

**00:09**

Karen Wang: All right, you ready to try to do this intro?

Challen Wright: Yas, yas, yas.

Karen Wang: Okay I'm Karen.

Challen Wright: And I'm Challen.

\*Both trying to say intro together but failing miserably and laughing\*: Welcome to Queer Air Season 2, a podcast where we, two library grad students at the University of Washington take a deep dive into the archives to give you a breath of fresh *Queer Air*!

Karen Wang: Alright yeah, that was terrible.

**00:54**

Karen Wang: Yay! Hi Challen, good to see you.

Challen Wright: Hi Karen! You too. Long time, no see.

Karen Wang: I know it's just the last week of May somehow. So, glad that we're both here. We're in Gemini season also, so like--

Challen Wright: Woo!

Karen Wang: --just so you know. I'm in my power, right now, so everyone watch out. I like, went outside and the, the peas and kale that I planted like three months ago, finally, yeah, popped out of the ground, and I was like, "yes!" They were waiting for me and now I'm here and they're here and I'm going to eat them in like another three months. So. But yeah, so okay. What life updates do you have, Challen?

Challen Wright: ooh so much since the last time we spoke on the last episode. My birthday was great. I have watched *Spiral* four times in theaters since.

Karen Wang: Oh my gosh.

Challen Wright: Love it, still going to go back for more. What else we went to that drive through drag show that was an absolute blast. I had so much.

Karen Wang: Yes, yes!

Challen Wright: Yeah I just-- oof I I bought Gottmik's sweatpants and they say "Gagatrondra" on them and honestly I brought them home and I wore them for a straight week, Karen. I was disgusting.

Karen Wang: oh my gosh. I support that!

Challen Wright: But I felt powerful

Karen Wang: I support that so much. You were just like you know marinating in the power.

Challen Wright: Yeah!

Karen Wang: I think that's a good choice.

Challen Wright: Yeah! Besides that, um just finishing up capstone, getting ready to graduate. These past couple days I've been trying to plan a boat party. So that's exciting.

Karen Wang: Oh my gosh!

Challen Wright: But yeah other than that that's that's it. What about you?

Karen Wang: That's it. Just trying to get a boat, that's all.

Challen Wright: Just a boat. Yeah.

Karen Wang: Wow, I yeah also lived my best life when we finally got to hang out together with our friends at a drag show. And yeah now that Challen's birthday is over, mine is looming near. It's on the 30th. We're gonna go do some woods adventures. Going to go to Oregon and be in this tiny house which I'm excited for because of course, that's my cottage core fantasy is to just like, have minimal appliances and such little space that I'm forced to go outside.

### **03:24**

Well today we're doing a lot of reflection. Before we get into that, though, do you want to walk us through a land acknowledgement?

Challen Wright: Yes! We, the hosts of *Queer Air*, would like to acknowledge that we are on the land of the first peoples of Seattle. We could not live here or do this work without them. In particular, we recognize the ongoing sacrifices and contributions of the Duwamish People, past and present. In many ways, we have benefited from the injustices and inequities done to them, past and present. We intend to grapple with this ourselves, and support the justice that the Duwamish Tribe pursue. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe.

Karen Wang: Yay! Thanks for that Challen.

Challen Wright: Yeah.

Karen Wang: It's episode five.

Challen Wright: Our final episode!

Karen Wang: I know! I'm sweating once again.

Challen Wright: It's such a double edged sword. I'm so excited to finally put this project behind me because we've put so much of our blood, sweat and tears into this. But it's also so bittersweet. I'm really sad. I've had such a fun time doing everything but I'm excited that we get to have this final episode to kind of reflect on everything that we've done.

Karen Wang: Yeah agreed. I think we definitely succeeded in our initial goal of getting a capstone that didn't feel like you know, the penultimate like crowning jewel of our Master's experience and instead it was just like, I get to hang out with Challen in a scheduled manner, every week. Which is much better.

Challen Wright: And we just get to like, chat and then record our great chat conversations. But also like, I still feel like this is our penultimate jewel as well, like I don't want to discount that. We've put in the work and we've done so much cool things here.

