

Jinny-Jane Smith interviewed by Daniel Browning, Sydney, February 2023

Daniel Browning: [00:00:00] This microphone here, and I'm going to hit record. Are you ready? Mm hmm.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:00:04] Mm hmm.

Daniel Browning: [00:00:07] Lucky last, I should say, tape ID. This is another instalment in the Muru-ba series of Indigenous oral histories for Sydney WorldPride. The date is the 20th of February 2023, after the launch of World, Sydney WorldPride. And I'm with Jinny-Jane Smith. Now, Jinny, can you. Do I call you Jinny or Jinny-Jane? JJ.. Jinny. Jinny. I love the name Jinny. Could you introduce yourself as. As fully as you would like, How you like to be known, How you like to be identified.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:00:47] Wallawalli, my name is Jinny-Jane. I'm a proud Wiradjuri Walbunja woman from the Yuin Nation. I am a mother and auntie to many, but I'm a staunch black lesbian woman, and I've been around for a bit. Big noting myself is what I like to call it, just to make sure that there is representations of me.

Daniel Browning: [00:01:10] And where are you professionally? Gives a sense of you're kind of where you've where you've worked and what you're what you're driven to do in your life.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:01:19] Sure. So, you know, I was a stereotypical Mountie County girl. I was a teenager. I was a teen mum. And becoming a teen mum then made me want to be passionate and true to myself in being my most authentic self. I'm a teen. I was a teen mum to a beautiful girl who is now 21, so I have adult children. And my first career move after having my baby was with Women's Legal Service. So I was kind of thrown in with a whole heap of, you know, feminist women. I wouldn't say feminist women, but just women who are passionate about women's issues. And that kind of put me on the trajectory of advocacy for more and ensuring that moms voices were heard. Being a queer woman, being a lesbian woman, kind of. You know, it's always been my passion to ensure that young people are seen as well as heard rather than the old narrative of you to be seen but not heard. I, I made sure that I was very loud and proud.



And, you know, I've been an advocate for women's issues, youth issues, especially within our Aboriginal Islander communities. So I did most most of my work have always been around that. And then I moved into Redfern, like I have family history being a part of Redfern, but then I moved into Redfern myself with my daughter changing career and following my career choices, still doing black youth issues, mainly in women's issues. So I'm the I'm on the board of Madrigal Aboriginal Women's Center here in Redfern. I'm also on the board of Cree Radio, where I was once working as the young Black and Deadly coordinator. I then wanted to get more passionate.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:03:19] I'm also the co-chair of the Aboriginal Advisory Panel for City of Sydney. My actual job now is I'm the Aboriginal team leader for Icon Icons, a peak organisation that has been supporting the LGBTQ community for many, many years. And I head up the Aboriginal project and still recruiting, looking for more people to come work with me about this, work that we do supporting Queer Mob. So I worked with Icon a few years ago and you know, I've always been a part of the Mardi Gras float committees since like 2008. And every year around this time, we would always after these, you know, with the workshops and stuff, were building the float, there would always be this yarn of what are we going to do now, now that we don't have, you know, a purpose to meet up every weekend working on the float and stuff. So me, me and a couple of other friends, two other other boys of mine who, you know, were good friends, sat down on the top of crew radio and said, Right, well, we need to start an organization that supports our LGBTQ community. And that's when we the conversation first began around creating the organisation BLAQ B.L.A.Q. So myself will travel and and Jonathan Leah were the initial creators of BLAQ and that is now peak organisation supporting the LGBTQ community. I'm back at Ikon, helping our community, so we're just kind of like that. That's, that's my little work. Vegemite in a little nutshell about me and what I do and where the passion comes from. But I mean, like what more do you want to know after here and all of that?

Daniel Browning: [00:05:09] That's a lot. But where if I guess if we're talking about oral history and that's our lives and our the trajectory of our lives is we we understand it. Where where would your story begin? Where were you? I guess people begin when I was where I was born and what year I was born. But where did life begin?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:05:33] Well, life began for me, probably here on the block. You know, Mum and Dad met here in Redfern. They actually lived, you know, on Caroline Street where I am apparently, like they was like this was where they lived. I know, right?

Daniel Browning: [00:05:50] And you're living now in one of the Tower Boy Tower building. Yeah. Caroline and Caroline Everleigh.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:05:57] Yeah. Yeah, exactly. And when I. When we first moved in here, one of the uncles said to me, said, that's where your mum and dad used to live, you know? So yeah, Mum and Dad met here through the movement when things were happening back in the seventies and sixties and you know, Dad was, that was a bit of a he was an influencer, Dad was a famous actor who passed and he was a very, very much an advocate. My grandparents were also, you know, advocates and were part of Native title, always been a part of the movement. I've always been passionate about Blackfella issues. So for me, you know, like life pretty much started here in Redfern and on the block and, you know, then when having my daughter and then I wanted for things to be different for her as well, which is what my parents wanted for me. So that's what really that's where it began, I would say, you know.

Daniel Browning: [00:06:51] And your dad by name. Uncle Kevin Smith. Uncle Kevin Smith Yeah. Wow. I didn't know that.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:06:56] You didn't know that. Yeah. So that's my dad. He asked me if he ever did because we lost him a few years ago. Last movie he ever did was Jindabyne. It's dedicated in memory of him. We lost him during editorial for that, but he was more famous for his stage plays and he was a brilliant actor. He was, yeah. So I often say that I'm I'm just an actor's daughter. I'm not an actor. But, you know, you ask my partner, she says otherwise.

Daniel Browning: [00:07:26] Well, it's impossible to avoid taking on some of their I mean actors create generally unless they're really they're monsters. And we do have a there's a whole history of actors who are monsters in their family lives, but they create children who are strident and speak their mind and and don't feel fear around speaking out.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:07:47] Definitely. And, you know, being I was the youngest girl out of all of Dad's kids, so I was pretty much a daddy's girl. And I did have the right to say what I wanted to. And I had the backing from him. You asked my siblings. They would say she did, But yeah, he did empower me to speak my mind. And, you know, he gave me strength to make wise decisions around, you know, where my trajectory of life will be and what I would do about it and what is important to be a, you know, staunch black black woman as well. Like, you know, my sexuality, when I first came out to him, it wasn't an issue. My mum had an issue. But, you know, my dad's younger brother was one of the first men to, you know, contract HIV and then pass of AIDS in 1994. And he was 24. And in the you know, like there was there was a period there were there actually moved in with him when he was sick in Surry Hills and was, you know, helping him and stuff before he actually went home and and had to be taken a bit more care of. But, you know, that was that was actually, you know, that was his baby brother. Dad was the oldest and that was his baby brother. And he loved his baby brother and, you know, wanted to protect him and and stuff. So, yeah, you know, like seeing that. And then we're not with my story of coming out, my dad really didn't have an issue. Like, it was just like, Oh, okay, cool. Moving on.

