

“TRANS” FEATURE TRANSCRIPT

STORY SLUG:TRANS

INTERVIEWER:UNKNOWN

INTERVIEWEES:

**NURSE #2, UNKNOWN FEMALE
SPEAKER 1, UNKNOWN FEMALE
SPEAKER 2, UNKNOWN FEMALE
SPEAKER 3, UNKNOWN FEMALE
SPEAKER 4, AMY, ANESTHESIST,
QUEER TV ANNOUNCER, TV
ANNOUNCER, MEDICAL ASSISTANT,
PARTY ASSISTANT, MORGAN
BASSICHIS, AUGUSTE EVER BOLDEN,
LISA BORTZ, TIM BROTHWELL,
ERLINE BUDD, LILIBETH CARRILLO,
CECILIA CHUNG, TIFFANY'S COUSIN,
TERRY CUMMINGS, MASEN DAVIS,
SEAN DEMPSEY, SCOTT A. DINESEN,
DO, UNKNOWN FEMALE, ERICA
FIELDS, ALEX FLORES,
GRANDMOTHER, JAMISON GREEN,**

**JULIANNA GUITEREZ, REV DR
MICHAEL L HOLLAND, SALLIE HUNT,
ZANDER KEIG, KIM, VICKY
KOLAKOWSKI, BRIAN LACEY, SBRIAN
LACEY, BRIAN LACY, UNKNOWN
MALE, DR CHRISTINE MCGINN, DANE
MENKIN, MICHAEL, ALLISON
MURPHY, NARRATOR, NURSE,
PRESIDENT OBAMA, COMMANDING
OFFICER, 911 OPERATOR, CHRIS
PAIGE, PAM PATRICK, KIM PEARSON,
MAUREEN OSBORNE, PHD, MICHELE
ANGELLO, PHD, JENNA RAPUES,
ROOMMATE, ALBERTO SALAMANCA,
CRIS SALAMANCA, HANNAH
SHERRILL, DR EUGENE SHRANG,
UNKNOWN CONFERENCE SPEAKER,
LEE STAUB, SOUND TECH, YAVANTE
THOMAS-GUESS, BILL TYLER,
DANANN TYLER, JAMES TYLER,
SARAH TYLER, BINDER VENDOR,
MEOSHA WARE, RUSS WEIKLE, OPRAH
WINFREY, RYAN WINKLEPLECK,**

**TIFFANY WOODS, UNKNOWN MALE,
UNKNOWN MALE**

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TAPE NUMBER: TRANS**[TRANS]00:00:35****DANANN TYLER**

Hi. My name is Danann, and I'm seven years old. It's a Rapunzel tower. You play with Rapunzel. Well, you can see her hair glow in the dark. Do you see the light go on?

[TRANS]00:00:56**DANANN TYLER**

And then she had, like, a--a friend named Pascal, who hides in the fireplace. He's a chameleon.

[TRANS]00:01:10**DANANN TYLER**

Yeah. This is her kitchen. She has two cups hanging on the rack, and then two plates on her table, and a stove.

[TRANS]00:01:20**BILL TYLER**

Uh, she started to reject the toys that she had, trains and cars and things like that. She wanted to get little dolls and proper tea sets, things like that. Plastic princess shoes that she could wear.

[TRANS]00:01:33**DANANN TYLER**

I always like to play with dolls. I do have a Rapunzel wig. It's in the closet.

[TRANS]00:01:45**SARAH TYLER**

Um, it wasn't 'til about four years old. We're talking about God, and she said, "I don't think God is so great, because God made a mistake when he made me." And shortly thereafter she--she--she talked about cutting off her penis, and that concerned me. Um, concerned me a lot.

[TRANS]00:02:00**ALEX FLORES**

I never felt feminine. I knew it was wrong to say anything about it. They wouldn't understand. What do you mean? You're female. You were born female. And this was me five years ago. I'm a much happier guy now.

[TRANS]00:02:28**MAUREEN OSBORNE**

The scientific research is minimal, but we know that the brains of people who are transgender are more like the brains of the sex to which they aspire than their birth assigned sex.

[TRANS]00:02:39**JAMISON GREEN**

I was the first girl to take woodshop in my junior high school. I was the first girl to climb the ropes in the boys' gym. I was the first girl on the high school ski team, and I was the first so-called woman construction cable splicer for Pacific Northwest Bell. Not only because I enjoyed doing those things, but I also felt that people needed to know that female bodies could do these things.

[TRANS]00:03:16**NARRATOR**

It can happen to anyone. It happened to Lieutenant Commander Christopher McGinn.

[TRANS]00:03:25**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

When I did come out everybody was shocked, even my mother. Um, because I just wasn't an--an effeminate guy. You know? A lot of people wanna know. They wanna know did you play with dolls or did you play with trucks? Well, actually I played with both. I remember I got into my grandmother's makeup. And the first, uh--the first time it was not a big deal. You know? Boys don't play with makeup. You know?

[TRANS]00:03:50**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN (CONTINUED)**

But I remember that was an issue at that time. Because I remember doing it a few times, and finally getting a spanking for it. So that was really the first hard lesson that that's not okay. There was always, uh, what could cause this or why am I this way. Why am I different. I spent my teenage years and my--my 20s trying to find out, trying to have somebody or something that I identified with that--that felt the way I did.

[TRANS]00:04:17**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN (CONTINUED)**

And I really couldn't--didn't find any. I remember I was dating a girl in 11th grade and, um, she says, "You have really pretty eyes. Let me put some mascara on you." And, um, inside I was like, "Yes." (LAUGHS) Because for that second, uh, she was, um--I could be sort of who I thought I was. You know? And so she did.

[TRANS]00:04:40**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN (CONTINUED)**

And she said, "Wow, you have really pretty eyes." And that made me feel so good. And really all that was is somebody giving--paying me--paying Christine a compliment, really. And--and having gone through life for so long and--and Christine, this--this--who is me, you know, just not being recognized, I think it just felt so good. Um, but then, um, then I got very uncomfortable about it.

[TRANS]00:05:05**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN (CONTINUED)**

Because I think I--I didn't wanna show that I enjoyed it too much. And then I--I think I got very embarrassed. In college, being in a fraternity is such an immersion in what I call guy culture. You know how many women do you know that--that have a chance to live in a fraternity for four years? You know? That's how I look at it. So that's where I met my first wife, was in college.

[TRANS]00:05:39**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN (CONTINUED)**

After college, um, I went to medical school. And within the first year of medical school I was married. And within a year of that marriage, uh, we were getting divorced. Looking back at--at the whole situation, I don't blame her one bit. You know? Because she probably could tell that I wasn't a guy. You know? And--and that's exactly right, I wasn't man enough for what she wanted.

[TRANS]00:06:01**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN (CONTINUED)**

But I know that I felt as if there was something wrong with me, because my whole life people were saying, "There's something wrong with you. You're not allowed to wear your grandmother's makeup. You know? You--you can't play jump rope." So when, um--when things ended, the first thing I thought was, you know, what--there's something wrong with you, that's why she--she left.

[TRANS]00:06:28**NARRATOR**

He was an athlete, a rock and roller.

[TRANS]00:06:37**COMMANDING OFFICER**

Ensign Christopher McGinn, medical corp. With honors, military and physical physical fitness distinction.

[TRANS]00:06:39**NARRATOR**

An officer in the U.S. Navy. A husband. He was a flight surgeon selected by NASA to serve on two space missions. But upon his discharge from the armed forces, Chris McGinn would set out upon a different mission from which he was never to return.

[TRANS]00:07:10**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

A lot of fear. You know? It was Pandora's box. On the one hand I--I finally felt as if I knew, uh, the reason why I--I felt those feelings about my gender. But on the other hand, uh, there was a lot of fallout that was gonna happen from it.

[TRANS]00:07:26**MAUREEN OSBORNE**

She was in some terrible pain, uh, in her life.

[TRANS]00:07:31**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

More importantly, you know, I was married and I would have to, um, discuss this with--with my wife at the time.

[TRANS]00:07:38**MAUREEN OSBORNE**

Her wife found her hormones and said she wanted a divorce.

[TRANS]00:07:44**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

And it probably wasn't gonna be a good discussion.

[TRANS]00:07:47**MAUREEN OSBORNE**

I think he began to realize that he had to do this.

[TRANS]00:07:51**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

I saw that other people were feeling exactly how I was feeling, um, and that, you know, you could be transgender and still be attracted to women. Um, which was how I felt, and that--and I slowly started educating myself and learned that gender and sexual orientation are--are, um, different entities and--and they are related in some facets of life. But for the most part, they're different things.

[TRANS]00:08:15**MAUREEN OSBORNE**

I think he first came to me dressed as a woman about--not very far into the therapy. Maybe six or eight weeks into the therapy, which wasn't easy, because she was moonlighting at the hospital and working on the naval base, I think, still at that time.

[TRANS]00:08:31**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

I had my name changed right before I was discharged. So on the last day of my active duty, I notified the commanding officer that, um, my name had been changed. And so to legally discharge me, they had to have Christine McGinn on the discharge papers.

[TRANS]00:08:50**NARRATOR**

He froze his sperm, and began a process known as transition. First living as a woman . . .

[TRANS]00:09:01**MAUREEN OSBORNE**

I think the more that she did that, the more that she could see . . . her future.

[TRANS]00:09:11**TV ANNOUNCER**

We've been following Chris McGinn in the weeks leading up to the day that he becomes Christine, both in mind and body.

[TRANS]00:09:20**NARRATOR**

Then surgery.

[TRANS]00:09:30

DR EUGENE SHRANG

Now the first part of the operation will be the augmentation mammoplasty, where we augment the breasts and make the chest look more feminine. And then we'll change, and do the bottom part.

[TRANS]00:09:40

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

One of the--one of the risks of surgery, uh, it's a very bloody surgery and I bled a lot. And, uh, I started bleeding in the middle of the night after the surgery when the hospital was pretty quiet. I actually, um, almost died . . . So it was really a--a--a rebirth, for sure.

[TRANS]00:10:11

BILL TYLER

The kids were to line up for something and there was a boys line and a girl's line, and Danann went to the girl's line. And the teacher said, "No, Danann, you have to be in the boys line. You're a boy, and you know that."

[TRANS]00:10:22

DANANN TYLER

And, um, I didn't have much friends and people were mean to me.

[TRANS]00:10:28

BILL TYLER

Uh, her kindergarten teacher, she said, "This has to stop. The princess backpacks, lunch boxes and things like that."

[TRANS]00:10:34

DANANN TYLER

They would tease me. They would call me names.

[TRANS]00:10:38

BILL TYLER

Uh, telling people that she's a girl.

[TRANS]00:10:40

JAMES TYLER

She's also wearing lipstick.

[TRANS]00:10:42

DANANN TYLER

coo-coo head, they called me in there.

