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SPEAKERS

Rebecca Marquardt, Celeste Pechous

- R** Rebecca Marquardt 00:00
But then they got stranded by their Theatre Company in Omaha so they were like, you know what? We may as well settle in and open a brothel. Hello and welcome. I'm Rebecca Marquardt, and this is gay or nay alleged queers of history, the podcast that looks at queer stories associated with historical figures, and forces our guests to decide where they queer. For the record our guests have given consent ahead of time they know what's coming. Today I am super excited to be talking to Celeste Pechous, right?
- C** Celeste Pechous 00:37
right right right.
- R** Rebecca Marquardt 00:39
Okay, good. Oh, man, I'm gonna say it like Rachel Miller which is close but not quite there. So Celeste, your your TV credits are insane. Sharp Objects, The Keenan Show, Brooklyn 99, Amazon's new Upload which I have seen previews where I have not watched it yet, but I am looking forward to it. Masters of Sex and One Day at a Time. Get Shorty. Workaholics, I mean, it's like, this is insane. But you're best known for, in my world at least, for playing Campbell on Work in Progress on Showtime, which is such an incredibly great show. I when I heard that Abby McEnany had a pilot that was going to Sundance, I was just like, oh my god, I have to find a way to see this pilot, like I have to see it. And then it got

picked up and I was so excited because it's like good. I'm not gonna have to be like reaching out to friends to be like somebody put me in touch with her so that I can watch her pilot. Okay, so how did you get involved? I'm working progress. First of all, like I assume that you knew Abby from your time in Chicago doing improv and sketch. Yeah, yeah, no. Um, and and thank you for that. Really nice introduction. I'm super excited to be here.

C Celeste Pechous 01:43

You know, Abby, actually, and I we've known each other for 25 years. When I was still in Iowa. I went to weekend a to a weekend in Chicago randomly, and went to a party and I met Abby at this party, and we were hanging out Dan by the K And just chatting. And I am just like this is this woman. She's so hilarious. I went back to Iowa and like maybe six months later and moved to Chicago, and went to Iowa to see some shows, and there was Abby performing. And I'm like, that's Abby. And we've been friends ever since.

R Rebecca Marquardt 02:17

That's amazing. Chicago is really good at giving you like a perfect weekend that makes you go, I have to move there. I lived in Cincinnati, I went to grad school in Cincinnati. And I had this game plan of moving to New York to do improv and sketch and stuff because I always wanted to live in New York, and then a friend, I was like, hey, come with me for their weekend workshop in New York. And she's like, I can't swing that. But I could go to Chicago if you want to do Second City instead. And so we went for a weekend and we did a weekend workshop at second city and it was like 70 degrees every day. We would walk up the chain platform just as a train arrived and the doors would open and there be two seats right there like it was perfect. It's a magical city. It really is. Yes. So okay, you were there. Yours What was it? What did we overlap? What was your 10 years?

C Celeste Pechous 03:03

I was there from 1997 to 2007.

R Rebecca Marquardt 03:08

Ah, so I just missed you because I moved there January of 2008. And then I was there through the summer of 2015. So I was there like seven years.

C Celeste Pechous 03:17
Oh my gosh, really?

R Rebecca Marquardt 03:18
That's funny.

C Celeste Pechous 03:19
Oh, that's crazy. And so this isn't like, you know, no, Tim Mason, who directed all eight episodes. You probably know Tim then right?

R Rebecca Marquardt 03:28
I definitely know of him.

C Celeste Pechous 03:30
Yeah, um, he and I took our very first improv class together 2020 to 23 years ago. So um, so then yeah, they were originally just doing this based on Abby's life as a webisode because she did a one person show and then it was just going to be a webisode, so they asked if I'd come into Chicago and just shoot some bit parts playing her best friend and I'm like, yeah, if it's you guys, of course, de su flew down. I was there less than 36 hours, shot two scenes, when they ended up cutting it and editing it. It felt much more like a pilot. And then and then, you know, they just sent it off to Sundance, and it was accepted. And the rest is history. It's Yeah, yes. No, I that. I think that's one of the things I love most about Chicago was it felt like, it was like, just just make friends with people and start making things with them. Like, just get involved with the people around you and get to know them because you support them and they support you and it's you kind of all lift each other up together. And absolutely, it's a it's a total community and you know, and it does. A lot of my friends out here in Los Angeles. I met through Chicago and you know, they've moved out here I've met here, whatever, and it's just this really deep, deeply rooted community of of creative powerhouses and it's a it's just a joy every day is just the joy of being part of our community. Yep.

R Rebecca Marquardt 04:58
Okay. So I want to ask you A couple other things before we dive in, so quarantine has been crazy any new like hobbies or routines or things like I know you've been cooking on

Facebook for like friends and family and just like streaming and having chats with people on a daily basis ah any any other like things that have changed we're like wow never saw that coming.

C Celeste Pechous 05:22

Yeah it only took a pandemic for me to start running, you know that that the little cooking show that I do is just silly and fun but I'll tell you what it gets me up get some shower gets me gets me going and it's fine it's my I live you know by myself with my two dogs and so I so it does feed that you know kind of social output and stuff and I paint I mean my art studio now I paint quite a bit and I'm we're I'm finishing up a few paints. But yeah, I've been exercising is so stupid. But I mean it's good. Yeah. Because I happen to agree, I, you know, and I found again, like, a joy for it. I use I used to love running and then I'm like, No, I won't do that for four years. And then and then I got back into it and I'm finding a joy for it again. You know, so yeah, just painting, riding my bike everywhere I got rid of my car. So it's like,

R Rebecca Marquardt 06:23

That's a bold choice in Los Angeles.

C Celeste Pechous 06:27

Well, you know, I leased a car and then I and then I went back to Chicago for a couple months to shoot this to shoot work in progress. And it's like, I don't need it. Because I was well over my miles and and then when I got back, you know, two months later pandemic hits, so um, yeah. Right now. Yeah,

R Rebecca Marquardt 06:51

Okay, cool. The other thing I am trying to ask people just because I feel like we all need more like good queer content we can consume. Are there any like shows or movies or books or anything? That you've been really into lately that you want to just like plug just

C Celeste Pechous 07:04

Well, you know, I mean, I immediately when it came out, I watched a Dead to Me on Netflix, which is Liz Feldman, who created that and, and you know it while the central characters aren't really queer, but there is a good, you know, queer story throughout it, which I like. Um, well let's see Feldman. Yeah, okay. Yeah, she she's awesome. Liz. Yes.

Great. I'm so happy about that shows success having, you know, female, um, you know, liens that are over 40 or, or close to where I don't know anyone's ages. But um, yeah, but but it's refreshing to watch and, but as far as other queer content, like, you know, I like to get my hands on just about anything I can watch and I have actually haven't I've, I'm gonna be honest. I've never watched Game of Thrones. And so I'm, I'm watching it now I'm in season, so the queer content is there.