**05:10**

Karen Wang: Yes. But yeah, I guess, we should reflect using our questions that we came up with for today. The first one being what did we learn from this capstone experience?

Challen Wright: I learned so much. I know we like, started this off saying that we just wanted it to be like, fun and as much non-work as we could possibly skate by with. But I feel like all the non-work turned out to be so much like, actual work, work too. I got to learn how to edit audio which was honestly so much more work that I thought. I honestly thought I was like, "all we got to do is record the podcast and then post it and we're done." That's not how it works. The hours and hours of editing transcripts and MP3 files was well worth it. Um, so I think that's one thing I learned from this capstone. And also just a lot about queer history here in Seattle. And yeah just really being able to spend this time to do really deep dives into different aspects of queerness and really like, reflect I guess, on, on how I fit with this history and how I want to interact with it, and what I should learn from it. So I think I got to do a lot of that as well. What about you Karen?

Karen Wang: Yeah I think similar to you, just doing all this research, I mean for me, it was the first time that I'd ever done any archives research honestly because I just hadn't had a chance to get down there before and then with the pandemic I had this very unique chance to get access that other folks wouldn't have. So that was really cool. And then I think what I'm really noticing from this experience is just how doing archival research is so different from my everyday googling because I feel like I dwell on the material and the information a lot longer. When it's, you know, so commanding because it's in these like huge boxes and you have to, you know, don these gloves and go through each and every piece really carefully. But also, yeah we kind of talked about how there's this sense of being Nancy Drew and like fitting pieces together and like making connections that an AI or search engine isn't doing for you. So I felt like that

was really like, stimulating and pretty fun because yeah it helps kinda locate yourself in the history in a way, that I think isn't really-- How do we say that word? Rep- replicable?

Challen Wright: Yes!

Karen Wang: It can't be copied by doing web search I guess is what I'm saying. So it felt just really unique to do that. I think yeah just like learning more about like, what the archives kind of feels like. Which is a very granola way to phrase it. But I think yeah I just has some-- there's something about archives that's very intimate and personable and way more compelling than if I tried to do this podcast with you, just doing like, literature reviews and things that are a lot more academic and isolating and not as human.

Challen Wright: Yeah because we're definitely interacting with all of these primary materials and I think that's like, so special about archival research because you can read as many memoirs and biographies and history books as you want. But at the end of the day, you're not actually touching the materials that created that history book, where we're like cutting out the middleman here and getting to see what people actually made, and I think that's so beautiful.

Karen Wang: yeah.

Challen Wright: So, what was surprising about this capstone? And what was challenging as well?

Karen Wang: Surprising? I think it's just the sheer amount of stuff that we looked through. I mean I knew when we said we were going to look through people's like, personal papers that like knowing myself and how much I hoard things, I should have expected that it would be like a ton, a ton of material but it still shocked me when your Subaru came up fully loaded. Um, does your Subaru have a name?

Challen Wright: Yeah, so it's a Honda CRV first off.

Karen Wang: Sorry! I just assumed, you were a lesbian and assumed it was a Suburu.

Challen Wright: Her name is Kate. She is named after Kate Monster from Avenue Q, the hit Broadway musical.

Karen Wang: Woah!

Challen Wright: And also, Kate from the hit TV show Lost, which is my favorite TV show.

Karen Wang: Oh my god! Evangeline Lily? Okay.

Challen Wright: Yeah, she's so hot. Ugh! But yeah no, you're right - Kate was like, packed constantly with boxes.

Karen Wang: Kate was fully loaded. It was amazing.

Challen Wright: Herbie Fully Loaded? No, Kate Fully Loaded.

Karen Wang: Yeah, so I was surprised by that and also just also a small thing that I kept being shocked by was just that the documents that I was going through like very obviously had been touched by other human beings. Like, there would be a little paper clip or sometimes you know if we're really gonna it's not that nasty but sometimes there'd be like a hair and there and I just be like, "Oh! Who was doing that?" I just thought that was cool.

Challen Wright: Not the grossest thing you can find in an archive that's for sure.