[TRANS]00:10:46

BILL TYLER

We couldn't figure out what we had done to cause this, or what somebody else had done to cause it.

[TRANS]00:10:51

SARAH TYLER

So, you know, Bill and I decided, okay, we're gonna take a different approach. We're--we're gonna make a stance. Okay. At home you can do whatever you want, but you're not gonna dress like a girl outside of the house.

[TRANS]00:10:59

DANANN TYLER

A boy wears lame clothes, and a girl wears good clothes. Oh, look a pirate dress.

[TRANS]00:11:09

SARAH TYLER

It was around, uh, Halloween of last year. She wanted this--this huge dress. Southern bell. You know? With, you know, frilly skirt and everything. And, you know, I told her, "No." I said, "No. You can be a witch. You can be, you know, vampire princess or whatever, but you--you cannot, you know--this is just too much." She threw an absolute fit in the store, and I had to pick her up.

[TRANS]00:11:29

SARAH TYLER (CONTINUED)

She was biting me. She was kicking me, screaming. Just--I had never seen her like this. I was terrified. I thought, "Oh, my God. We're gonna have to, you know, check her into a mental institution or something." I didn't understand. And I thought, well, she's just a horribly spoiled child or she's mentally ill.

[TRANS]00:11:41

BILL TYLER

I thought that buying her the toys, the dolls and things like that, might encourage this--what I thought was behavior.

[TRANS]00:11:49

SARAH TYLER

When we got home, um, she got out of the car and screaming, "I don't wanna live anymore." Ran into--we lived on a busy street, and ran into traffic.

[TRANS]00:12:00

DANANN TYLER

No. I don't wanna ever, ever be a boy again.

[TRANS]00:12:03

SARAH TYLER

She also at that time was starting to construct nooses and wanted, you know--put them around her neck and say, "I wanna die." We started to realize this is not just a child who's gay. My gay friend said, "Well, you know, I dabbled. You know? I tried on my mom's nylons, but, you know, I still thought like a, you know--a boy. I still was a boy and was aware of being a boy."

[TRANS]00:12:21

SARAH TYLER (CONTINUED)

Danann has started to identify herself a girl. And if you called her a boy, she would get very angry and she, you know, was, um, inflicting, you know, wounds on herself. She would throw herself against the wall. You know? She would attack people physically. I mean, it was--it was very disconcerting and I mean, I really had thought, "Oh, my God, we're gonna have to commit her."

[TRANS]00:12:39

BILL TYLER

Running away, death, drugs, suicide. That was not something I wanted to think about her doing, and I wasn't going to let that happen.

[TRANS]00:12:49

JAMES TYLER

I was thinking of growing up with my little brother by my side, and I just want that. But I guess it's not gonna happen . . . When was the last time we had a picnic?

[TRANS]00:13:00

SARAH TYLER

I don't know. I'm trying to think. We need to have more picnics. Okay. This is mine. Here's yours.

[TRANS]00:13:11

DANANN TYLER

Where is mine?

[TRANS]00:13:14

SARAH TYLER

Okay. Whoa. Daddy's got all the chips and stuff. All right. Well, this is nice. That was a big bite.

[TRANS]00:13:23

DANANN TYLER

It's really good.

[TRANS]00:13:25

SARAH TYLER

Good. I remember watching one evening, um, with my husband. There was a program on television that featured a transgender child, and immediately I realized that's my child. We knew, you know, hey, this is what our child is. We--we understand now.

[TRANS]00:13:42

BILL TYLER

I realized then that all the acting out, all the anger was pain that she was feeling. She couldn't articulate what was bothering her, so she did the--the only thing she knew was to--to act out.

[TRANS]00:13:54

SARAH TYLER

I never heard that word before, and I had lots of gay and lesbian friends and, you know, bisexual friends and known about transsexuals. But I never heard the term transgender.

[TRANS]00:14:04

BILL TYLER

This is something she was born with and--and that this was not a choice she made. No more than it is a choice of someone who is gay makes that choice to be or that somebody is a certain color.

[TRANS]00:14:15

SARAH TYLER

But clearly she--she already knew who she was. It's just we were taking a long time to catch up.

[TRANS]00:14:23

DANANN TYLER

My mom told me about transgender, and there are a lot of people who are transgender before me. . . a lot of people.

[TRANS]00:14:35

BILL TYLER

I have a little girl that needs to be a little girl.

[TRANS]00:14:41

DANANN TYLER

It means that--well, you were born a girl but you wanted to be a boy. And so you were a boy with a vagina. And then also it also means you born a--a boy and you feel like you're a girl. It's okay to be different.

[TRANS]00:15:03

SARAH TYLER

Girl brain, boy body. Um, at home, you know, she was definitely--we've--we've got her, you know, feminine things. You know? Clothes. She would--could dress as a girl at home. It's just we had to finish out the school year with her as a boy. So she, uh--it was kind of like every morning it was just--it was a nightmare. 'Cause it's like I'd say, you know, "Think of it as a costume. You're wearing a costume and going to school."

[TRANS]00:15:24

BILL TYLER

Pulling her out of that school was not a hard decision. Starting her over, that was tough when she walked out that door as a girl.

[TRANS]00:15:35

DANANN TYLER

Like it, Daddy?

[TRANS]00:15:37

BILL TYLER

Yeah, sweetie.

[TRANS]00:15:38

SARAH TYLER

Once we made this transition, I remember taking her to get her first manicure and pedicure. And we both, you know, were sitting there getting our nails done and it was like I had a different child. She was so happy. She--nothing like what we used to see. I mean, she's happy. She's content. She's, you know, always singing. She's, you know, very confident, uh, and she knows she's loved. I--I mean, just none of the--the issues we had before.

[TRANS]00:16:06

JAMES TYLER

Girls are girls, but sometimes boy and girl. Boys are boys, but sometimes boys are girls.

[TRANS]00:16:15

DANANN TYLER

It's just that--that you have to be two people sometimes.

[TRANS]00:17:056

LILIBETH CARRILLO

What's wrong?

[TRANS]00:16:58

CRIS SALAMANCA

There was, like, this thing that I wanted to talk to you about 'cause you brought up something the other day when we were, you know--when you talked about this.

[TRANS]00:17:09

LILIBETH CARRILLO

The binder?

[TRANS]00:17:10

CRIS SALAMANCA

Yeah.

[TRANS]00:17:12

LILIBETH CARRILLO

'Cause it looks painful.

[TRANS]00:17:14

CRIS SALAMANCA

I know you don't like it.

[TRANS]00:17:16

LILIBETH CARRILLO

Why do you wear it?

[TRANS]00:17:17

CRIS SALAMANCA

Um, to feel more comfortable. Okay. Well, there's, like--okay. You know how we're like part of the LGBT and--well, I'm more like a T than an L or a B.

[TRANS]00:17:31

LILIBETH CARRILLO

Yeah.

[TRANS]00:17:32

CRIS SALAMANCA

And I know you're more like--you're more bi.

[TRANS]00:17:35

LILIBETH CARRILLO

I'm queer. That's--that's good enough for me.

[TRANS]00:17:40

CRIS SALAMANCA

Yeah. I'm--I'm more, like, transgendered. I was, like, looking at YouTube videos online and there is this guy, well, he was born in a female body.

[TRANS]00:17:51

LILIBETH CARRILLO

Okay.

[TRANS]00:17:53

CRIS SALAMANCA

And I don't know. Like I was looking at this, and I was just like, "Wow." I--I feel, like, exactly the same that this dude is, like, talking about. And I've never, like, ever heard anybody else describe those same feelings. I just thought that--I don't know. I just thought I was weird or, like--

[TRANS]00:18:12

LILIBETH CARRILLO

Right.

[TRANS]00:18:13

CRIS SALAMANCA

Yeah. You know, like for you and for other people, like, it's so--gender, it's this thing that you don't talk about. It's just, like, you know, you wake up. You know you're a girl, that--that's it. For me it was, like, harder. Yeah. I might not be who you think I am or what people see me as. You know? And I'm gonna change. You know? I'm not gonna stay--

[TRANS]00:18:32

LILIBETH CARRILLO

Right.

[TRANS]00:18:33

CRIS SALAMANCA

I'll get facial hair and, like, my voice will be low. And, like, even that's gonna change.

[TRANS]00:18:44

LILIBETH CARRILLO

You--you are who you are, and I like that. You're gonna change and I'm still gonna like you. You know? I love you. So--

[TRANS]00:19:02

JULIANNA GUITEREZ

There were little things when she was little, long before I knew there was some gender issues. The type of shoes she will use, the type of clothes she would prefer. I could see those things.

[TRANS]00:19:12

ALBERTO SALAMANCA

Yeah. But we never thought it was--I never suspected. I never thought anything. Normal thing. You know?

[TRANS]00:19:18

JULIANNA GUITEREZ

She would prefer tennis shoes. She would prefer pants. She fight me for the skirts, and she was probably 12 years old. She would spend time in her room. She will, uh, induce pain, like cutting herself and things like that. And she will do repeated cuts. I was not aware because she will use this wrist bands, but--and I would see papers with blood and things like that.

[TRANS]00:19:49

JULIANNA GUITEREZ (CONTINUED)

So I came to realize something was going on. So I just kept supporting and say if you need something, just let me know. I'm here. Just let me know. But she will hide it. You know? She would put bands around her arms and she will do--so I know she was ashamed, but, um, I think one thing that she actually shared is like, "I prefer to feel my pain in my arm than the pain that I'm feeling."

[TRANS]00:20:15

JULIANNA GUITEREZ

And she said, "I just prefer to feel this pain."

[TRANS]00:20:35**LISA BORTZ**

And I see her coming out of the darkness from the parking lot, and I was just like--I had to catch my breath 'cause she was just gorgeous. You know? She's tall, blond, blue eyes with a purse. And I thought, oh, she's straight. Because in her profile she had also indicated that she had been married. So naturally I assumed she had been married to a man.

[TRANS]00:20:57**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

Because I was a resident, I was working crazy hours.

[TRANS]00:21:01**LISA BORTZ**

She pulled from her purse three pagers and one cell phone, and laid them out on the bar. And I thought who—"who comes to a date with three pagers."

[TRANS]00:21:13**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

When should a transgender person tell somebody they're dating that they're transgender is a very good question.

[TRANS]00:21:18**LISA BORTZ**

Yeah. I had no idea that she was trans.

[TRANS]00:21:20**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

I would always try and tell them before I even kissed them.

[TRANS]00:21:23**LISA BORTZ**

With--with hindsight, you know, I--I thought her hands were--were big.

[TRANS]00:21:28**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

On my second, uh, date is when I told Lisa that I was transgender.

[TRANS]00:21:33**LISA BORTZ**

And I had asked her about being married on the first date and she totally cut me off, and said she simply didn't wanna talk about her marriages.