R

Rebecca Marquardt 08:12

And it's queer and like whole other worlds of ways like that, where it's like, maybe that's not the queer we're trying to associate ourselves with in 2020. We're like,

C

Celeste Pechous 08:25

Okay. Like, unfortunately, like, that's, that's just kind of what I've been watching right now. Yeah. I mean, it's a great show. It's a great watch.

R

Rebecca Marquardt 08:36

Yeah, I haven't heard I have another friend or two that are like just starting it. I was like, okay, the only thing is when you get to that last season, after you watch one episode, you need to Google the episode and then read what all the viewers wrote about it, because people were just like, so outraged by so many of the episodes and the way like there's just so many feelings and like, I don't get so invested in show I'm like I don't like I'm just like oh wow that's that's amazing that the writers chose that that that that choice or that they you know? Yeah but it is it's pretty entertaining to see the outrage that

C

Celeste Pechous 09:14

oh god I know I heard the other one um

R

Rebecca Marquardt 09:19

Wild nights with Emily with Molly Shannon I feel small part in that movie; I play Emily Dickinson's mom. I mean it's, it's, you know, a 20 second, Okay, I'm I'm gonna go watch it again because I watched it not too long ago but it was right before our mutual friend Rachel was like you should have Celeste on your show. And I was like, thank you. Right. Okay, cool. So today, smooth transition there. Today we're talking about Francis Willard. You lived in Chicago. 10 years. Have you ever heard Francis Willard you have Okay.

C Celeste Pechous 09:56
Oh, no, no, no. I mean, yes, I lived in Chicago. I'm not I've ever heard of Francis Willard.

R Rebecca Marquardt 10:01
See, okay, I lived there seven and a half years and I worked as a tour guide and I had never heard of Francis Willard before she popped up in this like queer history book that I was reading. during her lifetime. She was so famous that people had portraits of her hanging on their walls next to portraits of George Washington.

C Celeste Pechous 10:18
Really?

R Rebecca Marquardt 10:21
I know. So she basically the short version, she was a pioneer in both the suffragette and prohibition movements in the late 1800s. And there are plenty of people who believe she might have been gay, or somewhere along the queer spectrum. So what we're gonna do today, I'm gonna give you as much relevant information as I can. And then by the end of the episode, you're gonna try to convince me where you think she would have fallen on the gender identity spectrum as well as the sexual orientation spectrum. Got it? Yes. Great. Okay, so we are going to dive in but first we get to do a bunch of disclaimers. Yeah, Today we're gonna refer to Frances Willard with she her pronouns because those were the pronouns associated with her during her lifetime. Celeste, if at some point you're like, that just doesn't feel right anymore. Let's not then just say so and we'll try different pronouns. I'm also gonna call her Frank, because that's what her mother and the people closest to her called her, which I freaking love.

C Celeste Pechous 11:21
Okay,

R Rebecca Marquardt 11:22
so that's disclaimer number one. a disclaimer number two, for this episode, we actually have an abundance of sources. Frank wrote her own autobiography at the age of 50. And she kept a lot of journals, maybe not to the extent of like Abby and work in progress, but a lot of journals, and they are available on the internet now. So if at any point you're like,

well, how would you know that there's a good chance we pulled it straight out of her own writing. Last disclaimer, I would identify myself as a gay white sis woman, Celeste, what what words would you use to describe yourself

C Celeste Pechous 11:56
I would describe myself as a gay, pasty cis woman, queer.

R Rebecca Marquardt 12:08
Great, great. Okay, cool.

C Celeste Pechous 12:09
She her What are my pronouns? She her?

R Rebecca Marquardt 12:12
Yes. Same here same here. So the obviously our diversity in this specific episode... I yeah, it is my goal though that this this podcast feels inclusive for all queer people. So I like to encourage listeners, if at any point I say something where you're like, I don't think that that means what you think it means. Please tell me a gay or nay podcast@gmail.com or Celeste if you hear anything you're welcome to, you know be like I am

C Celeste Pechous 12:40
May I I mean, I'll try but I say same with me y'all. I mean I'm I'm all for bettering myself empowering myself with education.

R Rebecca Marquardt 12:53
Yeah, I've been it's you know, we're all kind of working on a learning curve where it's like you start with only your own life experience and then hopefully you like listen And try to listen understand what life is like brother.

C Celeste Pechous 13:02
Well, you know what was cool about work in progress? If I can just throw this in broke? Yeah, before we jump in on the call sheet, we listed everyone's pronouns. And I thought that was such an awesome, you know that that cast and crew was across the board of all

types of gender identification of sexual preferences. And it was just a really beautiful given that that we are all in this kind of world with pronouns already given to everybody. So I thought, hopefully that will become something more common. Yeah. Where we don't we don't have to think about it. We're just like, all right. We can all acknowledge our pronouns instead of just like dumping them on people and assuming that we know better. Right, right. Cool. All right. Well, I'm excited.

R

Rebecca Marquardt 13:51

So we're talking about Francis Willard today who when I first read just a little bit about her, I was like, Oh, she seems interesting. We should do a podcast episode about her. And then Emily and I started diving into her autobiography and her journals. And just the more we learned, the more we needed to learn. She is a fascinating woman. So she was born in September 1839. She spent most of her life in the Midwest and her adult life, which was about the 1860s through the 1890s in Evanston, so just north of Chicago. I know, right. That's why I was like, You lived in Chicago. 10 years. Have you heard of her? She's like, I show how Chicago mainstay will do. We're gonna start with a little bit of Chicago trivia, Celeste, do you know in what year the city of Chicago was incorporated? Um, and let me guess here because at one time the city where I went to school, it was older than Chicago. So I'm gonna say like, I'm totally guessing here like 18 1901 Oh, no. 1837 You said you said 18. And I was like, we're off to a good start. And then you're like 19. Last minute, I was 36. Oh, you would have been almost exactly correct. Because it was it was like a township. Well, it was the township, like, three years before and then officially, it was a city. 1837. Anyway, this is not the interesting part of the podcast. This is the boring part.

C

Celeste Pechous 15:23

That's good, though. That's good.

R

Rebecca Marquardt 15:24

Yeah, so the in 1832 the Black Hawk of war ended when we, you know, violently kicked Native Americans off their land and kept their name for our hockey team because murca Okay, next trivia question. Celeste. What happened in Chicago in 1871?

C

Celeste Pechous 15:42

The Great Chicago Fire.

R Rebecca Marquardt 15:45
Yeah, that's correct.

C Celeste Pechous 15:47
That's correct. Bessie the cow. So they say.