Karen Wang: There you go. And then challenging? Oh boy. I think definitely uh trying to teach Zoom that your name is a real name because it did actually think that your name was the word "challenging" several times. Um but other than that, I mean yeah I probably just have the rose-colored glasses on because I'm like, "Nothing was challenging." But of course yeah editing because we both love to yeah just chat with each other and making that ramble sound coherent for our listeners was, was a big deal. A lot of-- a labor of love Yeah, how about you, Challen? What was surprising and or challenging for you?

Challen Wright: I will start with challenging. You know, I also have those rose colored glasses on where I'm like, "I just had so much fun during this whole entire experience that nothing really felt like a challenge." It obviously was a challenge. I put in the work and, like you know, there were some days where I'd start at 3pm and then I'd blink and it would be like midnight. Yeah there were a lot of components that were challenging. But it was so rewarding at the same time. Going through all this research, learning how to like, build a narrative? And then on top of building a narrative, trying to like, speak about it too and present it just audibly was a big challenge, but one that I really, really enjoyed, and I think will definitely help me in my future.

Challen Wright: And then what I found most surprising was how emotionally invested I was. Interacting with these archival materials, as you said, like we are working with materials that were touched by real people. And like, housed by real people. And every single time that I opened up a folder or a book or a box, I got to learn so much about these people. I always think back to like, Stephen Blair, because I feel like he is the one that I really connected with, and the one I got to really dive deep into with his history in his life. Yeah the more research I did I started just thinking about Stephen and talking about Stephen as if he was like my friend, or like a pal that I knew. And I never knew him. So like building this like, emotional connection with somebody who I would never have the possibility of meeting was something that was really surprising to me too.

Karen Wang: I love that because we're always talking about you know queer folks and chosen family and it's very like when when I think of that term it's like living family members that I choose and surround myself with in my day to day. But I think that term can also include, I mean

almost like Stephen as your chosen ancestor or something? Because I think you referred to him as almost like a grandfather figure or something.

Challen Wright: Yeah!

Karen Wang: I think it's really endearing and yeah, awesome.

Challen Wright: A little gay grandpa!

**13:49**

Challen Wright: But yeah I guess like moving on to Question three...Where we going next? Karen, do you have a plan?

Karen Wang: Oh God, Challen! How dare you!

Challen Wright: Hey, you're the one that wrote this question so.

Karen Wang: Yeah no you're right, I did. Um I think my plan is to rest, because lately I've been trying to reconfigure my life to be less about the capitalist grind, even though we are trying to survive out here, and both of us are, you know, coming out of a pretty hefty-priced degree . . . So do need to have some sort of idea about that, but I'll be working at the libraries over the summer still . . . Um, I don't know if we ever said, but both Challen and I are student employees for UW Libraries. Um, I'm in the Research and Learning Services and Challen's in Special Collections. But yeah, so at least I'll be able to live.

Karen Wang: But my summer project is to try to find a job that's more stable beyond August 2021. And I'm just trying to do it in, yeah, a manner that is kind to myself and also inclusive of what I want beyond . . . yeah, covering those like bottom layers of the hierarchy of needs, like a place to stay and food and stuff, but you know, what about happiness and a sense of purpose and self actualization??

Karen Wang: So I'll be thinking about those things once school isn't taking up like a huge percentage of my brain. But also you know, summer is the time for resting, and celebration. In my brain, summer is the best season. So I'm just going to be really looking forward to getting to relax, and hopefully that'll put my brain in a good place to consider next steps, but that's my like version of what my plan is for now. How about you, Challen?

Challen Wright: Yeah, I would say it like I'm pretty on brand with you. I'm not really sure where I'm going yet. You know, still waiting on some responses from jobs, whether they are rejection letters or offer letters, I still have no clue, um.

Karen Wang: We hope the offers!

