

MORNING STORIES TRANSCRIPT

***How I Never Made It To Woodstock:** A young Tony Kahn takes a “real trip” back to the summer of love. Also, a conversation with Philip Hodgetts of the Digital Production Buzz podcast.*

Tony Kahn:

Hi everybody. This is Tony Kahn, the producer and director of *Morning Stories* from WGBH in Boston. This summer, it occurred to me the other day, is the thirty-sixth anniversary of the Woodstock Festival. What a great occasion for a *Morning Story*. And -- I know what you're thinking, “Oh no, not another story of one of those 400,000 youths who went to Woodstock and participated in one of the most earthshaking events in the history of American culture.” No. This is *Morning Stories*. We take a more original approach. We're going to present you with a sound diary of somebody who never made it to Woodstock, and why. We call it, [in his best "hippy" voice] like, uh, *How Come I Never Made It To Woodstock*, man.

[Music]

Tony Kahn: [As if speaking from 1969]

August 9th. Just heard about Woodstock. Sounds groovy, man. Three days of music, peace, and love. Should I go? Or what?

August 10th.. My cousin Sherman became a Buddhist today, and like, gave me his Chevy van. [sound of van driving up] Far out! Now, I can drive to Woodstock with my friend Raindrop.

August 11th. I parked the van last night and then, forgot where I parked it. Oh oh. Whew, this short-term memory loss is getting to be a real drag, man. Looks like Raindrop and I hitchhike tomorrow.

August 12th. Raindrop and the guy who picked us up started to dig each other, so they dropped me off and went straight back to his commune. [van door slams and van drives away, “See ya.”] I never made it out of town, man. Raindrop says he's a very high being, and they're going to go to India and transcend rock and roll.

August 13th. I threw the I Ching this morning [rattle followed by counting] to see if Woodstock was still a good idea, and got this hexagram for “endless rain over rising mud.” Bummer. Sherman says it isn't real rain, though. It symbolizes the flow of Woodstock, which I got to go with. I don't know, man. [thunder] It just started raining in Woodstock.

August 14th. Far out, man. I just flashed on where I parked the van! [thunder and rain] Woodstock is definitely back on. Besides, the papers say 400,000 people are coming from all over the country. I gotta be there.

August 15th. Woodstock is, like, totally off. [sounds of knocking and shouting] Raindrop came back and we can't get her out of the closet, man. Turns out, she and her old man split for Woodstock after all and got arrested going twelve miles an hour in the passing lane of the Massachusetts Turnpike. I don't know what they were on, but she's been hallucinating ever since. [knocking and voice in background, "Hey come outta the closet, will ya man, please?"] She stopped seeing these barracudas all over her legs, but she's still convinced her shadow is a CIA agent they pinned to her while she was asleep. [screams and sitar music] Sherman says it looks like my going to Woodstock just wasn't meant to be, but I should cheer up. He's pretty sure I was meant to see the movie.

[Music]

Tony Kahn:

Gee, Gary Mott. I wonder who that was.

Gary Mott:

Yeah. I, I, I have no idea. [Tony laughs]

Tony Kahn:

You know they say that Woodstock was a really, truly memorable event, but I think if the truth were told, there weren't too many people who were able to remember anything that they did at Woodstock, and it's a miracle that the Sixties has any living witnesses to it at all!

Gary Mott:

Well, you know, Tony, I was born in the summer of '69.

Tony Kahn:

You? I can't say that I ...

Gary Mott:

Dad!

Tony Kahn:

Was that ...? Did I end up in Texas? [laughter]

Gary Mott:

I'm Jewish. [laughter]

Tony Kahn:

We've got to put the past aside, Gary, and, and look toward the future. A couple of weekends ago, I was at the Macworld Conference at the Hynes Center in Boston. And a lot of people felt that there wasn't enough new stuff there; it wasn't as big as it had been in the past or in New York, but, I'll tell you, there was something new there that was incredibly exciting and that was the presence of podcasting. I ran into a fellow whose name was Philip Hodgetts, the impresario and the host of the Digital Production Buzz, the *DP Buzz*, which is a podcast. I think it comes out maybe every week, or even more often than that. He was sitting there; he was interviewing people and covering the event. So we actually sat down; we talked a little bit about what we thought we were doing with podcasting.

[Background sounds from conference]

Philip Hodgetts:

It's interesting that as a traditional broadcaster that you see these new alternate forms as an opportunity rather than as a challenge. I think a lot of broadcasters, a lot of entrenched media are seeing broadcast -- blogs and podcasting as challenges rather than opportunities.

Tony Kahn:

Well that's true this week. [laughter]

Philip Hodgetts:

We have to wait ...?

Tony Kahn:

That's right. Things are moving so fast that we're really dealing with internet time. You know it's what they call a disruptive technology. Right?

Philip Hodgetts:

Yes.