R Rebecca Marquardt 15:53
Yeah, so the fire destroyed a third of the city. It left over 100,000 people homeless, but because it didn't destroy the train lines or most The factories the city actually rebuilt very quickly. A little more about what was going on in Chicago at the time there was a massive boom in immigration, especially from Ireland, Germany, Germany, Italy, It's beautiful. The countryside is stunning. Ireland, Germany, Italy and Poland, also Lithuania. Europeans at the time, were facing a lot of oppression, religious persecution and the population there was booming, which meant that land and employment were becoming harder to find. So people started just leaving in droves. Chicago was expanding like crazy and they had tons of jobs available in steel mills, stockyards and meatpacking plants, especially, these were jobs you could do even if you did not speak English. They were also not safe and they were also not jobs for women. Some middle class women at this time actually were starting to go to college, but they basically had the choice after college to get married and start a family and that was now their jobs. Or they could choose not to marry and have children and focus on their career, which was largely just becoming a teacher. That was the main occupation available for women at the time, for at least for a respectable middle class lady who went to college, there were other jobs that we'll talk about later. Oh, actually, let's talk about them now. Oh, rowdy, rowdy Chicago in the 1800s. So your middle class folks were the ones that you know, went to school and kept a nice civilized lifestyles, what they would have had you believe and then working class people. They live largely in like tenements and things that housing was not great. They were working these working class jobs and the wives were at home just trying to keep the home functional and keep the children alive. But Chicago in the late 1800s starts to get wild, especially the levee district, and a lot of it is fueled by alcohol consumption. booze is out of control. You've got immigrant workers in dangerous jobs with very few workplace protections. They didn't have eight hour workday. Yet, so they would be working 14 hour days. And that wasn't unreasonable. They're watching their co workers get injured or even killed on the job. And that's just part of doing the job. So at the end of the week, they're like, you know what, I've worked my butt off all week to make money for my family, because I'm the only one who can make money for my family. And I'm stressed out about that. So I'm going to go out to the saloon now and I'm going to blow all that money that I made this week on booze to help me like, cope with what my life is. saloons at the time. Were not just bars, they were

full on community centers. Your local saloon keeper probably spoke your language because if you were German and you emigrated, you settled in a German neighborhood. You went to the local German saloon where the bar owner, the saloon owner there taught you English. He helped you translate job ads, you have to get a job. he cashed your checks. he loaned you money. He'd hold your mail if you didn't have an address. That's where you would catch up on the news. You even voted in your local saloon.

C

Celeste Pechous 18:57

Oh, that's probably why a lot are still there.

R

Rebecca Marquardt 19:00

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, well and that the weird that this. So there were only like a few breweries in America at the time and a lot of them were like from German immigrants that had come over and started their brewery, if you at the time wanted to open a saloon, and you went to the people at Schlitz and said, Hey, I want to saloon and I will sell only your beer, they would pay all of your startup cost. They would pay for the building, they pay for the furniture, they would supply the beer, they would give you a deal. They'd be like, Look, if they buy one beer, you can give them free salami and cheese and crackers and nuts because those things are salty, and they'll make them thirsty. So then they'll buy more.

C

Celeste Pechous 19:37

Yeah, smart.

R

Rebecca Marquardt 19:39

Yeah. So but then it was the only exchange was exclusivity, so you only sold Schlitz. So like, if there's a movie set in the 1800s. And they're like, I'll have a beer that was accurate. It's not just we don't want to promote any specific brand. It's like no, that's just the only beer they had. My understanding of prohibition was just so non-existent. Like in my mind, it was like I know a bunch of people just had a problem with other people drinking so they wanted to outline it. America was full of raging alcoholics in the 1800s. So a little bit of boozy math. Everybody's favorite. The average alcoholic drink has about 1.2 tablespoons of pure alcohol. So every gallon of pure alcohol could make 213 drinks. And the 1830s the average American over 15 drank seven gallons of pure alcohol a year. That's almost 1500 drinks a year. Yeah.

C Celeste Pechous 20:38
Reminds me of my time when I worked on the cruise ship.

R Rebecca Marquardt 20:44
Did you do the boat? Oh, nice.

C Celeste Pechous 20:45
No, I did. I did one contract. I was one and done. I mean, it was really fun, but I'm like, Okay. check mark. Yeah, it's a lot.

R Rebecca Marquardt 20:57
But anyway, so the crazy alcohol gets I'm just that's what At the beginning of prohibition starts to kick in because these men were going and they were working these crazy stressful jobs. And then they were going and spending all of that money they made to buy alcohol to help them de stress, and then they were hurting themselves and they were hurting their family members. They were going home wasted and beating their wives beating their children. Yeah. So that's why prohibition was important. That's why so many people were fighting for it. They weren't just like, we just don't like alcohol. That's how the working class was drinking. But middle class men had a different way of relieving stress. So according to the Ken Burns prohibition documentary, Chicago's levee district was about 20 square blocks on the south side. It was like just west of what is now Grant Park. So like the middle of downtown pretty petrified where Columbia colleges and Yes, yeah, yeah, pretty close to there. Yeah. What is it poke and poke me? Okay.

C Celeste Pechous 21:51
Yeah, yeah, Harrison Dearborn was in the pit.

R Rebecca Marquardt 21:56
There's a certain name for that neighborhood, which I'm not gonna remember right now, but yeah. Oh, yeah, I don't remember that one either. Yeah. But it used to be the levee district.

C Celeste Pechous 22:05

That's awesome.



Rebecca Marquardt 22:05

Yeah, the levee district was about 20 square blocks it contain 500 saloons, 500, whorehouses. And too many peep shows cocaine parlors and body theaters to count.



Celeste Pechous 22:17

Oh.



Rebecca Marquardt 22:19

But so if you're like, well, how was that legal because at the time crossdressing was illegal. But they managed to pull all those things off. And the answer is Chicago politicians. They were dirty. So at the time, it was a two of the longest reigning alderman referred to as bath house, john kauflin and hinky Dink Kenna and they essentially charged these like a hoarder houses and places that were not entirely legal. They would charge them insane amounts of money and in exchange, they would offer them police protection, they would make sure that they never got busted. Fun fact the first brothels in Chicago were on wells Street.



Celeste Pechous 23:00

Which is where Second City is? Well, like, you know, down in that levee area, there are some shady little places that just recently in like the last five or 10 years have gone through complete renovation like the Black Hawk coat hotel, Oh, black stone. I don't know, I don't know the name of it, I forget, but it's beautiful. But when I work down there because I used to work at Columbia, you know, and I don't think a lot of those places have changed that much at that time. That was like 20 years ago. Yeah, cuz cuz it was a little dicey, spicy, and dicey, spicy and dicey.



Rebecca Marquardt 23:40

It's how you like your food, but I don't want to live in that neighborhood.



Celeste Pechous 23:44

It's changed a lot like you know, and it's really beautiful neighborhoods now.