[TRANS]00:21:39**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

So I--I said, "Well, you know how I said I was married before?" And I said, "Well, it was to a woman, not a man."

[TRANS]00:21:44**LISA BORTZ**

And then I just assumed she'd been in a gay marriage. So I was, like, "Oh, cool." And she said, "No. I was the guy." And I didn't know.

[TRANS]00:21:54**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

So I said--I forget exactly how I said it. I think I said, "Well, I born a--a boy." And it took awhile.

[TRANS]00:22:04**LISA BORTZ**

And then it--it like went off like a--like lightening. You know? Like, "Oh."

[TRANS]00:22:11**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

Then I started getting defensive, which was--is very common for me after I drop that sort of information. And I--I started explaining, explaining, explaining. And she goes, "Whoa, whoa, whoa." And she just

said, "I don't really--I don't need to hear the whole drawn out story. I just--I just wanna be here with you right now." And, you know, that's when I fell in love with her right there.

[TRANS]00:22:46 **CRIS SALAMANCA**

I think I've always known that there is something different.

[TRANS]00:22:51 **MASEN DAVIS**

I--I am a transgender man. Um, I lived, um, about half of my life as somebody who was born female in this world. And I will be the first to tell you, um, I don't understand why transgender people are transgender.

[TRANS]00:23:03 **CRIS SALAMANCA**

Since I can remember, I always felt like I had this big secret, and I didn't know why. I didn't know what it was even. I just knew there was something about myself that, um, society wouldn't get or society was telling me that was not okay.

[TRANS]00:23:18 **ERICA FIELDS**

I felt that I was alone. I felt that I was the only person who felt this. That no one else could feel this way, because it was so different than what I knew I should feel like.

[TRANS]00:23:33 **PAM PATRICK**

I used to get up and--and look in the--in the mirror in the morning, and the first thing I'd realize is the person looking back wasn't the person I wanted to be looking back at me.

[TRANS]00:23:40 **JAMISON GREEN**

I did sort of look in the mirror and say not so much "who is that?" but "how am I gonna grow up to be who I know I am."

[TRANS]00:23:49 **YAVANTE THOMAS-GUESS**

I remember having a conversation with my mother when I was five years old, telling her "I was boy, why are you still buying me dolls?"

[TRANS]00:23:56 **MEOSHA WARE**

Well, I am a woman first of all. A different kind of woman, but I'm a woman.

[TRANS]00:24:01 **YAVANTE THOMAS-GUESS**

You know, I want a truck like my brother. And having that argument, "No, you're not a boy. You're a girl."

[TRANS]00:24:06 **MEOSHA WARE**

My father, um, he had, uh, like a problem with it, because it was, like, I was kind of weak and I was acting like a girl. So, you know, they used to kind of jump on me and beat me up and stuff.

[TRANS]00:24:18 **CRIS SALAMANCA**

In between middle school going to high school, uh, when I started coming out in my, uh, sexual orientation and I thought okay, this is it. I like girls, this is what it's called, being lesbian, bisexual, whatever. I thought, okay, that's my secret. That's--that's what I had wrong.

[TRANS]00:24:36 **ERICA FIELDS**

First time I remember seeing a picture in a Playboy I think I was 12 or 13 years old, maybe 11. And I looked at this woman's breasts and I thought "why don't I have those?"

[TRANS]00:24:49

CRIS SALAMANCA

Then as I started getting into the role of lesbian or bisexual, I started noticing, okay, maybe there's something else. Cause I didn't feel completely normal saying "I'm a lesbian."

[TRANS]00:25:02

JAMISON GREEN

I was supposed to go to college in order to get a husband, not to get an education.

[TRANS]00:25:06

MICHELE ANGELLO

It used to be just a given ten years ago. That when I would get a young person coming in, their parents would bring them to me and say, "Fix my child. My child says that he's a little girl. This is unacceptable to us, and you need to fix him."

[TRANS]00:25:22

MAUREEN OSBORNE

I have never seen anybody become less transgender because of psychotherapy.

[TRANS]00:25:30

MICHELE ANGELLO

It would be not only unethical, but it would really just be impossible for someone to go to therapy and be fixed, so to speak.

[TRANS]00:25:39

MASEN DAVIS

For those of us for whom, um--uh, gender transition is necessary, it is absolutely critical. Um, absolutely critical, um, to being our authentic selves.

[TRANS]00:25:53

LILIBETH CARRILLO

So what are the steps to transitioning? Like what's the process like?

[TRANS]00:25:59

CRIS SALAMANCA

I really wanted testosterone, but now I'm thinking, like--I think my top priority would be top surgery. 'Cause it's the thing that bugs me the most is the things that people look at the most and judge me because of it.

[TRANS]00:26:11

LILIBETH CARRILLO

Um-hum.

[TRANS]00:26:11

CRIS SALAMANCA

And I figure, you know, it's--it's a big step. But at the same time, you know, I already bind. People already see me flat chested, so, you know, that'd be one step just to make me feel comfortable in the shower and out on the beach and stuff like that, and not have to feel so compressed by this, like, damn binder that takes forever to put on in the morning. You know?

[TRANS]00:26:33

CRIS SALAMANCA (CONTINUED)

I put this one on first, and then this one. This one. Yeah. This one's like really, really hard to get into. It binds the best, but it is annoying as hell.

[TRANS]00:26:47

LILIBETH CARRILLO

Why do you put it on from the bottom first?

[TRANS]00:26:49

CRIS SALAMANCA

Because you end up being so tightly bound and getting it on takes like ten minutes. That by the end of it you're all sweaty. It just like--it reminds you that you have to bind. See? Better. But the T-shirts--the T-shirts under it help because you won't have, like--

[TRANS]00:27:17

LILIBETH CARRILLO

And that doesn't leave scratch marks on you.

[TRANS]00:27:20

CRIS SALAMANCA

But by the time you're done putting it on, you just don't wanna go out because you're just reminded every single second that you have to put this crap on to look like what you--I don't know. Like what you want to look. You--you just don't wanna get out of the house by the time you put it on.

[TRANS]00:27:40

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

So when I met Lisa, um, the--the concept of Papillion Center, which is our clinic, um, was already under way. It was a web, un, Internet based service, uh, for information for transgender folks.

[TRANS]00:27:54

LISA BORTZ

People who had nowhere to go. So it was an online resource tool that transgender people used.

[TRANS]00:28:01

MAUREEN OSBORNE

If you build it, they will come. She had a dream of starting a clinic that would serve the whole transgender person. Papillion works specifically with all of the needs of someone who is undergoing a transition from beginning to end. They know that she's transgender. She's never made a secret of that, and it's very exciting for them.

[TRANS]00:28:28

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

We not only do surgery and provide hormones, but we also work as, like, a co-op or a clearing house for information for people. When you go to medical school, you learn all this stuff about surgery, but you don't know how to run a business. And Lisa learned that without virtually any experience.

[TRANS]00:28:49

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

You know, I've done a lot of other kinds of surgery. I've done burn surgery and cancer surgery, and there's something really rewarding about this surgery. I feel privileged really to be there at that moment in--of their life when everything they've waited for. You know? So much is riding on this surgery for them.

[TRANS]00:29:21

ALLISON MURPHY

Clovis is a very conservative area. It is a rodeo town. You don't see transgender people walking down the street in Clovis, that you know of. As far as having any indication there was absolutely no clue whatsoever. We hunted together, BMXed, snowboarded, skateboarded all over town, rock climber, Loved to rock climb. And these are all what society would think are mainly male type gender activities.

[TRANS]00:29:52

SEAN DEMPSEY

When I first met Justin, um, he was the all-American boy.

[TRANS]00:29:57

RUSS WEIKLE

He always appeared to me to be a normal--pretty normal, uh, young man.

[TRANS]00:30:02

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

We're really close friends, and spend a lot of time, you know, hanging out. And we graduated high school together. We'd ditch school and go snowboarding and go backpacking and hiking and fishing and--

[TRANS]00:30:15

BRIAN LACY

At eight years old Justin could get up in camp before anybody and have a fire roaring when you got up and walked out of your tent.

[TRANS]00:30:23

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

Not macho, though. Not macho at all.

[TRANS]00:30:27

SEAN DEMPSEY

Yeah. I mean, I think all teenagers have difficulties, but Justin seemed to be dealing with more than the norm. I mean, just really seemed to be afflicted, you know, internally somehow. And I didn't know what that was all about.

[TRANS]00:30:43

ALLISON MURPHY

When I first became aware of something being different, Chloe was 16. She had gone to be that evening, and I maybe an hour or so later went to bed and noticed that she had left the computer on. And so I went over to go turn it off and noticed it was a dear mom letter to me. And she said, "Mom, I am not in the right body." Again, not using the word transgender, but, "I am supposed to be a girl."

[TRANS]00:31:12

SEAN DEMPSEY

What? What are--he's what? You know? I've--I've never been around it.

[TRANS]00:31:19

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

She was just really worried about telling me, obviously. You know? Since I'm a guy and we were, you know, guy friends. You know?

[TRANS]00:31:29

ALLISON MURPHY

We had some really difficult times during Chloe's senior year. It was a struggle to get her to graduate, because she was one, dealing with being transgender, had anxiety issues, minor drug use that I was not going to allow in my home. And so there was conflict over that. And at that time Sean lived here and we backed each other up with the rules of the home.

[TRANS]00:31:55

BRIAN LACEY

I did not know all the problems that were going on at Justin's mom's house.

[TRANS]00:32:02

ALLISON MURPHY

It was a school day and we came home as Chloe was preparing to go to school. And Sean says, "I smell marijuana. You're not allowed to do this. It's not going to happen. It's not acceptable. We're--we're not doing this." And it was a big anxious anxiety attack and it got bigger and it exploded.

[TRANS]00:32:21

BRIAN LACEY

There was an outburst in the morning. He was very upset.

[TRANS]00:32:25

ALLISON MURPHY

Sean tackled her as she was getting her bike and held her in the driveway and I didn't know what to do other than call the police.

[TRANS]00:32:34

SEAN DEMPSEY

And she goes to school upset. Teacher sees the visible upset mood and--

[TRANS]00:32:40

ALLISON MURPHY

What--what's wrong? My mom's boyfriend just beat me up. Well, of course, the school has to make action on that. So of course the school, uh, called CPS.

[TRANS]00:32:50

BRIAN LACEY

Child Protective Services.

[TRANS]00:32:53

ALLISON MURPHY

Chloe come home from school that day and said, "Mom, I cannot live here under the pressures that are in this house, and I wanna go live with my father."

[TRANS]00:33:01

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

Chloe is very emotional.

[TRANS]00:33:04

ALLISON MURPHY

Her shaking, her eyes getting big, sweating. You know? Just anger, intense anger.

[TRANS]00:33:11

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

She can be very happy, very angry, every shade in between. You know?