Daniel Browning: [00:09:24] As an actor, perhaps he'd already come to, you know, come to terms with as much as straight people need to come to terms with us. But you know what I mean? Like, he'd already confronted it and dealt with it like people in the Navy. Men in the Navy notes. Yeah. Look, this happens like no big deal.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:09:38] Yeah. Yeah. And I think I think you're right, you know, like, because dad was always surrounded by, you know, people of our community. It wasn't an issue for him. Whereas and I also I also do believe, too, that it comes down to the fact that because they they were like, you know, they didn't really live in a reserve or a mission or anything like that they moved with. With the seasonal work running from government, pretty much not running, but like moving away from government to ensure that that because that being the oldest dad and all the kids were looked after and stuck together, that there was no government intervention with them. So then that meant that he was more connected to culture and land and that family unity. And then, you know, whereas my mom grew up like she was in, she was from Griffith, so she ended up having to go to the convent and she lived on mission. And then there was that, that, you know, the Christianity inculcation. Yeah. You know, so I think for mom, like that's where

a lot of her kind of not understanding came from. Whereas dad there was, there really wasn't an issue with, with, you know, what was going on. It was like, Oh, is this your friend? I was like, No, dad, that's my girlfriend. Oh, okay, cool. Nice to meet you.

Daniel Browning: [00:10:51] Like you dealt with it. Move on.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:10:55] Yeah, moving on. It was it wasn't an issue. So. Yeah.

Daniel Browning: [00:10:59] Now so in your I guess you know, in, in your family immediate I would say immediate. But you know, families are big, families are always big. We did grow out with all brothers and sisters around or was it different kind of arrangement.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:11:15] Yeah. So Dad has eight children all up now. We found another one only like two years ago, I think. And there was another. Anyway, that that was Dad. He was an actor, did a lot of traveling, but Mom and Dad actually had four. So I have an older, older brother, older sister, and then a younger brother with mom and dad. With dad. I have three older sisters, one older brother and two younger brothers or three younger brothers. Sorry. So yeah, big family, but always had them around and yeah, very close to my dad's family. All of all of dad's siblings, kids. Like my first there were brothers and sisters as well. So we grew up very close. You know, often we'd go home to Mogo and hang out and all the rest of it and still do. It's still very close.

Daniel Browning: [00:12:07] And then in Rajouri, on Mom's side, you and Wallbank and you and Benjamin now. Well, bonjour. Must be a clan of Ewan. Yeah. Yeah. Yes. So what about Wiradjuri side? You spent much time out there and I mean, a lot of were here in Redfern, very much part of the, you know, like the movement. And so you feel at home anyway.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:12:27] Yeah. Yeah, exactly. And no, I didn't spend a lot of time out in Griffith because a lot of the family was here. Exactly. So yeah, I've got cousin across the whole, you know, like on my red. So in this building. In this building. Yeah. Yeah. True. Yeah. So yeah, I didn't, I, I'm very close. I was very close to my nan, my mum's mum and she was actually here as well. So she lived here for many years. She was part of the AMS and stuff. So when then every time Nan would come up she would

stay with me and we'd do things and stuff like that. So like I didn't feel the need to be on country. I do go there, but I just didn't feel the need to be there as much.

Daniel Browning: [00:13:08] We shouldn't ever feel guilty about not being on country. It's not our fault. So how it is. Take a break here. Busy woman. Okay. All right. Yeah. We shouldn't feel guilty about not being on country. It's not our fault. And we were disperse. We were missionaries. We. And then Sydney became this kind of place where you'd find family and people would come together. There's no shame in being on country. So. Yeah. What did you. What came first? You're leaving home or coming out?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:14:01] Probably leaving home, You know, independent stores. Black woman at the age of five. I was. I was. I was out of there by the time I was 48. And I'm doing my thing, you know? And then, as I said, I was a teen mum. So then, you know, I had my own place before my baby was even born. Like I Yeah, I just made moves. I wasn't. Yeah. Here in Sydney, mainly Mandurah before I then moved, made my baby in here in 2008. She was still in primary school then. I think she was in U two at the time and then she did her education here in Redfern and. And yeah, she's got her own place now. She got her own own puppy dogs and men and everything else. Doing the right thing. Leave me alone.

Daniel Browning: [00:14:47] That's a good.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:14:47] Thing.

Daniel Browning: [00:14:50] So I guess, um, you talked about your mum, not, you know, perhaps not taking longer to accept who you were. Did did she come to a place of acceptance?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:15:04] Yeah, she did. It took her a while, you know, because she didn't understand it. And at the end of the day, she was. She was upset, but, like, this is my life. I'm going to do what I'm going to do. And as long as I'm safe and look after my responsibilities, it's not anybody else's issue and definitely not my mom's to talk about what I'm doing in my bed, you know, like my mum. That's that's another whole nother thing, you know, like, but yeah, she, she learned to accept it. I mean, like it's been many years now, you know, it's not a phase which is, which was the conversation

that was had when, when I first came out was oh it's a phase. She'll, she'll get over this soon and it's like there's still ain't no boyfriends coming around.

Daniel Browning: [00:15:51] And no prospect of it.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:15:53] No.

