not an immigrant, all those things, you know, that

1900

03:47:58.800 --> 03:48:00.300

Aaron Devor: You can see all over me.

1901

03:48:00.390 --> 03:48:05.250

Aaron Devor: Today, right, but it's always been my attitude that

1902

03:48:06.930 --> 03:48:16.950

Aaron Devor: It doesn't do anybody any good for me to pretend I don't have the privileges. I have it doesn't do anybody any good for me to feel embarrassed or ashamed, the privileges, I have

1903

03:48:17.340 --> 03:48:25.320

Aaron Devor: My obligation and this comes back to the Jewish thing because it's part of Jewish philosophy, you know, my obligation is to make the world a better place.

1904

03:48:25.950 --> 03:48:39.780

Aaron Devor: And to use whatever I can. Whatever privileges, I have to improve the world for everybody. And so, you know, the Jewish phrases tikkun olam, it means the repair of the world.

1905

03:48:40.860 --> 03:48:50.040

Aaron Devor: So that's, you know, that's one of my jobs and I will mention just as an aside that Jennifer Pritzker is also Jewish

1906

03:48:51.420 --> 03:48:57.750

Aaron Devor: She knows the concept Tikun along. We've talked about it, and she's, she's guided by that as well.

1907

03:48:59.220 --> 03:48:59.760

Evan Taylor: Interesting.

1908

03:48:59.910 --> 03:49:00.810

Aaron Devor: Now she's a very

1909

03:49:01.860 --> 03:49:04.110

Aaron Devor: Her values are much more conservative than my own

1910

03:49:06.810 --> 03:49:15.720

Aaron Devor: So we don't necessarily agree on what the right techniques are for repairing the world, but she is also motivated by that principle.

1911

03:49:17.700 --> 03:49:21.120

Evan Taylor: I liked what you were saying earlier about the activists in the in the advocates inside

1912

03:49:21.480 --> 03:49:29.130

Evan Taylor: The radical ones that side and that it's it's all necessary, you know, and even when you're talking about the obviously you know with with with Jennifer Pritzker there's

1913

03:49:29.640 --> 03:49:34.230

Evan Taylor: There's going to be a divide in terms of, you know, barely even around family finds her quite conservative right

1914

03:49:34.440 --> 03:49:42.300

Evan Taylor: So, fair enough. But there's going to be that defy but it takes all of those pieces to come together to to make that change. And at the end of the day.

1915

03:49:42.480 --> 03:49:49.020

Evan Taylor: If everybody is looking at, you know, is taking up that value of how do we make the world a little bit, leave it a little bit better than we found it.

1916

03:49:49.830 --> 03:49:56.700

Evan Taylor: Then we'll find a way to do that, we can work together in that and you know the differences among us only strengthen us at that point because we're now going to have to

1917

03:49:56.910 --> 03:50:03.000

Evan Taylor: Figure out how to do it because we're all we all have the same goal in mind. So how do we get there. So, if that makes sense to me. Um,

1918

03:50:03.480 --> 03:50:07.770

Aaron Devor: So it's and it's not the Jewish principle is it's not our job to

1919

03:50:09.300 --> 03:50:14.970

Aaron Devor: Fix the world, but it's our job to do what we can to fix the world.

1920

03:50:17.070 --> 03:50:22.500

Evan Taylor: So is it, is it more about your own position ality that from from from where you are, do what you can.

1921

03:50:23.190 --> 03:50:34.620

Aaron Devor: Yeah, it's your job to use your abilities to the best you can. You have whatever abilities you have and it's your job to use them to make the world a better place. You know, and

1922

03:50:35.130 --> 03:50:46.320

Aaron Devor: If you don't use them, then you're squandering your gifts and you're given those gifts for a reason. And the reason you're given a gift. This is one of my kind of watch words is the gifts are forgiving.

1923

03:50:46.770 --> 03:50:56.190

Aaron Devor: So my given the gifts I have so that I can pass on to others, so that I can share them with others and to make the world a better place.

1924

03:50:56.550 --> 03:51:01.950

Aaron Devor: You know that's that's what motivates me at the bottom line is to leave it a better place than I did. I came into

1925

03:51:02.670 --> 03:51:19.710

Aaron Devor: And you know I'm imperfect. We're all imperfect. You know, I'm sure we I am you. And anybody who cares to look at my life with any any detail can find lots of places where I have not done as much as I could have and I done wrong, but my job is to just keep trying to do better.

1926

03:51:21.030 --> 03:51:32.850

Evan Taylor: Is that something that has been consistent three for you throughout all the different types of actors and you've done whether it is feminist or transacted activism or advocacy and has something that's that's driven you from early on.

1927

03:51:33.540 --> 03:51:34.170

Aaron Devor: Well, yeah, yeah.

1928

03:51:35.640 --> 03:51:46.560

Evan Taylor: And did you always connect that for you as as as a as a faith tradition as a value from from from that, or is that something that came that came to you later when you turn more involved in the community.

1929

03:51:47.220 --> 03:52:07.470

Aaron Devor: I don't think of it is that's not that's not what it's about. For me, for me it's cultural so you know there's lots of different kinds of Jews, and there are Jews who are there because they believe in a connection to God and and religious observance and those kinds of things.

1930

03:52:09.030 --> 03:52:20.880

Aaron Devor: There are people who have chosen to be Jewish. There are people who are born into it and it's in their blood. And they've rejected it for me. I was born into it and

1931

03:52:22.320 --> 03:52:27.780

Aaron Devor: I see that the culture is based in the religion, but I'm much more interested in the cultural values.

1932

03:52:28.470 --> 03:52:43.920

Aaron Devor: And that's, that's what drives me. And when I hear faith. I think religion. Right. And, you know, the cultural values do come out of the religion and I don't you know disregard that at all. But for me it's the cultural values that are the part that I relate to strongly

1933

03:52:44.670 --> 03:52:51.660

Evan Taylor: And as a young person in your 20s. Was that, was that were those values there. Was that something that you came to when you were more

1934

03:52:51.750 --> 03:52:52.770

Aaron Devor: So it's always been part of

1935

03:52:54.600 --> 03:53:02.010

Evan Taylor: That and that is when you think back to sort of early in life. So I'm trying to get your phone out and think back to the earlier times, and is

1936

03:53:02.730 --> 03:53:13.680

Evan Taylor: From your family and growing up, what kinds of what kinds of values are what's important to your family growing up that you think is really given you the skills that you have to do the kind of accuracy and then change work you've done

1937

03:53:17.880 --> 03:53:28.440

Aaron Devor: I don't think it came that much from my family of origin, other than the fact that I had a Jewish education and there are Jewish values that are important to me know valuing

1938

03:53:29.880 --> 03:53:49.170

Aaron Devor: Education intellectual ability justice, fairness, you know, tikkun olam, you know, those kinds of things come from Jewish education, not so much from my personal family only to accept that my personal family sent me off for Jewish education. There were some other families that I

1939

03:53:50.250 --> 03:53:55.680

Aaron Devor: Felt a kinship to and spent a lot of time with that were more influential in terms of

1940

03:53:57.900 --> 03:54:02.010

Aaron Devor: Causing me to feel I knew I needed or should be involved in activism.

1941

03:54:03.060 --> 03:54:13.080

Aaron Devor: You know, being actively engaged in trying to do something about the state of the world. So there was another family that I became close to when I was

1942

03:54:14.550 --> 03:54:18.000

Aaron Devor: 1415 something like that and

1943

03:54:19.230 --> 03:54:30.750

Aaron Devor: This was a time of Civil Rights Movement in the United States. They were active in the civil rights movement and, you know, went to march on Washington and that kind of thing.

1944

03:54:31.740 --> 03:54:38.010

Aaron Devor: They were also a white Jewish family, but they, you know, actively made had friends who were black people and you know

1945

03:54:38.880 --> 03:54:45.600

Aaron Devor: We're involved in, as I said in the civil rights movement among other and he was a union union guy.

1946

03:54:46.020 --> 03:54:54.450

Aaron Devor: And it was another family who I was related to this family. I wasn't related to make friends with another family. I was related to which were very active in

1947

03:54:54.900 --> 03:55:09.480

Aaron Devor: garment workers union and quite left in their politics and I was attracted to them so you know there were some influences that stem back that far, but it's not you know my I had two parents in one brother, and it wasn't from them.

1948

03:55:10.320 --> 03:55:10.470

You

1949

03:55:11.790 --> 03:55:12.240

Evan Taylor: Would you say

1950

03:55:13.260 --> 03:55:20.220

Evan Taylor: That the labor union movements that was, that was a big thing that was happening at that time would you say that that the values from these, you know, sort of,

1951

03:55:20.610 --> 03:55:27.420

Evan Taylor: Family, friends or, you know, with those sort of values that you were learning about that time that you took on and went okay there's no

1952

03:55:27.630 --> 03:55:34.620

Evan Taylor: The justice, fairness and this is I'm seeing this happen and labor union movements and activism. Is that something that you were learning about at that time I

1953

03:55:34.830 --> 03:55:39.690

Aaron Devor: You know, it was just by us, Moses, I mean that was a family that I liked, and that was

1954

03:55:41.220 --> 03:55:43.920

Aaron Devor: They were her more than him but

1955

03:55:45.510 --> 03:55:51.690

Aaron Devor: This is the parents. And then there were two kids that were a little older than me. So this was like they were all cousins.

1956

03:55:52.080 --> 03:56:03.870

Aaron Devor: But the, the woman was more outspoken, but they were he was more of the activist and they were very left in terms of their politics and you know i just i really liked them and I listened and just kind of absorbed from them.

