

WEBVTT

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00:02:38.370 --> 00:02:38.700

Diana LaMonte: There.

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00:02:46.320 --> 00:02:46.860

Diana LaMonte: Perfect.

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00:03:37.470 --> 00:03:38.250

Diana LaMonte: Let's go.

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00:12:35.580 --> 00:12:36.330

Diana LaMonte: Hi.

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00:12:39.060 --> 00:12:40.890

Diana LaMonte: Hope, maybe I don't have to send up

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00:12:44.610 --> 00:12:47.370

Evan Taylor: Okay, but in the recording on so nice to meet you as well.

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00:12:48.450 --> 00:12:50.970

Evan Taylor: Thank you so much for agreeing to do to do an interview.

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00:12:51.330 --> 00:12:52.410

Diana LaMonte: No problem, and

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00:12:53.040 --> 00:12:57.660

Evan Taylor: Rupert Rogers, the person who said we've got interview Diana. Diana, one of the one of the legends.

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00:12:59.490 --> 00:13:00.450

Diana LaMonte: He's to kind

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00:13:01.680 --> 00:13:03.000

Diana LaMonte: Of known him a long time.

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00:13:03.690 --> 00:13:05.760

Evan Taylor: Really, how long for the record.

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00:13:06.780 --> 00:13:11.280

Diana LaMonte: I think we probably met in 69 or 70

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00:13:11.400 --> 00:13:12.630

Evan Taylor: Oh my goodness.

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00:13:12.690 --> 00:13:13.110

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

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00:13:13.290 --> 00:13:14.370

Diana LaMonte: Long time ago.

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00:13:15.150 --> 00:13:16.620

Evan Taylor: Wow. And so

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00:13:17.640 --> 00:13:20.880

Evan Taylor: I don't want to get into it right away. So I want to ask you questions about about that.

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00:13:22.080 --> 00:13:38.400

Evan Taylor: But first of all, so for the record. And so they'll be folks listening to this in 1500 200 years or whatever. And so, for the record, and here we are today is Friday, February 14 I'm here in Vancouver. My name is Evan Taylor I'm interviewing Daniel Lamont, and Daniel, where are you today.

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00:13:38.820 --> 00:13:43.680

Diana LaMonte: I'm in Polycorn beach on Vancouver Island and British Columbia. Awesome.

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00:13:44.430 --> 00:13:46.740

Evan Taylor: And. And how old are you today.

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00:13:48.300 --> 00:13:52.380

Diana LaMonte: I'm 69 I'll be 70 on March 24. Oh, cool.

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00:13:52.530 --> 00:13:54.060

Evan Taylor: Happy birthday, very soon coming up.

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00:13:54.390 --> 00:14:01.860

Evan Taylor: Thank you. And, and so what we'll do today. And we've talked a little bit over over email and whatever. But so what we're going to do.

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00:14:02.310 --> 00:14:12.000

Evan Taylor: What I'm trying to do is get a history from folks that's around people's activism work and you know as we both know as trans folks. He got the whole, like, when did you know and you know what

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00:14:12.030 --> 00:14:13.080

Diana LaMonte: People think, you know,

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00:14:13.110 --> 00:14:23.040

Evan Taylor: All that. But there's, you know, there's that narrative. But then there's also, I think, a whole narrative of work that's been done in the last 3040 years where folks have really done you know

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00:14:23.550 --> 00:14:35.520

Evan Taylor: Like really done a lot to to make community and to build connection and the knowledge base around trans folks and what it you know whether its medical or social all that stuff that we know, deal with and

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00:14:36.030 --> 00:14:43.350

Evan Taylor: And I think it's important that we record the, the history of that activism, you know, while we still have folks around but are able to tell us about it.

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00:14:43.890 --> 00:14:53.010

Evan Taylor: Right, and that's certainly not something that you know you you have rightly weren't able to go, go to the library and get out a whole bunch of, you know, oral history from trans folks.

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00:14:53.220 --> 00:14:58.290

Diana LaMonte: Know, I didn't know anything about transgendered people until I heard about Christine Jorgensen,

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00:14:59.220 --> 00:15:04.530

Evan Taylor: Okay, and what went around without that you've heard that. That was your first sort of awareness of this as an issue.

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00:15:05.280 --> 00:15:09.450

Diana LaMonte: 6566 okay somewhere around then.

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00:15:10.350 --> 00:15:16.380

Evan Taylor: And so I feel like I want to get into those things. But there's a couple of quick demographics and Alaska and then we'll then I'll move right into

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00:15:16.470 --> 00:15:16.860

Diana LaMonte: It that's

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00:15:16.950 --> 00:15:19.020

Evan Taylor: Exactly where I'd like to start like that the beginning

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00:15:19.410 --> 00:15:25.170

Evan Taylor: Okay. Um so quick couple of things I die, but I'm assuming you use treat her as pronouns.

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00:15:25.890 --> 00:15:26.340

Diana LaMonte: Pardon.

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00:15:26.490 --> 00:15:28.140

Evan Taylor: You use she and her pronouns.

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00:15:28.620 --> 00:15:31.320

Evan Taylor: Yes. Okay. And where were you born

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00:15:32.010 --> 00:15:33.390

Diana LaMonte: For a trip to New Brunswick.

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00:15:34.140 --> 00:15:36.120

Evan Taylor: And you live in Qualcomm beach now.

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00:15:36.480 --> 00:15:37.110

Diana LaMonte: Yes.

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00:15:37.290 --> 00:15:38.370

Evan Taylor: And how long have you been there.

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00:15:39.360 --> 00:15:40.260

Diana LaMonte: 10 years

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00:15:40.620 --> 00:15:44.400

Evan Taylor: Okay. And are you employed or retired. What was your work.

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00:15:44.820 --> 00:15:51.240

Diana LaMonte: I'm permanently disabled. I was a nurse and I was attacked by one of my patients, six years ago.

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00:15:52.080 --> 00:15:53.250

Diana LaMonte: Six years ago permanent

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00:15:53.370 --> 00:15:53.850

Diana LaMonte: Permanent

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00:15:53.940 --> 00:15:55.080

Evan Taylor: To only six years ago.

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00:15:55.410 --> 00:15:55.770

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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00:15:56.190 --> 00:16:02.910

Evan Taylor: Oh, wow. And so, let them. That's one of my questions well as what what in visible or invisible disabilities do you deal with

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00:16:03.660 --> 00:16:15.330

Diana LaMonte: Well, the lady was a geriatric dementia care nurse and. She punched me in the head and gave me a brain injury. So I have trouble with my motor skills.

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00:16:15.660 --> 00:16:22.950

Diana LaMonte: Okay, walking writing fine motor skills, great, but I'm a lot better than I was.

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00:16:23.730 --> 00:16:25.290

Evan Taylor: Long recovery process. Hey,

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00:16:25.380 --> 00:16:36.420

Diana LaMonte: Yes. Yeah, when I was first injured. I had full body tremors couldn't swallow couldn't speak and thank God, I've gotten better.

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00:16:36.810 --> 00:16:44.280

Evan Taylor: Oh my goodness. Wow. I'm glad. Glad to see him here because those things. I mean, you know, brain injury right that spell just take you right out.

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00:16:44.670 --> 00:16:50.190

Evan Taylor: Yeah. Wow. And what, what's your, your relationship or family status.

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00:16:51.960 --> 00:17:00.540

Diana LaMonte: My mother has passed away and my father's passed away and my brother refuses to see me I'm I am in touch with

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00:17:01.680 --> 00:17:05.910

Diana LaMonte: A 95 year old orange. Okay, and three of my cousins.

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00:17:06.780 --> 00:17:08.670

Evan Taylor: And you have a partner or any kids.

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00:17:08.730 --> 00:17:09.690

Diana LaMonte: No, no.

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00:17:11.820 --> 00:17:14.040

Evan Taylor: And I'm assuming your sex assigned at birth was male

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00:17:14.550 --> 00:17:18.930

Evan Taylor: Yes. And what is your current gender identity or what has been the trajectory there.

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00:17:19.590 --> 00:17:21.270

Diana LaMonte: I'm legally female now.

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00:17:22.740 --> 00:17:24.210

Diana LaMonte: And I have my

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00:17:25.530 --> 00:17:35.760

Diana LaMonte: What I affectionately call the snip snip done in 1971 71 I had the rest of the surgery, completed in 1977 okay

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00:17:36.150 --> 00:17:36.630

Evan Taylor: Wow.

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00:17:37.230 --> 00:17:38.880

Diana LaMonte: Be 43 years and may

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00:17:39.720 --> 00:17:41.010

Evan Taylor: Congratulations.

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00:17:41.490 --> 00:17:45.630

Diana LaMonte: I was the first one done at the Royal Colombian Hospital in New Westminster BC.

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00:17:46.080 --> 00:17:47.610

Diana LaMonte: Oh really, yeah.

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00:17:47.700 --> 00:17:51.690

Evan Taylor: Wow, I didn't even know they were doing those surgeries locally at all, at that point.

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00:17:52.380 --> 00:17:54.180

Diana LaMonte: I was the first one done

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00:17:54.360 --> 00:17:59.430

Diana LaMonte: Amazing. And if I can share a little side story about that.

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00:17:59.700 --> 00:18:04.710

Diana LaMonte: The when I went to see the surgeon with my boyfriend at the time.

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00:18:05.850 --> 00:18:14.280

Diana LaMonte: You know I told him I was transgendered. And he looked at me and he said, I don't understand why a pretty young woman like you would want to become a man

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00:18:15.990 --> 00:18:22.470

Diana LaMonte: And I said, it's the other way. And he looked at me and he said, I'm looking for surgery right away.

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00:18:23.310 --> 00:18:24.540

Wow.

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00:18:25.800 --> 00:18:27.360

Diana LaMonte: I thought that was really funny.

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00:18:28.050 --> 00:18:33.360

Evan Taylor: No kidding. Hey, it's amazing. Sometimes the assumptions people make. And you're like, oh, let me just

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00:18:34.200 --> 00:18:37.350

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, right. Let's just flip that calling. Yeah.

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00:18:38.760 --> 00:18:41.730

Evan Taylor: Well, also also said something about how well you were looking at that point.

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00:18:42.270 --> 00:18:43.590

Diana LaMonte: Well, I was just me.

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00:18:44.490 --> 00:18:48.660

Diana LaMonte: That's amazing. The real me, I'd like to think the real mean we're shining through

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00:18:49.050 --> 00:18:53.190

Evan Taylor: Exactly, exactly. It's, you know, there's a sense, people get sometimes right

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00:18:53.250 --> 00:18:58.770

Evan Taylor: Yeah and why do you identify or categorize your sexuality or do you

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00:19:00.720 --> 00:19:04.350

Diana LaMonte: Um, I'm a heterosexual TRANSGENDERED PERSON.

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00:19:04.500 --> 00:19:05.040

Okay.

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00:19:06.390 --> 00:19:12.030

Evan Taylor: And what about race, ethnicity, cultural heritage, any of those things that are important to you.

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00:19:12.570 --> 00:19:18.270

Diana LaMonte: Well, I was adopted, so I don't really know about my biological past

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00:19:18.420 --> 00:19:23.670

Diana LaMonte: Right. But the family that raised me were descended from United Empire Loyalists

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00:19:24.120 --> 00:19:25.980

Hmm, okay.

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00:19:28.650 --> 00:19:35.250

Evan Taylor: Um, and is there. I think I've got all the things I owe a level of education completed.

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00:19:36.360 --> 00:19:37.320

Diana LaMonte: I have

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00:19:38.610 --> 00:19:43.350

Diana LaMonte: Three years of an education degree done, and I'm a licensed practical nurse.

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00:19:43.860 --> 00:19:44.400

Began

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00:19:45.900 --> 00:19:48.120

Evan Taylor: My background in social work always loved the LPN.

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00:19:50.250 --> 00:19:54.240

Evan Taylor: Okay, any other aspect of identity that's important to discuss before we get into the fun stuff.

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00:19:55.200 --> 00:19:56.370

Diana LaMonte: Not that I can think of.

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00:19:56.640 --> 00:20:00.870

Evan Taylor: Okay. And if there's anything that comes up that you're like, Oh, I should have mentioned this part of my

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00:20:01.770 --> 00:20:08.460

Evan Taylor: Just insert that in as we go along, you know, the demographics aren't aren't the important part of the conversation is the important part. So,

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00:20:08.580 --> 00:20:21.780

Evan Taylor: Okay, so let's move to the fun the fun stuff. So when they do very first. I love that you just jumped right to that. But when did you first hear about the idea of transgender and it sounds like Christina Robinson was the first thing

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00:20:22.230 --> 00:20:31.710

Diana LaMonte: Yeah. And as I said I was probably 15 or 16 but I knew from about the age of four or five there was something wrong with me.

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00:20:33.060 --> 00:20:42.480

Diana LaMonte: Because my mom used to take my brother and I to church and we had to wear the blazers and the great flannel pants and the bow tie.

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00:20:43.020 --> 00:20:53.460

Diana LaMonte: And I can remember when I was four or five crying, and saying that I wanted to wear party dresses like all the other girls and she had to keep reminding me that I was not a girl.

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00:20:54.570 --> 00:21:08.280

Diana LaMonte: And from a very early age. Mom always made her say our prayers, you know. Now I lay me down to sleep. Right. And I would quietly and every night saying God when I wake up, please turn me into a little girl.

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00:21:09.120 --> 00:21:16.080

Diana LaMonte: And I would lay in bed, sometimes and try and will what I call the horrible illness to go back into my body.

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00:21:16.860 --> 00:21:24.510

Diana LaMonte: And I would wake up in the morning and touch myself and and still be there and I would cry, almost every morning. Oh my goodness.

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00:21:25.230 --> 00:21:35.550

Diana LaMonte: And so it was a really early age, but I never heard about transgendered people. Right. And then when I heard about Christine Jorgensen, it was just a light bulb went on.

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00:21:36.630 --> 00:21:39.660

Diana LaMonte: And I thought, Oh my God, there are people like me.

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00:21:40.080 --> 00:21:44.100

Evan Taylor: Right. And what's this something like in the newspaper that you read or something like this.

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00:21:45.690 --> 00:21:53.280

Diana LaMonte: Magazine. Okay. Yeah. And it really was Evan like somebody turned the light on. I'm like,

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00:21:53.490 --> 00:21:57.780

Evan Taylor: Once basically once you knew what the idea was, you're like, that's it. That explains everything

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00:21:58.110 --> 00:21:59.340

Diana LaMonte: Right, right.

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00:22:00.120 --> 00:22:10.950

Diana LaMonte: And when I was growing up, I was always the shortest kid the skinniest kid and very effeminate, so I was a target of a lot of pedophiles growing up. Right, right.

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00:22:11.130 --> 00:22:13.260

Evan Taylor: They sort of read that vulnerability in

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00:22:13.290 --> 00:22:15.900

Evan Taylor: Yeah out that way. Definitely.

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00:22:15.960 --> 00:22:28.470

Diana LaMonte: And I mean I'm doing my parents were divorced when I was six, and I didn't really have a father figures. So these guys would take me campaign, take me off to the lake and

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00:22:29.100 --> 00:22:37.560

Diana LaMonte: You know, take me out for hamburgers and I didn't think anything was wrong by performing a sex act on them. It meant I couldn't do these things.

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00:22:37.860 --> 00:22:43.380

Evan Taylor: Right. That was sort of a ticket to be able to go and do the normal fun stuff like camping or whatever.

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00:22:43.470 --> 00:22:43.980

Diana LaMonte: Right.

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00:22:44.520 --> 00:22:50.580

Evan Taylor: And that was, that was that the, the, the price of the entrance ticket and you just had no idea that that was not what everyone was doing

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00:22:51.030 --> 00:22:55.290

Diana LaMonte: Right. That's a really good way to put it. The price of the intrinsic. Mm hmm.

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00:22:56.130 --> 00:23:03.090

Evan Taylor: And was that something as as you got as you got older. Was that something that you look back on and had a different sort of take on it when you start to understand that.

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00:23:04.500 --> 00:23:15.180

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, it took quite a while for me to realize what was going on was wrong, right, because it didn't seem wrong I trusted these men. And I thought, oh, well, if that's what I have to do.

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00:23:15.600 --> 00:23:16.350

Mm hmm.

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00:23:18.660 --> 00:23:24.180

Evan Taylor: And when, when did you realize that it was like, what was that that sort of moment in your life, you're like, oh, that's not okay anymore.

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00:23:25.530 --> 00:23:26.610

Diana LaMonte: Or probably

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00:23:28.200 --> 00:23:47.340

Diana LaMonte: Around the age of 13 or 14 okay my mother, put me in a mental institution in New Brunswick. When I was 14 and after eight months in the hospital. The psychologist said to me, You're a homosexual and you just need to accept it and my little voice said, No, you're not.

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00:23:48.570 --> 00:23:52.260

Evan Taylor: Right, because they had, they had no idea what else to label that what they were seeing

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00:23:52.620 --> 00:24:00.390

Evan Taylor: Right, right. And so that's about 1314 so it was very shortly afterwards that you then read about Christine

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00:24:00.720 --> 00:24:01.260

You're going to

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00:24:02.850 --> 00:24:07.290

Evan Taylor: And so when that happened around go 1515 1516

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00:24:07.680 --> 00:24:08.010

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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00:24:08.610 --> 00:24:10.380

Evan Taylor: And so when when that happened,

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00:24:12.750 --> 00:24:19.920

Evan Taylor: You know, did you have a way to get any other information or did you only have this one story. Did you see anything else out.

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00:24:20.820 --> 00:24:31.860

Diana LaMonte: Well, I went to my family doctor. Okay, and his only comment to me when I told him about Christine Jorgensen, you know that I thought I was one of those kind of people

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00:24:32.130 --> 00:24:38.790

Diana LaMonte: Right. He said, Oh, David. Don't be so foolish. Now go home and that was all I ever got. Oh.

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00:24:39.300 --> 00:24:39.990

Okay.

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00:24:41.400 --> 00:24:49.470

Evan Taylor: So when did you first sort of start to actually access information at that you actually know maybe met another person or was it a magazine.

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00:24:49.860 --> 00:25:08.670

Diana LaMonte: Well production was a small city at that point. So I left Frederickson moved to Toronto, okay, because I was acting stage plays and stuff and couple of actresses that I had meant said if you ever want to come to Toronto will help you get work okay and

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00:25:09.870 --> 00:25:14.580

Diana LaMonte: So that didn't work out, make a long story short, and

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00:25:15.750 --> 00:25:24.990

Diana LaMonte: I went to a restaurant, one day, and there was a table of drag queens and I had never seen anything like that in my life. Right, so I couldn't

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00:25:25.770 --> 00:25:40.830

Diana LaMonte: Help but stare at them, and one of them came over and said, What are you looking at, and I said, you're just so beautiful. And she says, Oh, well, come on, sit with us. So that was my first introduction into gay society.

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00:25:41.370 --> 00:25:43.170

Diana LaMonte: It was nothing like that in production.

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00:25:43.350 --> 00:26:05.640

Diana LaMonte: Right. And so that's how I got it. And then I started doing drag. Okay, which, to them it was Greg. For me it was normal. And I would go outside and you know I'd go to a store and everyone said, Can I help you, Miss and where they've walked into the store. And people go, you know, any

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00:26:07.020 --> 00:26:20.760

Evan Taylor: And was this was there a lot of divide in the community at that point between people who were doing dry. Like was it was the TV versus the TG or TX Or what how, how did folks to like define or divide themselves.

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00:26:21.000 --> 00:26:37.230

Diana LaMonte: Actually, that's interesting. You say that because I got a lot of negativity, from straight society, of course, but it also got a lot of negativity, from the gay community, right, because they didn't understand. Mm hmm. I guess.

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00:26:38.370 --> 00:26:46.860

Evan Taylor: And what about within sort of the drag folks, or was there with her hierarchies of different types of ways of doing

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00:26:47.280 --> 00:26:48.960

Diana LaMonte: Definitely, definitely.

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00:26:49.320 --> 00:26:51.840

Evan Taylor: Tell me about. Tell me about that. What were the different product categories.

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00:26:52.710 --> 00:26:57.060

Diana LaMonte: Um, well, the ones that were performing and

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00:26:58.590 --> 00:27:03.870

Diana LaMonte: You know, we're sort of star status and then there was the other ones that

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00:27:06.870 --> 00:27:08.400

Diana LaMonte: Couldn't really pass

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00:27:08.580 --> 00:27:10.140

Diana LaMonte: Rate look like drag queens.

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00:27:10.530 --> 00:27:14.760

Diana LaMonte: Were some of the drag queens, you had to do a second take. Okay.

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00:27:16.770 --> 00:27:20.070

Evan Taylor: And was there like was there sort of a

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00:27:21.330 --> 00:27:26.190

Evan Taylor: Hierarchy around passing or was that not particularly considered important at that at that time.

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00:27:27.330 --> 00:27:30.390

Diana LaMonte: I didn't think I don't think was important. Okay.

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00:27:30.810 --> 00:27:39.630

Evan Taylor: Would you say that there was, at that point, because there are so few folks, was it was there more of a sense of community because everyone has to look out for each other. There was just so so few

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00:27:39.660 --> 00:27:44.820

Diana LaMonte: Definitely, definitely. I felt really safe and secure. Mm hmm.

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00:27:45.750 --> 00:27:47.280

Evan Taylor: When did you start um

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00:27:48.450 --> 00:27:56.190

Evan Taylor: Well, maybe you didn't, but when, when did the activism that that you know you have to take on what was the, what was the first moment that you sort of went oh I need to do some work here.

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00:27:57.570 --> 00:28:02.280

Diana LaMonte: Well, just to give you a little history. I started living AS DIANA. When I was 17

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00:28:02.640 --> 00:28:04.350

Diana LaMonte: Okay, and

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00:28:05.520 --> 00:28:16.260

Diana LaMonte: I got Diana from Diana Ross, Elizabeth. My middle name. My mother and said, If I ever had a daughter, I would have called her Betty. So I put Elizabeth

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00:28:16.650 --> 00:28:18.360

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and Lamont, I just made up.

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00:28:18.750 --> 00:28:21.360

Diana LaMonte: Okay, yeah, and just

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00:28:21.990 --> 00:28:26.460

Evan Taylor: Know that you've never heard you'd never heard that last thing before it was just something you're like, oh, it sounds good. I'll take it.

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00:28:26.490 --> 00:28:47.490

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I'm just made it out to LA. And so then I got in in with the wrong crowd and I became a drug addict. I was addicted to crystal meth, I was an IV drug user. Okay. And I did that for three years and then I just said, you know, stop or die.

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00:28:47.880 --> 00:28:49.320

Evan Taylor: And the sort of late teens, early 20s.

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00:28:50.010 --> 00:28:53.460

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, but probably just prior to that I hadn't been

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00:28:55.020 --> 00:29:06.360

Diana LaMonte: Accepted into the gender identity program at the Clark Institute of psychiatry in Toronto. Right. And I went through their program and they said yes, you're definitely transgendered.

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00:29:07.200 --> 00:29:22.260

Diana LaMonte: But then the lady before me, the thing was that you weren't supposed to go public and the lady who had her surgery before me went public and the backlash was severe so they shut down the program. So I didn't get to do have my surgery, then

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00:29:22.950 --> 00:29:24.090

Evan Taylor: Oh my goodness.

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00:29:24.330 --> 00:29:28.020

Diana LaMonte: Which put me in a bit of a state a tailspin

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00:29:28.530 --> 00:29:31.230

Diana LaMonte: And I think that's why I started on the drugs, just to

179

00:29:31.740 --> 00:29:36.810

Diana LaMonte: Hide because when I was stoned on speed. I don't give a shit about anything.

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00:29:37.140 --> 00:29:38.520

Evan Taylor: Right, exactly.

181

00:29:39.000 --> 00:29:52.560

Diana LaMonte: So then when I was 21 I'm a friend of mine said had said if you ever want to get off drugs, let me know. Right. And so I called him and he took me to his cabin on Georgian Bay.

182

00:29:53.310 --> 00:30:06.750

Diana LaMonte: And it was three weeks of pure hell smoked a lot of pot. But I was really sick for three weeks and then I came back and some friends had a party for me to celebrate my being drug free

183

00:30:07.440 --> 00:30:15.510

Diana LaMonte: And this friend says, Come in the bathroom. I got something for you. And I went in and he had a package of crystal meth.

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00:30:17.010 --> 00:30:25.410

Diana LaMonte: And he said once for old times sake. So I punched him in the mouth. Oh my goodness. So the math and flushed down the toilet.

185

00:30:30.810 --> 00:30:35.880

Diana LaMonte: And that's when, with the help of my boyfriend and

186

00:30:37.980 --> 00:30:49.350

Diana LaMonte: Just spaced out his name chat community home a file Association Toronto. He had set that up and I just faced his name out George, I think.

187

00:30:51.360 --> 00:30:54.570

Diana LaMonte: And he and I had gotten together and

188

00:30:55.740 --> 00:31:01.650

Diana LaMonte: I said, you know, are you doing transgendered people. He said, Well, I don't know enough about it.

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00:31:02.700 --> 00:31:06.300

Diana LaMonte: So I said, Well, I do and

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00:31:07.350 --> 00:31:08.070

Diana LaMonte: So,

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00:31:09.840 --> 00:31:15.780

Diana LaMonte: I set up the association firm for Canadian transsexuals under his umbrella.

192

00:31:17.700 --> 00:31:19.200

Diana LaMonte: And so that's how I met, Rupert.

193

00:31:19.530 --> 00:31:22.740

Evan Taylor: I was gonna, I was gonna ask, Is this, is this where Rupert comes into the picture is right around

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00:31:23.010 --> 00:31:25.860

Evan Taylor: The time of the the associated transsexuals

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00:31:26.220 --> 00:31:26.730

Diana LaMonte: Right.

196

00:31:27.360 --> 00:31:32.880

Evan Taylor: So this was, I believe, and you can. You'll be the one to tell me, but I believe this was the very first

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00:31:33.930 --> 00:31:37.560

Evan Taylor: Sort of association or community group that was happening around that time is that

198

00:31:37.620 --> 00:31:39.180

Evan Taylor: Absolutely, yeah.

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00:31:39.210 --> 00:31:41.100

Diana LaMonte: Nobody ever heard of it before.

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00:31:41.400 --> 00:31:50.250

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. And, Rupert. I think Rupert moved to Alberta and set up an association to okay it's in his book.

201

00:31:50.970 --> 00:31:56.400

Evan Taylor: And what was, what was that what was that process like for you. What was it, what were those very first days of act like

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00:32:00.030 --> 00:32:14.730

Diana LaMonte: It was fun. I enjoyed it, because I felt really accepted and, you know, I knew I was drug free, right. I had a lot of support and it was just like something I needed to do.

203

00:32:15.930 --> 00:32:21.900

Evan Taylor: What were some of the politics that you felt we need to organize in order to to address these particular issues.

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00:32:22.830 --> 00:32:34.860

Diana LaMonte: One of the big things I found is that people, you know, straight society said, Oh, well, there's not many of you. Mm hmm. You know, there's too few so

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00:32:36.060 --> 00:32:37.620

Diana LaMonte: We couldn't get any funding.

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00:32:39.420 --> 00:32:43.470

Diana LaMonte: Because they felt it was too small a group of people

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00:32:44.160 --> 00:32:44.640

Right.

208

00:32:45.810 --> 00:32:45.990

And

209

00:32:47.010 --> 00:32:51.750

Evan Taylor: With their particular bits of activism. You have to do or advocacy, to, to, to bring attention.

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00:32:54.120 --> 00:33:03.600

Diana LaMonte: Well, it was all done under the chat umbrella. Okay, so, you know, we would be in marches and

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00:33:05.010 --> 00:33:07.500

Diana LaMonte: You know, chat would include me

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00:33:09.030 --> 00:33:11.370

Evan Taylor: And what kind of what kind of marches were these at that time.

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00:33:12.780 --> 00:33:13.740

Diana LaMonte: Well, any

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00:33:15.570 --> 00:33:16.620

Diana LaMonte: Any marches.

215

00:33:17.910 --> 00:33:19.800

Diana LaMonte: But chat was invited to

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00:33:21.510 --> 00:33:22.770

Diana LaMonte: Which wasn't a lot

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00:33:24.720 --> 00:33:29.580

Diana LaMonte: Sort of Canada Day. They have a banner.

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00:33:33.900 --> 00:33:36.360

Diana LaMonte: I can. There wasn't very many right

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00:33:36.600 --> 00:33:38.580

Evan Taylor: So this was pre pride days I'm assuming

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00:33:39.000 --> 00:33:40.560

Diana LaMonte: Yes. Yeah, loving that

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00:33:40.680 --> 00:33:41.340

Diana LaMonte: Right, yeah.

222

00:33:42.480 --> 00:33:49.200

Diana LaMonte: And chat put out a community newsletter. Okay, a few times a year.

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00:33:51.150 --> 00:34:00.810

Evan Taylor: And what what sorts of sorts of things in the newsletter and would it be like support groups or like, what was it you know stories and people's families. What were the kinds of things people writing in the newsletter.

224

00:34:02.790 --> 00:34:04.080

Diana LaMonte: For people to know that.

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00:34:05.220 --> 00:34:08.580

Diana LaMonte: There was support out there for them. Right. Okay, I'm

226

00:34:10.710 --> 00:34:17.760

Diana LaMonte: Just news about gay rights. Okay, things like that. Excuse me. I got it to go. My throat

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00:34:17.820 --> 00:34:18.330

No, please.

228

00:34:24.660 --> 00:34:25.860

Diana LaMonte: Not a lot of stuff.

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00:34:27.060 --> 00:34:32.310

Diana LaMonte: And it got to be a little dangerous because there were a lot of

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00:34:33.810 --> 00:34:42.120

Diana LaMonte: Right wing heterosexual men rate and a few times, we had rocks thrown the moon through the window.

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00:34:43.380 --> 00:34:45.360

Diana LaMonte: Graffiti sprayed on the building.

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00:34:46.740 --> 00:34:59.370

Diana LaMonte: Somebody tried to burn down the old church that we were in a while it was it was scary. We ended up staying overnight sleeping on the floor on mattresses to protect the building.

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00:35:00.390 --> 00:35:03.930

Evan Taylor: So that you'd be able to call the, the, the fire department or whatever, if somebody

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00:35:03.990 --> 00:35:09.360

Diana LaMonte: Yeah. Oh, and hopefully discourage these right wing whatever you call them.

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00:35:10.380 --> 00:35:12.990

Diana LaMonte: But there was a lot of hate a lot of heat.

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00:35:14.730 --> 00:35:15.960

Diana LaMonte: Death threats.

