

COUNTRY QUEERS SEASON 1 EPISODE 6

DESCRIPTION: At the time of our interview, Kody Kay was 52 years old and living on Arapaho, Cheyenne, Ute, & Sioux land in Longmont, CO, where he ran a heating and cooling company. Kody is trans and he's an announcer on the International Gay Rodeo Circuit. In this interview, recorded at the Rocky Mountain Regional Gay Rodeo in July of 2014, Kody talks about coming out as trans in his 50s, building community with people in his small town, and how he found the gay rodeo community.

For this episode, we're asking folks who have additional funds to donate to Frontline Farming, a Denver-based womxn & POC-led grassroots nonprofit that focuses on building food sovereignty & farmer liberation. FLF works from an asset-based perspective to “feed our communities with healthy, affordable produce grown from our 5 acres of land, educate our constituents, create equitable policies, and honor the land and our ancestors.” In response to COVID-19, FLF started an initiative called Project Protect Food Systems that seeks to support immigrant food workers across the nation by raising funds to provide PPE, proposing and advocating for equitable policy action, raise awareness to Food Worker strengths and plights, and illuminate the nation to Food Workers' contributions to our society.

CREDITS: Host/Producer/Lead Editor: Rae Garringer. Assistant Editor/Composer-Performer of Acoustic and Electric Guitar Music: Tommie Anderson. Editorial Advisory Dream Team: Hermelinda Cortés, Sharon P. Holland, and Lewis Raven Wallace. Theme Song Composer/Banjo: Sam Gleaves. Theme Song Pedal Steel: Rebecca Branson Jones. Thank you to Abbie and Winnie, the pigs in Efland, NC for our intro sound, recorded by Karen and Ella. Most importantly, thanks to Kody Kay for sharing his story so generously with us all.

TRANSCRIPT

[Sound of pigs]

JEAN [Intro]: I'm Jean, in Peshtigo, Wisconsin, and you're listening to Country Queers, the podcast.

[Theme Song]

RAE GARRINGER [Host]: If you've never been to the gay rodeo before, let me just paint a picture for you. It's all boots, and leather, and jeans, and pearl-snap shirts, and horses, and cows, and goats, and lassos—but with some gay flare thrown in. The Imperial Court rides through in crowns and gowns in the back of a convertible, waving at the crowd. And there's an event that doesn't happen at straight rodeos (at least the ones I've been to) that's called goat dressing, where the first team to run across the

arena, successfully get a pair of underwear onto the goat, and then run back across the finish line, wins. I'm not sure if it's required, but people are often wearing wigs or hastily pulled on dresses over their wranglers for this event. I LOVE the gay rodeo. It brings together and mixes up in beautifully messy ways some pieces of my childhood, growing up on a sheep farm in West Virginia, with my queerness as an adult. If you ever get a chance to go, assuming it's your kind of thing, I highly recommend it.

I'm Rae Garringer and this is Country Queers, a podcast featuring oral history interviews with rural and small-town queer and trans folks in the U.S. Each episode features an interview I've recorded since founding this project in 2013. In this episode, you'll meet Kody Kay.

KODY KAY: My name is Kody Kay and I'm 52 years old and I live in Longmont, CO. I would describe it as small-town America, main street—you know, that's the drag, 25 miles an hour *[laughs]*. We do have stoplights, not just stop signs...But it's a really cool, quaint little town. Lots of great people, uh, mostly blue collar-ish kind of community. Yep.

RAE [Host]: Kody is trans and he's an announcer on the International Gay Rodeo Circuit. I met him in July 2014 at the Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo, which took place on Cheyenne & Ute land in Golden, Colorado. At the time of our interview, Kody was living on Arapaho, Cheyenne, Ute, and Sioux land in Longmont, Colorado, where he ran a heating and cooling company. Kody had grown up all over the U.S., and the world, because his dad was in the military. He had been in the Denver area since just after college.

KODY: I ended up at the gay rodeo at the tail end of a month-long story-gathering road trip I took in the summer of 2014. During that trip I drove 7,000 miles and interviewed 30 people in 30 days, with only a flip phone and a paper atlas. You remember those? They're kind of hard to find these days.

The summer this interview took place, Barack Obama was in his first term as president. It would be another year before the Supreme Court ruled that gay marriage was a right in all 50 states. In the next few months, both Eric Garner and Michael Brown would be killed by police, and three Black women, two of them queer, would found the Black Lives Matter movement.