Daniel Browning: [00:15:55] So being, being, you know, a lesbian and being a mother, I mean, you're not the only person I've talked to in the project who is was in that. Who are those things? A lesbian and a mother. Was there any how did you how did you negotiate that? Kind of like, I guess people think of us as being solo and having no attachments and being. Yeah, but that's not how blackfellas are. Not not like that. I've certainly got a lot of attachments that have any biological children, but I've got nieces and nephews and we're responsible for.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:16:26] Yeah, for me, like I was always a mum first. And I remember yarning with one of my sister girls many years ago when my baby was still in primary school and she was like, No, but you're a woman first. Yes. And I couldn't even see myself as that, you know, like, because for me, I wanted to I was, I was a mum. So I had responsibilities that I needed to ensure that my baby was taking the best care of and giving the most wholesome life to ensure that she grows up to be a kind, well rounded, respectful person, you know, like so that was my main goal in life. And, you know, I only got complimented on her, her respect for elders and stuff. Just like two nights ago. I was like, Oh, thank you. I really appreciate that. You know, because, like, she's no longer under my wing. She's like, doing her own things, flying solo. And like, people are still saying she's such a respectful young person. And I'm just like, okay, love that for you. But that was that was my goal. Like, so being solo and being a single mum, like my daughter, my daughter refers to me as being a single mum with her. But I did have girlfriends, however, you know, I mean, her life was before my relationships.

Daniel Browning: [00:17:43] So when you came to, I guess, your own self realization about who you were and your sexuality, she was there, there. So I guess how did that how did that how did it happen that you realised that this was the way you this was the way you were, that it was not going to change? No faith. This is this is this is it now?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:18:08] Well, she was like I think she was about eight months when I, when I got my first girlfriend and I was in that relationship for five years and like once know I was already there. So like, she's she's grown up with me, only been with girlfriend. She has a relationship with her dad. However, I've always been in relationships with women, so I was in that relationship for five years. Look, when I speak about myself, I often say that. Back to back monogamous idiot. I've so long term relationships I've been in. I mean, like there was a relationship that I was in for seven years, and for six of those years me and my partner didn't live together because that was me and my daughter had our own place and she had her own place. And, you know, although we was in a relationship with each other, we still had our own kind of separate, separate things because, again, like my daughter's priorities and needs had to come first. Yeah.

Daniel Browning: [00:19:09] So that's a that's a big step for anyone to take. And, you know, if the world were different, you wouldn't you would have your partner living with you. Yeah. So that was you know what I mean? Like, I don't even, I don't know, I guess there's an acceptance of heterosexuality and what is considered to be heteronormative. So, yeah, I mean, we have to make all these accommodations. Even though you're saying your daughter had to be always have stability and know that your life with her was the most important thing. I guess if the world was different, you would have had you would have maybe married.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:19:45] I hope that.

Daniel Browning: [00:19:45] But I don't know. I'm not always thinking marriage is a good thing. But yeah, just always thinking about how we accommodate the world and its homophobia.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:19:56] And in saying that I was actually a vote no in regards to marriage equality.

Daniel Browning: [00:20:02] How come?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:20:03] Because my Aboriginality needed to be so first within this country before my sexuality, Like I can be in a seven year relationship with the woman

that I love, but I don't have to have a piece of paper to say that we are legally bound to each other. But society and the systemic racism within Australia needs to stop killing my people and needs to stop stealing our kids. And you know, there are so many priority list of things for me before my sexuality, you know, like can be full marriage and before any of that. So I was actually pretty vocal in regards to because I was I was asked to speak at a rally for marriage equality, representing black lesbian women. And I said, yeah, no, I'm good. I'm good luck with that. And I would like to see you more about the next Black Lives Matter rally or the next, you know, movement for our people. But yeah, you can have that one. And then I ended up voting yes in the end because I was like, okay, cool. This is if we can do it, let's do it. However, it's not. I didn't do it for myself, really. I did it for for the rest of the society that would love to be able to marry the one that they love.

Daniel Browning: [00:21:19] So many things to confront in this in this country with all of its all of the lies that have been told and the way it runs, sometimes I think, you know, we're putting the cart before the horse. Perhaps one example. But I yes, I voted I voted yes because I felt, you know, we couldn't suffer another defeat. It would be demoralizing to all of us if it went that way, just on the face of it, just as a as a box ticking exercise. For me, it had to be. Yes. Because whether I agreed with or wanted to get married was beside the point.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:21:53] Yes. Yeah, I agree. Like it was. It's big. It was bigger than us individual like as though although I was angry at the fact that like we're presented with this when we have so much more to do within our within our country. All right. I'll get on. I'll get on the bandwagon. Let's do it. Like I'm yeah, I'm not I'm not too convinced in regards to the next referendum, though, but that's a whole nother story.

Daniel Browning: [00:22:22] Yeah, it's becoming becoming crunch time. And I guess we'll have to just decide it that sword when we know more about it. Difficult one. So, yeah. The story of your life. Where do we kind of go next? I mean, what you know, you're raising up this baby and you know, you've just been told that this one is, you know, proud and does the right thing and you've done the right. You've clearly done something right. So what do you think was most important in in in raising up a respectful, you know, blackfella who understands how to be a blackfella in the world.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:23:04] Understanding culture, first and foremost, understanding that the systemic issues for our country, but always coming from a place of love, regardless of the decision, I think is probably one of the biggest things that I think that I instilled in her. And I don't know, I for me next up with my current partner, we're actually raising her nephew. So we've got a 17 year old boy. Which is different. But, you know, he's gone to school. It's gone to work. He's got his license. He's doing all these amazing things. So I must know how to do something right. I don't know.

Daniel Browning: [00:23:49] They're fundamentally different, aren't they? Like girls, you know, in a way. Teenagers do not work. But yeah, there's the subtlety, subtle differences between the, say, a male child and a female child. Not talking in binaries, but just there are just things that are different in different ways of kind of understanding the world and moving in it.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:24:09] Well, emotional support for them, you know what I mean? Because there's different they have different experiences. And that's why I think that that lesson of always coming from a place of love is probably the most important when it comes to society and and kids in general. You know what I mean? Like if we can come from a place of love and understanding to help make better decisions. One of my biggest catch cries to these young people is always whenever they're leaving to go out or whatever. I'm always like wise choices because at the end of the day, those wise choices, you have to live with them. So if you make wise choices, well then you can't go back on where you're at. You know what I mean? Like, because stand by your conviction. If if you're if you believe in that and you made a wise choice or a dumb choice, well, then you have to stand by that, because I teach you every day to make wise ones. So think about.