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00:35:17.610 --> 00:35:20.580

Diana LaMonte: You know, people roughing you up on the street.

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00:35:22.170 --> 00:35:30.810

Evan Taylor: What was the through the institutional response. They were the police responsive to those things are how, what was the sort of the larger response, you know, from from authorities.

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00:35:31.140 --> 00:35:48.780

Diana LaMonte: When the well they would, they would come when they were called right but it was sort of like what, what do you expect kind of attitude. Okay, okay, you know, maybe you should close up shop. I remember one police officer, saying, well, if you weren't here, you wouldn't have to go through this

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00:35:49.740 --> 00:35:57.150

Evan Taylor: Right, right. So as as if there is something you know that that that you should have known better than to be fighting that attention.

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00:35:57.600 --> 00:36:12.660

Evan Taylor: Exactly right. Gotcha. And so at this time obviously just you know when when we're talking about activism. In this project we're using a very big definition because at that time even being out in any way was its own activism right like just

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00:36:12.840 --> 00:36:21.840

Diana LaMonte: Spoke like no, absolutely. And the negativity that I was met with was amazing. When they would find out that I wasn't a girl.

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00:36:22.140 --> 00:36:33.540

Diana LaMonte: Right, that I had the wrong anatomy. In fact, when I was diagnosed at the car Clark Institute, I got the doctor to send my mother, a report.

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00:36:34.320 --> 00:36:48.510

Diana LaMonte: And she I talked to her on the phone. And she said, well, I'm very happy for you and that's good that you know you found out what's wrong with you, but if you ever walked in my house dressed as a woman, I'll have you arrested for trespassing.

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00:36:49.170 --> 00:36:50.610

Diana LaMonte: And I never saw her again.

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00:36:52.140 --> 00:37:05.280

Diana LaMonte: Wow. Yeah. And when she died. I guess was four or five years ago. The only way I found out is because I would go online, every now and then and check the local newspaper for obituaries

247

00:37:05.910 --> 00:37:26.700

Diana LaMonte: And it was three months after she died that I found her death notice her obituary, and I wasn't even mentioned, like I never existed. Oh, wow. And I found out I went home for my 50th high school reunion and I hadn't been home since I am 50 years right

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00:37:28.650 --> 00:37:29.160

Diana LaMonte: And

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00:37:30.180 --> 00:37:37.140

Diana LaMonte: My Aunt Polly said that not putting me in the obituary caused quite a rift in the family.

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00:37:38.670 --> 00:37:40.260

Evan Taylor: I would expect so.

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00:37:41.700 --> 00:37:47.880

Evan Taylor: So, so there were folks in the family who were, you know, saying that that makes me. This is inappropriate like that you know we got

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00:37:48.780 --> 00:37:57.330

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and it was very interesting. When I went to my high school reunion before I went registered and I told them.

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00:37:58.440 --> 00:38:10.320

Diana LaMonte: You know, my old name. Mm hmm. And my new name. And they said, Well, what do you want us to put on your name tech right we could put d Neil's because my name was David Neil's

254

00:38:10.890 --> 00:38:20.580

Diana LaMonte: And I said, no, put my old name. Otherwise, nobody's going to know who the hell I am. And it was amazing. Evan, the

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00:38:21.180 --> 00:38:42.600

Diana LaMonte: Acceptance and the love was just it just blew my mind. I didn't know what to expect and people would look at me and go, I know you and they look at my name and they go, oh my god, you're so pretty. Or comments like that lots of hugs no negativity at all. It was amazing.

256

00:38:43.620 --> 00:38:46.050

Evan Taylor: I mean, that wouldn't have it wouldn't happen like that.

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00:38:46.380 --> 00:38:47.250

Evan Taylor: 50 years ago.

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00:38:47.580 --> 00:38:49.950

Diana LaMonte: No. Not at all. Not even close.

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00:38:50.160 --> 00:38:54.330

Evan Taylor: And did you have folks that you were seeing that you remembered from 50 years ago that media, we're

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00:38:55.920 --> 00:38:59.070

Evan Taylor: Not quite as kind at the time that had shifted their perspective.

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00:38:59.250 --> 00:39:17.880

Diana LaMonte: I actually saw one of my biggest abusers. He used to beat me up until I gave him a blowjob and and when I registered. They had sent a list of all the people that were registered in His name was there. I won't disclose his name right, but

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00:39:18.930 --> 00:39:26.910

Diana LaMonte: I said to the ladies at the registration table. Oh, when Bob comes in, Can you point them out because they've been 50 years

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00:39:26.970 --> 00:39:37.200

Diana LaMonte: Right, so this lady taps me on the shoulder and he goes, there's Bob over there. So I went over and he was chatting with this other gentleman. So I sort of stood off to one side.

264

00:39:39.420 --> 00:39:45.480

Diana LaMonte: And he finished his conversation and turned around and saw me and he goes, will holo pretty lady.

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00:39:47.310 --> 00:39:54.960

Diana LaMonte: And he looks at my name tag and these eyes got big dinner plates and I put up my hand, and shook his hand and it goes

266

00:39:56.640 --> 00:40:02.580

Diana LaMonte: Hi, how are you. Wow. You look different, and he tried to pull this hand away and I wouldn't let go.

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00:40:04.050 --> 00:40:11.760

Diana LaMonte: And I just said, it's been a long time, Bob, nice to see you. You're looking very dapper and he's going

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00:40:12.870 --> 00:40:30.120

Diana LaMonte: You look really pretty. He didn't know what to say no I held onto his hand for a good minute and a half wouldn't let go. And I was just really nice to him. And so I let go. And he was so nervous, like a Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

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00:40:30.240 --> 00:40:35.160

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. And a little bit later, he was at the bar schmoozing with the lady bartender.

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00:40:37.110 --> 00:40:49.410

Diana LaMonte: I come up and I lean on the bar and I tap them on the shoulder and he turns around and I went, Hey sailor by Lady of beer. Yes. Yeah, whatever you like. Do you want some stronger. How many beers, you want

271

00:40:50.640 --> 00:40:56.430

Diana LaMonte: So nervous, but I just rose to the occasion, as it were.

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00:40:56.700 --> 00:40:57.840

Evan Taylor: Good for you.

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00:40:58.050 --> 00:40:58.470

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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00:40:58.680 --> 00:41:08.220

Evan Taylor: And also important for your own just you know your own well being. To know that you've you've, you know, confronted this person in a way that's like, you're not gonna, you know, you're not going to have the better on me this time.

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00:41:08.490 --> 00:41:10.260

Diana LaMonte: Right, you have no power over me and

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00:41:10.260 --> 00:41:22.320

Diana LaMonte: Exactly, exactly. You know, people have asked me, they said, why don't you take some of your abusers to court as a lot of survivors are doing great. I thought

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00:41:23.520 --> 00:41:34.440

Diana LaMonte: I don't want to do that because it's not just them. It's their families. Mm hmm. That have to deal with that stigma, or, you know,

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00:41:35.550 --> 00:41:50.130

Diana LaMonte: Their fathers or grandfather's there the esteem would go down. And I thought, I don't need that retribution. I'm okay I survived. Right, so I don't need to go there. Yeah.

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00:41:50.160 --> 00:42:06.000

Evan Taylor: And and and use it in that way for yourself. It's about if I'm understanding that you're saying you know it's. Is it an option. Sure. But for me. Why put myself and other people through that, that are you know why increase the collateral damage around this already.

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00:42:06.450 --> 00:42:09.900

Diana LaMonte: Off. Exactly, exactly. I mean, I live through it.

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00:42:10.080 --> 00:42:14.490

Diana LaMonte: I'm over it. That was a million years ago. I don't need my pound of flesh.

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00:42:14.820 --> 00:42:22.020

Evan Taylor: Right, right. Good. Well, good for you that's that's that's that's a lot of work in recovery to get through that.

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00:42:22.410 --> 00:42:31.920

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, one other thing about our reunion. I had three women come up to me and on separate occasions throughout the reunion.

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00:42:32.430 --> 00:42:42.150

Diana LaMonte: And they all three of them said the same thing. They said Diana. I'm really sorry that I wasn't there for you when you were going through this. Wow.

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00:42:42.600 --> 00:42:53.040

Diana LaMonte: And they all said we knew what you were going through and we should have been there for you and really sorry. And that was so heartwarming. Wow, you know,

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00:42:54.120 --> 00:43:03.810

Evan Taylor: Obviously, I mean that's that's the the words you are, you know, hoping to hear at that time anyway. Any have to wait for 50 years but eventually you got those those words and that sentiment.

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00:43:04.020 --> 00:43:06.420

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, yeah, it was amazing.

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00:43:08.400 --> 00:43:08.880

Evan Taylor: Let's go back.

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00:43:09.690 --> 00:43:10.020

Diana LaMonte: Sorry.

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00:43:10.680 --> 00:43:13.050

Evan Taylor: Did you have another thing to say about the reunion. I don't cut you off.

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00:43:13.050 --> 00:43:16.950

Diana LaMonte: Just them that I've reestablished contacts with

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00:43:18.960 --> 00:43:32.130

Diana LaMonte: People that were my friends long ago. I've been back to production, three times I'm going back in August and it's great. You know, it's just the years and melted away but

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00:43:32.370 --> 00:43:37.170

Evan Taylor: It's, it's amazing how they they're, they're kind of collapsing in on each other. And in a particular way.

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00:43:37.560 --> 00:43:38.730

Diana LaMonte: Yeah yeah

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00:43:39.330 --> 00:43:48.570

Evan Taylor: I want to go back to the, the early days of the association of Korean transsexuals because this was, this is the, you know, this was this was the story that only you can tell. So

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00:43:49.560 --> 00:43:54.630

Evan Taylor: In those in those early days, I have a little note for myself that you've seen that Rupert with like this. He was around the beginning

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00:43:54.900 --> 00:43:55.800

Evan Taylor: Of the associate, yes.

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00:43:56.430 --> 00:43:57.000

Diana LaMonte: So when

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00:43:57.060 --> 00:44:00.090

Evan Taylor: When did you meet rooper. What was that what was that what was that story.

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00:44:01.950 --> 00:44:03.930

Diana LaMonte: I met him through Chat.

301

00:44:05.490 --> 00:44:06.570

Diana LaMonte: He came in.

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00:44:07.740 --> 00:44:11.040

Diana LaMonte: And she said, turn to remember

303

00:44:12.720 --> 00:44:27.030

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I think George introduced us okay and Rupert was living as a man, a boy. Okay. Um, I don't think I ever saw, Rupert. As a woman, okay.

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00:44:28.050 --> 00:44:34.290

Diana LaMonte: And I was really surprised when I was told that he was transgendered. I went really

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00:44:34.860 --> 00:44:37.680

Diana LaMonte: Really sort of was the same about me really

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00:44:41.070 --> 00:44:45.210

Evan Taylor: Sort of, I wouldn't have guessed, but now I'm intrigued to know you.

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00:44:45.810 --> 00:44:50.370

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, exactly. Exactly. That's exactly it and

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00:44:50.400 --> 00:44:59.610

Evan Taylor: At that time, did you did you understand yourself as an activist. Did you use that word. Do you like did you, you know, was activism part of your identity in any way at that time.

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00:45:00.570 --> 00:45:15.480

Diana LaMonte: I never thought of as as activism. Right. I never, never used that word. It was just something that I had to do. Okay, you know, because if I knew what was going on myself. I couldn't be the only one.

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00:45:15.930 --> 00:45:18.720

Diana LaMonte: Right, and there was no support.

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00:45:21.450 --> 00:45:34.290

Diana LaMonte: So, you know, with chat. They didn't really understand it. Right. They were more into the gay society and it just seemed like a logical offshoot. Mm hmm.

312

00:45:35.220 --> 00:45:43.350

Evan Taylor: How did you find people like how did you know I mean, it's not like you could have gone online at that at that time. Right. So how did you, how did you network with people and find each other.

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00:45:44.910 --> 00:45:57.300

Diana LaMonte: Well, I had met some people through Clark Institute and then just in the group. I was in the community. I was seeing the gay community I spread the word.

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00:45:57.990 --> 00:46:01.380

Evan Taylor: Okay, so just be sort of working on someone say I know someone who knows someone

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00:46:02.010 --> 00:46:02.760

Diana LaMonte: In touch with you.

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00:46:03.210 --> 00:46:06.660

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and we had little flyers that we would pass out.

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00:46:08.400 --> 00:46:10.860

Evan Taylor: And make little like like pamphlets.

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00:46:11.940 --> 00:46:25.260

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, just a one page, you know, with act and what it meant. And, you know, are you transgender need help, come down and the address of the old church. Okay.

319

00:46:25.830 --> 00:46:30.870

Evan Taylor: And so it was just like I was a regular meeting that you would that you would have that people would come to like a support group.

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00:46:31.320 --> 00:46:32.520

Diana LaMonte: A monthly meeting. Yeah.

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00:46:32.670 --> 00:46:33.660

Evan Taylor: monthly meeting. Okay.

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00:46:33.960 --> 00:46:37.020

Diana LaMonte: Or I'd be in the office. And if anyone came in.

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00:46:38.640 --> 00:46:42.600

Evan Taylor: Also, you actually had like a space that you set up that you were there regularly.

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00:46:43.110 --> 00:46:48.570

Diana LaMonte: Yeah. Well, George gave me a little office that I could be in. Okay, cool.

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00:46:49.110 --> 00:47:02.460

Evan Taylor: And so folks when I, you know, so somebody would say, oh, I know this person who knows this person. Let me send them to the group did you, did you ever have situations where you worried about who was coming to the group or their intentions for being there.

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00:47:03.390 --> 00:47:03.810

Evan Taylor: No.

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00:47:04.500 --> 00:47:15.270

Diana LaMonte: Nothing. The only worry I had was, there was some trannies since I always called them trannies like me, but they were like six foot five

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00:47:16.140 --> 00:47:30.030

Diana LaMonte: With a big Adam's apple going. Hi, my name is Karen. Right. And my heart used to just believe for them because, you know, what do you do when you look that Manish

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00:47:30.180 --> 00:47:56.130

Diana LaMonte: Right or women would come in. Well, biological women who were transitioning and, you know, they'd have these high pitched voices. Say hi, my name is George and it would just really hurt because I thought I was always small and skinny and could really pass. But, you know, it was just

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00:47:58.020 --> 00:48:00.810

Diana LaMonte: So of course I'd try and build up their esteem.

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00:48:00.870 --> 00:48:01.830

Evan Taylor: Yeah yeah

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00:48:02.190 --> 00:48:10.290

Diana LaMonte: But what do you see just some woman who's six foot four with a big Adam's apple and, you know, five o'clock shadow

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00:48:10.590 --> 00:48:13.170

Evan Taylor: Yeah. And that just wasn't your experience in the sense of, you

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00:48:13.170 --> 00:48:15.390

Diana LaMonte: Know you only necklace up on that.

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00:48:15.900 --> 00:48:17.100

Evan Taylor: Yeah yeah

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00:48:17.160 --> 00:48:19.740

Diana LaMonte: And then, you know, lot of these women would get beat up.

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00:48:20.790 --> 00:48:24.660

Diana LaMonte: And, you know, like, oh, like that. How

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00:48:24.900 --> 00:48:25.440

You know,

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00:48:26.640 --> 00:48:30.420

Diana LaMonte: And that was another reason that I set it up was

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00:48:31.710 --> 00:48:36.030

Diana LaMonte: Self esteem, and some kind of protection, um,

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00:48:37.140 --> 00:48:39.750

Evan Taylor: What, tell me more about the protection piece I'm interested in that.

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00:48:40.470 --> 00:48:49.560

Diana LaMonte: Well, they'd come in and they'd open up to me about what was happening and you know they're getting beat up or whatever and

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00:48:50.670 --> 00:48:58.320

Diana LaMonte: You know, I call the police and say, you know, this woman's been beaten up. Well, it's not really a woman.

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00:48:59.340 --> 00:49:02.070

Diana LaMonte: You know, and it just met a lot of

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00:49:04.530 --> 00:49:09.150

Diana LaMonte: Resistance. Mm hmm. And, but then there was a

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00:49:10.320 --> 00:49:12.360

Diana LaMonte: women's organization.

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00:49:14.250 --> 00:49:28.530

Diana LaMonte: God, and I just spaced. The name out and I went into them for some help and gardens and they accepted me just great. So I would turn other transsexuals into

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00:49:29.460 --> 00:49:39.720

Diana LaMonte: Onto them right and it did cause a bit of a stir within their group because they were saying, well, that's not really a woman and we're for women.

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00:49:40.170 --> 00:49:43.920

Diana LaMonte: Rate. So we thought that barrier.

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00:49:45.270 --> 00:49:49.020

Diana LaMonte: But they would accept lesbian women but not transgendered woman.

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00:49:49.470 --> 00:50:10.080

Diana LaMonte: Okay, so there was a bit of a fight there. Mm hmm. But eventually, you know, the powers that be at that organization Connor research, remember the name and they just said, look, these are women born in the wrong body. And if you don't accept them. You can always go to another group.

352

00:50:11.850 --> 00:50:14.280

Evan Taylor: And so it was just evidently mid 70s.

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00:50:18.390 --> 00:50:23.160

Diana LaMonte: early 70s, and if I left and moved to BC in 70

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00:50:25.170 --> 00:50:30.270

Diana LaMonte: Know that was in Vancouver, because I left and came out to BC and 72

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00:50:31.560 --> 00:50:33.420

Evan Taylor: It could have been the the

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00:50:34.590 --> 00:50:36.090

Evan Taylor: Vancouver lesbian connection.

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00:50:38.010 --> 00:50:39.060

Diana LaMonte: I don't remember.

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00:50:39.150 --> 00:50:42.660

Evan Taylor: Okay, that's one isn't what I've heard of that was one of the earlier earlier.

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00:50:43.440 --> 00:50:44.610

Diana LaMonte: St. Kitts alone. Oh.

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00:50:44.970 --> 00:50:46.050

Evan Taylor: OK. OK.

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00:50:46.500 --> 00:50:48.540

Diana LaMonte: Right, yeah.

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00:50:50.340 --> 00:50:55.110

Diana LaMonte: As I say, I left Toronto in 72 and came out here so

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00:50:56.370 --> 00:50:59.250

Diana LaMonte: And Rupert had sort of taken over the act.

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00:51:02.640 --> 00:51:09.150

Diana LaMonte: So I wasn't, I didn't set up an association here in Vancouver. Okay.

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00:51:10.590 --> 00:51:11.220

Diana LaMonte: So,

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00:51:12.390 --> 00:51:17.490

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, George and I think Rupert was still in Toronto at that point.

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00:51:18.720 --> 00:51:23.160

Diana LaMonte: So a lot of the other stuff happened in Vancouver. Right.

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00:51:23.190 --> 00:51:29.370

Evan Taylor: Okay, so that, but when you came out here that was sort of your first sort of looking for connection and organization or whatever.

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00:51:29.400 --> 00:51:30.360

Diana LaMonte: Right, okay.

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00:51:30.420 --> 00:51:37.350

Evan Taylor: Yeah, and I'm assuming there was very, very little, if anything, and that was Trans Pacific out here at that point.

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00:51:37.740 --> 00:51:38.760

Evan Taylor: Nothing. Yeah.

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00:51:39.390 --> 00:51:40.620

Diana LaMonte: Absolutely nothing.

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00:51:41.130 --> 00:51:44.310

Evan Taylor: Something I'm interested in. I don't know if you noticed, but I noticed this, you were talking using

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00:51:44.700 --> 00:51:54.510

Evan Taylor: A few different words that that that folks nowadays would have to be a lot of divisions, and communities around what means what, who can say one, and so I and I and

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00:51:54.900 --> 00:52:03.930

Evan Taylor: My, my, my doctorate isn't language and literacy. So I'm fascinated by discourse and how language changes and moves and what it means. And so

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00:52:04.200 --> 00:52:10.680

Evan Taylor: I know, back in the day, you know, like nowadays people like argue about transsexual versus transgender versus transgendered.

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00:52:10.920 --> 00:52:20.010

Evan Taylor: Versus, whatever. And then I'm interested that the word trannies has come up when I'm talking to some some older folks who are saying, well, that like, that was the word we use like that.

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00:52:20.040 --> 00:52:20.580

Diana LaMonte: Right.

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00:52:20.940 --> 00:52:26.940

Evan Taylor: And so can you please tell me about that because that's a, that's a historical moment that has been last night. But let's get that on record.

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00:52:27.810 --> 00:52:31.320

Diana LaMonte: Well, we always we used to say sex change two

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00:52:32.190 --> 00:52:34.590

Diana LaMonte: Wins and sort of fallen out of favor

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00:52:34.710 --> 00:52:35.430

Rate.

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00:52:36.780 --> 00:52:45.450

Diana LaMonte: What we always called ourselves trannies short for transsexual which I guess nowadays it's not you don't say that.

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00:52:46.830 --> 00:52:51.060

Evan Taylor: Who I think depends on who you're talking to. And then any given moment what mood. They're in

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00:52:51.750 --> 00:52:52.260

Right.

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00:52:53.610 --> 00:52:54.360

But, but, yeah.

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00:52:55.560 --> 00:52:56.010

Diana LaMonte: Pardon.

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00:52:56.160 --> 00:53:08.160

Evan Taylor: But yes, it's changed a lot. Now, my understanding is that word at that time was an affectionate word meant between people within our own community to refer to each other, kindly

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00:53:09.000 --> 00:53:09.480

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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00:53:10.080 --> 00:53:11.190

Evan Taylor: Yeah, like your ear one

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00:53:11.190 --> 00:53:13.020

Diana LaMonte: Wasn't a derogatory term.

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00:53:13.290 --> 00:53:16.680

Diana LaMonte: Right, I never liked the term sex change.

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00:53:16.920 --> 00:53:28.590

Diana LaMonte: Hmm, that was something I mean, yes, I was changing the outside, but I wasn't changing the inside, right, because the inside. It always been there and

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00:53:30.180 --> 00:53:35.010

Diana LaMonte: I was like, the term reassignment. Mm hmm. Rather than a sex change.

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00:53:35.400 --> 00:53:39.840

Evan Taylor: Rate and the idea of I was assigned one thing, and now I'm assigned the new thing.

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00:53:40.440 --> 00:53:41.310

Diana LaMonte: Right, right.

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00:53:41.340 --> 00:53:53.760

Evan Taylor: Which which is nicely said, I mean that the new words. Now, I think that the either gender confirming surgery or gender affirming surgery. But basically, that's what you're describing is saying it was already in here. I just need the assignment changed.

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00:53:54.090 --> 00:53:55.050

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, right.

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00:53:55.470 --> 00:53:56.130

Evan Taylor: That makes sense.

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00:53:56.910 --> 00:54:13.260

Evan Taylor: And so, what other what other changes in in language. I mean that the the the training. When I always find it very fascinating because there's this whole idea of, well, you know, only certain people should use it, but we would trans women also use that word about trans men and vice versa.

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00:54:14.100 --> 00:54:19.890

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, yeah. I think it's sort of in the league of the word nigger.

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00:54:20.190 --> 00:54:28.680

Diana LaMonte: Right, like if you're black, and you want to call someone in your community, a nigger, nobody says anything

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00:54:28.890 --> 00:54:33.720

Diana LaMonte: Right. But if you're white, and use the N word, then you're racist.

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00:54:33.840 --> 00:54:35.400

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm. Yeah.

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00:54:36.270 --> 00:54:36.810

And

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00:54:38.160 --> 00:54:43.980

Diana LaMonte: I guess your point is well taken. Because training was used within our group.

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00:54:44.430 --> 00:54:44.940

Evan Taylor: Great.

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00:54:45.420 --> 00:54:48.300

Diana LaMonte: You know that's not a drag queen. That's a trainee

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00:54:49.350 --> 00:54:58.530

Evan Taylor: Okay, so those and those were different things is that one one is somebody who's dressing up as a performer and other ones like I'm actually calling you a transsexual. That's what that right radius shorts for

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00:54:58.590 --> 00:54:59.790

Evan Taylor: Yeah. Gotcha.

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00:55:01.020 --> 00:55:14.010

Evan Taylor: Yeah, I think it's one of those things that I find fascinating in these changes in language because then you know, Ben. Ben came to the transactional vs transgender transgender, or whatever. Do you do remember that sort of shift in language happening.

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00:55:15.240 --> 00:55:17.100

Diana LaMonte: It seemed to happen slowly.

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00:55:17.370 --> 00:55:25.140

Diana LaMonte: Hmm, you know, you'd hear it more often and go. All right, is that the new word of the day transgendered.

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00:55:25.710 --> 00:55:30.540

Evan Taylor: Right. And it was. Was that something that you were

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00:55:31.620 --> 00:55:39.870

Evan Taylor: We were you interested in this, or three you with it just a matter of all of course every all the words are going to change over time we ever invested in any of these discourses.

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00:55:40.950 --> 00:55:43.680

Diana LaMonte: Not really. Not really. It's sort of like

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00:55:45.690 --> 00:55:46.530

Diana LaMonte: Indian

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00:55:47.910 --> 00:55:53.610

Diana LaMonte: First Nations. You know how we've changed the words right

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00:55:55.290 --> 00:55:58.170

Diana LaMonte: China and Asian South Asian

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00:55:58.590 --> 00:55:59.010

Right.

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00:56:01.350 --> 00:56:08.430

Diana LaMonte: Nigger to a black person, person of color right just changes.

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00:56:08.670 --> 00:56:10.320

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. You know what I

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00:56:10.350 --> 00:56:12.900

Evan Taylor: Yeah, there's always constant evolution of these things.

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00:56:13.470 --> 00:56:13.770

Diana LaMonte: Right.

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00:56:13.830 --> 00:56:20.220

Evan Taylor: The words might change. But what we're talking about the reference point doesn't necessarily change. But what the words we use mine.

426

00:56:20.970 --> 00:56:29.190

Diana LaMonte: Right, right, and words we might have used 50 years ago now are turned as racist or inappropriate and

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00:56:30.210 --> 00:56:30.690

Diana LaMonte: You know,

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00:56:31.200 --> 00:56:39.570

Evan Taylor: What are some. What are some of the other words around trans people in gender, that, that, that, you know, isn't used at all anymore that maybe folks who were 20 years old now. I've never heard

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00:56:41.760 --> 00:56:42.660

Diana LaMonte: I don't know.

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00:56:42.930 --> 00:56:43.650

Okay.

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00:56:45.090 --> 00:56:48.360

Diana LaMonte: Um, well, sex change isn't used anymore.

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00:56:48.930 --> 00:56:53.490

Diana LaMonte: Right, I don't think transsexual is used very much

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00:56:53.640 --> 00:56:54.150

Right. Any

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00:56:55.290 --> 00:56:55.920

Diana LaMonte: Training.

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00:56:57.270 --> 00:57:00.090

Diana LaMonte: It's probably people my age that use the word tranny

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00:57:01.560 --> 00:57:04.410

Diana LaMonte: But no, I can't. I can't think of

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00:57:06.180 --> 00:57:07.830

Diana LaMonte: Any other words, okay.

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00:57:08.490 --> 00:57:19.590

Evan Taylor: Yeah, thanks, it, it's, it's very interesting because you're, you're definitely not the first person to to be using using these words. And it's so I think it's just so important that we record that history of what

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00:57:19.980 --> 00:57:27.300

Evan Taylor: How do we talk about ourselves. What does it mean, and community because it's. We certainly seen a change in how people do community.

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00:57:27.540 --> 00:57:28.290

Diana LaMonte: And what

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00:57:28.380 --> 00:57:37.980

Evan Taylor: I've heard a lot from folks maybe you could even speak to this is, I've heard folks saying, you know, back in that day, like we all looked out for each other like there was so few you know there was a sense of community.

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00:57:38.220 --> 00:57:48.300

Evan Taylor: And that they they feel they've seen that change quite a lot. And, you know, over there, over the last recent years, in particular in the last 10 years as the visibility of trans people has exploded.

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00:57:49.260 --> 00:57:54.780

Evan Taylor: That the focus on me. That's been it's very different. So do you have, could you could you speak to that change that you've seen

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00:57:55.980 --> 00:58:10.260

Diana LaMonte: Well, it's changed a lot because when I was growing up, as I said earlier, I didn't know what was wrong with me until I was heard about Christine Jorgensen right and now they're diagnosing children at five years old.

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00:58:12.150 --> 00:58:18.480

Diana LaMonte: And, you know, kids are going to school in their chosen gender will out never happened in my day.

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00:58:18.750 --> 00:58:19.350

Right.

447

00:58:20.730 --> 00:58:32.490

Diana LaMonte: So the whole thing has just changed so dramatically. And the nice thing is that a lot of the kids today will not have to go through the hell I went through. Mm hmm.

448

00:58:33.690 --> 00:58:47.220

Diana LaMonte: Because I mean it was growing up with a nightmare. And when I was diagnosed with the Clark Institute. I said, if I'm not done by the time I'm 30 I will kill myself. And I was done at 27

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00:58:49.980 --> 00:59:01.020

Evan Taylor: What what what between 27 and 30. What was it then that 30 years old. Where were you in life, three years after that. Where are you, you know, there wasn't any point, perhaps, and there wasn't so

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00:59:01.170 --> 00:59:20.280

Diana LaMonte: We're worth yeah well after my surgery took me about six months to recover and. And then I thought, Okay, let's do something totally different. So I got a job as the deckhand on salmon trawlers off the west coast and loved it, did it for 10 seasons.

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00:59:20.370 --> 00:59:25.050

Diana LaMonte: Oh wow hardest physical work I've ever done. Mm hmm. But

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00:59:26.850 --> 00:59:39.510

Diana LaMonte: And, you know, since one most of my life, I guess. Once I moved to BC. A lot of people didn't know I was transgendered rate and I just lived in straight society.

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00:59:40.080 --> 00:59:55.410

Diana LaMonte: I mean I associated with the gay community. When I moved to Victoria and 81 but most of my friends were straight right even today. Not a lot of people know I'm transgendered. Hmm, it never comes up.

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00:59:55.710 --> 00:59:56.100

Evan Taylor: Rank

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00:59:56.160 --> 01:00:12.000

Diana LaMonte: They're not ago I haven't one example where did come out. I'm the Vice President of the Ladies Auxiliary at our Legion here and quality and beach. Okay. And we had a convention in April in pen Tipton

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01:00:13.230 --> 01:00:16.200

Diana LaMonte: And I went to one of the workshops on membership.

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01:00:17.370 --> 01:00:23.820

Diana LaMonte: So the question of transgendered women joining the Ladies Auxiliary came up

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01:00:24.900 --> 01:00:25.470

Diana LaMonte: And

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01:00:26.850 --> 01:00:29.220

Diana LaMonte: It was not well received.