On July 13, 2014, the rodeo has just wrapped up. So, contestants are slowly walking up from the barns where they'd been settling their horses and cows after the day's events. Kody might be the only person I've ever just walked up to randomly at a public event and asked for an interview for Country Queers. I'm an introvert and so that's kind of my worst nightmare, but I explained that I was on a road trip gathering stories from other rural and small town LGBTQIA+ folks and asked if he'd be up for talking with me. He said sure. In this interview, you'll hear a ridiculously noisy background—there's wind roaring across the mic, then a tractor starts raking the arena getting it ready for the next day, then the dinner line forms and wraps around our table and folks are all excited to see Kody and are saying hi. People are cutting loose after a day of riding horses, roping calves. A day of adrenaline and sweat and dirt. Soon after dinner, we'll all two-step to a live band while belt buckles are handed out to winners.

But for now, Kody and I sit down at a worn picnic table, and he talks about coming out as trans in his 50s and about how he found the gay rodeo community.

KODY: Yeah, well I came out twice, basically. I did used to identify—or people identified me as lesbian. I never really looked at myself that way, cause I've kind of always known that I was a guy, but didn't present that way. As a matter of fact, I was very girly, you know—they used to call me a lipstick lesbian. And um, I can show you pictures later, but, so I was, you know, a lesbian, for lack of any other...label, I guess. You know. If you're gonna have to label. So, yeah, I came out when I was 14, and I had my first experience with a woman, but I didn't even know that I was gay. I didn't know that that's what it was. Like, I always thought it was weird, you know. But it was my sophomore—after my sophomore year of college that I went to my first gay bar. And that's when I found out there was a whole world called “gay.”

You know, this was 1982, so we didn't have Gay-Straight Alliances in high school and people didn't talk about things like that. Even in college, I mean, I didn't know that—we didn't have that kind of stuff, you know? So, when I found out that there was this whole world of other people just like me, it was so, incredibly freeing.

So, I lived, you know, that way, expressed as a lesbian for all those years. And then, when I turned 50 my mom got cancer and she went through chemo and lost her hair. And me and my little sister shaved our heads in solidarity. And then, that's when I was like, you know, “I can't—this is my perfect opportunity—I can't go back to living as Kimberly anymore.” That was my girl name. And, so I never grew my hair back, and my mom passed away from the cancer and I started living full-time as Kody. And I've never looked back. I had my top surgery like 7 months after I came out and, now I'm two years into my transition and never regretted a second.

RAE: Mm, so you, you said you always sort of knew you were a guy? Like, do you remember how young? Do you remember any—what that was like, as like...?

KODY: Um, well I just always—but, but I didn't know that, again you know—I mean, gay wasn't a thing I would even think about, let alone transgender. So, I didn't know that that's what it was. And for a long time, even as a lesbian, I didn't know how to be, because I always kind of felt masculine, but there weren't—there weren't strong role models that were feminine-looking, but—but strong women, you know? Until like, I know this is gonna sound funny, but until like, Tomb Raider. And even Coyote Ugly. Like there were women who were gorgeous women and, but then strong. And they didn't have to identify as lesbian! Like, I—it didn't, that's not what...you know, in a lot of lesbian films, there are lots of strong, you know, more butch and masculine women, but I didn't identify with those kinds of women.

And so, I just always knew that there was something a little more different. And it wasn't until, all this trans stuff started being in the news, and all that, and I was like, “Oh my gosh!” You know, “I think, I think I'm a guy.” And so, I started exploring that probably in 2000. So, 14 years ago. And I actually cut my hair and thought I was gonna do it, and then I chickened out, and I couldn't. I just couldn't face the ridicule, and, you know, the kind of scoffing from my friends even back then. And then in 2007, I cut my hair again

and almost did it. I mean my hair—when I say I’m cutting my hair, I’m talking 13 inches, like down to the middle of my back cutting my hair off.

So, then I almost did it then and at that time I had a partner and my partner was very, open to it...not happy about it, but wanted me to be happy and so was supportive around it, but then again, like, you know, in a few months I was like, “Yeah, I can’t do this.” And so, then I grew my hair back out again, still lived as Kimberly and so I never really, I never really transitioned either of those times. I just like kind of cut my hair—but then, all of a sudden, I was this dykey lesbian, you know, instead of being a man and I didn’t like that. I didn’t like being labeled “butch” or “dyke lesbian.” Because I knew that that didn’t fit. But I didn’t really, I didn’t understand everything until I really transitioned... that’s why nothing ever really fit. It all fit because, I’m a straight man. You know? *[laughs]* So the lesbian didn’t fit and being a butch lesbian—being the butch lesbian or a dyke didn’t fit.