[TRANS]00:33:16

ALLISON MURPHY

Even to the point where once or twice she would even punch herself in the side of her head because she was so frustrated.

[TRANS]00:33:22

SEAN DEMPSEY

A thousand cries for help.

[TRANS]00:33:25

ALLISON MURPHY

Holding on to that and not coming out and speaking about that for the years that she's known this. From seventh grade knowing it for a fact.

[TRANS]00:33:34

BRIAN LACEY

I--I did not know how Justin felt in his head.

[TRANS]00:33:38

ALLISON MURPHY

All the way into her senior year is a very long time for somebody to walk every day of their life knowing that they're not in the right place.

[TRANS]00:33:49

BRIAN LACEY

I didn't know that he felt as a female and wanted to be Chloe Ann.

[TRANS]00:34:03

ERICA FIELDS

You know, I'm 55 years old. Um, started transitioning when I was 53. have felt this way all my life. Um, I grew up in an era and in a part of the country where being different was very difficult.

[TRANS]00:34:19

PAM PATRICK

I have lived obviously my whole life until the last couple years as a heterosexual male. And looking forward, I'm not--I'm not sure exactly what my life's gonna be or where I'm gonna settle.

[TRANS]00:34:29

ERICA FIELDS

I was probably somewhere eight, 10, 12 years old and would, uh, go into my mother's room when she was at bridge club or--or out of the house and dress in her clothes.

[TRANS]00:34:40

PAM PATRICK

As soon as they cleared the driveway, I was up into my mom's cosmetics in the bathroom or I was in--in her dresser rooting around trying to find something that made me feel better about myself.

[TRANS]00:34:53

ERICA FIELDS

And I could look in the mirror and I could see a woman.

[TRANS]00:34:56

PAM PATRICK

I felt different. I felt good.

[TRANS]00:34:58

ERICA FIELDS

And I just knew that this would probably destroy me.

[TRANS]00:35:03

PAM PATRICK

And the fear grows inside your head and you build the worst case scenario you can ever come up with.

[TRANS]00:35:08

ERICA FIELDS

So I did not feel that this would ever be a path I could follow.

[TRANS]00:35:19

PAM PATRICK

I came out as Pam 20 years into a marriage, a very happy marriage, as a matter of fact. I married a woman that I did love and, uh, we had three great kids together.

[TRANS]00:35:29

ERICA FIELDS

Being a woman was the most important thing deep down inside, and I buried it. I buried it so deep and hard. And then my second wife sometime in 2007, uh, she discovered an article of clothing in my home office. And I was on a business trip and I called her up and said, "How are things going?" And she said, "Well, I found these in your, um, office and they're not mine. I was wondering whose they were."

[TRANS]00:36:01

PAM PATRICK

All through the marriage and even before I kept repressing these urges I had as much as I could, but the same pattern continued into my marriage. I would find reasons to be home alone. And instead of into my mother's things, I'd be into my wife's things.

[TRANS]00:36:18

ERICA FIELDS

And I said, "They're mine." And with that it all started.

[TRANS]00:36:25

PAM PATRICK

I'd been home alone and I'd dressed as Pam and I decided it was time to share it with her. Not the kids, just her. And I let her come home and see me dressed.

[TRANS]00:36:35

ERICA FIELDS

And I said, "I want to be a woman." And that took her breath away.

[TRANS]00:36:41

PAM PATRICK

It was absolute disaster. She--she had nothing complimentary to say about Pam. Only stared at Pam for a brief moment before she went in the other room and insisted that the guy she knew and loved came back into her life, and that Pam went away.

[TRANS]00:37:00

ERICA FIELDS

She said, "Well," she said, "I don't know what to say, but I certainly don't wanna be in your way. If you need to discover who you are, I want you to do that. I know it's gonna be hard. I know it's gonna be very, very difficult for me, but I can't stop you. You need to be yourself." And that began my journey.

[TRANS]00:37:20**PAM PATRICK**

It was--I guess I was 48 or 49 when I finally began dressing more and more. The kids were out of the house by then. And I started finding friends, and I--I would go out dressed as Pam. So it finally ended in me leaving the house about, uh, two years ago. Which enabled me to dress as Pam other than at work virtually any time I wanted to, and that's what I did.

[TRANS]00:37:46**ERICA FIELDS**

And so I started the hormones, uh, about eight months after, um, therapy, and the--the feeling was unbelievable. There was a sense of peace. Uh, it's like everything went into Technicolor. I'd lived out my life in black and white, and now all of a sudden everything was in Technicolor, more complex. Uh--uh, everything felt different, Sounded different, looked different, and I just felt so happy.

[TRANS]00:38:12**PAM PATRICK**

I--I did get to talk to her on the phone a few times, and I explained to her that the person she knew as her husband was gone and he was never coming back. And this was over many phone conversations, many long, tearful phone conversations. Both of us crying and, you know, just trying to come to some middle ground. But I told her in no uncertain terms that Mike was gone, and he was never coming back and Pam was here to stay.

[TRANS]00:38:40**ERICA FIELDS**

And at the beginning there was a sense of I didn't know how far I really felt I would go. But fairly early on, I'd say within six months, I knew that I really, really needed to completely transition.

[TRANS]00:38:57**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

Christine McGinn.

[TRANS]00:39:01**LISA BORTZ**

Morning.

[TRANS]00:39:02**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

What are we doing today?

[TRANS]00:39:04**LISA BORTZ**

We're getting inseminated today. I'm very excited.

[TRANS]00:39:09**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

I--I did have the foresight to see that that was something that was a no-brainer. I definitely was going to save sperm. She said, "Do you wanna come take a look at this?" And--and so I went over and we--we both looked into the microscope and, um, it was the most amazing thing to see that all you--you don't have to add any chemicals. It just--you just let it thaw out and they start swimming again. And to--and to know that that--that was frozen 11 years ago.

[TRANS]00:39:38**NURSE**

Just gonna feel a little pressure.

[TRANS]00:39:41**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

Do you think it's a boy or a girl?

[TRANS]00:39:44**NURSE #2**

So there are three sacks there. One, two, and this little dinky sack in here. Little dinky sack has nothing really growing in it.

[TRANS]00:39:50

LISA BORTZ

Okay. Third ultrasound.

[TRANS]00:39:53

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Initially it was very exciting.

[TRANS]00:39:55

LISA BORTZ

Looking for a heartbeat

[TRANS]00:39:57

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

But then it became very difficult.

[TRANS]00:40:02

LISA BORTZ

The two tries after that were both IVF, and they were successful that I became pregnant, but they were chemical pregnancies. They--they were empty gestational sacks. So there was never a--a true baby inside of those sacks.

[TRANS]00:40:17

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

She lost the babies both times, which was very hard.

[TRANS]00:40:21

NURSE #2

We don't know that they're alive or dead. Um, we know that they are non-mobile.

[TRANS]00:40:25

LISA BORTZ

Right.

[TRANS]00:40:26

NURSE #2

If they're non-mobile they don't do a whole lot for your purposes.

[TRANS]00:40:30

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Each time we would attempt to get pregnant, we would use a vial of frozen sperm. So now after losing two pregnancies and several attempts it was getting--it was getting very tense about, you know, we didn't have much left.

[TRANS]00:40:44

LISA BORTZ

So it was always, "Yes, you're pregnant, but--"

[TRANS]00:40:48

LISA BORTZ

Each one of those bigger ones will release an egg.

[TRANS]00:40:50

NURSE #2

We're hoping to retrieve an egg from that, absolutely.

[TRANS]00:40:54

LISA BORTZ

Okay. I'm just, like, overwhelmed.

[TRANS]00:40:59

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

We were getting to the point, I think. But she said, "This might be the last time."

[TRANS]00:41:04

LISA BORTZ

When you go through IVF they tell you from the time of the, uh, transfer of the, you know--the embryo in--back into my womb, you're pregnant, but--

[TRANS]00:41:15

LISA BORTZ (CONTINUED)

Did you hear that? Something's going on in there.

[TRANS]00:41:26

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Lisa?

[TRANS]00:41:28

LISA BORTZ

Yes.

[TRANS]00:41:31

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Come on in.

[TRANS]00:41:37

SCOTT A. DINESEN

Right now, they--they've flipped around enough that you can see both heads in the same shot there. So baby B is measuring 14 weeks and four days. Baby A is measuring 14 weeks and four days. So they're both right on target.

[TRANS]00:41:52

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Okay. Now we have to find names.

[TRANS]00:41:54

SCOTT A. DINESEN

The fact that you have twins increases your risk for caesarian sections. So something that you may not want at this point, uh, but, uh, it is a higher likelihood. It's not a "for sure" kind of thing.

[TRANS]00:42:04

LISA BORTZ

Whatever's best for the babies.

[TRANS]00:42:06

SCOTT A. DINESEN

That--that's our goal.

[TRANS]00:42:06

LISA BORTZ

Is what we'll do, yeah.

[TRANS]00:42:07

SCOTT A. DINESEN

Happy, healthy mom. Happy, healthy babies.

[TRANS]00:42:08

LISA BORTZ

Yeah, great.

[TRANS]00:42:10

SCOTT A. DINESEN

All right.

[TRANS]00:42:10

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Moms.

[TRANS]00:42:12

SCOTT A. DINESEN

Moms. Happy moms.

[TRANS]00:42:15

LISA BORTZ

Yeah.

[TRANS]00:42:16

All right.

SCOTT A. DINESEN

[TRANS]00:42:16

Yeah.

LISA BORTZ

[TRANS]00:42:23

Okay. Well, Danann turned eight. We--we have to do one to grow, right? One--you're--you're into birthdays more than I am. One extra or just eight enough?

GRANDMOTHER

[TRANS]00:42:40

And is blue your favorite color?

GRANDMOTHER

[TRANS]00:42:42

One of them.

DANANN TYLER

[TRANS]00:42:46

Is that good?

PARTY ASSISTANT

[TRANS]00:42:48

Whoa.

DANANN TYLER

[TRANS]00:42:49

Does it look pretty?

PARTY ASSISTANT

[TRANS]00:42:49

Yes.

DANANN TYLER

[TRANS]00:42:50

Good. You look beautiful. You have to close your eyes super tight, and make the biggest wish you can think of. Okay? I'm gonna sprinkle it on. Okay? Are you ready?

PARTY ASSISTANT

[TRANS]00:43:01

Uh, she's just been so excited all week.

BILL TYLER

[TRANS]00:43:04

This is Cinderella. This one--

DANANN TYLER

[TRANS]00:43:07

When she hits 12, um, she is so strong in who she is that at--at puberty, um, instead of just halting puberty and delaying it, I believe we'll probably move forward with, you know, taking the female hormones.

SARAH TYLER

[TRANS]00:43:20

Give it a big hug. You feel good?

