

**Pussy Palace Oral History Project**  
Oral History Interview with Carlyle Jansen  
Conducted on April 1, 2021 via Zoom  
Interviewed by Alisha Stranges and Elio Colavito on behalf of the  
LGBTQ Oral History Digital Collaboratory (Elspeth Brown, Director)  
Transcribed by Rev.com and Emily Mastragostino

Summary: Jansen is a white, cisgender, bi, dyke femme from a middle-class background. At the time of the interview in 2021, Jansen was 54 years old. She was living in Toronto, Ontario through the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. As a primary organizer and patron of the Pussy Palace, Jansen details the planning processes of the Pussy Palace bathhouse events from 1998 through 2010. She discusses the evolution of and intention behind the Pussy Palace; the Toronto Women's Bathhouse Committee's responses to the police raid; considerations that the Committee explored regarding racial and gender diversity at the Palace, including efforts for and limitations of inclusion; and other topics. She recounts being present during the raid and responding through the class action lawsuit filed against the Toronto Police Service. In the interview, Toronto, Ontario, Montreal, Quebec, Seattle Washington, and San Francisco, California are mentioned.

Keywords: Bathhouse; Bisexual; Dyke; Femme; Police; Raid; Event Organization; Community Action.

Alisha Stranges (00:00:00):

All right. So, this is Alisha Stranges and Elio Colavito from the Pussy Palace Oral History Project, and we're here in Toronto, Ontario interviewing Carlyle Jansen. Carlyle is also in Toronto. Is that right?

Carlyle Jansen (00:00:17):

Yes.

Alisha Stranges (00:00:18):

And Carlyle is going to tell us about the experience of being an organizer and patron of the Pussy Palace bathhouse events. Carlyle do we have your permission to record this oral history interview?

Carlyle Jansen (00:00:29):

Yes.

Alisha Stranges (00:00:30):

Perfect. So, before we get into your experiences with the Pussy Palace, I'm going to ask a few questions that invite you to tell us a little bit about yourself. In particular, we're trying to get a sense of the different aspects of identity you hold, the categories that you occupy, and how at least some of these may have shifted or evolved over time. And so, to start relatively simply, can you tell us your name and your age and your preferred gender pronouns?

Carlyle Jansen (00:00:57):

My name is Carlyle Jansen. I am now 54, and I use she/her pronouns. What do you both use? Sorry, you probably mentioned it in the email, but.

Alisha Stranges (00:01:10):

So, I use she and her pronouns.

Elio Colavito (00:01:12):

I use they/them.

Carlyle Jansen (00:01:15):

Okay, thanks.

Elio Colavito (00:01:16):

No problem.

Alisha Stranges (00:01:17):

And how would you describe your gender and sexual identity today in 2021?

Carlyle Jansen (00:01:22):

So, I identify as cisgendered. I've often gone, as I call myself, a bi, dyke femme. So, I'm bisexual, and I still use bisexual because to me it's about the range of plumbing, right? There's two different kinds of plumbing. And so, I'm attracted to people with all the ranges in between of those. But I identify more as a dyke in terms of culture, and hanging out more in the queer community rather than in the straight community. And identify as a femme in the sense of kind of butch/femme.

Alisha Stranges (00:02:07):

Can you say a little bit more about butch/femme for anyone listening who might be unclear?

Carlyle Jansen (00:02:14):

Yeah, it's something that... Oh, God. It's an identity that I picked up a long time ago. And because it took me a long time to recognize my attraction to female bodied people, because I'm not attracted to femininity. And there's another term that I found along the way, and I can't remember what it's called, where you're attracted to masculinity. And so, I'm attracted to masculinity in people with penises, and I'm attracted to masculinity in people who have vulvas. And so, butch is sort of an identity that is more sort of masculine identifying, yet often cisgendered female folks. And even though I'm relatively androgynous, I still identify as femme in contrast to my partner.

Alisha Stranges (00:03:23):

I see. Thank you. And how about in 2000, how would you have described your gender and sexual identity around the time of when the Palace events were just starting off?

Carlyle Jansen (00:03:36):

Yeah, I was more newly out then. But at the time, and of course, the whole term about "pansexuality" and "beyond bi" was not really something talked about so much back then. So, I would've identified pretty much the same, as bisexual. But more identifying within the queer community.

Alisha Stranges (00:04:05):

And what about racial, ethnic, or cultural identity? How do you express yourself through those types of categories?

Carlyle Jansen (00:04:11):

So, I'm white non-Hispanic, and I have a bit of Dutch in my background. So, there's been a bit of celebration of that, but otherwise pretty nondescript white.

Alisha Stranges (00:04:28):

And then what can you tell me about your educational and class background?

Carlyle Jansen (00:04:34):

So certainly, I grew up middle class, and I had many advantages of education. And by the time 2000 came around, I had a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. And I had just three... well, by the time we started organizing the Pussy Palace, I had just started, but by the time of the raid would have been three years since I'd opened my retail establishment, Good For Her. And was just trying to get it off the ground.

Alisha Stranges (00:05:12):

Can you say a little bit more about Good For Her?

Carlyle Jansen (00:05:16):

Yeah. So, it's a sexuality and workshop centre in Toronto. And I had started out very passionate about workshops, and it was really hard back then before there was much internet to market your workshops. And people kept saying that they wanted a female-friendly store in Toronto, and they wanted more workshops. So, I opened the store as a vehicle for education, really. And so, we started out as a little boutique, and it was just me. And then I gradually had an employee or two, and then a few more as we grew. And it's sort of been a place of sexual exploration, purchasing sexual things. And sex really was a big passion of mine in terms of education and exploration.

Alisha Stranges (00:06:21):

And so, what kind of activities occupy your time these days, if that was sort of where you were at in 2000, where are you now? What are you doing?

Carlyle Jansen (00:06:31):

So, in 2000 I had lots of energy. I was younger. I was very passionate about sexual expression, and I didn't have any children, so I could stay up until five o'clock in the morning, six o'clock in the morning, organizing bathhouse events and then go back to work at 11:00 a.m., or just not go to sleep at all. And then over time... So, I'm actually one of the only people who was with the bathhouse committee from beginning, to its stopping, I guess is the best word of saying. And so, after time I was like, "Okay, I'm only on until 2:00 a.m. I got to get up at six with the kids." So, my identity now is that... Is that what you asked me, my identity now?

Alisha Stranges (00:07:26):

Sort of what kind of activities occupy your time. If you were kind of running a sex retail shop at a workshop space in 2000, I'm curious if that evolved or changed.

Carlyle Jansen (00:07:38):

So, retail is hard, especially with Amazon and online competition. And the store really was always just making it. So, when I was about to turn 50, I decided this was really hard, and I needed a plan B. So, I went back to school and did a master's degree in Counseling Psychology, because I was already, people had requested to see me as individuals and as couples to help them with their sexual exploration. And I kept getting stuck around them fighting over the dishes. So, I went back to school to do Counseling Psychology and, in 2019, graduated. And I'm now also practicing as a sex therapist. So, in some ways it's better because I have my plan B. And in other ways, it's harder because now I have two full careers. It's COVID, so that's a little bit challenging. We are very fortunate that like bike stores, and workout equipment stores, and home renovation, people seem to be interested in purchasing sex toys during COVID. So, we have weathered it much better than many businesses have, which I'm very fortunate for. And so, we are still open, sending out orders and products, and I have several staff working from home. I'm mostly working from home. I go in periodically. So, I'm doing a little bit of everything and managing the store, doing a psychotherapy practice, and I have two teenage kids. So fortunately, they're not two and five years old, because I think this would be really hard if that were the case. But that's what I spend my time doing. And I get really tired by 11 o'clock at night.

Alisha Stranges (00:09:56):

No 5:00 a.m. planning meetings anymore?

Carlyle Jansen (00:09:59):

Nope. But at least the kids can get themselves up and get themselves to their class stuff. So that makes things a lot easier.

Alisha Stranges (00:10:06):

Yeah. What around religion and spirituality? Do these things play a role in your life at all?

Carlyle Jansen (00:10:15):

So, I've sort of identified myself as a Christian/Pagan. And include ritual in a lot of aspects of my life. So, in terms of the kids' transitions through life, we did some pagan rituals when my mother died; we did some different rituals around that. The rest of my nuclear family, my partner and kids, are not so into it. Although they go along with the pagan side, they're not so into the Christian side. And I maintain a relationship at a distance with a very liberal Anglican church, which actually used to hold dances for the queer community in the 1980s when there was nowhere where people could, no bars would take them in, and has been very progressive around social justice. So, I really aligned myself with them, but the kids didn't really want to go after a certain time. And so, I've kind of dropped off, but I still hold it for myself in terms of those different aspects and how I think about things, and live my life. But it's not, you wouldn't see that from the outside. It's a much more of an internal thing.

Alisha Stranges (00:11:55):

I hear you. Is there anything else you think might be important for us to know about how you understand different aspects of identity that you hold today, as compared to 20 years ago?

Carlyle Jansen (00:12:10):

No, I think that's it. It's more, I'm in a different life stage, and, yeah, I'm not sure I'd be organizing bathhouses if they started now. But I'm very grateful actually for the learning and the experiences that I had and hold those very near and dear to me.

Alisha Stranges (00:12:43):

Thanks.

Elio Colavito (00:12:45):

Thank you so much. Those answers were great. Before we talk more specifically about the September 2000 Pussy Palace event, tell me a bit about the Toronto Women's Bathhouse Committee. How did this idea come into being?

