

Queer as friends

Brilliant conversations on the beauty of friendship

with Tanith Ilesley & Dr. Katie Hall



Katie:

Welcome to Queer as Friends: brilliant conversations on the beauty of friendship with Tanith, Ilesley and Doctor Katie Hall.

Tan:

Hello, hello. We have the chance to speak with long term friends Denise Warner and Donna Solomon-Carter, the hosts of My Lesbian Radio. The number one lesbian internet radio show and podcast, which began in 2006, in Coral Springs, Florida. It ran until 2014, ending after Denise had moved to London, England and Donna landed her dream job.

Tan:

They have been besties since the early 2000s. After meeting through the spoken word event, Sister Speak and continue their friendship today despite living on different sides of the pond. They're currently releasing a series of new My Lesbian Radio specials to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their first show. Hi, and welcome to the Queer as Friends podcast with Tanith Ilesley and Doctor Katie Hall.

Tan:

We're joined today by Denise Warner and best friend Donna Solomon-Carter.

Denise:

Okay, let's see what we got here. Donna. Solomon. Carter. Mom, wife, Bubbe, friend and full time dog mom. By day, Director of Communications for a national LGBTQ nonprofit. Making sure the right messages land with the right people at the right time. With as little chaos as possible.

A natural talker. Equal parts caring, concerned, and occasionally a little too in her feelings, but she leans into it. Big on family, chosen family, good music, keeping vibes positive and people safe. I hope to be thought of as someone who will show up, stay connected and maybe send one too many texts along the way or none at all.

Katie:

I felt like your bios really represented each of you because this is Denise's bio. Denise Warner is a podcast pioneer, D-list author, and cat mum. Straight to the point.

Denise:
Not much else I can add to that that's worthy.

Katie:
It's all worthy, Denise/ but I think you've nailed it.

Donna:
/You're so much more, you're so much more.

Tan:
Thanks so much for joining us. We'll crack right on. Tell us why you're friends.

Denise:
Why?

Tan:
Yeah.

Denise:
Oh/

Donna:
I ask myself that question pretty frequently. Like, what on earth were we thinking?

Denise:
So for me, I think, you know, it's really hard to find people that will tolerate your sense of humor. Whatever direction it swings in, I know that she'll get it. We can do a look. We can be seated at opposite ends of the room and send a short text and then like, look and make sure the other one's got it. I mean, I have a big circle of other friends, but I don't think anyone would really get the humor. Understand it. Not be offended by it. Yeah, I feel genuinely grateful to have someone that doesn't be like, oh my God, you're such an asshole.

Donna:
But even when I do feel that way, it's with love, so it's okay.

I think that the... the... were you instant friends question is the start of our friendship. So I have to say for me.

Denise:
No, no.

Donna:
We met across the table at the Stonewall Library. We had signed up to learn more about a women's spoken word event that was forming in our area, and each of us partnered at the time and, not with each other, but each of us partnered at the time. But sitting across the table from Denise, I realized I had looked at her profile like 400 times on AOL, whatever the AOL dating thing was at that point.

Denise:
Yes

Donna:

I was completely intimidated and embarrassed and anxious. But the minute we started working together on... on Sister Speak, everything she just said, there was no-one in the room that would get my snark or catch the sarcasm as quickly or as fully embracing as Denise ever did. Not...not a partner, not a friend, not a family member. No one else.

Denise:
Yeah.

Donna:
And that cemented it, I mean.

Denise:
Yeah, when I showed up at that call to volunteer, whatever I just went in with, like, no expectations. It really wasn't even my jam. I was literally trying to get out into the community more as opposed to being online. And I don't even know if we actually like, spoke words to each other. It was as we progressed we were all kind of like tasked with something. And then we would meet every month. And I think because at the time, if I'm not mistaken, Donna, you did have a bestie.

Donna:
That was Rosalie.

Denise:
So I kind of just bullied my way into that picture and eventually just ousted Rosalie and took over the spot...Yeah.

