
Will Ferrell & Harper Steele Share Shocking Texas Transphobia Stories

Description

The recent excursion of Will Ferrell and Harper Steele to the Lone Star State was regrettably devoid of the renowned southern hospitality often associated with Texas.

While engaged in a dialogue regarding their Netflix documentary *Will & Harper*, the venerable friends recounted an astonishingly “intense” episode characterized by transphobic microaggressions encountered at the Big Texan Steak Ranch in Amarillo—an incident that ultimately did not appear in the final edit.

“In a moment of conviviality, I raised a toast, referencing a trans bill,” Steele recounted to [The New York Times](#). “The collective reaction was a palpable reversal, accompanied by a smattering of boos, followed by a woman proclaiming, ‘We still love you.’ While I could be misinterpreting her intent, my immediate sensation was that the ‘still’ implies a degree of conditionality. They profess love for me, provided I conform to traditional norms—essentially suggesting that their affection hinges on my abandoning my trans identity and adhering to their beliefs.”

Steele elaborated, “The atmosphere rapidly turned unsettling. I increasingly felt my trans identity was being scrutinized, which was, to put it mildly, quite uncomfortable.”

It is noteworthy that last year, Texas Governor Greg Abbott enacted Senate Bill 14, which prohibits gender-affirming care for transgender minors. The Texas Supreme Court upheld this legislation in June, alongside other measures aimed at restricting public drag performances and mandating transgender athletes’ participation based on their biological sex.

Ferrell expressed feelings of “remorse” and “guilt” for placing Steele in such an uncomfortable situation, remarking, “The most distressing aspect for me is ... I feel I let you down in that instance.”

“I was unprepared for the intensity of the moment and recognized my responsibility for not adequately assessing the environment we had entered,” he continued. “I envisioned it as a benign locale for dining on extravagant steaks, only to be confronted with a vast audience, leaving me to question, ‘What are we doing here?’”

Directed by Josh Greenbaum, *Will & Harper* chronicles Ferrell’s journey as he navigates the revelation that his long-time friend, Steele—who co-wrote Netflix’s *Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga* (2020)—is transitioning to a transgender woman. The film captures their cross-country odyssey, serving as an intimate exploration of friendship, transition, and the multifaceted landscape of America.

Since their initial collaboration on *SNL*, Steele formally announced her transition to Ferrell and close associates in 2022. Following its premiere at Sundance, Netflix acquired *Will & Harper* in an impressive eight-figure deal.



Vocabulary List:

1. **Excursion** /ɪk'skʊːrʒən/ (noun): A short trip or outing to some place.
2. **Microaggressions** /,maɪ.kroʊ.ə'grɛʃ.ənz/ (noun): Subtle unintentional and oftentimes dismissive interactions or behaviors that indirectly express a prejudiced attitude towards a marginalized group.
3. **Conviviality** /kən,vɪv.i'æl.i.ti/ (noun): The quality of being friendly and lively.
4. **Affection** /ə'fekʃən/ (noun): A gentle feeling of fondness or liking.
5. **Legislation** /,lɛdʒɪs'leɪʃən/ (noun): Laws considered collectively.
6. **Scrutinized** /'skruː.tɪ.naɪzd/ (verb): Examined very closely.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What term refers to a short journey or trip especially for leisure or education?
Option: Microaggressions
Option: Excursion
Option: Conviviality
Option: Affection
2. What is the process of making or enacting laws called?
Option: Scrutinized
Option: Defamation
Option: Stalking
Option: Legislation
3. Which term refers to the first public performance or showing of something?
Option: Reprehensible
Option: Damages
Option: Portrayal
Option: Premiere
4. Which term describes a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past?
Option: Whirlwind
Option: Satirical
Option: Nostalgic
Option: Dimension
5. What word is used to describe something that is widely recognized and well-established?



- Option: Admiration
- Option: Iconic
- Option: Impeccable
- Option: Dazzling

6. Which term refers to the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties?

- Option: Resilience
- Option: Admiration
- Option: Epitomizing
- Option: Collaborate

7. What is the quality of being able to adapt to many different functions or activities?

- Option: Authentically
- Option: Versatility
- Option: Perceived
- Option: Emphasized

8. Which term refers to a force that tends to pull stretch or twist something?

- Option: Collaborate
- Option: Authentically
- Option: Strain
- Option: Versatility

9. What are brief and commonplace verbal behavioral or environmental indignities whether intentional or unintentional?

- Option: Microaggressions
- Option: Conviviality
- Option: Affection
- Option: Legislation

10. Which term describes deep love and respect for someone or something?

- Option: Replicable
- Option: Reprehensible
- Option: Adoration
- Option: Damages

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. _____ is the act of damaging the good reputation of someone.



12. The continuous and unwanted surveillance or following of another person is known as _____.
13. An actor's portrayal of a character is crucial to conveying the intended message of the performance.
14. Every action has its _____ whether positive or negative.
15. An _____ of a university is a former student.
16. The two companies decided to _____ on a new project to maximize their resources.
17. Her taste in fashion was always _____; she never wore anything out of place.
18. The fireworks display was truly _____ captivating the entire audience.
19. His consistent hard work earned him the _____ of all his colleagues.
20. The construction project was a success _____ efficiency and precision in planning and execution.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The atmosphere at the party was filled with warmth good cheer and lively conversation.
22. She showed great tenderness and care towards her aging parents always making sure they were comfortable.
23. The storm caused significant harm to the crops resulting in financial loss for the farmers.
24. His actions were deemed morally unacceptable by society leading to widespread criticism.
25. The comedy show used humor to criticize and ridicule societal norms and behaviors.
26. The issue had a psychological that needed to be addressed in the therapy sessions.
27. His success was not by his peers until they saw the results for themselves.
28. She the importance of teamwork and collaboration in achieving their goals.



29. The artist's style was unique and reflected his true self creating art that was genuine and his personality.

30. The details of the contract were closely by the legal team to ensure no loopholes.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Excursion 2. Legislation 3. Premiere 4. Nostalgic 5. Iconic 6. Resilience 7. Versatility 8. Strain 9. Microaggressions 10. Adoration

Gap-Fill: 11. Defamation 12. Stalking 13. Portrayal 14. Consequences 15. Alum 16. Collaborate 17. Impeccable 18. Dazzling 19. Admiration 20. Epitomizing

Matching sentence: 1. Conviviality 2. Affection 3. Damages 4. Reprehensible 5. Satirical 6. Dimension 7. Perceived 8. Emphasized 9. Authentically 10. Scrutinized

CATEGORY

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