Carlyle Jansen (00:13:01):

So, my recollection is that Janet Rowe was working at ACT, the AIDS Committee of Toronto, and was doing the women's outreach programs. And she approached her, I don't know, ED [Executive Director] or board or whatever, about supporting her to try and create a women's bathhouse event. Trans was not on our radar back then, which is hard to think about, but that's the way things were. So, to hold a women's event in a men's bathhouse, as a way of doing outreach to queer women's communities about safer sex around HIV and other things.

Carlyle Jansen (00:13:51):

So, God, I think I got a call from Leanne Cusitar, who was working at the City of Toronto, and said, "Hey, there's a bunch of us who want to put together this event. Are you interested?" And I don't think I knew anyone, but of course they would have known me as the person who had started this sex shop that was focused on women of all orientations and queer inclusive. So, I think that's how I got the call.

Carlyle Jansen (00:14:25):

I don't think I knew anyone before then, I may have. So, I just kind of showed up at... I don't know where we met, maybe it was at ACT. To sort of say like, "Here, look, this is our vision." And I did give a bunch of, I think I found the original proposal, and I gave a lot of materials to the sexual representation collection at UofT [University of Toronto]. So, I don't know if you've seen that or whatever. But anyways, so I think the original proposal, I had the piece of paper with that, and that's kind of how it started.

Elio Colavito (00:15:00):

Awesome. Do you know what the inspiration was for the committee itself beyond just kind of the sexual education situation? Were there other committees like this in other places, that you all knew about? How did all that shape up?

Carlyle Jansen (00:15:19):

So, I think what we saw it was, was an event to use education or to use fun, and exploration, and celebration as a way of educating people, right? Like nobody wants to come to a talk about like, "Here's how to have safer sex. Dah-dah-dah..." right? But let's do it in a way that's fun, where people come out and you educate them through having safer sex supplies, and little information beside it, and having pamphlets, and that kind of thing. So that was the idea. I think the educational piece was probably a relatively small priority for many of us in terms of, this wasn't the big part of the mission. It was like, "This would be fun and this would be great for the community. This would be a celebration. This would be good for people who don't have connections to the queer community or don't feel safe to meet people, don't know... whatever."

Carlyle Jansen (00:16:25):

So, we thought that was kind of the idea behind it, I think. Now, I was living in Seattle for a time and had just moved back a few years prior, to Toronto. And I went with my second, maybe, girlfriend back then. It was an event called Octopussy Galore. And it was in a men's bathhouse in Seattle. And it was underground, I remember. And there were lap dancers, and there were lots of people, and there was some SM scenes. And so, there was a lot that was very open, there was some that was more private. And I remember holding onto my partner's hand and I was like, "Oh my God, all of this stuff!" Because I was newly out.

Carlyle Jansen (00:17:19):

I don't even think I had been to a dyke bar. I must've... No, when I went to Octopussy Galore, I don't think I'd been out to a dyke bar. By the time I hit Toronto, I had. But it was really exciting. And I thought, wow, this is a special experience. And they had performances. I remember this one woman like pulled this long thing out of her vagina that was, like clowns do, with lots of colours. And I also really remember being struck by this one scene where there were two women. One who was lying on a bed. It was a kink scene, so there were needles going into her shoulder, in a row. And they were attached to the bed frame, so that if she moved, it would pull on the needles. And the Dom, I guess, the person who was doing it, was so tender and so sweet and so loving in how she did it. I remember being so struck by this contrast and really got me interested in kink in a different way.

Carlyle Jansen (00:18:41):

So, I had this in my head when we were organizing these things. Like, "Wow, they did some really great things." That was a powerful experience for me. I had learned a fair bit and grown a little bit since then, so I was much more confident, but I remember as a newbie what that was like. And there was this big room and there were chairs, and you could lap dance with anyone you wanted to. So that was sort of an inspiration for me that I brought to the event. And other than that, I don't really know.

Carlyle Jansen (00:19:21):

I remember I was called by On Our Backs. I don't know if you remember that magazine. And they called me about something, and I said, "Oh, you guys should cover our bathhouse events. They're really great." And they were like, "We have our own bathhouse in San Francisco." I was like, "Oh, okay. All right." And so, when I went to San Francisco for a workshop, I remember I was like, "I have to go and check out this bathhouse." Well, it was like just a place where you, what is it called? The spa that we have in Toronto. Anyways. Body Blitz. And there was explicit signs that said, "No sexual activity allowed", like what are you talking about. Anyways. So, I think what we created was something pretty fabulous and pretty special. And I think it was a big event for a lot of people, but that was all that I knew of at the time.

Elio Colavito (00:20:22):

Absolutely. That's incredible. Do you know when the committee was founded, do you have like a date, -ish?

Carlyle Jansen (00:20:28):

I think it was... I opened my store in May of 1997. And I think it was that fall, that we started meeting. And we started talking about things. And then part of the problem was that, I think it was mostly Janet [Rowe] and I. But maybe... we were approaching men's bathhouses, and they weren't interested. They were like, "Nope, sorry." They didn't want to turn away their clientele for a night. And so, we were having a really hard time getting any positive response. And so, people kind of started dropping out of the committee.

Carlyle Jansen (00:21:08):

Like, what's the point? This isn't going anywhere. And I remember we put together a petition that we put out at Pride in 1998. And we were getting people to sign it, to say, "Look, we want to take over. Do you support this?" And we were particularly trying to get cisgendered men's responses. I don't think we really did much with it, but Janet [Rowe] and I went to meet the owners of Club Toronto.

Elio Colavito (00:21:36):

Okay.

Carlyle Jansen (00:21:37):

And so, we met them just around the corner. It's still a little restaurant down below there, on Carlton. And I remember they had two particular concerns. One was blood. When women have sex, there's blood; how are we going to clean the sheets? And the second was, how are we going to deal with all the cat fights? Because of course women are very territorial. And if they see somebody having sex with somebody else, they're going to end up in a big brawl, and how are we going to deal with these? So, we tried to reassure them that this wasn't going to be an issue.

Elio Colavito (00:22:22):

Wow. I have no words for that.

Carlyle Jansen (00:22:25):

And they were the most rundown of the bathhouses at the time. The only thing they really had going for them was the pool. And so, they didn't really have a lot to lose. And it was September so it was getting colder, so they were willing to give us a night. And they had told all their staff, you have the night off. They didn't really think anybody was going to show up. We didn't know if anybody was going to show up. And the lineup was around the corner and down the street. And it was huge.

Carlyle Jansen (00:23:00)

So, the owner is calling all of his staff to come in and help with the laundry and everything. And they're like, they've been out drunk at the bars, they're coming in at midnight. And some people didn't get in until midnight. Now, part of the problem was nobody knew anything. So, they were taking up a lot of time at the door asking a lot of questions. So, it took a long time to get people in. And anyways, so that was sort of the first night. And we had asked security, people who'd done security at bars and other events, to come in and do security for us. And we were sort of running around doing a bunch of things. Anyways. I don't know what the original question was, but.

Elio Colavito (00:23:46):

Oh no, it's okay. It doesn't matter. Go wherever you want to go with these questions. But I am going to take us back a few steps.

Carlyle Jansen (00:23:52):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Elio Colavito (00:23:54):

Can you describe the goals of the committee, and how often you met? Things like that.

Carlyle Jansen (00:24:01):

I think we met every month or two, something like that. Yeah, I don't know. It was probably every month or two. We did take some minutes, which I think are at The ArQuives some of them. The goals that I remember were, it was a fun event, it was to celebrate diversity of queer sexuality. Because, you know, what you saw in porn at the time, which was all on VHS and there wasn't much porn made by queer folks, was very limiting. And we wanted to ensure there was a diversity of people who came. We wanted to facilitate experiences.

Carlyle Jansen (00:24:50):

So, we had lap dancers, you could get a lap dance. We had, and I don't remember if it was the first one or whether it came later, but we had a G-spot room, and we had volunteers who would help you find your G-spot or play with your G-spot. We had kink area, we had a temple priestess, and you could go to and you could ask her whatever, and she brought a spiritual vision to it. She always had a huge lineup. Mind you, she spent a lot of time with people, but she was hugely popular. We had sort of kink areas I think, anyways.

Carlyle Jansen (00:25:26):

So, we tried to do education and giving people experiences to learn things, as well as just having a good time. And we encouraged both public and private play. So, there were some public areas. And as most bathhouses at the time, there were mostly private rooms also. So, there was the outdoor area and there was a bigger common space where some of the more public things happened. And then we had a DJ, I think, for dancing and getting people going.

Elio Colavito (00:25:59):

Awesome. Do you remember who was involved in the committee when you started and throughout that beginning time before the 2000 event?

Carlyle Jansen (00:26:09):

So, I remember some of the original people. Carey Gray from Aslan Leather, Leanne Cusitar, Chanelle Gallant, Janet Rowe of course, Lorelee Gillis, Jacquie Tumak, myself. And then there's kind of people coming and going over time. But I think that might've been everybody who was really at most of the first meetings. And yeah.

Elio Colavito (00:26:50):

And these folks, in terms of sexuality, gender identity, race, how diverse was this group? Where did they all fall on these lines?

Carlyle Jansen (00:26:58):

So, as a lot of these kinds of things go, it was a self-selecting kind of group. So, we were all primarily white. We were all primarily queer, on the lesbian side of things. Many were poly. I would say that Carey Gray was the only person of colour, and they ended up dropping out. I don't know how many meetings he came to. And at the time, I think identified as a cisgendered woman. And we were all cisgendered. So, we were all late twenties, all kind of doing work in the realm of sexuality. Which is, I think, how we found each other.