RAE: Yeah. That’s interesting. I’m gonna put that, a little thing on so that the wind is not so bad, sorry—

KODY: Yeah.

RAE: Sorry. Ok, that’s better...Um, so since we’re here, you wanna describe where we are and what’s been going on today and what your role is in this space?

KODY: Yeah, so, I’m a member of the Colorado gay rodeo association and this weekend is the 32nd annual Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo. And so I just came out just to participate—I actually sang the Canadian anthem for grand entry. And I was supposed to sing it yesterday and I was so sick, I had a fever and I think I ate something bad and had food poisoning. So, I didn’t come out to the rodeo yesterday, so I was glad I was able to make it out today. And other than singing the anthem today, I didn’t have any specific roles. It was just nice to actually, to come to a rodeo and just be able to be with my friends and visit. Which I don’t get to do a lot, ’cause I’m usually a rodeo announcer on the circuit, so I’ll announce 6 or 7 of the 13 rodeos on the circuit. So that’s usually what I get to do—

RAE: So what do you mean on the circuit, what’s that mean?

KODY: Well, the International Gay Rodeo Association has sanctioned rodeos throughout the United States, so, Colorado’s just one of them.

You know, there’s a rodeo in Arizona, and in Texas, in Oklahoma, in Fort Lauderdale, Sacramento, San Francisco, so. And then they’re all over the country, from one coast to another. And so every rodeo association gets to invite their own officials. So, I usually get invited to 6 or 7 of the events.

RAE: Ok, ok. Cool. And so, how did you get involved with that, with the rodeo scene, with announcing?

KODY: Yeah, well I started with the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association in 2004. I’d been a really active member in the community, through the Imperial Court of the Rocky Mountain Empire here in Denver, as far as like community service and doing fundraising. And a friend of mine said, “I think that you would really like the Rodeo

Association.” And I had been to the rodeo several times throughout those years but had never thought about that I could join this group of people. ’Cause I’ve always had kind of country roots with my dad. My father was raised in rural Texas on a cotton farm and so kind of had that country background. And I’ve always been a two-stepper and loved country music and have always gone to the country bars. So, when I found out about the rodeo association, I was like, “Oh my god! I’m home!” You know, “this is amazing!”

RAE: So, what’s announcing involve, what’s it like? Because I know nothing about it *[laughs]*.

KODY: Oh, it’s, um, it’s all day, very intensive, both days--I mean, I’m there an hour at least before the rodeo starts on Saturdays. Well, first it starts with registration, so Friday night’s registration. I have to all the contestants—all their horse information, their hometowns, how long they’ve been competing, if they have sponsors. I have to learn all that kind of stuff about them so that I can announce that over the weekend. And then after registration’s over, then I have to compile all that information and put it all in my computer program and then Saturday morning I’m at the rodeo grounds way before everybody else, getting everything set up in the booth and then all day long, so, every time you hear—every time you see a contestant enter the arena it’s me announcing them coming into the arena. And then all the times and scores and, you know, commentary throughout the rodeo and then announcing sponsors and any other, um, announcements that, you know, the association has, or that some of the contestants, you know, they may have a special sponsor for that weekend and they want me to announce that for them and so, it’s pretty intense all day long, both Saturday and Sunday. Yeah.

RAE: Mhm. Interesting. So I guess it would mean you would really need to know everything that is happening, to like really understand every event.

KODY: Yeah, yes. Because I am fortunate to get invited to so many rodeos, I have learned contestants, you know, I have watched new contestants from their very first year to now they’re in their seventh or eighth year of competing, because I have been with/through that... So, I know if they’re on the same horse they’re normally on or they had to retire their nineteen year old quarter horse and now they’re on their new horse and they’re training and so it’s been quite fun going through all that whole process, but as far as all the rules and stuff, that’s all been easy for me because I had the background and now I actually announce all the rodeos.