Challen Wright: Hopefully it's an offer. I really hope, because I love me some financial security and some direction. You know, I'm a Taurus, I love a schedule. But at the same time, like, I found that like, if I can't find anything to go to like you know directly after - because, of course, you know my lease ends right as I graduate. So I not only move away from school, but I move away from Seattle, or move somewhere else in Seattle. But I've also kind of really discovered that like I have so much freedom now. And it's really exciting, especially being in Covid times like um, I can do all my work remotely. So maybe maybe I'll go live with my friend in Denver, who knows? Maybe go live with a friend in Boise Idaho. Maybe I'll go home and like hang out with my mom and dad for some time.

Challen Wright: Really, no clue and that's also just genuinely so exciting to be able to just have that like form of rest, like you said. But yeah I guess like you know long term goals, get a job in archives and start thriving and succeeding there. But you know, short term plans for the rest of this year is just taking it easy on myself. I- we both put on so much work. You know, I came in from my undergrad directly to here.

Karen Wang: Oof! I don't understand.

Challen Wright: I have not had time off from school since kindergarten at five so I am very, very excited to not have the looming responsibilities of studying and deadlines and whatnot and just honestly, going to work for 40 hours a week - which is still too long.

Karen Wang: Uh-huh, yes.

Challen Wright: -going to work for 40 hours a week, and once I clock out, that time is mine, you know and I'm very excited for that so that's where I'm going next.

Karen Wang: We're both going to reclaim our time! That sounds amazing.

Challen Wright: Yes!

Karen Wang: No, I love that. I think it's gonna be good, like I feel pretty optimistic because yeah, it is freedom to like not have a set path you know, and I think we're both approaching it with like a lot of excitement and good energy so yeah I really want to definitely check in with you as time goes on, and like get you a drink wherever you are, after that 40 hour workweek and just kind of do this again. Obviously not recorded, but we'll like you know, chat and catch up and it'll be fun.

Challen Wright: Oh yeah Karen, like we were connected forever, I hope you understand that. You know, like, becoming my capstone partner was a lifetime agreement. You signed it in blood. So here we are forever and ever and ever.

Karen Wang: Are we gonna like wear vials of each other's blood?

Challen Wright: Oh my gosh, we could put little like locks of our hair in it?

Karen Wang: Oh, my God.

Challen Wright: Why did I think that was like SO cute??

Karen Wang: That's like straight up like Victorian style archives.

Karen Wang: Because they did that shit, and that was a form of biological archiving, so yeah it's on brand! We're doing it!

Challen Wright: Yeah speaking of how you like found a couple hairs while you were doing your research, you know there's been a couple times, where I've been looking through something and there was just like a locket filled with somebody's hair, you know so like I say go for it. Let's do it!

Karen Wang: Let's do it! Okay.

Challen Wright: Let's do it!

Karen Wang: Well, off air we'll do that, but for now okay our next question...

**19:39**

Challen Wright: I guess our next question is: now that we are at the end of this experience, what do you want to preserve in the archives from your own history? Has that answer changed from the beginning, when we first started asking people those questions in episode one?

Karen Wang: Wow.

Challen Wright: Yeah! I thought yeah I thought that, like you know, since we asked Carol, Parker, and Abbey this question without answering it ourselves - it's it's about time we do it as well.

Karen Wang: Mmmhmm. Woof. I kind of want you to go first, Challen.

Challen Wright: Yeah okay, I was thinking really hard about this too, because I know I said, like my pop culture figurines or something like that, but then I was like but that doesn't like really capture me or my personal history, and I want it to be more personal I think this time around. I think I would love to submit some sort of scrapbook, similar to what Stephen was doing. I just found that to be such a great way for him to like you know encapsulate his whole history of himself and others around him.

Challen Wright: And yeah! I think I have some really great photos and written cards and videos too. Maybe this is like an online virtual scrapbook, so I'm going to include videos too on this. Yes, but I specifically, I think, want to capture my relationships with my two best friends Joana



and Jo - hi! Yeah because I think they are so so so special to me, and I have been incredibly fortunate and lucky to meet them so early on in my life that I think you know just starting a scrapbook and like collecting memories with them and preserving that so, then you know when I'm like a little eighty-year-old person, I can look through this cute little book and look at all these pictures, you know. Like I don't know, I have this photo of me and Joana from the very first day that we met. It's an ugly photo, like we both look terrible. We were like 15, 16, so we were acne-ridden, chubby - I was chubby.