Elio Colavito (00:27:49):

Right. So, you mentioned kind of being there from the onset and how you got the call. What intrigued you about the opportunity to join the committee?

Carlyle Jansen (00:28:01):

I loved making experiences. And I had even though actually of eventually, once my store had become stable, which would have been forever, but anyways, I thought that I would coordinate something like this. It was in the back of my mind that Toronto needed a thing like this. So, when I got the call, I was like, "Great." A bunch of us can do this together and create a really great experience. And we can all bring our diverse ideas about how it should go. And so, I jumped at the opportunity because I didn't know that many people in Toronto. I was not really connected to the queer community. I had gone to some of the bi women's group meetings, but I was not connected to the queer community. So I had no idea who I would have asked to help me with this anyways, had I wanted to do it on my own.

Elio Colavito (00:29:05):

So why was this kind of work important to you at the time?

Carlyle Jansen (00:29:10):

I think it was about... for lesbian/queer identified folks, primarily again with cisgendered, we wanted to facilitate education, celebration, opportunities, community. Yeah, that was kind of what was important to me. And I remember distinctly, and it's with great embarrassment, that we had a discussion about trans women. And I remember... now I don't know what year this was. This was probably pre-2000, but I could be wrong. We had a question about trans women. And our concern was, "Are men going to start coming to the event?" Kind of thing. So, I remember saying this: "If you can put your dick in a drawer, you can come." Which is a horrible, horrible way to frame it. But that was sort of... the idea was that... and also bearing in mind. So, when I opened my store in 1997, it was really hard to find good quality silicone toys that looked like penises. At the time they were all goddesses and dolphins, right? It couldn't look like a penis because this was seen as very male and the whole idea of that was rape. Right? That penetration was rape and so, but if it was with a goddess, it was okay. So, queer, cisgendered women were using strap-ons, and so it was okay if you could take it off and put it in a drawer, but that we were very much not trans women inclusive, and trans men were not really on our radar at that point either.

Carlyle Jansen (00:31:31):

And there were lots of androgynous, "b-o-i" kinds of folks, but as time went on, there were people who were identifying as trans or even just FTM or somewhere on the spectrum. And so, I do remember one person... Now, this was probably later on; this was probably after the raid; certainly, after the raid, but I don't know anyways, later on, but they approached us and said, "Look, are we welcome at the event? If we identify as trans or we identify as trans male." And so, I remember us having a discussion about it and we said that... I think Chanelle [Gallant] said this, "Trans men have always been a part of our community. So why would we exclude them now?" And so, we explicitly made trans men welcome. But I think at that point we had opened up to trans women as well, and I think at that point we had said that trans women were welcome because we were now realizing that was not okay, and so we started making that more explicit, that people of trans experience were welcome.

Elio Colavito (00:33:02):

In the beginning or just throughout your time on the committee in general, do you remember how other folks were divided on this trans issue?

Carlyle Jansen (00:33:08):

I mean, I think... I don't know, I don't remember much how welcoming trans women shifted. That to me feels like it was... Like, both of those were more evolutionarily... and of course non-binary was not anything that I remember anybody talking about back then, was not something we talked about. So, I don't feel like there was any strong pushback. Of course, I'd have to go back and look at the minutes, but I don't remember there being a lot of disagreement or strong sentiment on one side versus the other. I think as the queer community overall was evolving, we were evolving. So, at my store we had women only hours, for a few hours during the week because not all cis women felt comfortable in an environment where cis men were, and we then shifted to women and trans only hours. There was a lot more discussion about trans inclusion in queer spaces. So, I think we shifted with that.

Elio Colavito (00:34:30):

Do you remember any other tensions you experienced as a group beyond transition?

Carlyle Jansen (00:34:35):

Yeah. So as time went on, I think we put out calls several times. We want people to join our committee, and so we'd say like, "Hey, do you want to join?" And so, we had different people joining and then, of course, some people dropped off too. I don't remember exactly who stayed and went when, but after the raid our focus shifted, and there was a lot more stress, and we were still organizing events but now we were also dealing with a court case, which was very stressful because there were two people who had put their names on the liquor permit, who had always been supporters of the event that we were really wanting to make sure they didn't end up with this charge on their record permanently or in general.

Carlyle Jansen (00:35:44):

So, we were now fundraising. We were now doing political awareness. We were trying to figure out what to do, and so there was a lot more stress, and we had two people of colour on the committee, and they felt that they were not included in the same ways, and so we had some tension around that and we had a mediation process and a training, and so we tried to resolve that.

Carlyle Jansen (00:36:33):

And then there was also the issue of, after the raid, we knew that a lot of people who'd been in conflict with the law or could be at conflict with the law. So racialized people, trans people, sex workers. That it wasn't as much of a safe space for them anymore because you never know when the cops are going to come back. So, we knew that was an issue.

Carlyle Jansen (00:37:01):

And I know that one of the things that we had tried to do to be more inclusive at least, to get more diversity of people at the event, was that we used to sell tickets in advance because we had these huge lineups. So, we thought let's deal with tickets in advance. So, we sold them at The 519 and I remember Carol [Thames] would take a bunch of them, and she would sell them through her networks to people of colour. So that at least there would be a guarantee or, not a guarantee, but a hope that there would be a group, enough people so that people of colour wouldn't feel alone. It's, okay if we're selling 50 tickets, and there's 300 people coming, at least we're not going to be one or two out of the whole group. So, and of course people could buy them in the regular way too, but that was one of the ways that we did it. So, we, like I think a lot of organizing groups, dealt with systemic racism and biases that as white folks we had and we're not aware of, and despite our efforts, we were not succeeding. So, we had some mediation and facilitation around that.

Elio Colavito (00:38:30):

Right. So, in '98, what was your role in organizing that event, specifically the first one?

Carlyle Jansen (00:38:38):

I mean, here's where we were all new at organizing things. I mean, we were all doing everything. I think I was working the door, and so I took care of making sure we had a float so that we could give change that we had tickets, that we gave people stamps when they came in so they could go out if they needed to... I don't know. The first night is a real blur, but I remember it was busier than anybody expected. So, there was a bit of a panic, and the security team, I remember they had shifts. We hadn't even thought about doing shifts. So, we were all just working all night long, and it was like, "Wait a second. There's no time for us to have a good time." So, we were just... And we talked about what to expect, but you never know what to expect with something like this. So, we were just dealing with, "Okay, we need more towels, and okay, there's a lineup down the way." And I think one person started going around and telling people down the line, "Okay, this is what to expect, and this is what it's like inside, and this is what you get." So, to try and get people moving a little bit faster. So, I mean, I think I was probably at the door. I don't know if we had... the first one, if we had the G-spot room or not, but I know I worked at that a fair number of times. Which was hard work, I tell you. Your hands after seeing five or six people. Your arms are really sore.

Elio Colavito (00:40:26):

Yeah. Builds some strength, I imagine. Is there anything else you want us to know about the '98 event that you recall or that was different than the 2000 iteration of the Pussy Palace?

Carlyle Jansen (00:40:40):

I'm just looking at my notes here. I don't think so. Actually, when I think about it there was also discussion about... so we were looking for volunteers to do all kinds of things, and there was discussion about, "If people are sex workers, and they're doing lap dancing, do we pay them?" And so, it was complicated because do we pay one group of volunteers and not another? We didn't know if we were going to have any money, and would that get us into trouble? Paying people? So, I think in the end we decided against it, but this was a... and I think somebody even wrote an article in *Xtra* about it, that they had been a lap dancer, and why weren't they paid? And we had to address this. And it was really complicated. Can we do that, and how do we do that?

Elio Colavito (00:42:13):

You mentioned selling tickets at The 519, stuff like that. How did the committee get the word out about these events; what advertising strategies did you use?

Carlyle Jansen (00:42:23):

So, we had flyers, and the first one was, I got an image from, it was some books that I sold at the store, and it was like Greek ancient times, these Rubenesque women at a bath and sitting around, and we put a little quote that said something like, "Can you pass the lube?" So, I think that was our first one, and we went to nightclubs, we were all volunteering to go out to events and pass it around, "Hey, come to this event," answer questions, yada-yada. And then eventually we started recruiting people to be in our flyers, and we really tried hard to get people of colour, and so we would hold photo shoots, and I think we paid the photographer and the models. We decided we had to do that. And lots of people didn't want their faces shown, which was fine. So, we would do a photo shoot and then choose a few photos and then we'd make flyers and made posters. I think we put an ad in *Xtra*, and there was *Siren Magazine*, at the time, which was for lesbians, and so we advertised in there. So that's how we got the word out. We eventually got really sophisticated and got a

Mailchimp account and collected email addresses. And I think we also just sent it to our networks through email. And I would get people calling me at the store, people who knew I was an organizer: “When’s the next bathhouse?” People didn’t want to miss it because they were, like, every three to nine months really, or even year apart sometimes. So that’s how we got the word out.

Carlyle Jansen (00:44:37):

And I remember there was one flyer. I remember Lorelee [Gillis] coordinated it, and she said, we were going to... She got all people, and it was a whole bunch of people in an orgy scene, but you couldn’t see faces and stuff. And they were all people of colour and/or trans identified. So, we really tried to make it clear that everybody was welcome and have the representation, so that everyone knew that they were welcome.

Elio Colavito (00:45:16):

And final question for this section is when did the group disband?

Carlyle Jansen (00:45:24):

So, what happened was, we had people coming and going, we dealt with the raid, we dealt with the court case, we dealt with the class action suit, and I think a lot of people burned out and we’re like, “Okay, somebody else can take the helm.” I still wanted to stay involved, and so there were few people for a while, and people just stopped coming to meetings, and then we would recruit more.