Donna:

It was... it was just a really fun project to start working on together, but no one really...We would sit at the back of the room. We're safe. Right? This is a safe space. Okay, we all know this. You said so. And we believe you. We would sit at the back of the room, and by the room, I mean, like whatever shithole of a bar would give us Wednesday night for two hours.

Denise:
Yeah.

Donna:
Or, you know, somebody's backyard or whatever. And these talented, beautiful, unique, heartfelt women would just get up on stage and just pour their heart out in, in spoken word. And the two of us would be like, 'Oh, yeah. And..?', oh, shit, and like, like, so trash the work

Denise:
And to each other through their whole thing and then getting up and we're like, 'That was just... let's... a round of applause for...' So it was a bonding experience for sure.

Donna:
Yep.

Denise:
Other...other than that, like, I didn't have kids, so I couldn't really relate to the mom stuff or whatever, but I always found it funny, so.

Donna:
And I was okay with that.

Denise:
Yeah. I...to this day I give her kids a rinsing whenever I can.

Tan:
Yeah. To follow up on that, I think we had questions about whether there were any lived experiences that differed between you and what they bring to your friendship, even if sort of one of you has got a... lived through an experience like being a parent, for instance, that the other hasn't lived through and how that feeds into your dynamic.

Denise:
Well, yeah, she was a parent. I couldn't really relate to that, and I think I was a bit of a slut, so she couldn't really relate to that.

Donna:
Also true. It's funny because I'm, I'm, I'm hearing the question today, thinking about today rather than the beginning. We were 30-something. Maybe both of us were in our 30s at that point. So just the priorities alone that we embrace day-to-day were very different, like super different. I had gone through a divorce, which was okay but challenging, and then trying to find my way into a world filled with lesbians. And Denise had fucked 'em all already, so it was like really...to find somebody who didn't know her.

Denise:
If I didn't, I would make Donna set me up with them.

Donna:
That is the line...that is also true. She lived on her own, she had a cool condo not too far from my family home with toys and dirty laundry and stuff everywhere. She's a total neat freak. I was happy to be able to walk a path out the door without tripping or on a Lego. So there were many things that I guess we kind of like created each other's fantasy. Like, what was it like to be a mom, and...

Denise:
For you maybe!

Donna:
Terrifying for her! And what was it like to be really free? Because I had just found this whole, like, community.

Denise:
I think the proximity in which we lived was so amazing because she, it was like a hospital separated us. She was on one side. I was a little bit further on the other side. It was just like, that's kind of how Wednesday nights came about, was just that it was such an easy hang. And so everybody just got along. It was an easy friendship, I would say, like didn't feel forced. It didn't feel like, I don't want to do this today. Yeah. The ease of it I think always will blow my mind.

Tan:
And obviously now you don't live in the same place, much less a hospital away from each other. How did that come about, and how has your friendship navigated that distance?

Donna:

Okay, I'm going first this time. It sucks and I couldn't be happier for her. The show came. The show came along. We did a really good job of of engaging each other, engaging each other's lives, supporting the international, national and international community far before we found our way within our own backyard. But the reality is we made connections and, you know, we went through, it...it wasn't always easy. It was always funny. It wasn't always fun, but it was always funny. Denise met the love of her life through the show, and I'll give it that to you when you're ready to talk about that. But knowing that that would be that ultimately the move would be her happiest spot. Her happiest opportunity is the only thing I got to hang on to because nothing changed here. She was just gone. Nothing changed. So there was a giant hole. I wasn't recreating a bud. I wasn't looking for a new on-air partner. It was challenging, and communication was certainly not as pick-up-a-phone-and-text easy then as it is today, but I still ignore most of her texts. She'll tell you that too. But it was an adjustment. And even when she comes here, comes home to Broward County, Fort Lauderdale area, I still...we have to vye for each other's time. You know her schedule is prior to her mom, priority. I agree, I get it, I understand it, but also I'm working and then there's stuff to do. So it, we make the best of what we can, when we have the time together. Absolutely.