Tony Kahn:

It's so new, so your first reaction, if you're entrenched in some area doing a certain kind of show, is to feel frightened by it. Say, "Well, well, well how do I, how do I make it stay the same while still be different?" or "How do I, ... do I still compete with the guys I was competing with before, or do we become partners?" Right now I can't say there is a coordinated response from public broadcasting toward the opportunities that podcasting offers, not only for audio, but eventually for video as well. [Philip murmurs in agreement] But I do know that at some point, people are going to say, "This is, you know, - this is an incredible opportunity for us to learn a lot as well. Let's be good neighbors. Let's go out into this new market and listen to what other people are interested in doing. And let's listen to their podcasts." What are the podcasts that

you're listening to, right now? And, and do they have anything in common, would you say, with each other?

Philip Hodgetts:

The, the three that I'm listening to and trying to keep up with are, are my own show, because I want to improve, so I listen to that back.

Tony Kahn:

Right.

Philip Hodgetts:

And there's, you know, there's a difference between doing the show, live, and then listen back, and say ...

Tony Kahn:

Absolutely.

Philip Hodgetts:

Okay, I could learn that; I could improve on that. *Inside Mac Radio*, it's my buddy's show. So I listen to that. But then Seth Godin has a small business marketing show, because I am in small business, I want to learn more about how to do that style of marketing. I think that sort of comp ... He's a viral marketer.

Tony Kahn:

So for you, it's really focused on your work. It's an extension ...

Philip Hodgetts:

Yeah.

Tony Kahn:

... of what you want to do, what you enjoy.

Philip Hodgetts:

Yeah. I'm a very one-dimensional person.

Tony Kahn:

No, you're real, you're real. And you're obviously having fun ...

Philip Hodgetts:

Yes.

Tony Kahn:

And you're exploring it. For me, can I tell you what some of mine are?

Philip Hodgetts:

Yes, yes.

Tony Kahn:

Mine are, well I listen to my podcast, which is called *Morning Stories* for the same reason. I try to listen to it maybe a day or two later when I can hear it fresh and see what really didn't work.

Philip Hodgetts:

Yes.

Tony Kahn:

Or possibly worked, yeah. But I also like to listen to something called *Kroncast*, which is a husband and wife, sort of in the Chicago area, who kind of talk very amusingly and brightly about their lives as young parents and as people struggling to make it in today's economy. I listen to Adam Curry's show. I like to hear individuals talking about what they're passionate about. I do it, I guess, for the company of having people who make me feel welcome, because they're really showing me something they like. For me, it's a social kind of thing. So in that sense, I think podcasting is very different from broadcasting in that you really feel that the person who is talking to you is really talking to another person, and is eager to hear back.

[Back to studio]

Tony Kahn:

You know, it was really interesting, Gary, to talk to another podcaster about podcasting as something that you also consume. When podcasters get together, they only tend to talk about producing podcasts. But, the fact is, we're also consumers, and we're, we're listening to different kinds of podcasts; we're forming different relationships with it. It's changing in so many different ways. There is nothing that is like a common experience that people are having with this yet. And although that can be incredibly confusing, I think it's also terrific, it's really yeasty because very new ideas can come out of the fact that people are getting very personal and original takes ...

Gary Mott:

Sure.

Tony Kahn:

... on what's happening. You know, the kind of podcast What kind of podcast do you listen to? I mean, here we've been working together for quite a long time. I don't really know, know what kind of podcast you listen to.

Gary Mott:

Well, you know, I've been, I've been counting on you to, to recommend, you know, *Five Minutes with Wichita*, *Kroncast*. You know, of course I check out other WGBH branded podcasts, ...

Tony Kahn:

Yeah.

Gary Mott:

Clark Boyd's tech ...

Tony Kahn:

Clark Boyd's podcast is doing terrifically.

Gary Mott:

... right up there.

Tony Kahn:

Yes. Top ten at the iTunes, and the GBH Forum one?

Gary Mott:

Sure. And KCRW has, you know, a number of offerings as well. You know, 3000 podcasts to choose from. That's a lot of material that I can put on my iPod and, and listen to on the way to Maine this weekend.

Tony Kahn:

It's not going to be long before everybody's going to want Ipswitch.com to be their sponsor, and then - we're in trouble. So, let me just say we are extremely grateful and, and, and we hope that they understand how much we appreciate the support of Ipswitch.com, a leader in file transfer software, and our sponsor, pretty much since we got started as a podcast. If you want to find out more about them, just check out their website at <www.I-P-S-W-I-T-C-H.com>.

Gary Mott:

As you know, as we say every week, <WGBH.org/morningstories> and please send us an email while you're there. <morningstories@WGBH.org>.

Tony Kahn:

And if you find you're not too exhausted at the end of the week, check back with us for another *Morning Story* on Friday. We'll see you then. Bye.

[End of recording]

Transcribed by: Susan MacLeod