

NORTHWEST NEWS

Stay Proud and Live Out Loud!

KBOO's Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Trans Programming Is A Portland Staple

By RYAN J. PRADO

The well-worn adage, "If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything" is well-worn for good reason. Applying an idea for inclusion into the cultural consciousness cannot be done without its fair share of hard work, which is exactly the catalyst for KBOO's gay, lesbian, bi and trans programming.

"The current and past radio shows for the LGBTQ community were created because someone thought it was a good idea, and then made it happen," explains Carla Remey, producer and host of KBOO's Out Loud.

Remey is among a long list of volunteers the Portland community radio station depends upon to maintain its entertaining, relevant and informative programming for a wide cross-section of its listeners.

Their importance isn't lost on News and Public Affairs Director Jenka Soderberg: "The volunteers who produce these shows are incredibly devoted and self-sacrificing," she says. "They put countless hours into recording events, setting up interviews, learning equipment, connecting with guests, and every other aspect of producing a radio show. These individuals are the epitome of community involvement and empowerment—empowering not only themselves, through their production

of these programs, but the entire LGBTQ community, who are able to get their voices and stories heard on the air and educate the public at large about the struggles and issues that have impacted their lives."

Out Loud began in April 2002, after KBOO staff and volunteers submitted a proposal to the station's programming committee. Remey has been with the show since its inception.

"Before I came to Portland, I was already a fan of community radio and had volunteered at community radio stations for years," says Remey. "Community radio is a passion for me, and creating radio for the queer community is a bonus!"

"I'm also curious what impact the show has had on general KBOO listeners," she adds. "I figure way more straight folks tune in than folks from the queer community. The show has long been a space where local LGBTQ activists and organizations can talk about their issues, concerns and share their stories."

It is perhaps for this very reason that Out Loud's scope reflects new and ever-shifting issues concerning Portland's gay, lesbian, bi and trans community. Live music, public discussions, news stories and event announcements are par for the course on any given show, Remey says, with topics changing frequently.

"Out Loud has evolved over the years based on who is involved in creating it," she says. "It'll continue to evolve with the needs and interests of the community, and the KBOO volunteers working on the show."

Last fall, two new gay, lesbian, bi and trans-based efforts were created during KBOO's programming and schedule changes. A survey was taken of the larger station listening audience, on which the programming committee based its decisions. As shows were shifted around, some were canceled and others created, explains Remey.

"A couple of KBOO volunteers came together, and submitted a program proposal for new LGBTQ programs," says Remey. "The programming committee liked their ideas, and two new shows were created for the LGBTQ community."

Enter Gender Blender, and The Other Team.

Gender Blender is a forum to address gender issues facing Portlanders and Oregonians-at-large, and was launched by former co-host (now engineer) Rebecca Nay, and Jacob Anderson-Minshall. Oregon Democratic Party leader Laura Calvo has now taken the reigns as co-host.


The Other Team provides a place where issues facing queer youth are voiced, and is



(l to r) Gina "Lipstick" Daggett and Kathy "Dipstick" Belge make an appearance on KBOO's "Out Loud."

hosted by mononymous entities Gray, Taras and Darwin.

"KBOO has demonstrated a very longstanding commitment to our LGBTQ community, and currently has four hours a month of radio specifically serving our community," reiterates Remey. "No other radio station on the local dial can say that. Not many other radio stations anywhere can say that."