Challen Wright: Very tired, it was on a field trip.

Karen Wang: Beautiful!

Challen Wright: But I love that photo so much because it brings me so much joy and it's like -even though it's a bad photo, there's so much significance to it. And I think I want to like really preserve that type of history, maybe not for everybody else, but definitely for myself. And who knows, maybe, maybe when I die I'll be like Stephen Blair and put it in my will, it'd be like: "send this off to an archive." But yeah I'd love to preserve the histories of my very, very special and favorite relationships that I've had.

Karen Wang: That's beautiful, I love that! I yeah, have been struggling with this question ever since we like wrote it for other people to answer, so it's only fair that it haunts me to this day. But uh, I guess . . . I don't know, I have like three different answers. Um, one of them is I really like to write letters and lately, I have been on the apps trying to find some queer pen pals because, like you kind of mentioned with you know, having that freedom to maybe stay with a friend in Denver or in Idaho, um I just really kind of want to have queer friends all around the world, so that I can go travel and visit them someday.

Karen Wang: Yeah because, I don't know, I think also just being a young adult at this moment in time, in the US, has made a lot of people want to see what the rest of the world is like and other ways of being. So I'm just really curious. I especially really want to go to Australia or New Zealand because of, very I think, naive reasons, mostly like I am a biologist in my undergrad training, so I just really want to see all that weird frickin flora and fauna, that they have out there.

Challen Wright: See all the death spiders.

Karen Wang: Yeah, I don't know if I love spiders *that* much, but I do like spiders. So pro spider you heard it here. Yeah and I think New Zealand accents are the best accent, but anyways um, so I think I would archive a lot of like handwritten letters because that's actually a piece that I was kind of hoping to interact more with, for the podcast but frickin everyone typed up their stuff! There was a couple, there was like a whole folder, I think of Tamara's, that was like holiday greeting cards and stuff that I really enjoyed because I am a stationary nerd. But yeah, so I think letters to friends, and you know new friends, old friends. Um, I also have a really like . . . not fascination - I just really appreciate people's handwriting. I think it's really like a unique way to see their like unique personhood because, I don't know, I feel like everyone's handwriting's a

little different. And sometimes that like matches a lot of what I'd expect, and sometimes it doesn't, and I think I also just watched an episode of like CSI, where they did forensic handwriting analysis, like when I was eight or something, and now it's like forever in my brain that like the shape of your Y's will say something about your psychology.

Challen Wright: I love that!

Karen Wang: But yeah so I'd probably save letters. And then the other answer, which I kind of mentioned in the Abbey episode, is just like yeah if I could just record, if I could have gone back in time and recorded like those early conversations I had, asking questions about like "what is drag race?" of my friend when he introduced it to me, or like talking with some friends about like what does asexuality mean? Or what does demisexuality mean? I feel like all of those were really like impactful conversations that I would have liked to preserve. Maybe now I can go back to them and be like, "Hey let's like remember some of that together, and please consent to me recording it!"

Challen Wright: I love that.

Karen Wang: Yeah, just love the learning that I continue to do.

Challen Wright: Sorry, I was like dazing off, thinking about your answer - I think that's absolutely beautiful yeah.

## **25:51**

Karen Wang: Okay so somehow we're on to our last question, which is: What do we hope our listeners, our *Queer Air* listeners will take away from season two, what do you think, Challen?

Challen Wright: I, okay, I guess. There's so many possibilities to this answer! Um I guess my first is, I really hope that our listeners -whether you are archivists, library students, general people - um visit an archives! Like go in there! I know we can't right now but if, you know, the pandemic is starting to wrap up - knock on wood. Like yeah go visit an archives, go talk with an archivist. They do seem like scary places sometimes, but everybody there is so nice and all they want to do is talk with you about history and help you as much as they can.

Challen Wright: And yeah interact with history, interact with like your family's history, your cultures' history, your people's history, your community's history. Any any type of history. I highly recommend it, so I think I want our listeners to take away that.