1957

03:56:04.380 --> 03:56:21.360

Aaron Devor: As you know, I was never involved in Union activism in any kind of significant way. But it just gave me a appreciation and i and i had a high value in high regard because I had a high regard for them inside their family that I made friends with

1958

03:56:22.500 --> 03:56:36.930

Aaron Devor: Again I you know I listened and absorbed and learned and felt that these were important things to to pay attention to. And they were you know these are people I respected and care for and this is what they thought was important. So I kind of just was a sponge and absorb it from

1959

03:56:38.430 --> 03:56:44.790

Evan Taylor: What the folks that you looked up to, or they were mentors or that you know we're sort of people that you looked up to politically.

1960

03:56:51.690 --> 03:56:52.710

Aaron Devor: That's a hard question.

1961

03:56:53.910 --> 03:56:55.080

Aaron Devor: I mean, when I was a kid.

1962

03:56:55.830 --> 03:56:59.790

Evan Taylor: Yeah, yeah, or even an interior young adulthood. When you were in you're moving into the women's movement as well.

1963

03:57:07.140 --> 03:57:13.710

Aaron Devor: You know there were there were people whose works. I read and were influential on me but

1964

03:57:15.300 --> 03:57:20.640

Aaron Devor: I'm not thinking of anybody who I actually knew that had that I had that relationship to

1965

03:57:22.170 --> 03:57:31.140

Aaron Devor: The people that I knew were not much older than me, didn't have a whole lot more experience than I did. We were all kind of finding away because remember this is like, you know,

1966

03:57:31.890 --> 03:57:41.430

Aaron Devor: The first few years that any of us were doing this stuff like it's not like there was a generation before me, of any significance to

1967

03:57:42.060 --> 03:57:51.450

Aaron Devor: To learn from and look to for feminism or gay rights. Now I know now because I'm more of a historian, that there were some people that went before, but we were not aware of.

1968

03:57:52.710 --> 03:57:59.580

Evan Taylor: Right, so we access that. And you certainly weren't talking to him and having community meetings about it. Right.

1969

03:58:00.150 --> 03:58:00.990

Aaron Devor: We thought

1970

03:58:01.440 --> 03:58:08.550

Aaron Devor: We thought we were creating it all a new now I know now that we weren't the young people all think that they all think they're the first ones to do this.

1971

03:58:10.050 --> 03:58:11.520

Evan Taylor: I think that's the nature of it, I think.

1972

03:58:13.320 --> 03:58:20.130

Evan Taylor: I'm good. You mentioned that there are some, some people you're reading. I'm just wondering who you were reading or at that time. Well,

1973

03:58:20.280 --> 03:58:21.450

Aaron Devor: These, these were

1974

03:58:22.800 --> 03:58:26.370

Aaron Devor: Like I say, this was the first stuff. So I remember there was a newsprint

1975

03:58:28.290 --> 03:58:38.370

Aaron Devor: Booklet I guess I was, you know, is it like that size notes from the first year, there was another one that came out that was notes from the second year.

1976

03:58:38.940 --> 03:58:50.910

Aaron Devor: I mean, it was, it was that early in feminism that you could put out something, it was maybe you know that thick on newsprint and you know the size of a

1977

03:58:51.990 --> 03:58:59.670

Aaron Devor: Large book eight and a half by 11 kind of size actually probably what it was. So it was what was maybe 125 pages 100 pages, something like that.

1978

03:59:00.090 --> 03:59:09.060

Aaron Devor: And it was called notes from the first year and then there was notes from the second and then there was like Schulman Firestone came out with a book and we read came out what it was called

1979

03:59:10.500 --> 03:59:16.290

Aaron Devor: Might come back to me and Betty free Dan's book and you know was, was there in and

1980

03:59:19.050 --> 03:59:19.920

Aaron Devor: blanking on her name.

1981

03:59:21.060 --> 03:59:24.240

Aaron Devor: The French, French woman who hung out with sorry

1982

03:59:27.210 --> 03:59:27.840

Evan Taylor: Making I'm looking

1983

03:59:28.440 --> 03:59:37.980

Aaron Devor: For Simone de Beauvoir, you know. So that's the kind of stuff. I mean, that's how earlier. Why so I'm reading Simone de Beauvoir Betty Friedan notes from the first you notes from the second

1984

03:59:38.220 --> 03:59:43.350

Aaron Devor: Dialectic of sex unit firestones called the dialectic of sex and then Jermaine Greer's book came out again.

1985

03:59:45.090 --> 03:59:49.170

Aaron Devor: You know, so, you know, the they were. It was a time when you could read everything

1986

03:59:49.320 --> 03:59:51.270

Aaron Devor: They were coming out one by one by one.

1987

03:59:51.360 --> 04:00:08.610

Aaron Devor: And you could kind of keep up with them so you know that's and let me know and then at some point, it got really big, but by then I was already, not very much of an activist, by the time that that really did it. This was in the years we could pretty much keep up with what was coming out.

1988

04:00:09.900 --> 04:00:10.410

Awesome.

1989

04:00:11.910 --> 04:00:23.640

Evan Taylor: You know it, like, oh I don't know, it's not much and I'm telling you there's gonna be a time in history where somebody would be listening to this and it's going to use that clip of you naming all of these like early feminists authors that was a great clip that's gonna be good like that.

1990

04:00:24.780 --> 04:00:25.200

Evan Taylor: Um,

1991

04:00:26.760 --> 04:00:32.370

Evan Taylor: Is there anything I think we've I think we've covered most of the questions in terms of the activist piece.

1992

04:00:33.480 --> 04:00:39.990

Evan Taylor: There's, there's some early questions that we have around sort of awareness around gender and gender identity and you told me a story that I

1993

04:00:40.380 --> 04:00:44.640

Evan Taylor: Kind of put made a note for myself here about walking down the street at some point.

1994

04:00:45.180 --> 04:00:56.430

Evan Taylor: And there was some people in a car, who drove PAT AND HE BECAME VERY AWARE in some way and I got this know and I thought that that would probably be a good place to ask you to talk about a an early adolescent sort of memory or awareness around gender.

1995

04:00:57.750 --> 04:01:01.140

Aaron Devor: I will tell you that story, but I'm going to tell you in earlier one. And now, okay.

1996

04:01:01.170 --> 04:01:01.500

Great.

1997

04:01:03.060 --> 04:01:05.610

Aaron Devor: So I can place it at

1998

04:01:08.970 --> 04:01:22.140

Aaron Devor: Kindergarten, or just before because I was living in this House and by grade one I was living in that house night so I still living in the first handles the one that where I live, from time. I was born until grade one

1999

04:01:23.340 --> 04:01:23.940

Aaron Devor: And

2000

04:01:25.320 --> 04:01:30.960

Aaron Devor: I mostly played with. There was a couple of boys on the block. I know, three or four voice on the block I mostly played with them.

2001

04:01:33.870 --> 04:01:37.980

Aaron Devor: And one day I thought I'm going to try playing with the girls.

2002

04:01:40.470 --> 04:01:41.400

Aaron Devor: Because I'm a girl.

2003

04:01:43.440 --> 04:01:44.250

Aaron Devor: They wouldn't play with me.

2004

04:01:45.390 --> 04:01:47.430

Aaron Devor: He said, go back, play with the boys.

2005

04:01:48.870 --> 04:01:49.710

Aaron Devor: That's where you belong.

2006

04:01:51.510 --> 04:01:53.910

Evan Taylor: That's where you belong. Wow.

2007

04:01:54.510 --> 04:01:55.260

Aaron Devor: four year olds.

2008

04:01:56.430 --> 04:01:59.250

Evan Taylor: What did. What do you remember what the internal experience at that point.

2009

04:01:59.310 --> 04:02:03.390

Aaron Devor: I was hurt. I was very hurt. Yeah. Yeah. We've been rejected.

2010

04:02:03.900 --> 04:02:04.680

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

2011

04:02:05.400 --> 04:02:09.390

Evan Taylor: So for you, it wasn't, it wasn't in any way. Okay, I guess. So I'll go back to the boys, it was, but I

2012

04:02:11.490 --> 04:02:19.380

Aaron Devor: did go back to voice and and you know I wasn't all that interested in the girls. This was an experiment I mostly I hung out with the boys. And that was, and we were find together.

2013

04:02:19.920 --> 04:02:24.300

Aaron Devor: But I thought, Well, I'm a girl. I should try hanging out with the girls and see what that's like.

2014

04:02:24.900 --> 04:02:29.610

Aaron Devor: Me and I never really got a chance to find out what that was like, who sent me away.

2015

04:02:31.350 --> 04:02:35.130

Aaron Devor: So that goes all the way back. All right, Glenn said to you before all my life.

2016

04:02:36.420 --> 04:02:42.780

Aaron Devor: People have been, I've been gender non conforming and people have been telling me you're a boy. Get out of here.

2017

04:02:44.820 --> 04:02:54.870

Aaron Devor: So the story that you were asking about happened. I'm going to say around 1963 ish

2018

04:02:57.150 --> 04:03:06.840

Aaron Devor: It was in the context of the Beatles. Alright, so there was a time when the Beatles were brand new. And they talked about

2019

04:03:07.470 --> 04:03:19.920

Aaron Devor: The British invasion and I was living in the US and the people in the US were learning about the Beatles, and there was Beatlemania and everybody was going crazy. And the thing about the Beatles at that time was they were boys with long hair.

2020

04:03:21.000 --> 04:03:24.060

Aaron Devor: Okay. Now, if you look at pictures from that period of time.

2021

04:03:25.170 --> 04:03:27.240

Aaron Devor: It looked like long hair to us.

2022

04:03:27.390 --> 04:03:28.920

Evan Taylor: Know, barely.

2023

04:03:29.640 --> 04:03:37.500

Aaron Devor: This was a time where this was long hair, what I have now would you have would be outrageously long and the Beatles were a little longer than you are here.