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01:00:30.360 --> 01:00:42.210

Diana LaMonte: Because they had voted that no man could join the LA, right. It was for women only and then somebody said, Well, what about trend sex change. Women are transgendered women.

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01:00:43.350 --> 01:00:51.720

Diana LaMonte: And this lady stood up and sort of very derogatory said, Oh, well, if we are not sure. We'll just get them to drop their pants.

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01:00:53.730 --> 01:01:01.830

Diana LaMonte: And it was just like somebody threw a switch in my head. Mm hmm. And I stood up and I did myself.

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01:01:03.270 --> 01:01:04.050

Diana LaMonte: I said,

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01:01:05.610 --> 01:01:13.110

Diana LaMonte: You know, I had my surgery done 42 years ago and I'm legally morally and ethically, a woman.

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01:01:13.620 --> 01:01:23.310

Diana LaMonte: If you'd like to. I held up my birth certificate. And I said, and if anyone wants to check out my crotch. I'll drop my strides right here and right now.

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01:01:26.760 --> 01:01:28.380

Diana LaMonte: You could have heard a pin drop

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01:01:28.770 --> 01:01:32.490

Diana LaMonte: Oh my god, I sat down promptly burst into tears.

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01:01:32.670 --> 01:01:41.550

Diana LaMonte: All and all of a sudden there's eight women around me holding my hand, you know, patting me on the legs and you're the bravest person I've ever met.

469

01:01:42.570 --> 01:01:53.100

Diana LaMonte: And, you know, for the other two days, wherever I went, people would come up to me and say, Excuse me, I just want to shake your hand and say you're the bravest women I've ever met.

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01:01:53.880 --> 01:02:12.600

Diana LaMonte: Wow. And so a lot of the LA is in the province now no good on transgendered and even the other delegates from Qualcomm beach that were with me. They were just really, really, like, Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

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01:02:14.250 --> 01:02:27.360

Evan Taylor: What was it like when you when you moved over to BC wasn't just that you were, you know, once you had your surgery, you're kind of moving into the next phase of your life and doing other things that the transcript wasn't as prominent after at that point.

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01:02:28.290 --> 01:02:29.790

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, basically.

473

01:02:32.010 --> 01:02:38.610

Diana LaMonte: I guess part of me didn't want to be known as a transgendered woman. I wanted to live in st society.

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01:02:38.970 --> 01:02:44.460

Evan Taylor: Right, yeah. Just, just, just a regular woman, whatever that means.

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01:02:44.850 --> 01:02:47.280

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, exactly. Yeah, exactly.

476

01:02:48.030 --> 01:02:57.330

Evan Taylor: And so at this point, did you. What did you eat. And so, you weren't really in touch with. There wasn't much for trans community at all. And you weren't really, you know, hanging out much with the gay community like early 80s around

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01:02:58.440 --> 01:03:11.220

Diana LaMonte: Not very much. And I think part of the two of them might have been the drug thing, um, because drugs are really prevalent in the gay community and I didn't want to walk down that path again.

478

01:03:11.850 --> 01:03:24.150

Evan Taylor: Right, and so did you have sort of outside support through your own recovery that you that you set up that weren't necessarily, you know, that maybe didn't people didn't know you were trans or

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01:03:25.710 --> 01:03:27.930

Diana LaMonte: I didn't really have that much support.

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01:03:29.850 --> 01:03:31.560

Diana LaMonte: I had a little bit of support.

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01:03:33.510 --> 01:03:42.240

Diana LaMonte: From the women's group right but other than that I didn't let people know. I guess I internalized, a lot of it. Mm hmm. Okay.

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01:03:42.360 --> 01:03:47.820

Evan Taylor: Yeah. Well, at that time, as well. It was, it was still very unsafe to to be out unknown so

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01:03:47.880 --> 01:03:48.900

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, because that's

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01:03:49.320 --> 01:03:57.660

Evan Taylor: What, what do you remember from the, from the early 80s and, you know, and the the AIDS epidemic sort of exploding at that time. What do you remember around that, that time.

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01:03:58.470 --> 01:03:59.640

Diana LaMonte: Well, there was a

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01:04:00.750 --> 01:04:25.470

Diana LaMonte: Pub in Victoria called the James Bay in. Okay. And that was sort of known as gay bar in town. One of the gay bars and I used to go there all the time. And it was a mix of gay and straight and then aids hit and I lost 11 of my friends. Wow. And it was just devastating.

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01:04:28.050 --> 01:04:33.540

Diana LaMonte: And the whole it seemed like the community imploded because there were so many people that were sick.

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01:04:34.740 --> 01:04:50.040

Diana LaMonte: And then of course, you know, there was the feedback from straight people saying, well, let's which get a divorce God's visitation on it. Mm hmm. And it was I stopped going to funerals. After about the fifth one

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01:04:51.150 --> 01:04:59.490

Diana LaMonte: Because it was just so sad and to watch these these really nice beautiful men just deteriorate right before my eyes.

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01:05:00.570 --> 01:05:02.280

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, what

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01:05:02.310 --> 01:05:10.260

Evan Taylor: Were. Is there any sort of what do you remember any way about the the types of of activism that was going on at that time. So it must really changed how people

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01:05:11.460 --> 01:05:12.390

Diana LaMonte: reacted in the community.

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01:05:14.280 --> 01:05:22.140

Diana LaMonte: Well of course there was, you know, all the myths about AIDS. And I think what really changed people's perspective.

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01:05:23.010 --> 01:05:36.600

Diana LaMonte: Is when women started getting AIDS right okay because it was before that it was the gay man's disease. Mm hmm. And of course, if a woman got well then her husband had to be bi.

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01:05:36.900 --> 01:05:37.380

Evan Taylor: Rate.

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01:05:37.440 --> 01:05:48.450

Diana LaMonte: And brought it home and then gradually they started to find out, like, no, it's, it can be blood transfusions. It's not just a disease anymore. Mm hmm.

497

01:05:49.680 --> 01:05:56.940

Evan Taylor: And so that that shift. And when it, when it shifted that be what you notice was almost a shift in the the gendering of the disease really

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01:05:57.210 --> 01:06:10.860

Diana LaMonte: Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. And I remember one time a dear friend of mine was diagnosed, and he was going down hill and he came into the club and I said, Oh, it's so nice to see you again.

499

01:06:11.700 --> 01:06:30.600

Diana LaMonte: And I put my arms around him. I went to give him a kiss. And he turned his face because normally I'd kiss on the lips right and he turned his face and I just took a space and turn it forward and custom rate on the lips to be careful. I said, I don't care. You're my friend.

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01:06:31.620 --> 01:06:32.250

Evan Taylor: Wow.

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01:06:32.550 --> 01:06:42.180

Diana LaMonte: And I mean they had said that, oh, you could get it from kissing deep kissing or whatever. And I mean, I never dig deep kissed him because he was gay.

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01:06:42.360 --> 01:06:44.670

Evan Taylor: Right, yeah. That was a good relationship.

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01:06:45.030 --> 01:07:00.540

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and there were so many lies and misinformation. But if it was heartbreaking time. It was really heartbreaking time to see so many people dying. Mm hmm. And people that are really loved and cared about and

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01:07:01.950 --> 01:07:02.310

Diana LaMonte: There.

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01:07:03.420 --> 01:07:06.720

Evan Taylor: Were you involved in any of the AIDS activism that was going on at that point.

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01:07:08.040 --> 01:07:09.720

Diana LaMonte: Not really, okay.

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01:07:10.260 --> 01:07:11.010

Evan Taylor: And and so

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01:07:11.100 --> 01:07:13.050

Diana LaMonte: A lot of the time, I'd be gone all summer.

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01:07:13.680 --> 01:07:15.210

Evan Taylor: Oh, because you were on the on the boat.

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01:07:15.690 --> 01:07:18.300

Evan Taylor: Yeah, right. Okay, and also

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01:07:19.080 --> 01:07:19.230

Diana LaMonte: On

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01:07:19.320 --> 01:07:31.920

Evan Taylor: Your own sort of while you were in just the regular heterosexual world that it wasn't you know you weren't gonna go back to be doing a you know activism, because that was still you know more of a gay, you know,

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01:07:33.090 --> 01:07:38.700

Evan Taylor: So they they weren't more gay folks who were doing activism around a to necessarily heterosexual folks at that point.

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01:07:39.270 --> 01:07:46.740

Diana LaMonte: Right, I was supportive of them right and I always did my homework. So if somebody brought up. Well, it's a faggot disease.

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01:07:47.370 --> 01:08:02.520

Diana LaMonte: I'd go, well, you know, actually, if you do your homework, you'll find and then I would give them the stats and quotes about, you know, children getting aids from injections or blood transfusions, or you know whatever

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01:08:02.850 --> 01:08:09.120

Diana LaMonte: Right. And they go, oh, I didn't know that. So it was more an educational thing. Mm
hmm.

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01:08:09.570 --> 01:08:10.830

Diana LaMonte: So then you're meeting her drunk.

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01:08:10.890 --> 01:08:20.820

Evan Taylor: Personality, you could use that, that, that the the expectation that you're just a regular old
woman that. Yeah. You'd be like, well, actually, I've got some information for you and you could use that
functionality.

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01:08:21.180 --> 01:08:23.610

Diana LaMonte: Yeah yeah what what

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01:08:24.150 --> 01:08:24.510

Oh, sorry.

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01:08:25.980 --> 01:08:31.770

Diana LaMonte: Just find it, you know, in retrospect, now that you brought up these things. I haven't
thought about years

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01:08:35.010 --> 01:08:46.320

Diana LaMonte: I guess I was sort of afraid of going back into the gay society right because I really wanted to be a heterosexual one. Mm hmm.

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01:08:47.520 --> 01:08:58.980

Evan Taylor: Tell me more about that. I'm interested in the the politics of the you know the LGBT then LGBT LGBT Q to lie and I'm interested in how you've related to that because that's been very different for you.

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01:09:03.180 --> 01:09:03.570

Diana LaMonte: Hmm.

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01:09:05.700 --> 01:09:08.730

Diana LaMonte: I always wanted to live in straight society right

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01:09:11.340 --> 01:09:19.860

Diana LaMonte: Not that I didn't want to be in the gay community i mean i i was affiliated with them and I had lots of gay and lesbian friends.

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01:09:21.360 --> 01:09:22.140

Diana LaMonte: But I didn't

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01:09:24.570 --> 01:09:25.650

Diana LaMonte: It's hard to explain.

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01:09:26.790 --> 01:09:32.370

Diana LaMonte: I've always sort of been in the middle of straight society right

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01:09:33.420 --> 01:09:46.830

Evan Taylor: And so that the the alphabet soup of all the different changes and that can be and then whether it's gay community queer community or all that stuff for you that there's always a bit of a didn't, didn't necessarily include. Do you feel like that was your, your home.

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01:09:47.430 --> 01:09:52.170

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I didn't, I didn't raise the banner from where I was, but

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01:09:53.370 --> 01:09:56.580

Diana LaMonte: I was able to educate people from the inside.

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01:09:58.080 --> 01:09:59.460

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, that makes sense.

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01:09:59.490 --> 01:10:08.220

Evan Taylor: Yeah, definitely. And what about so as we're moving through the 80s now and talking about that time what what trans folks were you in touch with at that at that point.

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01:10:09.990 --> 01:10:18.120

Diana LaMonte: There was one translate it. Stephanie, who was a new clueless because that's where I had moved to and

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01:10:18.570 --> 01:10:18.960

Diana LaMonte: He was

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01:10:20.250 --> 01:10:20.580

Diana LaMonte: Born

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01:10:20.640 --> 01:10:23.430

Diana LaMonte: In the castle. Stephanie even

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01:10:23.640 --> 01:10:24.540

Evan Taylor: Stephanie. Okay.

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01:10:25.680 --> 01:10:34.140

Diana LaMonte: I think she's in Calgary know I've been in touch for a long time. Okay, but she got a job working for Parks Canada.

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01:10:35.640 --> 01:10:42.300

Diana LaMonte: And she made no bones about being transgendered. She had these great big, we call them the Golden Globes

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01:10:43.290 --> 01:10:58.020

Diana LaMonte: And, you know, she was very apparent that she was transgendered. And if you didn't like it. Screw you, and yet she was the center of attention. Among the fishermen, because the board just flabbergasted.

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01:10:59.430 --> 01:11:03.450

Diana LaMonte: And so she and I got to be really good friends and

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01:11:04.560 --> 01:11:04.980

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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01:11:05.760 --> 01:11:11.190

Evan Taylor: And were you still in touch with Rupert back in Toronto. At that point, or do you guys sort of drifted into your own own lives.

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01:11:11.310 --> 01:11:24.570

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, we didn't really we sort of went our own ways, right. Okay, um, you know, life got in the way, as it were. Mm hmm. And he was doing his thing. And I was doing my thing.

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01:11:26.010 --> 01:11:32.340

Evan Taylor: And so by the by the early 90s and were you not WERE YOU WHERE WERE YOU located where you were you living by then.

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01:11:32.880 --> 01:11:39.720

Diana LaMonte: I was in Victoria. Okay. And that's when I got into healthcare in 91

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01:11:40.530 --> 01:11:45.540

Evan Taylor: And was that because you were just done so many seasons on the boat, you're probably physically exhausted.

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01:11:45.990 --> 01:12:00.540

Diana LaMonte: Well, and you know what the big factory ships and with logging wiping out the salmon streams. The industry really tanked. And I thought, I've got to find and I've been working on a teaching degree. Okay, and

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01:12:01.440 --> 01:12:18.150

Diana LaMonte: My student loans ran out. So I thought, what am I going to do. So a friend said, Why don't you get into home support. OK. And then, so I started that then in 9495 we had a big strike and

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01:12:20.340 --> 01:12:26.790

Diana LaMonte: When the strike was over, I think it was eight or nine months long and when the strike was over, they said, Okay.

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01:12:28.380 --> 01:12:32.850

Diana LaMonte: You have to be licensed to be a home care worker. Okay. And we will pay

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01:12:33.990 --> 01:12:51.720

Diana LaMonte: Ei benefits and the education for anyone who wants to get their license. So I did that. And then they came to us and said, well, we have way too many homes support workers anyone wants to go and become a residential care aid. We'll pay for that. So I thought, well it free education.

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01:12:53.160 --> 01:13:02.400

Diana LaMonte: And so I did that for a while and then I decided that it was a little bit heavy. So I went back to school and became an LPN. Cool.

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01:13:03.570 --> 01:13:12.180

Evan Taylor: And so at this point were you out in any way or was that's just not something that was part of your daily life anymore to be talking about your gender.

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01:13:14.130 --> 01:13:15.630

Diana LaMonte: It wasn't part of my life.

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01:13:17.040 --> 01:13:22.080

Diana LaMonte: But if anything throughout this whole thing. If anyone ever came up to me and said,

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01:13:23.730 --> 01:13:38.520

Diana LaMonte: If they specifically said, Are you a sex change or are you transgendered. I would always tell the truth. Right. Okay. But I had one woman. I worked with she came up to me and she said, There's a rumor going around about you that you you're transgender

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01:13:39.720 --> 01:13:46.110

Diana LaMonte: And I said, oh, but she never asked me the question right skirted around it.

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01:13:46.440 --> 01:13:54.300

Diana LaMonte: Right. And I just said I waited for her to ask me, and that and she never did. So I never came out. Right.

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01:13:54.480 --> 01:13:58.110

Diana LaMonte: I never you know if she'd asked me the question I would have said, oh,

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01:13:58.680 --> 01:14:03.570

Diana LaMonte: Yes, yes. And I, I have told close friends.

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01:14:05.910 --> 01:14:11.130

Diana LaMonte: But otherwise, unless they asked me, it's none of their goddamn business. Mm hmm. Frankly,

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01:14:12.300 --> 01:14:16.620

Evan Taylor: I mean it's not it's not part of your daily life. It's interesting how other people want to make it part of theirs.

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01:14:17.430 --> 01:14:20.340

Diana LaMonte: Right, I don't have trannies tattooed on my forehead.

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01:14:22.740 --> 01:14:30.660

Evan Taylor: But I was wondering as well. Thinking about casino. Again, you, you, you won the genetic lottery in terms of being very

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01:14:31.050 --> 01:14:40.920

Evan Taylor: You know, very, very possible. Is that something that you you know that you, you look at any of you feel very, very happy about that or is that something that you, you look at and think

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01:14:41.370 --> 01:14:46.590

Evan Taylor: Oh, you know, like other people have a very different trans experience than you do. How do you sort of relate to that.

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01:14:47.580 --> 01:15:02.640

Diana LaMonte: I consider myself very blessed. Yeah, very blessed and my heart really goes out to transgender women that are very masculine. Mm hmm. I mean, they have a terrible road to hoe. Mm hmm.

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01:15:03.360 --> 01:15:15.030

Diana LaMonte: And you hear these horrible stories of them being murdered and, you know, gang raped or beaten and it just, you know, I feel very blessed that I look the way I do. Mm hmm.

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01:15:15.450 --> 01:15:22.230

Evan Taylor: How have you seen that change over over time for folks. I mean, do you think that would be different for one of those, you know, six foot

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01:15:22.710 --> 01:15:31.890

Evan Taylor: Something you know husky kind of transforming. Do you think that that'd be they'd have a different experience now versus, you know, the in the 70s, or do you think that not much has changed.

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01:15:34.770 --> 01:15:36.360

Diana LaMonte: I think they'll still be

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01:15:37.380 --> 01:15:38.910

Diana LaMonte: The brunt of jokes.

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01:15:40.020 --> 01:15:51.090

Diana LaMonte: But with the social education that's gone on. Now it is ongoing. I think a lot more people are more accepted accepting. Mm hmm.

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01:15:52.110 --> 01:16:01.860

Evan Taylor: And I'm thinking as well about your, your, your class reunion were literally the same folks. He saw 50 years ago, you're now seeing and I have a very have a very different mindset.

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01:16:02.190 --> 01:16:05.130

Diana LaMonte: Than. Absolutely. Absolutely.

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01:16:07.140 --> 01:16:11.220

Diana LaMonte: Because I'd never seen any of them and 50 years right and

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01:16:12.510 --> 01:16:19.290

Diana LaMonte: That's what blew me away was the level of acceptance. Mm hmm. Even by former abusers.

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01:16:19.710 --> 01:16:32.460

Evan Taylor: Right, that there's an understanding immediately about your about your gender and also I'm wondering about just the awareness of the the me to movement that's happening so recently that that he

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01:16:33.030 --> 01:16:40.740

Evan Taylor: Bob seem to be very, very aware of you as a woman and understood his role as an abuser of a woman.

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01:16:41.280 --> 01:16:44.910

Evan Taylor: Yeah, even though you know worked at that time to him, but that right

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01:16:45.030 --> 01:16:46.290

Evan Taylor: You think quite understand that.

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01:16:47.820 --> 01:16:51.780

Diana LaMonte: Right. And you know, it's a totally different world like

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01:16:52.800 --> 01:17:02.790

Diana LaMonte: You were there, gay, lesbian or tranny and now it's LGBT q r s WV

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01:17:03.090 --> 01:17:05.820

Diana LaMonte: Exactly. And I still don't know what Q means

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01:17:07.410 --> 01:17:10.140

Evan Taylor: I think it's either queer questioning, depending on who you're talking to.

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01:17:10.770 --> 01:17:20.670

Diana LaMonte: Oh, see, and I still don't know what that means. And then there's the these other ones like a metro sexual. What else is a metro section.

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01:17:21.420 --> 01:17:23.220

Diana LaMonte: What you get laid in the city.

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01:17:25.980 --> 01:17:49.980

Diana LaMonte: I mean, you know, things have changed so much that there's a lot more acceptance. I find anyway. Mm hmm. It's not so scandalous. If you're gay, like the president of our LA has a gay son, right, who is married to a man and she's just, you know, when I sort of came out at the convention.

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01:17:51.480 --> 01:17:52.410

Diana LaMonte: She was

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01:17:53.640 --> 01:17:58.710

Diana LaMonte: Didn't ruffle his feathers at all. She said, Oh wow, that's really cool. Yeah.

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01:17:59.670 --> 01:18:01.230

Evan Taylor: Oh yeah, neat and

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01:18:01.260 --> 01:18:09.840

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and I mean to, we will be at the Legion and she'll say, oh, my son and his husband are coming for Christmas and

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01:18:10.980 --> 01:18:12.480

Diana LaMonte: And it's just natural.

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01:18:12.630 --> 01:18:17.490

Diana LaMonte: Right where 50 years ago, forget it. Mm hmm.

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01:18:18.630 --> 01:18:24.660

Evan Taylor: What are some of the, what are some of the biggest changes that you've seen specifically for trans folks in that in that time.

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01:18:26.970 --> 01:18:37.680

Diana LaMonte: More acceptance much easier to get the surgery done and it's government funded. Right. Right. And it's a lot better than in my day.

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01:18:39.150 --> 01:18:42.960

Evan Taylor: That certainly, certainly the, the medical technologies have have improved.

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01:18:43.200 --> 01:18:45.480

Diana LaMonte: Oh, absolutely. And I've heard that.

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01:18:49.230 --> 01:18:54.210

Diana LaMonte: A guy in colleges can look at someone that's had surgery and without really

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01:18:55.530 --> 01:18:58.080

Diana LaMonte: Examine examining them. I can't tell. Right.

604

01:18:58.140 --> 01:19:05.040

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and I was sort of butchered so you can tell. Okay, it's not normal.

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01:19:05.340 --> 01:19:11.220

Evan Taylor: Rate. Well, this is what this is. So early right was one of the very first one and the last right so

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01:19:11.580 --> 01:19:14.580

Evan Taylor: We're still kind of practicing a new skill.

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01:19:15.060 --> 01:19:16.080

Evan Taylor: Yeah yeah

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01:19:16.350 --> 01:19:18.990

Diana LaMonte: And it was the most painful experience I've ever gone through

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01:19:19.410 --> 01:19:20.370

Evan Taylor: Still to this day.

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01:19:21.060 --> 01:19:26.190

Evan Taylor: Yep. Wow. That says a lot from Sunday six years into recovering from a head injury.

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01:19:27.690 --> 01:19:31.830

Diana LaMonte: Wow. Yeah. It was agony just agony.

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01:19:32.730 --> 01:19:40.530

Evan Taylor: And was that just fits like where they just it was just physical like that that kind of crappy pain management or was there more to that experience.

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01:19:42.360 --> 01:19:48.660

Diana LaMonte: No, it was physical pain physical pain and they found out that I'm allergic to

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01:19:49.830 --> 01:19:52.260

Diana LaMonte: What's the name of that drug starts with the d

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01:19:55.560 --> 01:20:01.410

Diana LaMonte: Anyway, they found out I was allergic to it. Okay, so once they put me on morphine, then

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01:20:02.940 --> 01:20:05.970

Diana LaMonte: It was still really painful. Right. Okay.

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01:20:08.010 --> 01:20:11.100

Evan Taylor: You were like one of the drugs, you're allergic to was that was like a pain management Europe.

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01:20:11.430 --> 01:20:13.140

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I'm okay.

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01:20:15.060 --> 01:20:17.100

Diana LaMonte: I'm having a senior moment.

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01:20:18.750 --> 01:20:19.800

Evan Taylor: You've earned it. That's fine.

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01:20:21.390 --> 01:20:22.860

Diana LaMonte: It's gone. It'll come back.

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01:20:23.340 --> 01:20:31.440

Evan Taylor: But that, but that's part of the part was part of the issue is that they had trouble figuring out how to manage your pain because of the the allergy. And that was the complication.

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01:20:32.040 --> 01:20:34.980

Evan Taylor: That figuring that is that how you found out you were allergic to this my taking it.

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01:20:35.520 --> 01:20:36.120

Diana LaMonte: Yes.

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01:20:36.210 --> 01:20:39.780

Diana LaMonte: Oh geez. And they came and told me that I was allergic.

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01:20:40.650 --> 01:20:46.320

Diana LaMonte: Oh, because evidently they found me in a linen cupboard in the hospital.

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01:20:47.430 --> 01:20:48.150

Diana LaMonte: Hiding

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01:20:49.200 --> 01:20:51.150

Diana LaMonte: So I filled out the IV and

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01:20:52.320 --> 01:20:53.340

Evan Taylor: Run away somewhere.

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01:20:53.700 --> 01:20:56.610

Diana LaMonte: I want to say die lauded but it wasn't I lauded

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01:20:58.500 --> 01:21:01.050

Diana LaMonte: Another strong pain killer like a morphine.

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01:21:01.110 --> 01:21:02.940

Diana LaMonte: Come on, stronger than morphine.

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01:21:03.240 --> 01:21:04.770

Diana LaMonte: demo, demo.

634

01:21:04.980 --> 01:21:06.780

Evan Taylor: Okay, great. Yeah.

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01:21:07.350 --> 01:21:11.640

Diana LaMonte: And they found out that I was severely allergic, it produced a psychosis.

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01:21:11.820 --> 01:21:12.840

Evan Taylor: Oh my goodness.

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01:21:12.900 --> 01:21:14.220

Diana LaMonte: And I didn't take the pain away.

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01:21:15.720 --> 01:21:17.130

Evan Taylor: Yeah. Obviously. Yeah.

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01:21:17.340 --> 01:21:19.890

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, so thinking

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01:21:19.950 --> 01:21:27.870

Evan Taylor: Thinking back to you know that that yes, that you know the the surgical the technology around surgery. Certainly, certainly changed.

641

01:21:28.710 --> 01:21:38.340

Evan Taylor: Deep, would you, you know, given given the, the new technologies, everything would you make all the same decisions again nurse or or do you make different decisions based on the new technologies that we have now.

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01:21:41.610 --> 01:21:42.480

Diana LaMonte: That's interesting.

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01:21:44.760 --> 01:21:51.570

Diana LaMonte: It's hard to say. I mean, I've lived my life and it's it's hard to hard to say.

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01:21:53.010 --> 01:22:05.760

Diana LaMonte: What I would have done differently, right, because each thing whether it was good or bad was the growth a learning experience. And I grew from that like the drug addiction.

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01:22:06.150 --> 01:22:14.220

Diana LaMonte: Rate and everything that went on with that I was arrested for prostitution and that's one thing that got me off drugs.

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01:22:15.690 --> 01:22:17.190

Diana LaMonte: Because I was a prostitute.

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01:22:17.490 --> 01:22:34.470

Diana LaMonte: Re paid for my habit and I got busted one rainy Sunday night because I didn't have any money and I cracked to a cop. And there's one sound That changed my life. And that was the sound of the cell door closing makes a distinctive claim.

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01:22:34.950 --> 01:22:37.890

Diana LaMonte: Right. And I sat on that metal bed.

649

01:22:39.240 --> 01:22:54.600

Diana LaMonte: And my little voice that Diana. You were meant for something better than this. Mm
hmm. And I got two years probation and that's when I decided I'm done. And my probation officer was
the lesbian

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01:22:55.200 --> 01:22:57.480

Diana LaMonte: Oh, which was really cool.

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01:22:57.570 --> 01:22:59.190

Evan Taylor: That's really unusual in fact time

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01:22:59.550 --> 01:22:59.880

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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01:23:00.720 --> 01:23:03.750

Evan Taylor: And so, and so you were out to her obviously like she knew that you were

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01:23:03.780 --> 01:23:04.200

Evan Taylor: Oh, yeah.

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01:23:05.100 --> 01:23:07.560

Diana LaMonte: And that's when I went to court. I dressed as a boy.

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01:23:08.040 --> 01:23:08.610

Evan Taylor: Okay.

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01:23:09.300 --> 01:23:14.820

Diana LaMonte: Because it's before I had the surgery, you know. And the lawyer said

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01:23:16.080 --> 01:23:17.970

Diana LaMonte: That I should dress. It's boy.

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01:23:18.870 --> 01:23:21.510

Evan Taylor: So you dressed as a woman on in your everyday life include

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01:23:21.510 --> 01:23:21.750

Diana LaMonte: Out.

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01:23:21.900 --> 01:23:23.190

Evan Taylor: On the street and all of that.

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01:23:23.400 --> 01:23:23.730

Diana LaMonte: But

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01:23:23.790 --> 01:23:27.900

Evan Taylor: When you have to go to court or do something official than you would like wear that suit and tie or whatever.

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01:23:28.410 --> 01:23:33.090

Diana LaMonte: And it was funny because seven. That's when I felt I was in Drake right

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01:23:33.120 --> 01:23:35.010

Evan Taylor: Yes, definitely.

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01:23:35.220 --> 01:23:40.890

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and I had to wear a tie and all that. And I just thought, This is so weird.

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01:23:43.980 --> 01:23:53.580

Evan Taylor: It's amazing. I think that that that people experience dysphoria in really, you know, in the way that's like the just a plain outfit can do that right

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01:23:54.210 --> 01:23:56.160

Evan Taylor: Just, just clothing, then

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01:23:56.310 --> 01:24:03.690

Evan Taylor: As much as people are like, oh, you know, it's all about our bodies and stuff and like it can be. And then also it can be something as simple as get this thing off my neck.

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01:24:04.470 --> 01:24:10.530

Diana LaMonte: Yeah. And the funny thing is now with my la uniform. I have to wear a tie.

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01:24:13.500 --> 01:24:16.620

Evan Taylor: There's a part of you being like, I worked 50 years not have to do this.

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01:24:19.170 --> 01:24:29.610

Diana LaMonte: Is like, it's like the farther. I go, the more around the circle icon. So now I have to wear a white shirt and a tie and a blazer.

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01:24:30.420 --> 01:24:32.490

Evan Taylor: Laser. Oh my goodness.

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01:24:33.030 --> 01:24:34.530

Diana LaMonte: And gray pants.

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01:24:35.490 --> 01:24:35.850

I'm

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01:24:37.530 --> 01:25:01.260

Diana LaMonte: The first time I put that uniform on. I just flashbacks and screaming and crying and mom saying, why can't I wear a party dress like all the other girls and here 60 years later, or more. I'm in. All I need is a bow tie. Instead of the straight time. It'd be like deja vu.

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01:25:01.890 --> 01:25:11.970

Evan Taylor: Totally. I love that's a, that's a great story. I'm thinking about this, particularly because I like this. I think, you know. The more things change in some ways, the more they stay the same.

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01:25:12.150 --> 01:25:12.930

Diana LaMonte: Exactly.

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01:25:13.320 --> 01:25:14.370

Evan Taylor: What are some of the things

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01:25:15.630 --> 01:25:24.420

Evan Taylor: Again, making specifically about trans folks. What are some of the things that you can look back from 5060 years ago. And then you look at today and think absolutely nothing.

