



"[O'Reilly] says, 'When I got out of prison, do you think I ever fucking said, 'You know what I need? I need a trans guy in my life.' I'm like, 'You think I fucking said I need an ex-con in my life? No!'" Harvie says. "But what binds us all and has really made us such a great and interesting trio for a comedy show is recovery."

Harvie says the LWL tour has three essential messages: that there is power in honesty, that life without substances can still be fun and that "if these three fucking people can stay sober, anybody can."

The comedy tour also raises funds for local recovery-related services. When they perform in Portland on March 4, half the proceeds will go to Gresham's Garden of Hope recovery house for women, which opened February 1.

What's so funny about sobriety? It leaves you with some pretty good stories to tell.

"In the [12-step] program there's a saying that you're only as sick as your secrets, and so we basically reveal all of our secrets to the audience through humor," Harvie explains.

Harvie had his first drink when he was 8 or 9 and says he was exhausted by the time he turned 21. Not long after his birthday, a friend asked if he wanted to go to an AA meeting.

"Apparently my drinking was that obvious to others that she offered," Harvie recalls. "I went and it was definitely the right place for me to go and the right thing for me to do to stop drinking, because it cleared my head well enough to recognize all the reasons why I

drank."

He didn't want to listen to the voices in his head that said he was different, so he drank to keep them quiet. Now, with 18 years of sobriety under his belt, Harvie says the relationship between addiction and fear of queerness is clear.

"I can't tell you how many people that I know and that are still out there that picked up and started using whatever their drug of choice was—alcohol, heroin, or meth or whatever it is—[because they] were trying to sort of squelch or drown out the voices of their queerness in some way," Harvie says. "I started drinking when I was a kid and I felt like it helped quiet the voices inside me that told me I was different. I felt like it helped make me one of the boys in the neighborhood."

While Harvie doesn't consider himself a "sober comic," he considers his sobriety inextricably linked with his primary mission, raising awareness about transgender issues.

"For me, getting sober was also about getting honest," Harvie says. And besides, "I don't think we're over needing trans voices and trans visibility." ☐

LAUGHS WITHOUT LIQUOR PRESENTS "WE ARE NOT SAINTS," Fri., March 4, 7:30 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. show; Q Center, 4115 N. Mississippi Ave.; \$20 via brownpapertickets.com/event/154046; laughswithoutliquor.com, ianharvie.com. For more from the three comics, visit justout.com.



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