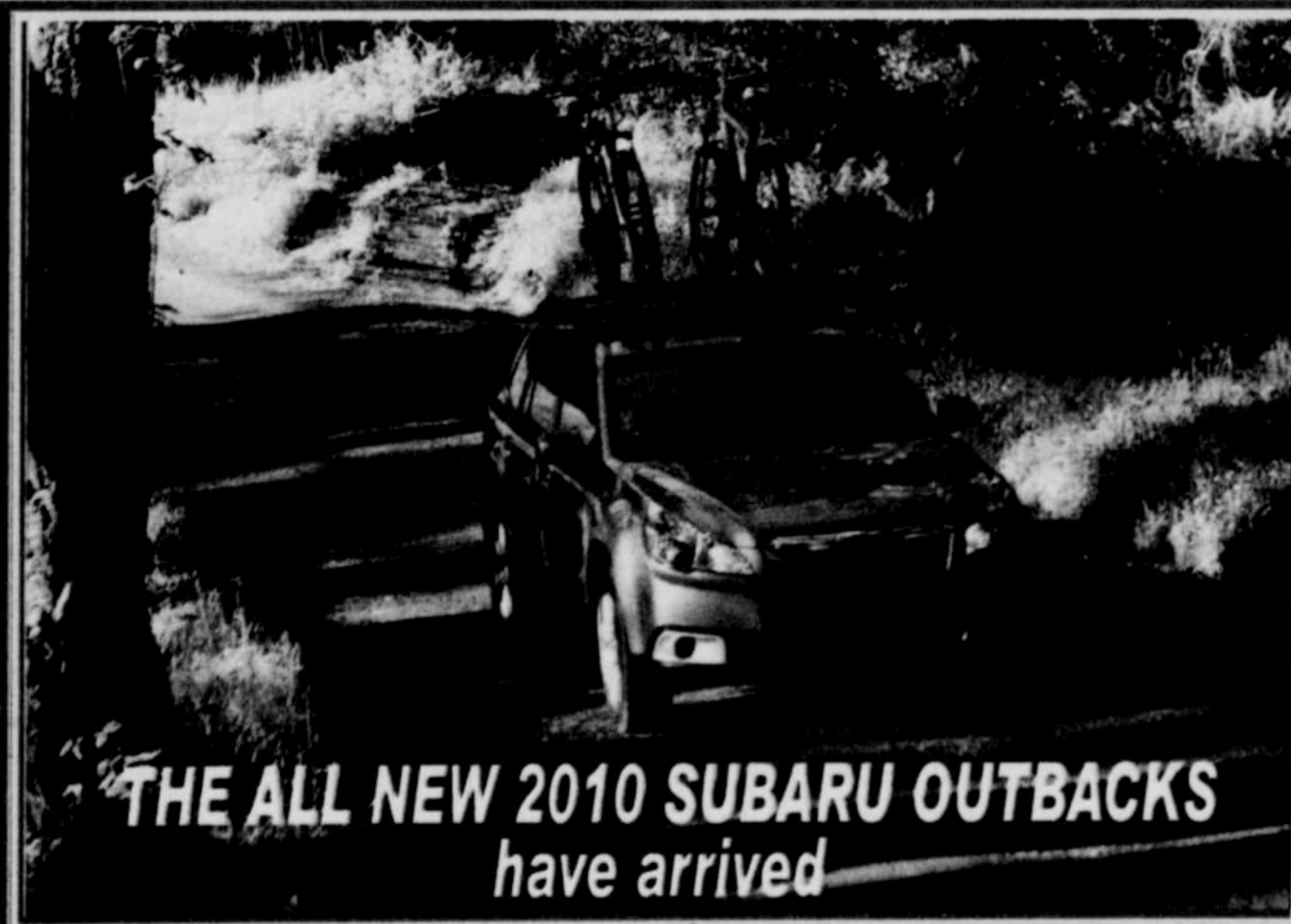
Starting in October, KBOO will hold its Fall Membership Drive. And since media, in many ways, is for sale to the highest bidder, supporting a non-corporatized, community-driven resource like KBOO might be your first step to ensuring you aren't for sale. 

KBOO is at 90.7 fm in the Portland metro area, 100.7 fm in Corvallis, 91.9 fm in Hood River and online at www.kboo.org. To volunteer, contact Ani Hanes at volunteer@kboo.org.

Out Loud airs the second and fourth Tues. of the month; Gender Blender, every third Thurs.; The Other Team, every first Tues., all at 6 p.m.

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