Daniel Browning: [00:25:01] It. And when you when they're on their own and they're independent and moving in the world as an independent person, I guess it's incumbent on them to take responsibility for what they do.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:25:10] Exactly. Yeah, exactly.

Daniel Browning: [00:25:12] Because you can't control what those decision, that decision making process once they out the door look out. So when your dad passed you you how are we 14.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:25:25] Know when dad passed I was 20. I would have been 22 at the time. Yeah. 22. I'm pretty sure it was off because it was just after my 21st. So yeah, 22 I was when he passed him one junior and my, my baby, she was, she was four or five, she was just about to go into school.

Daniel Browning: [00:25:44] Want to know when did they want, you know, like, like from over there. Oh wow. That's, that's big name. Yeah.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:25:51] Like, Oh, yes. So Dad went over there because Dad had family over there and got went through some initiations and stuff over there. And he came back with the name Manderu for my oldest, oldest brother and well, he didn't come back with that name. The story goes his mom's version of events was they was living in Melbourne and that was supposed to finish business over there. But he come back because Mum was pregnant with my brother.

Daniel Browning: [00:26:23] And then men's business.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:26:25] Yeah. And then they come looking for him and then when they come they said, all right you, you're pregnant with the boy. When that boy is born you bring him home and finish business. When Dad passed them off, I was there at his funeral. They come down to Mogo from.

Daniel Browning: [00:26:43] Are we talking Kimberly? Mom?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:26:44] Yeah. You know, come and to see him sent him off, which was a blessing for our family. But yeah, so that's that connection that we have with that. And my younger brother is actually named one Jun and one gender is named after. Yeah, it's named after him.

Daniel Browning: [00:27:04] It is powerful creator spirit, Ancestral spirit. Yeah. I don't know how I could never have that name. It's just just too much expectation. Was there. I

mean, I love the name Ginny. I don't know why I'm coming back to this, but Ginny Jane's had quite an unusual kind of hyphenated name.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:27:24] Yeah, and Dad named me because I'm out of all of these babies. I think I was probably one of the darkest ones, and I was these little black Jean. And, you know, I was part of that reclamation. Anne And Jane is predominant within both my grandmother's name. So Ginny Jane was two grandmothers. Yeah. Yes, Yes, exactly. So, yeah, that's my understanding of where where my name came from is he's from a place of love again, you know, And everyone like, it's like Ginny Jane. Well, and like, everybody gives me that reaction. It's like, that is such a deadly name.

Daniel Browning: [00:28:09] I had an Natalie Jenny To which it's actually Jenny. Always pronounce Ginny. And I understand, you know, Gin. Gin, you know, is it? Yeah. You got to go. You're sorry. Dark word for woman I It's where we come from. Yeah. Where else can we go? I guess I'm thinking about, you know, what are the things that in your in that path of your. I mean, did you become more of an advocate? Did you become or have you always been, you know, activist minded or activist oriented? Have you always seen injustice? And then most of us do as blackfellas see what's wrong and then think, what can I do to make it better?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:28:55] Definitely. You know, like I have a year seven education. I dropped out of year seven, you know, and it was mainly because having an argument with the history teacher in regards to what the true history is. And then it's like, Well, that's not what I've been taught.

Daniel Browning: [00:29:11] Can you tell me more about that? Sorry.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:29:12] That's really Yeah, sure. So, you know, as the classic black fella story, our age, I think would say, you know, was at school in the history teachers is trying to teach Australian history and it's with the lies And I was like, that's not true. That's not what happened when Captain Cook got here. Like, you know, and, and I would, you know, second well, not second guess, I would question the teachings and it would end up being.

Daniel Browning: [00:29:39] School here in Redfern.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:29:40] No, in so Mount Rooty Hill I would, I went to Rooty Hill High and yeah, that was one of the.

Daniel Browning: [00:29:48] Still a very, very largest Aboriginal population anywhere in Western Sydney. I mean still they still teaching you erroneous history.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:29:57] Yeah, yeah. That's what I was doing and I questioned it.

Daniel Browning: [00:30:01] And what year was that you reckon.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:30:03] Oh that was in the nineties. I'm 40 now so. Oh yeah. Back in the nineties I think it was 1993, maybe 94. I don't know whatever that, whatever that mathematical thing turns out.

Daniel Browning: [00:30:16] Answer that equation. Yeah. Yeah. 1993 though. Big, big year you know, you know you know Mabo decision you know Keating is a Redfern speech in 93. Yeah. And you just hear the world indigenous people, all this stuff happening there. 92 I think with my decision. So did you, was it one, was it a continuous series of, of history lessons that really kind of kind of led you to, to turn your back on education? Or is it just one episode where he was telling lies about Captain Cook?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:30:50] I think that was just the straw that broke the camel's back in regards to it. We was we was always being fed the lies from the educational system, being my father's daughter, who was an advocate, you know, Dad had us out rallies. Mom and dad had us out rallies. We was hearing black fellow. We was having a coffee table yarns, you know, breakfast table yarns around true black history and what systemic barriers were there for us. So, you know, I was kind of like home schooled on like Black Panther life, you know, like.

Daniel Browning: [00:31:24] I need to go to school and be someone else or to subscribe to beliefs that you know, are just wrong would be is an impossibility.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:31:32] Yeah, definitely. You know, so it was I don't think it would have taken a long before that argument was happening happened and that I was done

dealing with the education system and you know, started my own career in and stuff. But the more the the more that I actually got educated around working and like the systems that happened within society, the more I became stronger in, well, not so much stronger, but like became wanting to be more involved with creating change for the betterment of community. Because if I can utilize the way that I speak, the way that I write, the work that I've done or can do to make it better or to create change, well then that's what I would love to do.

Daniel Browning: [00:32:21] Did you have any kind of problems as a result of pulling out of school? I mean, I imagine that, you know, there's compulsory leaving age, you know, where you have to be 15 or whatever it is. Did they come after you and your parents because you weren't in school?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:32:34] So mum and dad had split up and Dad moved back into Redfern and Mum had us out at Rooty Hill. So, you know, I wasn't really at home. Once I left school, I was like telling mum that I'm coming to say dad, and I was telling dad that I was going home to Mum, but I was just doing my own thing, you know, like and that's it sent me on, on that trajectory of, you know, mucking up drugs, alcohol and then becoming a teen mum. So that was the, that's where it all went.