2024

04:03:38.640 --> 04:03:38.880

Right.

2025

04:03:40.830 --> 04:03:48.390

Aaron Devor: And I was, I know 1213 years old and I had for a girl short here.

2026

04:03:51.570 --> 04:04:04.890

Aaron Devor: And so I'm walking down the street. I don't know where it's going and teenagers older than me, or in a car driving by in a out the window and they holler. Is it a boy or is it a girl.

2027

04:04:05.970 --> 04:04:12.600

Aaron Devor: Because that's what people said in that time to make fun of long haired voice and we weren't even into hippies yet.

2028

04:04:14.520 --> 04:04:16.950

Aaron Devor: hippies didn't happen till the end of the 60s.

2029

04:04:17.430 --> 04:04:31.200

Aaron Devor: Course this is the beginning of the 60s. So it wasn't about hippies and what this was meant as was a tyrant and an insult to a boy whose hair was too long.

2030

04:04:32.220 --> 04:04:34.290

Aaron Devor: And it was supposed to

2031

04:04:35.370 --> 04:04:39.450

Aaron Devor: You know, make you feel bad. So you'd get back in line. And look like a proper boy.

2032

04:04:39.690 --> 04:04:43.020

Evan Taylor: Right, right, is the disciplinary mechanism for shame.

2033

04:04:45.810 --> 04:04:55.890

Aaron Devor: So that's what that story is and that continued, you know, that kind of stuff, as I said earlier in the conversation. It was intermittent it wasn't all the time until quite a bit later in life.

2034

04:04:56.850 --> 04:05:07.620

Aaron Devor: But I have stories like that all the way through my life where that kind of stuff would happen where I was not wanting it to happen. And then I would feel shame.

2035

04:05:08.160 --> 04:05:08.610

Aaron Devor: Yes.

2036

04:05:09.000 --> 04:05:13.410

Aaron Devor: I would feel shame but not the shame that they thought they were throwing at me. It was a whole different shame.

2037

04:05:14.460 --> 04:05:15.000

Evan Taylor: You know, or a

2038

04:05:15.390 --> 04:05:21.930

Aaron Devor: You know, they thought they knew who I was and I was so unthinkable that they had no idea who I was.

2039

04:05:22.500 --> 04:05:29.130

Evan Taylor: Exactly yeah that's that's an interesting way to put it, isn't it, that the shame that they wanted you to feel you were like,

2040

04:05:29.580 --> 04:05:31.710

Evan Taylor: Oh no, honey, it's so different than that. Like there's

2041

04:05:31.920 --> 04:05:44.400

Evan Taylor: There's a completely different level that you were identifying yourself as to what they were identifying and then saying let's attack shame to that you were like, I can't even because it's not actually you're not even accurate. I can't feel shamed on something that's not even true

2042

04:05:44.700 --> 04:05:58.650

Aaron Devor: Well, no, no. I can feel I felt shame that I was so far outside of the norm that they couldn't even imagine who I actually was

2043

04:05:58.980 --> 04:06:04.860

Aaron Devor: Eight. Okay. They thought I was a boy who was pushing the limits.

2044

04:06:06.780 --> 04:06:18.210

Aaron Devor: But I was a girl who looked like a boy pushing the limits and that was even worse because I was there were no words.

2045

04:06:18.450 --> 04:06:21.180

Aaron Devor: For who I was. There was no language. It was no concept.

2046

04:06:21.840 --> 04:06:24.510

Aaron Devor: who I was. This is, you know, something that I have to keep

2047

04:06:25.620 --> 04:06:31.650

Aaron Devor: Reiterating to young people that there was a time when

2048

04:06:32.910 --> 04:06:33.990

Aaron Devor: Trans people

2049

04:06:35.850 --> 04:06:36.780

Aaron Devor: Were unthinkable.

2050

04:06:38.670 --> 04:06:46.440

Aaron Devor: And it's hard to understand this, the shame that you can carry when you are so

2051

04:06:47.490 --> 04:06:48.450

Aaron Devor: Much of a freak.

2052

04:06:49.860 --> 04:06:52.200

Aaron Devor: That there aren't any words for it.

2053

04:06:54.480 --> 04:07:09.270

Aaron Devor: Okay, there aren't any words for you there, dude. You can't even they can't even insult you properly because they don't even know who you are, that you exist, they can't even imagine that you exist. Your that's your that weird

2054

04:07:10.920 --> 04:07:14.280

Aaron Devor: You know, I spent a lot of years feeling like a free

2055

04:07:16.830 --> 04:07:29.580

Aaron Devor: And most trans people of a certain age will tell you that they spent a lot of years feeling like they were the only one I got a bunch of elders, like me, who are putting together a book calling called

2056

04:07:31.530 --> 04:07:33.300

Aaron Devor: The only one or something like that, then

2057

04:07:34.110 --> 04:07:34.500

Aaron Devor: As it

2058

04:07:35.160 --> 04:07:46.200

Aaron Devor: Got those years, but there was no language. There was no way to understand and that's beyond well beyond, you know. Well, you're not doing your gender. Right.

2059

04:07:46.920 --> 04:07:47.400

Evan Taylor: Right.

2060

04:07:47.490 --> 04:07:53.580

Aaron Devor: This is what they were trying to say to me, is you're not doing your generate get back into line fella because you stepped out of line.

2061

04:07:54.780 --> 04:07:57.150

Aaron Devor: I was unimaginably who I was.

2062

04:07:57.840 --> 04:07:58.290

Evan Taylor: Right.

2063

04:07:58.710 --> 04:08:05.010

Aaron Devor: And that's why when he did the gender playing book all those people said to me, I've never talked to anybody about this because it had no way to talk about

2064

04:08:06.360 --> 04:08:13.530

Evan Taylor: I think what's interesting as well about that particular book is that matter, you know, now we're back to kind of back full circle to it is that

2065

04:08:13.830 --> 04:08:22.500

Evan Taylor: I still don't think that there's any words to describe the people that are in that book. I mean, we can we can say about non binary gender but but they weren't non binary. They were women.

2066

04:08:23.610 --> 04:08:34.650

Evan Taylor: And we and we and I still don't think we have words still to this day to talk about the people that you managed to identify in that book and now it's 30 years later, if there's the language still isn't there, they're still on.

2067

04:08:35.250 --> 04:08:37.440

Aaron Devor: But I don't think those people really exist in

2068

04:08:38.220 --> 04:08:42.360

Aaron Devor: So I, I talk about it now. His first book about non binary people

2069

04:08:42.420 --> 04:08:43.290

Aaron Devor: Because I think if

2070

04:08:44.430 --> 04:08:52.620

Aaron Devor: People, people who were then in today's world would attach themselves to some kind of non binary

2071

04:08:53.100 --> 04:08:57.990

Aaron Devor: Usually they would have language. And they would say some kind of non binary

2072

04:08:58.770 --> 04:08:59.430

Aaron Devor: Clean person.

2073

04:08:59.970 --> 04:09:00.240

Right.

2074

04:09:01.470 --> 04:09:14.880

Aaron Devor: But there was no language for that. Then there was no in between space. You were there were transsexuals right but you were a man you are a woman or you move from one to the other. They had no desire to move from one to the other.

2075

04:09:16.380 --> 04:09:24.540

Aaron Devor: But they didn't fit in the woman and they didn't want to turn themselves into men and they knew they were female and one of the key.

2076

04:09:25.380 --> 04:09:36.900

Aaron Devor: Things that somebody said to me that that helped me to understand what was going on was when one of them said, my friends know I'm a woman. Okay. Not every everybody else doesn't need to know more.

2077

04:09:39.090 --> 04:09:40.860

Aaron Devor: That was really key to my understanding.

2078

04:09:42.120 --> 04:09:47.370

Evan Taylor: Was that consistent across the, the folks that you talk to is that they felt that sort of like this is

2079

04:09:48.210 --> 04:10:00.360

Evan Taylor: I mean, it's not even a private issue. It's not the word I'm looking for. But again, it's a different language, but I'm just that they were quite happy to do they knew how they were coming across and have no desire to change it. Basically what I'm hearing this person saying

2080

04:10:00.930 --> 04:10:01.500

Well,

2081

04:10:02.670 --> 04:10:07.470

Aaron Devor: They were, they were not different from where I am, what I've described to you about my

2082

04:10:08.520 --> 04:10:09.150

Aaron Devor: Trajectory

2083

04:10:10.800 --> 04:10:12.630

Aaron Devor: They didn't want to become more feminine.

2084

04:10:13.440 --> 04:10:14.130

Evan Taylor: Great eight

2085

04:10:14.400 --> 04:10:17.070

Aaron Devor: Okay, so no desire to change it in that sense.

2086

04:10:18.780 --> 04:10:22.920

Aaron Devor: And it would not have been natural for them to become more feminine. That's not who they were.

2087

04:10:25.110 --> 04:10:26.100

Aaron Devor: But they

2088

04:10:27.150 --> 04:10:28.080

Aaron Devor: Didn't want to be men.

2089

04:10:29.040 --> 04:10:29.640

Evan Taylor: Right.

2090

04:10:29.760 --> 04:10:39.720

Aaron Devor: They recognize that there were certain advantages that they got when people thought they were man, but they're also very aware of the danger.

2091

04:10:40.740 --> 04:10:42.270

Aaron Devor: Of people feeling fooled.

2092

04:10:43.110 --> 04:10:44.970

Aaron Devor: And becoming angry and aggressive

2093

04:10:45.390 --> 04:10:48.780

Aaron Devor: Right. And they realized that they weren't men.