PARTY ASSISTANT

[TRANS]00:43:23

I would hope that we could possibly get her surgery a little earlier.

SARAH TYLER

[TRANS]00:43:27

My concerns in the future for her are, uh, less than ten years away. Um, she gets into middle school and the kids start going to gym and playing--playing sports and having to shower and--

BILL TYLER

[TRANS]00:43:40

SARAH TYLER

You know, we couldn't have her in gymnastics or ballet right now, because wearing a leotard there would be something, you know, definitely visible there.

[TRANS]00:43:48

PARTY ASSISTANT

And put it to your heart and make a really, really, really, really big wish.

[TRANS]00:43:54

DANANN TYLER

I wish I would be biologically a girl.

[TRANS]00:44:00

SARAH TYLER

Happy birthday, dear Danann. Happy birthday, to you. Make a wish. Big wish. All right.

[TRANS]00:44:17

DANANN TYLER

I wished for this.

[TRANS]00:44:19

SARAH TYLER

Oh, I love you. I do feel that if Danann did decide that she was a--was a boy or a man and she was gay, that her life would be infinitely easier than being a trans-person. Um, specially male to female.

[TRANS]00:44:33

BILL TYLER

My worries going forward are that people will think she's a freak.

[TRANS]00:44:38

SARAH TYLER

So much of society is still not accepting of transgender people, and that makes me fear for Danann.

[TRANS]00:44:45

BILL TYLER

She definitely is comfortable with what--with who she is, and we as a society have to catch up with her 'cause she's fine with it. And it's up to us to be as well.

[TRANS]00:44:55

SARAH TYLER

What I can honestly project in ten years is that we will have, um, a serious teenage, you know, daughter who's going to do serious teenager daughter things and we're gonna have to basically lock her in her room every night.

[TRANS]00:45:19

CRIS SALAMANCA

I don't even remember how I started looking at You Tube videos. It was this one.

[TRANS]00:45:23

LILIBETH CARRILLO

Wow.

[TRANS]00:45:23

QUEER TV ANNOUNCER

This is a free, private, safe environment where you can find a plethora of resources at your fingertips.

[TRANS]00:45:30

CRIS SALAMANCA

I guess I saw a guy and I realized, you know, oh, he has, like, scars on his chest. And then--then that's when I realized, whoa. Like this guy is feeling everything that I'm feeling. When I first started hearing that there was other people that felt like I did, that was on You Tube. And this guy, underworks.com/fm. So like it's really cool, 'cause you know--

[TRANS]00:45:54

Yeah.

LILIBETH CARRILLO

[TRANS]00:45:55

--you know, you can follow from their first day of here they are pre-T, pre-op, pre-everything.

CRIS SALAMANCA

[TRANS]00:46:01

Yeah.

LILIBETH CARRILLO

[TRANS]00:46:02

And then you look at their last video and they're these, like, men. You know? Like already like one year on T.

CRIS SALAMANCA

[TRANS]00:46:08

Yeah.

LILIBETH CARRILLO

[TRANS]00:46:08

Like--

CRIS SALAMANCA

[TRANS]00:46:09

On You Tube I found--and it's for the partners of transitioning guys. There are even guys on here.

LILIBETH CARRILLO

[TRANS]00:46:17

Oh, that's cool.

CRIS SALAMANCA

[TRANS]00:46:17

Which is really cool. See? Like--

LILIBETH CARRILLO

[TRANS]00:46:19

Oh, whoa.

CRIS SALAMANCA

[TRANS]00:46:20

--week one is intros and they talk about top surgery and talk about public restrooms and, like, for a minute you feel like you're the only one going through it and then

LILIBETH CARRILLO

[TRANS]00:46:28

Yeah. So this is kind of like your resource?

CRIS SALAMANCA

[TRANS]00:46:31

Yeah. This is where I go when I'm having a tough time with you.

LILIBETH CARRILLO

[TRANS]00:46:47

Which is basically changing your body without testosterone. In terms of like therapist, 'cause you need to find that out. And then endocrinologist you're gonna need.

CRIS SALAMANCA

[TRANS]00:46:56

Oh.

LILIBETH CARRILLO

[TRANS]00:46:57

And surgeons.

CRIS SALAMANCA

[TRANS]00:46:57

LILIBETH CARRILLO

What is that?

[TRANS]00:46:59

CRIS SALAMANCA

The endo? TransYouth Family Allies. You know, parents have a lot of questions and--

[TRANS]00:47:04

LILIBETH CARRILLO

Like they have a blog for parents and families.

[TRANS]00:47:05

CRIS SALAMANCA

There you go. Family stories.

[TRANS]00:47:08

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

If I had the Internet when I was younger, who knows what would happen. Probably Pandora's Box would have been opened at an earlier age.

[TRANS]00:47:15

JAMISON GREEN

There's a lot of people who still today don't have access to the Internet within the trans community, both trans men and trans women.

[TRANS]00:47:22

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Timing is everything. You know? If, you know, my--my patients that came out in the 60s and literally ended up in mental institutions and some of them have had electric shock therapy over years and have serious damage from it.

[TRANS]00:47:38

JAMISON GREEN

But because of what the internet has done we have been able to see ourselves and see each other so much more quickly. So at such younger ages than we ever were able to before.

[TRANS]00:47:56

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

I think we are at 13 weeks, 14 weeks. So at this point we're at 14 weeks. It was little different for us because we've been, you know--we've been trying for so long. I mean, 14 weeks sounds funny to me.

[TRANS]00:48:14

LISA BORTZ

You know, I was a single, self-identified lesbian and I didn't really seem to encounter any partners who were interested in having babies, anyway. I thought I would have to adopt.

[TRANS]00:48:26

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

I've always wanted to have children, and I--and I think that having kids together is probably the most intimate thing you could probably do. And in all of my other relationships, you know, I've never had that supreme intimacy that I'm really looking for.

[TRANS]00:48:43

LISA BORTZ

Welcome home.

[TRANS]00:48:44

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Here we are.

[TRANS]00:48:50

LISA BORTZ

Oh, I love the paint.

[TRANS]00:48:55

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Now it's perfect.

[TRANS]00:48:59

LISA BORTZ

Look how small my stomach was.

[TRANS]00:49:01

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

I know, really.

[TRANS]00:49:02

LISA BORTZ

Well, that's the side, so that's B. B and A are gonna be the side--the side rails.

[TRANS]00:49:08

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

I don't need instructions. I have a Y chromosome.

[TRANS]00:49:11

LISA BORTZ

Yeah, but it's pretty dormant right now. Is it--is it working?

[TRANS]00:49:16

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

It's not really.

[TRANS]00:49:18

LISA BORTZ

I was convinced after the growth ultrasounds we were having two boys. Uh, unbeknownst to me we have a little girl and a little boy. So that was a major surprise to me.

[TRANS]00:49:30

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

And I'll feel an elbow or--or a kick or a--a head and just--that's--it's amazing.

[TRANS]00:49:36

LISA BORTZ

You're good at that. You can--you can be, like, oh, that's his--that's his head or that's her butt or whatever.

[TRANS]00:49:42

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Usually her butt.

[TRANS]00:49:43

LISA BORTZ

And I--I have no idea, but--but yeah, you're good at that.

[TRANS]00:49:46

MASEN DAVIS

One of the first things that, um, parents ask when they have a new child is whether or not that's a boy or a girl. And we, as a culture, put a lot of stock into that answer. The world has put penalties, for lack of a better word, on, uh, those of us who aren't clearly, um, defined as male or female as people expect those categories to be defined. And as a result, transgender people and people whose gender is a little bit different than, um, many people have come to expect experience high levels of violence and discrimination in society, um, throughout the globe.

[TRANS]00:50:32

JAMISON GREEN

This is an area of Oakland that is situated between probably one of the most rough areas of town, and a few blocks from city hall. It--it's just a--it's a brutal setting. It's one of the places where transwomen are often on the stroll. It's one of the places where transpeople are often attacked.

[TRANS]00:50:57

MASEN DAVIS

Violence against transgender people has been so high that we have started to come together as a community at least once a year to honor those that we've lost over the years. We have an annual transgender day of remembrance that was started in the 1990s to commemorate those that we've lost and to remember, um, the work that we have ahead of us to create a society free of violence. That happens on November 20th of each year.

[TRANS]00:51:23

TIFFANY WOODS

These are extra chairs in case we need 'em, but I need more. This commemorates the day of remembrance. So let's do it like that.

[TRANS]00:51:31

SOUND TECH

Just a piano version of, uh, my heart will go on from Titanic.

[TRANS]00:51:33

TIFFANY WOODS

Okay. Oh, yeah, that's nice. (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

[TRANS]00:51:33

VICKY KOLAKOWSKI

Okay. She's there? Okay.

[TRANS]00:51:42

TIFFANY'S COUSIN

I'm here to meet my cousin, Tiffany, who I haven't seen in 20 years. Tiffany's name used to be Derek. He was my cousin.

[TRANS]00:51:51

TIFFANY WOODS

Make sure everything has a balance.

[TRANS]00:51:52

TIFFANY'S COUSIN

I never knew or had any inkling that Derek was a woman.

[TRANS]00:51:58

TIFFANY WOODS

Because we go up on the podium just like that. Okay? Look this way. We wanna be on and off, on and off.

[TRANS]00:52:04

TIFFANY WOODS

Hey. How are you?

[TRANS]00:52:06

TIFFANY'S COUSIN

I'm good. How are you? Good to see you.

[TRANS]00:52:08

TIFFANY WOODS

Good to see you. Amy, I'm Tiffany.

[TRANS]00:52:11

AMY

Hi, Tiffany. Nice to meet you.

[TRANS]00:52:12

TIFFANY'S COUSIN

This is my wife.

[TRANS]00:52:12

TIFFANY WOODS

Pleased to meet you. Pleasure.

[TRANS]00:52:13

AMY

You, too. Yeah.

[TRANS]00:52:14

TIFFANY WOODS

Little kind of crazy right now, uh, directing. Wow, look at you.

[TRANS]00:52:18

TIFFANY'S COUSIN

Yeah, getting older.

[TRANS]00:52:19

TIFFANY WOODS

Okay. But I've changed more than you.

[TRANS]00:52:21

TIFFANY'S COUSIN

No, you haven't.

[TRANS]00:52:22

TIFFANY WOODS

Yeah, I have

[TRANS]00:52:23

TIFFANY'S COUSIN

Well, you have.

[TRANS]00:52:23

TIFFANY WOODS

A little bit.

[TRANS]00:52:23

TIFFANY'S COUSIN

--you're still my cousin.

[TRANS]00:52:26

TIFFANY WOODS

I'm glad you're here. What a surprise. Okay. I'm gonna go try to get ready.

[TRANS]00:52:36

YAVANTE THOMAS-GUESS

Well, I guess we should do more of a--a formal welcome. Um, you all have a program and on--and on-- I'm hoping on every table you also have a printout of all the people who have lost their lives since last November 20th.