Karen Wang: That really reminds me of the Hidden History's playwright, Drew, and what he said about history not just being the textbook stuff, because I remember I used to really hate history like as a subject because it was so boring.

Challen Wright: Yeah, me too.

Karen Wang: But history in this way, is so fascinating and it's just like sad that it's not more widely known. Like history can take many forms, um not all of which include yeah a Pearson textbook on US History.

Challen Wright: Fuck Pearson. God, I have so many bad memories from history class, man.

Karen: Yeah, get out of here!

Challen Wright: Ugh, but yeah you know, I guess, if I had to choose one answer it would be: go visit an archives. Final answer.

Karen Wang: Locked in.

Challen Wright: Locked in!

Karen Wang: Yeah no, I like that, like: reframe what our listeners think of when they think of history, and go check it out themselves in the archives. Speaking of summer, I hear that summer is a really busy time for people to go to archives because apparently, like that's when a lot of you know just people in general, like you said, or specifically researchers and academics get time to travel and like go to the archives that they're not near. So, you know if you wanted to plan a whole trip highlighting all these cool archives that you'd want to visit I would support that because that sounds really fun.

Challen Wright: Tour of America, but it's just archives.

Karen Wang: Yeah!

Challen Wright: It's like a national park tour, like a haunted house tour, but archives tour. Ooh I love that!

Karen Wang: Ooh! Haunted archives? Is this a - is this something we could-?

Challen Wright: Oh, there's got to be haunted archives! Do you know how much stuff is in there?

Karen Wang: I bet!

Challen Wright: There's at least one thing that's haunted.

Karen Wang: If there's hair all over the place, there's definitely gotta be some - some hauntings.

Challen Wright: Yeah, what about you, Karen? What do you hope the listeners take away?

Karen Wang: I was also going to say like, just a greater affinity for, or at least like desire to go check out archives . . . hopefully people that maybe started out thinking that archives were a bit

musty now think that they're pretty interesting. And yeah I think also that they should take away that this isn't like just for research in the capital R sense, um it's also for just like you know, random run of the mill, like remembering things. And yeah I just think that I want people to take away that they can visit, but also like they can put things in the archives too, like obviously the folks that are preserved here like are obviously so special to us - like you've mentioned Stephen really staying with you, but like Stephen didn't you know, make those scrapbooks thinking that he was gonna you know go out there and like impact some young man named Challen Wright in the year 2021.

Challen Wright: Yeah, I know.

Karen Wang: Like that was just serendipitous and like just a record of his beautiful, like human life and it ended up like touching you and touching hopefully a lot of our listeners, and I think like just knowing that that isn't necessarily a unique situation, that that can be super everyday and like we can all participate in that process, especially through community archiving, I think, is really important, just to make it yeah like less intimidating and less like "ivory tower" in the sense that some people think archives are yeah not for them, but hopefully listening to us and our yeah sometimes just word vomit has shown that it's pretty - it's pretty approachable like if we can do it, then y'all can do it!

Karen Wang: And like save your stuff, because sometimes I just think about what would an alien think if they got a snapshot of humanity by just like going to the archives? You know?

Challen Wright: Yeah and I think you touched on like such a great point there too, Karen. Like I know I've been like such a big advocate that this podcast stays conversational, and I remember kind of like talking about that earlier and like getting some eyebrows raised like, "Oh you're going to make your official like academic capstone a thing where you're just talking about your life and some queer shit and also cussing?" And I was like, "Yes, absolutely!" Like um, because it definitely breaks down those barriers like you said of you know, making archives welcome to everybody and showing them that, like we're all just people having a good time with history and like we don't need these weird facades of like that we are above you in any way and that, like you need to sign- like sign your life away in order to like access us . . . Like we're here for you and we want to interact with you on like whatever level you come to.

Karen Wang: Yeah and I think, just like a final thing that I noticed is just yeah that sense of connection that I think you and I have fostered by doing this capstone and hopefully that others can like vibe with, um has really gotten like strong like I feel like I really gotten closer to you because I know we like in the past have mentioned how you and I didn't really like interact, in the same circles and then one day I slid into your DM's being like.