Daniel Browning: [00:33:08] I mean those things, they kind of almost a necessary part of life because I think that's when you learn what well, you're not going to do now, you're not going to live there. Was there a big moment where you just said, that's it? No, look out. Was it when that baby came along or when did you when you when did you work out? That was not a way of life, the life that you possibly were leading?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:33:33] Definitely when I fell pregnant. With wanting his dad. He actually got sent to rehab as a part of his bail conditions. I was thought I was in love with this man, Blessed. So I went with him the best thing ever. And we went into rehab together. And then I turned 18 in the rehab. And then I left him, got sober, left him, came back out and realized that I was pregnant with my baby. And it was like, okay, now I have even a bigger decision to make because once I got sober, I knew that I didn't want to be in a relationship with the man. But then I realized that I'm pregnant. It was like, okay, we got this. And, you know, me and my daughter had this. Like I said, I got him. I got with my first lesbian relationship when she was 18 months. So, you know, it was

pretty much the first time that I went out to party that I that I found and met someone that was like, okay, let's do this. But yeah, you know, like I had to finish with my pregnancy and make sure that my baby was healthy and, and before first things first, you know. So yeah, of course, like having her or being becoming her mum was the, the reason for change.

Daniel Browning: [00:34:56] And babies come along and they're either peacemakers or they are great teachers without even being in the world and having words, they're not even verbal yet, may not even be born, but they do. They teach us a lot. And so it sounds like Wanjira taught you that what you needed to be and how you needed to be to keep her alive, keep us safe.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:35:20] Yes, definitely. And I say that to her all the time. You know, when she was when she was a model teen, she used to use it against me.

Daniel Browning: [00:35:29] Mogul Meanwhile.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:35:30] Wow. Yeah, yeah, yeah. When she was wild. Teenager She would because I always had said to her, you know, that she's the reason I am the woman I am today, you know, like without becoming her mum, I wouldn't have probably made the wise choices that I've made to be where I'm at and to be successful. To be passionate, to be. Lots of people are trying to call me a leader these days, but I'm still like, there's still a lot more that I need to do for our community before I would consider myself that, I'm more of a let's get the job done together type person. I can create it. He's going to help me build it, though, you know?

Daniel Browning: [00:36:12] And leadership is something that we never accept for ourselves because I think our structure blackfella ways, you get tapped on the shoulder and then there's also a sense that you have reached an age sometimes, unfortunately, it sometimes seems to be age oriented. But you know, that reluctance to take on something you haven't been expressly asked to do in the in our way, I mean, do you think there's a moment you will go you know, maybe one of the elders here will say, now time for you. Don't hesitate to call yourself a leader. There's a there's a ritual that has to happen. Yeah.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:36:51] I think so. You know, and like I'm saying that there is a lot of people that are saying that, you know, they really are respect. Yeah. Appreciative of my leadership. However, I do think that I mean, especially with what I'm doing with the First Nations float because that's one of my big remit to work with. Akon is producing the First Nations float for Mardi Gras and we're doing big things and.

Daniel Browning: [00:37:20] We lead the parade this year. Yeah, we always lead the parade.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:37:22] We always lead the.

Daniel Browning: [00:37:23] Parade since since a certain time.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:37:25] Yeah, Yeah. So ducks and box and then us, we're doing a big 20 metre long rainbow serpent. You heard about a deadly. That's all my idea.

Daniel Browning: [00:37:39] And it's a bit like a Chinese the Chinese dragons through New Years and people underneath it. Yes. Tell me a little bit more about it. I think it's going to be quite memorable.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:37:48] Yeah, it is. You know, everybody's everybody's really jade about it. But yeah, it's so she's going to have her name we've we've named her she, she, she yeah, she's, she is a girl. So Matt Vaughn. I met Vaughn. Sorry Matt. Stay. Stay.

Daniel Browning: [00:38:06] Matt Sticks involved. Yeah. Works with Justin Shoulder. Incredible artist. Designer. He's incredible.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:38:13] Yeah. So I was fortunate enough to meet or be introduced to Matt through Akon. So I've had this idea for many years. Everybody thought I was mad. And then when I was telling them about, I come because I went back to work at Ikon in August last year and I was telling them This is what I wanted to present to community is what I think would be a great idea for world pride. And they were like, Well, Matt's sister's baby, mama's cousin's brother, something like that. We all family, our icon, is this person, Matt, and then showed me some of the work we met up

in Redfern, like on Redfern Street, had a coffee, had a yarn and you know, this is the this is the idea. And so that's, that's how the idea came about. And Matt and I linked up and then during the holidays Matt was down on Union Country and he took these photos of a gumtree and we set that off to the printers. And that's actually Gary's snakeskin is photos and Gary is a Durga language from Ewan country for snake so that is what and because I'm a proud young woman that is why we've she's she's she Gary and she from she from your own country.

Daniel Browning: [00:39:38] So Gary means sorry does it mean skin Gary Snake. Oh snake Gary and Gary.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:39:45] Gary.

Daniel Browning: [00:39:46] Gary are beautiful.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:39:48] Currie You know, like Gary. Yeah. So yeah, that's how she came about.

Daniel Browning: [00:39:55] And, and like, did you have it? The photograph obviously inspired the skin. So has it been kind of printed onto the, onto the surface, Yeah.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:40:04] Yeah. So it's been printed onto material three D print onto the Material Rainbow. I can show you videos, but I'm trying to explain it so that we can. Yeah. So it's printed on and then we just wrap around and it's like Velcro because once the inflation of her is done and the hoops that with the poles that we carry her up with, they can all be packed down and packed away and then we can travel it. So I plan on traveling her around the state to other prides for world pride so that, you know, there's other mobs in different communities that could be that can't be in Sydney. But there are other prides where we can take her there and then they can be a part of it. And so that they actually might. With Gary for world pride is my vision.

Daniel Browning: [00:40:57] So I can I can almost like Olympic. What do they call them, too? Yeah. Like, well, like an Olympic mascot like this. Got to have a mascot. So the idea of the Rainbow Serpent, I mean, is it is a fascinating one because many of us

have origin stories. Dream stories. Go back to the Rainbow Serpent, carving the country, you know.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:41:23] And so and that was the reason. Yeah, that was the reason behind the idea is what is what is what are the dreaming stories that we have that that is common that, you know, encapsulates all of us in that we all have some kind of connection to. And it is the Rainbow Serpent. So I am Rainbow being part of LGBTQ.