[TRANS]00:52:49

TIFFANY WOODS

Welcome, everybody. This is the 12th International Day of Remembrance. Tonight Oakland joins more than 200 TDOR events around the world. In 19 countries and 39 states.

[TRANS]00:53:01

JENNA RAPUES

To mourn, honor, and memorialize the lives of our brothers and sisters who might otherwise be forgotten.

[TRANS]00:53:08

TIFFANY WOODS

Perhaps the most important way of honoring their lives is for each one of us individually in this room to live the most authentic life possible, honoring their lives and their spirits. To life the lives that they, perhaps, dreamed of but never got a chance to live.

[TRANS]00:53:26

UNKNOWN MALE (SINGS)

Our father, who's art in heaven . . .

[TRANS]00:53:36

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER 1

Rome, Italy, Brenda burned to death.

[TRANS]00:53:41

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER 2

Istanbul, Turkey, Batu throat cut.

[TRANS]00:53:46

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER 3

Asua Arondondo Garcia, beaten to death.

[TRANS]00:53:51

YAVANTE THOMAS-GUESS

We aren't just killed. We're killed in the most brutal ways.

00:53:5 JAMISON GREEN

Horrid things happen to us. We don't make it up.

[TRANS]00:54:01

YAVANTE THOMAS-GUESS

You don't have to cut my head off. Do you really have to stab me 17,000 times to make sure I'm dead?

[TRANS]00:54:06

MEOSHA WARE

Knives, guns, bottles, and they just do it because they figure that they can get away with it because no one cares about us.

[TRANS]00:54:16

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER 1

Two unidentified transgender people were found tortured and burned.

[TRANS]00:54:22

LEE STAUB

Mikey Valeo Siber. A three-year-old baby boy from Riverside, California. Mikey was routinely called a sissy by his father. He was brutally killed by his father. Punched, kicked and dropped on his head.

[TRANS]00:54:36

UNKNOWN FEMALE SPEAKER 4

Fernando Vasquez-Roake. Tortured and beaten to death.

[TRANS]00:54:41

JAMISON GREEN

And when these things happen, no one intervenes. It's just okay to treat transpeople as disposable.

[TRANS]00:54:51

JENNA RAPUES

No one really knows how I died because the police didn't disclose it. But it happened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 11, 2010.

[TRANS]00:55:05

TIFFANY WOODS

Another young person got shot and she was trans, so big deal.

[TRANS]00:55:10

MORGAN BASSICHIS

First questions I wanna ask. Um, if you could raise your hands if someone you know including yourself has ever experienced abuse or violence in a relationship. Take a look around. Thanks. The second question is I want you to raise your hands if you or someone you know has ever been attacked or harassed for being trans or gender non-conforming. Take a look around. The third question I wanna ask is if you could raise your hand if someone you know or you has ever been sexually assaulted or experienced any kind of sexual violence.

[TRANS]00:55:46

MORGAN BASSICHIS (CONTINUED)

Please take a look around. I wanna ask if, uh, you or someone you know has ever been incarcerated, please raise your hand. Take a look around. I wanna ask, um, if you or someone you know has ever

struggled to have stable housing. Take a look around. I wanna ask if you or someone you know has ever struggled to have stable healthcare or employment. Take a look around.

[TRANS]00:56:21

AUGUSTE EVER BOLDEN

The world will have us apologize for our very existence.

[TRANS]00:56:24

CECILIA CHUNG

The goal is to never have another transgender day of remembrance.

[TRANS]00:56:29

LEE STAUB

We are here because these lives matter. We are here because our lives matter. Thank you.

[TRANS]00:56:48

ALLISON MURPHY

When Justin told me in December she was trans, uh, there was a transition period for me a little while. Uh, just a few months, but there was a transition period and a mourning period for me of losing my son. I no longer have a son. I now have a daughter. The graduation was a very joyous occasion. A party. I felt like I graduated. And, you know, it was--it was very joyous because it was a difficult year.

[TRANS]00:57:17

ALLISON MURPHY

And she did it, and it was a great day. It was--I was very, very, very proud of her and her accomplishments and--and getting her diploma, and she was on her way to her new life. She's graduated. She's almost an adult. She's still 17, but she wanted to go and take an adventure.

[TRANS]00:57:35

BRIAN LACEY

Him and his friend, Ryan, said, "Hey, we're gonna go to Humboldt." Once they were there, they made up every excuse in the world not to come back.

[TRANS]00:57:47

TIM BROTHWELL

This is Clam Beach. This is the place that Chloe and Ryan first came to when they got to Humboldt, and they lived here for several weeks, just living on the beach and enjoying themselves. Not worrying about much else. And this is also the place that I came when I moved to Humboldt. This is the first place that I slept, as well.

[TRANS]00:58:09

TIM BROTHWELL (CONTINUED)

D Street was a really hard environment for Chloe to live in, because she had too much free time on her hands and a lot--a lot of time to think and--and stress out about how she was gonna make it from day to day.

[TRANS]00:58:23

HANNAH SHERRILL

Chloe came out to me about four months after knowing Justin. She came over to my house and we broke out all my clothes and skirts and shirts. And at the time she didn't have any girl clothes. And put her in one my friends' bras and pant--gave her some panties. And that was the first time I saw her happy, since the day I met her. Um, that was the first time.

[TRANS]00:58:44

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

She came out to Hannah first, and that was, like, I think helped her to actually come out to me. Her dad was the last person.

[TRANS]00:58:56

BRIAN LACEY

Even after he graduated high school, just thought he was a normal teenage boy trying to find himself and what he wanted to do with life and I got a letter. I've only shared this letter with one person. The letter

says, "Dear Dad. There's something I've been wanting to tell you for a long time, and I'm sorry I didn't tell you sooner. I know it took my mom awhile to understand, so I know this is going to be a major shock."

[TRANS]00:59:26

BRIAN LACEY (CONTINUED)

"But Dad, I am transgender. Basically that means I was born with a female mind and spirit. This is no one's fault. You and my mom did nothing wrong to cause this, although it explains many of the frustrating and seemingly unsolvable problems you and my mom experienced while raising me."

[TRANS]00:59:50

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

She actually has a piece of artwork that she made that has everything pretty much outlined exactly right there. Like she did it herself. You know? You could look at that. She wanted to get a job and move to Arcadia and get back in and motivated about school. She--I mean, she just wanted to be successful and do the things that she enjoyed. Because there were a lot of things that she enjoyed doing. You know what I mean?

[TRANS]01:00:23

ALLISON MURPHY

When we were camping, she was very reserved. Uh, she wears her hoodie over her head, and it was hard to get her to come out and--and be her. It was hard.

[TRANS]01:00:34

HANNAH SHERRILL

She would not go out in public as a female with me. She--she was too afraid of, um, what strangers would think.

[TRANS]01:00:43

ALLISON MURPHY

She just--it was too hard. It was just too hard.

[TRANS]01:00:46

HANNAH SHERRILL

Her brain really worked like a girls. I mean, that--I mean, that is one thing. Like once you met her and you knew Chloe, like, she was a female. Like there was no, like, doubting. I never, like, could call her Justin after that because, uh, it was so real to me.

[TRANS]01:01:03

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

You know, she ultimately felt like people would think she was a freak, like, no matter.

[TRANS]01:01:09

HANNAH SHERRILL

She knew what popular guys talk about, what teenage boys think of weirdoes, of gays, of transgendered people. And she knew that their thoughts would be going through their head, like, this person is a freak.

[TRANS]01:01:21

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

You know what I mean? 'Cause it's like around our house. it was comfortable. It was like our safe zone. She could be herself. She could, like, whatever. You know? And then as soon as we were gonna go grocery shopping, you know, Chloe would run upstairs and then Justin would come down. You know what I mean?

[TRANS]01:01:37

TIM BROTHWELL

She ended up getting stuck in Eureka, when where she really wanted to be was Arcadia. But to move would require an income and a job, which she didn't have.

[TRANS]01:01:47

HANNAH SHERRILL

And then that goes along with the Standards of Care. "Those financial issues go poof!" If she can't even afford food each month, how is she gonna afford therapy once a week, how is she gonna afford the surgery, how, you know--like what am I gonna do to have this extremely expensive procedure done.

[TRANS]01:02:06

SALLIE HUNT

Chloe was lost. She was overwhelmed.

[TRANS]01:02:10

HANNAH SHERRILL

And I was just trying to be, like, you know what, you need to pick yourself up out of your bootstraps. You need to get your, you know, ass and like look for a job.

[TRANS]01:02:16

TIM BROTHWELL

Get off of D Street. Just get out of that house and do anything besides what you're thinking about doing.

[TRANS]01:02:21

ALLISON MURPHY

This is what you need to do, honey. This is what you need to do. Let me help you.

[TRANS]01:02:24

SALLIE HUNT

You're down so deep that there's no way out.

[TRANS]01:02:26

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

Everyone was saying, like, you need to try and get a job and, like, rent's coming up and--

[TRANS]01:02:37

911 OPERATOR

911. Where is your emergency?

[TRANS]01:02:39

ROOMMATE

Uh, my roommate just like shot himself.

[TRANS]01:02:43

911 OPERATOR

Like trying to kill himself?

[TRANS]01:02:46

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

I just remember, um, just walking upstairs and, you know, I found her there.

[TRANS]01:02:53

TIM BROTHWELL

That's when I saw her body. She had shot herself with a shotgun.

[TRANS]01:02:58

TIM BROTHWELL (CONTINUED)

His head is, like, completely--I--I can't look at it.

[TRANS]01:03:03

ALLISON MURPHY

She shot herself.

[TRANS]01:03:06

911 OPERATOR

Okay. What kind of gun was it?

[TRANS]01:03:07

TIM BROTHWELL

It's a shotgun.

[TRANS]01:03:08

911 OPERATOR

He shot himself in the head with a shotgun?

[TRANS]01:03:11

SBRIAN LACEY

I don't really remember much after that. I remember yelling and screaming, "Oh, no."

[TRANS]01:03:16

911 OPERATOR

Okay. Do you think he's beyond medical help?"

[TRANS]01:03:19

TIM BROTHWELL

Yes. I--I don't think--there's really no hope.

[TRANS]01:03:22

HANNAH SHERRILL

If I could just have one day with her. Uh--

[TRANS]01:03:33

RYAN WINKLEPLECK

I don't--I don't know. Just, you know, my good friend that I really fucking miss.

[TRANS]01:03:49

ERICA FIELDS

I'm very excited. It's been the culmination of a long time. Uh, you know, about two, two and a half years that I've been in transition. It's almost surreal. You know? Things have just kind of going by. Uh, I'm really calm inside. I'm much calmer than I expected to be. I haven't really had any blatant rejection yet. Um, my younger sister is struggling very much with it. She's not a bigot, but she's really having a hard time with her brother turning into her sister.