Denise:

Yeah. I will say this, even my own mother didn't give me as hard a time as Donna did when I said I was moving. Didn't you put an expiration date on it? All right, I'll give you, what, five years? All right.

Yeah, we had a two year, we had a two year plan. Yeah, absolutely.

Denise:

Yeah. So

Donna:

She was leaving her cats behind. Think about this now. Just a moment. Lesbians everywhere. She was a cat mom forever - one cat needed severe, intense, frequent medical attention. She was leaving her cats behind. I put money on those animals

Denise:

Do you see what she's doing there?

Donna:

I thought she'd be/

Denise:

/And her mother has MS!

(Laughter)

Denise:

So, yeah, she was layering that Jewish guilt like a like a Reuben sandwich. Yeah. The hard part for me is that there might be a void where I was in her life, but her day to day things, you know, are pretty much the same. You know, you work, you have your, you know, your couple of work friends and you know, you're doing you got your dogs and your family and your kids and all that kind of stuff. For me, I sometimes, you know, feel really isolated here. So if I send her a text and she doesn't see it, I just want to reach through the phone and

punch her in the face. I don't have anyone else, like, answer my text! So it is. It is really hard. Like I haven't built that community that I used to feel there, here, you know, who knows, well Got a fresh start. Maybe we will down here at the coast. We'll see. But it's never going to be like what, what we have/

Donna:
/Never

Denise:
/with each other. Yeah.

Donna:
There isn't anyone that I haven't met another person since, or ever will, that it can be so comfortable. I know that, I totally know that. I'm glad it's 20 something years later at this point, and we can still say that, and it be true.

Denise:
There's I mean, there's stuff that I don't share with anybody else but her. In the beginning, I would tell her every freaky thing I did with every girl and everything. Here we are, 20 odd years later and it's like, so my doctor said, I have vaginal atrophy. This. This is the shit that we're talking about now. It's like, oh my God. But that's not something you just blurt out in conversation when you're with, you know, when I'm with...My British friends are a little bit more uptight. Like, I can't even I know, you know, but with her, yeah, I feel like I could pretty much say all kinds of things that are happening that I probably wouldn't have in conversations with other people.

Donna:
There's two moments that have come to mind that just relaying these two moments really diagram the entire relationship from the beginning to today. Two moments. One time she called and said, bring me Cherry Garcia, a package of pads, cigarettes and a new lighter. Get here now. And I'm like, oh shit. It more went like this. (crying) Can you bring me Jerry Garcia?

00:12:43:15 - 00:13:04:08

Unknown
Or just could have been just ice cream. It was terrible. It was terrible. So, you know. And out the door in 30s, there I was. And then the other defining moment is me calling her at 3:00 in the morning and say, put on black clothes, grab a bat and meet me at this house. She's like, I'm there.

Denise:
It's like, okay/

Donna:
And she was there

Denise:
/no questions asked, who do you need me to beat up? You know, it was like I was down for the assignment. Yeah, yeah, whatever. How bad can the evening end if it started like that.

(Laughter)

Tan:

What does your friendship maintenance look like? You know, how often do you contact - you were talking about too many texts, yet many also unanswered.

Denise:

When she says too many texts, I believe that means in succession. Right? So I'll hear, dink and like, okay, like I see it in my notifications. I'll get that dink, dink dink...dink dink, dink

00:13:46:08 - 00:14:09:11

Unknown

I'm like, oh, in the time it took me to open a soda, there's like seven things. First one will be one line. It'll be like, okay, three things. Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. But I think this project that we're working on right now, we've been talking every Sunday, which is an absolute delight for me.

Donna:

Thanks

Denise:

Yeah, we used to kind of do like coffee and video chat every now and then and we, it would be a banger. It would be 2 or 3 hours long, but we don't get to do that anymore. So the weekly thing, you know, having these meetings because we are working on something specific, I love that. Yeah. The the maintenance, it's easier for me, harder for her. So it makes it harder on me.

