



Nashville Queer History

Oral History Interview

General Questions and Topics

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Note: The interviewee can pass or decline to answer any of the following questions and topics. The interviewee can stop the entire interview at any point in time.

Not all questions or topics might apply to you, and you may be asked some questions as follow ups that are not listed below as the interview turns into natural conversation. This may also cause topics to get out of chronological order; that is fine. To reiterate, you may decline to answer ANY question during the interview. When providing an answer, the more descriptive you can be is usually better, but sometimes we just cannot remember details. That's okay. Answer how you remember it.

Biographical Information

- First and last name
- Date of birth (month, day, year)
- Location of birth
- Parents' names
- Today, how do you identify in terms of sexuality and/or gender?

Childhood (ages 0-18)

- Where did you grow up (ages 0-18)? List multiple locations if applicable.
- What was your relationship like to your parents/guardians?
- Did you have siblings? What was that relationship like?
- Was your family religious?
- What elementary, middle, and high schools did you attend?
- What was school like and what was your relationship like with your peers?
- Did you have any close friends? Tell me about those friendships.
- Were you involved in any extracurricular activities or clubs?
- Do you have any memories from childhood about your sexuality and/or gender? Please share what you remember.
 - How did you feel?
 - Did your parents, siblings, or friends know or suspect?
 - What about other classmates or teachers?
- Anything else you would like to share about growing up?

Adulthood (ages 18-present): college, jobs, relationships, friendships, nightlife, involvement in organizations, family structure/children, etc.

- General college and career questions
 - Did you attend college? If so, where and what did you study?
 - Did you have any notable experiences involving your sexuality and/or gender during college? Share what you remember.
 - What was your first job?
 - Were you out at work, or was anyone else? Did you feel safe to be yourself at work?
- Coming out
 - When did you come out? What was the reaction like?
 - Did you have any fears?
 - Were you out in college or at work?
 - Did you have any mentors or role models (can be celebrities) that could help with the coming out experience?
- Can you describe aspects of the Nashville LGBTQ community?
 - Do you remember any bars or clubs? Did you attend any of these places? What were they like inside in terms of both decor and atmosphere?
 - Did you attend drag shows? If so, where and do you remember any performers?
 - Do you remember any publications that circulated, like newspapers or newsletters?
 - Were you involved in any LGBTQ organizations or other social movements? Do you remember any protests?
 - Do you remember any criminal activity or involvement with the police in relation to Nashville's LGBTQ community?
 - Were there cruising spots? How did you meet other LGBTQ people (friends or dating)?
 - Was there a notable political or social tension in Nashville about the presence of LGBTQ people?
- Relationships
 - When was your first relationship related to your sexuality and/or gender identity?
 - Do you have any relationship stories you'd like to share?
 - What were/are some challenges to these relationships?
 - Are you with someone today?
 - If applicable, discuss marriage and children experiences.
- AIDS epidemic
 - Do you remember when the AIDS epidemic hit Nashville? What was the atmosphere like?
 - Did you know anyone who contracted AIDS/HIV?
 - Please share any stories you would like about the AIDS epidemic in Nashville in the 1980s and 1990s.
- Nashville Pride

- Have you ever attended a Nashville Pride event? If so, when was the earliest you attended?
 - What was Nashville Pride like back in the day compared to more recent events?
 - What does celebrating Pride mean to you?
- Open floor. Feel free to bring up any topics that were not discussed, and share any stories that you want.