

AFROS & AUDIO VIRTUAL PODCAST FESTIVAL

Come Correct: Amplifying Queer Voices in Podcasting

Description:

This roundtable discussion will present what it means to share authentic and autonomous content while pushing the LGBTQ+ community culture forward.

Join this forwarding conversation of podcast creatives and professionals, who are building a community of representation through their willingness to remain true to themselves and their values. The exploitation of certain communities seems to be the norm for some media outlets, including podcasting; to gain popularity, further harmful stereotypes, and false narratives. This collaborative session between some of the leading queer voices in the podcasting community will discuss the importance of representation and bridging the gaps that remain unfilled when it comes to supporting and understanding, that all voices and lives matter. This session will engage attendees in a conversation that provides tips and strategies for achieving success while remaining authentically true to the communities we represent.



MODERATOR & PANELISTS:

Moderator:

PJ Ryan is an actor, editor, educator, mental health & wellness advocate, motivational speaker, and producer. He is the Executive Producer of award-winning podcasts, *Dear You Project* and *Highly Melanated*; two transparency laden podcasts that speaks to different audiences while exploring perspectives within the Black community to help listeners become their best selves. The *Highly Melanated Podcast* offers the humorous perspectives of four Black creatives on topics affecting the Black community, ex. entrepreneurship, Black politics, and the importance of therapy. The *Dear You Project* is PJ's "Super Soul Sunday on a Monday," centered around an anonymous "Dear You" letter that identifies commonality in the experiences and triumphs of others.

Panelists:

Diamond Stylz is one of the premier voices of the millennial Black Trans community and the host and producer of *Marsha's Plate*, a weekly podcast that archives and centers the trans social justice movements and pro-Black feminist culture. She is the Executive Director of "Black Trans Women Inc", a national non-profit led by Black trans women, focused on social advocacy, economic equity, and building strong leadership among Black trans women.

Courtney Johnson is the Creator of The Brown Boys, a professional network with a mission to cultivate community through educational, engaging, and entertaining events for men of color. Courtney Johnson has been working in HIV prevention for almost 10 years. A Memphis, TN native, he is a 2017 "Heir's List Fighter" recipient for his community advocacy, related to healthcare, mental wellness, and representation of marginalized populations. Mr. Johnson hopes that his work will create non-judgmental safe spaces for gay men of color to allow for freedom of self-expression, an increased capacity to love, and holistic healing to optimally address issues related to stigma, pain, loneliness, and self-acceptance.

Dujuana Sharese is an explosive spoken word artist, workshop facilitator, podcaster, voiceover actor, master of ceremonies, and performer who has the ability to tantalize with her comedic truth and vibrant energy. Her *Everything is a Story* podcast (E.I.A.S.) offers the experiences of artists and extraordinary people as they transition from breakup to breakthrough. "What doesn't kill us will make us stronger. We will explore our better selves from breakup to breakthrough."

Ronald Matters is the cohost of *Here For It* podcast, offering colorful commentary on LGBT health & wellness, and an LGBT culture writer with over 10 million views to his blog RonaldMatters.com, which was created to share his opinion on things that matter to Black gay men. Ronald has spoken on panels including the "Black, Gay Men & Our Portrayal in Media" panel with The Red Door Foundation, "Pride for the Next Generation" with the Center of Black Equity, and volunteered at the OUT Memphis community center. Ronald studied Journalism at the University of Memphis.

Stevie Derrick is ¼ of the LGBTQ+ *HIM* Podcast, which covers everything affecting the black & LGBTQ+ community. Stevie is a 29-year-old social media personality and creator/host of his own IGTV segments *#IndieArtistSpotlight* and *#DearYall* based in Long Island, New York.

Demi is the Executive Producer and Creator of *the Spilled Milk* podcast; Spilled milk, “the milk so sweet you’re in for a treat”; think of listening to your diary, read out loud in your favorite kittens’ voices. Cohosts, Demi and Dakota provide a fresh safe space for open dialogue and healthy conversations pertaining to life, love, family, and everything in between.

Zahir Raye is a cohost of the Black, feminist, trans podcast, *Marsha’s Plate*. Zahir is known for his transparency and honesty around tough subjects from the transmasculine perspective. A Houston native and activist in the transgender community, he uses his own visibility as a tool to educate others, via YouTube, his podcast, and other social media channels.

POINTERS FOR MODERATORS & PANELISTS:

Moderators:

Please keep these three things in mind as you prepare for this conversation:

- **Be conversational.** Please keep the audience in mind at all times and bring them into the discussion. Put yourself in their shoes and think about the topic at hand and what you’d want to walk away with if you were in the audience. Draw those nuggets out of the panelists.
- **Drive the conversation at all times.** Avoid any single voice taking over the discussion. Instead, draw out the underlying insights, experience, stories that will make the experience engaging for everyone.
- **Leave ample time for questions and affirmations or comments from the audience.** Not everyone has to ask a question. Wisdom flows in all directions, and our audience will be full of people who can add value. Direct the audience to keep their questions or remarks brief, though to avoid grandstanding or running overtime.

Additional resource: <http://www.presentation-pointers.com/showarticle/articleid/387/>

Notes for panelists:

Please keep these three things in mind as you prepare for the conversation:

- **Share fresh the insights grounded in your own story.** Keep in mind that the audience will be podcast creators or professionals, social advocates and entrepreneurs, and likely attend many of industry events on similar themes. They want to hear your fresh take and connect with your journey, so share your story.
- **Pull back the curtain and be vulnerable and generous.** Dig deep and think about what you’ve learned and experienced along the way. What have you navigated successfully (or not so successfully)? What are you still

figuring out as you attempt to breakthrough to the next level? Where have you gotten stuck? That's what everyone really wants to know.

- **Leave the audience with (at least) one concrete takeaway.** Is there a book or article they can read, and accelerator or other opportunity for which they should apply, a meetup group they should join, or maybe just a question they should ask in plain terms? Don't be vague or obtuse when you could be frank and helpful. It will make a rich experience for everyone.

Additional resource: <https://www.inc.com/geoffrey-james/9-ways-to-be-an-outstanding-panelist.html> (sans #6...wear what you want!)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Start Time: Sunday, November 15th

Duration: Approx: 90 minutes

Format: Roundtable Discussion

Discussion: Audience Pre-Submitted Questions + Curated Questions + Panelists Perspective

Platform: Zoom

If you have any questions or need more information, contact speakers@afrosandaudio.com