Carlyle Jansen (00:46:00):

And then, was it around 2010? I don’t know when it was. Club Toronto was sold to... Well, it wasn’t sold, it canceled its lease and... Sorry, sometimes words don’t come to me. Swingers. And, oddly enough, a couple who I had met when I was 18 in a whole different realm of my life as a teenager, they were swingers, and they purchased the lease on the Club Toronto event. So, they made it into a swingers’ space. Now swingers, they like to do everything out in the open. So, they got rid of all of the rooms, which was really unfortunate, and so it was a lot of work.

Carlyle Jansen (00:47:03):

One of the people who joined the committee at a later time, Fazia, worked and still works behind the scenes for plays and concerts and all of that stuff, so was able to source some pipe and drape for us to rent for the night. So, we would put up this pipe and drape to create some rooms and of course they weren’t the same as a door. So, we had signs, and you had a limited amount of time in there because the other thing to remember is that people came to the bathhouse events very regularly, and we had a bit of a layout, and we decided we’d do this room, and this room, and this and this room, and this and this room, and people would come to the bathhouse event. After a while, we didn’t need to sell tickets in advance, and people just came. And they’d come in there like, “Is room 312 available?”

Carlyle Jansen (00:48:01):

I’m like, “My God. You know which rooms to request. You know... like, you’ve been through this routine. You know which are the best rooms for whatever reason.” Anyway, so we couldn’t have people reserving a room because then nobody would have a private space. So, it was a lot of effort.

Carlyle Jansen (00:48:20):

And also, Oasis [Aqualounge] now started doing their own queer women's events, and they were doing them monthly. And when we had done a survey, we asked people, "How often would you come to a bathhouse event?" And most people said like, "Three or four times a year." And so, I think partly what happened was, if it happens all the time, it's not as much of an event. Not as many people come, and so there isn't as much of a party atmosphere because it's not very full. And so, they were doing their own events. We were doing our events, and we weren't getting the attendance. And it felt to me like it was a lot of effort, and it wasn't necessarily worthwhile anymore. We weren't really the only space doing this, and people were also now putting on private parties and doing their own things. So, I felt like the purpose of it had done its time.

Carlyle Jansen (00:49:27):

Now, unfortunately, I do feel bad for people who are newly out because this was one place where people who were newly out — I think we put ads in *NOW Magazine* also — would see it, and they're like, "Oh, I can go there, and I can go on my own." I think the lesbian meetup group that happened every week at The 519 would meet first and go together. So, you had someone to go with. And we had tour guides because we knew that for people coming for the first time, it might be really scary, right? Like, "I just walk into the space... What do I do? Is somebody's going to jump me? Is everyone going to be naked? What am I supposed to do? Where is everything happening? I'm going to feel like an idiot walking through." Right? So, we had tour guides so you could go and get a tour, and they would show you the way around and talk about consent and rules and whatever. So, it was helpful.

Carlyle Jansen (00:50:24):

And so, I do mourn that we don't have that anymore for people who are newly coming out. I think that was a valuable service. But I do think, lots of people go to Oasis [Aqualounge] now, and they have... at least, last I looked, they had a monthly event, so that's still happening, and there are other forums for people. So, I think, the way I remember it is, there were two of us who did a lot of the coordinating, and my kids were now in soccer practice, and I know I was busy, and I said to the committee, "I'm happy to be a part of the event, but I can't do as much of the organizing." And nobody stepped up to the plate, and it just never happened, so.

Elio Colavito (00:51:10):

Do you remember what year that was in?

Carlyle Jansen (00:51:22):

I don't know, I'm thinking around 2014. I think it's probably been a good six, seven years since we had an event. Somewhere around there. And so, nobody really stepped up to the plate, and so it just sat there. Now, just because it's in context, I know I'm jumping way ahead here, but we had some money in the bank that... Some events made money, some lost money, but we had a bit of a net balance. We had about \$5,000. So, at one point we had a meeting and said, "What should we do with this 5,000?" And we were going to put out a community call for people who can't get access to funding for sexual events or something, otherwise we'll divide it up and put in a... And so, somebody was going to take charge of putting together a flyer, and a Google doc or whatever, so people could apply, and it never happened. So, the money was just sitting there.

Carlyle Jansen (00:52:28):

So COVID happens. And I know that a lot of sex workers were really struggling. So, I sent an email to the original committee members and some of the later ones and said, "Look, we have this money sitting in the bank. As far as I can tell, we're not going to use it. What do you think we give this to a sex worker organization, or what other suggestions do people have?" And so, we ended up giving it to Trans Toronto,

which her name is escaping me, runs... which is largely for sex workers, but also for other trans identified individuals providing support and food and access to resources. So, do you know who I'm talking about? Monica Forrester. Monica Forrester started it and I believe running it. So, we donated the money to her organization, which felt good. That was, I guess, in some ways the nail in the coffin. We closed the bank account, and we gave the money away, which felt like a good way to do that, and that's the end of it.

Alisha Stranges (00:54:06):

Yeah. Well, it's just so wild to hear different perspectives and get a little bit more uncovered. So, I really appreciated hearing you go through that. You just told an entirely new part of the story that I didn't know about before, so thank you. I want to shift our focus now to focus on your experience as a patron of the 2000 bathhouse event in particular. I'm curious how you balanced your role as an organizer with your experience as a patron. Talked about in the first event, sounds like it was mostly organizing that you had to be focused on, but by 2000 had you figured out how to balance the two?

Carlyle Jansen (00:54:57):

Maybe? I think I was in a monogamous relationship, I think, at that time. So, I'm not sure I was participating in the events as a patron in the same way. I think I may have volunteered for the G-spot room that night. I'm not sure.

Carlyle Jansen (00:55:27):

So, this is also where I struggle to... I think it's okay, anyways. It was something that we kept as a secret for a long time to protect somebody's identity. But I noticed that, in an article in the last year, Chanelle [Gallant] mentioned it. So, I suppose it's out anyways, and I can't imagine this is going to be hugely big or impact someone's life, but I was working Good For Her, and I got a phone call two, three days maybe before the night of the raid. And somebody called me and said they are planning a raid, and it was somebody who worked in the police force in some capacity. I don't know if they were an officer or a civilian, but they were very quiet about it, and so I did not want to reveal that for many years to protect that person's employment. And the last thing I wanted to do, if she put her life on... risked her job, was to lose that job for her. So, I feel like it's already out, and I have never spoken about this publicly before, but it's already out there in the media, and it's probably been long enough, and I think the administrations have changed enough that I'm not sure they're going to do an investigation into who this person was way so long ago.

Carlyle Jansen (00:57:21):

So, I got this call and I was like, "Oh wow, thank you." And "Oh my God. Now what?" And there had been raids within the previous couple weeks, I think of the Barn and the Bijou. So, the Barn was... I guess there was public sex, and the Bijou was their slurp ramp. And so, I was quite concerned for ourselves as organizers and for the patrons, and we're like, "What do we do?" So, I called a community organizer, cisgendered man, gay man who had done a lot of activism during the 80s bath raids and since, and was in politics, and said, "I just got a call. What do we do?" And he said, "You know they haven't..." And I don't fault him for this because it was true. "They don't go to bathhouses." There's a tacit understanding that it's better that people do these things in bathhouses than they do them in parks where people are walking their dogs. There's this tacit agreement with the cops that bathhouses are a better place for people to do this. So, they haven't been raiding them since the early 80s, and my understanding is the only time that they went in there was if they were looking for someone who was dealing drugs, and that was what they were looking for. They weren't looking for public sex.

Carlyle Jansen (00:59:08):

And also, it was really hard to charge under the bawdy-house laws now. So, it was pretty... even if they wanted to, it was a challenge to get it, really, to go anywhere. So, we were still concerned, and we took some precautions, and I think we had people sign a waiver. I can't remember, but it was all very last minute, and, of course, everything was last minute preparing for this event anyways. I think this was our third. So, we were a little bit better at it, but was still a lot. And we had invited Stephanie Nolen, who was a reporter at *The Globe and Mail* that I knew at the time, to come to the event in case this happened. So, she hung out at the cash, behind the cash desk because that's where they were going to come in, presumably, and she hung out there in case it happened.

Carlyle Jansen (01:00:06):

And so, I think I may have worked the G-spot room that night. I was often the one who worked the later hours because the later hours were the more exciting hours, and I was in a monogamous relationship. So, I was like, "Okay. I'll go have fun the first few hours, and do my G-spot room shift, and then I'll come and work the door." So, I think that was my experience that night when they arrived, and yeah.

Alisha Stranges (01:00:42):

Yeah. So, there'll be some time shortly to get into that moment a little bit more, but to keep us in the space and time in which you were permitting yourself to have fun before you took the door, can you tell us a little bit about your identity as a patron that night. For example, what were you wearing? What do you remember about—

Carlyle Jansen (01:01:10):

I mean, to me the bathhouse was an opportunity like Pride. I always got dressed up. It was always something that was fun, flirty, sexy, whatever. And as a femme who has hairy legs, it was always a fun way of playing with gender that way. And so, I was probably wearing something somewhat revealing and sexy in whatever way I had come to define it, and I would say that events like Pride and the bathhouse helped me develop my sense of sexual expression. You see how people do, and you're like, "Hey, I think that fits for me," or whatever. Right? So, I think it was one of the pieces that formed my sexual self-expression and identity.