2094

04:10:51.090 --> 04:10:51.630

Aaron Devor: So,

2095

04:10:52.320 --> 04:11:02.610

Aaron Devor: You know, I've talked about all this in the book, but I think if they were alive today, they would have had since last summer, like today if they were in that gender position today.

2096

04:11:04.230 --> 04:11:07.080

Aaron Devor: I think some portion of them would become

2097

04:11:08.550 --> 04:11:16.530

Aaron Devor: Trans some portion of them would become non binary and there was one who was actually fairly feminine. Even then,

2098

04:11:17.820 --> 04:11:31.830

Aaron Devor: And we decided that she got mistaken for a man, mostly because she was quite tall and broad shouldered okay and people once they actually looked at her. Got it. So she didn't get mistaken for long.

2099

04:11:32.070 --> 04:11:36.030

Aaron Devor: So she didn't have to worry about people getting angry at her because they realized immediately been

2100

04:11:36.120 --> 04:11:36.690

A mistake.

2101

04:11:38.070 --> 04:11:48.840

Aaron Devor: When they when someone will get taken for a man and people wouldn't realize it right away and then they'd realize that, you know, two or three or five minutes into an interaction that the danger began

2102

04:11:49.440 --> 04:11:49.950

Evan Taylor: Race.

2103

04:11:50.040 --> 04:11:51.030

Aaron Devor: At the anger began

2104

04:11:52.860 --> 04:12:09.120

Aaron Devor: And then know that was in a time where there was no consciousness that people in the public should be accommodating or tolerant of gender variance. Right. Absolutely right. So when there was a gender variants issue that was your problem not there's

2105

04:12:09.840 --> 04:12:20.040

Evan Taylor: Horse. Yeah, it could be interested that that book. I haven't looked at it in a while. I want to go back and read it, after having done all of these interviews, because I think I'll have a very different perspective on it.

2106

04:12:20.430 --> 04:12:25.950

Evan Taylor: Now that I've done all these interviews that I did when I read a years ago and had my own you know ideas around transference.

2107

04:12:27.120 --> 04:12:34.740

Evan Taylor: Um, I think we've asked pretty much all of the all the questions that I have on my, on my list of things, um,

2108

04:12:36.780 --> 04:12:38.490

Evan Taylor: Let me just make sure there's nothing we haven't

2109

04:12:39.990 --> 04:12:42.180

Aaron Devor: You were right about it being a very long interview.

2110

04:12:42.870 --> 04:12:43.530

Evan Taylor: It is, I mean,

2111

04:12:44.580 --> 04:12:48.090

Evan Taylor: I knew, I knew would be with you because I practice this with the I knew the story is we're going to be

2112

04:12:48.930 --> 04:12:49.890

Aaron Devor: Particularly long

2113

04:12:51.810 --> 04:12:52.920

Evan Taylor: You're not the longest yet though.

2114

04:12:53.490 --> 04:12:57.030

Evan Taylor: Really knocking Max Max Larry has to be by half an hour already

2115

04:12:58.440 --> 04:12:59.340

Evan Taylor: Next Valerio

2116

04:13:00.000 --> 04:13:02.880

Evan Taylor: Okay, because it was five minutes shy of five hours.

2117

04:13:04.110 --> 04:13:11.430

Evan Taylor: So you're right. Your second your second because only only only Jamison Jamison Jamison was next to max and you it being Jamison by an hour.

2118

04:13:12.000 --> 04:13:13.950

Aaron Devor: Well, it was not my goal. I trust me.

2119

04:13:14.760 --> 04:13:24.390

Evan Taylor: Well I, I knew that I had my notes. Um, so I feel like, oh, the only other thing we didn't talk about, but I think it's interesting, we should talk about everyone else does.

2120

04:13:24.990 --> 04:13:34.950

Evan Taylor: Is this idea about the concept of transgender versus transsexual and some of the language pieces. We didn't quite go over. Is there anything that you want to make sure we add that we chatted about there.

2121

04:13:35.130 --> 04:13:37.050

Aaron Devor: What's that I didn't hear a question.

2122

04:13:37.680 --> 04:13:43.950

Evan Taylor: Just usually when I say to folks. Well, what's your relationship to the word transgender, or transsexual or

2123

04:13:44.160 --> 04:13:51.780

Evan Taylor: They interrupt me and start telling me all the things that they want to tell me so it, you know, did you have a particular preference around language. Did you have

2124

04:13:52.620 --> 04:14:01.470

Evan Taylor: Did you have words that you identify with them dis identify with others, or are you kind of fluid with the whole concept of understanding that these words are changing as our

2125

04:14:02.100 --> 04:14:07.530

Evan Taylor: Understanding of gender changes, how do you, how do you relate to the changes of language that we've used over time.

2126

04:14:09.330 --> 04:14:13.590

Aaron Devor: Well, I've been watching. I've been watching a change over time, for sure.

2127

04:14:14.970 --> 04:14:21.810

Aaron Devor: And you know my watching a change goes back a lot of years as many of the other people, you talked with

2128

04:14:25.740 --> 04:14:38.070

Aaron Devor: You know mostly when I talked to people. I just say I'm trans and I let them draw their own conclusion, what that means. And depending on the type to they think, oh, I want to turn into a woman or maybe I used to be a woman for whatever

2129

04:14:40.410 --> 04:14:44.700

Aaron Devor: You know, like I say, my personal life is basically, I like to keep it personal.

2130

04:14:46.350 --> 04:14:48.900

Aaron Devor: In terms of the use of the language.

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04:14:55.470 --> 04:15:01.770

Aaron Devor: I'm watching it move and transsexual to a lot of young people is a very

2132

04:15:03.630 --> 04:15:10.830

Aaron Devor: Negative and derogatory word I've had people push on me and say that we really shouldn't use it. It's a bad word.

2133

04:15:12.900 --> 04:15:19.230

Aaron Devor: I don't feel that way. I understand that they feel that way. And they're entitled to their opinions and they stand.

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04:15:20.700 --> 04:15:27.720

Aaron Devor: where they're coming from, in the sense that it's been used by medical communities and it's being used in a pathologies way.

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04:15:29.340 --> 04:15:34.770

Aaron Devor: I also think it's an important distinction that describes certain people

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04:15:36.540 --> 04:15:39.030

Aaron Devor: And that there is a difference.

2137

04:15:41.010 --> 04:15:47.130

Aaron Devor: Between people who want to live very binary lives and want to do

2138

04:15:49.950 --> 04:15:53.760

Aaron Devor: A lot to their bodies to

2139

04:15:54.810 --> 04:16:02.100

Aaron Devor: validate their binary position in society that values particular kinds of validation

2140

04:16:02.790 --> 04:16:04.020

Aaron Devor: So a society that

2141

04:16:04.080 --> 04:16:04.950

Expects

2142

04:16:06.660 --> 04:16:19.740

Aaron Devor: A certain body types in order to claim a binary gender position and transsexual describes that in a way that transgender does not. So I think there's a place

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04:16:20.880 --> 04:16:40.440

Aaron Devor: For that word. And just as I said earlier, there's some trans women who want gender on their ID, because they feel like nobody will take them seriously if they don't have that. And I think there's a lot of people who feel that transsexual is

2144

04:16:42.090 --> 04:16:57.810

Aaron Devor: More precisely, who they are and that they want that designation because they want their specificity to be recognized. And so, you know, I respect that and

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04:16:59.070 --> 04:17:03.690

Aaron Devor: I think if I were asked to place myself.

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04:17:04.980 --> 04:17:09.810

Aaron Devor: Specifically, I think transsexualism more specific description of who I am.

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04:17:11.070 --> 04:17:31.980

Aaron Devor: Then transgender because transgender is very broad and it covers lots of places on a gender spectrum and I'm pretty binary and I've undergone surgeries and you know made use of medical technologies. And I think that's a correct language to describe my position. I don't often use it.

2148

04:17:33.090 --> 04:17:34.530

Aaron Devor: Because I don't think

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04:17:36.150 --> 04:17:42.150

Aaron Devor: It's necessary to be that specific in most situations and

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04:17:43.530 --> 04:17:46.320

Aaron Devor: I don't use transgender that much anymore. I'm also use trans

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04:17:47.640 --> 04:17:50.310

Aaron Devor: And it is a more general term even then transgender

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04:17:50.970 --> 04:18:04.020

Aaron Devor: And in fact, I think it's, it's more general and better for someone like me because it does include transsexual in my mind, whereas transgender doesn't necessarily. Some people say transgender does include some people say it doesn't include

2153

04:18:04.830 --> 04:18:17.730

Aaron Devor: But trans is doesn't have anything after it. So we could be could be both. But then, you know, Islam non binary people are not included in that. So, you know, I sometimes now increasingly I'm saying trans plus

2154

04:18:19.140 --> 04:18:31.560

Aaron Devor: Sometimes I say trans non binary to spirit and I'll tell you the place where I do depart with from current language more than on the transsexual transgender is on queer

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04:18:32.670 --> 04:18:35.310

Aaron Devor: And so I see people

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04:18:36.570 --> 04:18:40.470

Aaron Devor: Increasingly using queer to include

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04:18:41.640 --> 04:18:42.690

Aaron Devor: LGBT

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04:18:45.060 --> 04:18:55.110

Aaron Devor: And I don't think that's appropriate. And the reason I don't think it's appropriate is because there are so many binary trans people who see themselves as heterosexual

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04:18:57.210 --> 04:19:04.740

Aaron Devor: And they see themselves as straight in the claim of, you know, straight and now kind of meaning of straight

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04:19:05.970 --> 04:19:09.960

Aaron Devor: And they're not queer and they're not all people by any means.