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01:25:24.750 --> 01:25:30.780

Evan Taylor: Has changed in this area, like, what, what are some of the things that trans trans folks are dealing with the same now as they were then.

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01:25:34.530 --> 01:25:35.670

Diana LaMonte: That's interesting.

683

01:25:37.410 --> 01:25:40.200

Diana LaMonte: I think a lot of things have changed.

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01:25:42.000 --> 01:25:44.610

Diana LaMonte: What what has stayed the same.

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01:25:50.940 --> 01:25:53.130

Diana LaMonte: I don't know how to answer that. Okay.

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01:25:54.750 --> 01:25:56.640

Diana LaMonte: Because things are so different.

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01:25:57.210 --> 01:25:58.110

Evan Taylor: Um,

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01:25:58.170 --> 01:26:03.060

Diana LaMonte: I mean, there's still a stigma, but not like it was 50 years ago.

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01:26:03.210 --> 01:26:03.900

Right.

690

01:26:05.910 --> 01:26:06.660

Diana LaMonte: Oh, more

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01:26:09.960 --> 01:26:13.440

Diana LaMonte: I mean, you can get the psychological assessments, you can get

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01:26:15.330 --> 01:26:22.410

Diana LaMonte: Counseling. You can go to gender identity clinics, you can get your search or you can get on hormones.

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01:26:25.980 --> 01:26:40.050

Diana LaMonte: It's just so different. You can get your birth certificate changed really early. Right. You can go to school as a child and have people refer to you and your chosen gender.

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01:26:40.230 --> 01:26:48.120

Diana LaMonte: Right, I don't like chosen gender, but it is so different. There isn't the stigma. There will always be people that don't agree.

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01:26:49.200 --> 01:26:49.800

Diana LaMonte: But

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01:26:50.820 --> 01:26:53.250

Diana LaMonte: It's so different. I don't know.

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01:26:54.960 --> 01:26:58.830

Diana LaMonte: I don't know what has stayed the same, maybe the stigma. Right.

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01:26:59.400 --> 01:27:01.980

Evan Taylor: But it's a but it's so drastically different for you in some ways.

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01:27:01.980 --> 01:27:08.130

Evan Taylor: You're hesitant to say that the stigma is even the same because it really is. It's, it's night and day in comparison

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01:27:08.730 --> 01:27:10.650

Diana LaMonte: Absolutely, absolutely.

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01:27:11.460 --> 01:27:16.800

Diana LaMonte: I mean, you know, I tell people, some of my past, and they go, oh my god.

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01:27:17.820 --> 01:27:28.260

Diana LaMonte: You know, and you read stories about six year olds. Mm hmm. That are now known as their chosen gender be male or female.

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01:27:29.280 --> 01:27:43.050

Diana LaMonte: Six years old. Mm hmm. And, you know, the government is helping them. And there's counseling and all that kind of stuff. Right. None of that happened when I was growing up.

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01:27:44.340 --> 01:27:51.150

Evan Taylor: So that so that that access to health care, more generally, but also just access to being able to

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01:27:51.630 --> 01:28:04.800

Evan Taylor: Present oneself in the way that is most comfortable institutionally whether that's healthcare or education or driver's licenses or like all these sort of institutional access points. That's what I'm hearing has been just so drastically different that

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01:28:05.010 --> 01:28:12.960

Evan Taylor: Yes, while there might be some stigma in it like comparatively speaking that stigma statistically insignificant compared to what it was.

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01:28:13.350 --> 01:28:16.800

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and and the public is more educated

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01:28:17.190 --> 01:28:20.730

Diana LaMonte: Right. So if parents have a transgendered child.

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01:28:23.970 --> 01:28:34.980

Diana LaMonte: Society is more willing to accept. Mm hmm. Right. Where in my day they were shuffled off into the corner and you know

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01:28:35.040 --> 01:28:36.270

Evan Taylor: Yeah, never spoken up again.

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01:28:36.690 --> 01:28:41.850

Evan Taylor: Yeah, right. And why wondering about this this moments that I think it's just such a

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01:28:42.240 --> 01:28:49.860

Evan Taylor: beautiful moment he described so well about the about being the Ladies Auxiliary and just saying the switch went off and I had to say something and tell them, and

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01:28:50.430 --> 01:28:56.130

Evan Taylor: I'm thinking about how differently that would have gone or if you imagine how definitely that might have gone 50 years ago.

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01:28:57.150 --> 01:28:59.340

Diana LaMonte: Oh god, I wouldn't even be in the LA.

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01:29:00.630 --> 01:29:03.570

Evan Taylor: Right, because you have been too afraid to be found out

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01:29:04.140 --> 01:29:10.020

Evan Taylor: Yep. Yeah. And so what would you have. I mean think thinking back on that.

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01:29:11.370 --> 01:29:22.890

Evan Taylor: You, you wouldn't even if you weren't you never would have made that decision to say anything. Is it just simply would have been too much of a safety rescue somebody, one of the ladies might tell her husband and beat you up and whatever.

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01:29:22.920 --> 01:29:34.560

Diana LaMonte: Exactly, exactly. I lived in a constant state of fear of being found out. Hmm. But then also, when I decided who who and what I was

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01:29:36.120 --> 01:29:43.830

Diana LaMonte: I didn't have sex anymore. I wouldn't allow anyone to touch me. Okay. Because as I said earlier, I call it the horrible illness.

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01:29:43.890 --> 01:29:53.580

Diana LaMonte: Rate and so any sex that I had was always one sided. Mm hmm. And they weren't allowed to touch me at all.

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01:29:54.390 --> 01:29:56.250

Evan Taylor: And did that change for you after surgery.

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01:29:58.530 --> 01:30:00.330

Diana LaMonte: Sort of, I mean,

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01:30:02.820 --> 01:30:06.270

Diana LaMonte: after my surgery and I was healed. It was like a kid with a new toy.

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01:30:06.480 --> 01:30:07.680

Evan Taylor: Right. Yeah, right.

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01:30:07.770 --> 01:30:13.860

Diana LaMonte: So yeah, but then a few times, people go, What the fuck is that

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01:30:14.100 --> 01:30:15.060

Diana LaMonte: My French

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01:30:15.720 --> 01:30:16.290

And

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01:30:17.730 --> 01:30:25.020

Diana LaMonte: My ego would just collapse. Again, um, you know, and I have. I've had men get out of bed and go, I'm not touching that.

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01:30:26.640 --> 01:30:28.380

Diana LaMonte: I was. They didn't do a good job.

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01:30:28.620 --> 01:30:29.100

Right.

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01:30:30.870 --> 01:30:31.980

Diana LaMonte: And all that sort of

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01:30:32.310 --> 01:30:33.810

Diana LaMonte: crushed my ego again.

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01:30:34.620 --> 01:30:42.600

Evan Taylor: Yeah, and that's going to get that's going to give you all that bring back all of that back you know whether this for it or whatever that that that part feeling

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01:30:43.020 --> 01:30:48.570

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, yeah. Exactly, exactly. Mm hmm. So I've been more or less celibate for

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01:30:49.650 --> 01:30:50.490

Diana LaMonte: 30 years

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01:30:51.180 --> 01:31:02.340

Evan Taylor: Oh wow, okay. It's been a long time so so we first had the surgery, he used as much as he could. And then there was just, it would it would you say it's just a cumulative effect of feeling and validated that eventually just like this isn't worth it.

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01:31:02.700 --> 01:31:16.920

Diana LaMonte: Well, it was mostly because it was uncomfortable. Right. That's the way they did it when I had intercourse. It was tilted. So it would hit my colon from the outside and stimulate me to deprecate

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01:31:17.430 --> 01:31:19.230

Diana LaMonte: Right in the middle of the Act, I'd have to go

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01:31:19.590 --> 01:31:22.380

Diana LaMonte: Hold that thought. Honey, and run to the bathroom.

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01:31:22.740 --> 01:31:24.780

Evan Taylor: Range because just the angles were all

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01:31:24.840 --> 01:31:26.700

Evan Taylor: Yeah. Gotcha. Okay.

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01:31:27.990 --> 01:31:30.510

Evan Taylor: And so thinking about this as, you know,

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01:31:31.830 --> 01:31:37.500

Evan Taylor: I mean, it may be a bit different to someone who's, you know, sort of identified as a more or less celibate, in that way, but

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01:31:38.190 --> 01:31:46.950

Evan Taylor: If you you know now nowadays so you know that those complications aren't happening quite as often, but they still, you know, they still happen for for for folks.

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01:31:47.790 --> 01:31:51.720

Evan Taylor: Would you feel more comfortable. Nowadays, having those conversations with somebody

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01:31:52.440 --> 01:32:05.100

Evan Taylor: If you know if if this situation arose and is that something that you feel that the average person, you could have a better conversation about that way, then maybe 30 years ago when it was still new to people and the idea of

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01:32:06.300 --> 01:32:17.190

Evan Taylor: Even just the trans woman's vagina at all was, you know, quite out there 30 years ago nowadays. Do you feel like that, that those conversations between partners might happen differently or that you would have that differently.

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01:32:17.880 --> 01:32:20.730

Diana LaMonte: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. Um,

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01:32:23.580 --> 01:32:25.200

Diana LaMonte: I have had a few

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01:32:26.790 --> 01:32:36.210

Diana LaMonte: flings as it worked for. And I haven't told them anything. I'm just, um, but, I mean, lots of women have had cancer surgery and

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01:32:37.260 --> 01:32:40.590

Diana LaMonte: You know, so unless they ask. I don't tell them

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01:32:40.860 --> 01:32:44.070

Diana LaMonte: Great. Yeah, where before it was always, you know,

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01:32:45.090 --> 01:32:47.520

Diana LaMonte: I gotta tell you something. Before we get into this

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01:32:47.640 --> 01:32:48.090

Mm hmm.

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01:32:49.200 --> 01:32:53.640

Diana LaMonte: Where now I don't. And the first time I didn't. I was really afraid.

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01:32:54.090 --> 01:32:57.480

Diana LaMonte: Really yeah because I thought, you know,

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01:32:58.620 --> 01:33:09.030

Diana LaMonte: I've been beaten up in the midst of a mower, and I just thought, oh God. And I said, no, unless they ask, don't tell.

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01:33:09.420 --> 01:33:09.870

Right.

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01:33:11.430 --> 01:33:14.550

Evan Taylor: And certainly, I'm thinking for folks as well. Now, like so.

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01:33:16.470 --> 01:33:17.700

Evan Taylor: Folks who were, you know,

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01:33:18.780 --> 01:33:23.820

Evan Taylor: 1720 years old now who are making that decision. And do you

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01:33:24.480 --> 01:33:32.760

Evan Taylor: This is, this is a difficult one. But I think it's interesting. Do you think it's more, it's easier for them to make a decision around surgery because the outcomes are better.

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01:33:33.090 --> 01:33:45.840

Evan Taylor: Or do you think it's more difficult because in some ways because the outcomes are better there might be more pressure to do to go that that route when maybe, you know, might not be right for people. But there's this expectation from the medical community maybe

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01:33:46.560 --> 01:33:52.410

Diana LaMonte: That's an interesting question. I think the first part of that it's much easier and

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01:33:54.000 --> 01:34:01.980

Diana LaMonte: male to female. I mean, they do such a good job. Nowadays you can't tell. Unless you're on colleges male

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01:34:03.630 --> 01:34:09.450

Diana LaMonte: Female to Male. Mm hmm. From what I know is still really difficult. Mm hmm. Yeah.

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01:34:14.100 --> 01:34:21.150

Diana LaMonte: I don't know, I haven't read enough lately about how that has progressed right um

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01:34:22.650 --> 01:34:23.250

Diana LaMonte: And

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01:34:24.390 --> 01:34:28.200

Diana LaMonte: I have to honestly say I've never really understood

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01:34:29.400 --> 01:34:38.430

Diana LaMonte: And I have a dear friend, who should be men, but she he doesn't want to take those steps right

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01:34:40.920 --> 01:34:43.320

Diana LaMonte: And I don't understand how people can live like that.

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01:34:43.650 --> 01:34:44.190

Evan Taylor: Hmm.

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01:34:44.280 --> 01:34:47.340

Diana LaMonte: I mean, because that's not, I had to have it done.

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01:34:47.580 --> 01:34:48.120

Mm hmm.

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01:34:49.620 --> 01:34:55.020

Diana LaMonte: And, you know, some people don't just have a male to female they'll have the breasts done. And that's it.

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01:34:55.170 --> 01:34:56.010

Evan Taylor: Right, right.

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01:34:56.460 --> 01:34:56.970

And

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01:34:58.170 --> 01:35:08.610

Diana LaMonte: I just, I don't understand that. Evan. Mm hmm. Because I've never been in that headspace where I've always been all or nothing. Mm hmm.

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01:35:09.510 --> 01:35:23.130

Evan Taylor: So I'm really interested in that. There's this of course a whole new explosion around non binary identities and so forth. And what it. How do you relate to that, given that you're very, you know, solidly binary identified

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01:35:24.570 --> 01:35:27.390

Diana LaMonte: What, what does that mean non binary

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01:35:27.720 --> 01:35:42.360

Evan Taylor: Right, so I'm just thinking like you know folks who are in that you know that they, the kids who go go to school as a school as Samuel one day and Samantha. The next day, or, you know, have a have a long pretty hair and a beard and boobs.

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01:35:43.620 --> 01:35:48.990

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and I don't understand that. My guess, like maybe I'm too old.

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01:35:50.160 --> 01:35:52.410

Diana LaMonte: But I've never lived with that.

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01:35:53.550 --> 01:35:54.180

Evan Taylor: Right.

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01:35:54.420 --> 01:36:03.870

Diana LaMonte: You know, you were either a lesbian dresses, man. Mm hmm. You either gay and a drag queen rate.

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01:36:05.430 --> 01:36:10.560

Diana LaMonte: Or you were transgendered and living as your chosen sex, hoping to have your surgery.

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01:36:10.740 --> 01:36:20.820

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. So a lot of this non binary or whatever the expression are me is I really don't understand it. I haven't met enough people

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01:36:21.870 --> 01:36:29.910

Diana LaMonte: That I talked to that I been able to understand. I've tried to read about it and sort of rationalize it in my brain, but

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01:36:31.320 --> 01:36:32.790

Diana LaMonte: I guess I'm too old.

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01:36:33.390 --> 01:36:39.510

Evan Taylor: Or, or, maybe, and I'm just interested in what you think about this. They hurt me as you were talking. I'm wondering if

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01:36:39.870 --> 01:36:47.100

Evan Taylor: You know, non binary or gender queer or whatever and all these different. I'm wondering if that's the new trends that

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01:36:47.700 --> 01:36:53.340

Evan Taylor: Somebody who is like yourself who is very solidly understand themselves. It's transsexual and what that meant for them and

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01:36:54.210 --> 01:37:05.670

Evan Taylor: It looks at gendered like you know this whole gender non conforming movement and says, I don't get that. I'm wondering if the way you don't get that is it's, you know, the straight world didn't get you.

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01:37:06.390 --> 01:37:07.230

Diana LaMonte: For a long time.

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01:37:07.290 --> 01:37:11.070

Evan Taylor: And now you're looking at this world going, well, that's, that's all gay to me like I

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01:37:12.780 --> 01:37:14.940

Diana LaMonte: Right, that's, that's a really good point.

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01:37:17.580 --> 01:37:25.920

Diana LaMonte: Because I educated people when I was growing up, and now I'm being educated. So it's like a circle.

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01:37:26.400 --> 01:37:38.460

Evan Taylor: Yeah, and I'm also wondering if that if that if it's a if it's, if it's a constant circling if there's, you know, there's no it's not linear, right, there's no end to best it's going to continue to to move

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01:37:38.970 --> 01:37:40.740

Diana LaMonte: Right. And who knows what.

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01:37:41.460 --> 01:37:42.660

Diana LaMonte: Is coming next.

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01:37:43.170 --> 01:37:50.040

Evan Taylor: So I'm gonna ask you a really hard question because if we're thinking about this, just, you can imagine like to use your imagination.

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01:37:50.460 --> 01:38:00.960

Evan Taylor: So we're talking right now we're in Word, you know, intergenerational an intergenerational conversations in the sense of you've been doing this for you no longer than I've been alive. Like I was born in 81 right

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01:38:01.710 --> 01:38:07.770

Evan Taylor: And so you've been doing this work, you know, we're probably three or four generations of trans people apart.

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01:38:08.160 --> 01:38:09.150

Diana LaMonte: If you go that way.

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01:38:09.180 --> 01:38:10.890

Evan Taylor: Now 20 years sort of generations.

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01:38:11.100 --> 01:38:11.490

Diana LaMonte: So,

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01:38:12.030 --> 01:38:26.850

Evan Taylor: Me being almost 40 and I'm looking at folks right now who are 20 and then they're going to be looking at folks right now we're just liberty being born. And that is almost not quite even as much as our as our gap in that way.

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01:38:27.330 --> 01:38:36.030

Evan Taylor: Of speaking. So thinking about for folks who were like babies were being born right now. Again, use your imagination. Make it up, but I'm interested in

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01:38:36.510 --> 01:38:47.190

Evan Taylor: How things have changed. So if gender queer and whatever. It's like the new trends, what are all the gender queer kids that are no back generation. Now, what do you think is going to challenge them.

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01:38:48.120 --> 01:38:53.880

Evan Taylor: What, what, what would the generation coming after them and say, oh my goodness, not gender queer thing. You guys are so old.

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01:38:56.310 --> 01:39:01.770

Diana LaMonte: I don't. Well, there's one or two ways suicide will go really right wing

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01:39:02.160 --> 01:39:09.810

Diana LaMonte: Right and total condemnation or there won't be the other side is there won't be any issues.

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01:39:09.990 --> 01:39:10.860

Evan Taylor: Um,

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01:39:10.920 --> 01:39:12.930

Diana LaMonte: That's just who you are and great

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01:39:14.220 --> 01:39:18.330

Diana LaMonte: I hate to say, I think the world is going right when right

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01:39:21.030 --> 01:39:24.510

Diana LaMonte: People you know the hardcore evangelical Christians.

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01:39:26.130 --> 01:39:28.350

Diana LaMonte: Other organized religions.

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01:39:30.210 --> 01:39:50.400

Diana LaMonte: They have a very narrow focus rate. And then I just find that people are more instead of being open, they're starting to do this. Mm hmm. And that worries me. Yeah, but I'd like to think that we're getting more progressive right

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01:39:51.660 --> 01:40:05.790

Diana LaMonte: Because it's, I mean I'm comparing my life. Mm hmm. And as you said you're almost 40 yeah so that's two generations moved

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01:40:09.450 --> 01:40:11.580

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I mean, it's a lot different.

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01:40:12.690 --> 01:40:16.710

Diana LaMonte: Now, yeah. And let me turn that question back on you.

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01:40:16.830 --> 01:40:19.500

Diana LaMonte: Please. How do you feel

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01:40:21.120 --> 01:40:28.890

Diana LaMonte: Being 40 and looking at children coming up and being diagnosed. Mm hmm from when you were a child.

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01:40:29.010 --> 01:40:32.070

Evan Taylor: Yeah I know that's obviously that's the biggest change. I've seen

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01:40:32.670 --> 01:40:39.960

Evan Taylor: In the last, you know, all my whole life right that that's actually the biggest change. I've seen is that when I was a kid like

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01:40:40.320 --> 01:40:48.300

Evan Taylor: We didn't have gay, straight alliances in schools like you know we had a theatre club that we all knew who was going to Theatre Club, but we didn't tell anybody. But, you know,

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01:40:48.930 --> 01:40:52.470

Evan Taylor: That, like, you know, we had secret ways of finding each other.

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01:40:53.040 --> 01:41:02.550

Evan Taylor: But I even know that that you know that was different. My generation to yours that even the fact that we had secret ways of finding each other in school. You know that there was that and and then

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01:41:03.210 --> 01:41:09.750

Evan Taylor: No one like I remember the big, I would say, over the last 10 years that discussion to start happening around

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01:41:10.020 --> 01:41:19.140

Evan Taylor: Starting to treat kids before puberty and you know why. Why force them to go through painful surgeries later on in life. Well, we can prevent the growth of breasts or whatever that you know

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01:41:19.710 --> 01:41:29.310

Evan Taylor: You know, whatever it is that people want when their kids, we can get them puberty blockers and things. And I would say that's been the biggest change that I've seen is just the advent of the technology.

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01:41:30.120 --> 01:41:37.170

Evan Taylor: Medically to to, in some ways, and prevent people from having to undergo a medical transition later in life.

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01:41:37.680 --> 01:41:41.940

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, you know. And one thing, one thing too is that

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01:41:43.350 --> 01:41:50.040

Diana LaMonte: When I was your age, nobody would be doing this, I would not be sitting here being interviewed

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01:41:50.250 --> 01:41:52.710

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. Nobody really

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01:41:54.420 --> 01:41:55.050

Diana LaMonte: Cared

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01:41:55.320 --> 01:41:57.150

Diana LaMonte: Running there always be sort of

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01:41:57.450 --> 01:41:59.970

Diana LaMonte: A Rupert right but

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01:42:00.990 --> 01:42:12.750

Diana LaMonte: When I was 40 No, there was no interviews or no transgender archive, right, which I think is amazing. Mm hmm.

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01:42:13.740 --> 01:42:20.580

Evan Taylor: Well, this is and this is one of the things I think is so powerful about this work and I try to make sure I'm talking to people about the the inherent

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01:42:21.210 --> 01:42:28.980

Evan Taylor: Practice in some way of of intergenerational work that has to happen right now that if we want in any way for trans people.

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01:42:29.700 --> 01:42:38.970

Evan Taylor: For instance, if we if we do go that scary, scary right wing over controlled place you know our history is going to be erased. You know, like where, you know, not only are we going to be just written

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01:42:39.360 --> 01:42:43.410

Evan Taylor: We're not just gonna be written out of just Obituaries, right, we're going to be written out of history.

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01:42:43.830 --> 01:42:44.190

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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01:42:44.460 --> 01:42:55.920

Evan Taylor: If we don't, you know, if we don't address that because the the the being written out of obituaries happens on an individual level, as a community, if we are all written out there's we're we're disappeared.

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01:42:56.370 --> 01:43:00.270

Diana LaMonte: And then we're like a civilization that never existed.

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01:43:00.450 --> 01:43:13.920

Evan Taylor: Exactly and and we're I think we're just such a such a pivotal moment of history right now where the fact as you're saying that we can have this conversation at all where somebody who is as young as I am, and yet still as old as I am to be able to

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01:43:14.310 --> 01:43:21.330

Evan Taylor: Do these interviews and, you know, have the capacity and the qualifications and get funding to do project and all that. All of that stuff.

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01:43:21.600 --> 01:43:30.630

Evan Taylor: I have to be old enough to be able to do, but we have still have people like yourself, but we're still young enough to be around to tell the stories. And if we don't do that right now.

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01:43:31.050 --> 01:43:40.140

Evan Taylor: Literally, we will will will be written out it will be written out of history because the entire online, you know, the, the world of social media and so forth.

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01:43:40.470 --> 01:43:57.210

Evan Taylor: It will, it will just simply write the, the older generation away is the thing never happened. And I think there's no from myself. This is why I'm quite passionate about the work is it. I had a history teacher who said, without knowledge of the past were like orphans to the present.

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01:43:57.810 --> 01:43:58.800

Evan Taylor: Yes, and

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01:43:58.830 --> 01:44:03.480

Diana LaMonte: And if you don't, the other expression if you don't learn from the past, you're doomed to repeat it.

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01:44:03.660 --> 01:44:12.210

Evan Taylor: Exactly, exactly. And that means will be will be doing the future trans generation back to, you know, kitchen table surgeries and

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01:44:12.210 --> 01:44:12.840

Evan Taylor: Stuff right

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01:44:13.020 --> 01:44:31.230

Evan Taylor: Yeah, that's it. No. And that's that I worry that things would come full circle. And that way. And so I feel that history and creating not just a trans positive history that actually includes trans people at all, but also a history created by trans people about

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01:44:31.740 --> 01:44:33.840

Evan Taylor: People for trans people.

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01:44:34.320 --> 01:44:35.730

Evan Taylor: Right, very different thing.

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01:44:36.240 --> 01:44:45.570

Diana LaMonte: Well, the one of the best things that I've done, you know, in the past 40 3040 years is standing up at the convention.

860

01:44:46.590 --> 01:44:49.950

Diana LaMonte: La convention. I would never have thought about doing that.

861

01:44:50.610 --> 01:44:54.240

Diana LaMonte: Right, I would never have outed myself publicly like that.

862

01:44:54.510 --> 01:44:54.930

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

863

01:44:54.960 --> 01:45:01.260

Diana LaMonte: But when that woman was so disparaging and all the Twitter's among the other women.

864

01:45:01.500 --> 01:45:11.190

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, just I went, I didn't even really think about it, and all of a sudden, I'm standing up and open them in my mouth and I whipped up my birthday.

865

01:45:12.630 --> 01:45:16.530

Diana LaMonte: And, you know, my little voice is going, Oh God, what have you.

866

01:45:16.560 --> 01:45:17.910

Evan Taylor: Done. Are you doing

867

01:45:18.390 --> 01:45:22.830

Diana LaMonte: Yeah. And what I had to do it. I had to

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01:45:24.210 --> 01:45:32.490

Diana LaMonte: And I think I changed a lot of people's mindset I did hear the three of the older women walked out. Oh.

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01:45:33.720 --> 01:45:37.500

Diana LaMonte: And it was fine. They're allowed yeah but

870

01:45:39.360 --> 01:45:55.620

Diana LaMonte: That's sort of one of them, one of the things I'm most proud of later in life is that I did that, I mean there's start. There's a little part of me that is still feeling really insecure about doing it, but it had to be done right and

871

01:45:55.740 --> 01:45:59.550

Evan Taylor: And what what I'm hearing as well. Like, I mean, I, I'm

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01:46:00.150 --> 01:46:07.710

Evan Taylor: Just in talking to over an hour and a half and getting a sense of this. This person and you know what your personality is and and i think that that moment is so

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01:46:07.980 --> 01:46:15.720

Evan Taylor: Um, it's, it's a beautiful microcosm, I think of what of all the work that you've done and and I didn't hear you.

874

01:46:16.350 --> 01:46:22.650

Evan Taylor: So back to what we're talking about this out, this whole thing about activism. Right. And so this activism this moment that you stand up, you

875

01:46:23.190 --> 01:46:30.090

Evan Taylor: I asked you earlier. Like, do you think about yourself as an activist you to relate to it, you're like, well, I mean I guess I've done that. But I don't think about it that way, and no

876

01:46:30.690 --> 01:46:42.270

Evan Taylor: And I don't think you thought at that moment that you stand up. It's the. Well, that's what's right in front of me. I don't have it in some way. You didn't believe you had a choice, like you're telling me, Don't do it. Don't go, Oh, I'm doing it. Here we go.

877

01:46:42.630 --> 01:46:43.140

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

878

01:46:43.620 --> 01:46:53.220

Diana LaMonte: And it was just spontaneous. It's if I had been in a crowd where somebody said hey chain. Go back to China.

879

01:46:53.430 --> 01:46:57.690

Diana LaMonte: Right, I would have gone. Wait a minute. Don't talk to that person like that.

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01:46:57.840 --> 01:46:58.710

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

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01:46:59.160 --> 01:47:00.180

Diana LaMonte: You know, or

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01:47:01.860 --> 01:47:12.510

Diana LaMonte: You know, if somebody had said derogatory things about someone in my presence. Right. I'm the kind that I'll open my mouth and go, Wait a minute, wait a minute.

883

01:47:13.650 --> 01:47:16.800

Diana LaMonte: And so that I didn't even think about standing up.

884

01:47:17.010 --> 01:47:27.720

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm. Well, I'm thinking about the same person who did this at. So how old would you have been when you did this 6069 69 so

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01:47:28.920 --> 01:47:29.460

Evan Taylor: Frequently

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01:47:30.150 --> 01:47:31.110

Diana LaMonte: Now last April.

887

01:47:31.470 --> 01:47:36.810

Evan Taylor: Okay, so. So I was thinking about even just a few years ago. Okay, so it's at 69 the person who does that.

888

01:47:37.620 --> 01:47:46.530

Evan Taylor: What I'm seeing because I again just meeting you and and learning about you is the same person who did that is the same person who went well. Somebody's got to sleep in the basement of the church that doesn't get burned down

889

01:47:47.160 --> 01:47:50.340

Evan Taylor: Yeah, like it's just, that's what has to be done. It's just that.

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01:47:50.760 --> 01:47:57.090

Evan Taylor: You didn't think about it. That's the personality that says, Well, I'm not. I can't be. I can't pretend I didn't see this injustice, I must address

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01:47:57.750 --> 01:47:59.520

Diana LaMonte: Yes. And I've always been that way.

892

01:47:59.820 --> 01:48:12.990

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. And getting back to. That's why I set up act race. I didn't have any support. I did from the chat. Mm hmm immuno your home or fall association of Toronto.

893

01:48:15.270 --> 01:48:26.040

Diana LaMonte: And they really gave me the courage to say, well, you know, you might not understand trannies but I do because I am one right

894

01:48:27.150 --> 01:48:39.900

Evan Taylor: Looking looking back to that now. Knowing what you know now, in the sense of knowing that there is now freedom in whatever way that you were able to stand up in that moment in the Convention, I just think that's such a powerful moment and

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01:48:40.920 --> 01:48:55.080

Evan Taylor: Knowing that that's a possibility. You certainly when you were, you know, 27 right and then looking newly newly out of surgery, you certainly did not think that there was freedom in the world like that at that point you know you didn't

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01:48:55.500 --> 01:48:57.090

Evan Taylor: Know that that whatever happened. I'm imagining

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01:48:57.600 --> 01:48:57.930

Diana LaMonte: No.

898

01:48:58.410 --> 01:48:58.830

Diana LaMonte: Did you

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01:48:59.070 --> 01:49:09.150

Evan Taylor: Did you ever have any idea. Did you did you think that you know that in the future that there would be freedom to be more open, or did you ever have that hope or thought at all.

900

01:49:11.670 --> 01:49:26.100

Diana LaMonte: Well, once the surgery was done, I just felt. Okay, this is a non issue. Okay. And I can live in straight society and nobody has to know, although I said I would never lie about it right would always be honest.

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01:49:27.000 --> 01:49:28.560

Evan Taylor: In that way, has the changed. Good. I

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01:49:28.560 --> 01:49:30.540

Diana LaMonte: Don't have to have it tattooed on my forehead.