Alisha Stranges (01:02:15):

And when you said, let's say, "playing with gender," you know, "a femme with hairy legs," can you sort of paint a picture for us of what kind of an outfit that kind of person would wear? So, we can sort of understand that image as you saw it.

Carlyle Jansen (01:02:33):

Yeah. So, it would either be like boots or heels, not too high though because that's really hard. A short skirt, maybe fishnet stockings, leather potentially, or chainmail, a bra or something similar to that, that was somewhat revealing, but still clothing.

Alisha Stranges (01:03:03):

Colour palette?

Carlyle Jansen (01:03:06):

Yeah, black, red, chainmail, which is silver. I think I had a green something or other that I bought at some kind of discount store at one point.

Alisha Stranges (01:03:26):

Yeah. That's great. Thanks for—

Carlyle Jansen (01:03:29):

I liked being playful with it, right? Like, I wasn't really serious about it.

Alisha Stranges (01:03:36):

And thinking more about the space inside the club, can you sort of talk about the atmosphere in the club, prior to the raid I'm talking about?

Carlyle Jansen (01:03:46):

Well, so it was our third event, so things were pretty much in full swing. There was... All the different rooms were going. There were a lot of people because it was quarter to one because, of course, they targeted our Special Occasions Permit, which was the only way that they realized that they could get us. So, it was quarter to one, everything was going, it was pretty full. There were a lot of people everywhere. There were lots of sounds coming from different places. There was alcohol. People were dancing.

Carlyle Jansen (01:04:29):

So, they had this one room called the exercise room where... I don't know what they thought. Maybe they thought that people would come on their lunch break and use the exercise bike. And they didn't have free weights, but they have different things in this room, but I think it mainly was used as a water sports room because it reeked, and there was carpet throughout this whole place. You can only imagine how dirty the carpet was. Like, I remember sometimes people would be having sex on the floor. Someone would say, "Please, can you lie on my towel? Please?" Sorry, I'm just going to put my sweater on because I'm a bit cold.

Carlyle Jansen (01:05:18):

So, the exercise room was not very big. It was probably... Oh shoot, what's going on? I'm pushing buttons. It was probably 10' by 12', or something like that, maybe 12' by 12'. Anyways, they took the exercise equipment out, and I don't remember if it was this night or another night, but we were trying to do things to get people to know each other, so we did Twister. We did Spin the Bottle. And when we arrived at this room... we arrived to set up at two o'clock in the afternoon or something, right? And sometimes, by five, there was a lineup already, and we didn't open till eight or ten. And I remember it smelled like ammonia, and as the night wore on the ammonia smell wore off, and the piss smell started emerging. And I was like, "How are these people playing Spin the Bottle in this room?" I couldn't understand. Anyways.

Carlyle Jansen (01:06:30):

So, there was the pool. People were going in the pool. There was the hot tub. There was a monitoring of the, whatever it is they monitor, the pH and the chlorine of the hot tub. But a lot of people were like, "I'm not going anywhere near that hot tub." There was a sauna that some people may have been in, and because I know the people who renovated Oasis Aqualounge, they talked about how, when they pulled the sauna out, there was charring of the wood and the brick behind it from just lack of maintenance, or I don't know what,



safety, whatever. So, we're really lucky that nothing serious happened in that building. They also talked about, at the entrance, so on the bottom floor, they pulled away the ceiling and the beam was like this.

Carlyle Jansen (01:07:22):

And so, they had different managers over the time when it was Club Toronto, and they were always trying to find ways to keep it afloat. Now, I think our event, they welcomed it because they got a fair bit of money. I think we paid \$3,000 a night to rent it. Or did we give them a portion of the door? I think we split the door with them at first. So, they got around... I think they were getting two or three grand. It's fuzzy, but I'm sure if I looked through the receipts, I'd find it.

Carlyle Jansen (01:07:58):

But so, there were people in the sauna and the steam room, the jacuzzi, the pool. There was the photo room. And, of course, so we were very conscious of consent, and we were very conscious that if people were going to take photos, are they going to do things when they're drunk that they're going to regret the next day? So that's why we did Polaroids. So, you took it with you. Nobody else had a copy of it. You could keep it. And it was your choice if you gave it to somebody else, but at least there was a limit of... you took a photo of yourself naked with somebody else or whatever, and now who knows where it is. So, we did the Polaroids for that.

Carlyle Jansen (01:08:51):

Anyways, it was a very exciting night. And we knew that the police might come, but I think by one o'clock I was sort of like, "Okay, well, they haven't shown up, so maybe it was a false alarm, or they decided not to come." I think we were kind of on edge, and we had our Spidey-Senses up, but I think by one o'clock I was sort of like, "Okay, well, it's kind of... It's getting late." And I didn't really think about the liquor permit. I don't think any of us thought about it was the liquor permit that they were going to come after us for. So, had we thought of that maybe we would have been more conscious of, "Of course, they're going to try and catch us violating that by selling after 1:00 a.m., by whatever." So, did that answer your question?

Alisha Stranges (01:09:41):

Absolutely. Absolutely. As a patron of the event, I don't know if you can really separate patron from organizer, but what were you hoping to experience that night?

Carlyle Jansen (01:09:54):

You know, I was hoping to experience... A lot, for me, was creating experience and seeing the joy on people's faces and seeing that people were appreciative that they had positive things. We had feedback forms at the end of the event. The thanks that people get. That was what I was hoping for, that people had good experiences. I mean, I always enjoyed myself.

Carlyle Jansen (01:10:30):

I did a few times go and have more anonymous sex. And I enjoyed working the G-spot room, it brought me pleasure to help people find their G-spots. It brought me pleasure as an organizer. A lot of people volunteered because it was a way to be involved and to break the ice. So you could be a tour guide, you could work the G-spot room and maybe hookup with somebody later, you had a role, and so it was a lot easier to come to the event and kind of like, "Okay, I have a purpose. I have a thing to do," and feel like you had something rather than like, "Oh no, what do I do? How do I approach someone?" You know, that kind of thing. So, to see the satisfaction of the volunteers and the people they interacted with, that was the pleasure.

Being a part of something that I thought was really transformative and exciting for a lot of people. That was my reward.

Alisha Stranges (01:11:30):

Sorry, say that again.

Carlyle Jansen (01:11:33):

That was my reward.

Alisha Stranges (01:11:36):

And how did your expectations for the night compare to your lived experience of it?

Carlyle Jansen (01:11:44):

Well, so as of 1:00 a.m. everything changed, and I can't remember, I think I had stepped away and the cops... I can't remember if I met the cops at the door, these five guys, or whether I came after and saw them like walking through. I can't remember, which is kind of odd because that would be a really significant event, but I don't really remember. And, of course, it was scary. "Are peoples' safety on the line, both emotional as well as physical? Are there going to be consequences? Are they going to charge me? Are they going to charge the committee? Are they going to charge patrons? Is this going to be like the 1980s? Are people who have criminal records going to have problems?" And so, people were just leaving, and people were clearly distraught and clearly upset. I mean, it just changed the whole mood.

Carlyle Jansen (01:13:07):

Of course, there was an inkling that this might happen, but you're never really prepared for it. And so, it was kind of into panic and what do we do now mode. What do we do now? And so, obviously Stephanie [Nolen] was then in action, and she was kind of ready to go, I think, a little bit before this happened. I think she was sort of like, "Look, I think this was a false alarm. This is a waste of my time." And then, so she started writing and figuring out what was going on. And I was trying to talk to people, deal with things. I don't know, it was mayhem; not in the sense that people were running in all directions, but the mood had changed.

Carlyle Jansen (01:14:01):

I do remember though that a couple of people... I remember the cops coming down to the main floor, and they had asked for ID. So, there were a couple people who were in the photo room when they went up there, and I remembered them. They wanted ID, the cops wanted their ID. And they were white, cisgendered, not really intimidated by the cops, from what I could tell. And I remember one of them, their last name was Beaver, and showed it to the cop and said, "Isn't this ironic?" So, they were able to play with them a little bit. And I think they felt pretty confident that there was nothing that they were going to get charged for, whereas that wasn't necessarily everybody's experience. And I think, at the time, they were clothed enough or didn't feel intimidated by the cops for whatever their history reasons. So, I remember that scene, but people kind of left. And then it was like, "Oh no." And I think there were a couple of people there... I think Brenda [Cossman]... I think there were a couple of lawyers who were there who said, "Look, call me. This is not okay. I can help you with this." So, there were a few... There were people who were saying, "We need to stop this. This is horrible."

Carlyle Jansen (01:15:42):

So, and they didn't charge anybody that night. So, it was a little bit like, "Now what?" Right? We didn't really know what was coming next. And a bunch of people lined up for a photo for *The Globe*. And I think then it was like, "Okay, what do we do?" And I can't remember if it was the next afternoon. It may have been the next afternoon, we went to Olivia Chow's office to say, "Okay, now what? How do we deal with this?" Looking for support and wisdom, and support both in terms of what's our political strategy, what's our legal strategy, and what do we need to do? Yeah.

Elio Colavito (01:16:38):

Do you remember how you felt knowing that there was a police presence and a male presence in the space?

Carlyle Jansen (01:16:51):

Personally, it wasn't a huge deal for me that they were men. I mean, I wasn't naked. I didn't... Again, I'm a privileged, cisgendered, white woman, so it wasn't so much that I was being exposed personally. I was afraid though for others and their experiences because I knew that where people were there was... People were doing all kinds of things and whatever clothing or non-clothing they were wearing.