R

Rebecca Marquardt 23:48

But yeah, there's one specific brothel that I found a story about that I thought was interesting enough to share. So it's a place called the Everly club. So it was started by the Sims Sisters that's the name that they had that they were born into. They were born into money. They married a pair of abusive brothers when they were teens and decided, you know what, I don't need this in my life. So they divorced them in, you know, the early 1800s that's seems pretty rare. They changed their name to Everly because their grandmother used to sign letters. Everly yours, which is adorable. Oh, they started acting in a traveling show, but then they got stranded by their Theatre Company in Omaha. So they were like, you know what? We may as well settle in and open a brothel. So, hey, yeah, brothel. I know, right?

C

Celeste Pechous 24:38

Yeah, got it. Sometimes you just got to do it yourself. I love it.

R

Rebecca Marquardt 24:43

So they open a brothel. It was so successful. They opened a second brothel and eventually they were like, you know what, we got to go big. So they moved to Chicago and they opened a high end brothel called the Everly club. In 1905 arrival, madam accused them of the murder of Marshall field Jr. Near the son of Marshall field, obviously, he did in fact die of a gunshot wound. And there are a few working theories about what happened. Two of them involve suicide or accidental suicide. And then the third is that he actually did get shot by a woman who was working at the Everly club. But he didn't want to die at the Everly club and get found out. So he asked somebody to drive him back to his home so he could die at his home. Oh, yeah. Yeah. But what I find interesting, though, is he died five days after he was shot. So I don't know if he was just like, unconscious the whole time. Or if in that five days, nobody thought to be like, Hey, what happened? Maybe we can get you checked out at a hospital. Yeah. Eventually, the Everly sisters retired to the west side of Chicago with a million dollars. Okay. Yeah, but they were not welcomed by the neighborhood because the neighborhood knew who they were and they were like, ah, not here. So eventually they change their names again and move to new York City where they could be among their people. Oh, we we love all kinds here and say their business gals. I have welcomed them into my neighborhood. Yeah, I agree, you know, middle class at that time. The irony though is that probably a lot of the men in the neighborhood that were like you can't live here.



Celeste Pechous 26:20

You can't be here because I don't want my wife to...



Rebecca Marquardt 26:22

Yeah, yeah, exactly, exactly. Yeah. We're gonna get into Francis Willard herself here, but we're gonna take a quick break, and then we'll be right back. This is a quick plug, so don't skip ahead too far. First, Emily, and I wanted to welcome to the team Dean Beckwith, he's editing the podcast and with his help, we hope to put out episodes on a more regular basis. I also wanted to update you on the Patreon tiers that are available for just \$1 a month you can access recordings of the brain dump calls Emily and I do to plan each episode. For \$5 a month you can actually join those calls and help us backtrack or throw in your own discoveries and for 10 dollars a month you can be part of the live virtual audience for podcast recordings with a quick q&a after each episode with our guest. Again if you don't have the money to support right now I want hundred percent relate your followers likes and reviews are equally valuable. We are at gay on a podcast on all social media and we're creating fun history fact slideshows for each episode. As always, thank you for listening back to Frances Willard and Celeste Pechous. Alright, we are back and now we're gonna start talking about Francis 'Frank' Willard. So Frank or Francis, I'm gonna probably go back and forth between the two. She was the fourth of five children. her eldest sister died in infancy and then her next sister died when she was probably about two years old. So Francis has two middle names Caroline Elizabeth, which was actually her sister's name the sister who died when she was just starting to learn to speak her mind. Mom told all of her children that Caroline Elizabeth was, quote, the most promising child she ever bo, or for that matter ever saw. She's like, oh, slightly large shoes to fill. And also you gave me both of her names. It also was just kind of interesting that it's like she she had that high opinion of a child that was like just learning to speak. So I don't know what it was based on. Like, I don't know what it was like. She just looked at me with an intense focus. I knew. I knew she knew what was going on. Frank was homeschooled by her mother who had been a school teacher and her father was a farmer and a legislator. And by the time she by the time Frank was in her 20s, her father was a businessman. And Francis went to school for about one term before she started college. But otherwise, all of her education just came straight from her mother. From a very young age, Frank was keenly aware of the unfair treatment that women received. When her father took her brother along to go and vote. She said to her sister, Mary do we not love our country every bit as much as he does? Which I thought was pretty awesome for a kid who was probably six or seven at the time, but as a child so they lived on a farm they had lots of farm animals Celeste, did you live on a farm? You grew up in Iowa the pictures on your on your website make you look very country and it's a great vibe did you actually live near animals? What What was your

C

Celeste Pechous 29:25

I grew up in Iowa City, which is a big university town is where the University of Iowa is. So it's more of a college environment college town. But you know, we did at the outskirts of Iowa City. My like my uncle Ed was in pig farmer and my grandma Celeste, you know, they lived on a farm and so as a kid, like farm farm wife was a part of my life but but I've lived I grew up in that in the cities of Iowa. Yeah, so you were you were familiar with farm life, but it wasn't Yeah. No hating college.

R

Rebecca Marquardt 30:01

That's amazing. Well, yeah, okay, so so Francis at a young age she she wanted to ride a horse and her dad was just like, no, ladies, don't ride horses. That's not an option. And so as a kid, she was like, fine. I'm gonna break and train this cow, and I'm gonna ride the cow, okay? And like all the kids in the neighborhood, everyone was like, No, you can't a cow is not gonna let you put a saddle on it. A cow is just gonna stand there and to cut is not gonna go where you want it to go. And she just stuck with it. She fed it all kinds of treats and things so it would just follow her wherever she went. And eventually, she was able to put rains on it, and it would allow itself to be led by rains. And she figured out like what I assumed was some kind of makeshift saddle because cows are significantly wider than horses, but she was actually able to ride this cow. And eventually Her father was like, Alright, if it's okay with your mother, you can ride a horse and so she started riding horses. Like Yes, get it, get it. I lived in the in the city of Fort Worth until I was 13. But for some reason we took horseback riding classes like my sister and I took classes somewhere. But then we moved to like the middle of nowhere for high school, so we actually had horses and cows like on our property.

C

Celeste Pechous 31:16

Oh, man. I love cows. I love horses to my girlfriend in college. She she's a horse. I mean, that's what she does now. Yeah, horses. So I know him a little bit but I will maybe not as familiar with the horses as pigs and yeah, cows. For me. I think it's like it's easy for me to go Iowa and just assume it's all like rural.

R

Rebecca Marquardt 31:41

I have I have almost no experience with Iowa at all, except that I was in the marching band at LSU when the football team played against Iowa's football team in a bowl game. Like that's, that's my whole connection to Iowa and I don't even remember who won the game because I was like, I don't I don't really care about football. I'm here for the band.