[TRANS]01:04:26

PAM PATRICK

My ex-wife does know that I'm having surgery, and she is not at all happy. Even though we haven't been in each other's lives for years, she does not want it to happen. As recently as about two hours ago I'm still getting emails coming in that are pleading with me not to do this. That it's the wrong thing. That I'm gonna be terribly sorry for doing this, and I'm gonna ruin my life.

[TRANS]01:04:55

TERRY CUMMINGS

To be able to go through life as yourself, is really wonderful. It's like coming out of a cave into the sunlight. Um, Oscar Wilde's quoted as saying you—"You have to be yourself because everybody else is taken."

[TRANS]01:05:08

ERICA FIELDS

I know what's gonna happen tomorrow, and I--I just never though I'd be this calm about it but I am.

[TRANS]01:05:15

TERRY CUMMINGS

There will come a time six months down the road from now when you look at yourself in the mirror and say, "I can't believe I did that. I'm so proud of myself. Wow. That I actually finally got the courage to do this."

[TRANS]01:05:24

ERICA FIELDS

Thank you.

[TRANS]01:05:27

TERRY CUMMINGS

And--and, yeah, it's a good feeling. And, uh, you--you'll feel a sense of wellness, that you--that you--you didn't have before, and that's what makes the whole thing worth it.

[TRANS]01:05:44

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

This form is so that you understand everything that I can possibly think of that can go wrong.

[TRANS]01:05:47

ERICA FIELDS

Um-huh.

[TRANS]01:05:49

PAM PATRICK

I'm just ready to get it over with and move on with life. It'll be great.

[TRANS]01:05:53

NURSE

Happy birthday.

[TRANS]01:05:55

PAM PATRICK

Thanks.

[TRANS]01:06:21

NURSE

The patient's name is Frederica Fields. Her birth date is 6--6/14/1954. She's here for a gender confirming surgery, a vaginoplasty, bilateral orchiectomy, labiaplasty, urethraplasty, and a clitoralplasty. There is no known drug allergies. So she has what . . . ?

[TRANS]01:06:44

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Levoquin

[TRANS]01:06:45

NURSE

Levoquin . . . Okay.

[TRANS]01:07:10

ANESTHESIST

Blood pressure is 104 over 62, doctor, with a mean of 75.

[TRANS]01:07:13

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Excellent, anesthesia. It was a pretty standard day. We did two surgery--two patients, but we did three surgeries. So we did two vaginoplasties and one of the patients had a breast augmentation, uh, at the same time, which is pretty common to have, um, more than one surgery, uh, on the same patient. In surgery, all the surgeries are pretty routine, and this one's definitely they never heard of.

[TRANS]01:07:40

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

When I first started at the hospital, a lot of the nurses were, um, a little nervous. So we did some training and, um, it's really amazing, um, the teamwork involved. So, even though I--I look like the star 'cause I'm in charge, it's really the effort of the whole. A lot of people are involved. It's a really awesome feeling to just, you know, put your hand back and get that instrument. You don't even have to ask for it. It's--they know what you want

[TRANS]01:08:07

NURSE

Removal of testicles.

[TRANS]01:08:08

NURSE

I am putting them in formaldehyde to preserve them and they'll go down to the lab and make sure there's no cancer or other diseases.

[TRANS]01:08:17

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

One of the key people that--that help in the surgery is, uh, my physician's assistant, Crystal. Her role at that part of the surgery is to, uh, take the skin graft which comes from the scrotum, and prepare it to be, um, placed inside the vagina to--which will be basically the vaginal lining. Um, so she fashions it in a circular tube and makes sure that they're--all the hair is removed from it.

[TRANS]01:09:49

MICHAEL

Hey, girlfriend. How're you doing?

[TRANS]01:09:52

ERICA FIELDS

Hi. Wow, that was quick.

[TRANS]01:09:56

MICHAEL

Yeah.

[TRANS]01:09:58

ERICA FIELDS

Is it over?

[TRANS]01:09:59

MICHAEL

It's over. It's done.

[TRANS]01:10:02

ERICA FIELDS

I'm so glad you came. Thank you so much for being here for me.

[TRANS]01:10:08

PAM PATRICK

My oldest son has pretty much pushed me out of his life, and I think he's confused as much as hurt. My--my daughter, Lisa, is 26 years old. I'm not really welcome at her house at this point. And, uh, I take what I can get with her. My youngest son, Brian, is about--he's 23, almost 24. Brian has met Pam and, uh, he's, uh, not--not a huge supporter, but--but very open and willing to have me in his life as Pam.

[TRANS]01:10:41

PAM PATRICK

And I deeply appreciate that.

[TRANS]01:10:43

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Ready. One, two, three.

[TRANS]01:10:48

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

How's that feel?

[TRANS]01:10:48

PAM PATRICK

It hurts.

[TRANS]01:10:49

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Yeah. Now scoot yourself little by little to the edge of the bed. Put your feet on the floor. Nice and slow. And take your time here.

[TRANS]01:10:56

NURSE

Stay--stay sitting.

[TRANS]01:10:57

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Remember what I was saying?

[TRANS]01:10:58

PAM PATRICK

Yeah. But it hurts to sit.

[TRANS]01:10:59

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Your reward is I'm gonna scratch your back.

[TRANS]01:11:00

PAM PATRICK

Thank you.

[TRANS]01:11:01

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Does that feel good?

[TRANS]01:11:02

PAM PATRICK

Um-hum.

[TRANS]01:11:03

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Today you're gonna get out of bed.

[TRANS]01:11:04

ERICA FIELDS

Um-hum.

[TRANS]01:11:05

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

This will be--it'll be, like, five minutes.

[TRANS]01:11:06

ERICA FIELDS

Right.

[TRANS]01:11:07

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

You might feel with your blood pressure being low, you might feel a little light headed when you do that. So I want you to sit at the side of the bed until you don't feel light headed, and watch the snow.

[TRANS]01:11:16

ERICA FIELDS

Okay.

[TRANS]01:11:17

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

If you think this is hard, when we take the vaginal packing out and you have to dilate five times a day.

[TRANS]01:11:22

PAM PATRICK

I heard that's gonna be fun.

[TRANS]01:11:23

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Yes.

[TRANS]01:11:25

PAM PATRICK

When I got married, I really did love my wife. I loved her very, very much. And I thought I could push the--the, uh, transgenderism away.

[TRANS]01:11:35

MICHELE ANGELLO

And that's the most difficult part for a lot of people. Is reconciling the fact that they went all of this time denying who they really were, and now they've got--they--they have a need to catch up and to actually live authentically.

[TRANS]01:11:49

PAM PATRICK

And eventually it just--none--none of it works. You just have to--at least in my case, I just had to deal with it.

[TRANS]01:11:56

ERICA FIELDS

I have a hunch with my second wife that she'd always--not held out hope that we'd get back together, but had some sense that, well, maybe he won't do it. Um, and, um, but she did.

[TRANS]01:12:34

CRIS SALAMANCA

Hey, guess what? Um, I just signed up to go to Philadelphia. They're having lectures on bottom surgery, top surgery, on binding and, like, all these different things. But I wanted to know if you could give me a ride, um, to the airport?

[TRANS]01:13:03

LILIBETH CARRILLO

So are you excited?

[TRANS]01:13:29

CHRIS PAIGE

I would like to welcome you on behalf of the planning committee for the 2011 Philadelphia Trans Health Conference.

[TRANS]01:13:38

JAMISON GREEN

I began my transition in 1988, and, uh, I had my first consciousness of myself as different in about 1952.

[TRANS]01:13:51

ERLINE BUDD

By the time I was 12, I was fully transgender and my--my dad says, "Well, we don't want him back at home." And this is at the age of 13, and I get disheartened when I think about what I went through. But they found a way to commit me for two years and a half. I stayed incarcerated, and primarily because I was transgender.

[TRANS]01:14:10

MAUREEN OSBORNE

The requirements for top surgery, it comes up later, are about the same as a hormone recommendation.

[TRANS]01:14:16

ZANDER KEIG

I spend 19 years prior to transition as a lesbian feminist separatist. And I gotta tell you, having a penis, it--it really is something that I had to come to terms with before I even sought out the procedure.

[TRANS]01:14:27

DANE MENKIN

And I start to talk about what do you want from testosterone? 'cause if somebody tells me and they're five foot two and they tell me they wanna be six foot four, we have to have a conversation about that.

[TRANS]01:14:36

ZANDER KEIG

It took me another three or four years to come to terms with the fact that I was going to be perceived as, treated like, and expected to perform as a man in society. Which I still--honestly, I have no idea what that means.

[TRANS]01:14:49

BINDER VENDOR

A wrap around binder, so it's different than your traditional binder--

[TRANS]01:14:52

CRIS SALAMANCA

Yeah.

[TRANS]01:14:53

BINDER VENDOR

--where you pull it overhead. You just take it and you wrap it around yourself. So it can go as tight as you want it to go or as loose as you want it to be.

[TRANS]01:14:59

CRIS SALAMANCA

I--I need to breath.

[TRANS]01:15:02

KIM PEARSON

If you wanted to. I mean, my son is coming to visit me, and he's a young transman like you. And if you wanted to, you could tell your mom. We can get together. We can have coffee or something.

[TRANS]01:15:11

CRIS SALAMANCA

Really?

[TRANS]01:15:11

KIM PEARSON

And, like, the four of us could hang out.

[TRANS]01:15:13

CRIS SALAMANCA

Yeah.

[TRANS]01:15:14

KIM PEARSON

Sure, yeah. I mean, that's what I do. You know?

[TRANS]01:15:15

CRIS SALAMANCA

Yeah. Oh, wow. No, uh, that would be awesome.

[TRANS]01:15:18

JAMISON GREEN

My experience isn't necessarily gonna be your experience exactly.

[TRANS]01:15:22

CRIS SALAMANCA

Yeah.

[TRANS]01:15:23

JAMISON GREEN

So I'm just giving you another perspective to think about.

[TRANS]01:15:26

CRIS SALAMANCA

Yeah.

[TRANS]01:15:26

JAMISON GREEN

And you have to make that into whatever you make it into for you.

[TRANS]01:15:28

CRIS SALAMANCA

Yeah.

[TRANS]01:15:30

ZANDER KEIG

The first year on testosterone is kind of a wild ride, 'cause that's what's gonna make me a real man. I mean, I was confused about it.

[TRANS]01:15:36

CRIS SALAMANCA

This is what my heaven would look like. People are just exploring every type of clothing and every type of just being themselves. it's just--it's just so awesome.

[TRANS]01:15:45

DANE MENKIN

The questions about surgery, anything decent here or is it always out of the country and can you have an orgasm after surgery.