[BREAK]

RAE [Host]: Hey, friends. Because we know the impact of colonization on people, land, and resources in the U.S, we’re encouraging our white listeners to engage in an ongoing process of reparations. So, during each episode break, we’re asking our white listeners who have extra funds to donate to projects founded and led by, queer & trans, Black and Indigenous folks, and people of color. Today, we’re asking you to donate to [Frontline Farming](#), a Denver-based Womxn & POC-led grassroots nonprofit that focuses on building food sovereignty & farmer liberation. FLF works from an asset-based perspective to “feed our communities with healthy, affordable produce grown from our 5 acres of land, educate our constituents, create equitable policies, and honor

the land and our ancestors.” In response to COVID-19, FLF started an initiative called Project Protect Food Systems that seeks to support immigrant food workers across the nation by raising funds to provide PPE, proposing and advocating for equitable policy action, raising awareness to Food Worker strengths and plights, and illuminating Food Workers’ contributions to our society.

The link to their website, where you can donate and learn more about their work is in the episode notes, and over on our website at www.countryqueers.com

Now, back to my interview with Kody from July 2014.

[END OF BREAK]

RAE: So, I’m jumping back a little bit, but in terms of, like, you said you came out twice...so, how’d it go the first time, how’d it go the second time, was it—

KODY: Yeah...

RAE: —smooth sailing, was it really rough?

KODY: Um...the first time was rough...my dad was way anti-gay, um...lots of grounding and, you know, “You can’t go out with that person, I don’t want you hanging around with them,” and that kind of thing. My mom was, um, my mom was Japanese and culturally, they’re [women] very close. You know, they have same sex girlfriends—you know, I mean like—arm in arm, hangout together girlfriends and it was, it’s not a big deal for them. But, sexually it’s very taboo. And so, but she was, you know, she’s a mom. And I think moms are just a little bit easier, they’re like, “This is my kid and I wanna love my kid,” you know? And, her biggest thing was, she didn’t want us to be beaten up. Like, she was worried that I would get ridiculed in school, you know, and kids would make fun of me and that was her main thing, of why she didn’t like it. My dad was very anti.

My little sister is gay, she’s a lesbian. And she came—she was *outed* in high school and when my aunts found out about it, they all lived in the same town, they uh, totally disowned her. I mean, they stopped coming to any of her um—she played basketball and she played in the band and they stopped coming to anything that she did. They didn’t go to her graduation, you know, all that—she went through a lot harder time than I did, because by the time everybody kinda found out about all this stuff, I was already in college.

Cause I was in Korea—we were in Korea through my high school, so none of our family was around, you know, through that time for me, so I was already in college by that time and I really didn’t care [*laughs*] if they liked it or not. And then once I found out that there was this whole world, I was like “Uhh,” you know, “You guys are gonna have to like, get with the program, or you’re gonna lose all of us.” And they have *all* come around now, and very accepting of us.

They’re now trying to figure out what this whole Kody thing is and they’re, they’re being ok with it. And they all know—my aunts and my cousins all know and they’re the last of my parents’ families that are still around, so that’s why I talk about them. Cause both of my parents have passed away. So they’re like, you know, “We got—we finally got through the whole gay thing and now,” and I think that it, it actually is helping, all these

little kids that are coming out at transsexual, you know, uh—transgendered, on the news and being on Oprah and all this stuff and they're—so, they watch all that kind of stuff, you know and I think that the more they're seeing that, you know, that it's being accepted, I think that they're kind of coming around and being more 20th century and being ok with it all. They're very religious, they're all Southern Baptist and, you know, so it's hard for them to...to bring the two together, but because we're family, I think that they're being a little more receptive to it.

So, um...unfortunately, both my parents were—had passed away before they knew about me being trans. But at least they're all being accepting. My little brother is totally not. My little sister is awesome. She's never skipped a beat. I've always been—I'm Kody, her big brother now. Yeah.

RAE: That's awesome.

KODY: Yeah.

RAE: So, and, I guess...how does, does the small town sort of interact with you?

KODY: Um, well...I don't, you know, just like when I used to identify as lesbian, when I meet somebody, I don't first off go, "Hey, I'm Kody the trans guy." You know? Like, I—no more than I'd said, "I'm Kimberly the lesbian." You know? And so people get to know me, or have gotten to know me as Kody and I joined a—because I wanted friends up that way, because all my friends were down this way, in Denver, you know, an hour's not far, but you can't just go to—it's hard to just go to dinner. Like a quick dinner or go to happy hour on a Wednesday afternoon, you know, when you have to drive the hour to get to there and then drive the hour to go home and, it's a whole different feel.