Donna:

But not without not without guilt and and frustration when, when I've settled in and have and and have made time like making the time on on these weekly calls really is the best thing I've ever done for our friendship. I think a project or no project, I, I hope they continue and I believe that they will continue, but they will continue. But by the time I've settled at the end of my day, that's why she gets 20 texts at once. Because...

Denise:

I know. And the time difference is tough too.

Donna:

That's, that's tough

Denise:

That's ridiculous because

Donna:

That's the hardest part.

Denise:

Yeah

Donna:

There's no immediate response.

Denise:

And I've always been a night owl and I have to like, calm her down about like, you know, she worries that I'm up at midnight. I'm like, oh my God, it's okay. It's okay. I've always been a night owl. That doesn't bother me, but she's always a mom. Are you getting enough sleep?

Donna:
Also true.

Katie:
That's nice.

Denise:
Yeah.

Katie:
Be interesting to to hear a little bit about kind of the change in dynamic from going from friends to then working together over a long period of time on your podcast and then moving that kind of internationally. And how did that impact your friendship at all, or did it grow your friendship?

Denise:
I don't know that it ever felt like work.

Donna:
Exactly.

Denise:
We were getting together on Wednesday nights before, and we just decided to shove microphones in front of our face. It wasn't the first show. The Lesbian Lounge wasn't the first show. We had done something prior to that, so we knew that we could. It was just I had a stroke of consciousness that maybe this wasn't the right place for us. So lets' -

Donna:
Oh, no. Yeah. No it wasn't. But honestly, Denise had been asked and then needed needed a wingman or a wing person. And that opened the door for us to, to share the energy on the same, on the same mic, if you will, taking that into a place that really gave us comfort. Never was it work. I wouldn't say working together...there were, we fell into roles immediately. Denise was quick on the draw, organized the ideas or or threw out the ideas, organized some of the flow. But to me it was all, okay, let me write this down and I'm still a let me write this down person and created a flow of show. And like, she's like, I really want to make sure we highlight lesbian specific musicians or lesbian specific websites. And I'm like, okay, throw them at me. Well, you know, we'll get something together. And and she would just give me the list of her things. And then I had the list of my things. So it was more of a collaboration, never work. What became work was the move. And that was challenging because we were live at 9 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, every Wednesday for two hours, two full interactive hours. We had jobs together, we had social time together. We had a trillion meals together. We peed in the same bathroom stalls, you know, often together. And here we were, separated not just by schedule, but by, at that point, a zillion miles and the flow of our day we didn't have like she wasn't bitching about work, so she almost got fired for sending emails about the show from work to me at work. So like that stopped, like, like stopped. And here we were trying to keep that energy going. 9, 10, 11, 12, one, two, 2:00 in the morning.

Denise:
Yeah, it was a hard time. We weren't even, like familiar with Skype, literally doing it on a telephone. We were like stepping all over each other. Our timing was off when when we did figure out how to get a guest on the line, there was such a delay on my end, you know, like, it just it was so far from what we were used to.

Donna:

Yeah, it was haphazard and choppy and two hours was hard. So much of who we are stems from that side-eye glance, which then will facilitate the next entire 20 minutes of conversation. Right. And we were missing that. Like, yeah, we couldn't be like with a guest, you know, on the phone.

(Laughter)

So yeah, we couldn't do the signals or whatever. And it was like, oh my God. Like there were so many times where like a guest would be so damn painful. And I had no way, you know, to say to her, let's just cut this. Yeah.

Tan:

So you were losing a shorthand of your friendship?

Donna/Denise::

Absolutely/Yes.

Tan:

Because of being separated.

Denise:

Good way to put it. Yeah, yeah, yeah, that was hard. And then I think the true signal, you know, that it was, it was time was when she got this dream job.