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01:49:30.720 --> 01:49:36.090

Evan Taylor: Right. And you any certainly, you know, you certainly pass so well that you would have to say something to someone

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01:49:36.600 --> 01:49:36.930

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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01:49:37.050 --> 01:49:42.150

Evan Taylor: They're not going to guess it's not going to be. Nobody's ever going to look at and be suspicious about you in that way.

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01:49:42.630 --> 01:49:58.020

Diana LaMonte: I have had people come and ask me directly. Right. And I've always told them the truth. And they'll, they'll go home. I was wondering, you know, but and that's fine if some people pick up on it. Great doesn't bother me. Right.

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01:49:59.580 --> 01:50:04.800

Evan Taylor: Thinking about when back when you were, you know, 2730 around that time of your life would you

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01:50:06.240 --> 01:50:18.990

Evan Taylor: Would you have made different decisions, would you have felt differently, what, what would you have done differently or if anything at all. Knowing that at some point in your life, the safety, the safety context with very, very much change in terms of being out

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01:50:22.770 --> 01:50:40.500

Diana LaMonte: Evan, I really don't think I've got to change anything. Hmm, because as I said before, everything I've gone through has been a growth experience and to even hypothetically, go back and say, Well, I wouldn't have done this and I wouldn't have done that. Right.

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01:50:41.550 --> 01:50:45.000

Diana LaMonte: Means that there might have been a lesson that I wouldn't have learned

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01:50:45.600 --> 01:50:46.080

Evan Taylor: Right.

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01:50:46.740 --> 01:50:48.000

Diana LaMonte: You know, you see what I mean.

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01:50:48.600 --> 01:50:52.260

Diana LaMonte: Absolutely. I mean, I wish there were things I didn't have

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01:50:53.400 --> 01:50:55.020

Diana LaMonte: I didn't have to go through

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01:50:55.380 --> 01:50:55.770

Evan Taylor: Right.

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01:50:55.860 --> 01:51:10.680

Diana LaMonte: You know the beatings and going to jail and being a drug addict, be nice about it and a half to go through that. But then I wouldn't have learned the lessons and everything that we go through good or bad.

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01:51:11.700 --> 01:51:20.130

Diana LaMonte: Is a growth experience for you learn something we might not know where that the time. Mm hmm. But when we look back on it, you go

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01:51:21.300 --> 01:51:25.050

Diana LaMonte: That's what I was supposed to learn from that incident. Yes. Yeah.

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01:51:25.080 --> 01:51:26.940

Evan Taylor: That everything happens for a reason.

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01:51:27.180 --> 01:51:30.750

Evan Taylor: I just yeah actually stay alive long enough to find out what that reason is.

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01:51:30.870 --> 01:51:42.420

Diana LaMonte: Exactly, exactly like the drug addiction. I thought, well, I'll never be addicted addicted to drugs again. Right. Well, what happens after my injury. I got on morphine.

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01:51:42.630 --> 01:51:45.600

Diana LaMonte: Um, and I became dependent on morphine.

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01:51:45.990 --> 01:51:48.630

Evan Taylor: Right, yeah, just out of necessity of controlling pain.

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01:51:49.080 --> 01:52:00.450

Diana LaMonte: Right. And so I thought, I don't want to take this anymore. And one day I just stopped taking it. Well, the body contractions and the withdrawal was terrible.

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01:52:00.570 --> 01:52:09.240

Diana LaMonte: Right, I had to take it and you know in half an hour. I felt better. And I said, well, you are really dependent

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01:52:09.840 --> 01:52:13.230

Diana LaMonte: On this. Yeah. And as a side note, I just looked up.

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01:52:14.280 --> 01:52:21.240

Diana LaMonte: Addicted versus dependent right because I always said I was addicted. But no, I wasn't addicted. I was dependent right

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01:52:21.270 --> 01:52:27.780

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, because addiction is the psychological need where dependence is a physical need

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01:52:27.930 --> 01:52:31.920

Evan Taylor: Yes. Yeah. And if dependency isn't interest, it can turn into addiction.

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01:52:32.310 --> 01:52:33.570

Diana LaMonte: Yes, exactly.

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01:52:34.170 --> 01:52:41.460

Diana LaMonte: So, you know, knowing that I could get over my addiction methamphetamine.

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01:52:43.140 --> 01:52:49.530

Diana LaMonte: Meant that I could get over my dependency to morphine and I've been morphine three for almost a year now.

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01:52:49.920 --> 01:52:51.000

Evan Taylor: Oh, good for you. Wow.

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01:52:51.090 --> 01:52:55.500

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and I have to say, part of that is thanks to CBD.

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01:52:56.580 --> 01:52:59.190

Diana LaMonte: Of course, and that's really

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01:52:59.220 --> 01:53:07.440

Evan Taylor: Helping us now as well because I mentioned when you first have your, your detox. Couple of weeks, you know, back in the day and you're just like, I just went to the cottage and smoked pot.

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01:53:07.860 --> 01:53:08.460

Evan Taylor: Leg up

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01:53:08.640 --> 01:53:13.350

Evan Taylor: That wasn't, you know, that wasn't legal then and now we have all the different compounds and so forth, right.

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01:53:13.710 --> 01:53:14.610

Diana LaMonte: Yeah yeah

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01:53:14.640 --> 01:53:16.350

Evan Taylor: Very big differences in that time.

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01:53:17.070 --> 01:53:27.540

Diana LaMonte: And it took me a year to get off of it because we gradually decrease stress and just stop it. Of course, yeah, where the methamphetamine. I just stopped and thought it was awful.

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01:53:27.750 --> 01:53:34.410

Evan Taylor: Yeah, geez. I'm, I'm interested in this idea about visibility. Just to go back just a just a minute or two, we're

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01:53:34.440 --> 01:53:35.640

Evan Taylor: Talking about and

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01:53:36.210 --> 01:53:47.130

Evan Taylor: So that you know the changes in time and what you would have, you know, would have never seen right but that there was a life where you would be able to be in the Ladies Auxiliary and stand up and out yourself to everybody. I'm a half that actually go well.

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01:53:47.880 --> 01:53:57.660

Evan Taylor: And that, I think that's the part of that has that that change has been the huge visibility of trans people and communities over the last 10 years definitely 15

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01:53:58.230 --> 01:54:05.970

Evan Taylor: But certainly the last 10 years as that's you know exploded and visibility. And I'm wondering how that has made for someone like you who

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01:54:06.360 --> 01:54:15.960

Evan Taylor: Just really wanted to just live in regular heterosexual society and how is that visibility as it made your life more difficult in the sense of making

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01:54:16.380 --> 01:54:23.040

Evan Taylor: You know you more visible or that made your life easier, because now people now people expect trans people be around. And you can say, so when you need to.

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01:54:24.600 --> 01:54:29.790

Diana LaMonte: It's, it's difficult. If I allow it to be difficult. Mm hmm.

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01:54:31.650 --> 01:54:39.270

Diana LaMonte: If I want to take that on and go, or should never have done this, what are people going to think me, blah, blah, blah.

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01:54:40.920 --> 01:54:46.410

Diana LaMonte: I mean, that's my decision to make. Mm hmm. And I choose not to go there. Right.

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01:54:47.850 --> 01:55:06.660

Diana LaMonte: One upshot of my coming out at the convention was a lady came up to me and asked if she could talk to me and she said, I have a son that's going through this. Well, is my daughter and she said, I've never met anyone like you before.

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01:55:07.950 --> 01:55:20.940

Diana LaMonte: You know, could we talk about it. And we talked for about an hour. And at the end, she started to cry, and she put her arms around me and said, thank you. Now I understand what my daughter is going through right

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01:55:22.290 --> 01:55:23.220

Diana LaMonte: Well, this is what I can

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01:55:23.370 --> 01:55:25.950

Evan Taylor: Do over and over again, you're just dealing with what comes up in front of you.

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01:55:26.310 --> 01:55:48.300

Diana LaMonte: Exactly, exactly. So, you know, if I want it to bother me. Then I can wallow in it. Right. But I choose not to. I rather people see me as Diana, rather than oh that's Diana, the trainee right I rather people see me as Diana, she's a really nice strong lady. Mm hmm.

957

01:55:49.470 --> 01:55:58.650

Diana LaMonte: And it's all about labels. But if they want to see me as Diana. The tranny I can't do anything about that. Right. That's their head. Mm hmm.

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01:55:59.400 --> 01:56:01.440

Diana LaMonte: Long as I keep mine on my shoulders.

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01:56:01.830 --> 01:56:03.840

Diana LaMonte: And I have a positive attitude.

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01:56:04.950 --> 01:56:05.490

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm.

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01:56:06.930 --> 01:56:09.900

Diana LaMonte: Because I have to say I really wonder devote doing this interview.

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01:56:10.350 --> 01:56:10.890

Oh really,

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01:56:14.100 --> 01:56:21.660

Diana LaMonte: I thought, and when I was reading over the consent forms about it being on Facebook and

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01:56:22.590 --> 01:56:39.030

Diana LaMonte: You know, other social media. I thought, oh god, do I want that exposure. Mm hmm. You know, Jerry really want to do this. And I thought, what's going to happen the Klu Klux Klan is not going to come to my door with a burning cross

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01:56:39.210 --> 01:56:42.810

Diana LaMonte: Right. And if people don't like me, that's fine.

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01:56:43.110 --> 01:56:48.000

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. Unless they start paying my rent and my bills. They really don't matter.

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01:56:48.300 --> 01:56:48.960

Right.

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01:56:49.980 --> 01:57:05.550

Diana LaMonte: You know, and people will think whatever they want to think, but it's how I view myself. Mm hmm. And how I present myself to the world. Otherwise, it really just a matter. So I'm doing this.

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01:57:05.670 --> 01:57:06.090

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

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01:57:06.630 --> 01:57:15.000

Diana LaMonte: Well, I'm as you said earlier, it's really important that we get this stuff on tape and give it in an archive. Exactly.

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01:57:16.050 --> 01:57:16.200

And

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01:57:17.400 --> 01:57:30.960

Evan Taylor: As you're talking about that that pivotal moment that we're at where the, the history, like in my mind, there's a very strong line that happens of brown the year 2000 where suddenly the internet became mainstream and everyone have access to it.

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01:57:31.560 --> 01:57:38.760

Evan Taylor: And people were some of the first early adopters of the internet in the 90s, trying to get to make community and find each other.

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01:57:39.420 --> 01:57:51.270

Evan Taylor: And and it's interesting to me because I look at that this line and thank everybody who was doing activism of any kind, pre 2000 if we don't get this on tape and digitize it

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01:57:52.380 --> 01:57:52.830

Evan Taylor: It's gone.

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01:57:53.160 --> 01:57:54.480

Diana LaMonte: It's gone. Right.

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01:57:54.870 --> 01:57:58.200

Evan Taylor: You know, it's gone. Like, like the like the Dewey Decimal System like

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01:57:58.470 --> 01:58:05.160

Evan Taylor: You know, it's the things that you know and I hear stories from people about like how they you know how people found each other and that's why I think it's so

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01:58:05.520 --> 01:58:12.810

Evan Taylor: Fascinating about, you know, whether you want to call it a community or not, you know, but just trans people as a as a as a population.

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01:58:13.200 --> 01:58:22.530

Evan Taylor: Is we've been so incredibly creative and resilient about trying to find each other when we are you know we're a minority within a minority with it like we are.

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01:58:22.860 --> 01:58:23.430

Diana LaMonte: Oh, yeah.

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01:58:23.550 --> 01:58:35.520

Evan Taylor: Just small percentage, you know, and then now this we've been organizing well enough that we're starting to see that what we used to think was a small percentage of us become a much greater population now.

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01:58:36.150 --> 01:58:37.560

Diana LaMonte: What we're coming out of the closet.

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01:58:38.190 --> 01:58:46.560

Evan Taylor: And what we used to think was like point 2% the population is now starting to we're looking at this, these numbers and being like, people weren't telling anyone

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01:58:47.280 --> 01:58:50.880

Diana LaMonte: Exactly and and there's a really good point about that.

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01:58:52.200 --> 01:59:00.540

Diana LaMonte: You hear about older transgendered people male to female who've been married have like three kids.

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01:59:00.600 --> 01:59:05.820

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. And I've never understood that. Because I've never had sex with a woman.

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01:59:06.150 --> 01:59:06.630

Right.

989

01:59:08.970 --> 01:59:21.360

Diana LaMonte: And I've never understood how somebody could hide their, their being. Mm hmm deep enough that they could marry father children and then come out later.

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01:59:21.570 --> 01:59:22.050

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

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01:59:22.110 --> 01:59:24.180

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I never understood that.

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01:59:25.650 --> 01:59:29.670

Diana LaMonte: I mean really take somebody with a lot of strength.

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01:59:30.960 --> 01:59:33.060

Diana LaMonte: To be able to do that. Mm hmm.

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01:59:33.270 --> 01:59:45.570

Evan Taylor: Absolutely. Well, I mean, that's a part of that everyone's balancing their own sort of they're not just their own identities and whatever, but they're also balancing it with the options that are available to them at the time in the context in the era that they're making those decisions.

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01:59:46.140 --> 01:59:56.190

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and I have heard people that have transitioned later in life, say, Well, I thought if I got married and had kids would hear me.

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01:59:56.430 --> 02:00:09.660

Evan Taylor: Right. Yeah, I think that's why you see so many especially trans women who were in the military or police force or whatever because they're like, if I can do that. If I can perform this kind of masculinity, I can you know I can make it through that.

997

02:00:10.170 --> 02:00:10.650

Diana LaMonte: Right.

998

02:00:10.710 --> 02:00:16.830

Evan Taylor: And then later find out you know what that's just I can't. I like the cumulative effect of years of it and it tolls. I think on people.

999

02:00:17.190 --> 02:00:18.210

Diana LaMonte: Yeah yeah

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02:00:18.660 --> 02:00:23.130

Diana LaMonte: Yeah. Um, have you interviewed a lot of older transgendered people

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02:00:23.970 --> 02:00:30.660

Evan Taylor: We, I can't remember what number you are, but we're hoping to get about 30 I don't think we'll get quite that many but I

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02:00:31.740 --> 02:00:33.390

Evan Taylor: Think your number 12 or 13

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02:00:34.830 --> 02:00:41.250

Evan Taylor: So that's how the RBI and I've got another and another dozen or so booking you know in the in the next in the next few weeks. So

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02:00:41.490 --> 02:00:42.000

Diana LaMonte: Oh, good.

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02:00:42.330 --> 02:00:43.920

Diana LaMonte: So yeah, the oldest

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02:00:44.730 --> 02:00:49.110

Evan Taylor: Not at all, not by far. I think my oldest so far as at free

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02:00:49.590 --> 02:00:54.120

Evan Taylor: Really yes he yes I think 83 is my oldest so far.

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02:00:54.990 --> 02:00:58.860

Diana LaMonte: Did they have their surgery done early or trans. Yes, yes.

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02:00:58.890 --> 02:01:00.420

Evan Taylor: This, this particular person.

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02:01:01.620 --> 02:01:05.550

Evan Taylor: Who I won't say her name because I haven't got her consent form signed

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02:01:05.850 --> 02:01:11.490

Evan Taylor: And but but it will be public at whatever point. Um, yes. No, she had her surgery in the 16th.

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02:01:13.230 --> 02:01:14.370

Diana LaMonte: Really, yeah.

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02:01:14.490 --> 02:01:19.590

Evan Taylor: And yeah, I've talked to folks who are who are actually Harry Benjamin's patients.

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02:01:21.180 --> 02:01:22.110

Diana LaMonte: Oh really,

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02:01:22.170 --> 02:01:23.940

Evan Taylor: From back that far back. Yeah.

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02:01:24.060 --> 02:01:25.050

Diana LaMonte: Oh, yeah.

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02:01:25.290 --> 02:01:27.300

Diana LaMonte: And, you know, the definitive textbook.

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02:01:27.510 --> 02:01:35.310

Evan Taylor: Exactly. Well, this and so it's interesting because the, the folks that I've talked to who are in the older bracket that the youngest person I've talked with 57

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02:01:36.240 --> 02:01:46.320

Evan Taylor: So, and maybe at the point for our numbers are. We are interviewing people 55 and older, because we're trying to get folks that transition prior to the internet, basically.

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02:01:46.860 --> 02:01:47.250

Diana LaMonte: Right.

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02:01:47.400 --> 02:01:56.160

Evan Taylor: When I get folks who, when I'm talking to folks who are maybe in their 50s or early 60s and those folks tend more often. It's not for everybody but

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02:01:56.730 --> 02:02:00.990

Evan Taylor: Tend to have been out throughout, you know, a little bit longer.

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02:02:01.530 --> 02:02:10.350

Evan Taylor: In the sense of the, you know, once they either want to search your did or figured out they were trans, whatever that was they've stayed out a lot of that. A lot of that time.

1024

02:02:10.770 --> 02:02:17.910

Evan Taylor: For the folks, I'm talking to and you're in the younger side but still have the older half of folks. I've talked to

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02:02:18.930 --> 02:02:35.610

Evan Taylor: And a lot more like yourself who say, well I transitioned earlier on in life. And then I went stuff for like 30 years you know until either somebody outed me or you know I got found out, or I went and, you know, told the entire ladies conference.

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02:02:37.440 --> 02:02:43.230

Evan Taylor: And so, and this is, it's a very I'm hearing this, this sort of trajectory. Quite often, where

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02:02:43.290 --> 02:02:44.400

Diana LaMonte: I wonder and

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02:02:44.430 --> 02:02:52.320

Evan Taylor: Then I went back into the closet and it's only been in the last 20 years since things have changed. And I see that now I now I tell people

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02:02:52.830 --> 02:03:00.390

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I do want to correct you on one thing i don't i don't think that is going back into the closet.

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02:03:03.030 --> 02:03:08.190

Diana LaMonte: Like I said, I don't have a t shirt that says kiss me. I'm trends, but I've never hignett

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02:03:08.610 --> 02:03:09.420

Evan Taylor: Rate is

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02:03:09.480 --> 02:03:11.580

Diana LaMonte: It just doesn't come up. Right.

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02:03:11.610 --> 02:03:14.280

Evan Taylor: So because he moved into, like, yeah, so good. Thank you for that correction.

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02:03:14.940 --> 02:03:29.820

Evan Taylor: Let me phrase like differently in terms of saying it's not so much about going back into the closet as much as it's about being able to live in. Once authentic an authentic self where that might not actually be the number one issue that is, you know, is defining you anymore.

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02:03:30.330 --> 02:03:44.160

Diana LaMonte: Right where before you transition. That was the be all and end all. Mm hmm. Where once you've achieved that goal or whatever label you want to put on it, right, then it's not an issue anymore. Mm hmm.

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02:03:45.390 --> 02:03:58.890

Diana LaMonte: The term of going back in the closet to me has a negative connotation, like, You're hiding something rate. I've never hidden it but it's nobody's business but my own unless they specifically asked me.

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02:03:59.220 --> 02:04:05.490

Diana LaMonte: Hmm, and then I'll tell them the truth. And I can talk on it, as you know, don't notice I can talk on an ad nauseum

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02:04:06.180 --> 02:04:08.910

Evan Taylor: Right, it's just a matter of whether or not. Is this like

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02:04:10.110 --> 02:04:25.320

Evan Taylor: I remember for myself in my early coming out years in the, in the early 90s when people would ask me if I was a lesbian or not. And my rule I had the same rule that you have. I tell nobody unless they asked me, and if they asked me, we're going to talk about, but

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02:04:25.350 --> 02:04:27.300

Diana LaMonte: It was a matter you transgendered.

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02:04:27.480 --> 02:04:34.980

Evan Taylor: Yes that's right yeah yes I it was a I know it's in one of the emails, but I must, I must have sandwiched in there yet. No.

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02:04:35.070 --> 02:04:38.340

Diana LaMonte: I never read this. Yes, you are a game, man.

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02:04:38.400 --> 02:04:43.410

Evan Taylor: No, no, no. Well, I'm sometimes depends. Depends on whether or not people see me as my husband and how and where

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02:04:44.670 --> 02:04:49.770

Evan Taylor: But like my, my partner is also my partner's also trans. So we've been together as a lesbian couple

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02:04:50.040 --> 02:04:56.430

Evan Taylor: And then I transitioned, and for about 18 months or so we were at least perceived in the world as a man and a woman.

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02:04:56.760 --> 02:05:03.930

Evan Taylor: And then my partner said, You know what I've been dating all these trans people, because I'm trans. And I was like, Okay, cool. So then my partner transitioned.

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02:05:04.200 --> 02:05:22.710

Evan Taylor: And so, and then also my partner's adopted by the white side of his family and ended up getting in touch with the indigenous Aboriginal side of his family and start identifying as to spirit. And so we have, we can we do the LG BT Q to panel all by ourselves.

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02:05:24.060 --> 02:05:26.850

Diana LaMonte: Wow, that's amazing. I would

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02:05:28.140 --> 02:05:32.220

Diana LaMonte: Know this is an old expression because I'm an old lady, I would never have known.

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02:05:32.490 --> 02:05:43.320

Evan Taylor: Right. Right. And that, and this is one of those phrases. Phrases that, you know, back in the day, people said that night heard, I heard right now and you're I heard your hesitation, because you're like, I don't know if we're supposed to see this.

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02:05:45.360 --> 02:05:50.220

Diana LaMonte: Exactly, exactly. So, well, I'm blown away.

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02:05:51.930 --> 02:05:59.430

Diana LaMonte: Because I was going to ask you earlier. How did you get into this, why are you doing it. It's like an education project or

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02:06:00.930 --> 02:06:02.910

Diana LaMonte: No, no, I know why you got into it. Yeah.

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02:06:02.940 --> 02:06:09.480

Evan Taylor: No, I was. I grew up as a very much of a, you know, bit of a what we would call a tomboy. You know, I don't know if they say that now, but they certainly did to me.

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02:06:09.870 --> 02:06:16.350

Evan Taylor: And so I grew up very much like that. And then in my, in my early 20s and I've been sort of very much in

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02:06:16.710 --> 02:06:25.350

Evan Taylor: You know, direct lesbian community and I really enjoyed that. But it was just there was something else that I couldn't quite put my finger on and a lot of it was around just

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02:06:26.010 --> 02:06:35.310

Evan Taylor: The community at that time, you know, the lesbian community was very anti man in certain ways. And you know the gold star lesbian was important.

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02:06:35.340 --> 02:06:36.030

Diana LaMonte: Achievement. Yeah.

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02:06:36.120 --> 02:06:48.360

Evan Taylor: He and and i and i just never quite got that because I was like, I, I just didn't I never understood quite why we were priding ourselves as a community on gender stereotypes that have been used against us.

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02:06:48.720 --> 02:06:58.860

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm never made sense to me. And so I started hanging around with trans folks a bit. And that's when I started with. Okay, this starts to make sense and it was for me as much a

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02:07:00.300 --> 02:07:11.370

Evan Taylor: Political thing as it was anything to do with my body and in any way you know my Mama always said a woman can be anything she wants. So, one can be anything she wants to. I can't should be a man.

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02:07:11.850 --> 02:07:13.680

Diana LaMonte: That's right, and that's

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02:07:15.240 --> 02:07:26.610

Diana LaMonte: It's really cool that I didn't know this before, because I made statements about female to male right and how the surgery hadn't been rejected.

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02:07:27.780 --> 02:07:31.050

Diana LaMonte: And I'm wondering if I would have sent sick myself if I'd known

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02:07:31.830 --> 02:07:40.260

Evan Taylor: Interesting because I felt like I was trying to, you know, like I would say things like, well, we as trans people, you know, our community that that sort of that sort of thing. And so I'm

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02:07:40.560 --> 02:07:44.130

Evan Taylor: I think it's interesting that in some ways you had

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02:07:44.580 --> 02:07:59.040

Evan Taylor: You had you had seen what you know what, whatever you know my beard or whatever you're seeing a particular thing that automatically just clued you into a you know this assumption that this person is this gender, even though we're having conversation about trans history together.

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02:07:59.880 --> 02:08:02.640

Diana LaMonte: Well, I thought you were a gay man that was interested in it.

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02:08:02.940 --> 02:08:08.280

Diana LaMonte: Right. And there's no idea. And then I guess you saw my 10 hit the floor.

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02:08:09.570 --> 02:08:10.440

Evan Taylor: I noticed. Yeah.

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02:08:12.270 --> 02:08:14.880

Evan Taylor: Yeah, you'll, you'll see it on the playback or just a moment.

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02:08:16.350 --> 02:08:24.780

Diana LaMonte: I was done, I had no idea. None at all. May I ask you a personal question, please. Have you done all the transition

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02:08:25.140 --> 02:08:34.410

Evan Taylor: I've had some sort of medical and surgical interventions, I wouldn't say for myself. I don't identify as male, and I

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02:08:34.920 --> 02:08:39.270

Evan Taylor: My Femeness is not a problem for me. I know it's very unusual for people who look like me to say that

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02:08:39.900 --> 02:08:51.000

Evan Taylor: But for me, it was just a bit. I just wanted a beard, I really didn't care too much about know generals was not an issue for me as like a whatever the plumbing works electricity works. I'm not really worried about it.

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02:08:51.360 --> 02:08:51.870

Diana LaMonte: And yeah.

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02:08:52.170 --> 02:08:53.910

Diana LaMonte: That's for me, Miss practical

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02:08:54.360 --> 02:09:05.100

Diana LaMonte: And that was a point that I brought up earlier and it was good that I didn't know because I said that I didn't understand how people could go partway and not all the way

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02:09:05.250 --> 02:09:15.390

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm. Well, and this is part for me about what why try and set this up for folks. I say this is intergenerational work. And part of what I'm saying. What I'm saying that is

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02:09:16.710 --> 02:09:21.000

Evan Taylor: The subtext is I'm not going to judge you, like, you know,

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02:09:21.420 --> 02:09:28.050

Evan Taylor: You can use whatever words you need to use explain it to me because you're going to be telling me things from back in a in a time

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02:09:28.260 --> 02:09:37.350

Evan Taylor: When the language was very different. And the last thing i mean will be what a terrible oral history interview. This would be if I sat here and said okay, we don't say that anymore.

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02:09:38.160 --> 02:09:38.670

Diana LaMonte: Right off.

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02:09:38.910 --> 02:09:40.380

Evan Taylor: The bat bat like who

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02:09:40.650 --> 02:09:51.000

Evan Taylor: Is somebody like Half your age to be sitting here policing, what language you're using in the practice and I'd like to think that's why they hired me for the job.

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02:09:51.840 --> 02:10:00.810

Evan Taylor: But the practice for me is that that intergenerational work of making it in fact safe for you to tell me these things to feel her to feel understood

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02:10:00.900 --> 02:10:02.010

Evan Taylor: To feel like you're not going to get

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02:10:02.010 --> 02:10:03.390

Evan Taylor: Judged so that we

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02:10:03.450 --> 02:10:05.130

Evan Taylor: Get the real history that's accurate.

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02:10:05.640 --> 02:10:15.120

Diana LaMonte: And that's why I was so surprised when you brought up the word that I was using the word tranny right because, to me, that's not derogatory

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02:10:15.180 --> 02:10:23.460

Diana LaMonte: Exactly. And yeah, I was a little confused when you mentioned that I was using the word tranny

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02:10:24.990 --> 02:10:28.710

Diana LaMonte: And I thought, Oh, is that the wrong thing to say nowadays.

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02:10:28.800 --> 02:10:39.120

Evan Taylor: Right and very, very much. I mean, politically speaking, if you're talking to. No 20 year olds right now who identify themselves as activists.

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02:10:39.660 --> 02:10:53.400

Evan Taylor: I would very strongly recommend not using that word because they are just going to rip you up one side down the other. And I find that so problematic and not because language changes and it should. And it's a good thing and it's progressive and I appreciate that.

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02:10:54.480 --> 02:11:08.880

Evan Taylor: We don't rip apart. The people who, you know, we couldn't be here without you know like if it wasn't for the whole bunch of trannies out there with stilettos at, you know, you know, throwing them at cops and in the in the revolution, right, if

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02:11:09.780 --> 02:11:19.170

Evan Taylor: It wasn't for them. We couldn't be here. I wouldn't be I just finished finished my night my my PhD, looking at trans people's health care like

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02:11:19.470 --> 02:11:19.920

Diana LaMonte: Oh, yeah.

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02:11:20.100 --> 02:11:38.190

Evan Taylor: We're able to do that. If it wasn't for for those people. And so for me it's a, it's a, I find it disturbing and sad sometimes in the way that I think the internet generation is a huge part of this where we we have no knowledge of our own history and where we came from.

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02:11:38.580 --> 02:11:42.960

Evan Taylor: And our memories are like, you know, five years is a long time nowadays.

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02:11:43.230 --> 02:11:45.810

Evan Taylor: Yeah, and that's that's an awful thing because it means

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02:11:45.810 --> 02:11:46.140

Diana LaMonte: It.

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02:11:46.680 --> 02:12:02.610

Evan Taylor: Means of 2015 is history. And it's not. It's for at least for trans people. It's very much the only president we've got. And so who allowed us who did work you know who who created the associations, creating transsexuals and allowed

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02:12:03.330 --> 02:12:06.090

Evan Taylor: Just that little piece of activism to move something forward.

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02:12:06.600 --> 02:12:07.650

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, who was

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02:12:07.680 --> 02:12:24.540

Evan Taylor: Who was sleeping in churches and protecting the church in order for people like me to be able to go to school go to college, be able to talk about gender issues get an education and gender issues enough to be able to know what is offensive or not, you know,

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02:12:24.600 --> 02:12:28.620

Evan Taylor: And and that's a privileged position to be able to even think we know what it's offensive.

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02:12:29.250 --> 02:12:29.550

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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02:12:29.880 --> 02:12:32.850

Evan Taylor: For me, and so it's very much a matter of I want to

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02:12:33.900 --> 02:12:49.860

Evan Taylor: To make sure that folks feel safe and that they know that this is a matter of recording our history and history. It's going to be defined for the first time ever by actual trans people having an actual conversation about actual trans people's histories and lives.

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02:12:50.010 --> 02:12:56.580

Evan Taylor: And never before has that like rate right now in this moment. You and I are making history because this has never been done before.

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02:12:57.480 --> 02:13:02.640

Diana LaMonte: And you know the word tranny to me is not in the same league as a chink in negar

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02:13:02.970 --> 02:13:04.800

Diana LaMonte: Right or faggot.