2161

04:19:11.580 --> 04:19:16.770

Aaron Devor: They are people who want to fit in and want to be part of society in a very

2162

04:19:18.000 --> 04:19:23.970

Aaron Devor: Stereotypical standardized straight kind of way conservative kind of way.

2163

04:19:25.230 --> 04:19:30.780

Aaron Devor: And so I don't think it's right to use queer to encompass

2164

04:19:32.070 --> 04:19:40.590

Aaron Devor: Everybody comes trans lots of trans people are very clear and very happy to be clear, but lots of queer people are not at all trans

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04:19:41.610 --> 04:19:43.350

Aaron Devor: Lots of trans people are not at all clear.

2166

04:19:44.580 --> 04:19:50.460

Aaron Devor: And so that's a place that I do diverged with with, I don't think the language is going in the right direction.

2167

04:19:51.660 --> 04:20:03.600

Aaron Devor: But you know, I mean, I know people do that and do what they do. You know what I do. Remind people regularly that lots of trans people will have no leads but queer, they're very strict

2168

04:20:04.590 --> 04:20:06.270

Evan Taylor: And it's also somebody who's very

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04:20:07.350 --> 04:20:18.720

Evan Taylor: Invested in, you know, trans politics and movement and so forth and having people understand like, you know, that history of the work that's been done in trans communities.

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04:20:19.260 --> 04:20:31.530

Evan Taylor: It's been done on the backs of the people who had the most horrible gender dysphoria, who had the worst places in the end you know who have to do the most work and the people who did that with transsexuals right the transgenders are usually

2171

04:20:32.100 --> 04:20:37.950

Evan Taylor: You know, if we're if we're if we're letting Virginia prints have have her way right they were straight white men.

2172

04:20:39.060 --> 04:20:50.220

Evan Taylor: That were not any, any way day or even even trans. They were just cross dressers and they just call them transgender risks and that was. And so I think it's important to recognize that on the historical level.

2173

04:20:50.430 --> 04:21:01.800

Evan Taylor: That the original activism was transsexuals that we're doing that, yes, we have cross dressers and drag queens of stuff as well. But the people that were literally putting their bodies on the line for you know surgeon

2174

04:21:02.040 --> 04:21:05.190

Evan Taylor: John brown or whatever the people literally doing that.

2175

04:21:05.910 --> 04:21:14.820

Evan Taylor: More the transsexuals. And so I think it's important to as you say that and we talked about this, we've talked to a number of times but that that our movement of trans doesn't leave behind people

2176

04:21:15.060 --> 04:21:22.890

Evan Taylor: Who very much trying to the binary and quite frankly quite happy with it. Don't, don't, wanted to challenge that we can't leave those folks behind

2177

04:21:23.280 --> 04:21:35.100

Aaron Devor: And I yes I agree with that and I'll expand, just a little bit on that which is I think that the people who have been at the forefront, whether we're talking LGBT T on cue.

2178

04:21:36.000 --> 04:21:43.200

Aaron Devor: Are the people who are most gender non conforming, those are the people who are always on the front line, the people who

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04:21:44.250 --> 04:21:45.690

Aaron Devor: The straightest constraints.

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04:21:47.070 --> 04:21:55.650

Aaron Devor: Are the most defended by the people who are going to take the brunt of the violence or the people who are most obviously gender non conforming

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04:21:57.360 --> 04:22:00.360

Aaron Devor: So that tends to be

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04:22:02.250 --> 04:22:08.460

Aaron Devor: Drag queens, that tends to be bull dykes that tends to be

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04:22:09.540 --> 04:22:20.760

Aaron Devor: binary trans people before they transition and some of them after the transition right so some transition and they are no longer on the receiving end because they

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04:22:21.780 --> 04:22:22.440

Aaron Devor: blend in.

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04:22:23.970 --> 04:22:43.380

Aaron Devor: But some never blended and so they continue to get there for the rest of their lives and in today's world, I would say that non binary people are getting a lot of that unwanted unpleasant attention because they're

2186

04:22:44.610 --> 04:22:48.540

Aaron Devor: staking a claim to that position of

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04:22:49.830 --> 04:22:51.600

Aaron Devor: For forever gender non conforming

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04:22:53.130 --> 04:23:06.270

Aaron Devor: transsexual people usually very often most often before transition are very obviously gender non conforming can't help it. This is the way they are and they attract a lot of abuse.

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04:23:06.690 --> 04:23:09.120

Aaron Devor: But lots of once a transition no longer in that

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04:23:09.150 --> 04:23:14.220

Aaron Devor: Position. So, you know, I think those are little bit more fine tuning.

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04:23:15.420 --> 04:23:31.020

Aaron Devor: About who who's been bearing the brunt of the, the hardest time and there's lots of gay, gay people who are maybe not drag queens but gay men who are obviously very feminine.

2192

04:23:32.640 --> 04:23:45.960

Aaron Devor: You know the masculine once they don't. The butch that gay guys, they don't take nearly the kind of abuses. It's the fam gay guys, it's the Queenie kind of Femi gay guys and and the lesbians. It's not the lipstick lesbians. It's the butch ones.

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04:23:47.250 --> 04:23:53.220

Aaron Devor: So you know i think it's it's a reflection of the gender non conforming, and that's the thing that does

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04:23:54.270 --> 04:23:58.620

Aaron Devor: Run through that's the the thread that holds together LGBT Q

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04:24:00.600 --> 04:24:02.820

Aaron Devor: And anybody else you want to add on there.

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04:24:04.140 --> 04:24:10.830

Aaron Devor: Is what we, the common cause that we have together is challenging gender norms.

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04:24:12.000 --> 04:24:15.930

Aaron Devor: People who challenged the gender norms, the most are the ones who are most obviously

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04:24:16.560 --> 04:24:23.610

Aaron Devor: gender non conforming, but, you know, just being a lipstick lesbian or a butch gay man is also challenging gender norms.

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04:24:24.150 --> 04:24:32.310

Aaron Devor: Because hetero normative. It says you're supposed to be heterosexual, but they're not challenging it in that in your face kind of way, who's

2200

04:24:33.210 --> 04:24:43.230

Aaron Devor: The people whose gender expression is very obviously challenging gender norms and those are the people that are on the forefront and those are the people that we have the biggest debt to

2201

04:24:43.770 --> 04:24:51.690

Aaron Devor: Because they're the ones who have taken the brunt of the abuse that needs to that is part of the process of moving society. Well,

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04:24:53.070 --> 04:24:59.640

Evan Taylor: Absolutely. Very interesting point in history as well, where we have people still alive right now and

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04:25:00.330 --> 04:25:06.240

Evan Taylor: In 10 years 20 years, this will not be the case anymore, but we have people still alive right now who understood their

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04:25:06.750 --> 04:25:12.810

Evan Taylor: sexual identity, gender identity, all of these things as young people, but had absolutely we didn't even have the technology.

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04:25:13.050 --> 04:25:17.430

Evan Taylor: For them to pursue, whether it was hormones or anything like that. We didn't even have the technology yet for that to happen.

2206

04:25:17.790 --> 04:25:26.100

Evan Taylor: And so we have people. I think that this is the unique group you're talking about uniquely in history where they are transsexual people who very much lived

2207

04:25:26.430 --> 04:25:34.590

Evan Taylor: An enormous part of their lives in a very non conforming space, not by their choice in any way. It's just something what happened because there was no technology to move them.

2208

04:25:35.190 --> 04:25:40.080

Evan Taylor: To another space or there was no access to that technology. And if we did have it, you know, technically have some lab somewhere.

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04:25:40.470 --> 04:25:46.980

Evan Taylor: And so I think this is these interviews are so fascinating because they do have a number of folks who talk what exactly this. When they say

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04:25:47.760 --> 04:26:00.600

Evan Taylor: I identify as transsexual but I can't tell anybody because now it's a bad word, and yet it's still who I am. But there's this whole politics. I've had to contend with. And, and so I really appreciate you taking the space to to

2211

04:26:01.830 --> 04:26:16.950

Evan Taylor: De conflate the gender and sexuality piece, but also to make sure that you know that we understand that the link that goes through all the LGBT q i blah blah blah, all of the letters. The link is actually that we're all doing something that we're not supposed to do with our gender.

2212

04:26:18.240 --> 04:26:26.550

Evan Taylor: Nevermind. Our bodies, our sexuality or anything like that. It's actually gender that runs that that's that common that's that common link that everyone's everyone's doing gender wrong if we're

2213

04:26:26.730 --> 04:26:38.460

Evan Taylor: Having sex with the same gender or if we're trans or whatever we're all doing gender wrong in that alphabet. So I think it's a really, I really appreciate that to you. Do you do, you can play it though so clearly.

2214

04:26:38.550 --> 04:26:41.970

Aaron Devor: That that's that's red. And the more you do it wrong.

2215

04:26:42.990 --> 04:26:45.360

Aaron Devor: Mark on the front lines you are

2216

04:26:48.180 --> 04:26:54.690

Aaron Devor: And I don't think that's going to change anytime soon. I think that's going to be around for a long a long time.

2217

04:26:55.170 --> 04:26:55.830

Maybe

2218

04:26:57.150 --> 04:27:04.710

Evan Taylor: That's an interesting, interesting piece that you that you see, because I've asked. I've asked you think about the future. And so, is that something that you see in the future will probably stay the same.

2219

04:27:05.640 --> 04:27:14.790

Evan Taylor: Is that the ways that normative normal activity and non normative it embodies and so forth, and that that will be continued to be a

2220

04:27:15.900 --> 04:27:17.640

Evan Taylor: Point of social stratification.

2221

04:27:18.270 --> 04:27:25.260

Aaron Devor: Well, I think, you know, it depends on how far in the future, we're talking about. So we talked before about what do i hope to see in 50 years from now.

