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*December 2024 Spotlight*

## **Answering the Question: What Does it Take to Be a Renaissance Butch?**



Lenny Lasater is that Renaissance butch. Interviewed by Merril Mushroom, her friend and fellow butch, Lenny's voice comes through this format to tell us her story in her own humorous, ironic, gregarious, and wholly honest style. From Tennessee, she has

lived and worked in many places, coast to coast, but primarily in the South. Eventually she settled in Atlanta.

You will not be able to guess what comes next as you read this detailed recounting of her life so far. The interview opens a window into several of the trades as they were forced to employ women at the same time when unions were also required to admit women and African Americans. Her brushes with the local power structure of unions, universities, and politics are vivid and unpredictable.

Lenny played as hard as she worked. She doesn't hold back on her coming out story, her transformation with sobriety, and her journey into a singer/songwriter. She eventually established herself in business, Lenny Lasater Electrical, and found the lesbian community frequently needed her skills and expertise. You may recognize the names of lesbians she worked and played with, including Cherry Omega. We think when you read about her life, you will agree that Lenny is the definitive Renaissance Butch!

[Read the December Spotlight](#)



## **New Interview Posted**

Shewolf's interview is the newest we are presenting on our website. She is no longer with us, yet her interview from 2013 is vibrant with her own words and perspectives. Click her photo to follow the link.

**You are invited to participate:**

**Who inspired you to lesbian feminism?**

**Send us the name of your most significant Shero with a brief reason why she inspires you.**

Both she and you can remain anonymous if you want (just say so) since we will PUBLISH these here on our SLFAHP website.

Send submissions today to: [slfainspired@gmail.com](mailto:slfainspired@gmail.com). Here's an example:

Rose Norman got her inspiration from Nancy Finley. "At the time, Nancy Finley was the chair of the Sociology Department at my university. She said, 'Let's see who might be interested in starting a women's studies program.'

"She made feminism seductive, and she opened my eyes to structural causes of oppression. She walks the talk in all aspects of her life."

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## **The Southern Lesbian Feminist Activist Herstory Project**

We collect, archive, and celebrate oral and written stories of unsung, Southern, lesbian-feminist activists during the second half of the twentieth century. We are proud of our contributions to lesbian culture, strengthened by our collective voices.

Many of us recognized that the lesbian-feminist voices of Southern lesbians had been omitted or marginalized in mainstream literature of the LGBTQ movement as well as from feminist history. We are the antidote to this omission. We worked with Duke University to set up archives, did interviews all over the south, and eventually collaborated with Julie Enszer to publish 6 issues of Sinister Wisdom, full of all our stories. Now we maintain our website and update it monthly, as you hear about through this newsletter. We are still gathering more Southern lesbian stories, interviewing, writing, editing, tracking and networking.

We are always ready to welcome new collaborators! If you would like to join the SLFAHP group, email us at [SLFAHerstoryProject@gmail.com](mailto:SLFAHerstoryProject@gmail.com).

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