We Did a Show About Circumcision

Connecticut Public Radio | By Jonathan McNicol

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Last fall, Colin saw The Bloodstained Men and Their Friends demonstrating in New Haven.

They wear white coveralls with red stains on the crotches.

Colin told his son it had to be some kind of performance art, or a joke, or something. He couldn't have been more wrong.

And we've wanted to do a show about circumcision ever since. And so, we are. Why is this a thing we do to kids? Is this a thing we should stop doing to kids? And many, many other questions.

This hour: incredibly uncomfortable radio. It's gonna be great.

An old joke: A woman in New York wanted to have her son circumcised. She asked a friend, who gave her an address in Brooklyn. She went to the address and found it was a shopfront with clocks and watches in the window. Curious, she went in, and said to the old Jewish man behind the counter, "Surely this is the wrong place. I need to have my son circumcised, but there are clocks and watches in the window." "Well," said the man, "what do you want I should put in the window?"
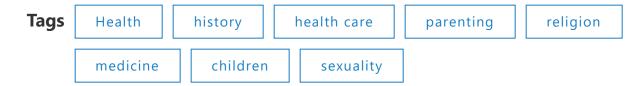
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Fresh Air

GUESTS:

- **Yitzchok Adler** - Rabbi of Beth David Synagogue in West Hartford
- **Brian Herrity** - Co-director of The Bloodstained Men and Their Friends
- **Peter Leithart** - President of the Theopolis Institute for Biblical, Liturgical, and Cultural Studies
- **Eric Nelson** - Pediatric urologist at Connecticut Children's Hospital

Join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter.

Colin McEnroe, Betsy Kaplan, Olivia Piper, and Audrianna Smith contributed to this show.

Tags Health   history   health care   parenting   religion   medicine   children   sexuality

Jonathan McNicol

Jonathan started at WNPR in 2010. He is as likely to produce a show on America's jury system as he is a story on all the grossest parts of the human body. He's as likely to host a podcast on minor league baseball as he is to cover a presidential debate almost by accident. His work has been heard nationally on NPR and locally on WNPR's talk shows and news magazines.

See stories by Jonathan McNicol