Donna:

This full time job. I'd been working/ part time for so long

Denise:

/It was everything she ever wanted, you know, like, for as long as I knew her, she was working in tire shops and plumbing places, and, but she always wanted to work with our community. She was. And at that point, you were, like, kind of like the mayor of lesbians for a while. So it was fitting for her to get this job. And I didn't want to put any pressure on her and say, oh, no, but we have to continue this. So it was just like, that's a wrap, we're good.

Donna:

It was hard. It was really, really hard. That carte blanche understanding, on my end, Denise. And I don't know that we've ever talked about it, quite honestly, the carte blanche of understanding between us. I felt she couldn't get it, that I was so stressed and tired that I couldn't then be creative in a different way at the time. I mean, we were still pre-COVID for sure. We were still pretty social, and I was part of organizations and I was on boards and I had events, and it just felt like it was...that was I think that was like a riff of a relationship. It didn't end the friendship, but it was the thing that had bonded us for all those years, really, at that point, ten years?

Denise:

Yeah

Donna:

I just had to say no, I just can't.

Denise:

Yeah, we had such a wealth of content. We did 52 shows a year for ten years. We never missed a Wednesday night for ten years. There was a lot I knew I could do with those shows. Edit them down, make them relevant again. Have new, new ears find us. That was great. Yeah. And then when Covid hit, that was just JD going, I'm so bored, I can't play out. You want to do a podcast? I'm like, yeah, sure. You know, no problem. So it wasn't like, oh, I'm replacing Donna because it was such a different vibe to begin with and a whole different type of show. We would never be able to do a two hour show at the level of energy we did at this age.

Donna:
Yeah, yeah. No.

Denise:
Especially not fueled by all the substances we were doing during those shows. So yeah. And who would give you two hours of their time now?

Donna:
Yeah. Not now, not now, not in a row. She skimmed over a block. Let's let's go back a teeny bit to you finding your feet in the UK and you finding your voice with lesbians in the UK.

Denise:
Oh. Yeah, yeah.

Donna:
And there was the opportunity of discovery, which actually on the very overview scale like connected us to Katie and working together at a really important event for lesbians in the UK. And that was LFest, and that was all her. She, with Gemma's support and push and belief and massaging the belief in her ability and talent on her own to create this very unique slant on lesbian humor and lesbian lifestyle. Coming from this New York like, brazen, hilarious person. And like she found an audience, they attracted themselves to her and you did so well carrying that forward to live performances. I was very proud, I wasn't jealous, I was just sad. I couldn't be a part of it. But I was very, very proud of her to continue the work that we created together.

Denise:
That was, it was fun. It was great to get them on a plane, make them come see what it was all about, because I think by that time I had done two LFests and/

Donna:
/we were part of the third.

Denise:
Yeah, third. And, you know, like have her meet everyone, you know, meet you, meet... Cece was one of the first people that came up to us and just was like gushing. And having her meet, you know, Cindy and the Burtons. Oh, my God, the Burtons. Now they go to Florida and they all get together. You know what I mean?

Donna:
Yeah, yeah, that part was really cool. At that point, I think we were still living with Hazel, so it wasn't like, this is my house. Like, I didn't even get to, you know, show them the house or anything like that. So but just having them a part of the, you know, the community and see what I was always talking about was fun. And they got to, after the work was done, go out there. Where did you go? Plymouth or I don't even know where you went. Portsmouth.

Donna:

We went south. Yeah, we went to Portsmouth and we're in the neighborhood of where you are now. It was gorgeous. It was probably like the best visit. I mean, like, we had everything you could want. You know, we had an event, we had a barbecue and they went off and did some family stuff. It was all compacted into like a solid week or whatever it was. It was like three weeks total. But we were together for about a week and a half, all of it.

Katie:

I think there's something really amazing there about your friendship extending out, like that's a global impact there of the thing you built within your friendship permeating into communities here in the UK. And, you know, obviously with your radio show genuinely globally, you know, if you think about how you met Gemma and some of the the listeners there, and that comes back down to the essence of who you are, and you bring in the core values and essence of your friendship into the kind of public domain. And look at all the lives you've impacted as a result of that.