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04:27:25.620 --> 04:27:37.650

Aaron Devor: And if that comes to pass these other conditions will will will fade. Because if you're not structuring your society on a binary gender, then

2223

04:27:38.340 --> 04:27:55.680

Aaron Devor: What's you know it's not an issue if we don't have gender on all our all of our ID. If we don't divide the whole world up on the basis of what gender. Are you if the only point that your sex becomes important is if you want to have babies together.

2224

04:27:57.000 --> 04:28:15.840

Aaron Devor: Then that becomes quite peripheral and that no longer is as a metric for social stratification. Tell them you know that could go by the wayside and what what are you challenging if we don't have genders of basic organizing principle.

2225

04:28:16.980 --> 04:28:18.030

Aaron Devor: Is there's no challenge.

2226

04:28:19.110 --> 04:28:21.960

Aaron Devor: But that's still a long way off. It's still a long way off.

2227

04:28:23.310 --> 04:28:26.850

Aaron Devor: I don't think I down. I'm going to live long enough to see that.

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04:28:28.410 --> 04:28:32.850

Evan Taylor: What are you going to bring up that may have to ask you the legacy question. Now then.

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04:28:34.080 --> 04:28:36.750

Evan Taylor: In terms of living long enough to see things so

2230

04:28:37.740 --> 04:28:48.270

Evan Taylor: If you, you know, got hit by a bus tomorrow. Hopefully it's not for a long, long time. But things happen and you know we're living in a time of what we're calling great uncertainty at the moment of covert

2231

04:28:48.630 --> 04:28:54.540

Evan Taylor: And so we don't know what the future has, you know, we, who knows, maybe, maybe this thing will get us all in the next year, but

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04:28:55.290 --> 04:28:59.400

Evan Taylor: Hopefully we we managed through it and Bobby Henry leads us valiantly through all of this.

2233

04:28:59.670 --> 04:29:07.980

Evan Taylor: And and so assuming that you know that there is still some some time in life left in that there'll be a future and then 100 years, someone's going to be sitting and listening to this and

2234

04:29:08.280 --> 04:29:15.420

Evan Taylor: You know, thinking about about who Dr. Aaron before was and what he stood for and what he did. And so what what does that sort of

2235

04:29:15.840 --> 04:29:25.380

Evan Taylor: lasting legacy. What is it that you would like to be known for, what is it that you would like people to think about you and what does that legacy would like to be left in 100 years when someone's listening to this.

2236

04:29:28.530 --> 04:29:31.170

Aaron Devor: I knew this question was coming. It doesn't mean I have an answer prepared.

2237

04:29:31.560 --> 04:29:33.090

Evan Taylor: Doesn't make it easy does it, and I know

2238

04:29:35.970 --> 04:29:41.370

Aaron Devor: You know, I'd like to be remembered for leaving the world in a better state than I found it.

2239

04:29:43.410 --> 04:29:46.380

Aaron Devor: This time, you know, I'm not done yet, but I think that

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04:29:47.850 --> 04:30:00.540

Aaron Devor: My contributions that hopefully will continue to be lasting contributions are some of my publications is a few that I think stand out to two books. The first two books. I think stand out.

2241

04:30:04.050 --> 04:30:14.070

Aaron Devor: That article about the 14 stages, I think is kind of important. The work I did with the standards of care. I think is an important contribution.

2242

04:30:14.970 --> 04:30:24.810

Aaron Devor: And then, of course, establishing the transgender Archives building the transgender archives. I don't know if the conferences will continue to grow, but I hope they will

2243

04:30:25.440 --> 04:30:36.870

Aaron Devor: Continue to serve an important purpose. And of course, I hope the chair will continue to serve a purpose and to be an inspiration to others.

2244

04:30:37.980 --> 04:30:38.340

And

2245

04:30:39.660 --> 04:30:43.950

Aaron Devor: I don't know what comes after that and got, you know, some

2246

04:30:45.000 --> 04:30:49.410

Aaron Devor: Grandchildren. Oh, look at that. I have another appointment that I'm going to miss.

2247

04:30:51.030 --> 04:31:04.950

Aaron Devor: Some lovely grandchildren I you know I just hope that I said at the start, that I left the world in a better place. And I found it and I've given you a couple of examples of contributions that

2248

04:31:06.210 --> 04:31:23.400

Aaron Devor: I know have already had an effect on people's lives, people tell me that you know meaningful in their lives and and I think that's all any of us can do is to try and touch a few people's lives and and help them feel better and and be their best selves.

2249

04:31:25.410 --> 04:31:31.710

Evan Taylor: And knowing, of course, that you've got some grandkids. We're definitely going to want to listen to this. At some point, I'm

2250

04:31:32.220 --> 04:31:46.920

Evan Taylor: Very well, very well. Right. And what is it that you want them to know about you as a, as a person, as a human being, regardless of being a trans activist or anything like that but you know as a human being, what is it that you would want your grandchildren to know about you.

2251

04:31:49.050 --> 04:31:57.510

Aaron Devor: I hope they already know it and I hope they already know what they're not they're not little okay i one of those 24 the others is 14

2252

04:31:58.830 --> 04:32:06.390

Aaron Devor: So you know I want them to learn to be kind to other people to be generous to other people to

2253

04:32:07.440 --> 04:32:20.190

Aaron Devor: give of themselves and give themselves generously to make the world a better place. And it has come back to that theme again again to me to make the world better to work for justice for everybody.

2254

04:32:21.420 --> 04:32:26.340

Aaron Devor: And to be kind, while they do it and generous while they do it.

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04:32:27.390 --> 04:32:43.140

Aaron Devor: You've heard me at my conferences, talk about kindness and generosity. I think it's in short supply, especially among people who are political I think that people who are very political.

2256

04:32:45.540 --> 04:32:50.130

Aaron Devor: Tend to feel that they have God on their side, and they are

2257

04:32:52.920 --> 04:33:01.110

Aaron Devor: A bit too holy and are ungenerous with other people who don't see the world as clearly as they think they see it.

2258

04:33:04.020 --> 04:33:05.340

Aaron Devor: As it is they think they see it.

2259

04:33:06.960 --> 04:33:13.050

Aaron Devor: I think we all have a lot to learn from each other and that we all need each other and that

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04:33:14.100 --> 04:33:17.790

Aaron Devor: We should be as kind of generous with others, as we expect them to be with us.

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04:33:20.130 --> 04:33:26.460

Aaron Devor: So there's a there's a basic golden rule, which again comes from the Jews.

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04:33:27.870 --> 04:33:28.500

Evan Taylor: Word for this one.

2263

04:33:29.160 --> 04:33:31.410

Aaron Devor: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

2264

04:33:31.740 --> 04:33:38.130

Evan Taylor: Okay, yeah. What is, what is that word again. It's that time that you start talking about that. I'm leaving the world a better place.

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04:33:38.610 --> 04:33:39.660

Aaron Devor: To Allah

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04:33:40.500 --> 04:33:40.830

Allah

2267

04:33:42.600 --> 04:33:43.170

Evan Taylor: Lesson learned.

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04:33:44.970 --> 04:33:45.900

Aaron Devor: Yeah Tikkun Olam

2269

04:33:47.010 --> 04:34:01.470

Aaron Devor: But, you know, golden wall so is very important and very basic. And it's also a Jewish value and you know another Jewish value is there's, again, it all comes out of the religion. Ultimately, but

2270

04:34:03.810 --> 04:34:04.740

Aaron Devor: One of the

2271

04:34:06.840 --> 04:34:08.130

Aaron Devor: Right describe this to you.

2272

04:34:10.260 --> 04:34:23.160

Aaron Devor: There's a our holy books are called the five books of Moses and or the Torah and when you get to in there in the religious contexts, a written on a scroll

2273

04:34:23.790 --> 04:34:29.520

Aaron Devor: Yeah, parchment scroll handwritten parchment school. And when you get to the end of one of the

2274

04:34:30.090 --> 04:34:46.860

Aaron Devor: Five. They're not five different schools. It's all on one scroll that they're in sections. And so when you get to the end of one of those sections. There's a ritual of your. Hold it, hold up the scrolls in front of the congregation and everybody together says, In Hebrew.

2275

04:34:47.910 --> 04:34:51.690

Aaron Devor: Justice, justice, justice, you shall pursue

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04:34:55.440 --> 04:34:56.280

Aaron Devor: This is

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04:34:57.450 --> 04:35:05.970

Aaron Devor: Over and over and over again. Year in, year out, is something that we all say together. And it's a commandment. This is what you'll do

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04:35:08.490 --> 04:35:25.470

Aaron Devor: And, you know, this is one of my values. This is instilled in me. Not that explicitly as a child, because I didn't spend that much time in religious surfaces as a child, but the values are instilled in me and this is what I would like my grandchildren to also be guided by

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04:35:26.790 --> 04:35:37.590

Aaron Devor: You know what justice means in different times in different places. It varies and it will be different will need different things to to pursue justice at different times in different places, but

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04:35:39.030 --> 04:35:40.740

Aaron Devor: That's what, that's what we're here for.

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04:35:42.660 --> 04:35:55.260

Evan Taylor: I appreciate that. You're saying that as as a Jewish value and supposed to all the, the, you know, various different other Christian, you know, sex, and so forth. That's not a particular that the Justice peace is something is quite

2282

04:35:55.710 --> 04:36:01.500

Evan Taylor: Unique right it's it's it's not it's not a it's not across the board with all Judeo Christian religion so I

2283

04:36:01.560 --> 04:36:08.280

Aaron Devor: Never stop you right there. To me, they're not Judeo Christian religions Judaism and Christianity.

2284

04:36:08.850 --> 04:36:09.270

Evan Taylor: Great.