Daniel Browning: [00:41:46] Hey, I've never made that connection.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:41:48] Right? Like, and that's what makes it even more powerful is that she represents, you know, not only culture, but the intersectionality of us as well, you know, when it comes to our sexuality. So it's just like perfect story. Well, pride, you know, like, put that on the map, like our our dreaming stories, our culture, but also our intersectionality of our sexuality.

Daniel Browning: [00:42:13] So so I'm going to Sue Pinkham just earlier. And the just going back through the history of Aboriginal, our participation in the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, and she was talking about like one year they will their presence was was derided by people in the black people in the black community for being present and for attaching our kind of culture to, you know, what they said was something wrong, something they couldn't agree with. There's always been a kind of conservative in every community. There's a conservative part of the population who who say that we're wrong and within our within our community, homophobia. So how do we how have you counteracted that kind of, you know, black on black homophobia.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:43:09] You know, coming from a younger generation? But, you know, the child, the children, the children's generation of the activists who were kicking in the doors for us to have seats at the table, you know, I publicly came out when the Dudley brother Chuck wanted to talk about Redfern Now's Kirk pages. Yeah. You know, I spoke to Joseph Clark back when Anthony was saying that, you know, there is there was no homophobia, there was no homosexuality within culture. And we was working I was working for Courier radio at the time with as a young black and deadly youth coordinator. And so I was like.

Daniel Browning: [00:43:54] In the middle in the thick of it.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:43:55] Like, who is this influential black man to talk about what people don't have the you know, we're born this way. We really are born this way. And I was working with The Deadly Darryl See the sorrow. And you know, he's famous words which I just take with me is I want to know what his phone number is to the ancestors so that I can ring them to and find out what I what I need to know. Because how does he even know he wasn't there? It's not like, you know, there was men's business. There was women's business, and those oral stories weren't handed down, nor were they recorded as to what really happened. So I actually came out and spoke out about Chuck's responses to homosexuality and and culture and young people. That year we dedicated our Mardi Gras after party to him that Darryl and I worked on, and we called it Choc Rainbows that year. I've still got the poster. It's amazing. But yeah, we thought, Here you go, Bruce, we love you. So that's pretty much how I, you know, like nobody can take away my culture because that's something that my parents have given me and my ancestors and my sexuality is mine because I was born this way and I'm going to be proud about it all because that's all of who I am. We talk about it so often, especially within our queer world, around being your most authentic self. Well, this is my most authentic self. Try, try me try to take it.

Daniel Browning: [00:45:34] You know, I'm glad that he seems to have quietened down. He's just one voice. I guess he's an expressing an opinion which we know exists. But the less time I spend thinking about it, the better. I just need to. I always think I wish I had a comeback, you know, if we if we had a comeback. Well, I suppose you know the phone. Owen lied to the ancestors. Because you can't say that. You can't say this. No, There was no practice of homosexuality in in our mob. That's it's unreasonable. It's beyond belief that that could be the case because humans have practiced their kind of sexualities in all kinds of diverse ways throughout history for all time. So, yeah, I just sometimes wish I had a comeback to Anthony Mundine's of This World.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:46:17] Yeah.

Daniel Browning: [00:46:18] What's your comeback, if you had one? What do you what do we say?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:46:22] Well, how do we know? Like, you know, for me, I remember saying to Anthony back then I was probably pretty ignorant of of me.

Daniel Browning: [00:46:31] You had contact with him about it?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:46:32] No, I didn't have contact with him. I did. I just did an interview with Joseph Clark, ABC in response to it as the young Black and Deadly coordinator for Courier radio and a lesbian woman. But yeah, I mean like it was it was it's even written in colonial history in regards to when they did get off the ship, there was men in dresses. There was, you know, they spent months on a ship together. And, you know, it's it's we can't just because we don't have it written that it was there, We we don't choose this lifestyle. So how do we know that it wasn't there since dreamtime? Like I just don't don't get it so.

Daniel Browning: [00:47:20] And we can't trust them. I'm talking about the colonial sources to write us into the story because they were writing from a profoundly homophobic culture which, you know, you know, responsible for all kinds of patriarchy and, and oppressions that you why would we trust them with with that information? You know, there's also all kinds of compelling evidence that men and women enjoyed their own sexualities in all kinds of expressions. And, you know, I've even heard sometimes the feather feather feet, the men who are generally men who were empowered with certain vision in the community and trusted magic people possibly also live this other kind of life were neither we're not ever heterosexual but or homosexual. There's there's a recent definitions but yeah there's other ways of kind of expressing sexuality and we don't always need to have a you know, I always say if it's not in traditional culture, then it's not Aboriginal. And if it wasn't practised traditionally, then it's not Aboriginal. It's like we we make, we adapt it, we made stuff up.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:48:33] And that's it. Like we we often say that we are the most evolving culture ever because we are the elders, but yet we're still here, we're still living through cultural lands, we're still practising cultural law, we still practice cultural kinship. Like these are practices of, of, of our culture that has always been there. Why is that still a thing? But like homosexuality is and it doesn't make sense even to the dumbest person. I think so, yeah. I don't even think that having a rebuttal around that is even an

issue anymore. You know, it's just continuously living your best life, your most authentic self.

Daniel Browning: [00:49:11] And on that other thing of like, you know, these twin forces of homophobia and racism and thinking about it as, you know, queer black man, those things working against me at all times and being conscious of them and living to counteract them. You know, how much of a how much of a how much force do those things exert in your life? I mean, racism is powerfully present and immediate and urgent and always in our faces. And homophobia for me is something very similar. But how do you negotiate the negotiate but negotiate both of those things, knowing that in some gay and lesbian spaces you're going to encounter racism.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:49:56] Look. Encountering Racism. One of the most recent and biggest events would have to be Christmas last year going into Strawberry Hill's Hotel looking for work colleagues that I couldn't find. I lost along the way. We were meeting there for lunch. I wasn't sure whether or not we had a reservation, and the bartender must have been a manager, was asking me what my reservations were, and I was like, I don't know. I'm not sure. Leave me alone. I've got this sorted. I'm green. And she kept harassing me with trying to get information as to what I was doing there. And when I said, Look, is there anybody else that you could help? Like, because I'm good, I'm just trying to find my colleagues. I'm good. And she turns around and her response to that was, That's it. I'm not serving you any alcohol today. You are to leave right now or I'm calling the police to have you arrested and removed. That was the Friday, the 16th of December. And I was there with like icons, a predominantly queer organisation.