[TRANS]01:15:50

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Breast augmentation in transwomen is completely different than regular breast augmentation. The chest is wider. The nipples are smaller.

[TRANS]01:15:56

CRIS SALAMANCA

You don't get to see this, like, out in the world. Just all of us together. And it's--it's so empowering to be here.

[TRANS]01:16:03

UNKNOWN CONFERENCE SPEAKER

And actually the people close to continue to connect with people outside of you, because this is how we're gonna build a strong movement and a strong community.

[TRANS]01:16:40

SCOTT A. DINESEN

This is gonna be your room during the labor process. It's exciting.

[TRANS]01:17:06

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Oh, you had a big one there.

[TRANS]01:17:07

LISA BORTZ

I did?

[TRANS]01:17:08

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Did you feel it?

[TRANS]01:17:09

LISA BORTZ

No. I'm fine, I guess.

[TRANS]01:17:13

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

So we wait until she has pain or--

[TRANS]01:17:16

NURSE

Exactly.

[TRANS]01:17:16

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Okay.

[TRANS]01:17:17

NURSE

I'm gonna keep increasing until

[TRANS]01:17:17

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Okay.

[TRANS]01:17:19

UNKNOWN FEMALE

--her contractions are two to three minutes apart and they hurt.

[TRANS]01:17:21

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Okay.

[TRANS]01:17:21

UNKNOWN FEMALE

Um--

[TRANS]01:17:25

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

They're five minutes apart, easy. Orange or cherry?

[TRANS]01:17:30

LISA BORTZ

Where's the cool whip?

[TRANS]01:17:33

NURSE

She's three centimeters dilated and (UNINTELLIGIBLE).

[TRANS]01:17:37

LISA BORTZ

My blood pressure is high.

[TRANS]01:17:38

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

My blood pressure's higher than that. That's nothing. That's nothing.

[TRANS]01:17:43

LISA BORTZ

I feel pretty relaxed. I don't even feel like--I feel--I felt more nervous going into, like, basketball games and stuff.

[TRANS]01:17:51

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

You're regular, man. You're having a contraction every four minutes, four and a half minutes. It's like the Grand Canyon.

[TRANS]01:18:02

LISA BORTZ

This is the worst one. This is the worst.

[TRANS]01:18:05

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

She turned it up.

[TRANS]01:18:06

LISA BORTZ

These are the worst contractions. Yeah, that just really hurts.

[TRANS]01:18:13

NURSE

Don't--don't push.

[TRANS]01:18:15

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

Every time she had a contraction, Lucas's placenta wasn't working as well as Eden's. So his heart rate would go down. That happened four or five times. Then, uh, our doctor, uh, made the decision to go to--for a C-section.

[TRANS]01:18:54

SCOTT A. DINESEN

Now, again, you're gonna feel pressure.

[TRANS]01:18:55

LISA BORTZ

I feel the pressure.

[TRANS]01:19:13

SCOTT A. DINESEN

Here she is.

[TRANS]01:19:45

SCOTT A. DINESEN

There is the boy.

[TRANS]01:20:26

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

You guys were amazing. Thank you so much.

[TRANS]01:20:40

NURSE

Five, six, seven, eight and nine.

[TRANS]01:21:15

LISA BORTZ

Best day of my life. Absolutely.

[TRANS]01:21:35

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

I came across an article about five years ago that talked about, um, these protocols for adoptive women that wanna breast feed their adoptive kids. And that's when I realized and said, "Wow, well, I should be able to do that."

[TRANS]01:22:16

REV DR MICHAEL L HOLLAND

You know, church is about people. We're people, and Jesus once said, "Whenever you get together, make sure you invite everybody." Don't leave anybody out. Just turn around and look at the people. Do they look different? Some people like to stand, some people like to sit. We're all different. That's really true. Which one of these do you think is the boy, and which one is the girl?

[TRANS]01:22:46

REV DR MICHAEL L HOLLAND (CONTINUED)

Why? Why do you think this is the boy? Shorter hair? But, you know, I've seen guys with long hair and I've seen girls with short hair. So you can't always even judge. No, you can't. It's what's on the inside that's really important and how we feel about ourselves. And to be able to say, "This is me, and I feel good on the inside."

[TRANS]01:23:09

ERICA FIELDS

I always wondered whether I would have regrets. I thought maybe I'd have them going in, and I didn't. And I thought right after surgery I'd feel this sense of loss, and I didn't. I have absolutely no regrets.

[TRANS]01:23:22

PAM PATRICK

You know, I--I just misjudged things. I thought that the people that were closest to me would stay there and be there for me, and they're really not. And you know what I'm talking about.

[TRANS]01:23:34

KIM

Yeah.

[TRANS]01:23:34

PAM PATRICK

I mean, I miss my kids. I never realized it would--it would end up this way with them. I thought it would be tough, but I thought they would keep talking to me and we could work through it.

[TRANS]01:23:46

KIM

Yeah.

[TRANS]01:23:46

PAM PATRICK

I'm--I'm the same person. My character's the same. You know? To me it's like putting different paper on a present. What's inside the box is the same. It's just a different wrapper.

[TRANS]01:23:57

KIM

You know, they'll--they'll come around.

[TRANS]01:24:01

PAM PATRICK

It's hurts most at night.

[TRANS]01:24:04

KIM

I know.

[TRANS]01:24:05

PAM PATRICK

You know, I dream and they're not good. They're never good. . . I just wish I could reach out and fix it. I've always fixed everything for my family. And I can't fix this.

[TRANS]01:24:29

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

We're all born different. Everybody. And yet through being--through humanity we all share much more in common than we do that are different. But what makes us different from each other is something to be celebrated.

[TRANS]01:24:53

ALLISON MURPHY

I wanted to have a place that I can come in and feel her. What I have left of Chloe, and some of her--Chloe's stuff. I--I really wanted her to have her bracelets and her makeup out and her curling iron and her hair stuff. Her Chloe clothes and everything that she enjoyed. And so hanging them up in the closet was--was fun for me, and I had a lot of memories doing that. And just some odds and ends pieces that are--are a part of her.

[TRANS]01:25:23

ALLISON MURPHY (CONTINUED)

And so I find a lot of peace by being in here.

[TRANS]01:25:27

SEAN DEMPSEY

And to know that, uh, Chloe was an artist and that she could have done so many more things with her talent. And I wanted to represent the shadowing that is going on here. So I started to do some of that, uh, splatter weld, um, on this flower and--and bring some of that, you know, real texture, uh, that she had brought into it. And so to--to make a mark and a lasting impression of what she was able to create while she was here, uh, is really the--the--the important thing.

[TRANS]01:26:05

SEAN DEMPSEY (CONTINUED)

To keep her here with us.

[TRANS]01:26:09

JAMISON GREEN

Chloe Lacey ended her life because she was afraid of what might happen to her. She had supportive parents.

[TRANS]01:26:25

KIM PEARSON

What we do know surveying and studying the experiences of transgender adults most of them say they knew they were transgender, um, between the ages of five and seven. And that 41 percent of them have attempted suicide. That is higher than any group on the planet, bar none.

[TRANS]01:26:46

JAMISON GREEN

Forty-one percent. The national average of suicide attempts is 1.6 percent.

[TRANS]01:26:54**REV DR MICHAEL L HOLLAND**

Unfortunately many fellow Christians, especially those on the religious right, argue that one should accept how one is born as the will of God. Insisting that quote "God doesn't make mistakes." They judge transgenders when they opt for therapy and surgery to match their bodies to their gender identity. Now according to that logic, we would never separate Siamese twins or fix cleft palates. Transgender people face injustice at every turn of their lives. In their childhood homes, schools, workplaces that can be so harsh and cruel.

[TRANS]01:27:37**REV DR MICHAEL L HOLLAND (CONTINUED)**

At the grocery store, the hotel front desk, in doctor's offices, in emergency rooms, before judges, at the hands of landlords, police officers, health care workers. Remember, we're talking about individual people. But it could also be you or me or our children or our grandchildren.

[TRANS]01:27:59**JAMISON GREEN**

What is wrong that someone has so little hope? We need to do something about this. We need to take responsibility. We need to own the hope that we want to see in the world. Not just the change, but the hope. We need to be that hope, and show the world that we are here.

[TRANS]01:28:36**TIFFANY WOODS**

I find hope that we--we've had more gains in the last ten years than we had in 30 or 20 years. That gives me hope. That the transkids that were born yesterday, today and the transkids around the world born tomorrow are gonna have a better society and a better future than we did 20 and 30 years ago. Then when I was born.

[TRANS]01:28:57**MICHELE ANGELLO**

One of the things I love about working in this community is that I get to meet on a daily basis some of the bravest people I've ever met in my life, because they're willing to confront the fact that they could potentially lose everything to be true to themselves.

[TRANS]01:29:14**LISA BORTZ**

I'm proud of--of who we are. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together. So, no we're not out to change the world. Were just out to be happy and raise our family.

[TRANS]01:29:31**LISA BORTZ**

Your makeup looks nice.

[TRANS]01:29:33**OPRAH WINFREY**

They are lesbian partners raising four-month-old twins. That's a handful. While Lisa is the twins' biological mother, here's the bombshell. Here is the bombshell. Christine, the blond mommy you just saw, actually fathered the twins. What? Yes. I said fathered. Here is how. Ten years ago Christine was Chris, a handsome officer in the Navy. A pilot. Well, you know, I've said many things and had multiple introductions on this show in 25 years.

[TRANS]01:30:23**OPRAH WINFREY (CONTINUED)**

I've never said--been able to say, "Here is a mother who fathered her own children."

[TRANS]01:30:29**DR CHRISTINE MCGINN**

It's a first.

[TRANS]01:30:30**OPRAH WINFREY**

This--you are the first.

[TRANS]01:30:30

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

It's good for the new season.

[TRANS]01:30:31

OPRAH WINFREY

For the new season, yes. Never been able to say that.

[TRANS]01:30:59

JENNA RAPUES

As a transwoman, I--I live every day with fear. Um, basically, you know, on a day to day basis, I'm--I'm very conscious of my surroundings in terms of where I go, uh, my safety, how people perceive me and how people react to me when I'm around them.

[TRANS]01:31:29

MAUREEN OSBORNE

Sometimes the medical community is very, um, fearful and even--and even biased about, um, transgender people.

[TRANS]01:31:41

DR CHRISTINE MCGINN

And doctors say things like, uh, "We don't see your kind of people here."

[TRANS]01:31:54

PRESIDENT OBAMA

And together we also have to keep sending a message to every young person in this country who might feel alone or afraid because they're gay or transgender. Maybe getting picked on or pushed around because they're different. Make sure that there are adults they can talk to, that they are never alone, that there is a whole world waiting for them filled with possibility.

[TRANS]01:32:42

DANANN TYLER

I love you. Wish me luck.

[END OF TAPE: [TRANS]01:33:08]