2285

04:36:09.360 --> 04:36:17.310

Aaron Devor: We have very different values. So another piece that I will mention is that the Jewish value that's part of what motivates me

2286

04:36:18.000 --> 04:36:31.380

Aaron Devor: Is that in Judaism. This is why I stopped you before. And you said faith also Judaism. What is important is your relationship with other human beings, far more important than your relationship with any deity.

2287

04:36:32.220 --> 04:36:32.730

Evan Taylor: Right.

2288

04:36:33.090 --> 04:36:41.700

Aaron Devor: It's not about faith. It's about action Judaism says it doesn't matter if you want to do it. It doesn't matter if

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04:36:43.860 --> 04:36:44.670

Aaron Devor: You

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04:36:46.020 --> 04:36:48.150

Aaron Devor: Even put your heart into it.

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04:36:49.230 --> 04:36:50.160

Aaron Devor: You'll do the right thing.

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04:36:52.020 --> 04:36:56.730

Aaron Devor: And if you do the right thing enough times, you'll understand lines do anything which is do it.

2293

04:36:58.050 --> 04:37:09.630

Aaron Devor: It's in the action. It's in the doing. And the most important thing is to do the right thing by other human beings, right, and your relationship with God is secondary. And every

2294

04:37:10.830 --> 04:37:19.650

Aaron Devor: Jewish law every Jewish commandment every Jewish expectation every religious obligation can all be put aside.

2295

04:37:21.630 --> 04:37:22.740

Aaron Devor: To save a life.

2296

04:37:24.300 --> 04:37:26.520

Aaron Devor: There is no rule that comes before that.

2297

04:37:28.410 --> 04:37:35.790

Aaron Devor: People and doing the right thing by people justice is what is the most important things. It's not about faith.

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04:37:36.570 --> 04:37:38.370

Aaron Devor: The faith follows the action.

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04:37:38.460 --> 04:37:53.520

Aaron Devor: It's about the action and you know every year on our holiest days, our obligation is to go to other people and say, if I hurt you in any way, please forgive me, you know, only after you have done that.

2300

04:37:54.540 --> 04:38:01.350

Aaron Devor: Can you go to God and say to God, forgive me now in Christianity, you go to God first

2301

04:38:02.280 --> 04:38:11.040

Aaron Devor: You say, I'm going to you know say my Hail Marys or whatever it is you're going to do your confession wherever it is. And if God let you off the hook. You're okay.

2302

04:38:12.000 --> 04:38:23.700

Aaron Devor: And it's all about the life here after the Jews have a whole concept of life you're after, but it's not central. It's not the focus of what we do. The focus of what we do is life here.

2303

04:38:24.330 --> 04:38:31.410

Aaron Devor: And now, and that's what you'll be judged on not on your faith, not on your relationship to God. But are you relation to other human beings.

2304

04:38:33.120 --> 04:38:39.930

Aaron Devor: And making the world a better place and pursuing justice. Those are the values that drive me and they derive from my culture.

2305

04:38:41.880 --> 04:38:42.510

Aaron Devor: And

2306

04:38:43.740 --> 04:38:48.420

Aaron Devor: That's that's very central to who I am.

2307

04:38:50.520 --> 04:38:52.830

Evan Taylor: I'm thinking back to what you're talking about.

2308

04:38:53.490 --> 04:39:04.440

Evan Taylor: And the 90s when you know folks were not necessarily you could sense there with some pretty anti Semitism. Maybe unconscious, but that that was at play in terms of, you know, how dare you know have the nerve to ask to be promoted.

2309

04:39:04.830 --> 04:39:08.340

Evan Taylor: And I was thinking about that as we were talking just now because I was thinking, well, but

2310

04:39:09.420 --> 04:39:11.010

Evan Taylor: You know what was being

2311

04:39:12.300 --> 04:39:14.220

Evan Taylor: misread is not from the right term what was being

2312

04:39:16.590 --> 04:39:21.330

Evan Taylor: misappropriated I think by the by the other folks in the department was not understanding that

2313

04:39:21.630 --> 04:39:31.050

Evan Taylor: This is that you asking for this promotion and doing this work. This wasn't anything to do with self interest as much as to do with but it's the right thing that I need to do to the next.

2314

04:39:31.470 --> 04:39:42.570

Evan Taylor: That's the next step. That's where I'm going. That's how I'm going to make my change and how they sort of didn't see that as a piece of self respect that you've learned as a value. It was more like

2315

04:39:43.020 --> 04:39:44.490

Aaron Devor: You're being you're being too kind to me.

2316

04:39:47.400 --> 04:39:49.410

Aaron Devor: What was going on there is that

2317

04:39:50.610 --> 04:40:09.240

Aaron Devor: In my culture. There's nothing wrong with claiming what you're doing and the Anglo culture around me says, Oh, no, you're supposed to do. You're, you're supposed to say, No, no, not me, you know, take care of you. First, take care of somebody else.

2318

04:40:10.980 --> 04:40:20.520

Aaron Devor: Even though you do actually think that you deserve it, but you're not supposed to say that. All right. And my culture it's perfectly fine to say that you'd be dumb, not to

2319

04:40:22.290 --> 04:40:32.010

Aaron Devor: Okay, so that's what I was referring to. Right. You know, it's not it's not an active anti Semitism. It's just a culture clash that

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04:40:33.270 --> 04:40:37.920

Aaron Devor: They didn't understand that. That's my culture. They just thought

2321

04:40:38.130 --> 04:40:42.690

Aaron Devor: It was just me being this you know of noxious person.

2322

04:40:43.320 --> 04:40:44.070

Evan Taylor: I don't want it.

2323

04:40:44.640 --> 04:40:49.320

Aaron Devor: When it was my culture that to say well you know I've earned this so I'm going to, I'm going to claim it

2324

04:40:49.590 --> 04:40:50.790

Aaron Devor: And there's nothing wrong with that.

2325

04:40:51.090 --> 04:40:58.410

Aaron Devor: That's not being pushy or arrogant. That's just, you know, normal in my

2326

04:40:59.190 --> 04:41:08.880

Evan Taylor: It's recognizing that original research for four years and a master's is not a masters. It's a PhD. That's why you it's just recognizing the reality. That's all. Yeah.

2327

04:41:09.120 --> 04:41:11.460

Aaron Devor: Yeah, and you know, so in the

2328

04:41:12.930 --> 04:41:16.470

Aaron Devor: Wider Anglo you know wasabi culture.

2329

04:41:17.550 --> 04:41:21.030

Aaron Devor: I'm people say to me all the time that you know they

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04:41:22.080 --> 04:41:23.100

Aaron Devor: And they say it in different

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04:41:24.270 --> 04:41:32.460

Aaron Devor: With different emotional valence depending on exactly what's going on. But I'm recognized as someone who speaks plainly that I, you know,

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04:41:33.750 --> 04:41:42.690

Aaron Devor: I'll say what's going on. And, you know, I'm very direct and forthright and some people like that some people don't. But they see me that way. Right.

2333

04:41:43.800 --> 04:41:47.850

Aaron Devor: In the Jewish culture. I am considered extremely diplomatic

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04:41:48.420 --> 04:42:06.630

Aaron Devor: Um, alright, so people in the Anglo culture think that I'm like right out there. Right, so no holds barred don't hold back just, you know, say what you need to say now, they think I'm polite about how I say it, but they, you know, they know something's going on. I'm gonna, I'm going to say it.

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04:42:06.840 --> 04:42:09.900

Aaron Devor: Right, and they're a little scared of me because of that.

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04:42:11.520 --> 04:42:19.860

Aaron Devor: Whereas my Jewish FRIENDS. FRIENDS. FRIENDS THINK I am very diplomatic and very careful and, you know, very restrained.

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04:42:22.260 --> 04:42:24.750

Evan Taylor: Like Aaron just kept that tells your REAL OPINIONS ON

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04:42:25.860 --> 04:42:39.180

Aaron Devor: What they think they get it but they think, you know, it's like I'm just so nice about it and very careful about how I say things and take the time and you know they love having me to chair a meeting because I can keep people from screaming at each other, which

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04:42:39.330 --> 04:42:42.360

Aaron Devor: You know, I mean, we've had people to dinner.

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04:42:43.590 --> 04:42:53.220

Aaron Devor: Who are not Jewish at a table where we're mostly Jews and they kind of wide eyed because they think we're all hollering each other and angry and having a fight.

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04:42:53.730 --> 04:42:55.410

Aaron Devor: And we just think we're having a conversation

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04:42:55.950 --> 04:42:59.940

Aaron Devor: Right, the conversation because everybody's direct and tells you what they think and

2343

04:43:00.180 --> 04:43:02.190

Aaron Devor: And just gets into it. Right.

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04:43:02.490 --> 04:43:04.590

Evan Taylor: no ulterior motives. It's just, here's what I think.

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04:43:04.620 --> 04:43:08.820

Aaron Devor: What do you think nobody has any hurt feelings about. We're just exchanging ideas.

2346

04:43:09.750 --> 04:43:21.990

Aaron Devor: And and forcefully. Yes, but that's okay. You can talk forcefully as well and sometimes we're all talking at once and it gets loud and so on. And it's just normal, but I can't behave like that.

2347

04:43:22.680 --> 04:43:33.360

Aaron Devor: Among my colleagues, because they think I'm being aggressive. Now, you know, less. So as a man as a woman, but they still, you know, as a man I'm forthright and direct and as a woman, I was a ball breaker.

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04:43:33.780 --> 04:43:34.050

You know,

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04:43:35.310 --> 04:43:43.740

Aaron Devor: So, you know, those are gender differences, but there's also this cultural difference that you know kinds of approaches that in the Jewish community are

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04:43:45.720 --> 04:43:48.630

Aaron Devor: No, that's just how we talk. It's no big deal.