So, I joined a meetup group called the Longmont Social—Longmont Over 40 Social Group. And it's just, it's been a great group of people and right now about half of them know that I'm trans. And, and again, it wasn't because I just came out and told everybody, "Hey, everybody! I'm this trans guy," it just came up in a conversation and in two different settings that we happened to be someplace and then somebody said something that kind of sparked that kind of a conversation and um...I didn't want to feel like I was lying by not saying something. By omission.

So I would say—I would actually show them a picture. And they would go, "Oh, is that your girlfriend?" And I'm like, "No, that used to be me." And then you start that conversation, you know, and so, it's, it's gone over great, I haven't had a single one of them, you know, be all freaked out about it or anything. As a matter of fact, it's kinda the opposite. They, they're like, you know, I think they have a new respect for me because I was so open to them about it and they feel like, they're like, "Well, why would you feel like you could tell us?" And I said, "I don't, you know, I just felt like you guys were gonna be ok with it." And so, so I think that me having the respect for them too, to think that they would be ok with it kinda made them ok with it all. And, and...they don't treat me any different, I'm still Kody, you know. And I'm still this guy and they don't, they don't look at me any differently and so, it's, it's gone over really well.

And um, I have a heating and air conditioning company in Longmont and... um, none of my customers know that I know of. I haven't come out to any, you know, anybody like...

it just didn't come up. You know? But some of the vendors, because they knew me before, know. And nobody has, nobody has said anything. Like, it's almost like...it's almost like sometimes I feel like when I, when I came out as a lesbian...when some people would find out, if we didn't have the conversation, they were ok with it. You know what I mean?

RAE: Yeah.

KODY: Like, "As long as I don't have to talk about it, I'm ok." Like, that's kinda their—especially these big macho guys, you know, in these warehouses. And, they just, we just don't talk about it and they're just like, "Hey! Hi, Kody." You know, and I just walk in and I'm like, "OK, I need an air conditioner." And they just help me load it in the truck, just like they used to always do and...business as usual. You know? Yeah.

RAE: That's cool.

KODY: Yeah.

RAE: Um...well, I know there's a lot going on, so maybe I'll try to ask you a couple and let you be free *[laughs]*.

KODY: OK *[laughs]*.

RAE: Thank you so much.

KODY: Yeah.

RAE: Um, I guess...um...just a couple more. So, like, what makes you the happiest in your life at this point? When are you the happiest?

KODY: Um...it's kind of funny, cause it—I've had a lot of people say, "Are you happier?" now that I've transitioned. And I'm actually not *happier*. There's actually, you know, way more things now that have come up because, around it all, that have made me unhappy, including dating. But at the same time, I'm more content. So...I'm happiest when I'm around people who have accepted who I am. That makes me happy. And, and I get to just *be* me. That makes me happy. Um...but at the same time, you know, there's a lot of times when I'm sadder.

But, I wouldn't trade it, I wouldn't go back, I wouldn't change anything. Um, I'm waaaay more content. I'm more settled in myself. And uh, and it's taken me a couple—you know, it's been two years now, and it's taken me this long to finally not feel just like a geeky 14-year-old kid, which I totally did—

RAE: *[Laughs]*

KODY: *Totally*. Like, just like, you know, "Who am I?" And, "How do I wear my hair?" And, you know, "What kind of clothes am I gonna wear?" Like, the whole thing—like, everything that little kids go through, you know, as they're becoming themselves and, and I've kind of felt like, now I feel like I've come into my own and I'm more comfortable with myself even now. And, so, you know, so, I'm happy... as far as that goes.

RAE: Do you feel like small towns are, are like, safe spaces for the LGBT community?

KODY: Um, I don't...I guess, I've never looked at either small town or big town of being safe place. Like, I create—I create my own safe space. You know? Um...like I was saying before, about these people saying, "Well, why did you feel like you could tell us?" You know? And I'm like, "I don't know, I just felt like you guys were gonna be ok with it." And, and so, I, out of this brand-new group of people that I had never met before, none of us actually ever knew each other in this meetup group until that first meetup. And we've become this cool little group of people, you know, of friends, and from all walks of life. And you know, I just kinda created that on my own. And I think I've done that everywhere I've been. Even, you know, before, when I identified as lesbian, I just have never—I have never made it a big deal. And so, I feel like nobody else made it a big deal either. You know?

I think it's when everybody gets in an uproar about it all that other people get their feathers up. Like, they feel like they have to defend themselves and what they believe in. And I don't think that everybody has to be ok with me being trans. As long as they're ok with letting *me* be ok. That's all I ask for.