Anyway, so Francis is moving into her adult life. So she'd had that one term of classes where she was actually at a school. And then she went to college. And then right out of college, she wanted to start teaching. And her father was totally disappointed. He just wanted her to, like, get married and do the things that a lady was supposed to do. And Frank writes in her journal, when she turns 18, that she's just like, this is it. This is the day that I become independent. And that like, I mean, it was like, like turning 18 for her was everything. And so she finished school and she's like, I'm going to teach, and she reaches out to the superintendent of schools county and is like I needed to I need to teach somewhere somewhere. And he's like, well, we have this one tiny one room school house. That is it's near like what is now Oak Park. And it was like, and it's the students are not going to be good. It's all children of immigrants and they're misbehaved and they're not disciplined. But you can teach there if you want and she was like, Yes. And so she moved there. She starts teaching there. She works her way up. She's so good at her Her job that she just immediately just gets promoted, promoted, promoted. Within 10 years. She is the what? Let me get her title right. She is the Dean of the woman's college at Northwestern University. Wow. Yeah. Um, she ends up having a disagreement. So the woman's college merged with Northwestern University or North I think it was Northwestern college at the time, and she had a disagreement with the president of the whole school. So she quit that job and never went back to teaching full time. Instead, she joined the women's Nope, not women's women's Christian Temperance Union, the WC TU and this would be her life's work for the rest of her life. The organization had really just founded and she came on as the corresponding secretary in 1874. And her job required her to travel. I feel this is probably the wrong number. I feel like I read somewhere that she was doing like 500 speaking engagements a year, which I can't even wrap my brain around because you're traveling via like train or boat. or you know, it's not like Oh, just hop on a plane and fly over to LA and give a speech and then come back home to New York. It's like, No, no, you're just living in a train essentially. But she traveled all over the country. She helped found new chapters. The w CTU. Had chapters in pretty much every single county in the nation. It was the largest women's organization that had ever existed at the time. By 1879. She was elected President of the W CTU. And by 1883, she established she established the world's women's Christian Temperance union. So it went international temperance, of course, meaning don't drink alcohol. So that was the organization started just as a movement to try to get prohibition into effect. Under Francis Willard it started to incorporate a lot of other missions under that umbrella. Early temperance movements started with just individual women asking individual people To make commitments to not drink, they also would approach saloon owners and they would protest in front of individual saloons to say, Please close your saloon. That was it. They weren't trying to enact laws or change laws or elect any officials who had helped them make laws. Because as far as they were concerned, they were all housewives and mothers and that was their domain. But politics was not their domain. So they would just go out and they would be

like, Please, sir, sign this piece of paper that says you'll never have an alcoholic beverage again, or please close your saloon, which I don't know how they sold people on that, but it actually was effective to some degree, it just didn't have any lasting impact. Under Francis Willer, the women's Christian Temperance union did a ridiculous amount for women and for the country and for social work and for so many different parts of society that still impact us today. But I want to emphasize like how insanely impossible that was and how she still managed to pull it off and I say she a lot. It's her organization, but she really was at the forefront of all of this. So if you think about, like how hard it is in 2020, to get an elected official into government where you're like, I feel like that person truly cares about my self interest about making sure that I am okay. And how difficult that is now. Now, imagine that you're like, I want to make sure that these elected officials care about me and I don't even get to vote for them. Like, why would they? You know, because it's all about Okay, well, it's about the vote. So if you tell them, I'm not gonna vote for you, if you don't support this thing, they're way more likely to listen. But at the time, it was just like, Oh, well, women can't even vote so why are they gonna listen to women? I don't have you watched Mrs. America at all. Not yet. The new cable jail deep in a game of thrones, but but it's on my list. Yeah, it's it's pretty great. Um, but I keep finding these like connections of like reading about Francis Weller and the W CTU. And then seeing like the parallels with the era and a stop Era movements late like almost, well, 100 years later, but just that idea like in the show Cate Blanchett character is really good at getting housewives politicized by making it clear that it's like no, no, no, your job is to protect your household. And the only way you can do that is by getting political. So the women who are trying to get suffrage, were trying to get the vote for women realized, oh, if we can convince these temperance women who don't think they should be political, that actually being political is the only way to protect their home, we can have the numbers we need to enact real change. So it was like a pretty insane, massive undertaking, but just to rattle off a ton of accomplishments of Francis and the W CTU. They made prohibition happen. They ultimately got the right to vote for women. They established kindergarten for every child. They got female prison guards for female inmates, because they didn't think it was fair to have male prison guards watching over a few Male inmates and probably mistreating them. They established eight hour workdays for everybody. They did a lot to help the homeless and communities that needed support. They established a lot of social welfare programs that even today, a lot of our social welfare programs are built on or inspired by the structures that they created. Then they opened what we would essentially call like an alcohol rehab center for women because those women were being prescribed medicine that had the same alcohol content as whiskey. So she created a safe center for them to go and like get clean. She ended up CTU helped move the age of consent to 16 from what it had previously been, which was 10 years old.



Celeste Pechous 37:32

Wow.



Rebecca Marquardt 38:06

And she installed water fountains all over the country because part of the reason that people drank so much is they didn't have access to clean water. So it was like great wake up and drink tainted water or wake up and have a beer. Mm hmm. I would choose a beer to see did all these amazing things. But then one thing that everyone I think it was in the Ken Burns documentary that was slightly terrifying was as part of their temperance education efforts, they actually rolled out programs in all of the schools where children were taught. If you drink any alcohol at all, it will burn a hole through your stomach and kill you. And if it doesn't burn a hole through your stomach can kill you you will pass on alcoholism to your children and they will die. Like they went to these like extremes of like, oh, we're just gonna feed misinformation to get the effect that we want. It's complicated time to be alive. But you know, ultimately she she established a lot of really great things but I you know, I'm not trying to Candy coat her is like a perfect human. That is generally that that's like the short version of her life story and all of the brilliant things that she accomplished. Okay to get a little more personal we're gonna talk about religion and then we will dive into her specific like relationships to give you like the juicy part where you can try to determine like where where she fell on the spectrums Frank had a very, I'm gonna say confusing relationship with God and religion because she was raised by pious parents. And she talks constantly in her journals and her autobiography about being uncomfortable around people who were irreligious and she talks a lot about how she leans on God and how she prays. But when she was 20 years old, she wrote a letter to somebody in her church that straight up said, I do not believe in God. She had written in a journal I'm willing to attend church, though it interferes very much with my progress in science. She She wrote that she wrote Yes, yeah, okay. Yeah. So, um, so she had when she was 20. So when when Francis goes to college, she and her sister Mary go to the same school, and her sister Mary kind of falls in with like, the straight laced like rule following folk. And then Francis gets lured in by specifically a woman, Frank writes in her journal I at once fell in with a very bright, attractive but reckless young schoolmate for whom I conceived a romantic attachment. Although she was the wildest girl in the school, so she starts to kind of hang out with more rebellious women. But she's still insanely respectful of religion because she was raised in it. Like she says something to the effect of like, I'd sooner insult my mother to her face, then be disrespectful in a church. But so when she was 20, her she puts in quotes, quote, a dear friend is what she calls him. William P. Jones asked a prayer group to pray for Frank because she was an infidel. He encouraged Frank and some of the other wild girls to go to the altar one day and she doesn't begrudgingly. But then she writes in this letter that 30 years later, his wife returned to her and she put in

her own autobiography. To summarize, she said, Thank you for your concern. I have no excuses to offer for my behavior, but I do not believe in God. She says, and I love this. This is like the first Prayer for someone that doesn't believe in God, if I were to pray, I should say if I were candid, oh God, if there be a god save my soul, if I have a soul, just like that's amazing. She told him if she ever went to the altar again, it was going to be because her religious convictions and beliefs told her that she was like, I'm never gonna go again because you asked me to I appreciate your concern. I'm good with my relationship with God, we're on the same page. Mind your own business, essentially. We're gonna dive into her relationships next, but we're gonna take one more quick break and then we will be right back for the juicy details. And we're back again. So are you ready to dive into some some saucy romance talk?