Denise:

That's yeah, that's quite incredible. It was, it was organic too, you know what I mean?

Donna:

Yeah.

Denise:

We've been talking to some, some listeners from back in the day. And I think we start getting a little bit emotional when you hear them try and explain to us the impact that we had on them, you know, at that time and when it was happening, I don't think we truly knew that.

Donna:

We had no idea we were clueless. We just had a listener tell us last week, a woman in Orlando where we did a bunch of live gigs, right. Orlando, Florida. She told us that we gave her lesbian credit, like we give her cred. She's like, she would, she would like walk into an event and go, yeah, I know them, I know them. Yeah. We we were on the show, we did an event with them.

Denise:

There we are.

Donna:

And we're we're like, Denise, pull your shorts out of your butt and

(Laughter)

Donna pad up like. Like it was like we were just like schlubs.. We we had no idea. We really didn't at the time or even immediately after. We had no idea.

Denise:

Yeah. It was a very hindsight thing, especially to hear in hindsight. You think you did think you did that maybe looking back, but to hear people, their take on it and see how deeply impactful it was, it's nice validation

Katie:

And I think just not everyone puts themselves out there. Right? You were being yourselves, but in front of everyone and you, you know, you stayed authentic and you stayed true to who

you are and what your friendship is and what your community means to you. And that's what spoke to the other.

Denise:

Yeah. The one thing that I will always remember is we came from doing this very bawdy explicit, not-women-friendly, really, type of show.

Donna:

Not ours. The first one. Not ours, the first one, the first one.

Denise:

And when we when I wanted had the opportunity to do something else and I made the lesbian lounge and I said, look, after what we've been through, I think we need to focus on our community and globally. Like, I knew we were going to go out because when we first started, yeah, we would, we would go live. So I wanted there to be resources within the show. I wanted there to be like to to promote lesbian bars across wherever I could find them. Didn't have to be in the state, but it was, you know, that kind of thing. Projects again supporting uplifting, you know, women led, women funded projects and stuff like that. So the goal was always to have all that kind of information in there, and especially where it wouldn't really matter where you live, because these were websites we were talking about and media things that you could get your hands on and stuff, and that was always really important. And, and we agreed on that. Like that was the concept of the show was to spotlight that kind of stuff. So yeah, that was that was great. I don't think we ever really wavered from it. I mean, we might have done some sticky bullshit here and there, but I don't think we ever did a show that didn't have something uniquely informative

Katie:

And thinking a little bit more to the future. How do you think you'll stay friends, and how will you face any challenges that you've got to or or just keep the friendship kind of going?

Donna:

I'm thinking about the word challenges right now that you've said/

Denise:

/we have a lot of those in common, though

Donna:

We do so right. So the challenges that we face now - different than 20 years ago, obviously - I think we're a little bit more forgiving of each other because of just the parts of our lives that pull us apart. It doesn't always feel that we're both equally committed to the equal energy that the relationship takes, but it's always there, like I would say, more for Denise than me, because I'm the worst communicator and the best communicator at the same time. You will get all the information

Denise:

As long as you just have to do the carve out. Yeah, the scheduling, the carve out, and then it's all there.

Donna:

The hardest part will remain the distance. The second hardest part will remain health of each other and health of our families.

Denise:

Yeah.

Donna:

Those are the things that really get in the way. If anything got in the way, that's it. It's where we have to prioritize our time and our lives and our own personal health. Denise, how many months ago had a terrible scare and was in the hospital for quite/

Denise:

/are you talking about the heart attack?

Donna:

I am. I can't I still can't believe I couldn't be with her. That's the fucking shit. Like, yeah, that's that's the shit that no amount of scheduled conversation is ever going to fix.

Denise:

Yeah.

Donna:

Challenges now and in the future. That's it. Those are the things. Yeah, definitely.

