

Transcription of Audio Clip: OUTspoken LGBT Radio

Jonathan Shuffield: Well my name is Jonathan Shuffield and I actually started the show two years ago and I pitched the show because I wanted to hear some LGBT voices talking about what was going on in the world around us and I felt like that wasn't happening. The show grew a lot it, changed a lot over those two years ago, and honestly, eventually, we brought on Sergey Grankin to be part of the show and give us not only a younger, gay point of view, but a cultural point of view coming from a very traditional Russian family and it became just the two of us and our producer Kurt Schmierer and the show seemed to finally gel.

Sergey Grankin: And you know, when I joined the show, I definitely found something very interesting about it, it filled this void in the community, it felt like something was missing out there, the voices weren't being heard, but you know this show kind of attempted to solve that and give the LGBT community in Spokane a voice and I think it's done a great job at that. One of the biggest reasons that I stay on this show is because not only do we have a voice and we can say something and it means something in the community, but they get a voice too, they have someone they can relate to on air and all of the responses that we get every single show, after every single Sunday mean the world to me and it's why we keep doing it.

Jonathan: And for me I grew up in Wenatchee Washington, very central Washington. I came out in that central community, a lot smaller than the Spokane area where we live and do the show now. And what was interesting is I do think that on this side we tend to be a more conservative side, of Washington state, and it's a conservative region, honestly over here in the Oregon, Idaho, Montana, our side of the mountains, and I realized that there wasn't something, we always look to media and we always want to see a reflection of us, and I never saw a reflection of myself. And I felt like what an amazing thing to just go out and say "you know what, let's start something where we do get to be part of that conversation" and I'll tell you in the beginning we did get the flack -- we're two gay white guys, what can you do? We will never be able to represent everyone, but we can give a platform for everyone to have a voice, so that's why we do guests on the show all the time. What we do is we give the platform, because as two gay white guys that's what we can do to give back. And I think it's the beginning of a conversation that is so important that we all begin to have and we show others that listen, if we can start this show, OUTspoken, out of nothing, because we saw a need, then all of us can do that in our own lives and that is what the conversation is about.

Sergey: And that's why Jonathan and I, every single Sunday continue to be OUTspoken.

Jonathan: As far as we've come in 2015, our show is still needed and until the very last show we do in our broadcast lives, we will continue to strive to be the voice of everyone out there and to have all the voices come on our show, to have those conversations, to bridge those cultural gaps, and to learn about each other. Because the end the reason I do this show is because I find people fascinating and I want to tell the stories because our stories are the most fascinating part about us because it makes us human, it takes away the labels, and then we are who we are.

Both: So from Jonathan Shuffield and Sergey Grankin we hope all of you continue to be OUTspoken.