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02:13:04.890 --> 02:13:06.810

Diana LaMonte: Right or Dyck

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02:13:07.350 --> 02:13:18.240

Diana LaMonte: As I mean, actually. But to me, I mean, as you said 20 year olds. Now my considered tranny to be on that level, and

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02:13:18.270 --> 02:13:21.990

Evan Taylor: They do when they will. But that's because they're not knowledgeable about the history

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02:13:22.470 --> 02:13:27.870

Evan Taylor: And this is all those other words that you mentioned were words that other people use against those communities.

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02:13:28.110 --> 02:13:30.360

Evan Taylor: Exactly training was our words.

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02:13:30.780 --> 02:13:31.680

Evan Taylor: Yeah, we

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02:13:31.740 --> 02:13:32.340

Diana LaMonte: Recycle

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02:13:32.640 --> 02:13:39.810

Evan Taylor: And now we've let it and I know this where I come back to this whole piece about language like you know reclaiming language.

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02:13:39.930 --> 02:13:40.290

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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02:13:40.530 --> 02:13:48.810

Evan Taylor: Those were our words and they were taken away from us and I think we should bring them back because we're giving our power by allowing that to be a bad word.

1123

02:13:49.260 --> 02:14:01.230

Diana LaMonte: And yeah, and if you were with a group of black people and they were calling each other and nigger. Right. I mean, they wouldn't beat each other up exactly heard they use in their community.

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02:14:01.380 --> 02:14:08.040

Diana LaMonte: Yes, where if somebody outside their community uses that it's a derogatory term, huh, yeah.

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02:14:08.790 --> 02:14:19.260

Evan Taylor: And even training. I think is even more so, a word in the sense of at least like, you know, thinking about racialized words, those were words that those those communities didn't make those up themselves.

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02:14:19.440 --> 02:14:20.130

Diana LaMonte: No, they didn't.

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02:14:20.160 --> 02:14:28.440

Evan Taylor: Stop ourselves. This is actually our and it's actually, it's not just been used against us. It was actually taken from us to use against us.

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02:14:28.500 --> 02:14:41.400

Diana LaMonte: Yes, wonderful point wonderful point and I think that the word nigger black people have taken that as a derogatory word and made it part of their culture.

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02:14:41.790 --> 02:14:44.550

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. Because it diminishes the negativity of it.

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02:14:44.730 --> 02:14:46.230

Evan Taylor: In some ways they're farther ahead.

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02:14:46.440 --> 02:14:48.270

Diana LaMonte: Than we are on that because everybody

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02:14:48.270 --> 02:14:52.470

Evan Taylor: reclaiming something that, honestly. What's even stolen from them was used against them.

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02:14:52.500 --> 02:14:56.010

Evan Taylor: And they're just like, You've no more. You can't use it against us. We're taking it.

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02:14:56.400 --> 02:14:56.850

Evan Taylor: And

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02:14:57.030 --> 02:15:12.810

Evan Taylor: We're not doing that as community. And I think so much of that for trans folks, is it really is around this. I don't want to say PC or whatever or it's because it's not about that. It's about it's about respect and we haven't been shown it as a community at all.

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02:15:12.960 --> 02:15:13.110

Diana LaMonte: No.

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02:15:13.350 --> 02:15:13.830

Evan Taylor: No, no, we

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02:15:13.920 --> 02:15:27.540

Evan Taylor: Don't know how to respect ourselves enough to organize and in fact our history as people in the last 40 years has been exactly like you said you're not allowed to be it. If you go and out yourself. They're going to close down the entire Clark Institute.

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02:15:28.410 --> 02:15:29.130

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, right.

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02:15:29.160 --> 02:15:29.820

Diana LaMonte: And that's literally

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02:15:30.000 --> 02:15:40.080

Evan Taylor: Tell me happens. So if we own ourselves and they literally close off access to care for everybody else in our community, then it means our survival. It's actually based on hiding

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02:15:40.380 --> 02:15:41.040

Diana LaMonte: It's based on

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02:15:41.610 --> 02:15:56.610

Evan Taylor: It's based on on assimilating in a certain way and and i think that that's so that's what I'm hearing from folks of your, your generation in the sense of assimilation wasn't, it wasn't just, you know, an option. It was the only way to survive like

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02:15:56.670 --> 02:16:04.560

Diana LaMonte: Yes, and I hadn't thought of using that word but assimilation is exactly it. Mm hmm.

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02:16:06.150 --> 02:16:10.410

Evan Taylor: How ridiculous is that of people who are 20 years old to be sitting there being like, you should have been out

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02:16:12.030 --> 02:16:12.300

Evan Taylor: Like

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02:16:12.360 --> 02:16:15.720

Diana LaMonte: I was otherwise you wouldn't be interviewing me.

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02:16:15.840 --> 02:16:27.720

Evan Taylor: Exactly, exactly. And the fact that even, even the idea of assimilating would be seen as politically, you know that there would be political developments around at these days. Among activists right

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02:16:27.990 --> 02:16:29.070

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and

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02:16:29.100 --> 02:16:44.280

Evan Taylor: Knowing that so much of that is based in not understanding our own history, not knowing who we are not knowing the work. People have to do not understanding that actually we were out and the only ways possible any other ways we would have been killed that we wouldn't even be here.

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02:16:44.730 --> 02:16:51.690

Diana LaMonte: Right. And I mean once as, as we talked about before months. The surgery was done.

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02:16:53.340 --> 02:16:58.500

Diana LaMonte: I didn't. There wasn't a huge movement to fight for it.

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02:16:58.620 --> 02:17:07.530

Diana LaMonte: Right. So, not that I just said, Well, I got mine. I'm out of here. It just there wasn't that much to do. Right. Yeah.

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02:17:08.130 --> 02:17:29.340

Diana LaMonte: Where before it was banging the drum to get the surgery done. Mm hmm. And then it was just like, I don't know, even assimilate is the right word. It was just, okay, that parts done right, but I will always be there if somebody needs to stand up for them in the training community.

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02:17:29.580 --> 02:17:34.020

Diana LaMonte: Right. Right. And that was reinforced last April.

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02:17:34.560 --> 02:17:41.340

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm. And would you say that this is a matter of for you that you would identify this, would you be one of those people who says

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02:17:41.760 --> 02:17:49.080

Evan Taylor: That that my gender transition or whatever, that's part of my medical history as it is now, I'm just a woman I'm aware that I'm a trans person.

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02:17:49.290 --> 02:17:58.620

Evan Taylor: And I'm aware that I'm blending that to that community, but it's really not part of my my life. It's not really part of my identity. It's just something that happened that I don't deny

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02:17:59.580 --> 02:18:21.660

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I think that's a really good way to put it. Evan. I really do. I mean, I'm not hiding. But as I said earlier, I don't wear a t shirt. Mm hmm. And I don't have a tattoo to cross my head right but when I need to stand up. I will. Mm hmm. You know, hence last April. Hence this interview. Yeah.

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02:18:22.830 --> 02:18:31.080

Evan Taylor: And certainly, by the way. I mean, we will talk a little bit more later when we email about the forum and stuff, but we can, we will go over all of those options and how this is used and you know if

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02:18:31.440 --> 02:18:38.790

Evan Taylor: If you, if you want it to be as publicly available, then we can make it publicly available. And if you're like, You know what, just quietly slip it into the archives

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02:18:38.910 --> 02:18:50.070

Evan Taylor: You don't have to restrict it but just slip it in don't make a big issue about it. It's up to you how it how it happens. And also remember there's that option if you decide it can be embargoed for 25 years and

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02:18:50.430 --> 02:18:51.840

Diana LaMonte: Right, I read the chat.

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02:18:52.260 --> 02:18:56.910

Evan Taylor: Or, you know, so you can just, you just decide, is this something I want people to see while while I'm alive or not.

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02:18:58.380 --> 02:18:58.650

Diana LaMonte: You don't

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02:18:59.430 --> 02:19:04.440

Evan Taylor: Right now you can think on it, and we'll talk a bit more about the consent form and all that but but

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02:19:04.770 --> 02:19:05.130

Diana LaMonte: You know what

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02:19:05.310 --> 02:19:07.410

Diana LaMonte: The options when I first read it.

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02:19:08.670 --> 02:19:11.880

Diana LaMonte: I guess my basic insecurity came up and I thought

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02:19:13.080 --> 02:19:16.710

Diana LaMonte: Well, if it's out there, what are people going to think and

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02:19:17.850 --> 02:19:21.450

Diana LaMonte: Hell, I'll be 70 next month. Who gives a shit.

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02:19:22.320 --> 02:19:43.410

Diana LaMonte: You know, but there's I grew up with that insecurity, right, which even after everything at my age is still in there somewhere. Hmm. Right. So what kind of when I was reading it. I went. Ooh, and I just had these pictures of it splashed all over the internet and

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02:19:44.550 --> 02:19:45.630

Diana LaMonte: Do you know what I mean.

1174

02:19:45.870 --> 02:19:56.700

Diana LaMonte: Absolutely, absolutely. Well, and yet the other part of me is going. Whoa, what can happen to you if somebody's going to burn across on your front lawn.

1175

02:19:57.180 --> 02:19:57.780

Evan Taylor: Right.

1176

02:19:58.140 --> 02:20:03.570

Diana LaMonte: Are people going to treat you any differently. Mm hmm. And if they do, do you really care.

1177

02:20:03.750 --> 02:20:04.590

Evan Taylor: Yeah, right.

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02:20:05.790 --> 02:20:16.770

Diana LaMonte: So yeah, it was, it was interesting because I printed them all out and I was sitting there reading and it was like a roller coaster of emotion.

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02:20:17.550 --> 02:20:31.500

Diana LaMonte: Like fear of exposure and then the fight, and then the fear and the fight, and it was really a roller coaster I it's very interesting because I haven't gone through that in a long time.

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02:20:33.270 --> 02:20:36.450

Evan Taylor: Was elected curiosity ones. Last time you remember going through that.

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02:20:38.490 --> 02:20:39.180

Diana LaMonte: Last April.

1182

02:20:39.840 --> 02:20:41.100

Evan Taylor: Ah, OK.

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02:20:41.610 --> 02:20:45.660

Diana LaMonte: And before that, it was decades.

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02:20:45.750 --> 02:20:53.580

Evan Taylor: Many years right. Interesting. And the reason I'm asking is because he used. I don't know if you notice he says, But you literally say fight or flight.

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02:20:55.290 --> 02:20:56.040

Diana LaMonte: Oh, yeah.

1186

02:20:56.220 --> 02:21:08.910

Evan Taylor: Like you're like I had this and I decided to run away again. And you talked about it, like literally that put your brain and your body into a place of, like, I don't know if I should run away or fight like what, what do I do here.

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02:21:09.330 --> 02:21:09.690

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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02:21:10.350 --> 02:21:11.700

Diana LaMonte: And I went, yeah.

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02:21:11.790 --> 02:21:33.750

Diana LaMonte: Like at the at the convention. There wasn't any of that thought process. It was just, boom, and I did it were reading the forums. It was like all the way, do you know and that's really interesting like after 70 years and everything I've been through.

1190

02:21:34.830 --> 02:21:36.330

Diana LaMonte: It's amazing that

1191

02:21:37.650 --> 02:21:40.380

Diana LaMonte: I go through that there's still got to be

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02:21:41.430 --> 02:21:47.790

Diana LaMonte: Part of my psyche, that's still in the closet as the word, there's still that little nub of fear.

1193

02:21:49.440 --> 02:21:51.540

Diana LaMonte: And I find that quite amazing. Yeah.

1194

02:21:51.570 --> 02:21:59.190

Evan Taylor: That's what I was gonna, I was gonna say is it more than even the closet i is the fear, I think, is that is that piece of like

1195

02:22:00.210 --> 02:22:07.620

Evan Taylor: So some of my go around bit and I'm going to come back. So some of my work has been in in working with people with cancer.

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02:22:07.890 --> 02:22:16.530

Evan Taylor: And what happens with people they had cancer and then they, you know, they may be lucky enough to go into remission, they, you know, made their cancer free for five years. But what they say is

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02:22:16.860 --> 02:22:22.140

Evan Taylor: No matter what, like I still I'm waiting for it. Like, I'm still terrified of it all the time. And so

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02:22:22.650 --> 02:22:32.160

Evan Taylor: You know this constant sort of fear and awareness and so a lot of people say, basically, once you've had cancer, you kind of, you never stop looking for it. You never stop living with it and

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02:22:32.520 --> 02:22:38.220

Evan Taylor: I think in the same way. Any trauma is like is that is that same sort of way when we've been through trauma.

1200

02:22:38.550 --> 02:22:48.300

Evan Taylor: And so some folks will say, you know, oh, it's like the cancer patients will say, Oh, I feel so ridiculous. I didn't, I didn't cancer in 10 years. And yet, every time I got a sore throat. I think it's like cancer, the throat, you know,

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02:22:48.330 --> 02:22:57.120

Evan Taylor: Exactly. And what I'm hearing from you is that that's the same that trauma is actually the same thing that happens for trans folks that it doesn't leave your body

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02:22:57.480 --> 02:23:12.930

Evan Taylor: That when you're invited back. But when you think about it. So you know if you're somebody I worked with had a very good comparison and said, if you're in a jungle and a tiger jumps out and attacks you from behind a tree. It's not insane to continue looking for tigers behind trees.

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02:23:13.740 --> 02:23:23.100

Evan Taylor: Right. It's the only thing that makes sense is that you need to look for it. And so in that way that trauma of the tiger jumping out or cancer or, you know,

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02:23:23.430 --> 02:23:36.750

Evan Taylor: being beaten and abused and thrown in jail and all the, all this stuff. Yes. Like, if that's a trauma and so we have to then look at people and say, you know, you know how you're afraid of that, thank goodness.

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02:23:37.170 --> 02:23:37.500

Diana LaMonte: That

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02:23:37.680 --> 02:23:40.440

Evan Taylor: You would be insane. If you weren't afraid.

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02:23:41.010 --> 02:23:49.980

Evan Taylor: Right, this has been literally like literally beaten into your body beaten into your bones beaten into your psyche and etched into your psyche, in a way.

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02:23:50.220 --> 02:24:01.560

Evan Taylor: That I don't understand how we could ever possibly expect that somebody who's had, you know, not just one tiger but hundreds, maybe thousands of tigers over a lifetime jumping out of trees that

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02:24:02.580 --> 02:24:12.090

Evan Taylor: We have to look at the person who was afraid and what's behind every tree for a tiger and say that's a smart person, you would be insane. If you didn't do it. So that's why

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02:24:12.360 --> 02:24:14.550

Evan Taylor: I just here. It's a good thing and

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02:24:16.830 --> 02:24:21.750

Diana LaMonte: I just feel like at my age. Why do I let things like that bother me.

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02:24:22.140 --> 02:24:23.280

Evan Taylor: Because you're saying

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02:24:24.090 --> 02:24:38.400

Evan Taylor: I guess because because you had a lifetime and you know the the 20 year olds who are yelling about down with the cops these days have no bloody clue what you were dealing with with Cox.

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02:24:38.760 --> 02:24:55.680

Evan Taylor: Like no, don't have a clue. And so, that fear is very well earned. You know, you've treated it. You've been treated that way so much over a lifetime that if you if you went, oh, this is great. I should tell everybody all about this. I'm going to make my own that would be in sending

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02:24:56.040 --> 02:24:56.460

Diana LaMonte: It. Yeah.

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02:24:56.700 --> 02:25:07.680

Evan Taylor: You know you wouldn't know if everything's a learning experience. How could you not in your lifetime have learned to be afraid of being out to be afraid of saying something to be afraid that what people might think of you.

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02:25:08.070 --> 02:25:11.550

Evan Taylor: Because what they might think of you, is I'd like to kill you. Now,

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02:25:12.210 --> 02:25:18.360

Evan Taylor: Yeah, and you know, even from the small pieces I'm hearing you have had that experience.

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02:25:18.600 --> 02:25:18.870

Diana LaMonte: That

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02:25:19.080 --> 02:25:34.110

Evan Taylor: This is not outside of your experience. This is very much, you know that your life experience. So it would be. I think the reason that you have that fear is a fantastic wonderful human thing. That means that you're actually saying enough to be aware of threat.

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02:25:35.640 --> 02:25:36.300

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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02:25:37.950 --> 02:25:52.440

Diana LaMonte: I don't feel physically threatened at all and my life doesn't put me in positions where I need to be afraid it was just the, I guess you'd say outing me again.

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02:25:53.490 --> 02:25:54.150

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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02:25:54.900 --> 02:26:02.640

Diana LaMonte: Cuz it really kind of threw me like, do I want this varied for 25 years SOMEBODY DID WHAT THE HELL.

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02:26:03.300 --> 02:26:06.360

Evan Taylor: And what does that mean if I choose that option or if I don't choose that option. What am I

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02:26:06.360 --> 02:26:11.820

Diana LaMonte: Saying, or what's a good. What's my life going to be like if this is splashed all over the internet.

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02:26:12.150 --> 02:26:14.640

Diana LaMonte: Right, exactly. So

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02:26:15.660 --> 02:26:18.750

Diana LaMonte: And, you know, that sort of makes me go.

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02:26:20.250 --> 02:26:24.060

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. And I think that's where the past comes in.

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02:26:24.210 --> 02:26:34.530

Diana LaMonte: Absolutely. Because if you think of it as a rational human being and my age, what the hell can anybody do right

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02:26:34.980 --> 02:26:41.490

Diana LaMonte: Right. I mean, so whatever is splashed all over the internet. It's not like there's pornographic pictures of me.

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02:26:43.050 --> 02:26:50.820

Diana LaMonte: You know, it's just a TRANSGENDERED PERSON talking about what it was like to be a TRANSGENDERED PERSON.

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02:26:51.120 --> 02:27:04.830

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. So, and yet that little number fear was there, of course, and see I can logically talk myself out of it. Mm hmm. But why that even rears its ugly little hit

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02:27:06.240 --> 02:27:07.530

Diana LaMonte: I find very interesting

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02:27:07.740 --> 02:27:08.400

Evan Taylor: Yes.

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02:27:08.490 --> 02:27:09.900

Diana LaMonte: But as you explained it.

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02:27:10.440 --> 02:27:12.840

Diana LaMonte: There's scar tissue on my psyche, I guess.

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02:27:12.900 --> 02:27:17.580

Evan Taylor: Absolutely, and I mean if you've got the Scar tissue on your skin somewhere.

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02:27:17.970 --> 02:27:18.300

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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02:27:18.660 --> 02:27:27.570

Evan Taylor: And what we know is that the body like the skin like the whole body rejuvenate itself right every seven years all your skin cells are new skin cells and all that stuff. And yet those cars are still there.

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02:27:28.020 --> 02:27:30.360

Evan Taylor: And oh yeah he's got the scars.

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02:27:31.770 --> 02:27:38.850

Evan Taylor: Sticks and stones will break my bones but names will actually scarred me for life in my psyche and I'll never be able to get rid of the self esteem issue. It gave me

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02:27:39.360 --> 02:27:39.690

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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02:27:40.080 --> 02:27:43.530

Diana LaMonte: But we don't razor blades will scarred for life. Yes.

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02:27:43.620 --> 02:27:45.090

Evan Taylor: It's a ton of razor blade scar.

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02:27:45.270 --> 02:27:47.910

Diana LaMonte: Yeah 48 stitches worth

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02:27:49.740 --> 02:27:50.520

Evan Taylor: We

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02:27:52.080 --> 02:27:53.370

Diana LaMonte: Wanted to be dead.

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02:27:54.030 --> 02:27:57.300

Diana LaMonte: And should house locked. I was found before it bled to death.

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02:27:58.320 --> 02:27:58.890

Evan Taylor: Okay, thank you.

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02:27:59.910 --> 02:28:00.870

Diana LaMonte: My ex boyfriend.

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02:28:01.950 --> 02:28:13.680

Diana LaMonte: He had left me. And that's why I went to bed with a razor blade and he came back, cuz he was. He said he didn't handle it well and found me in a pool of blood. Wow.

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02:28:14.670 --> 02:28:17.430

Evan Taylor: Well, I'm glad I'm glad that he did, but

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02:28:18.540 --> 02:28:25.200

Diana LaMonte: And the men that brought me out here. He, he always wanted me to have a skin graft cover them up.

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02:28:26.520 --> 02:28:34.770

Diana LaMonte: And I said, no, I put them there. They stay there. And when I get depressed and think life is not worth living. And just look at my wrist.

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02:28:36.420 --> 02:28:38.580

Diana LaMonte: Because I passed out before I could do the other one.

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02:28:39.120 --> 02:28:43.590

Evan Taylor: Right. Well, this is part of what I heard you saying earlier about all of these

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02:28:44.130 --> 02:28:49.290

Evan Taylor: These lessons that you know, why would I go and grab the lesson right off my body here like

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02:28:49.350 --> 02:28:50.970

Diana LaMonte: Yeah yeah

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02:28:52.080 --> 02:29:01.470

Diana LaMonte: And I mean, you know, since my injury. I've had some really low times I actually sat down with a piece of paper and wrote the pros and cons for killing myself.

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02:29:01.620 --> 02:29:07.950

Diana LaMonte: Right. And the reason is for killing myself was a hell of a lot longer through the reasons not to kill myself.

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02:29:08.760 --> 02:29:22.620

Diana LaMonte: And it scared the hell out of me. And I looked at my wrist and thought, Do you really want to be dead. Life is different. Right. But do you want to be dead. And I thought, no one might miss something. Mm hmm. And I've gotten so much better. Mm hmm.

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02:29:22.890 --> 02:29:31.500

Evan Taylor: And also knowing that that kind of depression is like the number one risk that we know that people have made your head injuries live with for a lifetime. Sometimes

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02:29:31.860 --> 02:29:32.790

Diana LaMonte: Right, it's

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02:29:32.940 --> 02:29:37.080

Evan Taylor: It's it's a side effect of a head injury. Like, that's what's going to happen.

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02:29:37.650 --> 02:29:38.010

Diana LaMonte: No.

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02:29:38.160 --> 02:29:41.130

Evan Taylor: You know, it's not a matter of if depression will happen. It's a matter of when.

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02:29:41.850 --> 02:29:42.450

Evan Taylor: And

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02:29:42.510 --> 02:29:53.700

Evan Taylor: You know, and then and then of course as well. We live in a different world now it's different enough where people can get some support around that, that there is that option, you know, they're not just going to throw people in a psych ward immediately you know

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02:29:53.730 --> 02:29:54.990

Diana LaMonte: No, no.

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02:29:56.070 --> 02:30:04.740

Diana LaMonte: And you know, I said to myself, after I did the list. I said, okay, Princess suck it up. Life is different. It's not old right

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02:30:05.220 --> 02:30:08.190

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and I did the same with my transition

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02:30:09.540 --> 02:30:20.940

Diana LaMonte: I said, you know, life is not over. It's just changed. Yeah. And you have a goal that you want to reach and keep going. Mm hmm.

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02:30:22.230 --> 02:30:23.910

Diana LaMonte: Because if you're dead. You won't get there.

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02:30:24.510 --> 02:30:30.450

Evan Taylor: Exactly, exactly. That's what when they, when they say it's a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

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02:30:30.870 --> 02:30:36.090

Diana LaMonte: Yes, wonderful way to put it, a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

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02:30:36.420 --> 02:30:36.810

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

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02:30:37.470 --> 02:30:40.320

Diana LaMonte: I've never heard that. That's wonderful. I love that.

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02:30:41.550 --> 02:30:41.970

Diana LaMonte: That

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02:30:42.120 --> 02:30:52.530

Evan Taylor: You can have it all yours. And it I mean I've watched I've watched folks to suicide suicide in my life. And, you know, trans trans folks and and I think this is part of

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02:30:53.070 --> 02:31:03.030

Evan Taylor: You know, what does it mean when we live near when we're at our stats tell us that you know based basically it's half and half, half of us have tried to kill ourselves half of us haven't

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02:31:03.540 --> 02:31:14.610

Evan Taylor: But, but most of us have thought about what they are. That's what the that's what the stats tasks, basically. And so what does it say when we have you know rhetorical question, obviously. But, you know, we have an entire population of people

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02:31:15.840 --> 02:31:23.040

Evan Taylor: Who actually look at the world and as a population level are saying this world isn't isn't worth living for us.

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02:31:23.520 --> 02:31:37.860

Evan Taylor: Now, half of us are saying, and that, what does it what does it say about the quality of society and the ways that were supported or not or seen or understood. And I think there's so much that does come back to whether we're seeing and are able to be our whole selves, whatever that means.

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02:31:37.950 --> 02:31:38.940

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and

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02:31:39.000 --> 02:31:47.220

Evan Taylor: And that might mean yes being trans, but also being part of the LA, you know, going hiking and having a dog, whatever, you know, we might have lots of ways that we are

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02:31:47.760 --> 02:31:48.510

Evan Taylor: And yet, sometimes

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02:31:48.630 --> 02:31:50.580

Diana LaMonte: Life is so much easier now.

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02:31:51.270 --> 02:31:54.780

Diana LaMonte: Yes so much easier than when I was going through it.

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02:31:55.470 --> 02:32:05.880

Evan Taylor: Yeah. Well, now we have staff. Now we even have research that says top of us are killing ourselves like we didn't have that research, you know, in the late 60s, early 70s.

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02:32:06.060 --> 02:32:07.170

Diana LaMonte: And all in

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02:32:07.350 --> 02:32:11.700

Evan Taylor: And if you looked at. I bet if we did, we would see a rate, more like 90 something percent

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02:32:12.270 --> 02:32:17.160

Diana LaMonte: Now, that's why I was so surprised when you said that you had interviewed the eight year old.

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02:32:19.710 --> 02:32:28.140

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I mean that blew my mind. Yeah. Cuz she obviously or he had the surgery done way before me.

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02:32:28.350 --> 02:32:30.210

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm. Yep. She had it in the 60s.

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02:32:30.990 --> 02:32:32.520

Diana LaMonte: That's amazing. Yeah.

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02:32:33.300 --> 02:32:38.520

Evan Taylor: And and this is the thing only. There's only certain people who have been able to survive.

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02:32:39.030 --> 02:32:44.010

Evan Taylor: You know, and it's like I was looking at expensive demographics, the other day, and looking at who I've interviewed with planned interview.

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02:32:44.250 --> 02:32:52.740

Evan Taylor: And there's a whole lot of white folks like it's overwhelmingly white folks I'm having a not for lack of effort. I'm really trying to get other folks and, you know, find out

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02:32:53.160 --> 02:32:55.830

Evan Taylor: But the interesting thing is, is that they didn't make it.

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02:32:56.310 --> 02:33:03.570

Evan Taylor: You know, and that's what's happened is the only folks who were still around our folks who had just enough privilege to be able to get through something they were able to

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02:33:03.900 --> 02:33:13.080

Evan Taylor: They were able to to stay sober and then get a degree in real life be a professional nurse, right. Whatever it is, like, they are able to do something professional in some way, they're able to

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02:33:13.830 --> 02:33:24.210

Evan Taylor: Access a piece of privilege. What I'm having a hard time talking to and is you know that Aboriginal trans women who are sex workers.

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02:33:24.990 --> 02:33:25.590

Diana LaMonte: Right.

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02:33:25.890 --> 02:33:28.890

Evan Taylor: There's very few of them who are in their 60s and the life.

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02:33:29.160 --> 02:33:30.120

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, you know,

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02:33:30.780 --> 02:33:37.440

Evan Taylor: I went to a memorial. A few weeks ago for a 65 year old. Oh, you, you might not remember Jenny Lee Hamilton.

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02:33:38.970 --> 02:33:39.300

Diana LaMonte: No.

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02:33:39.510 --> 02:33:56.490

Evan Taylor: No. Okay, so she's a local a local Vancouver and trans person and she she did. She just died in late December. And so I went to a memorial and in January. And what's this very interesting and it was almost that there was a celebration of the fact that she was 64 and she died of cancer.

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02:33:57.690 --> 02:34:06.930

Evan Taylor: And how amazing it was for an indigenous woman who was a sex worker who was a trans woman to live until 64

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02:34:07.590 --> 02:34:08.070

Diana LaMonte: And do

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02:34:08.250 --> 02:34:13.200

Evan Taylor: Something natural and normal that we all like you know anyone with Daya and

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02:34:13.590 --> 02:34:14.460

Diana LaMonte: self inflicted

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02:34:14.910 --> 02:34:16.950

Evan Taylor: And not suffering, but exactly and so

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02:34:18.030 --> 02:34:35.220

Evan Taylor: Professor Vivian and the masters, a professor in Montreal. She sent some words out to be read out and and the words that she had that were read out and we're, you know that as as trans people, particularly for trans women you know in it if they if they make it out of high school life.

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02:34:35.730 --> 02:34:36.180

Diana LaMonte: Right.

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02:34:36.570 --> 02:34:47.460

Evan Taylor: Then there, then they're in their late teens, early 20s and they're probably, you know, struggling to find work. They're probably know ending up looking at sex work to make a living to survive. You know, so they're

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02:34:47.880 --> 02:34:59.310

Evan Taylor: Probably getting just some drugs to be able to survive and cope with that then they get into their 30s and in their 30s there you know if they made it through their 20s. Now they're struggling with addiction.

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02:34:59.850 --> 02:35:08.580

Evan Taylor: Now other problem with a lifetime of trauma from from being on the street from not being seen and recognized. So they're struggling, you know, to basically

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02:35:09.360 --> 02:35:20.160

Evan Taylor: To survive the, the, what the addiction is now doing or street work is doing. And if they're lucky enough to even make it through their 30s and they're now in their 40s, we listen to suicide.

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02:35:20.610 --> 02:35:23.400

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, that's just the vicious circle. Yeah.

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02:35:23.430 --> 02:35:27.210

Diana LaMonte: The Academy to get out of that circle earlier.

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02:35:28.140 --> 02:35:31.050

Diana LaMonte: Hang on, for one sec, I need on herself a glass of water.

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02:35:31.170 --> 02:35:31.830

Evan Taylor: Not a problem.

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02:35:41.610 --> 02:35:50.940

Evan Taylor: So yeah, I thought it is a very insightful type of thing that she had to say and looking at the the life trajectory that moves from the awful adolescents to a

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02:35:51.480 --> 02:36:01.740

Evan Taylor: Addiction to to to working on the streets and in the picture in your 20s to deal with addiction, depression, your 30s to eventually in your 40s, trying to just, you know, if you're lucky, not killing yourself.

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02:36:02.550 --> 02:36:03.600

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, really.

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02:36:04.980 --> 02:36:08.490

Diana LaMonte: Thought about it that way. But once you're into that cycle.

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02:36:09.690 --> 02:36:25.290

Diana LaMonte: It can be really difficult to break it. Mm hmm. And I feel very blessed as I said it was the sound of the soul. Door closing that changed my life. Right. And to this day, I can still hear that sound. I've never heard it anywhere else.