Carlyle Jansen (01:17:34):

So, I was worried for individuals. I was worried for the event. I was worried for the community. I wasn't so concerned for myself. It was more like, "Oh, shit. What does this mean?" And again, I wasn't really attuned to, "Okay, they're going after the liquor permit holders," right? That was not on my radar. So, it was more like... Also, that I wanted people to have a good time, and now all of a sudden it was like a huge wet blanket that just like, pfft.

Carlyle Jansen (01:18:17):

There were some people, I think, who were adamant about, "This is not going to stop me." And once they kind of left, now, they were there for an hour and a half, but I think we were open till four. We're kind of like, "We're going to keep getting it on because this is our space, and this is our right, and we're going to keep fucking." But my recollection is that pretty much most of it... And of course, people were talking like, "Oh my God, what does this mean? And those cops, what were they doing?" And at this point, I don't think we knew that two women had been in the space, even though I think some people later identified, "Yeah, there were these women; they were acting really weird. They looked out of place." But at the time nobody assumed that they were cops.

Elio Colavito (01:19:04):

You have completely breezed through all of our questions on your own, which is phenomenal. And I'm shocked. So, we can kind of just turn your attention to the community discussion that happened afterwards. What was the purpose? Why did you guys host this?

Carlyle Jansen (01:19:24):

Why did we host the event?

Elio Colavito (01:19:27):

No, the community discussion after. What was your goal for it?

Carlyle Jansen (01:19:31):

So, the irony of it all was that there was a first meeting, to my understanding, if I have this correct, the first meeting of the LGBTQ Liaison Officer with the LGBTQ liaison committee the next day.

Alisha Stranges (01:19:54):

With the Toronto police?

Carlyle Jansen (01:19:58):

Yes. Yeah. So, irony of ironies, right?

Alisha Stranges (01:20:02):

Was it already planned or?

Elio Colavito (01:20:06):

I guess they needed a fresh example to discuss.

Carlyle Jansen (01:20:11):

So, that's my recollection. I might have it off by a day, but I'm pretty sure that the irony was that the next day was their first meeting. And so here it was, right? Oh my God. And at the time, I don't know, maybe there was Tumblr. I don't know, I wasn't on these things, but it was just emails going around and around, right? Like, "Oh my God. What's this?" And dah-duh-dah—

Alisha Stranges (01:20:44):

Sorry, I'm just curious before you move on, how would you have found out about that meeting happening between the LGBTQ Liaison Officer/committee?

Carlyle Jansen (01:21:00):

I may have just heard about it. Somebody may have mentioned it at the event. It may have come out in the articles the next day. I don't know, I'm not sure. Because I wasn't connected to the LGBTQ Liaison Officer, I don't know who was on the committee at the time. I just remember being... It may have come out in an article.

Carlyle Jansen (01:21:29):

So, and then I think, and I don't know how long after it was, I do remember some community meetings. Now part of it was everybody had questions, and I don't know if we held it before the charges were laid or after the charges were laid.

Carlyle Jansen (01:21:54):

And then, of course, there were community consultations that came out of the human rights complaint. But this would have been a couple of years after, I guess, I think it was Anna Willats who led sort of a community consultation. So, there were a few different things, but I seem to recall an event at The 519. It may have been a week or two after, I don't know, where we all sort of... People had questions, and we talked, and whatever, that's all a bit foggy for me. But you know, one of the things also I remember is that, I don't know if we'd

already engaged Frank Addario as our legal counsel or not, but they laid the charges on the Friday morning of the Thanksgiving long weekend. So, it was like four to six weeks later. You can't find any kind of media at that time. So, this was deliberate. Let's release the media release and serve the two people who were charged that day because we couldn't get any media and then by the time it's Tuesday, it's old news.

Carlyle Jansen (01:23:10):

So, then there were two people's lives at stake and it was under the liquor permit. And the two people who had this liquor permit, I know one of them very well. I know them both pretty well, but one of them I know very well. This person will not cross the street if there wasn't a light, a green light. They will not jaywalk. They are a law-and-order person. They shut down that bar before one o'clock. There is no way. And the police lied. They lied that it was open after one o'clock in the morning. I think they had to come up with something, right? They were looking for something because they had to justify them coming into the space, so they lied. They were looking for anything. The photo room was of particular importance to them. And I think they wanting to charge us under pornography laws or something. I don't know.

Carlyle Jansen (01:24:13):

They had to find something and it was the liquor permit act. Cause I think, I don't know. I'm sure, I don't know if there were laws around photography and porn and alcohol. So, this was where we had to get into high gear. It was like, "Oh my God, we now have to get these charges dropped. How do we do that?" And some of the conflict came up where we had to raise a lot of money because Frank Addario was a top lawyer and there were... We were questioned that why weren't we using some of the free legal advice we could get from the community? Why did we have to use this lawyer and raise all this money? And I do think that the two people were charged were pretty appreciative that we raised the money to go. And who knows, right? Like, maybe people offering their free legal advice would have gotten them off. It's possible, but we were really adamant that we were going to try and get them off.

Carlyle Jansen (01:25:24):

And Frank Addario had worked with Glad Day around a lot of their problems with customs and confiscating or damaging their materials and was good at stuff. So, and back to your question about the community meetings, I don't know. I know that the Bijou and the Barn, of course, they were charged under the liquor act, I guess, right? And so, it all kind of made sense, and I don't know whether the community meeting was to talk about all three or not. But anyways, then we had to raise money.

Carlyle Jansen (01:26:10):

Bill Graham got a bunch of people together. He held a meeting or two for us to try and do an event, and it was at Byzantium, which is now where I think Glad Day is, sort of an expensive get a cocktail and I don't know what to support this. And I do remember a lot of cis, gay men saying, "The women were there for us in the raids in the 80s and around HIV and AIDS, and so we should be there for them too."

Carlyle Jansen (01:26:47):

So, we held a bunch of fundraising events and raised money to cover our costs and we had to set up a whole bank account, it was held in trust because, of course, were we going to use the funds appropriately and all this stuff? So, it was a whole big rigmarole, and it was a huge ordeal even get the money released to Frank [Addario] because we had to say, okay. And then somebody else had to say, okay, and took him two weeks to get his money. But anyways it happened.

Carlyle Jansen (01:27:21):

So, that was sort of where our efforts went to was... We still put on events, and I remember the next event that we did, I think was a year later, and we called it License to Lick Her, which I thought was a great play on words because we were like, "We're going to still do these events." We didn't have a liquor permit after that.

Carlyle Jansen (01:27:47):

And I think also at around that time, there was a federal court challenge that a sex club of swingers in Montreal had just won where, of course, it was all about community standards that you can't have sex in public, and that they had one based on that everybody knew going into a sex club that this was a different community standard. Like, everybody knew there was going to be sex; it wasn't like it was happening in a family restaurant and nobody was expecting it. And so, the law was struck down that you couldn't charge a sex club as long as everybody knew that that's what they were walking into. So, I think that's when we started... It may have been then that we had a waiver, and we had a big sign like, "This is going to be a sex event. There's going to be sexual activities."

Carlyle Jansen (01:28:56):

But we had to do a lot of work to try and make people feel comfortable about coming back. And so, our numbers really dwindled, people didn't feel safe. And unfortunately, we also then had a manager of Club Toronto who decided to have their own employee on for the night, who was used to doing kink play parties. And the kink play parties, from my understanding, were very no public sex. So, you can do kink, but you can't do sex, was my understanding, or at least that was the directive given to this person who was overseeing it. So, they were an employee of Club Toronto, it wasn't us, but they went around breaking up public sex. And we had specifically asked people to be volunteers to have public sex. So, this was really hard and confusing for people. And I had people coming to me at the front door and like, "What the fuck? I was told to do this and now somebody's shutting me down." So, we had some struggles around that. Obviously, people who were at conflict with the law are regularly targeted by the law. Again, sex workers, racialized people... trans people were a little less comfortable coming.

Carlyle Jansen (01:30:38):

I do know one year though, I can't remember when it was, but we got the security team was all... was led by a transwoman and they were all trans identified folks on security detail for the night. Some of them identified as "shemale," which I was like, "Okay." I had understood that as a not okay term to use, but some of them identify as such. So that was really interesting and good to try and make it a welcoming space for trans folks. I keep going on these tangents. I don't remember what you asked me.

Elio Colavito (01:31:23):

Oh, no, it's completely okay. I'm just going to take you back to post-raid, the activism, organizing realm of things. What exactly was your specific role in that process? What kind of things were you involved in?

Carlyle Jansen (01:31:41):

So, sorry, I was looking at my notes, the post-raid events or the post-raid fundraising, et cetera?

Elio Colavito (01:31:48):

All.

Carlyle Jansen (01:31:49):

Okay, so, those of us who were on the committee at the time were all involved in the fundraising and creating the events. I mean, we may have lost one committee member, but we were all sort of working at, “Okay, we need to raise this money. We need to still do events.” I think awareness around this time that the mediation happened.

Carlyle Jansen (01:32:15):

So, it was a busy time because we were sort of doing three hats now, we were organizing events, we were fundraising, and we were dealing with all the legal things, meeting with Frank Addario down at his office, and so we had the charges. And then he suggested that we do a class action lawsuit. And didn't we also launch... I feel like we did something else. We launched a human rights complaint. Right? So, we had all that other legalese and whatever, going through documents. What were we going to file? What were we going to do?

Carlyle Jansen (01:32:58):

And I remember, so we had to then say that there were a certain number of people for the class action suit. And we had to publicize that. We had to go through the rigmarole of the human rights complaint. And so, we had to talk about what we wanted as remedies, and the people on the committee were really great and had so many good ideas, Chanelle [Gallant], Janet [Rowe], Lorelee [Gillis], Carol [Thames], in particular, I remember, just thought like, “Okay... we need to demand a top-down from every single police officer training. We need to change the... because the charges were eventually dropped on the basis of strip searches. So, I don't know if this, you probably already heard about this, right?”