Daniel Browning: [00:51:02] Three months ago. Yeah. Two months. Three.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:51:05] Yeah. Three months ago. You know, on the, on the, on the doorstep of World pride, you know, one of Sydney's biggest money making events that Strawberry Hills probably won't be able to get anything out of now because I'm following it up with an anti-discrimination clause. We letting community know not to attend there. It's not a safe space for not only mob, but I think that it's also not a safe space for Queer mob. But you know, for me I look more and present more as a as a hetero woman, I think I'm very much black presenting. I do look like a black woman. I don't I mean, what does a lesbian look like? You know, a pretty black woman? I don't I

don't know. I don't know, you know. So I just continue to be me and take every everything as it comes. It's not I don't go out there continuously being the angry black woman that I often get painted with because I'm quite assertive.

Daniel Browning: [00:52:08] Assertive isn't angry, you know, And people just aren't reading you correctly.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:52:12] Yeah, exactly. But that's probably that's probably the main thing that I get painted with is being an angry black woman because I am quite vocal around, you know, what the.

Daniel Browning: [00:52:25] Issue, what you will put up with and what you won't.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:52:27] Yeah, exactly. Exactly. So and I did that because you know, for me growing up, the only representation of a staunch black lesbian woman is an issue for me. And it's Sue Pinkham. You know, there's Annie, Laura Sabatino. But I think Laura, you know, she was in nursing and and she's quite she looked quite humble, auntie, you know, But like, that's a.

Daniel Browning: [00:52:52] Role model in a different.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:52:53] Way. Yeah, role model in a different way. But, you know, the only one was honestly, that I can honestly say that I saw that. Yep. That's staunch black aunty, you know. Yeah. So that's why I do it too. Because there are so many more young people that need to be able to see that and see themselves within me as well. So that's why I continue to do it, because we've still got to break down barriers, you know, even within our own mob around patriarchal, patriarchal, patriarchal ism, you know, and misogyny that is there as well for black women.

Daniel Browning: [00:53:34] There's nothing harder to be, I don't think, in the world than a Aboriginal woman. I don't I can't I'm yet to hear of a, of a of a group in society who experiences the same amount of trauma and responsibility. And those things never seem to change from generation to generation. So I always feel for my sisters because I'm like, Oh wow, they've got to put up with a lot. Men can get away with, blackfellas can get away with a black man, get away with a lot. But the women who often charged with

responsibility for keeping culture alive and telling stories and keeping it all up here, and then also raising them to be raising the next generation, there's no greater power and responsibility.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:54:16] Yeah. And then in saying that, too, though, our our men are also the most targeted when it comes to systemic society, you know, like and then our women do come in for protection. You know, we're the first ones there with big, big boned for, you know, like on the front line, you know, like but that's the way that.

Daniel Browning: [00:54:36] Our very generous of you.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:54:38] But that's the way that our culture works. You know, like our cultural structure works like that, you know, because we are the bearers, we are the mothers, we are the, you know, so that that protection for and I'm I'm definitely like that when it comes to my brothers and my nephews and stuff, you know, for me. And it's kind of like with my daughter, you know, like I have. And I'm only thinking about it now that I actually do put a bit more responsibility on her to be a staunch independent self because like, at the end of the day, that's all you got is you. But then yet, you know, with nephews, I'm like, Come here, Auntie, I'll give you a big hug.

Daniel Browning: [00:55:13] Yeah, the women tend to look after the boys and like boys are very not special, but because they're not you, I mean, I look after the girls because I think the girls are not like me. And I feel more empathy for them. I mean, I might might know exactly what the boys are going through. Give me them. The girls. The girls is where I really I empathize most strongly with the girls because I'm thinking, oh, they've got to do so much. I know we haven't really kind of covered history in a way that's kind of comprehensible to other people. But I guess where are you at now? And I know we're on we're in World Pride, and this seems to be dominating everyone's thoughts. And you're very, very busy with all those projects and bringing this dream alive. But in terms of where you are in your life, where are you living?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:56:00] On the block with my partner, I've been with her five years this year raising her nephew, her 17 year old nephew, you know, working in one of my dream jobs for my community. And just taking day by day is where I'm at these days. Yeah.

Daniel Browning: [00:56:20] Hello. Thank you so much. It's been really good to meet you. But there's one thing I want to do before I finish, and that is we're broadcasting a whole section of, of of these oral histories on ABC, RN. I'm the editor of Indigenous Radio, so I'm in charge of away and speaking out. And what I've offered to, to, to my, my team is these reflections that people have on this idea of pride. So I might. If I could. If I could, I'd ask you to introduce yourself again. And then just if you can speculate out loud or just muse with me on the idea of pride. Is that okay? Yeah. So.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:57:02] Okay.

Daniel Browning: [00:57:03] So, Jeannie, Jane, just introduce yourself. And what does pride mean to you?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:57:08] Well, Bonnie, my name is Jeannie Jane. Proud graduate. Well, woman from the U.N. nation. What pride means to me is to be comfortable in being your most authentic self and be unapologetic about it as well. That would be my. In a nutshell.

Daniel Browning: [00:57:27] Were you taught pride? Were you taught by you? I mean, there's there's elders who've taught us how to be in public and how to move in the world as responsible blackfellas. But was there someone who whose example has led you to, you know, your own kind of idea of pride?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:57:48] I wouldn't say there was somebody that's taught me how to live in pride, but watching my dad navigate, you know, and being the advocate and the staunch, unapologetic, unapologetic person that he was.

Daniel Browning: [00:58:01] And your father was Uncle Kevin Smith, the actor?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:58:04] Yeah. Yeah. So dad being, you know, the actor, he was the Bob manager slash bouncer of the Empress Hotel, which was the famous, you know, Black Panther movement.