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04:43:49.830 --> 04:44:08.940

Aaron Devor: In in the more Anglo culture are considered very aggressive and you know impolite rude, you know, or if I'm being not terribly Jewish about it. They just think I'm playing speaker and direct well

2352

04:44:11.490 --> 04:44:21.750

Evan Taylor: I think that's an interesting distinction that you that you make there because that's something that I found that, you know, as I tell you to see like as a as a woman people told me I was very aggressive

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04:44:22.260 --> 04:44:25.920

Evan Taylor: As a man, they're like our takes you know you need to take things seriously. And I'm like,

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04:44:27.270 --> 04:44:35.550

Evan Taylor: I didn't nothing changed. Like, I'm not any you know more or less aggressive but as a man I'm read as kind of a pushover. Whereas, as a woman, people like

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04:44:37.200 --> 04:44:44.640

Evan Taylor: To mess with me, but I didn't feel any different, what other people think it's different but yeah so absolutely got that makes sense to me.

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04:44:46.410 --> 04:44:48.090

Aaron Devor: There is a cultural difference there as well.

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04:44:49.080 --> 04:44:53.040

Evan Taylor: Hmm, and like in terms of the Anglo culture.

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04:44:53.790 --> 04:45:09.480

Aaron Devor: Well, you know, you're, you're functioning in a culture and you're seeing the gender difference. So in my life, I've got Yes, I've got the gender difference, but I also have these two cultures and living here in Victoria, where I live, and it was true in Vancouver, just not quite as strongly

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04:45:11.490 --> 04:45:15.810

Aaron Devor: People don't recognize Jewish culture as different

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04:45:17.760 --> 04:45:20.160

Aaron Devor: They don't, they don't have a sensitivity that

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04:45:20.160 --> 04:45:26.850

Aaron Devor: That is cultural. They just see me as another white guy. And why am I not acting like all the other white guys

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04:45:27.630 --> 04:45:30.660

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm. Why is this guy Different than all the other white guys

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04:45:32.670 --> 04:45:33.450

Evan Taylor: Yeah, totally.

2364

04:45:34.650 --> 04:45:44.970

Evan Taylor: I'm the only question that I had that I didn't ask that I think might be nice under for for this conversation is what advice do you have for the next generation of trans folks.

2365

04:45:56.040 --> 04:45:57.840

Aaron Devor: I have so much. It's hard to know what to say.

2366

04:46:11.460 --> 04:46:14.370

Aaron Devor: I think that the change we need to see will come

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04:46:17.040 --> 04:46:20.820

Aaron Devor: It will only come if we keep working for it.

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04:46:21.870 --> 04:46:26.550

Aaron Devor: But if we keep working for it. I think it will come. I think that in Canada.

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04:46:27.930 --> 04:46:34.920

Aaron Devor: And emphasize in Canada that the public has got has got a lot of goodwill towards trans people.

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04:46:36.510 --> 04:46:38.640

Aaron Devor: And that

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04:46:40.320 --> 04:46:42.120

Aaron Devor: We need to we need allies.

2372

04:46:43.740 --> 04:46:46.530

Aaron Devor: We are maybe 2% of the population.

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04:46:48.150 --> 04:46:56.580

Aaron Devor: And the change that we need to see will not happen without allies. And so I asked trans people.

2374

04:46:57.600 --> 04:46:58.650

Aaron Devor: To nurture.

2375

04:47:00.150 --> 04:47:04.020

Aaron Devor: Our allies to appreciate around. Nice.

2376

04:47:05.880 --> 04:47:12.450

Aaron Devor: To build those allies is the same time as we stand firm.

2377

04:47:13.800 --> 04:47:15.870

Aaron Devor: In who we are and what we need.

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04:47:17.280 --> 04:47:20.760

Aaron Devor: That we do it respectfully of other people's needs as well.

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04:47:22.020 --> 04:47:23.130

Aaron Devor: And that we

2380

04:47:24.390 --> 04:47:25.440

Aaron Devor: Understand

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04:47:26.760 --> 04:47:31.980

Aaron Devor: That even people who are allies and who have goodwill towards us.

2382

04:47:34.140 --> 04:47:37.410

Aaron Devor: Need some kindness. They need some guidance.

2383

04:47:39.030 --> 04:47:39.990

Aaron Devor: Need some time.

2384

04:47:41.610 --> 04:47:53.220

Aaron Devor: To make the deep adjustments that we're asking for, because we're asking for a really profound changes and how other people who are not trans understand gender.

2385

04:47:54.480 --> 04:47:56.100

Aaron Devor: And participate in general.

2386

04:47:57.780 --> 04:47:58.920

Aaron Devor: I think we can have it.

2387

04:48:01.980 --> 04:48:05.760

Aaron Devor: And we need to bring those people along with us.

2388

04:48:08.010 --> 04:48:08.970

Aaron Devor: With Kindness.

2389

04:48:10.170 --> 04:48:11.220

Aaron Devor: With gentleness.

2390

04:48:12.570 --> 04:48:18.900

Aaron Devor: And with some loud threatening radicals outside perimeter.

2391

04:48:21.810 --> 04:48:23.370

Evan Taylor: Ringing the bells and bringing the attention.

2392

04:48:24.210 --> 04:48:28.530

Aaron Devor: Okay, so, you know, the purpose of the radicals is really to move the center

2393

04:48:30.090 --> 04:48:36.240

Aaron Devor: And most of us are in the center and we need to appreciate those radical Islamic radicals need to keep doing what they're doing.

2394

04:48:37.410 --> 04:48:40.470

Aaron Devor: Both what is today radical will tomorrow be the center

2395

04:48:41.760 --> 04:48:42.330

Evan Taylor: Absolutely.

2396

04:48:42.870 --> 04:48:50.550

Aaron Devor: And there will be new radicals and those of us who used to be the radicals and now. Become the center. I hope we can continue to appreciate

2397

04:48:52.080 --> 04:49:07.080

Aaron Devor: The new radicals and recognize that they're also working for our benefit, and I hope that those radicals can also appreciate that they need to bring the center, along with them. They need to move the center in the direction they want to move it.

2398

04:49:09.030 --> 04:49:10.080

Aaron Devor: And that's their job.

2399

04:49:11.370 --> 04:49:17.940

Aaron Devor: But most of us will always be in the center and we need to have friendly relations all across

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04:49:19.140 --> 04:49:19.830

Aaron Devor: That spectrum.

2401

04:49:20.880 --> 04:49:26.880

Aaron Devor: So I think we'll get there. I think we're and we're getting there means will continue to change.

2402

04:49:27.330 --> 04:49:27.900

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

2403

04:49:28.260 --> 04:49:38.070

Aaron Devor: And will continue to move and therefore we can never rest on our laurels and say, oh, we've done it all. I can relax now. So just because I have

2404

04:49:38.430 --> 04:49:45.150

Aaron Devor: You know, certain level of rights and privileges that I've been aspiring to doesn't mean that the work is done.

2405

04:49:45.630 --> 04:49:58.470

Aaron Devor: There's always more to be done in these other people who have not got the privileges in the conference that I have and we need to keep working to to bring the move it along for everybody and keep it moving along for everybody.

2406

04:49:59.850 --> 04:50:03.720

Evan Taylor: As soon as we get to that, there there's going to be another thing, or that we need to get there too so

2407

04:50:05.670 --> 04:50:10.590

Evan Taylor: Beautiful. Well, Aaron. We've had a good few hours here.

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04:50:10.980 --> 04:50:11.490

Evan Taylor: I don't wanna

2409

04:50:12.360 --> 04:50:22.290

Evan Taylor: I don't wanna. I don't want to, to keep you away from away from home for forever. But I also i i i don't like to cut off these recordings, as long as there's something else for someone to say so if

2410

04:50:22.590 --> 04:50:28.950

Aaron Devor: Anything I missed my yoga class, which are almost always miss on Wednesdays. Anyway, so there you go.

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04:50:30.240 --> 04:50:31.920

Evan Taylor: Well, don't go get a good stretch at home.

2412

04:50:32.760 --> 04:50:33.870

Aaron Devor: Okay. All right.

2413

04:50:35.040 --> 04:50:43.050

Aaron Devor: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to get all these stories and words and thoughts down onto recording

2414

04:50:45.030 --> 04:50:51.480

Aaron Devor: I look forward to having an opportunity to review it, although I have no idea when I'm going to have this many hours to sit and listen to myself go, blah, blah.

2415

04:50:52.620 --> 04:50:57.360

Evan Taylor: Will get them transcribed. It's a lot easier to read them quick than it is to listen, quick. Okay.

2416

04:50:58.440 --> 04:51:06.900

Evan Taylor: And and as well as I said other folks if things come up afterwards that you're thinking about. And you're thinking, I wish I didn't say that. Then let me know and we'll make me a note, I'll cut it out.

2417

04:51:07.140 --> 04:51:15.690

Evan Taylor: And that's their things that come up. They're like, Oh, I wish I had said that, then we can always do another recording even. It's just a quick 510 minutes just to check in on. We can always do that as well. So, you know, don't

2418

04:51:16.170 --> 04:51:22.470

Evan Taylor: Don't, don't stress about what you did or didn't say there's there's always room for that as we as we move forward before things are so

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04:51:24.840 --> 04:51:25.290

Aaron Devor: Okay.

2420

04:51:25.680 --> 04:51:25.950

So,

2421

04:51:27.030 --> 04:51:30.870

Aaron Devor: Thank you, and I'll see you what in a couple of days at the next meeting.

2422

04:51:31.440 --> 04:51:35.100

Evan Taylor: I'll see you in a couple of days of next meeting. I'm going to just stop the recording now.