RAE: Mhm, yeah. Um...so...let's see. Um...I guess, I'll ask you two more—

KODY: *[Laughs]*

RAE: —two and a half more questions...*[laughs]*

KODY: *[Laughs]* That's OK.

RAE: So, who are—who have been some of your heroes in your life? Like people you've just really looked up to?

KODY: Um...I know it's hokey, but really, Angelina Jolie. She, there was just something about that whole Tomb Raider series and, and then knowing, you know, who she is too in her own personal life, you know, of what she's exposed anyway. Um, because not only is she like this superstar—I mean, she could do pretty much anything she would want to do, movie-wise. And, and I've heard interviews from her, too, about being the strong female role model and still, at the end of the movie, she's in a sun dress, you know? I mean, like that kind of a thing, and it, it really made an impact on me that these women can be strong women. You know? And they don't have to be all muscle-bound and butch-looking and you know, can still come out at the end of the day and, you know, have taken a shower and fixed their hair and put on a little makeup. You know? And um, so it, it was—she made a huge impact on my life and, and how comfortable I was as identifying as lesbian and still being able to be a strong lesbian, without having to identify myself as being butch. You know? I always felt like there was one or the other, like, "You're a lipstick lesbian or you're a butch lesbian." There was not this mix of, "You can be a lipstick and still be kinda butch." You know? Like, I didn't know how that all would fit in together. And so, um, so she impacted my life a lot and you know, and her humanitarian work that she does, which I strongly believe in giving back to your community and—you know, I don't have a lot of money, but I have a lot of time. And, you know, I can donate time and do things and I can help do the fundraisers.

And then just recently, it's all these little kids, these, you know, 5, 6, 10-year-olds that are coming out transgender that are like, "Mommy, I'm a boy!" You know? And, and it's

not that they want to just play with trucks, you know, it wasn't this little girl that just decided she wanted to wear pants and play with trucks. No, she's a boy. And, and these parents who are strong enough in loving their children and wanting what's best for them and the advice and counsel of psychiatrists and psychologists and counselors and doctors, who were saying, "You know, it's OK. Let them, let them explore this." And some of the kids, it is just a phase. But other kids, it's not. They know themselves and it's encouraging to watch these parents be that strong to live with the ridicule, to live with other people saying it's bad and, "You shouldn't be doing this for your children." and, "How does your kid know?" and, "You're supposed to be the parents and you're supposed to know better." Um, for them to be able to live through this, it's very encouraging for me to watch them be that strong. And um, I don't know any better role models, really, for them to do what's best for their children.

RAE [Host]: Since the time of our interview in July 2014, Kody got married! He and his wife now live in Wisconsin.

Next time on Country Queers, we'll hear my 2018 interview with Silas House. Silas is a national award-winning writer and activist from Laurel County, KY who now lives with his husband in Lexington, KY.

SILAS: And around—it didn't help any that I came into this realization at the same time that the AIDS epidemic started. And I don't hear people talk enough about the way that the AIDS epidemic held a whole generation of people from coming out, because there was this period there where, I don't know, the openness of the 60s and 70s and all that, but then it just all got torn away when AIDS started. By the time I was in middle school and high school, the number one way to insult somebody was to say they had AIDS. There was a rumor that there was an AIDS patient at the local hospital, on the fourth floor, and, "You better never go there," just all that sort of stuff. Besides the religion, also that consciousness, that awareness of AIDS really held me back from thinking that there might be a possibility of me living a gay life."

RAE [Host]: This episode was created and produced by me, Rae Garringer. Audio editing support from Tommie Anderson. Our theme song was written and performed on banjo by Sam Gleaves. Pedal steel versions were performed by Rebecca Branson Jones. Additional music on electric and acoustic guitar was written and performed by Tommie Anderson.

Endless thanks to our brilliant editorial advisory dream team: Hermelinda Cortés, Lewis Raven Wallace, and Sharon P. Holland! Thanks most of all to Kody for sharing his story so generously with us all.

If you liked what you heard, please subscribe, rate, and review the Country Queers podcast wherever you get your podcasts! You can find all our episodes and more about the project at www.countryqueers.com. And while you're there, you can also sign up for our mailing list and sign up to be a sustaining supporter of Country Queers on our [Patreon](#) page.

Until next time...stay queer out there, friends!

[END]