Tan:

From what you've said, though, it sounds like whenever you've come to one of those moments in your friendship that has been a real crunch point, either Denise moving to the UK or Donna, when you got your dream job, you've been able to use your love to go. I know that this is for you right now.

Denise:

Yeah

Tan:

You talk about maybe you're more forgiving now, but it seems like you've probably always been forgiving in that way of when something has obviously been the right thing for the other person.

Denise:

Yeah.

Tan:

Then, you know/

Donna:

/there's that

Tan:

/you've been able to you've always been able to recognize that as like, I have to let you fly in order to keep you.

Donna:

I can't think of anything that would end it. We've been mad at each other. Know why? We've been upset with a choice or a conversation or...and not the moving...that, not that kind of mad. That was sad. That wasn't mad. It's so funny. As close as we are, it is very rare. Very rare that one of us will say to the other, I was upset when... it hurt me when... I don't think we've had five conversations in all these years that started with anything like that, but I sure

know when she's mad and she sure knows when I'm mad. And we figure it out. We kind of go around it until we're okay to talk about it comfortably, usually in text.

Denise:
Yeah,

Donna:
There's there's nothing in the way. I don't see anything in the way of the rest of our lives. I really don't.

Denise:
And I will hit on your mother for as long as as she's with us.

(Laughter)

Donna:
And we're done. Okay.

Tan:
Well, yeah. Thanks for coming.

Denise:
Love making her squirm

Donna:
But I get, I got you, I get you back. I used to get you back every week, with the 'Oh Yes' moment. Wait, I just want to see what Denise's answer is to one of your questions, if you don't mind. And if you do, I'm going to do it anyway. What is your friendship theme tune? I couldn't answer that fast enough. But you go first. That first thing that came to mind was Puddle of Mudd - (sings) 'She fucking hates me'
(Laughter)
Because. Don't tell me that's what you'd pick.

Donna:
No, but I, but that's hilarious that that's the first song that came to mind.

Denise:
I mean, I'm trying to remember the songs that we played through the show and

Donna:
Oh my God, you could never remember all the ones we played. I wrote Opposites Attract immediately, so, but that

Denise:
One of the best concerts I've ever been to, by the way.

Donna:
For sure, I'm sure, but that is funny that we both had this like in our theme songs.

Denise:
Yeah, because I feel like because of the because of the dichotomy of, you know, our especially on the show, there was such a, you know, a dichotomy there and in and in real life

and everything, there were so many times that we would each push it just a little bit too far, and then we'd have to, like, bring it back in. But you knew. You knew there were times - with literally no malice, ever - but they were just like a quick throat punch.

Donna:

Holy crap, that's so precise. We don't talk like this. This is great.

Denise:

And, yeah, we we have really been on a ride.

Donna:

Was there ever a time when anybody, like, said it's her or me?

Denise:

I don't think so. I think when it came to Cathy, she was annoyed because she worked nights. So if the phone would ring after 8 p.m., she'd be pissed. She would work until 5:30 or 6:00 or whatever. And by the time she had dinner, whatever and would call me, the phone would ring. So yeah, she would be annoyed by our friendship, but she never said her or me. No, I can't really think that anybody did.

Tan:

Same question to you, Donna. Did you ever have to choose?

Donna:

No, I, I was in a relationship when we started the podcast, but not not when we first met or anything. And Vicky was very much a part of that circle of that Sister Speak circle. Like, she was very much a part of that first project that we worked on together and also super supported, supporting and encouraging that we host the the monthly event that we write together, that we did the awful show together. She was very supportive. Then there was like just this, this bumpy point in between when I met Deb - Deb is my wife. So when, when I started hanging out with Deb and then it turned into a relationship, it was a little bit tough. But no, I was never given a choice. And quite frankly, I don't even know how that would have gone because we'd been tight for so long, finishing each other's thoughts and making each other laugh and prioritizing when we needed to step up. There was never a question that she would be right. No matter how much she was upset or frustrated or disgusted, she never said no. So I think that it wouldn't have been, it wouldn't have been a choice and it wouldn't have been a challenge. It wasn't a challenge and it wouldn't have been a choice for me.