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02:36:26.490 --> 02:36:36.780

Diana LaMonte: And yet it's a sound I vividly remember. Yeah, and it would be interesting to hear it one more time, but not from the inside, but from the outside.

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02:36:36.810 --> 02:36:42.000

Diana LaMonte: Right, because I often wondered if I heard it again. If it wouldn't negate it

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02:36:42.630 --> 02:36:43.290

Evan Taylor: Huh.

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02:36:43.440 --> 02:36:44.280

Diana LaMonte: You know what I mean.

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02:36:44.910 --> 02:36:46.680

Evan Taylor: Yeah, like, like if they bring it a new meaning.

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02:36:47.460 --> 02:36:47.940

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

1336

02:36:48.120 --> 02:36:48.870

Diana LaMonte: Uh huh. Yeah.

1337

02:36:50.040 --> 02:36:56.670

Evan Taylor: I've heard that from from from therapists who who I've talked to who said you know that that

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02:36:57.390 --> 02:37:06.630

Evan Taylor: Nobody really knows the way to overcome trauma, like we don't know it, but what we do know is one thing which is we can develop new associations, so

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02:37:06.870 --> 02:37:13.440

Evan Taylor: You've had something awful that's happened, sometimes the only way you can do it. But what you can do is layer good things on top of it.

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02:37:13.920 --> 02:37:15.120

Diana LaMonte: Yeah yeah

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02:37:15.360 --> 02:37:20.310

Evan Taylor: Sorta. It takes it takes that listing out and it becomes. It's about some new meaning in that way.

1342

02:37:20.730 --> 02:37:25.440

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and and also trying to turn a negative to a positive flipping on it saying

1343

02:37:26.550 --> 02:37:38.700

Evan Taylor: If there. If there was one if there was one thank you gift I could give you i would i would i would get an egg. You know, if I had all the money in the world, what I would do. I'm saying I would send you on a tour is typically on tours trip to Alcatraz.

1344

02:37:39.870 --> 02:37:41.400

Diana LaMonte: So it would be interesting just to

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02:37:41.400 --> 02:37:42.870

Evan Taylor: Go and clang all the

1346

02:37:42.870 --> 02:37:43.680

Door.

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02:37:45.690 --> 02:37:48.090

Diana LaMonte: Would be really, really interesting.

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02:37:48.690 --> 02:37:49.290

Yeah, many

1349

02:37:50.370 --> 02:37:56.130

Evan Taylor: give you something like it'll give you a new association that would perhaps be a fun a fun memory.

1350

02:37:56.700 --> 02:38:04.050

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, well, you know, and that's why the my fifth high school reunion was so important. He

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02:38:04.380 --> 02:38:04.860

Evan Taylor: Said,

1352

02:38:04.920 --> 02:38:07.560

Diana LaMonte: He was mixed about going

1353

02:38:08.190 --> 02:38:12.750

Diana LaMonte: And I thought, No. Diana gold because you can put goes to rest.

1354

02:38:13.170 --> 02:38:14.190

Evan Taylor: Exactly, yes.

1355

02:38:14.280 --> 02:38:25.710

Diana LaMonte: And if they don't like you, you can get on the plane and come home and never see them again exactly and and I, my little voice that if you don't go

1356

02:38:26.550 --> 02:38:40.830

Diana LaMonte: You'll regret it. Mm hmm. And boy, when I went up to the registration desk and said hi I'm Diana Lamont, and they were everybody was. Wow. Hi. You made it.

1357

02:38:41.670 --> 02:38:58.170

Diana LaMonte: And I got an email after it was all over, and the reunion committee had mapped and discussed what it was like you know how they thought it all went and the email said that the highlight for everybody on the committee was me coming back.

1358

02:38:58.740 --> 02:39:11.850

Diana LaMonte: Oh wow, and I was quite taken aback and they said, You're so brave to have come back and I'm really glad I did have an if I hadn't i'd regret it till the day I died.

1359

02:39:13.380 --> 02:39:17.580

Evan Taylor: Once what they say you don't regret the things you've done nearly as much as the things you haven't done

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02:39:18.270 --> 02:39:21.780

Diana LaMonte: Exactly, exactly. And, you know,

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02:39:23.550 --> 02:39:38.520

Diana LaMonte: I walked down the streets where I used to be a hooker in Vancouver and, you know, thought, wow, is it ever different and I've always wanted to go back to Toronto. I've never been back to Toronto.

1362

02:39:39.060 --> 02:39:44.520

Diana LaMonte: Just to see if any of the gay clubs are there, go to the corner where I used to be a hooker and

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02:39:46.650 --> 02:39:49.380

Diana LaMonte: I guess I want to put those ghosts to rest.

1364

02:39:49.410 --> 02:39:49.830

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

1365

02:39:49.920 --> 02:39:53.310

Diana LaMonte: Not that I really need to. I mean going home was the biggie.

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02:39:53.670 --> 02:39:59.280

Evan Taylor: Right, were you when you were in Vancouver. We when you were working on the street. Were you working on Davey any

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02:40:00.330 --> 02:40:00.630

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

1368

02:40:00.810 --> 02:40:14.190

Evan Taylor: Were you were you around that. And at the time when, when they were ticketing the work and girls on Davey, and they were trying to get the they were they were trying to send everybody off off TV. There's a mass, mass movement in the 80s.

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02:40:14.760 --> 02:40:15.510

Yes.

1370

02:40:18.630 --> 02:40:20.130

Diana LaMonte: Just at the beginning.

1371

02:40:20.790 --> 02:40:24.330

Diana LaMonte: Okay, as I left Vancouver in 1980

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02:40:25.050 --> 02:40:27.330

Diana LaMonte: Okay. Oh, it has just started

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02:40:27.540 --> 02:40:32.160

Evan Taylor: That's how that that that all that all the kind of the daily street crackdown had just begun at that point.

1374

02:40:32.220 --> 02:40:37.770

Evan Taylor: Yeah, so I i'm going to send you. I'll send you a link to to to look up

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02:40:38.550 --> 02:40:48.810

Evan Taylor: Jamie Lee Hamilton. I was just speaking about, and there is you might be interested in terms of just revisiting those those sites, there is a memorial that has been set up.

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02:40:49.800 --> 02:41:09.840

Evan Taylor: Just off Davis Street and outside of the Anglican Church and and it's a it's a big red lamppost and it's a memorial to all of the sex workers who were, you know, that sort of the, the, the, the relocation, if you will, the sex workers.

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02:41:10.590 --> 02:41:22.410

Evan Taylor: When everyone was sort of pushed out in that time and all of the lives, you know that were lost and inevitably because what happened is, folks, end up going out to Hastings and, you know, ended up basically in the killing fields, if you will.

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02:41:22.500 --> 02:41:24.630

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, exactly. So

1379

02:41:24.690 --> 02:41:34.050

Evan Taylor: There's this memorial has been set up. And what happened. So you if you recall all these ticketing and they might be interesting for you to know this. We've done a lot of full circles in this conversation. So here's a full circle for you.

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02:41:34.950 --> 02:41:40.440

Evan Taylor: All because they were they were ticketing sex workers, right, which is a ridiculous, but they were so the city was taking money.

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02:41:41.310 --> 02:41:53.340

Evan Taylor: And there has been a project and Jamie Lee was part of that. And so the project was somebody went and looked up and calculated how much money was taken from the sex workers at, you know,

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02:41:54.210 --> 02:42:09.720

Evan Taylor: During that during that time. And so that \$28,000 is was then repatriated from the city and has that \$28,000 is was used to put up that the the street lamp Memorial that's

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02:42:09.750 --> 02:42:10.320

Diana LaMonte: Wow.

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02:42:10.380 --> 02:42:11.190

Evan Taylor: That's what it was used for

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02:42:11.340 --> 02:42:14.490

Diana LaMonte: New church, the city was living off the avails

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02:42:15.180 --> 02:42:18.840

Evan Taylor: I'm this is exactly the sort of thing that people were doing right this is

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02:42:18.930 --> 02:42:19.380

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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02:42:19.980 --> 02:42:31.890

Evan Taylor: So I'm very I'm very interested, know that you were sort of part of that that early that early wave of folks that can remember. I can remember what happened. And so I will absolutely I'll send you. I'll send you a link in an article about that. So I think

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02:42:31.980 --> 02:42:35.610

Diana LaMonte: Great. I'd love to read that I might recognize her to see her picture.

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02:42:35.910 --> 02:42:42.390

Evan Taylor: You might you might. And certainly, you might, you know, that that sort of that that era of that era of folks.

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02:42:42.720 --> 02:42:49.800

Evan Taylor: You know, I think that as you're talking about just all the full circles and what would it might. What might it mean to go back and just to walk that street again.

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02:42:50.430 --> 02:42:55.830

Evan Taylor: I would want you to know that that that that memorial is there. Make sure you just, it's just just off like it's not even a block off Davey

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02:42:56.160 --> 02:43:00.720

Evan Taylor: It's just right off, off the street there and and so inside the church. And I think it'd be

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02:43:01.410 --> 02:43:13.710

Evan Taylor: Perhaps a very touching moment for you to be able to see that. See that people have done this, this work and you know that that whether it's, you know, whether it's enough. It's not. I mean, sitting and even pay interest on that.

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02:43:15.360 --> 02:43:15.870

Evan Taylor: I know

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02:43:16.680 --> 02:43:20.100

Diana LaMonte: They said suitors. The mayor with living off the avails

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02:43:21.000 --> 02:43:24.180

Evan Taylor: Well, you'll be you'll be pleased to know that one of the mayor's

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02:43:25.050 --> 02:43:28.710

Evan Taylor: That, that wasn't that wasn't power at that time at that time.

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02:43:29.340 --> 02:43:45.960

Evan Taylor: When when Jenny Lee. She went and stumped 62 or 67 pairs of stilettos on the on the front steps of still city hall to bring awareness to the fact, all these women were missing and murdered and Philip Owen was the mayor of Vancouver at that time.

1400

02:43:47.250 --> 02:43:48.660

Evan Taylor: And he was at her funeral.

1401

02:43:50.580 --> 02:43:51.180

Diana LaMonte: Friends.

1402

02:43:51.360 --> 02:44:03.420

Evan Taylor: Sam Sullivan mayor of anchor your, you know, previous mayor was at her feet. She had at least two or I think there might have been three i don't i don't remember exactly, but there's a I saw those two people at her funeral. So, you know,

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02:44:03.510 --> 02:44:10.830

Evan Taylor: Break that change has happened in the sense of, you know, people weren't people were doing some doing some of that access work. So when you do

1404

02:44:11.070 --> 02:44:14.640

Evan Taylor: You know, at whatever point you come back and do do walk that walk that street again.

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02:44:14.910 --> 02:44:25.560

Evan Taylor: You know, you'll be able to know for yourself that actually things changed a lot. You know, this is not a place and you'll be able to have a much different sense, knowing that, you know, now we have

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02:44:26.010 --> 02:44:32.220

Evan Taylor: A Vancouver city mayors and go into the funerals of sex workers because they, you know, indigenous trans women sex workers.

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02:44:32.250 --> 02:44:34.230

Because they glow important politically.

1408

02:44:35.280 --> 02:44:37.950

Diana LaMonte: So this trans woman. Yes.

1409

02:44:39.060 --> 02:44:42.240

Diana LaMonte: Hooker. Yeah. I mean, that's amazing.

1410

02:44:42.750 --> 02:44:48.030

Evan Taylor: And she wasn't on apologetic cooker till the day she died on apologetic.

1411

02:44:48.780 --> 02:44:56.340

Diana LaMonte: And, you know, the thing people don't realize about sex workers if there weren't any. Do you know how many rapes would be committed

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02:44:57.390 --> 02:45:02.820

Diana LaMonte: I mean there. He said the racist. The rapists basically off the streets or

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02:45:02.880 --> 02:45:07.890

Evan Taylor: Or or attracting them just to this this the one area of these poor women that have to endure it for the rest of

1414

02:45:08.310 --> 02:45:10.290

Diana LaMonte: Else know and

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02:45:10.470 --> 02:45:22.410

Evan Taylor: And that's an awesome thing that you know that's that that has changed so much. And you know, that's got to be a huge change. You've seen as well that we now have refrains like sex work is work we we never we never would have even spoken about that.

1416

02:45:22.530 --> 02:45:23.310

Diana LaMonte: 20 years no

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02:45:23.430 --> 02:45:23.790

Certainly not.

1418

02:45:25.110 --> 02:45:32.430

Evan Taylor: You know, it was a it was a blight in a shame on society. And now we're like, you know what people make a living doing what they have to do and we need to

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02:45:32.430 --> 02:45:32.700

Diana LaMonte: Know,

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02:45:32.940 --> 02:45:36.810

Evan Taylor: For people to do what they have to do not make it more difficult for them to do what they're going to

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02:45:37.080 --> 02:45:41.550

Diana LaMonte: Do and they're making society safer. Hey, look, I want to admit that.

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02:45:41.670 --> 02:45:51.060

Diana LaMonte: Exactly. They are making the life safer. Mm hmm. And I think every woman that lives in tent downtown should go on plank a hooker. Right.

1423

02:45:51.150 --> 02:45:52.320

Diana LaMonte: She put her safe.

1424

02:45:52.530 --> 02:45:56.010

Evan Taylor: Exactly, exactly. And that was the function of privilege right but

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02:45:56.250 --> 02:46:01.230

Evan Taylor: Young people or anyone who has privileges, getting it on the back of somebody else somewhere.

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02:46:01.590 --> 02:46:03.510

Diana LaMonte: Exactly. Yeah, that's

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02:46:03.660 --> 02:46:05.160

Diana LaMonte: Why they call it privilege.

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02:46:05.340 --> 02:46:14.460

Evan Taylor: Exactly, exactly. And quite literally people, you know, like on their backs like very literally on their bodies. You know, it's not a figurative. It's not a figure of speech. No.

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02:46:15.210 --> 02:46:15.540

No.

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02:46:16.680 --> 02:46:18.690

Evan Taylor: So I'll definitely send those send those to you.

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02:46:19.770 --> 02:46:29.280

Evan Taylor: Have questions I want to make sure that we get to, so I know it's getting a bit late. I don't want to keep you for too long if you need to go. But I do have a couple more things I want to make sure we cover here. If you're still ok for

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02:46:29.910 --> 02:46:30.720

Diana LaMonte: Yes, sir.

1433

02:46:30.990 --> 02:46:37.920

Evan Taylor: Okay, so we've talked a lot about sort of the changes and communities and what's possible. And now how things might be different in the future.

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02:46:38.820 --> 02:46:50.940

Evan Taylor: But one of the things I'm wondering about is, is for you, yourself, like if you look back at your early self knowing all of these changes that have happened. What advice would you give your younger self active itself or otherwise.

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02:46:57.720 --> 02:46:58.980

Diana LaMonte: What advice.

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02:47:02.280 --> 02:47:05.280

Diana LaMonte: That's hard to say. That's really hard to answer.

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02:47:07.260 --> 02:47:15.480

Diana LaMonte: I mean, I couldn't say things like, Don't do drugs. Stay in school, things like that, but

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02:47:20.010 --> 02:47:20.490

Diana LaMonte: I don't

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02:47:21.930 --> 02:47:24.780

Diana LaMonte: I just find that really hard to answer. Okay.

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02:47:26.220 --> 02:47:27.390

Diana LaMonte: I can, I can ask

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02:47:27.600 --> 02:47:29.010

Evan Taylor: A similar question but differently.

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02:47:29.670 --> 02:47:43.590

Evan Taylor: Okay, so if you're, you know, so instead of giving yourself advice. What advice would you have for, you know, for trends young ones right now. Whether you know whether they're 12 or 20 likely not young, what advice do you have for them.

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02:47:45.630 --> 02:47:49.500

Diana LaMonte: Be honest tell people my tell your parents.

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02:47:51.030 --> 02:48:01.290

Diana LaMonte: Find somebody that you can confide in because the longer you hold the shift in the worst. It's going to be it'll grow like a cancer or fungus. Hmm.

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02:48:02.970 --> 02:48:07.440

Diana LaMonte: I mean, I tried to talk to my mother, but that was 60 years ago.

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02:48:07.620 --> 02:48:15.030

Diana LaMonte: Right. So, and she had no education where today, people are far more educated

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02:48:16.050 --> 02:48:20.040

Diana LaMonte: And hiding it is the worst thing to do.

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02:48:21.510 --> 02:48:31.170

Diana LaMonte: You know, talk to somebody about it. Get that out, otherwise that negative emotion as they said just grows like a cancer inside you. Right. And you end up

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02:48:31.650 --> 02:48:46.050

Diana LaMonte: Feeling like life's not worth living and suicide as an option. And it's never an option, as you said, a long term solution to a sort term problem. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

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02:48:49.320 --> 02:49:02.910

Diana LaMonte: Because I didn't really have anyone to talk to growing up right so i internalized, a lot of it and I internalize the abuse and whatnot, where today. There's a lot more people willing to listen.

1451

02:49:03.990 --> 02:49:16.800

Diana LaMonte: The gay community has outreach workers but you got to speak up. Yeah, if you don't speak up, you could be in big trouble. Mm hmm. Good advice. Good advice.

1452

02:49:17.550 --> 02:49:28.890

Evan Taylor: And and for the same the same generation, what, what are your, your hopes specifically for the for the trends, the trends generation, like what do you, what do you hope is going to happen differently for them. By the time they were your age.

1453

02:49:30.420 --> 02:49:44.970

Diana LaMonte: That it won't be an issue that transgendered people will be recognized as I don't know if you call it a birth defect. Right. You know, I'd like it to be treated the same thing as

1454

02:49:46.710 --> 02:50:04.470

Diana LaMonte: Having a flipper instead of an arm. Hmm. I've always said society would have accepted me know you know much easier if I had a flipper instead of an arm right rather than I had a penis rather than a vagina right yeah would have been much, much easier.

1455

02:50:04.740 --> 02:50:05.340

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

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02:50:05.430 --> 02:50:08.280

Diana LaMonte: My wife, but because my

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02:50:11.220 --> 02:50:17.700

Diana LaMonte: birth defect in quotation marks was not visible like a flipper would be

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02:50:19.770 --> 02:50:24.960

Diana LaMonte: You know, and it went against the social norm. It was much more difficult. Mm hmm.

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02:50:25.350 --> 02:50:28.350

Evan Taylor: Yeah, the fact that there was a hidden difference in that ways

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02:50:28.380 --> 02:50:29.400

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, and

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02:50:29.550 --> 02:50:44.910

Diana LaMonte: You know, if I had a flipper instead of an arm people go, Oh, you poor thing. Right, but because I was a woman to use the tired expression woman trapped in a man's body nobody ever said, Oh, you poor dear right they go, you're kinky

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02:50:45.330 --> 02:50:45.780

Yes.

1463

02:50:47.220 --> 02:50:57.030

Evan Taylor: And and certainly there's something as well about I think when we see that, you know, it's something we're seeing as a man, then we're like, oh, you need to man up and lump it and not not don't make a big deal about it like

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02:50:57.060 --> 02:51:01.470

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, how many times, my mother said to me, be a man be a man.

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02:51:01.950 --> 02:51:02.700

Right.

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02:51:03.810 --> 02:51:17.460

Evan Taylor: And I remember walking into a high school in like early 2000s, and there was a sign up on the door and it's and it said if the worst thing we can call it man. As a woman, what does that say about how we view women.

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02:51:19.980 --> 02:51:21.180

Diana LaMonte: Whoo. Good point.

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02:51:21.450 --> 02:51:32.640

Evan Taylor: So i would i would i would have loved to be able to say that to your mother and saying, by saying to this person, man up basically be a man be a man. What you're saying is being a woman isn't as good as being a man

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02:51:33.120 --> 02:51:33.570

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

1470

02:51:33.960 --> 02:51:36.300

Diana LaMonte: And that's a terrible nobody ever says a woman up

1471

02:51:36.510 --> 02:51:37.260

Diana LaMonte: No, no.

1472

02:51:37.470 --> 02:51:38.640

Evan Taylor: No, nobody ever says that

1473

02:51:39.030 --> 02:51:42.480

Diana LaMonte: No. Yeah. What I should be looking at you going every woman up

1474

02:51:42.660 --> 02:51:43.590

Diana LaMonte: I've got a woman.

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02:51:43.740 --> 02:51:44.970

Diana LaMonte: I like a woman.

1476

02:51:45.960 --> 02:51:47.160

Evan Taylor: Exactly and

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02:51:48.510 --> 02:51:56.340

Evan Taylor: I think this is one of those big those big changes that happen is we're now actually aware of that, in some way, you know that we're aware that, you know,

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02:51:57.240 --> 02:52:00.810

Evan Taylor: The fact that it's taken this long to have a moment says something

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02:52:01.170 --> 02:52:13.740

Evan Taylor: pretty profound about how endemic that is in our society. At the same time, we now actually have it. And that's that changes happening. And we're now starting to talk about like real equality, not like you know what vote or something, you know,

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02:52:14.310 --> 02:52:21.960

Evan Taylor: What the actual equality, what does, what does it mean to not be expected to be, you know, treated like crap in the workplace. And so what does that, you know,

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02:52:22.020 --> 02:52:22.350

Diana LaMonte: You have

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02:52:22.410 --> 02:52:24.210

Diana LaMonte: already heard barefoot in the kitchen.

1483

02:52:24.510 --> 02:52:35.880

Evan Taylor: Exactly. And I would like to thank you know that in the folks are like 20 years old right now, by the time they're your age, I'd like to hope that we've had a whole me to reckoning around trans folks and what it means to be trained

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02:52:36.180 --> 02:52:36.360

Diana LaMonte: And

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02:52:37.050 --> 02:52:39.570

Evan Taylor: Have been treated like crap ones. I'm tired life and to be

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02:52:39.900 --> 02:52:52.920

Evan Taylor: You know, to constantly be afraid of being outed, and what would happen to let the people know, or what they think about us, or how we'd be treated. I'd like to think that that that that would change. And as you say you know that it wouldn't be the same. Big deal. By then we would just

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02:52:52.980 --> 02:52:54.270

Evan Taylor: Yeah, like anything else.

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02:52:54.330 --> 02:52:56.670

Diana LaMonte: Unless the world goes to the right again.

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02:52:57.000 --> 02:53:05.190

Diana LaMonte: Right, which you know what the populace parties and stuff. It's getting scary again. Mm
hmm.

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02:53:05.700 --> 02:53:14.430

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, but I wouldn't, I try and think the bestest society. But, you know, with Trump and
all this negativity that's coming in the world and

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02:53:15.540 --> 02:53:16.080

Diana LaMonte: You know,

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02:53:16.620 --> 02:53:19.110

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, the whole issue of gay marriage is

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02:53:19.110 --> 02:53:20.580

Diana LaMonte: Back in the news again.

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02:53:20.850 --> 02:53:23.070

Evan Taylor: Right, yeah. What, like, when did that happen. I

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02:53:24.240 --> 02:53:24.540

Evan Taylor: Like

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02:53:24.810 --> 02:53:32.970

Evan Taylor: Really, yeah. Why are we talking about like like abortion and why, why are we having these conversations again that we're already settled and people might

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02:53:33.300 --> 02:53:37.800

Evan Taylor: Be with them but like we've settled them as a society at least legally like we should move on now.

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02:53:38.280 --> 02:53:40.620

Diana LaMonte: Yeah. Been there, done that. Carry on.

1499

02:53:40.770 --> 02:53:46.170

Evan Taylor: Yeah, and I mean that's it is scary to think that there might be a time that that happens to trans folks again.

1500

02:53:46.650 --> 02:53:49.410

Diana LaMonte: Right, I hope not. I hope Mary Yeah.

1501

02:53:49.470 --> 02:54:03.630

Evan Taylor: It's and that's partly the worried that you know that I have that I'm very, I want to do this work in terms of establishing a social context for what it means to be trans, because if we don't have a social context, it's going to be solely a medical context and

1502

02:54:03.660 --> 02:54:04.020

Diana LaMonte: That

1503

02:54:04.230 --> 02:54:23.400

Evan Taylor: And that's not going to help anybody because now what we're gonna be looking for. Okay, so I saw this new research recently where just came out where, you know, they found some know set of medical researchers has found a difference in the estrogen profiles of transgender people pre transition

1504

02:54:24.630 --> 02:54:31.170

Evan Taylor: And it worries me because now we're starting to look for some sort of like biological predisposition.

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02:54:31.650 --> 02:54:32.070

Diana LaMonte: Uh huh.

1506

02:54:32.160 --> 02:54:35.280

Evan Taylor: And if we find that I think the first thing they're going to do is try and fix it.

1507

02:54:36.150 --> 02:54:53.040

Evan Taylor: Right, we're not what it's sort of like that that whole thing of like the the we're medicalizing something that while yes we need to have access to medical technologies. It's not a medical experience. You know, like we experience the world socially in that way.

1508

02:54:53.160 --> 02:54:54.450

Diana LaMonte: Right, so

1509

02:54:54.900 --> 02:55:03.330

Evan Taylor: I worry about that sort of move towards solely understanding trans people as just medical because the second they do, they're gonna be like okay well

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02:55:03.720 --> 02:55:10.350

Evan Taylor: That the other Trump's of the world right are going to find every reason to exclude us from the military or whatever, like that's just as new thing, right.

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02:55:10.680 --> 02:55:11.220

Diana LaMonte: But yeah, it's

1512

02:55:11.280 --> 02:55:20.160

Evan Taylor: Always going to be a reason to exclude us as if we're somehow medically, you know, not good enough. You know, except for somehow disabled.

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02:55:20.790 --> 02:55:22.440

Evan Taylor: Right medically in some way.

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02:55:22.590 --> 02:55:23.670

Diana LaMonte: Yeah yeah

1515

02:55:23.730 --> 02:55:30.690

Evan Taylor: That's my fear that I share with you about, like, what does it mean that we're moving to this this right wing WAY THAT'S VERY to visit.

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02:55:30.900 --> 02:55:32.940

Evan Taylor: Where anytime there your arch.

1517

02:55:33.480 --> 02:55:49.560

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, it's very divisive and I it's kind of scary. Mm hmm. You know, in a way, I'm glad I am the age I am because I look at the world as it is today and the direction it's going in. I'm glad I'm not going to be alive that much longer.

1518

02:55:49.860 --> 02:55:50.370

Evan Taylor: Right.

1519

02:55:50.430 --> 02:55:52.470

Diana LaMonte: I don't have 50 years to look out

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02:55:52.590 --> 02:55:55.620

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. God willing, maybe 20

1521

02:55:56.220 --> 02:55:57.690

Evan Taylor: Right well

1522

02:55:58.470 --> 02:55:58.770

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

1523

02:55:58.830 --> 02:56:03.780

Diana LaMonte: The world's going to be really scary and 30 years 50 years. Mm hmm.

1524

02:56:04.860 --> 02:56:12.720

Evan Taylor: What again this is a very, very large assumption question but what what do you see what would need to happen to

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02:56:13.740 --> 02:56:21.000

Evan Taylor: That direction. Do you see, you know, if you could snap your fingers and and you know change human rights or whatever it is. What would, what would you do

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02:56:22.170 --> 02:56:24.210

Diana LaMonte: I get rid of the industrial war machine.

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02:56:24.690 --> 02:56:25.320

Hmm.

1528

02:56:26.340 --> 02:56:29.970

Diana LaMonte: First, on my list. Get rid of that because

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02:56:31.080 --> 02:56:32.790

Diana LaMonte: People are not fighting

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02:56:34.080 --> 02:56:42.510

Diana LaMonte: For so much causes while they are, but then the industrial war machine is supplying all the weapons right and

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02:56:43.530 --> 02:56:53.730

Diana LaMonte: I would like to see organized religion done away with, um, because more hate more death and destruction has been perpetrated in the name of God.

1532

02:56:54.360 --> 02:57:07.200

Diana LaMonte: Then for any other reason not land not well it's believe what I believe, or I will kill you. Absolutely. Yeah. And we're seeing it today. Mm hmm. Their role hinder the Buddhists, the Christians. The Muslims

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02:57:08.220 --> 02:57:10.050

Diana LaMonte: Even the Sunni and Shia

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02:57:10.410 --> 02:57:23.700

Diana LaMonte: Right words are Muslims and it's all about religion. Mm hmm. Absolutely. I mean, that doesn't. I'm not an atheist. I believe in a higher power. I don't know if it's a white guy with long white hair.

1535

02:57:25.290 --> 02:57:29.190

Diana LaMonte: In a golden drone, but I believe there's something

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02:57:30.630 --> 02:57:38.520

Diana LaMonte: I don't know if souls. The right word. It's what makes me Diana and you Evan. Mm hmm. So when our bodies die.

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02:57:40.140 --> 02:57:48.450

Diana LaMonte: Then if that spark dies or soul or whatever label you want to put on it, then what's the point of us having consciousness. Right.

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02:57:48.900 --> 02:57:52.380

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, you know what I mean, I don't want to get too out there, but

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02:57:52.440 --> 02:57:53.130

Evan Taylor: No, it's not out there.

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02:57:53.550 --> 02:57:56.190

Evan Taylor: How do you. Yeah. How do you do recovery without a belief in a higher power.

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02:57:56.880 --> 02:57:57.240

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

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02:57:57.420 --> 02:57:59.130

Diana LaMonte: Like if you gotta believe there's got to be

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02:57:59.130 --> 02:58:13.650

Diana LaMonte: Something I wouldn't say someone but something even if our souls consciousness, whatever, it doesn't go to heaven or hell. Maybe it just goes into the great cosmic link. I don't know. Yeah.

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02:58:13.680 --> 02:58:15.930

Evan Taylor: Maybe, maybe become a leader, whatever.

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02:58:16.290 --> 02:58:22.320

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, but I think that there has to be something. Mm hmm and organized religion is not it.

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02:58:22.710 --> 02:58:41.880

Diana LaMonte: Great. I think it's dangerous if we could get rid of those two things, especially the industrial war machine. Mm hmm. This planet would be great. I wish we could come together as a people not black, white, brown yellow

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02:58:43.320 --> 02:58:46.620

Diana LaMonte: Muslim, Christian, but all come together as people

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02:58:47.730 --> 02:59:03.090

Diana LaMonte: And that's why I hope you know as we go out into space and look back at our field, blue, blue dot right that people will start saying, Oh, man. We are all one. Mm hmm. Absolutely around philosophize

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02:59:03.390 --> 02:59:11.670

Evan Taylor: That and you're being asked to so I'm glad you are. So my last question that I asked absolutely everybody. And again, for some folks, especially you know for you.