Celeste Pechous 42:48

Absolutely. It's my favorite kind of talk.



Rebecca Marquardt 42:51

Okay, good. Good. So we're we're gonna start by talking about Charles Henry Fowler and how just like angry I am about the way that history documents this whole thing. There's a Frances Willard House Museum in Evanston that was her old home that is dedicated to her and her work in the WETA us work. It's still around today. It's the oldest house museum dedicated to a woman. And their website is an incredible resource, tons of awesome information. That bone to pick that I have is when you read Frank's biography on their website. The second paragraph says she was engaged to Charles Henry Fowler, and later had a romance with a fellow teacher at Genesee College in New York, a man. Neither relationship culminated in marriage, though, and Willard remained single throughout her life. Now, I could support that biography, if they were like, we're trying to tell the story of someone who didn't get to tell their story. But the thing is, like, Frank lived during a time when women didn't get to create or tell their own story, and she managed to do both. And she wrote a 700 page autobiography when she was 50. And do you know how many times she mentioned being engaged not One never it never comes up.



Celeste Pechous 44:04

That could that be by being bitter? Or like she's like, I'm just gonna ghost, you know, or I don't know. I mean,



Rebecca Marquardt 44:13

I know. It could be all of the things. But like, but what gets me is that it's like okay she did she wrote 700 pages about her life and she chose to leave that out. But you're gonna put it in the second paragraph of her bio like,

C

Celeste Pechous 44:29

right? Why?

R

Rebecca Marquardt 44:30

Yeah, good district. Totally disrespectful. Good. So In her autobiography, she mentions her ex fiance, but not as her ex fiance. Remember when I told you she was the head of the northwestern women's college and then she had a disagreement with the president of the college? That man was her ex fiance. Okay, well, that that is the only way in which she ever refers to him is professionally. That's it. She also never mentioned the man at Genesee college.

C

Celeste Pechous 45:00

Yeah,

R

Rebecca Marquardt 45:02

yeah. So hi, Frank Frank writes about love and men a few different times and much like her views on religion. It is fascinating. So they're two different places in her autobiography that go well together. So in one place, she writes, I believe no woman ever knows the depth and richness of her nature until she has loved a man better than her own life. And then later, she writes, she had met a few men for whom she could have developed feelings, because they were intellectual and had purity of mind, but she chose not to. She never writes about, oh, he swept me off my feet and I was overcome with him. I mean, for a woman who is so good with words, she never uses emotional words to talk about men at all. What's wild though, is the reason she gives for why she never marries is not what I thought it was, which is that she was like, Well, I have a purpose and I have to do all this stuff away. men's rights. She says basically, I will never develop those feelings for men because those men will never feel the same from me. They'll never see me as anything but a friend or in a common fashion, so I choose to never develop feelings for them. So as far as we know, oh, no, hang on. There's more though. But wait, there's more. So her autobiography, nothing about the fiance nothing about the man from Genesee college. However, Emily did a little deeper digging and pulled up her personal journals. And we found that this man she speaks of several times, Charlie is actually Charles Henry Fowler,

to whom she was engaged. So they shared their first kiss, June 2 1861. Which is fascinating because I'm like, I couldn't tell you the date of any first kiss I've ever had. And it's like, I can tell you when hers was the joy of people who keep detailed journals. They first guessed June 2 by the following February 15. Their engagement had been dissolved. So this was about eight ish month relationship. One of the things that she writes is Charlie told me one evening just out below the gate that he loved me better than any other woman. And I said, I loved him as we stood there in the starlight. How clearly I can see it all on the lawn near the blossoming apple trees in my beautiful June. He kissed me first. I cannot recount it all the long, long history, the countless memories, curious. Oh, that that's the end of what she wrote. And then I wrote, I was like, because Emily read that off to me. And all I could think was, did he mean that he loved her better than any other woman that he had loved or better than any other woman that had loved her? I was like, ooh, ooh. Which is probably just trying to, it's probably just me trying to make up gay stuff. But you know, sometimes we have to just give ourselves love. Mm hmm. That's the juiciest thing that we can find with any male relationship that she has. So we've got plenty of ladies to talk about. Yeah, we're gonna start in college because this was the earliest specific thing I could find where I was like, Oh, that sounds like more than a friend. So in college she just very briefly in like two sentences says that she that her innamorata lived in New England, and I had to Google innamorata and Merriam Webster says a woman with whom one is in love or has intimate relations. And maybe that definition has changed maybe at the time in Marotta meant best friend, but I mean, even just the word sounds like way more like that word. A lot meter. I know, right? That's the only thing she mentions. But she says the days when she received letters from her innamorata are the truly the red letter days, which is like an old school like they used to highlight, holidays and read. So it was just like those were like, oh, best of days. She also mentioned in college, the classmate that I mentioned earlier, that kind of rebellious one for whom she developed a romantic attachment. It's also hard to say it like romantic we know what romantic means now but romantic had different meanings in the past, like people used to talk about women who had their romantic friendships with other women. And everyone in society, it was just like, yep, no problem. We that's totally normal. That is just a thing that happens a lot. For a lot of people. It was like, oh, that poor dear. She never could find a husband, but at least she has that dear romantic friend and companion with whom she shared a bed for 40 years. And there's nothing queer about it, because that's just how women express love at the time. I just say. The next lady we're going to talk about her name is Clara. So when Frank got that first teaching job in the one room schoolhouse, Frank went and boarded with a wealthy man who had moved there from California and his daughter, Clara. There were other family members also, but Claire is the one we care about right now. Initially, Clara and Frank did not hit it off. And then Clara came into Frank's room and she basically said, like, I can tell that you're lonely and you're having a really hard time being here and being away from your family. How would you like it? to come and stay in my room, and I like At

