



Periodically Queer Episode - Human: A Season of Hope - With Albert Maghdoobi and Payam Ghazvinian

Audio Transcript

Erik Adamson (00:54):

Hello, I'm Erik Adamson. I use he/him pronouns. I'm the Director of Education at ONE Archives Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to telling histories and stories around LGBTQ+ communities. You're listening to Periodically Queer, a podcast that explores the stories around LGBTQ+ periodicals, such as magazines and organizational newsletters as a way to learn about queer community building. This episode is a part of our pilot season with a focus on LGBTQ+ communities of color. This season is made possible by a grant from the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and special thanks to ONE Archives at the USC Libraries for providing research materials for this podcast.

Erik Adamson (01:30):

In this Periodically Queer episode, I'm taking you on a journey to learn about Human, an organization and magazine that were formed to defend the rights of trans* gay and lesbian* living abroad. Between 1991 and 2001, Human published 38 print issues of Human Magazine, a magazine of cultural and sociopolitical studies of trans* gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues. A few months ago, I had a wonderful opportunity of speaking with Albert Maghdoobi and Payam Ghazvinian, who co-founded Human Los Angeles. We talked about their involvement in the magazine and how it created a community. We also talked about its impact and how it served as a Season of Hope for the trans* LGBTQ+ community.

Erik Adamson (02:43):

As someone who's of American-Iranian descent and identifies as queer, this magazine holds a lot of personal significance for me. Talking to Albert and Payam made me feel like I was able to connect with the legacy of Human for putting trans* homosexual* content, gender expressions, and everything LGBTQ+ on paper before the time I was coming of age. I've never felt this way before, and I'm eager to share with you how this conversation uncovered my sense of self, identity, and place within the larger queer community. Before we start in, I'd like to provide some content warning about self-harm and suicide. Please take care while listening.

Payam Ghazvinian (03:28):

Hello, my name is Payam, pronouns he/him. I'm a cisgender gay man. I was born in Tehran, Iran, and I escaped the country in 1982, came to Europe, and then came to United States. There was a time as a gay Iranian I was extremely isolated and there was no internet and in desperate need for connection and sense of belonging. I ran into other gay Iranians.

Albert Maghdoobi (03:53):

My name is Albert Maghdoobi. I was born in Tehran, Iran. I moved to Eugene, Oregon in 1975. I went to high school there for a year and college for five years. Then I moved to Los Angeles and I can be and am as gender.