Daniel Browning: [00:58:15] And so right here in Redfern, where we are today, just up here on the corner.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:58:20] Yeah, yeah, literally just around the corner. I used to, I tell people that I'm that's how I learned to play pool. I used to be there while he was cleaning up and fixing up in the day. So we would be at the pool table cleaning up because I play pool with my left hand on my right handed person. I say that I played pool before I learned how to play pool, before I learned how to write. I don't know how true that is. I don't think it is. But, you know, it's a good. Yeah. And, you know, watching him be unapologetically himself. And that's why I think I am the way that I am. But I didn't have anybody else that was like, teach me what pride is. I just knew that I wasn't going to allow anybody to dim my light.

Daniel Browning: [00:59:02] And I guess we, you know, the child of an actor is going to learn how an actor walks in the world and take Occupy space. And sometimes we express our lack of pride in ways in our physical body. So I guess you're in a way you're kind of born with it because he's like, you know, proud, proud black man, but also someone who knew how to move in the world, like physically and in other ways.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [00:59:30] Yeah, definitely. So, yeah, you know, watching him being beamed backstage on many of these plays, seeing the people going to dinners, going to opening shows and being around all those people growing up, you know, I think that's probably also what encouraged me to be me.

Daniel Browning: [00:59:50] Do you ever feel like there's a like there's a I guess there's an equation every day that you wake up with and sometimes you feel 100%, sometimes you feel 50%. And in that equation, sometimes I feel like I feel a lack of pride in myself. So I guess my body, you know, projects that into the world. Are there days when you just don't you don't have it, you don't have the juice that you need to be proud because say like something with the when our young people die. I'm thinking of Cassius Turvy here. I'm thinking of our men die in jail and unexplained circumstances. Or there there are times when I just don't feel proud.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [01:00:30] Definitely. You know, like those times when it's, like, fucking. Are you serious? Another one? Like, it's just. Yeah, you know, like it really

somedays it's like, I can't. I can't do this. I cannot face what I've been let down again. I don't have the energy, I don't have the fight. I don't have my cup, not even half full, you know. And then there's, there's days where I'm like, but there's still more to do. Today was one after fair day yesterday. You know, love fair day, love what we're doing. But it's just, you know, that background noise and background black fellow politics that is happening that then deflate you, you know, like it deflates your spirit. And there was things that have been happening where it's just like, yeah, I was deflated yesterday, didn't really feel like it today. And then I'm.

Daniel Browning: [01:01:28] Sorry to hear that because you should be in your pride.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [01:01:31] Exactly.

Daniel Browning: [01:01:32] It's well, pride.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [01:01:33] It's well pride. And it's only the start. And, you know, it wasn't until like, I think it was about 12:00 when I was like, No, you know what? There's so many more people out there that need to see. This. And you know, it's not about me. It's bigger than any of us. So let's get this job done. Let's do it right.

Daniel Browning: [01:01:56] And you talked about earlier when we were speaking, you talked about visibility. And, you know, pride is okay. But it has to be also part of it is visibility and being visible so that others know that you are you can be who you are. I mean, for me, Pride and the parade, the Sydney Gay Lesbian, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade has always been about freedom. And yes, we're experiencing our freedom. But we're saying to everyone else in the world, you have freedom here in your body to be who you are in any kind of diverse sexuality or expressions of yourself. It's all about freedom.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [01:02:38] Exactly. And we are lucky, you know, we are lucky here in Australia that we can and do have the opportunity to be free and be unapologetically our most authentic selves with the person that we love. And, you know, that's why I've got to keep going, you know, because there's it could be worse.

Daniel Browning: [01:02:59] And you've got to you have a daughter you're very proud.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [01:03:01] Of.

Daniel Browning: [01:03:02] How do you instill pride in the next generation As a young mother? You know, you raised her alone and as a single mum. How did you and you were you were you were complimented the other day on her on the way she conducts herself, you know, with respect for elders. So how did you how do you teach it to the next generation.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [01:03:29] Continuously doing that, you know, like and the more you teach others, well, then they're going to go out and teach more, you know what I mean? Because then that's how they move in the world and that's how we can actually change behaviours. If there's more people coming from a place of love and understanding with empathy.

Daniel Browning: [01:03:48] What are your wishes for world pride being, you know, that you're making with Akon and making the First Nations float, which will lead the parade. But I guess the legacy there has to be some legacy of world pride. It can't just be some days in in February 2023 and March 2023 that just disappear into the ether. What are the what are the legacies of pride, do you think? How do we continue to maintain the momentum and keep it keep it going beyond just these days?

Jinny-Jane Smith: [01:04:21] Well, that's what I'm saying about the travelling serpent. We've taken her around, you know, to each of the prides.

Daniel Browning: [01:04:28] Just to recap, Gary is the Rainbow serpent that's going to lead the parade. You know, Co-designed with Matt Stig, the brilliant artist, imaginative, creative person. So, yeah.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [01:04:40] Gary And she's also going to be leading the world Pride March over Sydney Harbour Bridge as well. So, you know, travelling her I think will also create the legacy because in the, in that travelling segment with her too is where we want to talk about healthy relationships and how better health services can well, especially Akon, can service our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities



throughout the state. It's also my legacy that I that I hope to leave with, you know, that is talked about forever more than anything.

Daniel Browning: [01:05:19] You also talked about other prides and I think you meant other other other celebrations of pride, you know Vincent Broken Hill, Alice Springs taking the idea of pride beyond the centre of Sydney where perhaps it's more, you know, expected that we're going to be able to talk about pride. But people in rural and regional areas maybe don't experience pride. So the idea is to travel. Gari This rainbow serpent that you've conceived of all around to just encourage and for it to become a mascot for pride all over the country, not just here in Sydney.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [01:05:53] Yes, that's exactly it. That's planned. And do that with ACORN and doing, you know, health messaging and ensuring that our mob having safe parties and safe sex and a well versed on healthy love.

Daniel Browning: [01:06:10] Hey, Jenny Jane, thank you so much. Happy world pride, if that's what we say. But happy Mardi Gras and all that. And thanks so much for for making time for me today. I know how busy you are.

Jinny-Jane Smith: [01:06:19] Thank you. I really appreciate it.