first I was like, oh, like, come hang out in your room, like, let's talk and be friends. And then it was like, nope, she's literally saying move into my bedroom with me. So the whole time that she boards there she is sharing a room with Clara. I love the idea that this wealthy rich man has like a woman sleeping with his daughter in his own house. And he's like, no problem. Again, at the time, like, that was a normal relationship for women because men assumed if there wasn't a penis involved, it wasn't sex. So they didn't care, like women could just pay to get like, you know, men would send their wives off to go hang out with other women in very intimate relations. And it was just like, yeah, they're friends. I don't understand the problem. Mm hmm. Um, Clara, Clara was not religious. And initially, Frank was nervous that she would be judged for it because she prayed every single night. Despite the fact that she had already said at this point in her life, she did not believe in God. But instead, she knelt down to pray by the bed and Clara knelt down next to her and put an arm around her. They ended up starting a Sunday school program together in that same little one room classroom where she taught and eventually that grew into the first church in that area. When Francis eventually left that teaching position, she actually brought Clara home with her where she was, quote, henceforth endeared to every friend of mine. Clara did eventually marry a man. So that was the first relationship post College in 1862. She just very briefly mentions that she had a dear friends named Emma the summer of 1862. And then she had a very dear friend named Ada in the autumn of 1862. Kate Jackson is a name that will appear many, many times. They they knew each other definitely by 1860. So by the time Frank was 21, they were in each other's lives and she writes about Kate off and on her entire life in 1861. Frank goes to teach at Genesee College in New York, and she convinced is Kate to come with her. So they're living together at this point. They're, I believe sharing a room at this point. And she's literally like, just come live with me. I'll teach and you can join me. Well, Kate ends up teaching French, she's not even getting paid for it. She's just like, I just want to be here with Frank. And also I want something else to do. So she's teaching French as like an unpaid internship, I guess I don't even know. They went on frequent double dates. So like other professors and things that the school would be like, Oh, my wife and I would love for the two of you to come and join us. So like double dating the two of them, it was just their norm. That was just how they live their lives. At one point, Kate was going on this trip her dad was like, I will pay for you to go and travel Europe for two years. And if you'd like to bring Francis with you go right ahead. So Kate's dad pays for the two of them to be traveling companions for two years. Okay. Yeah, they after Frank's dad dies, she writes a really kind of touching passion. about just the way that Kate was able to bring comfort into her life. She says in the twilight Kate and I have been singing the hymns that he loved best, which I often sang to him in the midnight hours. Francis actually drank alcohol with Kate while she was in Europe, scandalous. But when she joined the women's Christian Temperance union, she did not tell Kate about it at all. People were like, oh, you're giving money to the W CTU. We assume that money is coming from Kate like that's how attached they were that

people just assumed any money from Francis was actually money from Kate. Later in her life. Frank writes, the loves of women for each other grow more numerous each day and I have pondered much why these things were that so little should be said about them surprises me for they are everywhere. So there was a story about the maids of Llangollen. I believe that's how you say it and Wales. It was two women young and fair with money and position who ran away together, refusing all offers to return and spent their happy days in each other's calling companionship within the home they there proceeded to establish. And then eventually tourists went and visited that home. So I, you know, in my book I'm like, if that's not just the love, a love story, I don't know what it is. Another close, dear companion of Frank's is a woman named Isabella Somerset. She actually became a temperance leader in the UK, which is how Francis got to know her when she started the world's temperance union. Isabella married a man which she actually didn't have to if she didn't want to. She was born to money, she was going to inherit money, she could have just lived an independent life, but she actually chose to marry a man who was set up to inherit nothing. So she was the breadwinner in that household. They had a son together, and eventually her husband becomes infatuated with a 17 year old male. Yeah, male homosexuality at the time was very much illegal in the UK. So most women at the time would have just turned a blind eye because they wouldn't have wanted to deal with the social repercussions of having a husband that was sleeping with men, but instead she was like, No, you're cheating on me. I'm not okay with it. I want our child so she actually used it in a custody case to win custody of their son. He runs away to Italy and then society ostracizes her because of her husband's affairs. So she kind of just moves off into the country with her money, and joins the temperance union and puts her money into that and just lives a happy life all by herself. Francis stays with her frequently, like visits her all the time stays with her for very extended periods. There is one particular thing that I just find just wild. So if you go to the Francis Willard House Museum someday, there is a set of China there that was given to Francis by Isa Bella. And every piece of China has Isa Bella's name on it. Oh, wow. So like her first name, not like this is the family name of the family, Chris Justin says is about on every single piece of China. The last woman that we're going to talk about is like the the long term woman who weirdly, she writes about the least. Anna Gordon was her secretary who lived with her and was her dearest companion for over 12 years. But she says there are several other good and gifted women whom I might name as having belonging it to my inner circle of affection at some time in my life, but an Anna a Gordon a lovely Boston girl whom I met when conducting revival meetings with Mr. Moody in 1877. I found the rarest of my intimate friends. for 12 years she has been at once a solace and support in all my undertakings. I call her little hearts ease for as she knows, I have struggled through the depths and come out on their Beulah side. I assume that means on the better side, having voyage through roaming storms to emerge at last in the region of perpetual calm and as I am so much more senior, she seems quite sure to be my loved and last. Oh yeah. Anna Gordon never marries a man, that's just the two of

them. Until Francis dies after Francis dies, a new woman takes over the WCTU. When that woman passes away, Anna Gordon takes over as president of the WCTU. And she is actually the president when prohibition goes into effect. So she was working one on one with Woodrow Wilson to make those things happen. So just what are your general vibes or thoughts on everything? The whole world?

C

Celeste Pechous 57:28

The whole, you know, Frank sounds like a badass. And I love the story of the cow and I think that kind of sets the whole foundation in Well, you know, what do you want me to tell you? What I think like where I was, yeah, I you know, I grew up with a female presidents of colleges. My University used to be all all women, not when I went it was co Ed But but still run and founded by women of great stature and and political and all of that stuff. So yeah, you know, I think Frankie is a very strong woman who isn't gonna be pushed around I would throw her more on the the curved line of sapiosexual, where, you know, she she is attracted to intellect and and strength versus gender, although I believe that some of those female friends that she had will probably platonic and then others I don't think we're I think they went there. You know, I agree. As far as the men I like I part of me has a hard time believing that you can choose to not develop feelings for someone like where she says I'm not going to fall in love with them because they won't love with me. Well, I've been there where I'm like, I really like them, but they visit me. And I'm like, I know that this is a bad idea, but I can't seem to not feel the thing. Yeah. So so it's like, that would be something that I, I would use as an excuse to hide my true feelings when we're hiding our true selves, right, like so. You know, maybe before I was out, I would make up little things on like, Why don't have a boyfriend or when I was closeted in a relationship. I'm like, why I'm not dating someone you know, or something like that. But when in reality it was. So I don't know. I mean, I think I think she attracts people of her substance of her of her goals and desires and she finds very passionate thing. I think that they probably some of them were romantic, but I do think that a lot of them probably were like, here's our job. Here's our prophetic you know, We're gonna make a school for girls, we're going to build a church, we're going to do this. I think they were motivated by that passion in each other for that type of growth. Gender wise, I would say if she was alive now in 2020, I think she, you know, it depends on how old she she is a younger generation, she'd be like, I'm non binary, you know, um, I won't be contained within your definition. Because, because that's how she lived her life. As a child, she's like, well, do I not love this country as much as you, you know, so so she didn't want her gender to limit her. I don't know if she would consider herself nine by binary because, to me, I feel like she did consider herself a female. And, you know, for a feminist by by in a lot of ways And so I, I would think that she would consider that of herself. I mean, but you know, more and more today, in in the younger generation, what I what I learned and what I love and especially became educated during work and

