



UNHEARD VOICES

Stories of LGBT History



Interview Transcript



Jamison Green is an activist and writer who has worked on behalf of transgender men and women for more than 20 years.

Jamison transitioned from female to male in 1988. Here, he speaks with his daughter, Morgan Green, about what life was like for him as a child.

Jamison Green: I think I really consciously felt different my first day of kindergarten. I always hated wearing dresses, but my parents dressed me up and we walked in and the kindergarten teacher welcomed me and she said, “The little girls are over here.” But as soon as I saw the guys with the trucks, I went right over there in my little dress and started playing with these two kids.

And then as I got older, as I got to be about thirteen, fourteen, I think I made my mother uncomfortable in that I looked so much like a boy and seemed so much like a boy and played football with the boys and all of those things.

Interviewer: *When did you find out it was possible to be a transsexual?*

Jamison Green: Well, my first lover suggested to me that I might enjoy having a sex change. And I reacted in complete horror. I said, “Only crazy people do that. Don’t you ever talk about that again.” And I believed that I would lose all my friends, and I believed I would never get a job, and I believed it would be a total disaster.

So I still didn’t know that it was possible until I saw someone else who had transitioned from female to male on television in 1976. I saw Steve Dane. He had been a teacher of the year in California, and he went away over the summer break and came back as a man and he wanted to keep his teaching job. He was handsome, articulate, self-confident, poised. And I thought, that’s me. If I’m successful, I could be him.

And after you were born, as I was experiencing my relationship with you, I didn’t feel that I could actually be an honest, whole person in my relationship with you or with anyone if I didn’t transition.

Interviewer: *And I think that I am probably a better person for it.*