Challen Wright: Thank you for that.

Karen Wang: "Do you wanna, as a fellow gay, like do this thing with me?" and now I mean literally Challen and I were presenting our capstone last Friday on zoom and I literally started

the presentation off by uh, accidentally saying, "Hi everyone, I'm Challen!" And that just shows how we've like melded. Yeah like I'm literally you now! No i'm just kidding, but like yeah I just was so tickled by that, and yeah I think like it, this was a great way to yeah foster connections like with our queer community, but that also includes like you and I personally, so.

Challen Wright: What's that one lyric from the Beatles song, I am the Walrus? It goes like, "I am me and you are we, and we are all together."

Karen Wang: Awww!

Challen Wright: That's us!

Karen Wang: That's amazing, yeah, so I hope listeners get that sense from listening to us.

Challen Wright: Mmhmm!

### **33:33**

Challen Wright: Before we wrap up, Karen, do you have any other final comments, words before we pass this off to whoever takes this on next?

Karen Wang: Wow, when you say it like that'... um my brain is just like, "Stay fuckin queer everyone!!" Like yeah whoever takes this on, best of luck, I know you'll do us proud! Um, and just yeah I keep bringing these stories to light. And I hope listeners will keep staying interested and find value in listening to these because it's definitely changed my life - like I - like the last couple weeks I've been like, "Oh dang should I like revisit yeah like discussing my my queerness with my family?" Uh, I added my grandma on WeChat, so I gotta practice how to say that all in Mandarin but yeah it'll be, it'll be something else! I'm excited! It's like a bit of a sweaty palm excitement but yeah I think we talked a lot about queer joy being super important and like archiving joy, so I hope, whatever happens next we find a lot of joy and and preserve it and share it.

Challen Wright: I love that.

Karen Wang: How about you? Any final words?

Challen Wright: Okay, I think I figured it out. Okay here's my final words: Be gay. Fuck everyone else - both literally and figuratively. Love, Challen Wright. There we go.

Karen Wang: Aww!

Challen Wright: The End.

Karen Wang: So good! Yeah I also just want to say, Challen, every time we end these zoom recordings I like, I like keep it in, but right before I hit like Leave Meeting, I want to say - like instead of just like a normal goodbye - I'm always like, "what if I just like said 'I love you' to Challen right now?"

Challen Wright: Aww!!

Karen Wang: So yeah, I do love you, and now I'm gonna say it finally for the first time on-

Challen Wright: You're gonna make me cry!!

Karen Wang: -On our last episode, but yeah no, it's like literally the last couple times, I've just been like "I love this boy, like he's a good one," so yeah I love you too, Challen.

Challen Wright: Thank you. The feeling is definitely mutual because I've always been like what if I'm just like, "Love you Karen, bye!!" We both are like very much on the same level on that. Thank you for being the courageous one, being the first to say it, yeah.

Karen Wang: It just had to be done, had to be done.

Challen Wright: Mmhmm!

Karen Wang: Okay well on that note...

Challen Wright: On that note, yeah this is our final episode and good luck to the season three hosts, whoever they may be, do not be intimidated! Um, this legacy is for you and you're gonna do great things with it. We trust in you. Welcome to the family!

Karen Wang: Yeah, yeah welcome to the family - the *Queer Air* family!

**36:34**

Karen Wang: Alright well let's go into our final wrap up. So we want to first off thank the University of Washington Special Collections, because they gave us all of this, you know fabulous material to look through.

Challen Wright: Yeah and especially thank you to the Pacific Northwest curator at UW Special Collections, Anne Jenner, for sponsoring us. And also yeah thank you so much for letting me drive to your house constantly to pick up all of these materials, I very much appreciate it! Yeah and then finally -God, let's see if we can say this together...

Karen Wang: We're gonna try this, okay...

\*Both trying to say the outro together with mild success?\*: And thank you for listening to season two of *Queer Air*!

Challen Wright: I love it, I don't think we should redo that at all.