progress is the non non binary queer community. I think it's awesome. And I think they're like, I don't have to explain myself. I go by VA, and it's like, that's so great, because like, 20 years ago, we had maybe two things gay and lesbian, right? And now it's like, I don't know. I mean, she she's cool. Like, I know, she's intense. I feel intense. That she might scare me. Yeah, yeah. You'd be like, ah, can I

R

Rebecca Marquardt 1:01:47

I don't want to have coffee with you, but I would like to come to your lecture.

C

Celeste Pechous 1:01:51

Yeah, I think she was incredibly bright. And probably just like, you know, I've had these these bosses Or people have a higher status of me and that time where I might be an employee, and they're, you know, driven and hardcore and like, and I and I have tons of respect work, but I think that that is who Frank had to be. And in order to get stuff done, and I think with her falling out with her dude at the college, I don't know if that had, you know, maybe he wanted something more or maybe she did, like, I think every relationship has a different song and, you know, if it's not going to be honest, it says, it sounds like you know, to me, her her relationship with Kate and Anna and are probably were the most telling of she probably, you know, have had deep feelings there. But, but you know, I think and and, one thing, one thing with With Campbell and Abby and work in progress, because in that I play Abby's best friend, we're ride or die. It's like maybe they had something in the past in college or something, but they have a very solid relationship. But without you know any exceptional Yeah, yes without and I think that exists.

R

Rebecca Marquardt 1:03:20

Yeah. And I it's just like it's that much harder to articulate from a time period when, like that that didn't exist to be like, Oh, we used to have this thing, but now we're just friends that it's like no, that thing was also just friends like it was all because in my head I was like I was telling Emily The other day I was like, so I don't I don't think probably that any that there was any romantic connection between Frank and Isabella in the UK. But I was like, but if they were just friends, like if that was just that just like sexual relations fell under the umbrella of friends. And if they did have that when she would go to visit Isabel, she would bring Anna with her. So it's like wait a minute, so if it's just your To your friend are there is there exclusivity? Or you're like, Okay, well, we're just dear friends but were they only dear friends of each other? So I can't go be dear friends with this other person also? Or was it just like, all bets are off, like all three of us are dear friends. So when we all stay together, we all share the same bed and we'd like, you know, like, it's so hard because they didn't

have the terminology to be able to articulate what it was. So it's just like, the umbrella is just everything like there's no Yeah, and I think, you know, obviously, I mean, we're going back to the 1800s like time times were different. Like, we got to have some prairie action where everyone did sleep in a room, you know. And the cow in the back like yeah, there are and to keep each other warm at night, so so it was kind of like a village like you break bread with your neighbors. And you know, and I don't know, I mean, I relate a lot to her like, where her relationship comes to with God. And you know, when I grew up, Catholic, went to Catholic Like schools, throughout my education, and a bit once somebody tells me what to believe if I, I'm like, stay out of my shit I am I'm fine with my relationship with God. Like you can tell me what you think. And maybe I'll think about it, but don't try to tell me what is correct,

C Celeste Pechous 1:05:19

Right and like, you know, sometimes if you use your voice you're going to be you will people will be like, hmm, you know, like, as a female, if you're strong and considered, you know, like, but then you have people like her dad that's like, Okay, you've proved yourself we'll get you a horse, you know, like, I don't know why. Yeah, I don't know. I think she's sapiosexual however you say it. Yeah, and we're thinking like probably non binary by 2020 standard. Yeah. I mean, if she was if sheif she was in college right now, and 20 you know, 2020, I definitely and she was hanging out with Like the, the the crew that was like, hey, here we are, you know, and yeah, and yeah, she would be because because once you can get all of that stuff out, then you can progress to make stuff happen. So if her goal was to teach, you know, kids with with issues or whatever, well great, um, I'm not going to put too much concern into my relationship sexual or non. I'm just going to do what feels right what makes me feel good and screw what everyone else thinks and that's, you know, kind of what it what it is now for for that generation that doesn't have hang ups like kind of like, yeah, I grew up with hang ups. Because of my sexual identification. So yeah,

R Rebecca Marquardt 1:06:48

so that that like the last little thing I want to throw in is for my own beliefs. I I wish that she had had this like what I think she would have realized in 2020 is that love that she spoke about that you're not whole until you love a man more than yourself. I think if she were alive in 2020 she would have realized that she did have that love, it just happened to be for a woman because I think

C Celeste Pechous 1:07:10

Yeah,



Rebecca Marquardt 1:07:11

you know like when you when you haven't come to terms with like being gay or with that that you're just like, oh I have this intensely emotional satisfying friendship with this other woman. But Oh, I feel so sad that I haven't found that with a man it's like no you did it's it's that it's that exactly that you just talked about. Okay, cool. We're gonna plug in our answers into the little computer and go beep bop bop and see we'll see if see if we're right. Do you have anything that you want to plug or promote or Twitter handles or anything like that before we go I'm sure my Instagram is celesteinclogs? Yeah, cause people make fun of me wearing clogs. Twitter, Twitter's @cpechous my last name and @cpechous and let's see plugin I mean Gosh, if you're if you're fooling around on on the Roku, seeburg just came available a feature film based on life of actress Jean seeburg. I have a very small role in that. It's called a seeburg on Amazon and then Upload in the first episode I make a little appearance but I'll just some baby bit parents. And then awesome. Hopefully you know if all goes as planned and we'll see what happens with quarantine but work in progress. Starting to shoot this fall in Chicago for season two. That's awesome. And Past Due the short film is viewable on your website. I really enjoyed it. It was you?



Celeste Pechous 1:08:43

Yeah, I wrote a short story um, years ago, and then my buddy Denise plum. Went to asi directors for women women in the director's chair and use that script and so we shot that together which I'm really proud of that, that little short film, it was great.



Rebecca Marquardt 1:09:04

All right, so I'm gonna plug in our answers here. Beep bop bop boop we're going non-binary, sapiosexual and oh the results are and we'll do a little drumroll but oh, we lose because we tried to label other people but that's okay. Thank you so much to my guest today Thank you for listening. Check out our Patreon if you want to help us make more of this stuff and we will see you again soon. Your ears that is. Bye!