Alisha Stranges (01:33:58):

Yeah, I mean, there's a lot written out there, and I am not quite sure where you're going to go with it. We certainly have questions about it.

Carlyle Jansen (01:34:09):

So, so the charges were such that, that they were dropped because when you do a strip search, the person is allowed to choose whether the strip search is done by a male or female officer. And, and that these were male officers in the space, essentially in the same space as it would be a strip search 'cause people were naked. And I remember Frank Addario at the trial saying, “So, you're trying to tell me that in the city of Toronto, you could not find five female police officers to come in and do this investigation.”

Carlyle Jansen (01:34:52):

And so, at the time also for trans people, it was very... We understood that it was very hard for trans folks because sometimes they had different upper and body presentations. And so, we said that the protocol needed to change that you could ask for one gender, kind of a police officer to do the top part and another gender to do the bottom part and that there had to be... What were we going to do with the money?

Carlyle Jansen (01:35:26):

I think part of it went into paying off the legal fees, and then if we had any leftover, I remember Frank Addario saying “Wouldn't it be great to have a plaque at Maggie's [Toronto Sex Workers Action Project] that says donated by the Toronto Police Service?” I don't know if that ever happened, but I thought that was a brilliant idea, right? He was just really creative about what were we going to do, and how are we going to change things in terms of how the cops did things and try and rectify them as much as possible.

Carlyle Jansen (01:36:10):

And I remember also there was an issue with sex workers, that's right. So, the day after the raid, we went to Olivia Chow's office. And of course, Kyle Rae decided to come, and he was a city councillor at the time, and he kind of went on his own, and went on his own tirade. Many of us think for his own aggrandization, not for the assistance of us, and said that these were rogue cops; they were cowboys. And rather than going to a bathhouse and interrupting people who were having casual, consensual sex, that they really should be doing other things like patrolling parks for sex workers and people doing drugs and yada, yada, yada. So, we then realized... That was part of what this idea of the plaque was because we had not put out a public statement saying that we supported people who were sex workers and that we didn't condemn people for using drugs.

Carlyle Jansen (01:37:25):

And so, we had places like Maggie's [Toronto Sex Workers Action Project] and other sex work organizations saying like, "What the fuck?" You know? "Why didn't you stick up for us?" So, we had to kind of repair that as well, that relationship, and make it clear that we did not agree with those thoughts. And so, there were also... There was this idea, it was sort of one cop, and he recruited others, and he was the one who'd done the Bijou in the Barn, who really was taking it upon himself to go and do these raids, that this was not from on high, that this was his mission. He thought this was not okay and wanted to shut down these things.

Carlyle Jansen (01:38:08):

And I had a customer who, I think he was in police uniform shopping in my store. Because I don't know how I would've known he was a cop otherwise. Like a month or two after. And I said to him like, "What the fuck with the Pussy Palace?" And he said, "Between you and me, we have had orders from on high that we are not to do a thing in the queer community without prior approval. There's nothing to be done."

Carlyle Jansen (01:38:44):

So, I do think that this was somewhat of a cop who had decided to take the law in his own hands. Now, having said that, I think it was Julian Fantino, which doesn't make sense to me, but anyways, when Fantino or whoever was encouraged to drop the charges and encouraged dropping the charges, the police union said, "We were doing our jobs; don't get in our way." So, it was the police union who was really vocal about, "We should not get in the way of this. This is law and order, and they violated the liquor permit act, and we need to pursue these charges."

Carlyle Jansen (01:39:26):

So, I'm not saying that cops are great. And I certainly think there are lots of bad apples. And my understanding, in talking to some LGBTQ cops, is that the problem partly is that you can be racist, homophobic, transphobic, and you won't get fired. So, you have people — and I do think obviously there's systemic racism, transphobia, homophobia in the police force — and, clearly, it takes one or two bad cops to really... I mean, it was a disaster for the cops, I think. They were trying to build a relationship, and it still continues to this day that people are pissed off and really damaged that relationship, which I think hurts everybody.

Carlyle Jansen (01:40:19):

The other piece, again, this is a bit of a segue, but that we had prepared a presentation for the [Toronto] Police Services Board, and I was going to be the speaker, and we'd prepared this speech. And we went to the [Toronto] Police Services Board and presented, and that was great. And there was press and yada, yada. Well, it was the day that Pierre Elliott Trudeau died. The media was all about Pierre Elliot Trudeau. There was not a thing about our presentation to the [Toronto] Police Services Board. Really, it just got lost. So, that was



unfortunate. And I don't remember at what point of the process that was, but we were hoping to call some attention to what the cops had done and what had happened to us and what needed to change. But anyways, that was kind of what happened.

[Colavito's cat enters]

Carlyle Jansen (01:41:16):

Oh, no, somebody had a surgery or something.

Elio Colavito (01:41:19):

She got spade.

Carlyle Jansen (01:41:20):

Oh, no, that's horrible.

Elio Colavito (01:41:24):

Yeah, she's cute. But I actually think it's a really good segue. Alisha?

Alisha Stranges (01:41:28):

I mean, we just have a few more questions here. I know we're running to the end of time. So, the last sort of few questions focusing on how you see the impact of the Pussy Palace on the community, its impact as a community initiative. You know, one thing that often we read is that the goal was to address the invisibility of queer women's sexuality. And, curious, prior to the first bathhouse event in '98, would you agree that women's sexuality was somewhat invisible in the public sphere?

Carlyle Jansen (01:42:08):

Well, I mean, I would say that it was stereotyped, so there was always porn, and it was a straight, male version of cisgendered, queer sex; lesbian sex. You know, what you would see in movies, what you would see in porn. There was a bit of variation. There were some sort of more progressive porn companies led by cis women who were trying to do something different, but it was, I mean, it was there, but it was very stereotypical. So, I think it made more visible the diversity in terms of race, in terms of gender expression, in terms of pleasure in terms of identity.

Alisha Stranges (01:43:06):

Is there anything that the Pussy Palace maybe intended to do, but was unable to fulfill?

Carlyle Jansen (01:43:16):

I mean, I think one of our goals was always to reach people who weren't out or who weren't connected to the community. You know, I mean, we weren't putting ads in local papers in Markham and Scarborough or wherever, right? Now, people did travel from Montreal and Ottawa, I know, and probably other places, but my passion was really the people who didn't know what queer could be. And so, for myself as an example, I didn't realize that I was queer until I met an androgynous woman and was attracted to her. And I was like, "How does this work?" You know? Wait a second.

Carlyle Jansen (01:44:12):

And even my first girlfriend, we hung out a lot, and I knew she was a lesbian, and she finally said to me, “You know what we’re doing right?” And I was like, what, what are we doing? She said, “We’re dating.” And I was like, “Oh, okay.” And I had this flashback of all of these moments I’d been attracted to someone who was a woman, but I couldn’t put in context, and they were all very masculine. And then it took me still several years after that to realize that I, I didn’t know... I’d never seen a butch woman or masculine or a trans man. And all of a sudden it was all clicking. So, for me, that my coming out as queer was because I’d been exposed to someone who was different, who didn’t fit the mold of lesbian.

Carlyle Jansen (01:45:01):

And so that’s where I wish we could have expanded a bit more was people who didn’t know that they were queer, didn’t know how to access queer resources. Certainly, I think we didn’t do a great job of, of making racialized people and trans folks feel really included. And I do want to say also that we, oh my God, we played with the wording to try and make a trans inclusive. And then I had one friend of mine who’d come to the events so many times who was intersex and said, “I don’t feel included now.” And I was like, “Oh, fuck!” You know? “How do we do this?”

Carlyle Jansen (01:45:57):

And I also struggled in some of the later bathhouses because we were really trying to be trans inclusive. And I had two people in particular show up at the door. And one other person who called me, who came presenting as, you would think, any cisgendered male down the street, with a beard and male presenting clothing saying, “Yes, I’m trans,” and did not shift anything of their clothing or anything and said, “I’m trans.” And I was like, “Okay.” What do I do? Right? But, and I could be transphobic, and I could be not looking at this thing with an open mind, but I knew that there would be people in the space who would feel uncomfortable with this person who was not a trans male, was some version of trans feminine that had, and again, I see that feminine has a lot of broad definitions, but had no ounce of any kind of presenting feminine qualities.

Carlyle Jansen (01:47:20):

I had another volunteer who, it was that person or someone else, and really, they were working the butt playroom, and they were like, “I’m never going to work the butt play room again because I felt like I had to see this person who came to me in the butt play room who had a prostate. And I don’t think identified as any stretch of the imagination as trans or as a woman in their presentation or expression.”

Carlyle Jansen (01:47:50):

And I had somebody else call me and said, you know, “I’m a shemale, I want to come to the event. Am I welcome?” And I said, “Yeah, you’re welcome. Absolutely. You’re welcome.” And said, “Well, can I walk around naked? It’s a bathhouse after all.” And I said, “Well, of course, you’re welcome to do as you want.” And I, I tried to frame it in a way. I said, “You know, I just want you to know that if you walk around naked, you’re going to maybe get different responses from some of the patrons, and not all of them are going to be welcoming in how they look at you or wanting to have sex with you.”