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02:59:12.060 --> 02:59:22.200

Evan Taylor: It's a little bit premature, but it's exactly in the philosophizing department. I'd like to be in. And so I'm wondering in terms of again might be premature, but

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02:59:22.830 --> 02:59:29.550

Evan Taylor: At some point, somebody's going to be listening to this in 5100 200 years and long after you and I are both gone

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02:59:30.390 --> 02:59:45.300

Evan Taylor: And I'm wondering what what legacy, you would like to leave to be known for, how would how would you like to be remembered and what is it you would want people to to think or know about you. And in that time. How, what would you look back on and say, is a legacy you'd like to leave.

1553

02:59:47.610 --> 03:00:00.750

Diana LaMonte: I'd like people to think that I was brave enough to stand up for my beliefs and although I didn't do that much for the trans community. I did what I could

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03:00:03.570 --> 03:00:09.120

Diana LaMonte: And I was a small cog in a big wheel of change.

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03:00:11.460 --> 03:00:16.350

Evan Taylor: Well, I can definitely tell you I mean you're not going yet but I already that's already how I think about you and see you

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03:00:17.310 --> 03:00:25.350

Evan Taylor: Certainly, the way that you know it's what's what I thought before the conversation. And it's, you know, and talking to you for almost three hours it's even more solidified that this has

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03:00:25.440 --> 03:00:27.300

Diana LaMonte: Been that long to

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03:00:27.450 --> 03:00:28.860

Evan Taylor: Get to our 49 so far.

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03:00:29.010 --> 03:00:30.510

Diana LaMonte: Wow, but

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03:00:30.810 --> 03:00:32.700

Evan Taylor: Again, I could I could go all day because I

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03:00:33.120 --> 03:00:44.070

Evan Taylor: You know, this is this is literally what I love to do, it's what I'm passionate about doing I you know I learned something. Every time I get off as soon as I get off these things like I should have. I wanted to ask more. There's always something

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03:00:44.880 --> 03:00:49.920

Evan Taylor: But it's important to me. That's why I always ask that, that one question. No matter what, if every one at the end.

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03:00:50.520 --> 03:01:03.540

Evan Taylor: Because I think it's important to recognize that as we talked about very well together. This is intergenerational intergenerational work and I'm so passionate about making sure that we honor the people who came before us and

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03:01:04.650 --> 03:01:11.760

Evan Taylor: And I'll disagree with you ever so slightly with respect about being the small cog in a in a big thing that didn't do that much.

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03:01:12.390 --> 03:01:29.250

Evan Taylor: Because if you didn't do that much certainly Rupert Raj would not be the person saying, you know, you got to talk to Diana, so it you know there's there's that um but also just being alive, you know, still being here now still being somebody who can say I remember when

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03:01:29.670 --> 03:01:44.520

Evan Taylor: You know that that is that's that's priceless. You know, in our culture, we do not value in the same ways the wisdom of our elders, you know and and positioning them as well. There's not necessarily because the role, but because they're just bloody smart, you know, they've

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03:01:44.970 --> 03:01:49.560

Evan Taylor: Done that and seen it and they can tell us at least one story about it and so

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03:01:49.950 --> 03:01:57.600

Evan Taylor: It's important to me to be able to honor those that history and to be able to make sure that we're preserving it so that other people in other generations can see

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03:01:57.810 --> 03:02:10.470

Evan Taylor: The work that that you have to do just to stay alive and understanding that live was activism and it was a very direct form of activism in the sense of when you have police saying to you, what would you expect

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03:02:10.920 --> 03:02:21.240

Evan Taylor: Yeah, that you are being told that the actual authorities in our society. Don't care about you and think that you should change in order to be, you know, worth more.

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03:02:22.260 --> 03:02:30.480

Evan Taylor: And that's it, then that's an awful thing to have to live through and certainly I've seen that change in my lifetime. Little bit you know it's not there yet, but it's changing

1572

03:02:30.900 --> 03:02:41.430

Evan Taylor: And that's that's due to folks like you being around being, you know, doing the work that you and Rupert that you and Rupert did with the AC t like it's just it needs to

1573

03:02:41.940 --> 03:02:50.910

Evan Taylor: Be known and needs to be preserved so that we don't forget, and it's for me. Tying us to those roots is what's going to stop us from veering too far to the right.

1574

03:02:51.240 --> 03:03:09.270

Evan Taylor: Yeah, trying to the roots of activism of progress of what it means to to to move forward as a society, and as humankind and it's again very philosophizing but I truly believe that that when we make trans positive history. We are creating a history of humanity in that way.

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03:03:09.300 --> 03:03:11.370

Diana LaMonte: Right and to

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03:03:12.360 --> 03:03:14.550

Diana LaMonte: Use an expression from another group.

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03:03:15.780 --> 03:03:18.030

Diana LaMonte: Lest we forget exactly

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03:03:18.330 --> 03:03:23.490

Evan Taylor: Exactly, exactly. If we don't keep that knowledge in mind we're doomed to repeat it over and over and over again.

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03:03:23.910 --> 03:03:25.380

Diana LaMonte: Yep. Yeah.

1580

03:03:25.740 --> 03:03:37.500

Evan Taylor: This is, this is what I think is so important about this conversation. And you know, I don't even want to get off the phone seven joins us chatting chatting with you. But is there stuff that we haven't covered that you want to make sure is part of the record.

1581

03:03:38.790 --> 03:03:40.290

Diana LaMonte: Can't think of anything.

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03:03:40.590 --> 03:03:41.010

Okay.

1583

03:03:42.180 --> 03:03:46.740

Diana LaMonte: Now I have to say, I'm totally blown away by you.

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03:03:48.450 --> 03:03:58.230

Diana LaMonte: I find your interest in this whole subject amazing and I would never have known that you were transgendered a tranny

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03:03:59.700 --> 03:04:20.610

Diana LaMonte: I get I'm I'm flabbergasted. I'm glad I didn't know what the beginning. Mm hmm. Because, you know, I thought, Who is this guy. And why is he doing this. And, you know, and then as I as the interview went on, I saw your passion. And I thought, always a gay man that's really training friendly.

1586

03:04:20.790 --> 03:04:28.320

Diana LaMonte: Right. And then when you told me you were transgendered. Well, my mouth fell open. Yeah.

1587

03:04:32.580 --> 03:04:38.970

Diana LaMonte: So I think it's really cool. You know, you're obviously a really well adjusted man and

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03:04:40.020 --> 03:04:42.900

Diana LaMonte: Good on you for doing this. Thank you.

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03:04:42.960 --> 03:04:50.010

Evan Taylor: Thank you. I really do believe it's, it's, you know, it's whatever spirituality, one of my practice, you know, I was

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03:04:50.730 --> 03:04:59.340

Evan Taylor: For me it is, it's a spiritual practice because it's about honoring people who came before me and it's about as well honoring the future by preserving it so that you know

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03:04:59.670 --> 03:05:14.280

Evan Taylor: That those of us, you know, I remember. For me, my transition, everyone to find that was like, early 2000s. I remember like going down into the belly of the university and having to find the one shelf, way back in the corner out the bottom hidden over that had a few books.

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03:05:15.600 --> 03:05:16.470

Diana LaMonte: Really

1593

03:05:16.560 --> 03:05:22.650

Evan Taylor: That was like and and I say that, and I giggle about that because I'm talking to you, and you're like, there was a shelf.

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03:05:24.600 --> 03:05:25.650

Diana LaMonte: Also, you know,

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03:05:25.800 --> 03:05:26.670

Diana LaMonte: And little

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03:05:26.820 --> 03:05:40.230

Evan Taylor: Not only is there a shelf, but people will be able to go to the trans archives, which has, I believe, at this point, and this is how archivists measure things and they have a believer FOOTBALL FIELD AND A HALF OF boxes.

1597

03:05:41.310 --> 03:05:46.020

Evan Taylor: That's, that's how much material they have in that archive right now and it's growing and growing and growing.

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03:05:46.440 --> 03:05:49.230

Diana LaMonte: When I was growing up, it was one article

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03:05:49.470 --> 03:05:51.390

Diana LaMonte: And one angel organization.

1600

03:05:52.050 --> 03:05:54.030

Diana LaMonte: And what they was no internet

1601

03:05:54.210 --> 03:05:54.930

Diana LaMonte: There was nothing.

1602

03:05:55.320 --> 03:05:58.710

Evan Taylor: There's nothing and you're gonna do the magazine Fantasia fair

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03:05:59.520 --> 03:06:06.720

Evan Taylor: No. Okay, so it's a big there's a big magazines big conference and whatever that have been so now we have now digitized.

1604

03:06:06.990 --> 03:06:14.760

Evan Taylor: Like the entirety of all of these like these magazines that were going back and forth the trans community and they'll group of write an article in a, in a, you know, whatever.

1605

03:06:15.180 --> 03:06:21.450

Evan Taylor: AM, FM international magazine or whatever. There's all these. Those are on now preserve their digitized and there are searchable online.

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03:06:24.390 --> 03:06:26.460

Diana LaMonte: What magazine, did you say it was

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03:06:26.550 --> 03:06:29.280

Evan Taylor: I was talking about Fantasia fair, which was a like

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03:06:30.030 --> 03:06:31.980

Evan Taylor: They there was an early sort of

1609

03:06:33.330 --> 03:06:36.360

Evan Taylor: cross dressing and trans women.

1610

03:06:37.980 --> 03:06:43.620

Evan Taylor: I actually think still going on I Virginia Prince was was the founder of that.

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03:06:47.070 --> 03:06:49.080

Diana LaMonte: I'm just writing this down, please go

1612

03:06:49.380 --> 03:06:51.150

Diana LaMonte: Junior prints. Mm hmm.

1613

03:06:52.470 --> 03:06:57.000

Diana LaMonte: Because I didn't know there was all this information out there. I mean, I'm blown away.

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03:06:58.200 --> 03:07:00.180

Diana LaMonte: So I'm going to Google, some of this.

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03:07:00.240 --> 03:07:06.480

Evan Taylor: I'm happy to. If you find anything you're wondering about, I'm happy to send you any link to anything I've got him very passionate about it.

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03:07:06.810 --> 03:07:19.530

Evan Taylor: Um, but this is this is the thing that I think is against that. It's a spiritual practice where I got to benefit from knowing that there was people like you around like I remember meeting Rupert Raj, for the first time, of being like, it was like meeting a celebrity.

1617

03:07:20.940 --> 03:07:27.960

Evan Taylor: I was so excited to meet this person, I'd heard of, you know, I think he was like the third trans person. I never heard of. I was so excited to meet him and

1618

03:07:28.440 --> 03:07:39.660

Evan Taylor: You know, I remembered that. And I, and I benefited from that, from that work and in so doing, I'd like to think that the next generation of folks is going to benefit from the football fields of archiving work of the

1619

03:07:40.050 --> 03:07:47.910

Evan Taylor: These, these oral histories that they'll have to listen to people talk to each other, the intergenerational conversation we're having about figuring out language and identity and

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03:07:48.090 --> 03:07:54.720

Evan Taylor: You know, I didn't even know what does that mean, and all of that stuff that you know we're talking about. I really think is providing

1621

03:07:56.940 --> 03:08:05.490

Evan Taylor: If we're creating more than just that shelf like I only had one article I had one shelf. These people now have one archives. And I don't know what they're going to do.

1622

03:08:05.490 --> 03:08:06.780

Diana LaMonte: On a football field.

1623

03:08:06.840 --> 03:08:08.100

Evan Taylor: At one and a half, I believe.

1624

03:08:09.630 --> 03:08:11.190

Diana LaMonte: Blows my mind.

1625

03:08:11.400 --> 03:08:15.390

Diana LaMonte: I know, Evan, what would be really nice. I would love to personally meet you

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03:08:15.690 --> 03:08:16.320

Evan Taylor: Definitely

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03:08:16.500 --> 03:08:17.250

Diana LaMonte: I think that would

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03:08:18.090 --> 03:08:20.100

Evan Taylor: Lead moving transfer straightforward conference.

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03:08:20.250 --> 03:08:20.910

Diana LaMonte: Is that hurting

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03:08:21.150 --> 03:08:23.730

Evan Taylor: Have you ever been to the, the Conference of the trans archives

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03:08:24.270 --> 03:08:24.690

Diana LaMonte: No.

1632

03:08:25.140 --> 03:08:26.340

Diana LaMonte: No, you know, I had one

1633

03:08:26.670 --> 03:08:30.030

Evan Taylor: Okay, I'm office. I've got for this up here on the island. So you might as well know.

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03:08:30.690 --> 03:08:31.050

Diana LaMonte: Okay.

1635

03:08:31.080 --> 03:08:46.440

Evan Taylor: There's a conference that's they started it in 2014 I think might have happened 20 1220 1416 and 18 and now 20 things. Yeah, so the fourth one. So they would every other year. It's at the University of Victoria and it's called the moving trans history forward conference.

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03:08:46.680 --> 03:08:47.430

Diana LaMonte: And oh yeah

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03:08:47.520 --> 03:08:54.900

Evan Taylor: It's not an academic conference particular there is some academic folks there because you know it's at the university. Um, but it's know half the people there from the community.

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03:08:55.230 --> 03:08:58.530

Evan Taylor: So like, I'm sure Rupert's going to be there. He's always there.

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03:08:58.740 --> 03:09:04.890

Evan Taylor: But like there's there's folks who have been around doing this work and they come together at the conference. And the point is to have

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03:09:05.040 --> 03:09:11.490

Evan Taylor: These conversations about what has been translated. Where was trans history when, you know, Rupert was doing this work in the early 70s.

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03:09:11.760 --> 03:09:18.600

Evan Taylor: Where's Where's it at now. So there's workshops and discussions, there's all they always close off the

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03:09:19.080 --> 03:09:30.270

Evan Taylor: Conference with an elders panel where there's folks who were around from the early days. Talk about what they've seen and there's a youth panel on the Saturday. So there's, it's a whole the whole conversation is about

1643

03:09:30.810 --> 03:09:34.470

Evan Taylor: How do we create trans history and how do we move it forward.

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03:09:35.520 --> 03:09:37.500

Diana LaMonte: I would love to be involved in that.

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03:09:37.800 --> 03:09:45.060

Evan Taylor: And I can't wait to get up to send you a link and you're gonna you're gonna be super happy to. I think there's

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03:09:46.170 --> 03:09:46.890

Evan Taylor: I think they're expecting

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03:09:47.910 --> 03:09:49.170

Evan Taylor: 400 people this year.

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03:09:49.890 --> 03:09:50.940

Diana LaMonte: Oh yeah, I think.

1649

03:09:51.450 --> 03:09:52.290

Diana LaMonte: Rupert's coming

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03:09:52.710 --> 03:09:55.830

Evan Taylor: I don't know if Rupert's coming. I'm not in touch with him directly, but I can find out

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03:09:56.790 --> 03:09:57.360

Diana LaMonte: Well, I know.

1652

03:09:58.050 --> 03:10:10.170

Evan Taylor: It's been there before, definitely been there before. And it's just it's it's a way to bring together, everybody in the community, whether they're activists or researchers or you know it. Sometimes you

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03:10:10.710 --> 03:10:16.050

Evan Taylor: Know, sometimes there's some folks who are just super good allies who want to learn more, like some of those folks.

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03:10:16.230 --> 03:10:16.830

Evan Taylor: But it's mostly

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03:10:17.010 --> 03:10:19.140

Diana LaMonte: trans folks. When does this happen.

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03:10:19.380 --> 03:10:21.660

Evan Taylor: And this year. It's April 2 to fifth

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03:10:22.680 --> 03:10:23.100

Diana LaMonte: Okay.

1658

03:10:23.340 --> 03:10:27.150

Evan Taylor: And registration just open. So lots of time to look at that.

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03:10:27.510 --> 03:10:29.010

Diana LaMonte: Okay, send me the link

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03:10:29.160 --> 03:10:37.950

Evan Taylor: Absolutely. Well, until yes I'll be there. I'm doing them. I'm doing a panel on oral history on what it means to do oral history and in trans communities because it's very different.

1661

03:10:38.490 --> 03:10:49.320

Evan Taylor: Is you know basically my summary of it is, if you talk to, you know, random straight person about their life history, you start with when they were born and you move through right

1662

03:10:49.470 --> 03:10:56.340

Evan Taylor: Yeah, trans people. That's not a great way to start because most of us had traumatized and adolescence. We don't really want to remember

1663

03:10:56.670 --> 03:10:57.180

Diana LaMonte: So,

1664

03:10:57.390 --> 03:11:08.160

Evan Taylor: So I try and start it in a very different, different place. And then the details come out later. And we can find out some of those things. But it's different and trans people we don't like that to you know

1665

03:11:08.700 --> 03:11:17.370

Evan Taylor: I tried to do this with with Dr. De Flore and it took six hours to go through our, our Interview Guide, because we realized it was too much life history.

1666

03:11:17.850 --> 03:11:25.710

Evan Taylor: And we were just we were taking life history that wasn't what we wanted to get at what we want to get out. Was this trans activism experience and

1667

03:11:26.280 --> 03:11:35.790

Evan Taylor: Create history and that way you know all of us know we can we can all write an autobiography and publish it, if that's what we do. But trans history is different than individual personal

1668

03:11:35.790 --> 03:11:36.990

Diana LaMonte: History Although

1669

03:11:37.500 --> 03:11:46.200

Evan Taylor: It's different. So I'll be talking a little bit about that in the in the panel and also about just for me, how I see it as as inherently intergenerational work.

1670

03:11:47.100 --> 03:11:55.800

Evan Taylor: That if we're talking about, you know, as we're now talking about things like intergenerational trauma and indigenous communities, we're talking about it and you know for for Jewish folks. After the Holocaust.

1671

03:11:56.010 --> 03:12:09.090

Evan Taylor: We need to start talking about the trauma that trans folks have been through. And it's been very traumatizing and look at the fact that you know what some of them who made you made it till elder elder years they are scarred literally and figuratively and

1672

03:12:09.120 --> 03:12:09.540

Diana LaMonte: Oh, yeah.

1673

03:12:09.690 --> 03:12:15.870

Evan Taylor: We need to talk about what that is. Because if we don't learn from that as that as my younger generation. We're just doomed to repeat it.

1674

03:12:16.440 --> 03:12:16.980

Evan Taylor: So,

1675

03:12:17.040 --> 03:12:29.160

Evan Taylor: We need to know about. So I believe that that healing has to take place intergenerational. I don't think we can expect people who, you know, are about to be 72 talking to other people who are also about to be 70 who are just as scarred

1676

03:12:29.580 --> 03:12:37.650

Evan Taylor: From life and traumatized as each other. We can't ask them to heal each other, but we can say, as somebody who's younger than you. I can say

1677

03:12:37.890 --> 03:12:50.100

Evan Taylor: I can preserve this legacy. I can make sure that these that these traumas were are understood by people who don't have to experience them and we can pass along that knowledge and those survival resiliency skills to the next generation.

1678

03:12:50.490 --> 03:12:53.580

Evan Taylor: And I believe that's the only way that intergenerational healing.

1679

03:12:53.790 --> 03:12:54.450

Diana LaMonte: Can happen.

1680

03:12:54.900 --> 03:12:57.570

Evan Taylor: And certainly we've had intergenerational trauma is trans people.

1681

03:12:58.170 --> 03:13:03.720

Diana LaMonte: And if I can keep one trans person from killing themselves.

1682

03:13:03.900 --> 03:13:10.620

Diana LaMonte: Yes, because I can show them. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and it's not an oncoming train

1683

03:13:11.160 --> 03:13:12.930

Evan Taylor: Him in there. Yeah.

1684

03:13:12.990 --> 03:13:15.930

Diana LaMonte: You know and and open your mouth and ask for help.

1685

03:13:16.110 --> 03:13:23.040

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, talk to people learn. Mm hmm. You know, if I can do that for one person than my life's worth it.

1686

03:13:23.580 --> 03:13:25.740

Evan Taylor: Do you know the dino the starfish story.

1687

03:13:26.610 --> 03:13:26.910

No.

1688

03:13:28.050 --> 03:13:32.070

Evan Taylor: There's a little boy he's walking down the down the oceans. He's on the beach.

1689

03:13:32.520 --> 03:13:37.260

Evan Taylor: And he's taking there's all these starfish that washed up on the beach and he's taking the starfish me throwing them back the ocean.

1690

03:13:38.820 --> 03:13:44.760

Evan Taylor: This older man, I've got actually intergenerational work this older man comes along, he says to the young boy.

1691

03:13:45.300 --> 03:13:51.330

Evan Taylor: What are you doing, it's just one throwing starfish drop in the ocean. If I don't throw them back in the ocean before the client goes out they'll die.

1692

03:13:52.170 --> 03:14:00.810

Evan Taylor: And the old man looks at the young boy and says, hey, by the way, don't you see there's thousands and thousands of starfish. You can't make a difference.

1693

03:14:01.830 --> 03:14:05.370

Evan Taylor: And the little boy thinks for a second and then bends down he picks up a starfish.

1694

03:14:05.520 --> 03:14:06.930

Evan Taylor: And he throws it back in the water.

1695

03:14:07.110 --> 03:14:10.410

Evan Taylor: And he looks at the old man. He smiles and says, I made a difference for that one.

1696

03:14:12.420 --> 03:14:13.830

Diana LaMonte: Oh, cool.

1697

03:14:14.460 --> 03:14:15.810

Diana LaMonte: So, Oh, I like that.

1698

03:14:15.840 --> 03:14:16.230

Diana LaMonte: So that's

1699

03:14:16.860 --> 03:14:28.020

Evan Taylor: When you say if you can keep one person and absolutely anybody who now listens to this in 50 years time and wants to hear that message.

1700

03:14:28.440 --> 03:14:38.250

Evan Taylor: It's right there for them, they'll hear it and I am absolutely sure that this work that we've done today and preserving it will absolutely without a doubt in my mind, save more than one life.

1701

03:14:39.180 --> 03:14:44.580

Diana LaMonte: Great, great do send me the link because I'd like to see what the conference.

1702

03:14:44.640 --> 03:14:48.480

Evan Taylor: Yes, I would love to even transfer. I'll send you that as soon as we hang up.

1703

03:14:49.020 --> 03:14:49.410

Diana LaMonte: Okay.

1704

03:14:49.500 --> 03:14:51.720

Evan Taylor: And I'll probably send you some more things as I remember, and look at my notes.

1705

03:14:52.110 --> 03:14:53.100

Diana LaMonte: That's fine.

1706

03:14:54.120 --> 03:15:04.890

Evan Taylor: And then I'll also follow up with you. It might not be right away today about have to get out, you know, generate the files and I'll send you a link with with the with the recording in it, so you'll be able to see that it will have

1707

03:15:05.190 --> 03:15:14.550

Evan Taylor: A script as well, but just FYI, the transcript is digitally generated. So it's completely inaccurate. It doesn't represent. We said, and will

1708

03:15:15.000 --> 03:15:21.630

Evan Taylor: We're hoping that will be a little bit more funding to get someone to go and like do the transports like professionally, like what the human ear and get it.

1709

03:15:22.560 --> 03:15:30.630

Evan Taylor: Um, but the videos like you'll have chance to review that. And if there's things that you're just like, oh, I shouldn't have said, Oh, we got that, you know, we can make those notes in the files for the editing.

1710

03:15:30.720 --> 03:15:31.710

Diana LaMonte: Not okay

1711

03:15:31.980 --> 03:15:42.510

Evan Taylor: Not that'd be great. But, you know, in all honesty, everything you said. I think is so valuable I you know I don't think you said anything that you need to feel worried about in any way and

1712

03:15:42.960 --> 03:15:45.570

Evan Taylor: If you did, we can always environment for 25 years and rocky

1713

03:15:48.270 --> 03:15:50.820

Diana LaMonte: I don't think I'll get arrested for anything I said

1714

03:15:50.940 --> 03:16:01.470

Evan Taylor: I don't think so. No, I don't think so at all. And I, you know, as I said, I very much believe in the value of this work. And when I have these conversations that are just so fun and

1715

03:16:01.830 --> 03:16:08.040

Evan Taylor: You know, we talked about some deep dark things but we enjoyed it, you know, and I feel like we had a nice report as a good

1716

03:16:08.280 --> 03:16:18.480

Evan Taylor: Just a just a good chat and there's nothing more that I'd like to do them to sit down for coffee or tea or whatever, whatever you drink and found for one of those at the at the conference any great to see you.

1717

03:16:19.050 --> 03:16:22.740

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I really like that. I'm I'll make a point of being there.

1718

03:16:23.040 --> 03:16:24.660

Evan Taylor: Awesome. Awesome. Well, you look you'll

1719

03:16:25.350 --> 03:16:31.830

Evan Taylor: Get to meet get to meet my husband does mouse. He'll. He'll be there as well. He's, he's doing a doing a presentation on something about to spirit education.

1720

03:16:32.400 --> 03:16:37.350

Diana LaMonte: Oh, yeah. Oh, great. And it would be really nice if Rupert would show up.

1721

03:16:38.670 --> 03:16:41.700

Evan Taylor: I hope, I hope so. I've only got to meet on a couple of times in my life so

1722

03:16:42.450 --> 03:16:44.820

Diana LaMonte: I haven't seen Rupert in decades.

1723

03:16:45.210 --> 03:16:50.160

Evan Taylor: I'm sure that there's more than I'm sure there's gonna be people there that you've even forgotten about from back in the day.

1724

03:16:50.760 --> 03:16:53.220

Diana LaMonte: Probably that'd be cool now.

1725

03:16:53.250 --> 03:16:55.680

Evan Taylor: Do you remember to remember to patent and Joanna Clark.

1726

03:16:57.690 --> 03:16:59.160

Diana LaMonte: The names don't ring a bell.

1727

03:16:59.190 --> 03:17:07.260

Evan Taylor: Okay. Yeah, they were from back in the day they had an information service called J J to CP information services that was very active in the 70s.

1728

03:17:08.730 --> 03:17:09.960

Evan Taylor: I will eat it. Yeah.

1729

03:17:09.990 --> 03:17:13.470

Evan Taylor: In Vancouver. I know they were in, they were in the US.

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03:17:13.890 --> 03:17:20.910

Evan Taylor: Oh, so yeah. But no, Rupert. Rupert with sort of the, the, the main Canadian person doing everything basically

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03:17:20.970 --> 03:17:21.720

Diana LaMonte: At that point, yeah.

1732

03:17:21.930 --> 03:17:22.200

Diana LaMonte: Right.

1733

03:17:22.500 --> 03:17:28.590

Evan Taylor: That's why I went to Rupert and all my supervisor went to root for him just said, Who do we need to talk to, you know, everybody.

1734

03:17:30.240 --> 03:17:30.570

Diana LaMonte: Yeah.

1735

03:17:30.660 --> 03:17:33.900

Evan Taylor: I'm so I'm so glad that that we got introduced and I can't wait to meet you.

1736

03:17:34.410 --> 03:17:42.840

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I had a wonderful day. I'm kind of nervous about it, but you're great. And I can hardly wait to meet you and give you a hug.

1737

03:17:43.080 --> 03:17:44.610

Evan Taylor: Definitely, definitely.

1738

03:17:44.940 --> 03:17:53.220

Diana LaMonte: First thing, thank you for this. It's been really, it's been fun and awakening to go back over

1739

03:17:54.450 --> 03:17:58.500

Diana LaMonte: What's happened in my life and be in a safe environment while I'm doing it.

1740

03:17:58.890 --> 03:18:11.100

Diana LaMonte: Um, so, you know, because some of the stuff I was dredging it up when I was waiting for this interview and I thought, oh god, do I want to go back to those places in my mind.

1741

03:18:11.160 --> 03:18:18.360

Diana LaMonte: Right in my emotions, but it's been it's been fun even talking about the nasty stuff.

1742

03:18:18.390 --> 03:18:26.100

Diana LaMonte: Mm hmm. Um, yeah, it's been cathartic for me and I've taught felt nothing but comfortable

1743

03:18:26.790 --> 03:18:29.520

Evan Taylor: Well, it's like, like they say about those difficult experiences more remote and then

1744

03:18:30.780 --> 03:18:31.530

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, I

1745

03:18:31.560 --> 03:18:35.910

Evan Taylor: Get it out and it's amazing how once we're able to communicate that with another person it

1746

03:18:36.690 --> 03:18:41.970

Evan Taylor: Just takes the sting out of it doesn't make it better. But this thing goes away just ever so slightly.

1747

03:18:42.510 --> 03:18:50.850

Evan Taylor: I think when we're when we're seeing, and for me that's the most important thing is that exactly what I'm hearing from you right now, which is that when people finish the interview that they that they look at me and say, you know,

1748

03:18:51.330 --> 03:19:01.830

Evan Taylor: I felt seen like I felt I felt supported to to bring myself to the table to to talk about difficult things. But also, you know, to set my boundaries. When I need to not talk

1749

03:19:02.220 --> 03:19:16.410

Evan Taylor: Too much, but to make sure it's still useful. And so if you feel seen and feel like now somebody, somebody heard and understood the entirety of of you as a person, not just you know about the surgery. Right.

1750

03:19:16.470 --> 03:19:17.160

Diana LaMonte: Yeah, now

1751

03:19:17.280 --> 03:19:18.090

Evan Taylor: Now how is

1752

03:19:18.150 --> 03:19:20.520

Evan Taylor: What is this person in front of me and what do they mean

1753

03:19:21.660 --> 03:19:24.930

Evan Taylor: And if you feel seen on that then I've done my job 110%

1754

03:19:25.500 --> 03:19:26.520

Diana LaMonte: Oh, I definitely do.

1755

03:19:27.990 --> 03:19:28.680

Diana LaMonte: Wonderful.

1756

03:19:29.070 --> 03:19:34.260

Evan Taylor: Thank you so much. I can't, I can't thank you enough. So I'll just wait. I can give you a hug. Later on today.

1757

03:19:35.190 --> 03:19:39.000

Diana LaMonte: Thank you very much. It's been an enjoyable experience.

1758

03:19:39.090 --> 03:19:41.580

Evan Taylor: Thank you very kindly I thoroughly enjoyed it.

1759

03:19:42.960 --> 03:19:44.610

Evan Taylor: Thank you so much. I will see you soon.

1760

03:19:45.150 --> 03:19:47.760

Diana LaMonte: Okay. And do you send me that link. I'll see you in April.

1761

03:19:48.030 --> 03:19:50.760

Evan Taylor: I will send you that link in 10 seconds.

1762

03:19:51.000 --> 03:19:51.450

Evan Taylor: Okay.

1763

03:19:51.660 --> 03:19:53.220

Evan Taylor: Okay. God bless. God bless.