Katie:

So usually we ask our guests to pitch for each other's passions, but I think in this instance your passion might be a joint one. So why don't we just let you have at it?

Donna:

Well, it's so cool that you ask that, Katie, especially because you're such a big part of it. And the Live Lesbian Lounge began after our first live event we hosted

Denise:

That was to promote it, yeah.

Donna:

So we did like, we went to Gay Days in Orlando. We stayed at the men's hotel with the slimy, greasy, yuckiness that is all boys in the pool. Five days in the heat. It was so disgusting. And our benefactor and the guy who owned the station, and the guy who was like, feeding us and encouraging us to put this together, threw together a booth, and threw

together some palm cards and and he's like, talk it up, girls. You're going live on on Wednesday. And we realized that it's 20 years, 20 years and a trillion lifetimes that we've gone through and so many iterations of just the Lounge itself, the podcast itself, the world of podcasting, the opportunity for live events, that we did not want this to go unrecognized. And over the course of a couple of conversations when you were here last, we kind of put together a timeline.

Denise:

Yeah, the last two times we talked about it.

Donna:

We kind of put together a timeline. Like first we created the concept of what we wanted to share with everybody. Then we decided, well, we got to do it in bites, because no one's going to listen to a two hour show ever again, live or not.

Denise:

Right, right.

Donna:

And then the idea of, well, what do we really want to remember? And like putting together listeners and contributors and just bits that really linger on through the whole thing. And so we've started doing a little bit of recording to get some background data and some background sound bites and stuff. Within the next week or so we're going to mish it all together and release by podcast starting June 6th.

Denise:

Yeah. Very orderly. Neat.

Donna:

Allegedly. It's on paper right now. It's on paper.

Denise:

Right. But I mean, we really want to go through the origin story, the loyal listeners, the celebrity guests that we had, the events that we did. Top five pee-your-pants moments, a little in memoriam for those who aren't with us, but I mean, there's so much that picking out the best bits has been the single hardest part, but we do have a lot, that's for sure. Thank God we're packrats - saved old laptops, you know, saved all the old show sheets. And then I found the password book and that was like the golden ticket. We've got a treasure trove of stuff to pick from, but it's going to be fun.

Katie:

That's fantastic.

Donna:

Absolutely.

Katie:

Do you want to remind us where people can find that as well?

Denise:

I think we're going to put it on the Rainbow Remix feed.

Donna:

I think we're going to put it on the Lesbian Lounge YouTube page.

Katie:

What would be your motto or strapline for your friendship?

Denise:

I was saying older, slower, leakier?

(Laughter)

That's where we're at. Always been leaky, but definitely older and slower now. Yeah, yeah. I mean, God, the weirdness, the pride we would get when we know that we would make somebody pee their pants, you know, either me or her or a listener. Yeah.

Katie:

I think that should be your hashtag then, for the anniversary episode socials.

Donna:

Yeah.

Denise:

We've got a whole. Yeah, it's so true. We got the the aged kitty because our logo was a little kitty. Now we got one a little more tattered, a little grayer.

Donna;

A little sadder. Better remember to take their meds. Yeah.

Katie:

Great.

Denise:

Yeah, we we talked about that. And like, within days, Donna sent me like, Vicki got it. Boom. And like, sent it to me. I was like, yep. So yeah. And that's all those little things just mean that we're, we're we're we're doing it right. You know. Yeah.

Donna:

We we are aligned regardless of our differences. We are aligned.

Denise:

100% always. Yeah.

Katie:

Oh. Love that.

Donna:

Thank you guys so much.

Denise:

Thank you.

Katie:

Thank you.

Katie:

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Denise:

Listen, I could have murdered someone for you

Donna:

And I, you.