Carlyle Jansen (01:48:38):

And again, I know a lot of that is around transphobia, and that women can’t have penises. I also know that a lot of people struggle with like Totally Naked Toronto, the men who walk in that and don’t want to see people with penises, you know, when they’re out and about. So, you know, just trying to reconcile all of these things is challenging. And, you know, we did have two trans women on the committee at different points, which I think was really important to try and bring some balance to all of this.

Carlyle Jansen (01:49:11):

But, and part of the reason I bring up this volunteer who decided not to volunteer anymore is that we also ended up with challenges in the later years because we had these rooms, and we had these volunteers, and what would happen was somebody would go to the massage room, for example, which was another room I didn't mention, but you could get an erotic massage. And the volunteer would say, "I'm not going to massage you." Or, "I'm only going to massage the non-erogenous parts of your body because I'm not comfortable with penises, or I'm not comfortable with whatever." And so, we would do this whole anti-oppression training of all of our volunteers that you, whoever comes, you need to be open to working with them. And which is also really tricky because let's say your ex, you know, comes to the room and you don't know it's your ex, or a previous abuser, or who knows what, right? Your boss, I don't know. Somebody once said that we had to have a bathhouse for therapists because therapists couldn't go to the bathhouse 'cause they might see their clients.

Carlyle Jansen (01:50:18):

So, we ran into challenges where we were like, if you want to be a volunteer, you need to be... You only volunteer if you're prepared to be welcoming of anybody who comes and. At the same time though, not wanting to violate their consent around, you're not forced to work with anybody that comes, but these were some of the ethical dilemmas that we had in dealing with some of this. So anyways, I got off track, but what was your question again?

Alisha Stranges (01:50:49):

I don't know. I mean, I'm noticing here that we're at time, so I feel, you know, you're starting to take us down a new and interesting path. I don't know if you want to continue exploring it a bit or you want to wrap up. Now we can try speaking again later, if there's more that you want to say. I want to be respectful of yours and Elio's time.

Carlyle Jansen (01:51:14):

So, I have another 5, 10 minutes if you do, but it's up to you,

Alisha Stranges (01:51:18):

Elio, what about you? Are you okay?

Elio Colavito (01:51:20):

I'm good.

Alisha Stranges (01:51:22):

You're good? Okay. Yeah, I'm curious about the name, the Pussy Palace. Did it feel fitting at the time? How did you come to that name?

Carlyle Jansen (01:51:34):

It was a name we threw out at a committee meeting. I never liked the word pussy. I never liked it, but I was like, okay, I get it. That it's a name that everybody likes, and it's got alliteration, so let's do it. And then we did change it to be more gender inclusive later on.

Alisha Stranges (01:51:51):

Do you know when that was?

Carlyle Jansen (01:51:53):

No. Sorry.

Alisha Stranges (01:51:55):

It's okay. Yeah. We noticed that it changed, but we'd love to understand more about how the change came about, who prompted it? How did it happen?

Carlyle Jansen (01:52:06):

I mean, I think it came along with the whole sexual evolution of trans women should be welcome. And trans women are women, and some trans women have penises. And so, right? I think it was a shift that was happening in the community. And so, there were conversations happening and I, again, I don't think there was a lot of debate about it. It was like, okay, let's change it.

Alisha Stranges (01:52:31):

Yeah. And how would you say, the Pussy Palace, I gather, or the Pleasure Palace, doesn't happen anymore. How do you think the initial idea that you had, that you and others collaborated on way back in 1998, how do you think that has impacted lesbian, queer women's, and trans sexual culture in Toronto?

Carlyle Jansen (01:53:00):

I think for those people who went, there's a fond memory of it. I have people who come up to me once in a while: "I have all of the flyers." People have good memories of it. I mean, I think it was just one piece in what was happening. You know, there was an instability of queer women and trans bars. You know, they never seemed to survive. So, there weren't a lot of places for people to explore this kind of thing.

Carlyle Jansen (01:53:31):

You know, my understanding was that in the 80s and early 90s, there were sex parties that happened that were pretty wild and out there and sexual, that were sort of queer focused. It was before my time. But sort of an extension of that. I think it was just one piece of, you know, the magazines that were coming out, the porn that was starting to shift and being done by queer and trans and racialized people. It was sort of a whole shift culturally of embracing diversity and understanding different kinds of sex that people had, and what people were doing.

Alisha Stranges (01:54:13):

And, you know, I'm just here thinking about the inception for this idea, or some of your inspirations back at your attendance at Octopussy, thinking back from that experience you had through the long and winding path that you all took together until, you know, 2014, when it ultimately sort of disbanded, is there anything else that you want to share about that experience that our questions maybe have not invited you to speak to?

Carlyle Jansen (01:54:48):

Yeah. There were a couple of things, 'cause I wrote a whole bunch of notes here that I was trying to remember things to include. So, one of the things that we didn't get into was that we did some other events.

So, we really try to address the lack of racialized folk. So, we had some BIPOC events that were led by some people of the community, and we gave them some money to say like, “Here’s for your advertising; what support do you need?” So, I went and helped set up, but then they took the, you know, they did the event. There were I think two nights maybe. And it was at a different place called the Central Spa that was a little smaller.

Carlyle Jansen (01:55:37):

We also did, people said like, “You need to do this event more often.” This was earlier on; I think before 2006. So, we did bathhouse lite. So, there weren’t volunteers. It was at the Central Spa. It was sort of like, just come on and get it on; kind of like the guys do it, right? Which weren’t super-duper popular, and they weren’t as much fun, but it was sort of an effort to try and do that.

Carlyle Jansen (01:56:07):

We also... There was a group that was going to do an event, a sex event for people with disabilities, and we donated some money to them. They had a fundraiser, I don’t think anything ever happened of it, but we were trying to, because of course, Club Toronto was like very inaccessible. We did have one person who used to come in a wheelchair, and we had volunteers to help them get around. They were light. They were small and light. So, couple people could pick them up and take them to a different floor, I remember.

Carlyle Jansen (01:56:41):

And then we did the strip nights. So, this was partly fundraiser, I think. It was at Remington’s, which is now no longer a men’s strip club. And they had a main floor and a top floor that wasn’t used so much. So, we did three or four events there, and we found people, queer women, we tried to find identified strippers. And, I said this to somebody recently, and they sort of thought that was funny because they thought that that wasn’t the case, but that we didn’t know if queer women were going to tip.

Carlyle Jansen (01:57:21):

So, it was \$10 to get in. And in return you got six pussy dollars. So, they were a strip of paper that we made and photocopied, and you could tip the performers. And I think we gave them 50 bucks, and then they got whatever they got in tips. We’d cash them out into regular money at the end of the night. The first one was hugely popular. It was great. And again, advertising was always a challenge; how to get the word out there. But we’d have like three or four strippers for the night. And there were the back rooms also. So, they could go and get... People could pay for a private lap dance at the back afterwards also. So, those were also fun fundraisers trying to do something different because strip clubs weren’t that friendly to queer women to go as patrons. So, we thought it would be fun. And it was a great fun event. So, we also did those. And I think they were partly fundraiser, partly as an opportunity for people to do something that was a little bit different, both for working as well as for participating.

Alisha Stranges (01:58:27):

So, then you just sort of moved into the more standard version, if we can say that of the events, to accommodate the interest? Moving it to something like Club Toronto where you could accommodate the number of people?

Carlyle Jansen (01:58:48):

Yeah. These were more... Like, the strip nights were a totally separate event organized by us. So, you know, and they happened sort of around the early 2000s, I think. So, I think it was post-raid, and I think we did

three or four of them, and then they didn't get as much attraction. So, we thought, okay, there's no point in continuing to do them.

Alisha Stranges (01:59:13):

Yeah. Anything else that you wanted to get to?

Carlyle Jansen (01:59:16):

Yeah, that was sort of the only other thing... The only other thing I wrote here was, for me, the raid was a huge thing. And to me it was a huge thing for the queer community. But I remember going to... I'd go to dyke bars or like queer bingo nights or whatever, and I'd hand out flyers. And I would say, you know, "Here's an event; it's a fundraiser for our legal fees," or I don't remember what. But I mentioned the raid, and they're like, "What are you talking about?" People did not know. And I was astounded by that.

Carlyle Jansen (01:59:50):

Like, of course, 'cause it consumed my life, and I was very enmeshed in the queer community and involved in this, but I just thought... Like, everybody I knew, knew about it. So, I was flabbergasted that there were people out at queer events who never heard of this. And I mean, I think that's partly due to there's lots of different queer and trans communities that... We had one paper, *Xtra*, and a lot of queer women didn't read it because they didn't feel like it reflected them. And *Siren*, I think, stopped producing at some point. So, people wouldn't necessarily know. But I just remember being astounded by that. I think that's it.

Alisha Stranges (02:00:38):

Amazing. Thank you. Thank you so much for sitting with us. It must be a challenge to sort of constantly be asked to trudge back through this long history, but appreciate all the tremendous amount of detail and effort to recollect for us.

Carlyle Jansen (02:01:01):

Mm, yeah. I'm happy to. I've always thought that'd be great for somebody to do a documentary on it, which, whatever. But, you know, it's fond memories overall. I mean obviously the raid was traumatic, and it fortunately it wasn't that traumatic for me, but I know it was really hard for a lot of people. So, I feel bad about that, but everything else around it was a great learning opportunity from the other committee members, from the patrons for how I evolved as a human and my understanding of sex and racism and trans, non-binary... Like, it was all, it was all a formative part. So, I'm grateful for having been a part of it. And I'm grateful that other people are interested.

Alisha Stranges (02:01:51):

Absolutely. So, I'm going to stop the audio recording. You can stop yours as well.

Carlyle Jansen (02:01:59):

Okay.